

To my fellow state retirees and GSRA Members,

As you navigate through these uncertain times to provide the basic necessities of life for yourself and your loved ones, I urge you to be safe and follow the recommendations and guidelines from the CDC. Plans are underway for our Annual Meeting in October and I want to be able to greet each one of you there. I continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

With the current disruption of our daily lives, it is easy to forget about anything but where can I find some paper products and meat. However, the issues impacting state retirees are still present and need addressing by the State of Georgia.

On Thursday of this week (April 16th) the ERS Board will meet to make two important decisions: one is a vote on whether to provide state retirees with a post retirement benefit (COLA); and they will also decide whether to request that the actuary include a COLA in the formula for determining the Actuarially Determined Employee Contribution Rate (ADEC). This formula is used to determine the minimum state contribution to our retirement plan. Including the COLA in the ADEC formula ensures that there will be adequate funds in the plan to provide for future COLAs.

You should be receiving in the next couple of days an Action Alert (AA). This AA will request that you act upon it by sending a letter to the ERS Board requesting that they grant a COLA for all eligible state retirees and include the COLA in the ADEC. I urge you to respond by Wednesday to that AA. We are all in this fight together. They need to hear from you!!

In closing, I want to remind you to complete the 2020 Census for your household. The Census is very important to us and to the State of Georgia, and we need to have everyone be counted. If you did not receive a census form in the mail, you can go online (<https://www.2020census.gov>) and fill out the census form.

Thank you for your support of GSRA.

Jim Sommerville, President  
GSRA