

GSRA LEGISLATIVE APPROACH AND GOALS

IMPORTANCE OF INITIATING AND MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH LEGISLATORS

- GET INVOLVED IN CAMPAIGNS AND INTERACT WITH CANDIDATE AND KEY STAFF. DOES NOT REQUIRE MONETARY DONATIONS.
- DO WHAT IT TAKES TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS (PERSONAL AND ON BEHALF OF GSRA).
- MAINTAIN CONTACT (PERSONAL AND ON BEHALF OF GSRA).
- RESPOND TO ACTION ALERTS AND ACTION WATCHES (MORE LATER).
- PAY ATTENTION TO NEWSLETTERS. FOLLOW UP WITH CHAPTER MEMBERS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE READING NEWSLETTERS ALSO.
- INVITE LEGISLATORS TO MEETINGS.
- INVITE PAGE/GREA MEMBERS TO MEETINGS.
- ATTEND GSRA DAY AT THE CAPITOL AND EVENING RECEPTION.

GSRA IS CONSIDERING RETAINING PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST

- PURPOSE.
- RESPONSIBILITIES.
- ANTICIPATED APPROACH TO OBTAINING.
- SOLICIT INPUT FROM ATTENDEES.

Anticipated Legislative Issues

- **OBJECTIVES:** SUPPORT GOOD BILLS; KILL OR MITIGATE BAD BILLS. LAST YEAR HAD MIXED SUCCESS.
 - DCH BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND ADVISORY COUNCIL - DETAILS AND STRATEGY
- **ELECTION DAY:** PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO LIMIT INCOME TAX RATE TO 6%
- **OTHER LEGISLATIVE GOALS POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE.**
 - (+) DEFINITE: DCH TRANSPARENCY BILL
 - (-) POSSIBLE: "TAX REFORM" OR "FAIR TAX" TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE INCOME TAX AND RAISE SALES TAX. PROBLEM: MOST

RETIREEES DON'T PAY INCOME TAX OR PAY VERY LITTLE. THIS WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL, COSTLY TAX HIKE FOR US.

- (-) POSSIBLE: USE OF RETIREMENT SYSTEM PENSION FUNDS FOR VENTURE CAPITAL OR OTHER RISKY INVESTMENT
 - (+) POSSIBLE: MIGHT HAVE GOOD BILLS TO SUPPORT – REVIEW OF ALL TAX BREAKS; PROCESS FOR STUDYING PROPOSED TAX BREAKS
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- **GSRA'S 2014 GOALS** WERE TO GAIN LEGISLATORS' SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF RETIREES' PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS, TO SUPPORT FUNDING TO PAY FOR THE BENEFITS, AND TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE THESE BENEFITS AND THE RELATED FUNDING SOURCES.
 - ESTABLISH LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS AND SAFE-GUARDS FOR PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WE WILL COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE THE SAME GOALS.
 - SUPPORT 75% FUNDING FOR SHBP PREMIUMS FOR OPTIONS THAT COVER AT LEAST 80% OF MEMBERS' MEDICAL CARE. NONE OF THE PLANS AVAILABLE FOR SHBP MEMBERS IN 2014 PROVIDED THIS LEVEL OF FUNDING AND COVERAGE FOR MEMBERS.
 - SUPPORT EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE SPONSORED RETIREMENT SYSTEMS THAT WILL PREVENT FURTHER EROSION OF THE RESPECTIVE RETIREMENT FUND.
 - SUPPORT FUNDING FOR EQUITABLE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS TO ACTIVE WORKERS AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF STATE SPONSORED RETIREMENT SYSTEMS TO COUNTER LOSS OF BUYING POWER FROM INFLATION.
 - IMPROVE REPRESENTATION ON, AND OPERATING PRACTICES OF, THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND THE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM. ACHIEVE THESE IMPROVEMENTS BY:
 - SUPPORTING CREATION OF A HEALTH BENEFITS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY HEALTH. REQUIRE ALL POLICY DECISIONS BY THE BOARD AND BY DEPARTMENT STAFF TO BE PRESENTED TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR COMMENT BEFORE ACTION.
 - SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL RETIREE REPRESENTATION ON THE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD.

- REQUIRING THE DELIBERATIONS OF BOTH BOARDS TO BE TRANSPARENT, TO INCLUDE RECEIVING INPUT FROM MEMBERS OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE STATE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.
- MONITOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS INVOLVING EXPANSION OF ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY OF STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS. OPPOSE LEGISLATION WHICH EXPANDS INVESTMENT AUTHORITY WITHOUT APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS OR PERMITS INVESTMENT FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN MAXIMIZING INCOME OF THE RETIREMENT FUNDS.
- OPPOSE TAXATION CHANGES THAT INCREASE RETIREES' TAX BURDEN.

Overview of Action Alert System (if time)

- NEED YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERS WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEGISLATORS TO PERSONALLY CONTACT THEM.

Importance of GSRA Day at the Capitol and Evening Reception

- IS CRITICAL TO HAVE GOOD SHOWING
- LAST YEAR WENT VERY SMOOTHLY, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THAT WE HAD TO RESCHEDULE THE EVENTS TWICE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.