

**COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
December 15, 2008

One hundred four members and guests gathered at the West Cobb Senior Center for a wonderful Christmas lunch. The food was prepared by several members and was very plentiful and delicious.

In the absence of a formal meeting, President Roswell Story welcomed everyone and James Daniel gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A Christmas tree was adorned with money and gift cards donated by our members for Cobb Street Ministries. Following dinner, Carol Paschal of Cobb Street Ministries thanked everyone for the donations made to her organization.

**RECOGNITIONS:** Carl Cannington chaired the Recognitions Committee along with Phil Chendemi, Stuart Witham, Ernie Carlson and Pat Cromer. Awards will be given in recognition of outstanding service and leadership to our organization.

**BOLEK-STRICKLAND AWARD:**

The award is named in memory of Michael Bolek and Hershel Strickland. Mr. Bolek served as the first Vice-President of the organization and the second President. He started the "calling tree" to keep the membership informed. He also prepared the end of year financial reports.

Mr. Strickland served as President and was instrumental in the preparation and adoption of the first by-laws.

The first award was presented by Stuart Witham to Doris Cassidy for her service as secretary for over 10 years where she kept minutes, sent cards and kept pertinent information for the organization. She was presented a beautiful engraved clock.

The second award was presented by Phil Chendemi to Ruby Lowry for her outstanding service as Treasurer for over 20 years. Ruby collected dues, paid bills and also arranged the Christmas lunches. She was presented a beautiful engraved clock.

**HARRY INGRAM AWARD:** This award will be given for outstanding service by a non-member.

Ernie Carlson presented the first award to Marge Young for her service in sending e-mail notices, for checking in the members at meetings and assisting the President as needed. She was presented a beautiful engraved plaque.

The final recognition was presented by President Story to Harry Ingram in absentia. Mr. Ingram will receive a beautiful clock/plaque. Mr. Ingram is the founder of the organization. His efforts began in 1989 with fewer than 25 members. Meetings were held at the Senior Center on Fairground Street. The award was presented for his outstanding dedication and hard work on behalf of all retired Cobb County employees.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next meeting will be on February 16. No meeting in January.