



## ***ACTION WATCH***

***Georgia State Retirees Association—December 5, 2014***

### ***GSRA Day at the Capitol and Legislative Reception*** **Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

The elections are over and Georgia's legislators, old and new, are set to continue in the 2015 Legislative Session on January 12, 2015. **GSRA members already know that state retirees and educators are not a priority on the legislative agenda.** That makes it doubly important that GSRA members rally and show up in numbers at the Capitol for the fifth annual ***GSRA Day at the Capitol and Legislative Reception on February 4, 2015!*** These events provide our best opportunity to demonstrate that we have not forgotten the promises made to us during our careers, promises that appear to be fading in importance in the collective General Assembly consciousness. **We have already made an impression on Governor Deal by having an outstanding turnout for his presentation at the Annual Meeting. Let's continue the momentum and have an equally impressive turnout for *GSRA Day at the Capitol and Legislative Reception* on February 4, 2015. We need YOU to make plans now to attend.**

The key to making these events successful is completely dependent on the knowledgeable and enthusiastic participation of all of us. Legislators will take notice of a large group of GSRA members spreading out over Capitol Hill and interacting with them and their staffs, bringing more attention to our

concerns. Equally important is having a large number of GSRA members from legislative districts around the state attend the Legislative Reception to greet and visit with their legislators. Legislators are much more likely to attend the reception if they expect their own constituents will be there and much more likely not to attend if they doubt that their constituents will be present. Even worse, GSRA loses credibility if a legislator attends expecting to find a constituent and finds none attending.

As an important note, please **be on the lookout for the email Action Alert coming in January** which will allow you to easily invite your legislators to attend the GSRA reception. Experience shows that invitations from GSRA members are the most important factor in assuring legislative attendance.

**Be sure to circle February 4, 2015 on your calendar and make plans now to be there for the *GSRA Day at the Capitol and Legislative Reception* events. Even better, enlist the support of all the GSRA members and state retirees and educators you know to join you at the State Capitol in February to help safeguard the retirement and health benefits promised to you.**

### **Event: *GSRA Day at the Capitol***

**Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 2015 **Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** Capitol, Room to be announced (but probably Room 341)

**Details:** Meet at the Capitol at 10:00 AM near Room 341 (actual staging room will be identified that day) so that you can be briefed on the day's activities. We will finalize and group promotional bags by local chapters so that members can deliver the bags to legislators on Capitol Hill. During this timeframe we will also have a photo opportunity with Governor Deal and/or other elected leaders. After the bags are delivered, members will have lunch on their own (Capitol Hill cafeterias or area restaurants). Then, during the afternoon, members may attend committee meetings (schedule will be provided that morning) or visit with other retirees or former coworkers.

**RSVP:** [rsvp@mygsra.com](mailto:rsvp@mygsra.com) (RSVP is not required but appreciated so that identification badges can be prepared and to reach you via email with any last minute details. If you wish to deliver a bag to your specific legislator, please include the name(s) in the email reply.)



## **Event:** *Joint GSRA/GPHSA Legislative Reception*

**Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 2015

**Time:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Location:** Floyd Building/20<sup>th</sup> Floor/Empire Room

**Details:** Meet at the Empire Room between 4:30 and 5:00 PM in order to be ready to meet and greet legislators as they arrive. Members should make every effort to speak with legislators in attendance and especially their specific legislators. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. GSRA/GPHSA will recognize our annual “thank you” awards recipients at the short program beginning at 6:00 PM. **(Note: You will receive an Action Alert in January about inviting your legislators to the reception.)**

**Registration:** Registration fee is \$37.00. Members must be registered by January 30th and no registration will be done on site. Go to [www.mygsra.com](http://www.mygsra.com) to register online or use the attached Registration Form to mail in your registration/payment. If you encounter problems registering, please contact [help@mygsra.com](mailto:help@mygsra.com) or call 770-312-2799. **First 25 registrations will receive a GSRA umbrella!**

## **Parking and Lodging Information**

**Parking:** **Several commercial lots are** located on or around Capitol Hill, including the Underground Atlanta lot. For the Legislative Reception, the Pete Hackney lot at 162 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr. SE is the best location. However, **if you need “Help” in walking,** you can take advantage of the \$5.00 per day parking and shuttle service that is offered through our joint sponsor, GPHSA at the Ramada Plaza Atlanta Downtown Capitol Park (former Holiday Inn) at 450 Capitol Ave. SE. (Note: You must identify yourself as associated with the GPHSA Winter 2015 Meeting to get the \$5 rate. There may be a short wait time before being driven to the Capitol.)

**Lodging:** GPHSA has reserved a block of rooms at the **Ramada Plaza Atlanta Downtown Capitol Park hotel at 450 Capitol Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30312, 404-591-2000.** The room rate is \$99.00 per night (single/double). You will need to identify yourself as a member of the Group, GPHSA Winter 2015 Meeting. All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. **The deadline for reservations at the \$99.00 rate is January 20, 2015.** The parking fee for the hotel overnight stay is \$5. You may choose to park at the hotel for the Legislative Day Event and/or the Legislative Reception at this rate and use the shuttle to the Floyd Building. Shuttle service is provided on a frequent schedule, but you should allow extra time for the wait and service to the events. If you encounter any issues with reservations, please contact: Wayne Drummond, GPHSA Executive Director, at 404-694-2588 or [wayne@gphsa.org](mailto:wayne@gphsa.org).



---

## REGISTRATION FORM

### GSRA Day at the Capitol & GSRA/GPHSA Legislative Reception

*Please complete one form per person - indicate participation in each event.*

#### **GSRA DAY AT THE CAPITOL** – February 4, 2015 – 10 AM inside Capitol

*I plan to participate in GSRA Day at the Capitol:*    YES    NO    (Circle Answer)

*I will deliver GSRA information to the following Senator/Representatives:*

---

#### **GSRA/GPHSA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION** – February 4, 2015

**EMPIRE ROOM - FLOYD BUILDING - 5:00PM TO 7:00PM**

Directions and Parking: <http://gba.georgia.gov/empire-room>

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, COUNTY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (BEST TO BE REACHED) \_\_\_\_\_

GSRA CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia Senate District# or Senator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia House District# or Representative's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK FOR \$37 PAYABLE TO GSRA AND MAIL TO:  
GSRA, P.O. BOX 108, BETHLEHEM, GA 30620.**

**GSRA MEMBERS CAN REGISTER ONLINE WITH A CREDIT CARD – NON-MEMBERS MUST  
COMPLETE AND MAIL IN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO REGISTER.**

**RECEPTION REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 30, 2015**