



## NASUA Announces New Board President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) announced today that Irene B. Collins, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services, will begin serving as President of the National Association of State Units on Aging Board of Directors effective September 23, 2009. An election was held at the NASUA 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting. The NASUA Board of Directors consists of an overseeing board of five Executive Officers and ten Regional Representatives. Prior to assuming her new role, President Collins served for several years on the NASUA Board.

“We are pleased to have Commissioner Collins as our new Board President. Her innovations in the Alabama Department of Senior Services will provide valuable leadership to other state units on Aging as they look at continuing aging service needs and future initiatives,” said Martha A. Roherty, Executive Director of NASUA.

Collins serves on Governor Bob Riley’s cabinet as the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services. Under her leadership, the state has focused on improving home and community based services. In this effort, Mrs. Collins restructured the ADSS Long-Term Care Division and worked with the Alabama Legislature to increase the number of Medicaid Waiver clients.

Commissioner Collins serves on the Governor’s Workforce Development Council, is the Alabama chairman of the United WE Ride initiative, and was selected as one of thirty people in the nation to serve on the FEMA National Advisory Council.

Commissioner Collins currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Program and as a member of the National Governors Association Policy Academy for Civic Engagement.

Under the tutelage of Collins, the Department of Senior Services received the 2007 Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award for the REACH Intervention Project. Commissioner Collins recently served as a second author on a REACH translation paper that was published in the February 2009 issue of *The Gerontologist*. Alabama’s REACH project was also highlighted in *The Journal of the Society for Clinical Trials* in 2006.

“I’m honored to have been chosen by my peers to serve as President of NASUA in this critical time. With the new administration and partnerships in place, NASUA will be an instrumental voice in policy and procedure beginning with Project 2020”said Commissioner Collins.

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**National Association of State Units on Aging**, founded in 1964, represents the nation’s 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging. The Association’s principal mission is to support visionary state leadership, advance state systems innovation and articulate a national policy on home and community based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. <http://www.nasua.org>