

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

September 17, 2012

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, September 17, 2012 at the West Cobb Senior Center. There were 120 members present. President Roswell Story called the meeting to order at 10:32 A.M.

Invocation was given by Richard Hallford followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PROGRAM: Guest speaker for the meeting was Attorney Bert Reeves who, for 3 years, was Buzz, the mascot for Georgia Tech. Mr. Reeves graduated from Georgia Tech in 2000 and has been in private law practice for 1 1/2 years after having served as an assistant district attorney under Pat Head.

Buzz is a part of the cheering squad and is selected through a try-out process. Mr. Reeves explained the intricate workings of being Buzz. He was featured in many community events, elementary school activities and children's hospital visits. These were in addition to playing a part in campus events and ballgames. He entertained us with tales of some of the altercations with other team mascots. Of course, he always won!

Mr. Reeves was named All American Mascot in 1997. He is very proud of being the creator of the "Buzz Scholarship Endowment" through the Alumni Association. His experiences as Buzz changed his life and taught him a lot about life.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was given by Judy Clark. As of 08/31/12 we have \$5545.54 in the treasury. Motion was made by David Stone with a second to approve. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Minutes of the July 16, 2012 meeting were printed and given to members present. Motion was made by Carl Cannington with a second to approve. Motion carried.

NAME BADGES: If you have not ordered a name badge or have not received your badge, please see Judy Clark or Beth Williams.

OFFICERS ELECTION: President Story announced the election of officers will be held in November. Anyone wishing to serve or suggesting someone to serve should see Lew Alder, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

DRIVER'S TRAINING: President Story announced the driver's training course will be held at the Powder Springs Road Services Center instead of the West Cobb location. If anyone failed to register for this course and would like to take it, please see Roswell. The course is full but there is a possibility that another class may be scheduled at a later date.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL: The December Christmas luncheon will be held at the Powder Springs Road Services Center at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, December 17, 2012. Please note the change in location.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2012.

FLU SHOTS: Flu shots will be given on October 15 at the West Cobb Senior Center.

INSURANCE UPDATE: Tony Hagler, Director of Cobb County Human Resources Department, introduced Allison Klee from Extend Health, a private Medicare Exchange. The presentation was for all Medicare Eligible retirees.

Effective January 1, 2013, Cobb County Medicare Eligible retirees will no longer be covered under the Cobb County Group Plan and instead will be extended coverage through companies administered by Extend Health. Premiums will be reimbursed by Cobb County through a stipend into a non-taxable HRA (health reimbursement account). For information go to the IRS Tax Code 213D.

Each retiree will have the service of a Benefit Advisor to help in making a decision on the best individual plan. The Advisors are experts in the Medicare market and are advocates to help with anything going forward.

The premium depends upon the plan selected. Everyone must have spoken to an Advisor prior to enrollment. All calls are recorded and voice approval must be given at enrollment. Coverage is a Guarantee Issue and cannot be denied for prior conditions when a group plan terminates.

Extend Health partners with 75 national companies but the list is narrowed down by zip codes. Exception is Kaiser Permanente. If continuing with Kaiser

enrollment is made directly with Kaiser.

Plans offered will be Medicare Advantage, Medigap (Supplemental), Part D (Prescription Drugs), Vision and Dental.

Beginning October 1, 2012 the plan choices will be available. A “call” appointment must be arranged with Extend Health to talk with an Advisor prior to completion of the enrollment process. Advisors are available Monday – Friday, 8 A.M. - 9 P.M., EST. Three-way calls are allowed if desired. The Cobb County direct phone number is 1-855-872-6814. The website is www.extendhealth.com/cobbcounty.

Medicare Advantage plans bundle medical and drug coverages and has a network.

Medigap plans have no network. Drug coverage is separate. These plans are more comprehensive.

Dental and Vision plans will also be optional.

Drug costs are tiered and will have mail order options. There are 19 drug plan choices. There is a prescription drug tool available on the website.

HRA accounts may be shared and balances are rolled over. A monthly statement of the HRA will be mailed or it may be viewed online.

After enrollment the stipend allocation for next year's payments will be spread over 14 months. Two payments will come in our retirement checks. Allocation for 2013 is an annual amount of \$4020 for retiree and \$3060 for eligible spouse. Beginning November the monthly stipend will be \$287.14 and spouse \$218.57. You must be enrolled before receiving the stipend for November and December reimbursements. Premiums currently being deducted from retirement checks will stop in January. In 2014 the monthly stipend will be \$335 and spouse \$255 for 12 months.

Retirees are responsible for payments to their selected carrier, however, an automatic reimbursement for premiums may be set up through your bank account. Another option is for reimbursement checks to be mailed. Reimbursement for co-pay costs and other approved expenses must be through a claim form.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

Martha Watson, Secretary