

**COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
November 18, 2013**

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, November 18, 2013 at the West Cobb Senior Center. There were 71 members and guests present. President David Stone called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

Invocation was given by Gene Morris followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

NEW MEMBERS: Bruce Hornbuckle and Diane Webb were welcomed as new members.

ILLNESSES: It was reported that Roswell Story was not feeling well.

PROGRAM: Our speaker for the meeting was Judge Kelli Wolk, Probate Court of Cobb County. Judge Wolk explained that the Probate Court has jurisdiction over estates of deceased persons whether it is testamentary (with a will) or intestate (without a will). Additionally the Probate Court issues firearms permits, marriage licenses, certificates of residence, guardianship and conservatorship of adults and minors. Vital records for Cobb County (birth and death certificates) are filed with the Cobb/Douglas Health Department.

Judge Wolk stated that most of the filings in Probate Court are form driven. Most of those forms are available online. When a person dies with a Will, the Will is filed by the Executor/Executrix to be probated or proven in the Probate Court. A Will must have independent witnesses. A beneficiary under the will cannot be a witness to the signing of the will. All heirs must acknowledge the Will and have an opportunity to agree or object to the probate.

If there is property to be transferred, then a Will must be probated; however, an Executor of a Will has a responsibility to file the Will with the Probate Court even if it is not probated. The original Will must be offered for Probate unless it is not available and a copy is available. To probate a copy requires a work around procedure. The presumption is that a copy is not the Will of the deceased.

Probate in Common Form and Probate in Solemn Form are provided under law. The Common Form Probate requires no notice to anyone and is not totally

complete until 4 years after any minor reaches 18 years of age. Under the Solemn Form Probate everyone is notified at the time of probate and permanent Letters Testamentary are issued to the Executor/Executrix. Judge Wolk stated that under normal circumstances Trusts are not under the jurisdiction of the Probate Court.

Judge Wolk explained that the clerks in the Probate Court are not allowed by law to answer legal questions because by doing so they could be practicing law without a license.

Judge Wolk stressed that everyone should have an Advance Directive. Also she pointed out that joint bank accounts go to the survivor and does not have to be used to pay bills of the estate. She suggested that interested parties to an estate should discuss the Will ahead of dying and explain to them any provisions in order to mitigate any squabbles after death.

CIGNA Representative Marybeth Luptowski met with us to explain the interface of Cobb County Government with CIGNA drug coverage. This applies to retirees who are not under the Extend Health (Medicare) Coverage. New ID cards are to be mailed on December 20th. She stated that the benefits are matched as closely as possible. There will be a 3 tier co-pay scale and will be the same as before. Home delivery will be the same as well. If you go to a retail pharmacy, your ID card is presented so that a 3rd party arrangement may be made. The ID card will contain information so an account can be set up. CIGNA has 2 call centers - one in South Dakota and one in Pennsylvania and both will be available 24/7. CIGNA is receiving prescription information from Cobb County on all prescriptions having remaining refills and those prescriptions should be available on January 1st.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mike Ball reported a balance of \$5126.22 as of November 18, 2013. Motion was made by Mike Brice with a second to accept the report. Motion carried.

MINUTES: The minutes of October 21, 2013 were printed and distributed. Motion was made by Mike Brice with a second to accept the Minutes. Motion carried.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2013: President Stone reported that the down payment was made for the Christmas lunch. Everyone will be called for a reservation before December 6th. If anyone does not receive a call, then call Cindy Ash at 770 505 4354 or email her at cgaleash@bellsouth.net.

It was decided by unanimous count that the charities to be given our Christmas donations from the luncheon will be divided between Cops for Kids, Cobb Senior Services Senior Santa program and Ten Women of Hope.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Lew Alder presented the following slate of officers for vote:

President: David Stone
1st Vice President: Cindy Ash
2nd Vice President: Carl Canington
Treasurer: Mike Ball
Secretary: JoAnn Mann

Motion was made by Joe Longi with a second to accept the slate as presented. Nominations from the floor were called for and hearing none, the slate was elected unanimously.

Annual dues of \$24.00 are now due.

Next meeting will be the Christmas Luncheon at 11:00 A.M. at the Senior Center on December 16, 2013 at 1150 Powder Springs Street, Marietta, GA.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 A.M.

Martha Watson, Secretary