

DANA BEYERLE: House Democratic Caucus keeps leaders

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Published: Sunday, August 19, 2012 at 6:01 a.m.

The House Democratic Caucus is keeping its officers for the next two years of the 2010-14 legislative quadrennium.

House Minority Leader Craig Ford's office said the officers were elected during the 2012 legislative session, but the results were announced only last week.

Ford, D-Gadsden, remains as minority leader.

The other officers are Rep. Thomas Jackson, D-Thomasville, caucus chairman; Rep. Barbara Boyd, D-Anniston, caucus vice chair; Rep. Richard Lindsey, D-Centre, secretary-treasurer; Rep. Joe Hubbard, D-Montgomery, minority whip; Rep. Chris England, D-Tuscaloosa, and Rep. Rod Scott, D-Fairfield, caucus whips; and Rep. A.J. McCampbell, D-Demopolis, House Black Caucus chair.

KENNEDY ON DAVIS

Alabama Democratic Party Chairman Mark Kennedy reacted last week to news that former U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, D-Ala., will speak at the Republican National Convention in Tampa.

Davis is abandoning the Democratic Party after losing the 2010 gubernatorial race to be the party's nominee. His congressional term ended in January 2011.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said Davis will voice "frustration and disappointment" at the Republican convention.

"Actually, his disappointment has nothing to do with the job President Obama has done and everything to do with Artur simply being a sore loser," Kennedy said.

"The only part of the electorate Artur Davis is giving a voice to are former candidates who lost their races and then go on to blame it on everyone but themselves."

CAMERON BACKS MOORE

Television and movie actor Kirk Cameron has endorsed Republican chief justice candidate Roy Moore, Moore's campaign said.

Cameron, a child star of the 1980s sitcom "Growing Pains" still acts and he also heads an evangelical ministry.

"If ever we needed a few good men who will do the right thing and stand for truth in high places, it's now," Cameron said.

Moore said he was honored by the endorsement.

ACTING HIRES BECOME PERMANENT

Alabama Mental Health Commissioner Jim Reddoch last week said his two new associate commissioners who had been serving on an acting basis are now permanent. And the acting general counsel, Thomas Klinner, has been named general counsel.

Reddoch said Beverly Bell-Shambley is the permanent associate commissioner for mental illness and substance services.

Courtney Tarver is associate commissioner of the division of developmental disabilities.

Bell-Shambley has worked for ADMH for 26 years and most recently was director of ADMH mental illness facilities, Reddoch said.

She served as the clinical director of Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility for six years and as director of neuropsychology services at Bryce Hospital.

Tarver is the department's former general counsel. He worked in the attorney general's office for 12 years and is a retired lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve.

Klinner has been a lawyer for 25 years and for the past five was the department's assistant general counsel.

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