

## GSRA Virtual Annual Meeting is Tuesday, October 20, 2020



Participants in the 2020 Annual Business Meeting

The GSRA Annual Meeting will be available for viewing on GSRA's website at MyGSRA.com beginning on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. There will be a link on our website entitled 2020 Annual Meeting where members may view all documents to be discussed during the meeting including the Secretary's report of the last Annual Meeting, the Treasurer's financial reports, and the Nominating Committee's report. After reading and reviewing all three of these reports, members will see a ballot for their use to vote on motions to accept these reports. Following that, there will be a list of GSRA officers and board members for the coming year of 2021. Ballots can be cast online and must be cast by October 27, 2020, so mark your calendars and be ready to take action.

For members' protection, the 2020 GSRA Annual Meeting will be held virtually this year due to Covid-19. In this current time of social distancing it has become extremely obvious that most, if not all, of our membership are most

vulnerable to this disease. It is imperative that GSRA understands this and does everything in our power to limit exposure to the virus. It's also becoming increasingly clear that now even more than ever GSRA needs to protect our

members' benefits (financial and health related). To that end we continue to advocate for a cost of living (COLA) benefit or annual one-time adjustments benefits as our retirement fund permits, and that our health insurance remains similar to last year's benefits in terms of monthly premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket expenditures.

Please bear with us as we begin this virtual journey. Your Board has been meeting monthly virtually by GoToMeeting or Zoom. It's better than simply talking on the phone, but nothing like being in person. It has allowed us, however, to continue to conduct the association's business and move forward.

We thought that since it has worked fairly well for the board it might work well for our Annual Meeting. Each year GSRA By-Laws require us to meet, review our past years' activities, and elect officers and board members for the next year. To protect you and accomplish these requirements a virtual meeting seemed the best course of action to take.

Therefore, we canceled our plans to meet in Macon on October 20, 2020 at the Anderson Center; however, we will provide an abbreviated session that will cover information you would have received in person, but will receive instead in the safety of your own home.

In addition to accomplishing tasks required by our by-laws we want to provide information you may be interested in hearing; therefore, we have extended invitations to certain officials in state government and the retirement system to

submit short videos in response to what issues they foresee that might affect retirees or state employees in the coming year. We asked them to keep their comments brief in the interest of time, and we also asked our partners to tell you of any services they plan to extend to you in the coming year. We hope this meeting will be concise and to the point but remain very informative.

We are hopeful that we will be able to return and celebrate our Annual Meeting in person in 2021 and are currently making plans to do so.

You will receive notices as October 20, 2020 approaches alerting you to this event. You have already received an e-mail (If we have your current e-mail address) listing nominees for officers and board members and asking for recommendations for further nominees (if the person agrees to be nominated). We will utilize all forms of communication including e-mail, social media through Facebook, the GSRA website and mailing through the post office where members have not given us a valid e-mail address. If you receive a ballot by mail your ballot must be mailed to GSRA, P.O. Box 108, Bethlehem, GA. 20620 by October 27, 2020. If you vote on-line you must do so by October 27, 2020.

It is our sincere hope that one of these methods will alert and allow you to participate and vote.

Thank you!



## Jim's View: Important Activities Ahead!

By the time you read this column, you have likely received your GSRA Ballot. You may have been surprised to see my name as the only one listed as a candidate for President of GSRA for 2021.

Five nominations for President were received by the September 15th deadline for nominations. However, when I contacted those members nominated for President, four of the five declined to run and asked that their names be withdrawn. The last remaining nominated person willing to accept the position of President, if elected, is me.

We did receive a nomination for President-elect, Beverly Littlefield. You may note that she is also nominated for the position of Secretary. I assure you that Beverly is more than capable of performing the required duties of both positions.

While it is not ideal to have one person fill two key positions, we have found it necessary to have Beverly fill both positions because of a lack of an adequate number of nominated candidates for the two positions.

In the midst of the pandemic, there are two very important activities in which I urge everyone to participate. The first one is the 2020 census. An accurate accounting of the population of Georgia is vital to ensure that the State of Georgia receives its' fair share of federal funding. The census will also determine the number of U.S. representatives that Georgia will be allocated. So, if you have not completed the census, please do so as soon as you can.

The second activity is to VOTE. Every state representative and senator seat is up for election this year. Find out where your current representative and senator stand

on issues of importance to state employees (retired and active) and vote accordingly.

At this time of the year, my anticipation for the GSRA Annual Meeting starts growing. The Annual Meeting is always a great event that gives everyone an opportunity to fellowship with fellow GSRA members. In my term as President, I have tried to meet and listen to as many of you as possible during the two days of the Annual Meeting. I will miss seeing and talking with you at this year's virtual meeting.

However, I encourage you to participate by Zoom in this year's Virtual Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting Committee has done a stellar job in organizing a virtual meeting that will be beneficial and informative for GSRA members.

Be safe, stay healthy and follow all CDC pandemic advisories.

Jim

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## Get to Know Your GSRA Organization Members

In an effort to provide membership more information about the various GSRA Board and Operating Committee members who perform the ongoing work of the organization, we will feature one or more board and/or committee members in the newsletter each month. This month, Joy Evans, At-Large GSRA Board Member, as well as Tri-County Local Chapter President, is featured.



**Joy Evans**  
**At-Large GSRA Board Member**

Joy Evans joined GSRA Tri-county Chapter in April 2011. Joy served her chapter as Legislative Liaison for 4 years, President-elect for 2 years and is currently serving her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Chapter President. The Tri-county Chapter started with members from Meriwether, Upson and Talbot counties. Joy has worked to increase GSRA membership with the chapter adding retirees from Troup, Pike and Northern Harris counties.

Joy was elected as an At-Large Board member for the GSRA Board at the Annual Meeting in October 2015, and is currently serving her second two-year term. She has been active with Legislative Day at the Capital and with contacts to our legislators to raise awareness of state retirees need for

protection of health insurance and other retirement benefits including cost of living adjustments.

Joy retired from Roosevelt Warm Springs Rehabilitation Institute in 2007 with 34 years of service. She started her career as a nursing assistant advancing to Physical Therapy Technician while attending Troy State University. After her education, she began work as Human Services Provider for RWS Brain Injury Unit. Over the course of her career, she served as Brain Injury Program Team Leader, Lead Medical Case Manager and Director of Medical Case Management Services. She served on quality and outcome performance teams, the CDC Spinal Cord Injury Research Advisory Board and a member of Case Management Society of America.

Joy lives in Meriwether County where she is a member of Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce. She has served as Program Coordinator for Leadership Meriwether since 2016. She has been active with local elementary schools to provide the Junior Achievement Program and has enjoyed volunteering at Riverside Health and Rehabilitation.

## 2020 Flu Shot More Important Than Ever!

Public Health and infectious disease experts are warning Americans that getting a Flu shot in 2020 may be more important than it has ever been due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. This is especially true for persons who are more vulnerable to the effects from both diseases, Seniors and those with underlying medical conditions of any age.

There are two types out, one which helps prevent three strains and one which helps prevent those three strains plus one more. Each type has both a high dosage for seniors and a low dosage. It's easier than ever to get a Flu shot. Besides doctors and clinics, numerous drug and grocery store chains offer shots. For instance, Publix is offering free high dosage, four strain shots free of charge PLUS a \$10 gift card. It's a tough deal to beat.

Make sure to get yours soon!



## Donate to GSRA Legal Fund

GSRA's Legal Fund was established as a dedicated legal fund in the event that leadership, on behalf of its members, ever has to retain legal counsel. The fund will be used to cover all appropriate legal fees related to ensuring that retiree benefits are not reduced or eliminated.

Every donation makes a difference. For more information and to donate to this fund click on the link below.

[GSRA Legal Fund](#)





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APCU partners with Members Wealth Management, a financial services program, to help our members with financial planning, investments, insurance, as well as retirement and estate planning strategies.

APCU has invited Shweta Ramani, a Managing Associate with Members Wealth Management, to offer a great workshop, "Money Talk 101", at GSRA. This seminar is designed to facilitate conversations around financial milestones for retirees.

Topics will include:

- ★ The importance of setting financial goals
- ★ Understanding your current financial position
- ★ Preparing for a successful retirement
- ★ Income tax considerations
- ★ What your loved ones need to know



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