

## **COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, June 15, 2009 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 53 members in attendance. President Roswell Story called the meeting to order at 10:40 A. M.

**INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Harry Ingram. Mr. Ingram started the invocation by saying he is very proud to be part of this group. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Story welcomed new members and visitors. New members are: Yvonne H. Griffith - from Juvenile Court, Annette (Ann) Rhadans from Purchasing Department and Wanda Callahan from Communication/TV 23.

President Story reported that Ruby Lowry was not present at the meeting today due to illness of her husband as he was having some chest pains.

Mem Dooley gave a very good review of visit to the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning located in Columbus, Ga. This is a new 100M Dollar facility honoring the oldest branch of the military, the United States Army, from the beginning to present time. The Museum is located outside the gates of Fort Benning in Patriot Park. The Museum contains the Hall of Valor and Halls of Honor, which tells the story of Duty, Honor, Integrity and Sacrifice of members of the Military over the past 234 years from Revolutionary War time to the present time.

Ms. Dooley said the Museum is very impressive and urged everyone who can to go for a visit. This is the legacy of valor and sacrifice given by the Infantry to our nation.

Admission to the Museum is free, however, there are some revenue generating places such as the restaurant, gift shop and the IMAX theatre. For more information go to: [www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com). Phone No. is 1-800-999-1613.

President Story recognized Harry Ingram and presented him with a small gift in appreciation for all he has contributed to our Organization. It was noted Mr. Ingram first started the Organization several years ago.

**SPEAKER:** Mr. Woody Thompson, District Commissioner for the 4<sup>th</sup> District (Southwest Cobb) was our speaker for today. Commissioner Thompson began by saying he knows the before and after of being on the Commission and as

someone who knows the stress of the 2004 election and emotional affect it had on him. Mr. Thompson served eight years before this election and had four years off from this office. He stated he missed being a part of the Board of Commissioners. Also, during this four years time off he lost two family members which added more stress. Commissioner Thompson worked real hard to be re-elected in this last election in 2008 because he felt like he needed to give four more years to the County. He feels blessed to live in Cobb County and to be a member of the Commission. He has lived in the South Cobb area since 1972 and everything has been good, but not so good now because of the poor economy.

Commissioner Thompson stated everything has gone well the first six months of this year, however because of the economy, the County had to cut about 20M Dollars from the budget but were fortunate in avoiding any lay-offs or cut-backs for the employees.

Problems in his area are the economy, major corridor road projects such as the East-West Connector which has impacted the traffic situation, and the real estate market. But other good things are happening, such as residential and commercial development due to these road construction projects. A Tax abatement program is a great incentive to improve older and more mature areas of the District.

The Girl Scouts of America is building a 20M Dollar facility that will be home to the Girl Scouts Service and Business Center in Mableton and will serve 34 Counties in this section of the State. Construction began in January. (These buildings are located on their Timber Ridge property.)

Mableton has the Mable House with which our former Governor is very involved. Mr. Thompson encouraged all to come out and enjoy the shows at the Mable House Amphitheatre featuring a range of artists for this season. KC and the Sunshine Band appeared on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Kenny Rogers will be performing with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra this week-end, June 20<sup>th</sup>. The Marshall Tucker Band will be here on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Thompson states they are making progress but still have a long way to go.

During the question and answer period, he was asked about conditions on Hwy.120 as the asphalt is coming to pieces. Mr. Thompson said the road in question was not in his District but would see what could be done about the condition of the road. Also Commissioner Thompson was asked about the Tax Assessors office and Board of Equalization as some are displeased with them and are having a lot of problems. He pointed out that members of the Board of Equalization were not elected to office but were appointed.

Mr. Burton commented that Mr. Thompson was the only Commissioner who had left the office and then came back.

President Story mentioned reading in the newspaper that Six Flags had filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11. Mr. Thompson stated they had always been a good tax base for the County and a lot of industrial development was going on in that area.

Marge Young asked about the widening of sidewalks to accommodate motorized vehicles and if golf cart trails could be made available to Senior Citizens as motorized vehicles are not allowed on the Silver Comet Trail. Commissioner Thompson said he had always been a proponent of bicycle trails, walking paths and sidewalks

Commissioner Thompson said to call him with any problems as he is listed in the telephone book and will always be glad to help.

Harry Ingram thanked him for his valuable service to Cobb County.

**TREASURES REPORT:** President Story reported in absence of Ruby Lowry that we have a balance \$2,997.34. Motion was made by Harry Ingram with a second to approve report. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion was made with a second to approve the Minutes of the April and May meetings. Motion carried.

**NAME TAGS:** President Story reported on the status of the proposed name tags and the cost of each: \$5.00 each for order of 75 and \$8.00 if less than that number. Marge Young reported 52 people had signed up for these name tags. Mr. Story proposed going ahead and ordering the tags.

President Story reminded us to pay our dues if we had not already done so.

Go to Web Page CCREA.US to see whats going on.

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

Respectively Submitted:

Louise Anderson