

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-RETIRED**  
421 Zimalcrest Drive      Columbia, SC 29210      803-551-4150

**WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**  
From: **BESS ALSTON, The SCEA-Retired President**

Starting a new year gives us the opportunity to make new plans, design new strategies, implement new ideas, and embrace the successful old workable ideas.

Let me take this opportunity to thank The SCEA-R Board of Directors for their donations of over 500 pounds of non-perishable food items to The Harvest Hope Food Bank. The food was collected and distributed throughout 20 counties in South Carolina. Gifts were not exchanged among the Board members this Christmas Season because of this most worthwhile project; the gift of food to the less fortunate.

- The SCEA-R Offices have relocated from the third floor to the second floor. Come by and see our work in progress. We are open to suggestions and/or assistance.
- The SCEA-R Treasurer, King B. L. Jeffcoat, has been granted a leave of absence as he must abide by his doctor's orders to reduce his pace of activity. He hopes to see us at the convention.
- The SCEA-R Board unanimously accepted Mary McCarter as The SCEA-R Assistant Treasurer. She will continue to serve as she has so efficiently over the years. Thanks Mary for your continued willingness to serve in this capacity.
- I was most honored to be invited and to meet with seven local associations last year: Charleston 2, Allendale, Darlington 2, Florence, Lee, Richland, and York Counties.
- Local Presidents create an atmosphere that is most welcoming to their members and guests. You have the winning formula to keep your members involved. Thanks for the invitations, I look forward to visiting with all of you and to sharing your winning ways with other locals.

As we embrace this New Year, we must continue to look for more successful ways to achieve our goals:

- Increase Membership
- Get to know your Legislators
- Give back to your community through Volunteer Services
- Recognize Outstanding and Distinguished Persons.

Keep in touch with your District Directors and your local presidents to keep you abreast of the dates and deadlines for all upcoming events. The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be held April 18, 2012, 11:00 a.m., at the Brookland Baptist Convention Center, Columbia, SC. **Have a good year!**

**THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Kathy McCabe, VP / Chair**

The Membership Committee asks that local associations strongly encourage Pre-Retired and Life Memberships. Membership dues will increase next year. Join Life now. Ask friends and colleagues to join all three associations -- Local, The SCEA-R, and NEA-R. As an organization, we still serve as a voice for South Carolina Public School students and active members. We advocate for our own retired benefits such as the COLA and health benefits. We still enjoy some benefits afforded The SCEA member through unified membership, including Attorney Referral, NEA Life, Health, Disability, Casualty, Long-Term care, auto insurance, and The SCEA Access Program.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – Eleanor Johnson Ham, Chair**

Applications for The J. P. Coates/SCACT Scholarship have been mailed to all public high school guidance departments. If you know a senior interested in this scholarship, please have them contact their high school's guidance department. Applications are due in our office by March 15, 2012. Please consider making a contribution to this scholarship trust fund. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

## **THE SCEA-R LEGISLATIVE REPORT - Samuel Alston, Chair**

The chair and other members of the committee attended several Senate and House hearings in Columbia on the South Carolina Retirement System this legislative session. The action taken by the Budget and Control Board on November 3, 2011, reduced the Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for retirees to 1%. The decision has been made and WE MUST work together with the General Assembly for returning the COLA to at least 2% for retirees. For those receiving retirement benefits through the Retirement System, a 1% COLA will guarantee us a 17% loss of purchasing power every ten years we live after retirement.

We MUST work together to become advocates of change. Contact your legislators; let them know how you feel about issues that concern you. Office visits, emails, letters, and/or phone calls are good contact methods. When you see them, wherever you see them, stop your legislators and talk, help them know you and tell them your needs. Always thank them for the things they do to support you and your community. For contact information, go to [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov) and find your legislator(s). Have you given your email to The SCEA-R? Please send it to The SCEA-R so you will be included in all information that is sent out by email.

The **Legislative Agenda** passed at the 2011 Delegate Assembly includes: (1) **Retirement Benefits** (Protect Funds contained in the South Carolina Retirement System and Advocate COLA raised as provided by law).

(2) **Education Finance** (Fully fund the Education Finance Act of 1977); (3) **Advocate Return of Education Funding** to the correct level, as the law requires for the 2011-2012 school year; and (4) **Defeat Vouchers and Tax Credit Systems** proposed to fund non-public schools).

## **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - Rebecca Rochester, Chair**

### **NOMINATION FORMS ARE DUE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012**

**Forms are located in the Handbooks or call The SCEA-R Office, 803-531-4150 or 4158**

- ➔ Requesting nominations for The SCEA-Retired State Delegates to The SCEA Delegate Assembly for a one-year term. We will elect five (5). Those not elected as Delegates will serve as alternates.
- ➔ Requesting nominations for The SCEA-Retired Delegates to the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly for a one-year term. The meeting for 2012 will be in Washington, DC, June 27-July 5, 2012. Two (2) Delegates to be elected. Those not elected will serve as alternates. The back of the nomination form contains accountability guidelines.
- ➔ Requesting nominations for District Directors for even numbered Districts (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12) for two-year terms. District Directors serve as liaisons between the local/county associations and The SCEA-Retired. Duties include visiting, serving as advisors, assisting with membership recruitment and serving on The SCEA-Retired Board of Directors.

## **AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT- Kathy McCabe, VP / Chair**

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**FORMS DUE FEBRUARY 2, 2012**

The SCEA-R recognizes two outstanding individuals each year. Each local/county association has the opportunity to nominate an individual for each of these awards.

- **Distinguished Service Award** - The South Carolina Education Association-Retired Distinguished Service Award recognizes a ***member of The SCEA-Retired*** who is actively involved in their unified Retired association - political actions, community organizing, mentoring, and volunteering to help meet teacher and community needs.
- **Outstanding Service Award** - The South Carolina Education Association-Retired Outstanding Service Award recognizes a ***resident who is NOT a member*** of The SCEA-Retired association. The nominee should be someone who has made a significant contribution to the State of South Carolina by advancing the cause of retirees. The Nomination deadline is February 2, 2012.

## **GREETINGS from our Past President—Arlonial D. Bradford**

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to greet you as we enter a new year. It is my hope that you have enjoyed your journey through 2011, and are now gratefully accepting the challenges that are before you in 2012. As your past president, I ask that you continue using the skills that you have to make a difference in the life of some child who needs you and share your skill to help some disabled or ill senior see the joy of living and sharing with others. Yes, I still enjoy what I do with the children in the schools, in the church, and in the community. I still enjoy visiting the sick and the shut-in seniors and sharing with them a bowl of homemade soup or a homemade throw or pillow. Keep moving, keep living, and above all, keep giving. OH YES, get into the garden and let your fingers mingle with the soil. Live with nature, you will feel so much better for doing so.

I am always thinking about the wonderful people I had the pleasure of meeting as President of The SCEA-R. You have really expanded my life. I hope I did the same for you. Continue to have a healthy, happy 2012. Please let me know what volunteer work you are participating in. I also want to know about your gardening –flowers and vegetables. I want your ideas for success. I need some fresh ones.

### **DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

**District 3**—Janet Agnew reported that on September 17 she visited the **Spartanburg** Co. Ed.- R. The members were given an update on State Insurance Plans and a meeting of the Silver Haired Legislature which voted on priorities for the 2012 session. They furnished school supplies for the Girl's home. The Nov. meeting focused on a visit from an Appalachia Council on Aging representative on forming an Assisted Volunteer Driving Program for Spartanburg. They selected life retired member, James Gaunce, to be honored for American Education Week.

Janet made calls to **Cherokee's** president, Melanie Cook, who said they are working on ByLaws. President Alice Walker, **Chester**, is concerned that many members have gone back to work, she does not have addresses for new retirees, and has difficulty in securing meeting dates. York's president, Sallie White, said that they are having a crafts instruction meeting in preparation for the holidays.

**District 6**—Annie Chandler reports that **Florence** Co. Ed. Assn.-R has held two meetings. The SCEA-R President, Bess Alston, was the speaker for the September meeting and The SCEA President, Jackie Hicks, was the speaker for the November meeting. The Association is working on proposed Bylaws amendments.

**District 7**—Delphine J. Peterson reported that the **Sumter** Co. Ed. Assn.-R's membership is up and the members have finalized plans for an October Membership Recruitment Luncheon. In September, they took a trip to the Palace Theater, Myrtle Beach. The Legislative Committee Chair reported concerns about the new proposed Voter ID (Photo) law. The members are working to get their people ready for whatever comes of the law. Mrs. Peterson spoke by telephone with

**Clarendon** Co. Ed. Assn.-R's president, Viola Dingle. The meeting schedule for CCEA-R has changed. They have 23 members and now are meeting once per quarter. Although they have not found persons to accept officer positions, they will still try to stay alive.

**Lee** Co. Ed. Assn.-R's August meeting was called to order by the outgoing president, Delphine J. Peterson. After the business session ended, Mr. I. C. Joe installed the newly elected officers. Mr. Edward Spam Reames, Financial Planner Consultant from Hillians Lyons of Louisville, KY, branch in Florence, SC, discussed Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds, afterward, lunch was provided by his firm. Plans were finalized for a Membership Recruitment Drop-In.

**District 11**—Ruby Ellerbee reported on the **Charleston** Co. Ed. Assn.-R #2's Christmas meeting which was held at the Gullah Cuisine and included a Christmas program which ended with the Christmas Story. Like many others, Charleston Co. retirees are concerned about the Voter ID proposed law. They have decided to be proactive to have their people ready for whatever happens.

**District 10**—Earline H. Ulmer contacted her locals by phone. **Bamberg** Co. Ed. Assn.-R meets in Denmark and is in the process of writing ByLaws. **Barnwell** Co. Ed. Assn.-R meets in Barnwell and they are also working on ByLaws. They are canvassing for volunteers and methods of sharing retired educators help.

**Orangeburg/Calhoun** Co. Ed. Assn.-R is planning to revise their ByLaws and have a financial audit of their books.

**District 12**—Charles W. Blakely is still recovering nicely. We pray that he will soon be up and doing the things he likes to do which includes visiting his locals and FISHING.

***In order for this newsletter to continue to be published, we need contributions. A budget has not been set up for getting the information to the members. Some things will be put on the internet, but not all members use computers.***

## CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT- Kathy McCabe, VP / Chair

The SCEA-R Annual Convention will be held Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at Brookland Baptist Conference Center, 1066 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, SC 29169. Good speakers, lively entertainment, interesting exhibits, and door prizes are being planned. Let us come together for fellowship and food. More details to follow. Check The SCEA-R section of the SCEA website [www.thescea.org](http://www.thescea.org). Seeking interested vendors.

### The SCEA-Retired Annual Convention Registration Form

**April 18, 2012**

**Brookland Baptist Convention Center**

**West Columbia, SC**

**Number of People** \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Begins at** 11:00 a.m.

**\$25.00 per person \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Begins at** 10:00 a.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ SC Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Local \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

This Registration Form may be used for more than one person. All of the information requested must be included for each person. You may copy this Registration Form or you may send the information on another sheet.

Mail to: The SCEA-R Convention Committee, 421 Zimalcrest, Columbia, SC 29210