

JCERA



JEFFERSON COUNTY EDUCATION RETIREES ASSOCIATION

ADVOCACY • FELLOWSHIP • COMMUNITY SERVICE

2026–2027

JCERA NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 – August 2026

WELCOME TO THE JCERA NEWSLETTER

The Jefferson County Education Retirees Association (JCERA) welcomes current members, newly retired educators, and all eligible retirees. This newsletter is designed to keep our members informed, connected, and engaged throughout the year.

JCERA provides opportunities for advocacy, fellowship, community service, and professional connection. Your participation strengthens our collective voice and helps us remain an active resource for education retirees in Jefferson County.

Monthly meetings, special programs, community projects, and member activities will be highlighted in each issue. Please bring your ideas, talents, and enthusiasm as we continue building a strong and supportive retiree organization.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear JCERA Members,

I am excited to serve as Jefferson County Education Retiree Association President for 2026-2028. I have been an active member of AEA/AERA for over 45 years and together we can continue to make a difference. We plan to have informative programs and activities that will meet your

needs. The greater our local membership, the more we can serve our members and our community. It is a wonderful time to be part of our great organization so please join us and invite others. I encourage you to reach out to your fellow co-workers, teachers, support staff, administrators and invite them to join our great organization. We are “stronger together.” I am looking forward to serving you in 2026-2028.

Valaida Gentry, JCERA President 2026-2028

**STAY INFORMED.
STAY INVOLVED.
STAY CONNECTED.**

JCERA OFFICERS

President

Valaida Gentry

1st Vice President

Margaret Beard

2nd Vice President

Margaret Robinson

Secretary

Cassandra Childress

Assistant Secretary

Charlotte Willson

Treasurer

Sandy McCarthy

Assistant Treasurer

David Foster

Chaplain

Dolly McGuire

Parliamentarian

Marilyn Jones Woodson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Membership, Margaret Robinson
- Bylaws, Marilyn Jones Woodson
- Community Service, Alfreda King
- Empathy, Deidre Delk
- Legislative, Jacqueline Oglesby
 - Social, Executive Board

**ADVOCACY &
SERVICE**

JCERA Represents at AERA District 4 Annual Meeting

JCERA members represented your unit well at the AERA Annual District 4 meeting held at Decatur Highway Church of Christ in Gardendale, AL. The theme of the meeting was: "The BELL rings on!" Although retirees no longer answer to a physical bell, we still impact our educational environment in all that we continue to do in our communities. Our District 4 Director, Brenda Lockhart led us several reasons why the Bell Rings On. AERA President, Peggy Mobley gave the AERA President's report and Wendy Lang gave the Executive Director's report. We were fortunate to receive information on PEEHIP, Humana, AMBA, and a TRS update. After Birmingham City, Jefferson County had the most attendee representation. We are so proud of you JCERA!



JCERA • NEWS & MEMBER INFORMATION

JCERA MEETING & EVENTS SCHEDULE

Issue 1 • August 2026

Meeting Dates

September 14, 2026 - 11:00 am

October 5, 2026 - 11:00 am

November 2, 2026 - 11:00 am

December 7, 2026 - 11:00 am

January 11, 2027 - 11:00 am

February 1, 2027 - 11:00 am

March 1, 2027 - 11:00 am

April 5, 2027 - 11:00 am

May 3, 2027 - 11:00 am

Speakers / Presenters

- Membership Drive - Wendy Lang or Karon Forte and AMBA – Jeff Collins
- Humana – Erica Thomas and Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Jerry and Carolyn Murray
- American Education Week, Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Jessica Bynum
- Community Food Bank of Central Alabama – Patrick McClusky. Children's Village – Janice Tyson, Christmas Celebration
- ECO Credit Union, Ronald McDonald House Charity of Alabama, Legislative Updates
- Lawson State Community College Foundation – Robert Holmes, Souper Bowl Celebration
- Read Across America
- Senior Resources and Referral – Attorney Barbara Luckett
- Special Celebration

"Together we strengthen our organization through advocacy, fellowship, and community service."

JCERA 2026-2028 Officers and Committee Chairs

