



P. O. Box 1188
Montgomery, AL 36101
Street address: 207 Montgomery St. #900
(800) 832-9060; www.arisecitizens.org

A few words from Kimble —

Sometimes it's nice to see ourselves from another perspective. As the annual meeting was winding down, special guest Dara Antrum whispered, "I didn't know Arise had so much going on!" It's true. There was so much energy in the room, much of it wound tightly in competition among the policy proposals. It's both funny and scary to see y'all use your organizing skills on each other in hopes your issue will make the cut.

I've also been impressed at the organic growth we're seeing from your efforts as people "like" our Facebook page (932 now "like" us, a list that grows by 10 a week) and collect names of people who want to untax groceries. We'll collect hundreds more names at the polls in November. You can help: All it takes is a pen, a clipboard, a sign-up sheet and a simple "Want to sign up to untax groceries?" When we send "Untax Tuesdays" e-alerts next spring, we'll have a rich new set of voices to add to our advocacy chorus.

We're already missing policy team leader Ron Gilbert, who has taken the helm at the Community Action Association of Alabama. We're keeping him on contract to do the Daily News Digest since no one else wants to get up that early. If you'd like to see links to key news articles by 7 a.m., sign up at arisecitizens.org.

Yours in hope,

Report

This newsletter made possible by the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
Vol. 13, No. 7

October 13, 2010

Public transit returns

Equal pay tops priorities for 2011

By Jim Carnes, communications director

Arise members have targeted the wage gap between the sexes and between White and minority workers as their top legislative priority for the coming session. The call for a permanent Equal Pay Commission leads a line-up of five issues adopted at this year's annual meeting on Sept. 18. The lively gathering at Montgomery's historic St. John's A.M.E. Church drew some 80 member group representatives and individual voting members. In addition to equal pay, the 2011 goals include constitutional reform, public transportation, worker savings incentives, and a moratorium on the death penalty. Two issues – tax reform and adequate state budgets for health care, child care and other human services – are permanent priorities.

Along with the issue presentations by proposing members and Arise staff, Dara Antrum of Community Catalyst offered a national advocate's perspective on health care reform. She cautioned that, as difficult as the process has been thus far, the most important state-level work lies ahead. Arise and its allies will play a crucial role, Dara said, in bringing the consumer voice to tasks such as designing a state Health Insurance Exchange, safeguarding Alabama's exemplary children's coverage, expanding Medicaid and making the case for these items in the state budget.

Arise has worked with Dara and her Community Catalyst colleagues over the last two years as part of the Southern Health Partners collaboration to build regional support for health care reform.



Dara Antrum (left) of St. Louis shares a laugh with Nanyamka Shukura of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Dara is the southern field coordinator for Community Catalyst, a Boston-based national health care consumer advocacy organization.

"I knew Arise had a lot going on," she said, "but I had no idea what a vibrant, engaged and broad-based organization you are until I came to your annual meeting. This has been a real eye-opener. Your members are the greatest!"

Our annual meeting kicks off the fall season of preparation for the legislative year ahead. Arise legislative coordinator Melissa Oliver urged members to vote for the candidates of their choice in the Nov. 2 election but only as the first step in the four-year cycle of state government, which starts anew this year. The next step is meeting the new office-holders and letting them know about Arise's priorities. Then comes "Lobbying with Melissa" after the Legislature convenes on March 1.

"Arise doesn't entertain lawmakers or contribute to their campaigns," Melissa said. "We talk to them and help them understand how their decisions affect the lives of struggling Alabama families."

We're grateful for your support!

Arise members are the lifeblood of the organization. Arise Citizens' Policy Project thanks the following members for their gifts received between July 28 and October 6, 2010:

Project Hope to Abolish the Death

Penalty, Lanett
Ellen Abell, Auburn
Chester Alexander, Tuscaloosa
John Alexander, Birmingham
Richard E. Amacher, Auburn
William Anders, Sheffield
Jere & Sara Beasley, Montgomery
Gerald Bennett, Montgomery
Laura Binder, Birmingham
Bill Blackerby, Birmingham
Anna Blair, Huntsville
Brenda & Jerry Boman, Notasulga
Sam Brooke & Alicia D'Addario, Montgomery
Joel Brouwer, Tuscaloosa
Mary M. Bryant, Auburn
Marcia M. Bystrom, Florence
Jim Carnes & Erin Kellen, Montgomery
Yvette Cashio, Birmingham
Sally Cauthen, Duxbury, Mass.
Dr. Horace Clayton, Odenville
John Cleverdon, Point Clear
Rafe & Judy Cloe, Birmingham
Anne Cody, Anniston
Carolyn Coker, Auburn
Joan Colburn, Auburn
Janet Connorton, SSJ, Pine Apple
Paula Copeland, Birmingham
Robert Cowan, Montevallo
Saradell Crawford, San Antonio, Tex.
Tan Crochen, Alabaster
Malcolm & Ruth Crocker, Auburn
Rev. Jay Croft, Montgomery
Fran Cronenberg, Auburn
Bill Dawson, Birmingham
Lynn Douglas, Birmingham
Jim Douglass, Birmingham
Tom & Doreen Duley, Birmingham
Robert & Franciska Dyck, Birmingham
Stan Easton, Jacksonville
Nancy Ekberg, Birmingham
Joe Elmore, Birmingham
Lillian Ford, Birmingham
Kimble Forrister & Calli Patterson, Montgomery
Nancy Fortenot, Fairhope
William Giardini, Brownsboro
John & Patricia Goff, Northport
Robert & Jean Graetz, Montgomery
Barbara Grant, Montgomery
Brent Gravatt, Auburn
Carol Gundlach, Shorter
Ruth Gynther, Auburn
Beth Hardaway, Mobile

Mike & Barbara Harper, Birmingham
Presdelane Harris, Montgomery
Jack & Heidi Hataway, Montgomery
Bobbie & Aleta Henderson, Phenix City

Curtis T. Henson, Auburn
Dick Hiatt, Huntsville
Nancy Higgs, Bessemer
Robert H. Hill, Birmingham
Nick & Margaret Holler, Auburn
Peter Horn, Birmingham
Mary Howard, Auburn
Rebecca Jackson, Montgomery
Rose Johnson, Mobile
Stan & Gracie Johnson, Birmingham
Joseph Jones, Huntsville
Mary Jones, Birmingham
Anne Kimzey, Montgomery
Acquanetta Knight, Montgomery
Margaret & Paul Latimer, Alpharetta, Ga.
Mike & Jan Laus, Tuscaloosa
George & Betty Likis, Birmingham
Kathleen Liles, Birmingham
Andrew Lipscomb, Auburn
Marian Loftin, Dothan
R.G. Lyons, Birmingham
PJ Magik, Jasper
Ron Manning, Brierfield
Phyllis Mark & Jennifer Sanders, Birmingham
Victor Mark, Birmingham
Marjorie Masterson, Huntsville
Eleanora Mauritsen, Fairhope
David & Susan McAlister, Birmingham
Thelton W. & Elizabeth McCorcle, Auburn

Roger McCullough & Bobby Cardwell, Columbiana
Sarah McElroy, Bessemer
Steven McNeese, Birmingham
Jean Gay Mussleman, Florence
James Napp, Birmingham
Allison Neal, Montgomery
James & Madeleine Nolan, Auburn
John & Ericka Northrup, Birmingham
Julia Norton, Auburn
Dawn Noviello, Sterrett
Marilyn Olson, Auburn
Martha Jane Patton, Birmingham
Willie Peterson, Hayneville
Paula Pointer, Birmingham
Jackie Posey, Town Creek
Hiram J. Powell, Auburn
Sarah Price, Birmingham
Marsha Raulerson, Brewton
Helen Rivas, Birmingham
Lucinda Roff, Tuscaloosa
Ted & Becky Romano, Orange Beach
Katie Rose, Montgomery

Judy Roy, Bessemer
Nell Rush, Birmingham
Anne G. Rutledge, Huntsville
Dick Sales, Birmingham
Caitlin Sandley, Birmingham
Michael Scarborough, Huntsville
Evelyn Schlatter, Montgomery
Margaret Schock, Huntsville
J. Wayne Sellers, Guntersville
Jerod Shepherd, Montgomery
Ruthie Sherrill, Tuscaloosa
Dot & Sam Shippen, Prattville
Ann Smith, Tallassee
Janet Smith, Montgomery
Kay Smith, Birmingham
Jeanine Spann, Birmingham
Micki Beth Stiller, Montgomery
Ivan & Ruth Swift, Toney
Deborah A. Thomas, Montgomery
Sr. Magdala Thompson, Mobile
Mamie Van Dyke, Birmingham
Connie Wagnon, Birmingham
Mark & Anne Waldo, Montgomery
Stephanie Walker, Brewton
Ken Wallace, Fairhope
Mary Weidler, Montgomery
Lorna Wiggins, Auburn
Ray & Freda Winegar, Opelika
Jim & Rita Winkates, Birmingham
William Winston, Montgomery
Newell & Mary Witherspoon, Huntsville
Woody & Carol Woodcock, Montgomery
Sr. Maria Zamboni, Birmingham
Carole B. Zugazaga, Auburn

Election Day 2010

Put democracy in action

Don't forget to vote November 2. But before you cast your ballot, be prepared. Visit www.alabamavotes.gov to see a sample ballot for your county.

Also on Nov. 2, as Alabamians head to the polls, we'll be collecting signatures of voters who support untaxing groceries. We need your help. The more supporters we can identify across the state on Nov. 2, the louder our collective voice will be in Montgomery next spring.

Do you have an hour to help? Please email rebecca@alarise.org for more details.