

## **About GSRA**

GSRA is a non-profit organization formed to:

- Advocate for employees and retirees who participate in any health and/or retirement plans administered by a State Department;
- Lobby for or against legislation that affects income or benefits for active and retired employees and educators;
- Monitor deliberations and actions by legislative and administrative bodies that impact retirees' pension and health benefits and other aspects of income and well-being; and
- Provide for the exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and expertise affecting retirement and insurance benefits.

GSRA is not a trade union.

## **Benefits of GSRA**

You will have prompt access to information that could impact your life and your finances, and access to a wide range of insurance benefits and discounted services through an AMBA/GSRA contract. For example, you have access to:

- Analyses of proposed legislation or action by the General Assembly affecting employees and retirees benefits and incomes;
- Electronic communiques on breaking benefit news affecting members, along with recommendations for member actions to impact related decisions;
- Easy process to inform your elected representatives of your opinions on proposed legislation and other decisions affecting your benefits, income and costs of living;
- Timely information on the issues affecting State retirement systems and the SHBP through Facebook postings and monthly newsletters;
- Updates on budget hearings & finances affecting retirement and/or health insurance benefits;
- Opportunities to speak to your elected representatives at legislative receptions;
- Access to self-pay private insurance, such as dental, vision, and long-term health care; and
- Access to discount travel, vacation sites, electronics and flowers.



## **GSRA Accomplishments**

- Advocated for pay raises for active state employees and teachers with success in FY2017;
- Requested COLAs for state retirees for FY2017, FY2018, and FY2019;
- Successful in receiving for state retirees, non-compounding adjustments on a benefit maximum of \$30,000 – 3% in July 2016, 3% in July 2017, 2% in July 2018, and 2% in January 2019 – each delivered one time;
- Established a GSRA Legal Fund for voluntary donations to be used for pursuing actions, as needed, in the legal/justice system;
- Continuous monitoring of actions taken by the Board of Trustees of the Employees Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System;
- Advocated for the successful creation of a Department of Community Health Advisory Council;
- Successful in defending against several items of proposed legislation detrimental to employees and retirees.

## **Why Should I be Interested in GSRA?**

- To stand against additional changes that downgrade retirement plans for state employees and educators;
- To protect against the erosion of the State Health Benefit Plan;
- To gain knowledge about the political process and how public employees are affected;
- To join the voice that speaks on behalf of ALL active and retired state and education employees;
- Because GSRA works tirelessly to track the issues that affect you; and
- Because more members means a stronger association.

## **Am I Eligible to Become a Member?**

Any active or retired employee or educator who is eligible to participate in a health benefit plan or retirement plan administered by a State Department is eligible to become a member. Eligibility includes educators in local school systems, employees of the Board of Regents, and spouses of GSRA eligible persons.

## **Can Active Employees Join?**

Of course! Active employees and educators are encouraged to join GSRA as an advocacy association for all employees, educators and retirees. Active employees have similar concerns and interests as those who have already retired.

## **How Do I Join?**

The most efficient and preferred way to join GSRA is to authorize deductions from your retirement benefit (if an ERS retiree). If you join by authorizing deductions, print and complete the Pension Deduction Authorization form (available by clicking on the "Join Us" link on the GSRA website), and mail the form to GSRA at the address below.

You also have a quick and easy way to join online via [www.MyGSRA.com](http://www.MyGSRA.com) by clicking on [Join Us](#)<sup>1</sup>. Review the information about the [Dues](#) and then complete the membership application and dues payment information. If you join by accessing the website & choose to mail a check or money order, please print the confirmation report and enclose it in the envelope with your check or money order.

You may also join by mailing a membership application with a check payable to GSRA for \$20.00 to the address below.

GSRA Dues  
P.O. Box 108  
Bethlehem, GA 30620

<sup>1</sup> Current Members can renew membership by "logging-in" and clicking on "Renew Membership."

<sup>2</sup> Life-time memberships are available for \$275; however the member must submit check or money order to our address – no on-line process available.

## Membership Application

If you are unable to join using our website at [www.MyGSRA.com](http://www.MyGSRA.com), then complete your "pension deduction form" or write a \$20 check (or money order) made payable to:

**Georgia State Retirees Association, Inc.**

Mail this form with either your pension deduction form, or your check or money order, to:

**GSRA Dues - PO Box 108 - Bethlehem, GA 30620**

*Please print clearly!*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Which Local Chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:    \_\_\_ Male    \_\_\_ Female

Agency Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement Date \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Retirement System - ERS   PSERS   TRS   Other

*Circle below how you learned about GSRA.*

WRAP session    Newspaper    GSRA Member

Conference    Advertisement    Local Chapter

New Application \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

### Are there local chapters?

Local chapters are active in:

Albany,  
Athens,  
Columbus,  
Fayette/Coweta Counties,  
Savannah,  
St. Simons/Brunswick,  
South Central (Dublin),  
Thomasville,  
Tri-County (Warm Springs),  
Valdosta,  
Waycross, &  
Metro Atlanta  
Central,  
East Metro,  
NE Metro,  
NW Metro &  
South Fulton.

plus a statewide chapter for retired educators and DOE employees.

### Additional Information

Additional information is available on the website,

[www.MyGSRA.com](http://www.MyGSRA.com)

where you may also join GSRA.

# Georgia State Retirees Association



*Advocating for Active and Retired  
Employees and Educators*

*Information regarding*

**Current Officers, Board Members  
and Committee Members**

*can be found on the GSRA website  
in the About Us section*

*A Non-Profit Association Registered  
With the Georgia Secretary of State*

[www.MyGSRA.com](http://www.MyGSRA.com)

770 - 312 - 2799

