



Vol. XLIV—No. 12

SERVING OVER 358,000 MEMBERS

June 2019

It's Time to Awake

BY DAVID G. BRONNER

All of us who can remember anything about the past four or five decades clearly understand that Alabama has had a prison problem since before we were born! It was crystal clear to Governor Wallace in the 1970s that mental health and prisons needed serious improvement, but it is now also obvious to the federal government. If we fail in our duty to Alabamians, and the Feds are called upon to clean up this problem, it will cost three- to five-times more money.

I cannot do as good a job as Mr. Mike Cason with *AL.com* did in his excellent article entitled, “How do other states deal with overcrowded, understaffed prisons?”

Here are only a few bullet points of that important story:

- Alabama compared to the state of Washington: About the same number of inmates, BUT they have triple the number of guards, with better pay.
- Alabama spends \$14,780 per inmate, LESS THAN ANY OTHER STATE. Kentucky and Louisiana spend \$2,000 more; Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Arkansas spend \$4,000 to \$6,000 more. The national average is \$33,000 – double what Alabama spends.
- Alabama spends an average of \$35,370 for correctional officers' salaries,

compared to Washington's average of \$76,500.

The good news is that Governor Ivey and the Legislature are providing funding to Corrections of \$517 million in 2020, which is \$40 million more than 2019. But none of that addresses the cost to repair some facilities and build new ones. Remember that if we do not fix this problem, it will cost all of us more if the Feds force us to correct it per their guidelines. For the first time in decades, due to the exceptional work of Senator Cam Ward and others, there is hope of a solution for an ancient Alabama problem. ●

A Big Deal: EmblemHealth Renews at 55 Water St.

BY BETSY KIM | *GLOBE ST.*

It's a big deal. One of the largest non-profit health insurers, EmblemHealth, signed a 15-year extension for 440,000 square feet at 55 Water St. The transaction is one of the largest leases of the year in Lower Manhattan, in the largest office building in New York City based on floor area. The 4 million-square-foot building is also the second largest privately-owned office building in the U.S.

The landlord, New Water Street Corporation, owns and operates office buildings. It is part of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, a state employee pension fund which owns 55 Water Street. EmblemHealth has



maintained its headquarters in the building since 2003.

“As one of the largest and most important real estate investments for the Retirement Systems of Alabama, we always take great pride when our existing tenants reinvest in their premises and continue the partnership like relationship we maintain with our corporate occupants,” says Dan Palino, COO of New Water Street Corporation.

The property features full floor plates ranging up to 69,500 square feet. It has two on-site parks, multiple dining choices, a sky bar, beer garden, and sundry retail. ●

Chicken Wire and Duct Tape

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT SOURCE: BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK

MUNICIPAL OFFICES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE STRUGGLING TO DO THEIR JOBS WITH OBSOLETE GEAR THAT CAN OFTEN BE EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING TO REPLACE.

Baltimore

Police Department

Issue: The system for storing and tracking crime reports is more than 20 years old, doesn't comply with the national incident reporting system, and can't link to other databases.

Upgrade cost:

\$4m

Broome County, NY

Office of Emergency Services

Issue: Twelve different radio systems with portions dating to the 1970s prevent units from talking to one another.

Cost:

\$23m

Dallas County

Courts

Issue: Case-tracking software to replace the Texas county's outdated programs began development in 2012 but has faced repeated delays, leaving judges stuck with inefficient systems.

Cost: More than

\$30m

Lawton, Okla.

Municipal Court

Issue: A 1980s system for court records relies on typewriters. New software would ease the workload and reduce errors from having to repeatedly enter information.

Cost:

\$400k

New Jersey

NJ Transit

Issue: The nation's second-biggest commuter railroad uses paper forms to procure its equipment and supplies. It wants a central, digital inventory.

Cost:

Unknown

Philadelphia

Streets Department

Issue: Control systems for most of the city's 3,000 traffic signals date to the 1960s and make it harder for the department to manage congestion.

Cost (per intersection):

\$175k to \$735k

Circle the Wagons for RSA

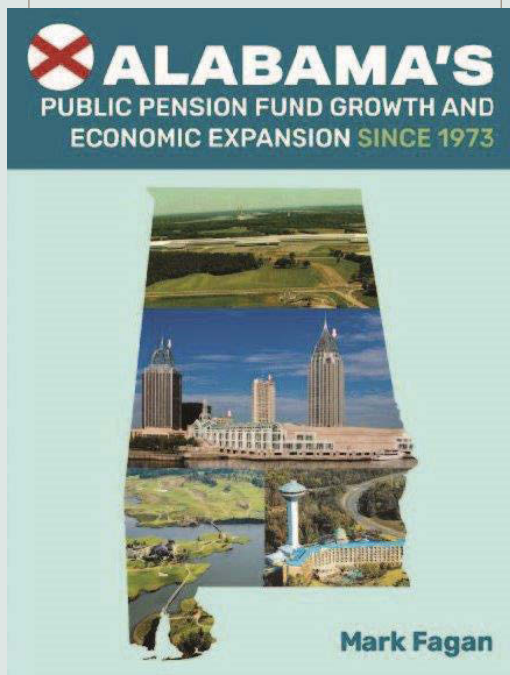
BY MARK FAGAN

The RSA has over 358,000 members in the fields of education and state and local government. These members are active and retired employees of the 210 education units and 1,004 state and local entities. These active and retired members have contributed to the RSA, who provides them a secure retirement after their employment years through investments. Each member has a vested interest in keeping the RSA strong.

Active and retired members need to know as much as possible about the RSA to be able to defend the RSA against people wanting to control their money and impact their retirement income. It is important for RSA members to take ownership and responsibility for their retirement fund. Members need to learn more about RSA operations, RSA assets, and RSA efforts to make Alabama stronger. RSA members do not need to rest on RSA's success because others will want RSA's financial resources.

Actions will be needed in the future to maintain RSA's status for serving RSA members.

More discussion about the importance of the RSA among RSA members and their political representatives can



help to build grassroots support for keeping the RSA viable. Workshops for teachers and state employees about the RSA will help expand this conversation

and keep leaders focused on maintaining the RSA. AEA and state employee associations can further this education process about the RSA.

There is a new resource for educating RSA's members about their retirement systems. It is a textbook about how the RSA has grown since 1973 to become effective at serving RSA members. It contains statements from political and business leaders who witnessed RSA's growth and role in making Alabama a better place to live. It explains the actions by the two Boards of Control and RSA staff members that made the RSA a major benefit for public service in Alabama.

Every member of the RSA will benefit by reading this book and taking action to support the RSA. Members can get a copy or ask their agency, school library, or public library to get a copy so they can learn more about RSA's history and current operations.

Go to <https://store.bookbaby.com/profile/MarkFagan>. Please learn about the RSA because there may come a time when RSA members need to "circle the wagons." ●

Alabama Success Stories

Educating Alabama's Future Leaders Since 1989

The Alabama School of Mathematics and Science is our state's only fully public and residential high school for sophomores, juniors, and seniors seeking advanced studies in math, science, and the humanities. Tuition, room, and board are free.

Nestled in Mobile's beautiful Old Dauphin Way Historic District, ASMS was founded by the Alabama State Legislature in 1989 to better prepare Alabama's future leaders. ASMS also enjoys partnerships with business and industry. The state of Alabama provides the operating budget, while the facility is owned and maintained by the ASMS Foundation, a charitable group that receives donations from businesses, individuals, and other foundations.

In the late 1980s, a group of concerned citizens banded together in Mobile to develop an advanced high school that could draw students from across the entire state. Many in this group belonged to Mobile United, a service organization focused on solving community challenges.

One of the most notable members of the founding group was Ann Smith Bedsole, the first Republican woman to be elected to the Alabama House of Representatives and a member of the ASMS School Board and Foundation Board of Directors. Other notable supporters have included Representative Steve McMillan and former Representative Jo Bonner. McMillan and Bonner have also served on both the ASMS School Board and Foundation Board of Directors.

In 1989, the state Legislature approved a bill creating ASMS and gave the school's founders \$300,000 in start-up funds to

hire faculty and staff and to purchase books and office equipment. Shortly after that, the ASMS Foundation, a non-profit organization located in Mobile that receives donations from businesses, industries, individuals, and other foundations, was created to raise additional funds to purchase a school campus and to furnish labs and dorm rooms. The 15-acre ASMS campus sits on the former site of Mobile Dauphin Way Baptist Church, although it has been heavily modified and refurbished. The first students arrived in 1991, while much of the campus was under construction. Since that time, the ASMS Foundation has overseen the renovation of every building on campus as well as the construction of a boys' dormitory and the Ann Smith Bedsole Library.

ASMS benefits from a unique partnership between the state of Alabama and the business and industry communities. A roughly \$6 million operating budget for the school is supplied by the state. The campus, however, is owned and maintained by the ASMS Foundation, which also raises money for the operating budget and other projects. Since the school was established, the foundation has raised nearly \$20 million, much of which has been spent on capital-improvement projects.

The ASMS School Board governs the school. The Alabama governor appoints nine of the board's 21 members. Of those nine appointees, seven are appointed to represent congressional districts, and two are appointed to represent the Mobile-Baldwin County area. Although ASMS receives state funding, the school does not fall under the jurisdiction of

the state school board. The ASMS School Board employs a president to administer the school.

The Alabama School of Mathematics and Science's mission is to provide academically motivated Alabama students with exceptional preparation in the fields of math and science, empowering them to improve their community, state, and nation.

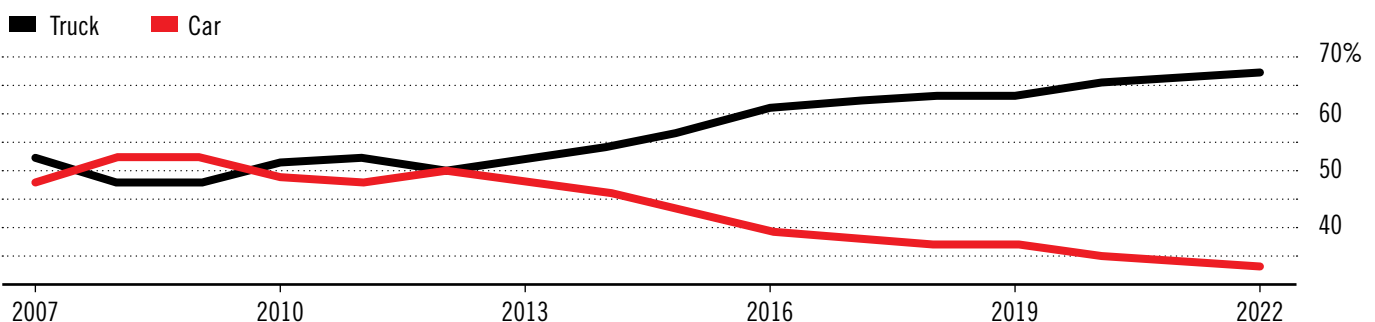
Some recent success stories within our school are linked below.

- **Student Published at 16** <https://www.asms.net/news/asms-student-published-her-novel-at-16/>
- **Student as a Senate Page in DC** <https://www.asms.net/news/asms-student-assists-in-d-c-as-senate-page/>
- **Students and Instructor Awarded for Aspirations in Computing** <https://www.asms.net/news/ncwit-award-for-aspirations-in-computing-given-to-some-inspiring-women-on-asms-campus/>
- **First ASMS Sophomore to earn 36 on ACT** <https://www.asms.net/news/first-asms-sophomore-to-earn-perfect-score-on-act/>
- **Student Awarded Congressional Medal Award** <https://www.asms.net/news/asms-sophomore-earns-first-congressional-medal-award-in-mobile-district/>

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

Collapsing Cars

Share of annual new vehicle sales in the U.S. shifting towards trucks, SUVs at rapid clip



Source: Bloomberg



Start Planning Your Summer Getaways at RSA's Outstanding Hotels, Spas, and RTJ Golf

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS OF ALABAMA

201 SOUTH UNION STREET

P.O. BOX 302150

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-2150

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MONTGOMERY, AL
PERMIT NO. 402

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER A Special Deal FOR RSA MEMBERS

The Battle House,

A Renaissance Hotel—Mobile—\$119

- June 1-5, 9-10, 14-18, 23-30
- July 1-3, 7-12, 21-24, 31
- August 1-2, 8-30

The Battle House—RSA Spa Package—\$207

- June 3-5, 10, 17-18, 24-26 • July 1-3, 8-10, 22-24, 31
- August 12-14, 19-21, 26-28

The Renaissance Riverview Plaza—Mobile—\$109

- June 1-2, 9-12, 15-18, 23-28 • July 1-3, 21-22, 31
- August 1-2, 8-25, 29-31

Marriott Grand—\$127 plus a 15% resort fee

- June 2-3, 12, 19 • July 10, 23-24, 28-29
- August 11-13, 25-26

Marriott Grand—RSA Golf Package—\$199

plus a 15% resort fee —Promotional code—R2A

Includes: Deluxe Room, One Round of Golf for Two People.
Call for Tee Times after booking package

- June 2-3, 12, 19 • July 10, 23-24, 28-29
- August 11-13, 25-26

Marriott Grand—RSA Spa Package—\$259

plus a 15% resort fee

- June 2-3, 12, 19 • July 10, 23-24, 28-29
- August 11-13, 25-26

Marriott Shoals—Florence—\$109

- June 2, 9, 13, 16, 23, 30 • July 7, 14, 21, 28
- August 4, 11, 25-27, 29

Marriott Shoals—RSA Spa Package—\$210

- June 2, 9, 13, 16, 23, 30 • July 7, 14, 28
- August 4, 11, 25-27, 29

Renaissance Ross Bridge—Hoover—\$119

- June 2-3, 9, 12-13, 16-19, 23-26, 30
- July 1-2, 7-11, 14-18, 21, 23, 28-30
- August 1, 4-8, 11-31

Ross Bridge—RSA Spa Package—\$223

- June 2-3, 9, 12, 16-19, 23-26, 30
- July 1-2, 7-10, 14-17, 21, 23, 28-30
- August 4-7, 11-14, 18-21, 25-28

Auburn/Opelika Marriott—\$109

- June 2-18, 22-27, 30 • July 1-3, 7-11, 14-24, 28-31
- August 1-13, 16-25

Auburn/Opelika Marriott—RSA Spa Package—\$201

- June 2-6, 9-13, 16-18, 22-27, 30
- July 1-3, 7-11, 14-18, 21-24, 28-31
- August 1, 4-8, 11-13, 18-22, 25

Prattville Marriott—\$89

- June 2, 9, 16, 22-23, 27, 30 • July 1-3, 7, 14, 21, 28
- August 4, 29

Renaissance Montgomery—\$119

- June 30 • July 1-3 • August 1-5, 18

RSA Spa Package—\$209—Promotional code—R2A

- June N/A • July 2, 3 • August 1-3

Specific room requests may require additional charge.

Rates available the 1st of the month and are not applicable to groups.

800-228-9290 Ask for RSA rate. **Promotional Code: R2A** on www.rsa-al.gov
Book Online and Save RSA \$4.

Member Hotel
Discounts Webpage



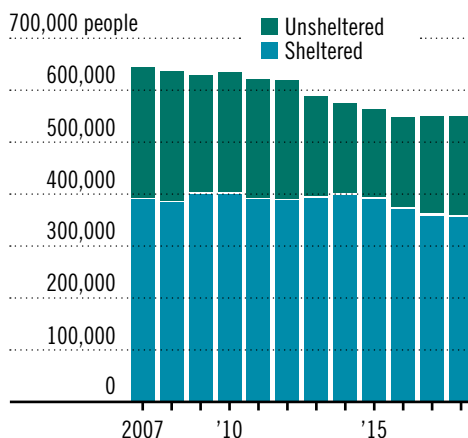
Candidates Sought for Two TRS Board Positions

Candidates are being sought for two positions on the TRS Board of Control: Retired Position No. 2 and Superintendent Position. Elected members will begin their three-year term of service on July 1, 2020. Retired Position No. 2 is currently held by Joe Ward, while the Superintendent Position is held by Luke Hallmark. The election will take place this October.

Nomination packets are available at www.rsa-al.gov or by contacting the elections coordinator at 334.517.7192 or 877.517.0020. The completed packet must be returned to the TRS office no later than 4:00 p.m., September 5, 2019. ●

Tough Predicament

Homeless population



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The ADVISOR

CEO
David G. Bronner

Deputy Director
Donald L. Yancey

Executives

Communications
Michael E. Pegues

Chief Accountant & Financial Officer
Diane E. Scott

Employees' and Judicial Retirement
William F. Kelley, Jr.

Field Services
Christopher C. Gallup

Information Technology Services
Michael T. Baker

Investments
R. Marc Green

General Counsel
Leura G. Canary

Legislative Counsel
Neah M. Scott

Member Services
Penny K. Wilson

PEEHIP
Donna J. Townes

RSA-1
Rhonda H. Peters

Teachers' Retirement
Christopher P. Townes

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201 South Union Street
P.O. Box 302150
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2150
Phone: 334.517.7000
877.517.0020
RSA Website: www.rsa-al.gov