

MINUTES

Executive Committee

GPC/DeKalb College Retiree Association

April 11, 2012

1:00 p.m. Institutional Advancement Conference Room

Attendees: Catherine Carter, Harris Green, Vicki Carew, Bari Haskins-Jackson, Betty Molloy, Mary Sanders, Howard Silverstein

President Molloy welcomed attendees and told of responses of absent members.

The agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the January Executive meeting were distributed. President Molloy asked if any changes should be made to the minutes. There were no suggestions. Howard Silverstein moved to accept the minutes as presented and Bari Haskins-Jackson seconded the motion and all approved.

President Molloy explained the proposed agenda, suggesting that the short and long term planning be discussed first as the budgetary needs, to be addressed later, would flow from the planning.

V. President Bari Haskins-Jackson reported on plans for quarterly meetings. The Program committee – Bari Haskins-Jackson, Ron Swofford, Mary Sanders, and Karen Taylor - had planned a “Show and Share” Presentation for the May 9th general meeting. They suggested that Faye Tate, Harris Green, and Bari Haskins-Jackson would present hobbies/interests: quilt making, writing, and doll collections. Laura Breedlove has been contacted to see if she would like to be part of the presentation. In their presentations, the speakers will tell what inspired their interest, what process was used, and what are the results. There was a bit of discussion as to whether others would be asked to present. It was felt that a similar program might be held in future years. A card, similar to one sent for an earlier event, will be updated by President Molloy and Shannon Smith and sent to all 399 retirees prior to the May 9th general meeting. President Molloy also suggested that refreshments for future meetings be changed from cookies only, to a smaller number of cookies and possibly a fruit tray. Harris Green suggested, in addition, that a tray of fresh veggies could be provided.

Plans for the August meeting suggested by the committee include information about Medicare and other retirement information as new retirees often don’t know what to expect when they first retire. Mary Sanders has a contact for the Medicare presentation. Vicki Carew suggested that David Dick, the GPC auditor, could help with the retirement information. The October/November meeting would be, as usual, a program about benefit changes. The January, 2013 might be another “Share and Share” program. President Molloy suggested that a similar program on retiree volunteerism interests might be a possibility for the May 2013 meeting. V. Pres Bari Haskins-Jackson emphasized that cost for refreshment should be minimized.

President Molloy said that she would send her proposed agenda for the May 9th meeting to the committee by email.

Next there was discussion of the Holiday Party. It will be on Friday, December 7th. Vicki Carew will arrange for the use of the Central Campus A Building Lobby. The time will be 12:00 until 3:00. V. President Bari Haskins-Jackson reported that most suggestions from members indicated a desire for social events. President Molloy suggested that in lieu of a fundraising event, there could be a slight increase in charge for the party with the extra proceeds going into the scholarship fund. Catherine Carter suggested that attendees be asked to bring items that could be raffled off during the party. Vicki-Carew suggested that since the Campus Café has been upgraded and used as the caterer of choice by the college, they might agree to provide the food at no cost. It was agreed that the Social Committee will continue with plans for the event and that Howard Silverstein and the Scholarship/Fund Raising Committee join in for the fundraising part of the party.

Next on the agenda were reports of committee work. Howard Silverstein said that the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee had not met. Mary Sanders gave a report from the Membership/Recruitment Committee. They suggested the following: 1) letters/ emails be sent to all 399 retirees, 2) feature a Retiree of the Month in each newsletter (It was decided that it might be better to feature all new retirees in each of the three newsletters.) 3) Scholarship should be highlighted, 4) members could be sent emails telling how changes in laws would affect them. (Frank McComb, Legislative Committee would provide this information), 4) a membership card could be given to all new members, 5) Happy Birthday messages could be sent to all retiree members. President Molloy added that a personal phone call could be made to all new retirees. Harris Green suggested that it is important to emphasize that membership in GPCRA would not be like membership on Campus Committees, as required of employees.

There was a discussion of benefits that are available to retirees. It was suggested that information be provided at the May meeting about acquiring a JAG card and that a photographer be available at the following meeting so that these cards could be made at the meeting. After retirees obtain their JAG cards, they can apply for a retiree parking sticker. Other activities that have been suggested, in addition to the upcoming trip to the Okefenokee, might be day trips to Arabia Mountain, Panola Mountain or Stone Mountain. We could visit the Native Botanical Garden at Decatur Campus. A trip to the Cyclorama could be arranged. We could have another tour of Oakland Cemetery led by Tommy Barber. A need was expressed to let retirees know what we are doing and to ask members to contact others about events.

Next on the agenda was discussion of the next newsletter. All articles must be submitted to Harris Green. The deadline for this newsletter is June 15th. There will be an article about employees who have recently retired. Persons who retire from March 1 until June 30 would be listed in the next newsletter; then those who retire between July 1 and Oct 31 would be listed in the next newsletter. Harris Green will ask Sandi Waller to write an article about Book Club events – recently read books and those to be discussed at future meetings. Bob McDonough will be asked to provide an article about the Okefenokee trip. There should be an article about a trip to Big Canoe and nearby Gibbs Gardens to be held in October. Catherine Carter will submit an article celebrating the achievements of George Sanko who is finally retiring from his post-retirement efforts in the Native Plant Botanical Garden. There should also be an article about the committee structure of our organization.

President Molloy passed out information about AROHE which was begun in 1984 and gained non-profit status in 2002. Molloy, Swofford and Carter attended a meeting at Georgia State University that would initiate the formation of GA-HERO – a consortium of retiree association of Georgia colleges and Universities. The next meeting will be at Emory on Friday, April 20th. Molloy, Carter and Vicki Carew will attend that meeting. The executive committee agreed that GPCRA should join AROHE. Annual dues for

the national organization are \$100. Mary Sanders and Howard Silverstein suggested this could be presented to the membership at the May meeting for a vote.

The Budget was discussed after President Molloy distributed what had been submitted by Treasurer, Van Starbuck, who was unable to attend. Since the scholarship amount is \$1250, we need to increase the \$794.27 listed as the non-endowed part of the budget. Hopefully, more memberships and proceeds from the Holiday party will provide the needed increase.

The retiree website was discussed next. The URL is very long. It is hoped that a shorter URL that is easier to remember can be obtained. The home page has information about the association. The calendar is being updated with upcoming events such as the Big Canoe trip and the Holiday party. Updated meeting dates, Book Club dates, and minutes from meetings could be included.

Finally, Vicki Carew discussed the Faculty/Staff Retiree Campaign. In addition, Vicki Carew presented a possible survey that could be used to learn of changes that might be desired for the association. It was suggested that in addition to preferred days of the week, we should ask for preferred times of day. There was a discussion of the opening statement; it might include the purpose of the organization as given in the By-Laws. Some changes in the questions were also proposed. The association might be more involved with a reception for new retirees after the Convocation in the fall. Perhaps some cost variation incentives could be provided to members of the association.

Members present provided their email and phone information as follows:

Catherine Carter – ccarter@gpc.edu 404-373-6187 (h) and 404-861-7656

Harris Green hrgreen@windstream.net 706-579-1774

Bari Haskins-Jackson - handicraftedmoods@yahoo.com 770-987-4703

Betty Molloy – elizabethmolloy@bellsouth.net 404-248-3977

Mary Sanders - lemasa@bellsouth.net 770-413-1005

Howard Silverstein – hsilvers@gpc.edu 678-344-2093

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25.