



Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more...

- Home
- News
- Weather
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Travel
- Interact
- Jobs
- Autos
- Real Estate
- Classifieds
- Shop
- Place An Ad

- News
- Business
- Opinion
- Politics
- Obits
- Nation/World
- Tech
- Religion
- Birmingham News
- Press-Register
- Huntsville Times

The Birmingham News

[Subscribe](#)
[Today's Paper & More](#)



Alabama officials are grappling with soaring costs to provide employees health and pension plans - Page 4

Higher premiums and co-pays possible

Hubbert, executive secretary of the Alabama Education Association, said rising health care costs and last year's 11.8 percent drop in tax collections for the Education Trust Fund mean benefit cuts, higher premiums or co-pays or other changes must be considered for PEEHIP for 2011.

"I don't want to get more specific now except to say we're going to look at everything we can look at that's a possibility," said Hubbert, who chairs the 14-member PEEHIP board.

In a recent editorial in AEA's Alabama School Journal, Hubbert told members, "If we are to protect education jobs and programs and keep PEEHIP actuarially sound, the board must consider some benefit cuts and/or some new out-of-pocket funding."

No tax hike plan:

Mac McArthur, executive director of the Alabama State Employees Association, said his group would fight any attempt to make employees pay more for benefits, especially since employees didn't get cost-of-living raises this year and likely won't next year.

"Punishing state employees, or cutting their salaries by asking them to pay more for health care and retirement, is wrong," McArthur said. He added that he thinks state agencies are inadequately funded.

But Speaker Seth Hammitt, D-Andalusia, leader of the state House of Representatives, said he doubts lawmakers next year will raise broad-based taxes to pay for benefits or anything else, given that voters are hurting in the recession and many legislators plan to seek re-election in 2010.

Asked to predict chances of a tax hike, Hammitt replied, "Slim and none, and Slim won't be in the building."

Hammitt agreed, however, that skyrocketing benefits costs are unsustainable.

"I expect that the insurance boards for both state employees and for teachers are going to have to assess more of the cost for health care to the individuals covered ... for the 2011 fiscal year, with the recognition that we simply don't have the funds to do otherwise," Hammitt said.

Non-education workers covered by the State Employees' Health Insurance Program pay \$15 a month for single coverage and \$205 a month for family coverage, for nonsmokers who attend workplace wellness screenings. The smoking surcharge is \$30 a month.

Teachers and other active employees covered by PEEHIP who are nonsmokers pay \$2 a month for single health insurance coverage and \$134 for family coverage. The smoking surcharge is \$23 a month.

Nationwide, employees who had health insurance this year paid an average of \$64.92 a month for single coverage and \$292.92 for family coverage, according to The Kaiser Family Foundation in Menlo Park, Calif., and the Health Research and Educational Trust, an affiliate of the American Hospital Association.

E-mail: dwhite@bhamnews.com

Mom Makes \$63/Hr Online

Stay at home Mom makes \$7,100 a month! Read her story: [Special Report](#)
www.WallStreetGazetteNews.com

Are E-Cigarettes Safe?

Have Scientists have discovered a healthier way to smoke?
ConsumerHealthTip.com/Smoking

Compliance Training

Training Management Software for FDA and ISO Requirements
www.mastercontrol.com

TOP STORIES

- Alabama's Black Belt aims to lure hunters, anglers
- Alabama officials are grappling with soaring costs to provide employees health and pension plans
- Alabama's next chancellor of two-year colleges will have an interesting first year
- More Headlines

PHOTO GALLERIES

- See More Photos

LATEST COLUMNS

Driver's Side

- Driver's Side: Make sure blinker blinks long enough for lane change

John Archibald

- Archibald: Birmingham needs a reluctant soldier
- More Columnists

FORUMS

Birmingham

- i guess we see what the... by mb66 11/02/2009 4:33 p.m. CT
- The Langford Mash by silverbama 11/02/2009 3:36 p.m. CT
- More

Hoover

- upholsterer needed by joketownus 10/30/2009 6:45 p.m. CT
- A warning by noiseman 10/31/2009 9:02 a.m. CT
- More
- All Forums

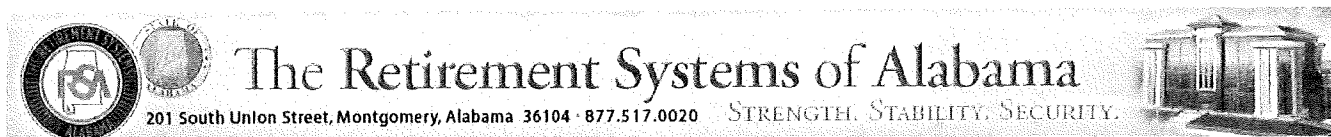
BLOGS

Scott Stantis

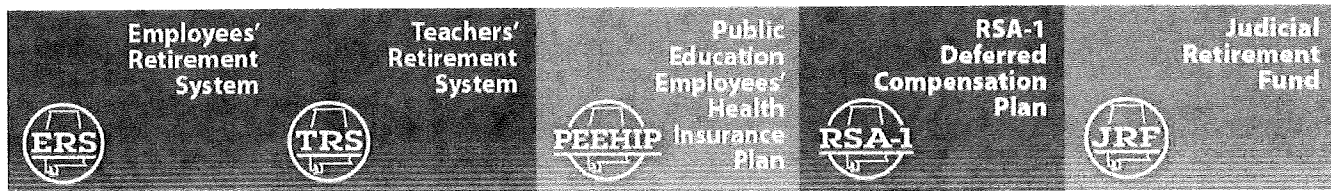
- After 12 years and 11 months, I say goodbye 4:39 a.m. CT
- SCOTT STANTIS: Farewell 4:37 a.m. CT
- More

Scene

- Michigan's Icy Wonderland
- 'Nutcracker' cast may contain some surprises
- More



[Calculators](#) ▾
 [Retirement Planning](#) ▾
 [Publications & Forms](#) ▾
 [Real Estate](#)
 [Contact RSA](#)



General Information

- [About RSA](#)
- [Investments](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Member Services](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [ITB / RFP Information](#)

Online Services

- [Member Online Services](#)
- [Employer Online Services](#)

TRS / PEEHIP Board of Control

Board Members by Position

- Ex Officio & Chairman - Dr. Paul R. Hubbert, Executive Secretary AEA
- Ex Officio - Dr. Joseph Morton, State Superintendent of Education
- Ex Officio - Mr. Bill Newton, State Finance Director
- Ex Officio - Hon. Kay Ivey, State Treasurer
- Postsecondary Position - Dr. Susan Williams Brown
- Principal Position - Mr. Danny Stallings
- Retired Position, No. 1 & Vice Chairman - Mrs. Sarah S. Swindle
- Retired Position, No. 2 - Mrs. Sallie Cook
- Superintendent Position - Mr. Luke Hallmark
- Support Personnel Position, No. 1 - Mr. Robert Wayne Smith
- Support Personnel Position, No. 2 - Mrs. Sharon P. Saxon
- Teacher Position, No. 1 - Mrs. Teresa Harbison
- Teacher Position, No. 2 - Mr. John R. Whaley
- Teacher Position, No. 3 - Ms. Judy Rigdon

Election Information

Congratulations for Mrs. Teresa Harbison and Mr. Robby Smith, who were unopposed for Teacher Position No. 1 and Support Personnel Position No. 1 respectively. Mrs. Harbison and Mr. Smith will begin their new terms on July 1, 2010.

The ballots for the Teachers' Retirement System Board of Control Election will be mailed October 15, 2009, and will be due to VR Election Services on November 20, 2009. The positions up for election are Teacher Position No. 2, Retired Position No. 1, and the Postsecondary Position. Read the candidates' biographies and statements using the links below. Make your vote count! Your participation will ensure a fiscally sound retirement system for the future.

- [Sample Ballot](#)
- [Candidate Biographies](#)
- [Candidate Statements](#)

Quick Links

- [RSA Home Page](#)
- [State of Alabama](#)
- [Social Security](#)
- [Medicare](#)
- [Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail](#)
- [PCH Hotels & Resorts](#)