

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

July 19, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, July 19, 2010 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 81 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.

New members welcomed were Rochelle Cronkite, George Hatfield, Mary Holt, Rene' Holt, Alvin Leachman, Richard Wood and Doris Wilson.

President Story reported the following who are sick or having surgery: Jim Leggette- hospitalized; Bob Young- accident; Sgt. Mike Crowder – improving; Carol Grainger's daughter, Erica – improving; Becky Williams – improving and Stuart Witham – accident.

PROGRAM: Johnnie Gabriel of Gabriel's Desserts located at 800 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta was guest speaker for the meeting. Mrs. Gabriel gave a very interesting synopsis of the beginning and current status of her business.

She began baking cakes in her home from recipes given to her by the local “Cake Lady” Mary Moon when Mary decided to retire. It was in the 1980's during the recession. Her husband was a builder and his business was hit hard by the recession. She needed a job and thus began her career as a businesswoman. She baked cakes at home for approximately 3 years. A local cleaners allowed her to place her cakes in their business so people could pick them up after work.

Her first bakery (specializing in special occasion cakes) opened on Whitlock Avenue with a seating capacity of 20 seats, so she began serving meals. She moved to her current location at the corner of Burnt Hickory and Whitlock Avenue to enlarge her space and to be more visible from the street. She not only has her special desserts but also serves breakfast, lunch and dinner using all her recipes. She uses standard ingredients in her recipes.

Mrs. Gabriel's first cookbook *Cooking in the South with Johnnie Gabriel* is in its third printing. Her second cookbook *Second Helpings with Johnnie Gabriel* will be available in October.

Mrs. Gabriel has a Bible Study group on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm at the restaurant so she closes at 6:30. She is open until 9:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday.

Mrs. Gabriel's daughter is now working in the business. Paula Deen, well-known for her cooking show on the Food Network, is her cousin. Cooking has always been a big part of their family. She believes God will provide for you if you are looking for something to do and encouraged anyone who is looking for something, just go ahead and try it.

MINUTES: Motion was made by Mike Brice with a second to approve the Minutes of the June 21, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Judy Clark reported a balance on hand of \$4047.91. Motion was made by David Stone with a second to approve the report. Motion carried. If you haven't paid your dues, please contact Judy Clark, Treasurer.

NAME BADGES: If you have not ordered a name badge or have not received your badge, please see Lynda Edwards. Badges are \$8.50 each.

NEXT MEETING: Our annual barbeque luncheon will be held on August 16, 2010 at 11:00 am at the West Cobb Senior Center, Dallas Highway. Each paid member may bring a guest at no extra cost. Reservations are needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Watson, Secretary