

One Time Payment Information

By the time the June Newsletter is published, members will likely have received the one-time payment approved by the ERS Board. While the following information has been provided before, it is included again in case anyone has questions.

A one-time payment equal to 4.75% of the annual ERS benefit in pay as of June 2024, to a maximum payment of about \$560.

If a survivor benefit is spread between multiple beneficiaries, each beneficiary will share proportionally in the one-time payment described above, so that the total one-time benefit payable on behalf of the deceased member does not exceed a payment of about \$560. To be eligible for this one-time payment, the retiree or beneficiary must meet the following stipulations:

- must receive a monthly benefit during June 2024 – this one-time payment will not be paid in a subsequent month
- must have a retirement effective date on or before 06/01/2023
- non-disability retiree's Normal Retirement Date must be on or before 06/01/2023

Other conditions:

- not available to GSEPS retirees with a membership date on or after 07/01/2009 (this group is specifically excluded by statute from receiving post-retirement adjustment payments)
- no one-time payment will be made based on the receipt of a SGLI monthly annuity

The exact amount of payment will be determined at the time of payment. Details about the timing and other aspects of both adjustments have been posted on the [ERS Website](#).



"Remember how much fun we had that night we slept under the stars?
We may get to spend our whole retirement doing that!"



Newsletter

Vol. 18, Number 6

www.MyGSRA.com

June 2024

2024 Annual Meeting Macon, Georgia October 7th & 8th “Teamwork Makes the Dream Work”

STEP #2: Register for the Annual Meeting

By Allan Hill and Kip Mann

Join the team to reach our goal of financial security and healthy retirement for all state retirees by attending our annual meeting and demonstrating your support by your presence. To make your attendance as pleasant, comfortable and inexpensive as possible we have negotiated rates with hotels close to the Robert F. Hatcher, Sr. Conference Center.

STEP #1: Make hotel reservations (if you have not already made them.)

Here are the hotels, their addresses, and the rates they have quoted us for the nights you wish to stay. If you wish to arrive the night before the meeting, make reservations for the 6th and 7th. Otherwise make reservations for the 7th and drive home after the meeting ends on the 8th. We have asked for our members to stay at the quoted rates for all days you wish to stay before, during or after the meeting. Enjoy.

Hotel	Negotiated Rates	Contact Information
Holiday Inn Express – Macon West	40 rooms/night, King or Double Queen - \$114.00 per night (taxes are extra)	478-803-0033
Comfort Inn and Suites Hotel	40 rooms/night, King or Double Queen - \$107.00 per night (taxes are extra)	www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/CG68K4 or call 478 621 7977
LaQuinta Hotel	40 rooms/night, King or Double Queen - \$95.00 per night (taxes are extra)	478-788-6226

Please indicate you are a member of Georgia State Retirees Association to receive the special rate.



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STEP #2: Register for the Annual Meeting

Complete the [online registration](#) form or print out the form at the end of the newsletter and mail it with a check. Follow the instructions as outlined on the form and you should have no problems. If you do, please contact help@mygsra.com for assistance. The form is available on our website at mygsra.com and you should have received an email on registration recently.

As noted, to make it less costly to attend we have lowered the registration fee to \$30.00, which includes the price of food served during the reception on the first evening and your choice of a boxed lunch for the second day.

The registration process should take only a few minutes and you should be ready to complete.

Step #3: Attend the Annual Meeting and make your voice heard!

SEE YOU IN MACON!!



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June 2024

From the Home Office

By Robert Riddle

Hello GSRA Members,

Wisdom is the power to put our time and our knowledge to the proper use. Thomas J. Watson

GSRA is preparing for a great annual meeting! Kip, Allan, Judy and Laura have been doing yeoman's work to pull together a great location and agenda. We have invited the Governor or his designee, Chairpersons of the Appropriations and Retirement committees as well as Director Potvin and the Director of the State Health Benefit Plan. We are also having several informative workshops held by our sponsors and invited speakers. The annual meeting is in Macon at Middle Georgia College campus and is easily accessible for most of our members. For those that want to spend the night and enjoy the ambiance the Macon offers, the GSRA annual meeting committee has negotiated some very favorable rates at local hotels. I look forward to greeting everyone personally at the meeting!

I would also like to encourage everyone to consider running for open spots on the GSRA Board. We have a nominating committee that is helping put together a slate of nominees, if you are interested, please contact Beverly Littlefield or Judy Bryson. We need your ideas and energy to move GSRA forward toward meeting our goals and assuring all GSRA members are heard.

Summer has officially started, and I hope everyone has safe and enjoyable vacations this year. Please be mindful of the heat and drink plenty of water if you have outside activities.

Finally, if you ever wondered what GSRA members would do with all that COLA money (if we ever get it), there is this from the HUSTLE daily newsletter: "\$5.14: Average cost of cold brew at US coffee shops, per Toast data. A regular cup of Joe came in at \$3.08, while a latte was \$5.46 — still not nearly enough that abstaining from them would net you a down payment on a house. If you are looking for the cheapest coffee, you will find it in Nebraska for \$2.12, 31% lower than average. And interestingly, tea (average price: \$3.74) was a more popular purchase in 30 states."

Robert

Local GSRA Chapter News

Columbus/West Georgia Chapter

The Columbus/West Georgia Chapter hosted our Legislative Reception on June 4, 2024, at Epworth United Methodist Church. Representatives Debbie Buckner, Carolyn Hugley, and Carmen Rice as well as Senator Ed Harbison were in attendance.



Figure 1: Representatives Debbie Buckner, Carolyn Hugley, and Carmen Rice as well as Senator Ed Harbison were in attendance.

Representative Rice, who recently won the unexpired term of the late Representative Richard Smith, spoke about her eagerness to learn more about GSRA and to work with our members.



Figure 2: Representative Rice encouraged members with her eagerness to learn more about GSRA.

Representatives Debbie Buckner, Carolyn Hugley and Senator Ed Harbison each spoke briefly about what they saw as the successes and challenges of the previous session and what we could look forward to in the next session.

Past President Beverly Littlefield also spoke with our membership.



Figure 3: There were 45 GSRA members in attendance at the June meeting.

It was a successful meeting with 45 members in attendance, including four renewed memberships and one new member.

CSRA/GSRA Chapter

The CSRA/GSRA chapter met on June 18 at the Richmond County Health Department with eighteen members attending.



Figure 4: There were 18 members present for the June CSRA/GSRA meeting.

Chuck Freedman, cofounder of the Georgia State Retirees Association and current lobbyist for GSRA, spoke to the group. Mr. Freedman listed some of the group's accomplishments in the last five years, explained the mechanics of ERS, the legislators, and our retirement fund, and emphasized the need for advocacy for and communication to elected officials who are supportive of GSRA objectives. Mr. Freedman also answered many questions from the group.



Figure 5: Founding member of GSRA, Chuck Freeman.

The next meeting of the chapter will be held on July 16 at the Richmond County Health Department, 950 Laney Walker Blvd., Augusta. The speaker will be Brandon Dawson, the host of Channel 6's "Your Hometown Road Trip." Please join us for fellowship and refreshments and to support a group that is championing your retirement benefits.

East Metro Chapter

The East Metro Chapter gathered at its new location, the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church in Covington with 30 members and guests present. After enjoying delicious homemade barbeque and banana pudding provided by Teresa Belcher, President David Taylor made opening remarks and welcomed everyone. He also welcomed Ms. Belcher back home and asked her to introduce the guest speaker, Erin Hall, AMBA Licensed Benefits Representative.

Mrs. Hall gave a brief review of topics covered at a prior meeting and then delivered an engaging presentation on financial planning with special focus on tax-free, no-fee annuities offered to GSRA members through AMBA. She involved members throughout her presentation and entertained a question-and-answer session at the end. Attendees were provided with informational brochures and encouraged to make plans for the future with specific, detailed and easily accessible information for family members. She then presented a financial planning book to one of the first-time attendees. As a thank-you gift, Mrs. Belcher gave Mrs. Hall a homemade pecan pie.

President Taylor extended his appreciation to all attendees and Mrs. Hall. In his closing remarks, he encouraged as many as possible to attend the Annual Meeting in Macon. He also stressed the importance of Action Alerts and responding accordingly. As a result of our advocacy efforts, we have seen some success, and he asked Secretary Janis Tidwell to provide updates on COLAs and one-time payments.



Figure 6: East Metro Chapter members enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by Teresa Belcher, an informative meeting, and door prizes!

As usual, the meeting ended with several nice door prizes, including a one-year membership for a new attendee. Additionally, an Annual Meeting registration was awarded to a current member. Drawings were then held for a number of very nice door prizes donated by Teresa Belcher including baked goods from Jack's Cheesecakes in Watkinsville jackscheesecake.com and two large bags of fresh tomatoes.

The meeting was adjourned with plans to meet at the same location for future meetings.



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Welcome New Members!

Name	County	Name	County
William Bryson	Bryan	Kesia Cobb	Dekalb
Kay Davis	Tattnall	Jason Ellis	Crisp
Edward Friend	Meriwether	Jeffery Jackson	Chattooga
Dorothy Kimble	Fulton	Martha McManus	Meriwether
Carolyn Moreland	Meriwether	Rita O'Neal	Chattooga
Michael Weaver	Paulding	Johnny Wells	Upson
George Wilkins	Cobb		





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Annual Meeting



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RETIRED MEMBERS



Georgia State Retirees Association has partnered with BMG Money's Loans for Retirees program to help you with unexpected expenses.

Loans for Retirees offers reliable, affordable on-line installment loans to help in times of need, regardless of your credit history.


- Emergency loans starting at \$3,000.01*
- Payments made over 26 months
- Monthly payments of \$170*
- Apply regardless of your credit score

Sign up now at app.bmgmoney.com/signup and type "Georgia State Retirees Association" or "GSRA" as the name of your employer



Questions: customer.service@bmgmoney.com / 800-316-8507

*Fixed sample interest rate: 34.71% per year with a one-time fee of \$49.00. For example, a \$3,000.01 loan repaid in 26 installments over 26 months, the APR will be 35.95% and the approximate monthly payment will be \$170.00 (assuming a loan execution date of 06/01/2023). Other terms and conditions apply, and your loan may vary depending upon your loan execution date, actual payment schedule, and other factors. All applicants will qualify for a loan loan is based on an agreement between the borrower and BMG Money, Inc. The Georgia State Retirees Association is not responsible for any financial aspects of Loans for Retirees.





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Learn more: 1-877-556-4582
myambabenefits.info/gsra
GEORGIA STATE RETIREES ASSOCIATION

GSRA 2024 ANNUAL MEETING-OCTOBER 7th-8th,2024

"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work"

**Robert F Hatcher Jr. Conference Center on the campus of Middle Georgia State in
Macon, GA**

REGISTRATION – COMPLETE ONE PER PERSON – GSRA MEMBERS CAN LOG IN AND REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.MYGSRA.COM WITH CREDIT CARD UNTIL 9-1-24 – NON MEMBERS PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM

Early Registration (Received by 9/1/2024): \$30 After 9/1/24 & On-site Registration: \$40

Name:

Phone:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email Address:

GSRA Chapter:

PLEASE PICK THREE (3) WORKSHOPS TO ATTEND – CIRCLE Your Top 3 CHOICES:

A – Staying Fit in Retirement: Fall Prevention Tools

B – Social Security: Yearly Updates and Medicare Basics
and Beyond

C – Caring for the Aging Brain: Strategies to Prevent
Dementia

D – Changing the Investment Mindset in Retirement

OCTOBER 7th – 5:00 PM – PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL PARTICIPATE BY CIRCLING THE WORD “YES” OR “NO”.
NOTE: An accurate count for the Reception is needed.

Reception

YES

NO

PICK YOUR BOX LUNCH OPTION FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 8TH, 2024 - Select One by circling

A – Roasted Turkey Sandwich Box (Sourdough
Bread)

B – Honey Ham Box (Sourdough Bread)

C – Grilled Veggie Box (Tortilla Wrap)

D – Caesar Salad Box

Note: All Sandwich Boxes come with Vegetable Pasta Salad and All Boxes come with Cookies and a Drink

Complete One Form per person - mail with check payable to:

GSRA, P.O. Box 6308, Elberton, GA 30635

PLEASE SEE THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions? events@mygsra.com or 229-224-1250

**For the Schedule of the Annual Meeting, please visit the website: www.mygsra.com Please submit questions for
any of the speakers to help@mygsra.com by September 1, 2024**