

**Minutes of the
Georgia Tech Retirees Association
Silver Jackets Meeting**

April 8, 2008

11:00 AM

GT Student Center, Room 343

Attending: Candy Carson, James Clegg, Faye Clegg, Patricia Davis, J. W. Dees, Sara Dryden, Nancy Farr, Carole Gaines, Linda Gill, Maureen Glass, Jamie Goode, Robert Green, Thomas Hamall, John Hannabach, Gayle Kreckman, Dot Matthews, John Muzzy, Gene Patronis, Roger Rupnow, Mary Anne Salter, Annette Satterfield, Elaine Shaw, Sybil Small, George Smedberg, Jim Stevenson, Sandra Thornton, Evelyn Webb, Clyde Wyman

Due to the recent postcards mailing 72 new members have joined the silver jackets. New members attending were: Dot Matthews, Clyde Wyman, Sara Dryden, Roger Rupnow, John Hannabach, Robert Green, John Muzzy, J. W. Dees, Jim Clegg, Fay Clegg and Elaine Shaw.

Coffee and cookies were provided today thanks to Sandra Thornton and Maureen Glass.

Michael Hagearty and Robert Nesmith from Communications and Marketing were in attendance. They attended to offer their support and services. A future article in the Whistle or Technique may result from their visit.

An announcement was made that Ray Moore, retired from the Interactive Media Tech Center, was in Piedmont Hospital with heart problems and pneumonia. A get well card was circulated.

Maureen went over a list of GT perks available to each retiree including: a Buzzcard for the discounted price of \$10, a permit allowing on campus parking in non-gated lots, an email address for life, and Tick-a-Tech discounts to Whitewater, Six Flags, etc. She will investigate additional offerings available.

Sandra Thornton talked about strategies for the GTRA. 1) Retiree Organization – what we are and how to gain campus recognition 2) Stability – procedures, committees, a board of directors, 3) Maintain continuity – new people so we can stay afloat, programs and functions, fund raising for the Georgia Tech Foundation

(GTF) keeping contacts with retirees who cannot come to meetings and getting ourselves anchored.

Mark W. Long, C.P.A., Controller and Corporate Secretary of GTF, Inc., spoke in the place of John Carter who was ill. He explained that the benefit of the GTF is to raise money for Georgia Tech and to provide private support for GT. His office has 404 retirees in their database. 123 have given \$125,000 this year in Roll Call. The GTF can set up two categories of special funds raised by the Silver Jackets. Current Restricted funds could be used for luncheons, etc. A treasurer would receive statements and have access to these funds. A second type of fund is the Endowment Fund that begins at \$25,000 and can be invested and spent for scholarships, etc. A brief discussion ensued relating to pros and cons of having dues for the organization.

Jim Stevenson went over a few of his thoughts on the organization. He said we needed official recognition from the President's Office as a retiree's organization. Probably the way to go would be through the GT Foundation. That way we could use both accounts (current restricted & endowment). Retirees could make donations and that could be used for club activities and endowments.

Someone mentioned having quarterly lunches with speaker and having the President meet with the organization once a year to bring everyone up to date on GT matters. Other ideas for the organization to do together were travel, the Study Abroad Programs, local excursions (Fox Theatre, etc.), and having a representative from one of the local senior living/retirement communities speaking to the group.

George Smeadberg spoke briefly about a website for the GTRA. We would need the President's Office approval. We need to know what our purpose/function is – all should be thinking about this. We could use student help on special projects relating to the website. There could be a membership form along with meeting announcements, minutes, newsletters with links to Techworks and the GT main page. Sara Dryden and Dot Matthews volunteered to work with George on a Website Committee.

Tom Hamall recommended that we have a representative from the Silver Jackets at the retirement sessions that are held on campus for those contemplating retirement shortly (Maureen made a short presentation at the last retirement session inviting people to join the Silver Jackets.) He also felt that the 501c3 (charitable organization) would be a good choice for us. Mark Long stated there was a lot of reporting involved, but Tom thought the reporting would be simple for our group.

Many stayed for lunch after the meeting and enjoyed conversation.

The next meeting on May 13, 2008 will be the last meeting until September 9, 2008.