

**Minutes  
of the  
Georgia Tech Retirees Association  
Silver Jackets Meeting  
November 13, 2007  
11:00AM  
GT Student Center, Room 343**

Attendees: Annette Satterfield, Sybil Small, Dave Clifton, Mary Luz Stark, Pat Davis, Carole Gaines, Tom Hamall, James Stevenson, Mary Anne Salter, Evelyn Webb, Sandra Thornton, Eugene Patronis, Jo McIver, George Smedberg, Maureen Glass

Maureen Glass welcomed all and passed around a listing of interested retirees, she requested that if you know of anyone whose name is not on the list who might be interested in joining the group to please contact them.

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John Grovenstein, Director, Employee Benefits, OHR, one of our guest speakers, said that health and drug costs have been increasing at double digit rates due to new expensive health and drug therapies, increased life span, cost shifting from Medicare/Medicaid/uninsured , and political mandates for healthcare coverage. The Governor has told State Agencies that they will need to hold the increase in employer medical costs to 7 percent (half of last year's rate of increase) John also noted that BlueCross has not been an effective partner for assisting the University System of Georgia in holding down expenses. For example, the disease management program is not fully utilized because many members are unable to reach the provider. The PPO network is in trouble due to the State's moving from the Board of Regents' provider, Georgia First, to United Healthcare. Specifically, many doctors no longer feel that they have to be a part of the Georgia First network since so few employers are now members. John advised us to read the newspapers and stay in contact with our legislators.

John then discussed GT Directories – his main point was that we are moving to a paperless environment. No more campus directories will be printed after this year. Methods of obtaining e-mail addresses were discussed. John said he would include an announcement for our retirement group in the yearly Benefits Packages as well as the package for exiting employees.

The group then we went around the room with introductions, as several new attendees were present. Maureen asked for volunteers to form a Mission Statement Committee. She provided helpful handouts from other universities and organizations. Tom Hamall., Sandra Thornton, Jim Stevenson, Gene Patronis and Carole Gaines volunteered to serve on the Committee .

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Tom Hamall asked for individual's input on desired benefits from the organization. Responses included the following: feeling of community; stronger voice for retirees; issues including health & life insurance, TRS, and cost of living; tours of campus, communication among retirees; opportunities for socializing; review of other retirement organizations; invitations to external speakers; working with other retiree groups to make an impact on state legislature; and becoming a recognized entity on campus.

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On Nov. 15, Annette Satterfield, Jim Stevenson and Maureen Glass will meet with Sue Ann Bidstrup-Allen in the President's Office to discuss the Retirees Association.

Ron Hutchins, CTO, Academic and Research Technologies (OIT) spoke on the GT e-mail for life benefit. You can have a GT e-mail address for life, which is only an address and still requires an e-mail provider. This allows you to maintain a constant e-mail address, thus eliminating the need to notify your correspondents when you change e-mail providers.

You can set-up your e-mail address by going into Passport at [www.passport.gatech.edu](http://www.passport.gatech.edu) and click on "Email for Life Aliases", or call Helpdesk at 4-7173 or email [help@oit.gatech.edu](mailto:help@oit.gatech.edu). Currently you must change your password every 90 days. Ron said it may be possible to flag retirees e-mail not to expire every 90 days.

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George Smedberg had an idea to propose to EIS for a directory lookup at a self-service page. Said he would get in touch with Lori Sundal, Director of EIS about this. We could put email addresses in this directory and decide if we wanted phone numbers and home addresses.

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Annette Satterfield, Dave Clifton and Maureen Glass agreed to serve on the Organizational Committee, to propose the initial structure for the group. Input from the group would be appreciated.

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Our next Meeting will be Tuesday, January 15th , 11:00 AM, Student Center Room 343. Thereafter we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday each month through May (Feb. 12th , Mar. 11th , April 8th & May 13).

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Meeting adjourned.