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## Calendar notes

### ISSUE PREVIEW

**Auburn** Thurs., Feb. 22, Noon – 1 pm, UU Busch Center

**Anniston** Tues., Feb. 27, 7:30 am, COUL monthly meeting, All-Star Restaurant, 1307 Noble St.

### 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Opening day** Tues., March 6

**Closing day** Mon., June 18

### ARISE LOBBY DAY

**Thurs., March 29, 9:30 am - 2 pm,**  
State House

### Filling up fast –

**“Let Justice Roll”  
ACPP Poverty & Policy  
Conference**



**Thurs., Feb. 15, 2007  
8:15 am – 3 pm**

Birmingham-Southern  
College

*Keynote speaker: The Honorable Sue Bell Cobb, Alabama's first female Chief Justice and longtime child advocate*

*24 workshop choices: Putting knowledge, skills and vision to work for a fairer Alabama*

*Professional development: This conference has been approved for 5 continuing contact hours by the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners (also recognized by Alabama Board of Nursing).*

# Report

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Vol. 10, No. 1

January 25, 2007

## 6 easy steps for February

### Session nears – are you ready?

As our legislators gear up for the **State House**, the people who send them there also have little more than a month to get ready for the 2007 session. To make sure you'll have timely and accurate information about legislative developments – and that your lawmakers will know what issues are important to you – use the following checklist and share it with your friends.

**Contact your legislators to tell them you're looking forward to a productive session.** The Senate's 18-17 party split has fueled much speculation about a logjam. Let them know you want our leaders to work together effectively.

**Find out who's on the legislative committees that handle Arise issues.** Visit [www.alarise.org/legislative.html](http://www.alarise.org/legislative.html) and save a copy of the list. (Check out Alabama Arise's Web re-design while you're there!)

**Contact your Arise organizer to set up a personal visit with your legislators.** We need 140 visits – one for each lawmaker – by March 5th.

**Come “Lobby With Melissa,”** Arise legislative coordinator Melissa Oliver. Call Brenda at the Arise office to set up a time.

**Sign up for e-mail updates and alerts.** The *Arise discussion group* allows members and staff to share announcements, ideas, useful Web links, etc. It's also our primary tool for alerting supporters about late-breaking legislative activities. The more folks participating, the bigger the impact of our calls to action in the State House halls. To sign up, go to [alarise.org](http://alarise.org) and select “Join the Arise

discussion group.” We also scan the state's daily papers online and highlight articles about Arise, our issues and other matters affecting state government. To receive the *Daily News Digest*, go to [arisecitizens.org](http://arisecitizens.org) and select “Sign up for ACPP news updates.” (The new ACPP Web design is in the works.)

**Create your own e-mail group for forwarding Arise action alerts.** Each name you add helps multiply the message!

## **Tenant handbooks reach far and wide**

In a few short weeks, the wall of boxes in our office has dwindled to a couple of stacks. The initial printing of 20,000 *Alabama Tenant Handbooks* and 100,000 *A Decent Place to Live* brochures is running out fast as renters and landlords around the state seek to understand their rights and responsibilities under the new Alabama Landlord-Tenant Law.

“We're pleased that so many statewide organizations are ordering the materials for their entire membership,” said ACPP executive director Kimble Forrister. State associations of sheriffs,

police chiefs and county commissions are among those placing bulk orders. Spanish-language versions of both publications will be available in a few weeks.



# We appreciate our contributors!

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*In memory of Dr. A. Z. Carter (father of Arise organizer Zack Carter):*

Ruthie Sherrill, Tuscaloosa

*In honor of Representative Jeff McLaughlin:*  
Wayne Sellers, Guntersville

*In honor of Tommy & Terry Lowry and Rachel & L. D. Bentley Jr.:*  
Cindy Lowry, Birmingham

## A few words from Kimble —

I want to underline that sixth request on Page 1. Do you remember how vibrant our listserv was during the tax reform session of 2003? Our daily reports were forwarded far beyond our list (and I admit that writing those nightly reports wore me out). If things heat up again this spring, it will be great if you have an "Arise Alerts" group already set up in your e-mail program. That way you can forward the critical messages with the click of a mouse.

And remember – You won't get the critical alerts if you don't sign up to be on the listserv. As the Page 1 article explains, we now have an ACPD listserv for news stories and an Alabama Arise listserv for legislative alerts. This newsletter isn't quick enough to tell you when legislative actions are coming the next day.

We're getting a new Web site design, thanks to a grant from the Central Alabama Community Foundation in the form of in-kind work by DCVI Studios. Alabama Arise also got a free re-design, thanks to the skillful hand of Andre Green of Birmingham.

Be sure to stop by our new office next time you're in town. Our new conference room, with chairs we bought with 61 members' special donations, is far sunnier than the drab room we used to meet in. My personal thanks to those who gave chairs and sent notes to commemorate my 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Arise. It's been an honor and privilege to work alongside all of you.

With peace,