



## ***ACTION WATCH***

***Georgia State Retirees Association—November 17, 2017***

### ***GSRA Day at the Capitol and Legislative Reception*** **Wednesday, January 31, 2018**

Coming off a very successful Annual Meeting, it's time for members to target our next important events, **2018 GSRA Day at the Capitol** and **GSRA-GPHSA Legislative Reception**, scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2018 in Atlanta. In order for us to continue the momentum we began in Columbus, where important Deal Administration and legislative representatives not only provided us with important information, but also heard our concerns, we need our members statewide to rally at the State Capitol on January 31<sup>st</sup> to provide our legislators with information about our retiree goals and concerns. We can't emphasize enough how critical it is to leave legislators with a lasting impression that state retirees are a large group of voting citizens who continue to care, not only about our retirement benefits, but also the overall welfare and efficiency of state government!

The two events scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> give members two great opportunities to interact with legislators. During the morning and afternoon at the Capitol we will deliver bags of information to legislative offices and attend any appropriate committee meetings. Later that evening at the Empire Room of the West Floyd Tower, we will join our sister organization, Georgia Professional Human Services

Association, to provide a legislative thank you reception. Here we can socialize with our senators and representatives as we continue our discussions around retiree needs and concerns. We'll also take the opportunity to publicly thank our legislators/officials of the year with awards ceremonies by both organizations.

This announcement contains details about both events, including instructions for registering, lodging, parking, etc. Everything you need to plan to attend is included here. **Also, as a special note, please watch for the email Action Alert in early January which will aid you in inviting your legislators to the reception.** Past experience has shown that this personal invitation from our members is the most important factor in assuring legislative attendance.

**Please don't make the mistake of thinking that other GSRA members have these events covered. Georgia's economic picture is the best it's been in many years and, if we want to capitalize on this, it will take the largest crowd we've ever had to attend both events and influence legislators to address our biggest concerns, namely, full funding for our pension fund and a real COLA. Mark your calendars and [Register Now!](#)**

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#### **Event: *GSRA Day at the Capitol***

**Date:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018 **Time:** 9:30 AM

**Location:** Capitol Hill

**Details:** Meet at the Capitol at 9:30 am near the stairs for a photo op with the Governor (exact time will be adjusted and communicated on our Facebook page and website, if necessary, depending on the Governor's availability and schedule). Afterwards, convene at the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB) in Room 406 for a briefing on the day's activities. Promotional bags will be ready and sorted by office location so local chapter members can deliver the bags to legislators throughout Capitol Hill. **(Important: If you want to deliver bags to your specific legislators, please notify the GSRA Admin, Donna Buffum, at 770-312-2799 by January 20th.)** Members will have lunch on their own (Capitol Hill cafeterias or area restaurants), then, during the afternoon, members may attend committee meetings (schedule will be provided) or visit with other attendees.



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**RSVP for GSRA Day at the Capitol:** [rsvp@mygsra.com](mailto:rsvp@mygsra.com) (RSVP is not required but appreciated so that identification badges can be prepared and so we can reach you via email with any last minute details. If you wish to deliver a bag to your specific legislator, please include the name(s) in the email reply.)

## **Event: *Joint GSRA-GPHSA Legislative Reception***

**Date:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018

**Time:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Location:** Floyd Building/20<sup>th</sup> Floor/Empire Room

**Details:** Meet at the Empire Room between 4:30 and 5:00 PM in order to be ready to meet and greet legislators as they arrive. Please remember to make every effort to speak with legislators in attendance, particularly your own. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available from 5:00 – 7:00 PM and both GSRA and GPHSA will recognize our annual “thank you” awards recipients at a short program beginning at 6:00 PM. (**Note: You will receive an Action Alert in January about inviting your legislators to the reception.**)

**Registration:** Registration fee is \$37.00. Members must be registered by January 26th and no registration will be done on site. Go to [www.mygsra.com](http://www.mygsra.com) to register online or use the attached Registration Form to mail in your registration/payment. If you encounter problems registering, please contact [help@mygsra.com](mailto:help@mygsra.com) or call 770-312-2799.

## **Parking and Lodging Information**

**Parking:** Several commercial lots are located on or around Capitol Hill, including the Underground Atlanta lot. For the Legislative Reception, the Pete Hackney lot at 162 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr. SE is the best location. Parking at Pete Hackney is \$10.00 all day 6:00 am-9:00 pm. Across the street from the Capitol beside Liberty Plaza is the #1 daily lot which is \$10.00 flat rate open 24/7. The Butler parking deck opens to the public at 5:00 pm. The Steve Polk lot is pay by hour, so the rate varies based on time. However, **if you need “Help” in walking, you can take advantage of the \$10.00 per day parking and shuttle service that is offered through our joint sponsor, GPHSA at the Ramada Inn Capitol Plaza Downtown at 450 Capitol Ave. SE.** (Note: You must identify yourself as associated with the GPHSA Winter 2018 Meeting to get the \$10.00 rate. There may be a short wait time before being driven to the Capitol.)

**Lodging:** GPHSA has reserved a limited block of rooms at the **Ramada Inn Capitol Plaza Downtown hotel at 450 Capitol Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30312.** The room rate is \$99.00 per night (single/double). Use the following link, [Make a Reservation](#), and identify yourself as a member of the Group, GPHSA Winter 2018 Meeting. All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. **The deadline for reservations at the \$99.00 rate is January 10, 2018.** The parking fee for the hotel overnight stay is \$10.00. You may choose to park at the hotel for the Legislative Day Event and/or the Legislative Reception at this rate and use the shuttle to the Floyd Building. Shuttle service is provided about every 30 minutes, but you should allow extra time for the wait and service to the events. If you encounter any issues with reservations or make, then cancel, a reservation, please contact: Wayne Drummond, GPHSA Executive Director, at 404-694-2588 or [wayne@gphsa.org](mailto:wayne@gphsa.org).



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**REGISTRATION FORM – RETURN BY 1/26/2018**

**PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON**  
**INDICATE PARTICIPATION IN EACH EVENT**

**GSRA DAY AT THE CAPITOL – January 31, 2018 – 10 am Room 406 CLOB**

Photo with Governor scheduled at 9:30 am under Capitol Dome - Contingent on his schedule

I plan to participate in GSRA Day at the Capitol: **YES NO (Circle Answer)**

I will Visit the following Senators’/Representatives’ Offices:

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**GSRA/GPHSA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION– January 31, 2018**

Registration Fee of \$37.00 Required – Mail check or credit card online

**EMPIRE ROOM - FLOYD BUILDING - 5:00PM TO 7:00PM**

Directions and Parking: <http://gba.georgia.gov/empire-room>

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (BEST TO BE REACHED) \_\_\_\_\_

GSRA CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia Senate District# or Senator’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia House District# or Representative’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK FOR \$37 PAYABLE TO GSRA AND MAIL TO:  
GSRA, P.O. BOX 108, BETHLEHEM, GA 30620.**

**GSRA MEMBERS CAN REGISTER ONLINE WITH A CREDIT CARD – NON-MEMBERS MUST  
COMPLETE AND MAIL IN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO REGISTER.**

**RECEPTION REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 26, 2017**

Questions? Email: [help@mygsra.com](mailto:help@mygsra.com) or Phone: 770-312-2799