



ACTION WATCH

Georgia State Retirees Association—January 5, 2012

GSRA Day at the Capitol and Legislative Reception January 31, 2012

GSRA is providing you an opportunity to express your opinion on issues to legislators face-to-face on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. In being proactive concerning legislative matters, GSRA has planned two events: the GSRA Day at the Capitol that will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the Legislative Reception that will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the *Empire Room of the Floyd Building*

The success of these two events will depend on the number of participating GSRA members and the quality of the messages they will deliver. Together, we need to express the retirees' viewpoints on issues important to retirees and to mitigate any legislators' preconceptions based on negatively biased reports about both active and retired employees.

How You Can Help

Attend and be a part of the effort to impact the decisions made on behalf of the members of the State's pension plans and health insurance.

afternoon, and a number of GSRA members, to their delight, were able to attend.

GSRA Day at the Capitol – 11:00 a.m.

The first event, GSRA Day at the Capitol, will begin around 11:00 a.m. GSRA members will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Capitol Rotunda, second floor. We will give you an identification badge, provide a short orientation and distribute materials to you.

GSRA Legislative Reception-5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Legislative Reception hosted with GCWA (Georgia County Welfare Association), will be held in the Empire Room, Floyd Building.

At minimum, we ask you to walk the halls of the Capitol, smiling and wearing a GSRA badge. If you are comfortable visiting with your Senator and/or Representative, let him or her know the issues that are important to you. We will provide you with "talking points" to guide your discussions with legislators, and with brochures/fliers and promotional items (GSRA tote bag, pens and water bottles) to leave with the legislators, in addition to inviting the legislators to the reception later in the day.

The Reception is being hosted to honor our elected senators and representatives and will provide you another opportunity to meet your legislators and discuss matters of concern to retirees and employees. We will have a short program at 6:00 p.m. and present an award to a legislator who best supported retirees during the past year.

Our goal is to visit all of the legislators, so GSRA members who volunteer will be asked to visit legislators' offices other than their own.

A registration fee of \$35 is required for this event. Available during the reception will be finger foods, beer and wine. For GSRA members registering by the deadline of January 24, 2012, their membership with GSRA will be extended for 12 months. Attendees are asked to arrive at 4:30 p.m. for a short orientation. Registration information is included with this Action Watch. Parking information will be sent within the next two weeks.

If there is a committee meeting scheduled on that day, you may want to sit in to listen. Last year, the Senate Retirement Committee met during the

Regardless of whether you personally attend either event in Atlanta, it is very important that you contact your legislators and invite them to attend the reception. GSRA has made the invitation process very easy for those members who have provided us with an email address.

On December 9, 2011, you should have received the first "message" from our new software about the GSRA Day at the Capitol. You were asked to "click" on the box "act now" and invite, via email, your state senator and representative to attend the reception. If you invited your representatives, we thank you. A

second email will be sent to you around January 9th to remind you to invite your senator and representative.

Procedurally, using the new software is very easy. In fact, we will be using this process throughout the General Assembly Session to notify you of actions that you may want to take regarding issues. When you receive an email message,

- Click on “act now” and if the screen is presented to you to verify your email address, click “yes.”

- You will then be presented a screen that suggests a message to your state senator and representative.
- If you like the message, you can simply click on the “send message” box and it will be sent to your representatives. However, you are encouraged to modify the message for your personal touch. You may do this by typing in the changes that you would like to make. You would then send the message by clicking on the “send message” box.

Registration Information

This is an important day for all GSRA members! Not only is it an opportunity for interaction with your legislators, it is an opportunity to augment GSRA as a valuable resource for legislators concerning retirement issues, i.e., the appropriate use of pension funds and funding for retirement and health insurance.

You can register for either or both events as described below in each section. Your local chapter may also assist you in the registration process.

GSRA Day at the Capitol – 11:00 AM

Register by email to rsvp@mygsra.com. If you do not have access to email, send a note to GSRA, PO Box 108, Bethlehem, GA 30620. Type the name of the attendees and the city and county of residence in the subject line or the body of the e-mail or note – we need this information to make GSRA badges. There is no charge for this event.

GSRA Legislative Reception - 5:00 pm

Register by:

1. Logging-in to www.mygsra.com
2. Click on the link provided for the **ACTION WATCH** in the “What’s New” box on the GSRA home page.

3. The link will allow you to complete the form and charge the \$35 to your credit card.
4. If you want to pay by check, print and complete the attached form, attach a check for \$35 made payable to Georgia State Retirees Association, Inc. Send the check and registration form to: GSRA, PO Box 108, Bethlehem, GA 30620

All registrations must be received by January 24, 2012, including the mailed forms and checks.

CAUTION: There will be no registration at the reception. **If you do not pre-register, you will not be allowed to attend. So get your registration in early.**

Your participation is absolutely vital! As a reward for participation, each member registering for the Reception by January 24, 2012 will have his/her GSRA membership extended for 12 months. Each new member will receive a free initial membership.

You may receive additional information through your Local GSRA Chapter as some Chapters may plan additional activities.

Thank you for your support! The success of both events depends heavily on the number of GSRA members who attend and the quality of the messages we deliver. We need to express retirees’ viewpoints on issues important to us and to hopefully mitigate any negative preconceptions based on biased reports

indicating the devaluation of both active and retired employees.

YOU are important, so sign-up for both events. GSRA will become much more adept in representing your opinions to the General Assembly and State Leadership when you become active in these events.



GEORGIA STATE RETIREES ASSOCIATION
www.MYGSRA.COM 770-312-2799

**REGISTRATION FORM
GSRA/GCWA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION
JANUARY 31, 2012 - 5:00PM TO 7:00PM
EMPIRE ROOM - FLOYD BUILDING**

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, COUNTY, STATE, ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER (BEST TO BE REACHED AT) _____

GSRA CHAPTER NAME (IF APPLICABLE) _____

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK FOR \$35 PAYABLE TO GEORGIA STATE RETIREES ASSOCIATION
AND MAIL TO: GSRA P.O. BOX 108, BETHLEHEM, GA 30620.**

REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 24, 2012. NOTE: Every current or new GSRA Member submitting a paid registration by January 24, 2012 will receive an extension of his/her membership expiration date of 12 months. Questions/ Information: 770-312-2799

If you want to stay in Atlanta overnight on January 31st – See How Below.

GSRA has joined the Georgia County Welfare Association (GCWA) in sharing a block of rooms at the **Holiday Inn Select-Downtown on Capitol Avenue** for the evening of January 31st. The rooms have a discounted rate of \$99 (single/double) plus parking at \$5 per day for those staying at the hotel or just attending functions. For those obtaining a room, Holiday Inn Select will provide free shuttle service to and from the Capitol and Floyd Building.

The Holiday Inn Select-Downtown is located about four blocks from the Capitol Building and the Floyd Building (West Tower-Empire Room). The address is: 450 Capitol Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30312. You may make reservations by calling 1-800-465-4329 or by coping into your web browser this link: <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/reservation/roomrate?destination=450+CAPITOL+AVE+ATLANTA+GEORGIA+United+States&hotelCode=atlca&groupCode=GW1&execute=basic>. Use the Group Code: **GCWA Winter Board Meeting and Training**.

Reservations must be made on or before January 16, 2012 in order to get the \$99 rate. If you have any problem with reservations, please contact Wayne Drummond by email: mail@gcwa.us or 404-694-2588.