

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

July 21, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, July 21, 2008 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 45 members in attendance. Co-President Roswell Story called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Invocation was given by James Daniel followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Story welcomed new members Jo Cunningham (District Attorney's Office), Marti Thrasher (District Attorney's Office), Scott Chadwick (Tax Commissioner's Office), Bill Pardue (Solicitor's Office) and Melinda Belcher (Sheriff's Office).

The following deaths were reported: Leona Garrison and Ed Kelly.

Ann Fitzgerald is still receiving chemo and progressing well. She informed Roswell of the illness of Bruce Beck (Cobb Extension Office). Bill Buckner is still undergoing cancer treatments.

SPEAKER: Barry Morgan, Solicitor General of the State Court of Cobb County was guest speaker. He has served as Solicitor for 12 years and is responsible for the prosecution of all misdemeanor and traffic offenses committed within unincorporated Cobb County. There are 27 lawyers in his office and a total of 70 employees who work as a team with the other offices within the State Court to prosecute the 180,000 traffic cases and 7-8,000 misdemeanors annually. The Cobb State Court is the second busiest court by volume in Georgia, second only to the City of Atlanta. Approximately \$24 million dollars in annual revenue is generated by the State Court.

In addition to the cases in State Court, Solicitor Morgan is responsible for the prosecution of county ordinance violations in Magistrate Court. Solicitor Morgan spoke about the problems with the state's Indigent Defense Program, however, Cobb County has a Circuit Defender who handles those cases in Cobb's courts. Many of Cobb's attorneys handle those cases at undervalued fees for their work. Solicitor Morgan warned us about telephone scams. His advice was to never give out your social security number over the phone. He also warned that if you receive a call about missing jury duty it is a scam and to not speak to them. He also stated

that we should look at our e-mails very carefully to make sure they are not a scam. They sometimes look very legitimate but are not. He discussed new laws that went into effect this year. One makes it a felony to have 4 Driving Under the Influence cases within 10 years. The "Move Over" law requires a driver to move into another lane when safe to do so, or if not possible to move over then to slow down to a safe speed, when approaching an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle stopped on the side of the road. Failure to do so may result in a \$500 fine.

TREASURER'S REPORT: President Story reported in the absence of Ruby Lowry that we have a balance of \$2787.15 in the treasury. Motion was made by Carl Cannington with a second to accept the report. Motion carried.

MINUTES: It was announced that Louise Anderson has agreed to be the Co-Secretary. She presented the minutes from the June, 2008 meeting. Motion was made by Scott Chadwick with a second to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE: The committee met on July 21 and will report at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The Monday, August 18 meeting will be a barbecue luncheon at 11:00 a.m.

MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR:

September 15 – Speaker will be John Delves on Iraq

October 20 – Speaker will be Human Resources personnel

November 17 – Speaker will be *Marietta Daily Journal* columnist Dick Yarbrough

December 15 – Christmas social

President Story requested members to watch for any Cobb County budget changes and notify him if any are noted. Pat Cromer is a member of the county's insurance program committee that looks at all insurance programs offered. They are currently in the process of reviewing them and she welcomes any questions or concerns. If there are any she needs to be contacted immediately. Her e-mail address is pwromer@comcast.net.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Martha Watson, Secretary

