



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Retirees Organize

In response to recent news headlines about the looming financial crisis facing the State Health Benefit Plan, several concerned state retirees have formed the new "Georgia State Retirees Association."

Former Georgia State Auditor Claude Vickers, recently elected as the first president of the new association said, "As a state retiree, I am concerned about my health insurance and pension benefits. The major purpose of this new organization is to inform and educate all state retirees and those who will soon retire about their benefits and proposals that will affect these benefits."

The Association believes that bills introduced in the General Assembly could affect the benefits retirees have earned through their service to the state, both in the cost of health care benefits and in the soundness of the several retirement systems operated by the state. The Association will make its members aware of any attempts to reduce or put retirees' benefits at risk.

Response from the community of State Retirees, which includes not only state employees but also teachers, retired law enforcement officials, bus drivers and school custodial workers, has been very positive. The not-for-profit Association, which will serve to protect the interests of over 100,000 retirees, has adopted by-laws, elected officers, set up a website and begun issuing regular newsletters to educate and inform the retirees on the various issues affecting them.

Membership is open to any current or retired employee of the State of Georgia or any subdivision thereof who is eligible for membership in a health insurance or retirement plan administered by a state agency or by the Board of Regents. All those qualifying for membership are encouraged to visit the Association's website at www.GeorgiaRetirees.org to subscribe to the newsletter and to find out how to join. Or they can write to The Georgia State Retirees Association at P.O. Box 108, Bethlehem, Georgia 30260.
