



ACTION WATCH

Georgia State Retirees Association—December 7, 2018

GSRA Day at the Capitol and Legislative Reception **Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

GSRA is busy preparing for one of our most important times of the year, the Legislative Session and our signature events related to it, *GSRA Day at the Capitol* and the *GSRA/GPHSA Legislative Reception*. Being a GSRA member and participating in GSRA events has never been more important. The gains we have made in making the legislature and administration aware of state retiree issues and concerns over the last three years have contributed to some very positive wins for state ERS retirees, including three one-time pension adjustments (the third adjustment split into two payments), increased funding for the pension fund, stable SHBP plans and premiums, and a DCH/SHBP Advisory Council to represent active and retired employee interests in the SHBP.

GSRA has never lost sight, however, of the desire of all ERS retirees to get back to receiving actual COLA adjustments annually to ensure that our purchasing power begins to be maintained again. With a new administration and new legislators taking office, we still have work to do regarding our ongoing efforts to educate our elected officials and advocate for our members.

The GSRA Day events are expressly designed to not only give our members opportunities to visit with their legislators and convey their concerns and issues, but also to thank them for their efforts on state retirees' behalf. In the morning, we'll distribute information to every legislative office on Capitol Hill. During the afternoon, we'll attend any appropriate legislative committee meeting(s). Then, that evening, we'll convene with our sister organization,

Georgia Professional Human Services Association, to provide a thank-you reception for legislators and their staffs.

This Action Watch announcement includes all the details regarding both events. It's everything you need to know in order to plan your participation, and we hope you will sincerely plan to join us for these important events!

Even if you cannot attend in person, please plan to support our efforts by watching for the Action Alert early in January which will allow you to extend a personal invitation to the reception to your legislators.

Conditions are favorable for these to be the most important GSRA Day events yet. **Help us help you get back to receiving annual COLAs!** [Register here.](#)

Event: *GSRA Day at the Capitol*

Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Capitol Hill

Details: Meet at the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB) in Room 406 at 9:00 AM, where GSRA shirts and information to be delivered will be distributed and members will receive a briefing on the day's activities. **(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.

RSVP for *GSRA Day at the Capitol*: 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, February 6, 2019

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Floyd Building/20th 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 31st and no registration will be done on site. Go to 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 or call 770-312-2799.

Parking, Lodging and Marta 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, however be aware that construction has affected the number of spaces available there. 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 Steve Polk lot is pay by hour, so the rate varies based on time. The Butler parking deck will not be available to us this year.

Lodging: GPHSA has reserved a limited block of rooms at the Courtyard by Marriott Atlanta Decatur, Downtown/Emory at 130 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, 30030, an easy Marta ride from Capitol Hill. The room rate is \$152.00 + tax per night (single/double). **The deadline for reservations at the \$152.00 rate is January 23, 2019.** The parking fee for the hotel overnight stay is \$8.00. You may choose to park at the hotel for the Legislative Day Event and/or the Legislative Reception at this rate and ride Marta to the Floyd Building. To make, modify or cancel a reservation, please contact: Wayne Drummond, GPHSA Executive Director, at 404-694-2588 or mail@gphsa.org.

Marta: Leave the front entrance of the hotel. Walk out onto the sidewalk of Clairemont Ave. With the hotel to your back look up Clairemont to your right. You will see the old DeKalb Courthouse ½ block up the street. The entrance to the Decatur Marta Station is on the far side of the old Courthouse property on your right. Enter the station and go to the Westbound entrance. The train runs every 10 minutes from 3PM to 7PM, 12-15 minutes from 7-8:30PM, and every 20 minutes after that. The Marta Fare is \$2.50 each way. Exit at the Georgia State Station. To get back to Decatur go back to the Ga State Station and take the East Line to Decatur.



**GEORGIA STATE RETIREES ASSOCIATION
REGISTRATION FORM – RETURN BY 1/31/2019**

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON - INDICATE PARTICIPATION IN EACH EVENT.

GSRA DAY AT THE CAPITOL – February 6, 2019 – 10 am Room 406 CLOB

There is no fee for participation with GSRA Day at the Capitol

*I plan to participate in GSRA Day at the Capitol: **YES** **NO** (Circle Answer) I will
visit the following Senators'/Representatives' Offices:*

GSRA/GPHSA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION – February 6, 2019

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

Registration fee of \$37 required to attend the Legislative Reception

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, COUNTY, 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 31, 2019

Questions? Email: help@mygsra.com or Phone: 770-312-2799