



# Newsletter

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## **FINAL REMINDER --- GSRA ANNUAL MEETING OCT. 21--- AND YOUR PRESENCE IS CRITICAL!**

It's "Full Steam Ahead" for our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 21, at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, Georgia. Your officers and Board have done all they can to make this probably the most important meeting our young organization has held to date. *The only piece, but most critical piece, to make this meeting an astounding success is YOU!!* A packed auditorium would send a very strong message that we are involved --- and we are for real.

There are eleven candidates for Governor of the State of Georgia in the upcoming election. No fewer than SEVEN of them have committed to attend our meeting and participate in a roundtable discussion of issues critical to retirees and to our state. This in itself says that to them, our opinions matter. The seven candidates will attend our "Meet & Greet" at 12:15 and then take part in a 2-hour roundtable discussion beginning promptly at 1 p.m.

Come early and enjoy lunch at the full-service cafeteria on the premises of the Public Safety Training Center before our Registration and "Meet & Greet." We will also hear about retirement issues from Russell Hinton, ERS Board of Trustees Chair and Member of the TRS Board of Trustees. Finally, a moderated discussion with Department of Community Health officials on retiree health insurance issues will be held.

We know that all of these important issues are of great concern to all of us.

Please refer to the GSRA Newsletter "EXTRA" dated September 15, for directions and a map to the Training Center, as well as agendas for our General Session and the Plenary Session. The "EXTRA" is also available at <http://www.mygsra.com>.

### **Don't miss this important meeting!**

To give us an idea of how many to expect, please RSVP by email to [rsvp@mygsra.com](mailto:rsvp@mygsra.com) and include in your subject line the number attending, or by regular mail to the address below. (NOTE: Don't worry if you forget to RSVP. An RSVP is NOT required! Come to the meeting anyway!) As mentioned in a previous announcement, the auditorium at the Training Center holds almost 500! WE NEED TO FILL IT UP. A STANDING-ROOM-ONLY CROWD WOULD BE GREAT. You are all challenged to bring as many of your fellow retirees as you can! Bring your spouse, your grown children, current active state employees ---- they all have an interest in what our speakers will tell us!

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## **GREAT NEWS FOR ALL GSRA MEMBERS!**

As if you didn't already have good reasons to attend the Annual Meeting this year, here's yet another: We are proud to announce that GSRA has entered into an agreement with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to provide a full menu of "Members-Only" benefits for our association. AMBA is a national firm

that works with 32 retired and active educator and state employee associations in 25 states.

AMBA has a proven track record of working with associations and helping them grow. AMBA will help GSRA attract new members and retain current members. AMBA will offer all GSRA

members the opportunity to purchase the following benefits:

- Long Term Care Insurance
- Cancer Treatment Insurance
- Final Expense Whole Life Insurance
- Single Premium Tax Deferred Annuity
- Medicare Supplement Plans
- Identity Thief Protection Plan
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- Dental Insurance (coming soon)
- Vision Coverage (coming soon)

In addition to the products listed above, AMBA will provide our members many valuable discount programs, including:

- GETO Travel – Condos available worldwide for \$329/week
- AMBA TravelPerx – cruises available for as low as \$99!
- Apple and Dell Computer and Electronics discounts

- Barnes & Noble Online Discount – [www.bn.com/amba](http://www.bn.com/amba)
- 1-800-FLOWERS Flowers discount
- Hertz, Budget & Avis car-rental discounts

GSRA is very excited about this important step for our Association. AMBA will enable us to offer every GSRA member some solid tangible benefits along with their GSRA membership.

AMBA representatives will be on hand in the lobby at our Annual Meeting on October 21 to answer questions and provide information. Please take time to visit with them there and find out more about these valuable benefits.

GSRA members can reach AMBA by telephone at 1-800-258-7041 with questions about any of these benefits. Ryan Greenfield, AMBA Regional Vice President for Georgia, is also available to speak at your local GSRA chapter meetings about AMBA's products and services. He can be reached at 1-800-258-7041 ext.114.