

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, June 16, 2008 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 61 members and 4 guests in attendance. Co-President Roswell Store called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M.

The invocation was given by Catherine Lamber followed by the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Store welcomed new members : Emmett Burton, former District Commissioner, Scott Chadwick from the Tax Commissioners office, and Mike Hicks from the Police Department. It was reported Harry Ingram was not present due to illness.

SPEAKER: Cobb County Sheriff Neil Warren was our guest speaker. Sheriff Warren stated he has always had a passion for law enforcement and is honored to be the Sheriff of Cobb County and asked for our vote in the next election.

Sheriff Warren gave a very informative talk concerning the operation of the Sheriffs' Department and the jail. He stated it is very difficult to ask the taxpayers for money to build a new jail. However, ground broke in July for a new jail expansion which will open the latter part of 2009 and will add 1200 new beds to the jail. Infrastructure, laundry, kitchen and other areas need to be expanded. Three to four hundred inmates are utilized in the Parks Department, Road Department, etc. to recover some of the money we spend on inmates. There are lots of issues involved when running the jail, not just locking up prisoners but seeing to their medical and dental care. Cobb County has a contract with Wellstar health System and has been a partner for several years providing these services.

Also, Cobb County jail has a work program whereas some of the inmates can work so they can take care of personal financial responsibilities to families so the County does not have this added expense.

Sheriff Warren also stated that Cobb County works with judges and prosecutors to move State and Federal prisoners to get inmates moved out to other agencies in a timely manner. Also, works closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to pick up inmates who are in this Country illegally and are arrested for committing various crimes. ICE is usually very prompt , he said, in picking up these prisoners, usually within one day. He also stated the federal government is not doing its job in enforcing the laws when it comes to immigration.

Cobb County was established in 1833 and is celebrating its 175th year anniversary this year. He presented a short but interesting video put together by the Sheriffs' Department which captured what they could of the former Sheriffs and scenes from around the County over the years. Volunteer projects (VIP) are welcomed and needed to help log in documents, assist in the mail room, etc. Sheriff Warren pointed out we are not perfect but must move forward.

TREASURER REPORT: Ruby Lowry reported a balance of \$2,740.65 in the treasury at this time. Motion was made with a second to approve this report. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion made with a second to approve the minutes of the April meeting as presented. Motion carried. As the May meeting consisted of a picnic, no minutes were presented for that month.

President Store gave us an update on the Cobb County Employees Retirement System, with attachments. The pension plan is only 74.7% funded at this time. As of January 1, 2008 there are 4,137 active members and 1200 retired members on this plan. Also, there are 707 vested members who are no longer working for the County. This information is provided according to the Actuarial Valuation document as of January 1, 2008. Members of the Cobb County Employees Retirement System Board are: Virgil Moon, Brad Bowers, Bill Hutson, Gary Bottoms and Tom.

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE: President Store appointed five members to the Recognition Committee to develop a recognition program for members who have made exceptional contributions to this association. They are Carl Canington, Chairman, Pat Cromer, Eric Colson, Phillip Chendemi and Stuart Witham.

OLD BUSINESS: President Store thanked the people who prepared and served food for our picnic in May.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Submitted by: Louise Anderson

For Martha Watson, Secretary