



Newsletter

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www.MyGSRA.com

November 2024

Wait...What? Already?

GSRA Announces 2025 Annual Meeting!

By Allan Hill and Kip Mann

Yes, indeed, GSRA is excited to announce that the 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on October 27-28, 2025, and we will be returning to the Robert S Hatcher Sr. Conference Center on the Middle Georgia State University campus in Macon. Why are we going back to Macon? At the end of this year's meeting, the consensus of those attending was that this was one of the best Annual Meetings ever, and a major reason was the Hatcher Conference Center. Here is just a sample of the responses from the evaluations submitted at the end of the Meeting:

"Very informative classes! Great presenters. I obtained info that I did not already know... so... well done! Food was great. :)." "This was very informative. I enjoyed the breakout classes as well. They were all excellent! The Jazz quartet was fantastic!" "Everything was great." "Facility, workshops, exhibits, and vendors. Fellowship among retirees." "In Central GA!!! Keep it in Macon with the State employee operated State conference center; And the facility and all the food were (*sic*) super good." "Venue was great - food very good." "It was ALL great! Including location!" "Very good presentations; liked everything; Overall, this is the best conference I have attended."

Out of 126 evaluations returned, 118 rated the Hatcher Center "excellent," with eight rating it "Very Good." Nothing lower than "Very Good" was returned. The staff at the Hatcher Center was accommodating and efficient. We had the highest attendance at an Annual Meeting in six years. The meeting was also very financially successful. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee looked at some other venues, including Unicoi State Park, Amicolola State Park, and Brasstown Valley, but determined that none could match the Hatcher Center regarding accessibility, costs, and facilities. Plus, being in Macon is probably the most convenient location in the State for the vast majority of our members. The GSRA P&O Board agreed with the Committee's assessment and authorized the committee to begin negotiations with the Center.

The Hatcher Center is excited to have us back. They have already confirmed the dates of October 27-28 for next year's meeting. So go ahead and mark your calendars for next year! We are excited to be going back, and we are excited to see you there!

From the Home Office

By Robert Riddle

Hello GSRA Members,

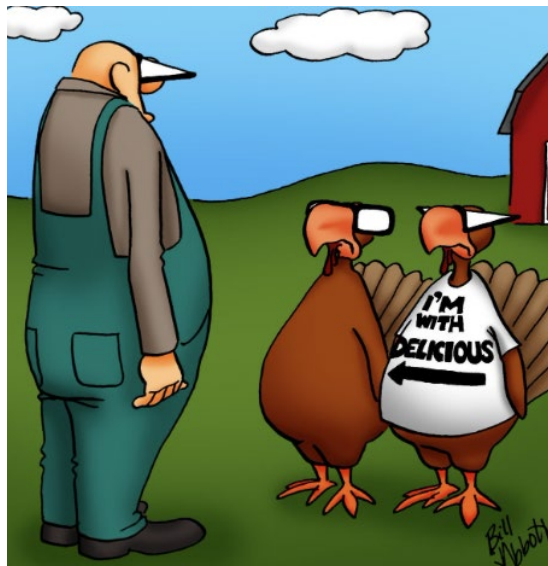
I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. There is so much to be thankful for and I am especially thankful for GSRA leadership and our members!

The 34th Biennial Institute for Georgia Legislators is planned for December 8-10, 2024, at the UGA Center for Continuing Education & Hotel in Athens, Georgia. GSRA representatives Chuck Freedman, Dan Coffee, and I will be in attendance to meet Georgia's new legislators and to share our legislative goals.

The Biennial Institute provides both an orientation to the legislative process for new lawmakers and timely policy sessions for all attendees. A recognized event on the state's political calendar since 1958, the Biennial Institute for Georgia Legislators provides legislators with valuable time for learning, networking and exploring state issues prior to the upcoming session of the General Assembly. Sessions conducted by veteran lawmakers and staff, agency administrators and subject matter experts lead legislators through a wide variety of current topics.

New and veteran legislators can count on GSRA during the Biennial Institute to provide information and training that will help them make better-informed decisions to support Georgia retirees.

Robert



Local GSRA Chapter News

Coosa Valley Chapter

The Coosa Valley Chapter held its quarterly meeting in Rome on October 17, 2024. Seventeen members attended the meeting. Jan Hardeman, Outreach Director, reported that since January, she has sent out 33 postcards to new retirees who reside in the six counties of the Chapter. For most meetings, at least one new member received one of these postcards. Today, there were two new members, Joel Rose and Ronnie Hudson.

Five people at the meeting also attended the GSRA Annual Meeting in Macon. These individuals discussed the various sessions they attended. Health Insurance changes and COLAs were of primary importance to the group. Several members at today's meeting reported that they sent letters to Governor Kemp about future COLAs. It appears that the Chapter met the goal established in Macon of 5 letters from each Chapter.

Once again, there was a discussion about new officers. Current officers have served since the Chapter was re-established in June 2019. While there were no volunteers to serve as officers, Vickie Free and Dinah Crosby agreed to arrange speakers for the next two meetings, and Robb Gross agreed to help with presiding in the president's absence.



Figure 1: Seventeen members attended the October meeting including two new members.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Floyd County DFCS office.

ABC Chapter

ABC Chapter had our meeting on November 11, 2024, at the Covered Wagon in Douglas, Georgia. Updates were provided on the recent GSRA Annual meeting held in Macon. Chapter Officers for 2025 were elected. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and fellowship.



Figure 2: ABC GSRA Chapter members enjoyed lunch and fellowship.

Our next chapter meeting will be January 21, 2025 at Covered Wagon in Douglas, Georgia.

CSRA-GSRA Chapter

The CSRA-GSRA chapter's monthly meeting was held on November 19 at the Richmond County Health Department. The guest speaker was Lisa McKenzie with AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors), which offers discounted benefit plans to state retirees. Mrs. McKenzie introduced the group to various insurances offered, such as dental, vision, cancer, long—and short-term care, etc. For those interested, there is usually an ad for AMBA at the end of the monthly newsletter.



Figure 3: Guest speaker Lisa McKenzie with AMBA discussed benefits available to GSRA members.

New officers were elected for 2025, and we would like to thank our outgoing president, Clara Brown, for all her hard work. She did an excellent job getting this chapter started.



Figure 4: CSRA-GSRA members selected new officers for 2025.

It was decided that a meeting would not be held in December; however, we will get together for lunch at some point in December. Check with our Facebook page (CSRA-GSRA), for updates for a time and place. All are welcome to join us for a good meal, fellowship, and undoubtedly some Christmas cheer!



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Welcome New Members!

Name	County	Name	County
Deborah Tolson	Henry	Linda Dye	Elbert
Shannon New-Diaz	Baldwin	Sheryl Speering-Champy	Out of State
William Worthington	Evans	Zachary Bailey	Wayne
Janise Clark	Floyd	Jinnie Joiner	Chandler
Debra Slaughter	Dekalb	Vicki Townsend	Out of State
Gary Griffis	Lowndes	Alice Mitchell	Henry
Donna Jones	Clinch	Cynthia Cook	Troup
Linton Deloach	Appling	Sharon Eckler	Ben Hill
Barbara Beaverson	Fulton	Annie Ewings	Dougherty
Joseph Carter	Out of State	Evelyn Wells	Elbert
Shedrick Ford, Jr	Muscogee	Joseph Dunham	Muscogee
Gary Smith	Ben Hill	Sue Smith	Ben Hill
Lisa Earls	Dekalb	Jackie Gibbs	Tift
Johnny Short	Meriwether	Lynn Griffin	Cobb

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The Ballance Group







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*Fixed sample interest rate: 34.73% per year with a one-time fee of \$40.00. 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 payroll deduction schedule, etc. Must be employed for at least 1 year with the employer to be eligible to apply. Not 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 LoansforRetirees.



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