



# The ADVISOR

TEACHERS, EMPLOYEES, and JUDICIAL



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SERVING OVER 380,000 MEMBERS

April 2023

## Silliness

DAVID G. BRONNER

Some legislative proposals to spend the federal windfall of funds remind me of the sailor that hits port after being at sea for months. Hang on to your hat Alabama! Proposals to send money back to voters make great political sound bites. But, we are in Alabama and not in any high-tax state. We are the 5th poorest state in America because of our 19th century tax structure. Alabama is currently 49th in tax revenue! If we merely cut our taxes by \$50 per year, we can be tied for 50th!

Remember that the excess funds came from the Federal Government AND those funds will be gone in a couple of years. Does giving \$400 to a person or \$800 for a family make any sense? Clearly, anything that helps the poor, homeless, injured veterans, single parents, and many others is great. But why give anything to me, Coach Saban, Coach Freeze, doctors, lawyers, and business professionals? For some, \$400 is a dinner for four at an upscale restaurant, while retirees would get nothing.



Instead, use the funds to help Alabama obtain a level of health insurance like Arkansas and Georgia accomplished for OUR 230,000 uninsured hourly workers, as well as the poor, and stop the carnage of our rural hospitals. ●



## Show Me the Money

DAVID G. BRONNER

For as long as I can remember, the ABC Board which controls the sale and enforcement of the liquor business in Alabama has been under attack. The standard message of “let us privatize it” comes with the usual nonsense that all the revenue will be regenerated. But one must ask, who and what will guarantee that revenue?

For decades, the ABC staff and its strong leadership has defended the program and its employees. The newly-appointed leader, Mr. Curtis Stewart, relinquished his leadership

LOSES” to the tune of \$354 million of state revenue!

**NOW ASK YOURSELF**, how does Alabama keep itself from falling into total chaos without an upfront guarantee on an actual source of real revenue? Governor Riley tried to give us a reasonable tax structure, but it failed.

Alabama has a long history of avoiding normal taxes that most states utilize or implementing sound ideas like changing the existing grocery taxes that are not

### ABC REVENUES\*

REVENUES:	This Year as of September 2021
Retail Sales	\$356,610,889.56
Wholesale Sales	\$338,472,777.30
Military Sales	<u>\$7,304,502.41</u>
Total Sales	\$702,388,169.27

\*estimated

### ABC DISTRIBUTIONS\*

DISTRIBUTIONS:	This Year as of September 2021
General Fund	\$130,576,858.72
Dept of Human Resources	\$84,466,007.12
Dept of Mental Health	\$63,417,765.81
Education Trust Fund	\$22,855,258.20
Dept of Revenue	\$21,407,534.77
Cities and Counties	\$14,821,074.61
ALEA	<u>\$16,895,692.00</u>
	\$354,440,191.23

\*estimated

role by saying in essence, “The Legislature is the boss, and they can do what they like.” Wow! That would make any state agency staff feel totally uncomfortable about their future. Leadership of ABC should instead be informing legislators and the public of Alabama “WHO WINS AND WHO

acceptable in most states. Our Federal funds windfall will be gone in two years. The Legislature cut long-time revenue in 2022 when 18 Acts cut \$160 million per year, creating yet another hole in the budget of the 49th state in tax revenue. When cutting taxes always ask, “What will replace it?” ●

## WANT TO HELP?



### A FREE CAR TAG

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Tag, P.O. Box 302150  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2150

# History of Silver Lakes in Glencoe on the Trail

BY MARK FAGAN

In 1992, political leaders in Calhoun County and Etowah County separately approached Dr. Bronner for a site on the Trail in their respective county. An easily accessible site from both counties would be ideal. The RSA and Sunbelt Golf began site assessment in July 1990 and six sites were eventually rejected due to being too rocky, short on potable water, or too far from an interstate highway.

Don Gibbs owned very scenic property (in an unincorporated area of Calhoun County) near the Etowah County line with enough land to donate 400-450 acres for the complex and profit from the remaining acres. In keeping with all other sites on the Trail, the local government was required to finance the access road and utility extensions. The Calhoun County Commission (especially Administrator Ken Joiner) culminated an agreement in November 1991 to develop the access road, for Gibbs to donate the property, and the RSA to finance the golf complex.

Silver Lakes in Glencoe opened in 1993 with 36 holes as the 7th site on The Trail. It is just off US 431, 20 minutes each from Anniston and Gadsden, and 15 minutes from Jacksonville State University

(JSU). The 450-acre complex has two large spring-fed lakes (125 acres), hilly topography, forests, and long mountain views. Dr.



Bronner selected this site to further cooperation among the counties in the region for economic development by displaying its natural beauty. Housing has developed adjacent to this golf complex.

There are three 9-hole courses and one 9-hole par-3 course. Mindbreaker nine

has a manmade lake, and Hole 9 provides views of both main lakes. Heartbreaker nine has stunning views of the lakes and surrounding mountains. Backbreaker nine, with the highest elevations, has some of the most dramatic views at the complex. The par-3 course around the lake is comparable to the par-3 course at Augusta National. Many holes have pedestal greens perched 30-40 feet above the fairway with contours matching the mountain backdrops. The 22,000-sf clubhouse has a golf shop, dining room, locker room, cart storage, and veranda with views of the lakes. There is a practice range with a short game area and putting green.

In 2011, an EF-4 tornado hit Silver Lakes and took out more than 38,000 trees, the maintenance building, the pump building, the irrigation system, and many sections of cart path. Serious consideration was given to close Silver Lakes, but the RSA made the decision not to abandon the people of Northeast Alabama and to restore the golf complex. Roger Rulewich, the chief architect for the late Robert Trent Jones and major designer for the initial construction of the golf complex, designed the restoration. More than 70 people worked for four months on removing debris, replanting, and reshaping many holes. The tree removal converted most of the golf holes to links style from tree-lined fairways. Open views of the adjacent mountains were created with the clubhouse visible from 28 holes.

Silver Lakes has received national and international publicity for the region from the promotional efforts by the RSA. Silver Lakes has been the number one tourism attraction for out-of-state visitors in Northeast Alabama since its inception (other than the Talladega Racetrack for two weeks a year). Many employees at the nearby Honda plant in Lincoln play golf there. It has served as the JSU golf teams' home course where they have hosted many intercollegiate tournaments. Danny Willett, 2016 Masters Champion, played for JSU for two years and credited his daily play at Silver Lakes as contributing to his victory in Augusta with similar characteristics as Silver Lakes. ●

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- RTJ Magnolia Grove – Mobile, AL
- RTJ Oxmoor Valley – Birmingham, AL
- RTJ Ross Bridge – Hoover, AL
- RTJ Silver Lakes – Anniston/Gadsden, AL
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# Alabama Success Story

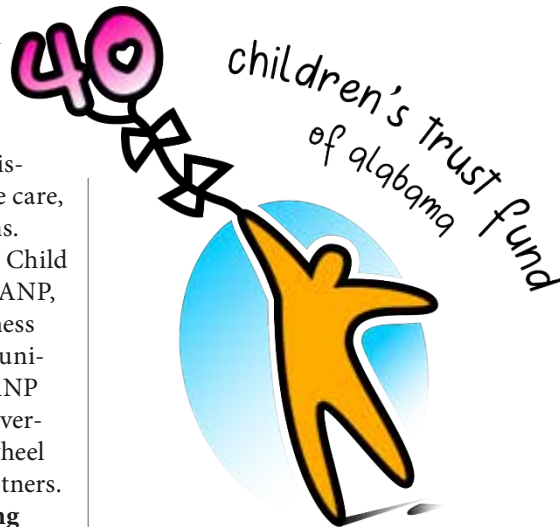
## Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Celebrates 40 Years

This year, the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (ADCANP) is celebrating its 40th anniversary as a state agency. Founded in 1983, ADCANP, also known as the Children's Trust Fund, provides annual funding to community-based programs across the state dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect. This year, the agency awarded \$16.3 million in state and federal grant funds for a total of 176 grants statewide to provide a range of prevention efforts, including parent education, home visiting, fatherhood, mentoring, respite care, and community awareness programs.

April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. For ADCANP, this month is spent bringing awareness to child safety and educating communities on prevention strategies. ADCANP will kick off this month and its anniversary celebrations by planting a pinwheel garden at the RSA Plaza with its partners. "The theme of this month is **Building Together: Prevention in Partnership**. Prevention cannot and does not happen alone," said Sallye Longshore, Director of ADCANP. "Through collaboration with state and local organizations, we are able to champion various evidenced-based programs to help build the capacity in communities. When we work together to help all children reach their full potential, we can build a more equitable, healthy, and economically thriving state."

In 40 years, ADCANP has funded many initiatives and programs across the state to impact local communities. Through this funding, communities were able to provide the necessary support to keep children and families safe and

healthy. The agency also started an expansive Fatherhood Initiative and Parent Advisory Council, engaging parents so their voices could be heard and included in all aspects of this work. In 2017, ADCANP brought the nationally renowned Strengthening Families™ framework to Alabama, certifying



preventing child abuse  
and neglect for 40 years

33 trainers. This is the second-highest number of trainers in the nation. Since its inception, thousands of citizens have received training and education in Strengthening Families to protect and care for Alabama's children. New to ADCANP this year are two statewide education initiatives in partnership with Fowler Davis 4 Change, Digital Safety for Alabama's Youth, and the Youth Opioid Prevention Initiative, [Besmartdontstart.com](http://Besmartdontstart.com). Each program provides online resources to teachers, parents, and youth

on preventing abuse and opioid use.

All funded programs work with individuals, parents, and families to build protective factors that prevent child abuse and neglect and give them the tools they need to become stronger parents. One of ADCANP's funded programs, the Parent Assistance Line (PAL), provides parents, grandparents, relatives, and caregivers across the state with guidance for successfully maneuvering the daily challenges of parenting. Through calls, texts, and online chats, this kind of support helps individuals become more confident and successful parents, recognizing that sometimes parenting can be challenging. One parent shared, "PAL is available for free all over our state and offers a very wide variety of resources to parents, grandparents, and caretakers. One of the highlights is that they will talk to you like a friend! They give advice and offer solutions in real time! This isn't a waiting list to be put on or an awkward conversation in a building with buzzing fluorescent lights. There is a real person on the other end of that phone who genuinely cares, and sometimes that is worth more than all the money in the world...They are available in three forms: phone, text, and chat. They also send out texts with parenting tips and information about local free events!" For more information on ADCANP, visit [www.ctf.alabama.gov](http://www.ctf.alabama.gov).

*This is a series of articles about Alabama Success Stories. Please let us know if you have a similar success story you would like to share with the RSA membership. You may contact us at [communication.correspondences@rsa-al.gov](mailto:communication.correspondences@rsa-al.gov). ●*

## Candidates Sought for Three ERS Board Positions

Candidates are being sought for three positions on the ERS Board of Control: Active State No. 2, held by Lindsey Ward; Active Other Local (formerly Active Local No.2), held by Lisa Statum; and Retired Local, held by Jim Fibbe. Elected members will begin their four-year term of service on October 1, 2023.

To be eligible for the Active State No. 2 position, you must be a vested member

of the ERS and employed with a state agency. To be eligible for the Active Other Local position, you must be a full-time employee with an entity participating in the ERS pursuant to *Ala. Code* § 36-27-6 other than a municipality, city, or county. This position requires a nomination petition with at least 50 signatures of eligible voters. To be eligible for the Retired Local position, you must be a retired employee

of a city, county, or public agency and currently receiving an ERS retirement benefit.

Nomination packets, available on our website at [www.rsa-al.gov](http://www.rsa-al.gov), are due to the ERS by 4:00 p.m. on April 29, 2023. In June, eligible members will vote online, by mail, or by telephone for this position. If you have any questions, please contact the Elections Coordinator at 877.517.0020 or 334.517.7192. ●



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#### The Battle House,

#### A Renaissance Hotel \$129

- April 1, 5-13, 16-18, 23, 30
- May 1-3, 7-10, 14-18, 21-24, 28-30
- June 1-10, 14-20, 25-30

#### The Battle House RSA Spa Package \$244

- April 5, 17-18 • May 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 30
- June 5-7, 14, 26-28

#### Riverview Plaza \$119

- April 1, 5-7, 8-9, 23, 26-27, 30
- May 1-10, 19-24, 29-31
- June 1-3, 9-10, 14-15, 17-20, 25-28

#### Grand Hotel (plus a 15% resort fee) \$137

- April 5-6, 9-10, 23-26, 30 • May 1-2, 7-8, 14-17, 24
- June 1, 4, 6, 21

#### Grand Hotel RSA Golf Package (plus a 15% resort fee) \$209

- April 5-6, 9-10, 23-26, 30
- May 1-2, 7-8, 14-17, 24 • June 1, 4, 6, 21

#### Grand Hotel RSA Spa Package \$285 (plus a 15% resort fee)

- April 5-6, 25-26 • May 2, 15-17, 24 • June 1, 6, 21

#### Marriott Shoals \$119

- April 2, 9-10, 16 • May 6, 14, 21, 29-30
- June 4, 11, 18-19, 25

#### Marriott Shoals RSA Spa Package \$229

- April 2, 9-10, 16 • May 6, 14, 21, 29-30
- June 4, 11, 18-19, 25

#### Renaissance Ross Bridge \$129

- April 2, 7, 9, 16, 23-26, 30
- May 3-4, 7, 14, 17-18, 21, 29-30
- June 4, 7-8, 11, 18, 25

#### Renaissance Ross Bridge RSA Spa Package \$260

- April 2, 16, 23-26 • May 7, 21 • June 4, 7, 25

#### Auburn/Opelika Marriott Resort \$119 (plus a 10% resort fee)

- April 2-3, 9-10, 14-16 • May 1-2, 18-19, 23-25, 30-31
- June 6-8, 27-29

#### Auburn/Opelika Marriott Resort RSA Spa Package \$234 (plus a 10% resort fee)

- April 2-3, 9-10, 14-16 • May 1, 18-19
- June 7-8, 28-29

#### Prattville Marriott \$99

- April 2, 7-8, 16, 30 • May 14-15, 21, 28-29
- June 1, 4, 10-11, 29

#### Renaissance Montgomery \$129

- April 6-9, 30 • May 7-8, 14, 28-29
- June 11, 18-19, 25-26

#### Renaissance Montgomery RSA Spa Package \$244

- April 6-8 • May N/A • June N/A

Specific room requests may require additional charge.  
Rates available the 1st of the month and are not applicable to groups.

Corporate/Promotional Code: R2A  
on [www.rsa-al.gov](http://www.rsa-al.gov)  
Book Online and Save RSA \$4.



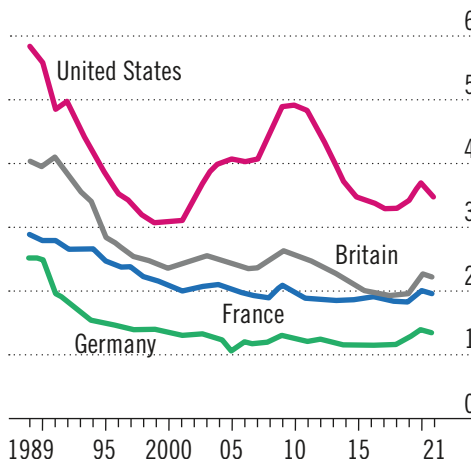
## ERS Board Members Sworn in at March Meeting



ERS Board of Control Vice Chair Jim Fibbe administers the Oath of Office to Derrick Turner and David Colston. ●

## Much Still To Do

Defense spending, % of GDP



Source: SIPRI



CEO  
David G. Bronner  
Deputy Director – Administration  
Jo Moore  
Deputy Director – Investments  
Marc Green  
Executives  
Communications  
Deborah J. Kirk  
Chief Accountant & Financial Officer  
Diane E. Scott  
Employees' and Judicial Retirement  
William F. Kelley, Jr.  
Employer Services  
Margaret B. Sellars  
Field Services  
Christopher C. Gallup  
Information Technology Services  
Michael T. Baker  
General Counsel  
Jared H. Morris  
Legislative Counsel  
Neah M. Scott  
Member Services  
Penny K. Wilson  
PEEHIP  
J. David Wales  
RSA-1  
Rhonda H. Peters  
Teachers' Retirement  
Christopher P. Townes

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