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Calendar notes

LISTENING SESSIONS

Auburn Thurs., July 24, Noon – 1 p.m., UU Busch Center.

Mobile Mon., July 28, 6:30 p.m., Providence Outreach Senior Center, 35 N. Cody Rd.

Birmingham Thurs., July 31, Noon, Greater B'ham Ministries.

EQUAL VOICE CAMPAIGN

Birmingham Sat., Sept. 6, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Equal Voice regional convening for a “working families agenda,” Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

ANNUAL MEETING

Montgomery Sat., Sept. 13, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Location TBA.

ACTION ALERT

Shelby revives Katrina funding proposal

Contact your congressman.

Ask to speak to the aide who covers appropriations. Urge your congressman to join with the rest of the Alabama delegation to call for a House bill that mirrors Senator Shelby's request for Alabama Katrina relief in the second supplemental appropriations bill.

Shelby proposes a Community Development Fund for Alabama's Hurricane Katrina victims; at least half of the appropriation would target low- and moderate-income households. Our calls for more adequate recovery funding are making a difference, and we appreciate Sen. Shelby's leadership on this issue.

Report

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Vol. 11, No. 4

July 17, 2008

Birmingham convention Sept. 6

Families to set Equal Voice agenda

Our national priorities will be up for review once again this fall, and the Equal Voice campaign wants to make sure working families have a place at the table. Sponsored by the Marguerite Casey Foundation, Equal Voice will cap its year-long civic engagement effort with a multi-city convention of families in Birmingham, Chicago and Los Angeles on Sept. 6 (*see enclosed flyer*). The gatherings will propose a national family-issues platform for the November election.

areas. Besides ACPP, Alabama's participating organizations include Alabama Coalition Against Hunger; Alabama Organizing Project; Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama (FOCAL); Federation of Southern Cooperatives; Greater Birmingham Ministries; Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA) and VOICES for Alabama's Children.

ACPP organizers seek tax reform supporters

By Rebecca Jackson, organizer

One steady focus of ACPP organizers' efforts is expanding “the choir” of tax reform advocates in the state. In January, we launched a petition campaign to identify people who support fairer taxes. Signers receive periodic updates on our tax reform work and will get special alerts if the Tax Fairness Amendment makes it to the November ballot.

Organizers are challenging each ACPP member group to sign up at least 100 people. As an incentive (as if tax reform isn't incentive enough!), we're offering an ice cream party to the group or individual collecting the most names! The deadline for our friendly challenge is Election Day, Nov. 4. So far, Ruth Gynther of Auburn United Methodist Church, Mary Jones of Greater Birmingham Ministries and R. G. Lyons of Church without Walls in Birmingham are in the lead with more than 100 names each. If you need petitions or voter registration forms, call Rebecca at the Arise office or e-mail rebecca@alarise.org.



Arise members Peter Furst of Birmingham Friends and Helen Rivas (center) of Latinos Unidos de Alabama (LUDA) share a moment with Equal Voice Deep South Coordinator Janet Perkins of Arkansas.

A statewide “town hall” meeting in Birmingham's historic Civil Rights District in April drew nearly 400 participants. Organizers hope the September event will bring 3,000 families to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

The Equal Voice for America's Families Campaign is a joint effort of more than 225 Marguerite Casey Foundation grantees. These local, regional and national nonprofit organizations work with families in the nation's poorest rural and urban

A few words from Kimble —

For the first time, individual members will play a greater role as we choose Arise's 2008 policy priorities at the annual meeting on Sept. 13. In the 20 years since Alabama Arise was founded, only representatives from member groups voted to select the priority issues. This policy was amended at Lobby Day last winter to give voting privileges to individuals who have provided financial support and who have been active in advocacy in the past year. Eligible individuals will cast one vote, while member groups will cast 10.

To be eligible to vote on 2009 priority issues, individuals must have taken both of the following actions *between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008*:

- Made a financial gift to Alabama Arise or Arise Citizens' Policy Project, and
- Contacted a legislator about an Arise issue in person, by phone or through written correspondence; or written a letter to the editor on an Arise issue.

A list of eligible voters has been posted at www.alarise.org. If you have met both requirements for eligibility but your name is not on the list, e-mail brenda@alarise.org or call (800) 832-9060 before Aug. 15. A final list of eligible voters will be posted at the annual meeting.

We don't know what's next for the Tax Fairness Amendment. We have learned the deadline for legislative passage is not early August; the 90-day requirement for constitutional amendments does not apply to general elections. Gov. Bob Riley might have other special sessions in mind, but he opposes our plan. One glimmer of hope comes from his promise to work out a compromise with the Legislative Black Caucus on the measure. If you haven't contacted Riley with your opinion, please make it a priority! Many of us believe our tax system will change for the better before he leaves office.

With peace,

— We appreciate your support! —

Arise Citizens' Policy Project thanks the following individuals for their gifts received between June 1 and July 5, 2008:

Dallas & Jimmie Baillio,
Dauphin Island
Brenda & Jerry Boman, Notasulga
Jim Carnes & Erin Kellen, Montgomery
Sally Cauthen, Duxbury, Mass.
John Cleverdon, Point Clear
Joan Colburn, Auburn
Paula Copeland, Birmingham
Robert Cowan, Montevallo
Saradell Crawford, San Antonio, Texas
Rev. Emily R. Davis, Talladega
Scott & Lynn Douglas, Birmingham
Tom & Doreen Duley, Birmingham
Robert & Franciska Dyck, Birmingham
Nancy Ekberg, Birmingham
Charles Fail, Mobile
Lillian Ford, Birmingham
Kimble Forrister & Calli Patterson,
Montgomery
William Giardini, Brownsboro
Ron Gilbert, Douglasville, Ga.
Margaret Gordon, Mobile
Barbara Grant, Montgomery
Carol Gundlach, Shorter
JoEllen Held, Florence
Peter Horn, Birmingham
Rev. Kenneth & Dorothy Hughes,
Fairhope
Stan & Gracie Johnson, Birmingham
Sam & Gwen Knowlton, Birmingham
Betty Likis, Birmingham
Kathleen Liles, Birmingham
R.G. Lyons, Birmingham
Wallace Lyons, Centre
Ron Manning, Brierfield
Marjorie Masterson, Huntsville
Emily & Travis McGowin, Birmingham
Merlin & Wesley Newton, Montgomery
Bob Parker, Birmingham
Larry Pollock, Decatur
Judy Poole, Birmingham
Hiram J. Powell, Auburn
Bob & Helen Renner, Fairhope
Paul M. Rilling, Anniston
Helen Rivas, Birmingham
Ted & Becky Romano, Orange Beach
Judy Roy, Bessemer
Dick Sales, Birmingham
Pat Schoen, Mentone
J. Wayne Sellers, Guntersville
Micki Beth Stiller, Montgomery
Marilyn Stokes, Lanett
Donald P. Stone, Furman
Jackie Tipper, Town Creek
Martha Tissington, Mobile
Mamie Van Dyke, Birmingham
Elaine E. Vancleave, Birmingham

Connie Wagnon, Birmingham
Mary Weidler, Montgomery
James Whatley, Alexander City
Freda Winegar, Opelika
Newell & Mary Witherspoon,
Huntsville
Robert & Mary E. Woodrow,
Greensboro, N.C.

*In memory of Frank Maddox, stepfather of
ACPP executive director Kimble Forrister:*

Ruthie Sherrill, Tuscaloosa

*In honor of Kimble Forrister and Rep. John
Knight:*

Marian Loftin, Dothan

Medicaid update

Thousands lose coverage for outpatient services

By Jim Carnes, health policy analyst

Some 16,000 Alabama seniors and people with disabilities received notice last month that Medicaid would no longer pay their premiums for Medicare outpatient coverage. After allowing the Qualifying Individual Program, or QI-1, to expire in late June, Congress voted on July 9 to extend it until December 2009. Alabama's QI-1 recipients won't benefit immediately from the extension, however, because the state's program is out of money for the current fiscal year, which runs through September.

QI-1 pays Medicare Part B premiums for qualified Medicare beneficiaries. The program is 100 percent federally funded, requiring no state match. Services covered under Medicare Part B include doctor visits, home health care, diagnostic tests, medical supplies and ambulance services. Former QI-1 recipients now must pay the \$96.40 monthly premium themselves, through an automatic deduction from their Social Security checks. According to the termination notice, a processing delay may mean the initial deduction will cover more than one month retroactively.

By midyear, Alabama Medicaid already had spent more than half of the \$21.2 million it requested in QI-1 funding for FY 2008, which began last October. On June 20, the agency learned it would receive only \$11.7 million for the current year. There is no word yet on Congress' plans for further QI-1 funding.