

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

February 18, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, February 18, 2008 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 64 members in attendance. Co-President Roswell Story called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

The invocation was given by Harry Ingram followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Story welcomed new members and guests. He acknowledged our members who were absent due to illness: Mike Bolek, Ann Fitzgerald, Ralph Wheeler, Carolyn Landers, Kitty Kile and Nathan Wilson. Announcement was made of the death of long time member Harold Davis. It was also announced that Mary Gowder's son-in-law passed away.

Tom Scott, PhD from Kennesaw State University was introduced as guest speaker. Dr. Scott has written the *History of Cobb County* and *Cornerstones of Georgia History*. Highlights of his very interesting presentation were as follows: Before Cobb County was created the land was occupied by the Cherokee Nation and extended to the Chattahoochee River. The Cherokees had their own government, courts and economic structure, however, when gold was discovered in Dahlonega, Georgia the transition began. A railroad was constructed with Atlanta being developed at the southern extreme. Slavery made up 44% of the population in Georgia. The Civil War began and the Battle of Kennesaw was fought on June 27, 1864 and Atlanta fell on September 2, 1864. All except one building in Marietta was burned. All Cobb County public records were destroyed. Georgia went from being one of the richest to one of the poorest states since agriculture was the largest business. Segregation still existed with Lemon Street School in the City of Marietta being the only black high school.

Change began in Cobb County in 1941 with the outbreak of World War II. General Lucius Clay was placed in charge of building a commercial airport in Marietta. After Pearl Harbor the Air Force took over the airport and built the Bell Bomber Plant. Most of the employees were women. By 1945 there were 28,000 employees at the plant. Lockheed took over in 1951 and no women were allowed on the assembly line.

Population in Cobb County in 1900 was 25,000 and it jumped to 668,000 by 2005.

Lockheed was then run by Dan Houghton and the C-130 came into existence. With the growth of Lockheed many employees came to live in Cobb County. Along with the growth came parks and roads. By 1961 Lockheed had developed a desegregation plan which served it well when the political changes began to occur in 1964.

Ernest Barrett became the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners during this growth period. During his administration parks and libraries were built, roads were added and others improved and a sewer system was put into place.

The African American population in Cobb County in 1900 was 30%. By 1970 it was only 4%, however, in 2000 it was 19% and there is a large increase in minorities registered to vote today. Only 42% of Georgia's population are native Georgians.

David Hankerson became the first black county manager. Sam Olens the first Jewish Commissioner and Lee Rhyant the first black general manager of Lockheed.

Cobb County School System is currently the largest employer in Cobb County.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ruby Lowry reported a balance of \$2,156.32. Motion was made by David Hilton with a second to accept the report of the Treasurer. Motion carried. Ruby also filed the End-of-year report showing a balance of \$967.32. She reminded everyone that dues are \$24 per year and are now due.

MINUTES: The minutes of the November 19, 2007 were printed and passed out. Motion was made by Harry Ingram with a second to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

WEB PAGE: Mike Ball and Danny Padgett have the new web page up and running. The address is www.ccrea.us. There is a link to Cobb County government and other sites will be linked as needed.

President Story appointed the following Web Page Committee to work with Mike and Danny:

Donna Carter, Reba Hunsucker and L. C. Carter

Let any of them know if you have anything to be posted to the site.

A thank you letter was read from Calvary Children's Home for the Christmas gifts.

For their records Cobb County Human Resources will be mailing postcards to all

retirees requesting e-mail addresses. Also, If you have not given your e-mail address to Marge Young please do so in order to receive information from the association.

Cobb County is participating in Walk Georgia. To get further information and to register go to www.walkgeorgia.org. Be sure to put Cobb County as the County of participation when you register. Also, when inputting your first name, please put a “CC” before your name so they will know how many Cobb County employees are participating. A Healthy newsletter will be mailed in March.

NEXT MEETING: March 17, 2008 at Cobb Senior Center at 10:30 am.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Watson