

Fulton County Retired Employees Association, Inc.

Atlanta, Georgia

Issues: 2012-2007

(In reverse chronological order)

2012

- **At the February 14, 2012 FCREA meeting it was announced that the Pension Calculation Lawsuit's back paychecks would be issued in the next thirty days.**
- **Also at the February 14, 2012 meeting, a motion was made and passed unanimously without discussion authorizing the association to use up to \$10,000 of association funds for attorney's fees for any needs that may arise in the future.**
- **Fulton County notified affected retirees in the February 2012 pension check that the County would continue to provide the Medicare Supplement payment.**
- **Fulton County Attorney's Office replied to Austin Ramsey's December 29, 2011 letter in a letter dated January 18, 2012. Association members can log into the website and view the letter on the "Current Issues" page.**
- **The following changes were proposed by the Finance Director for the FY2012 budget with regard to the non-payment of the Medicare Supplement previously announced by letter to retirees who currently receive this payment as a part of their pension benefit:**
The FY2012 Proposed Budget includes a recommendation to stop the County practice of subsidizing one-half of the Medicare premium through monthly pension benefit payment for some retirees. From the new information just received via an existing consent order relating to the benefit, there might be a possibility of the County being precluded from stopping the benefit. The County Attorney's Office is currently reviewing the matter. In the meantime, the Board of Commissioners approval is being requested to restore the \$628,000 that was excluded from the proposed budget, which can be used to continue the benefit in the event the County Attorney's office opines as such.

- On December 29, 2011, Austin Ramsey submitted a letter to the Fulton County Attorney's Office, which presented our position that discontinuing the Medicare Supplement payment violated the 1998 Federal Consent order. Association members can log into the website and view the letter on the "Current Issues" page.
- On December 28, 2011, the Association's Health Benefit Oversight Committee met to discuss the county's recently announced plan to discontinue the payment of half of the Medicare premiums for those retirees on Medicare. The Committee decided to refer the matter to the attorney involved in the original federal lawsuit. The following committee members attended the meeting: Horace Copridge, Joe Drolet, Bob Meyers, Marion McDonald, Sally Smith and Jim Stephens.
- On December 20, 2011, the Association submitted a letter to the Fulton County Budget Commission requesting that a COLA raise be approved for the Fulton County retirees who retired under a pension plan that does not have a COLA provision.
- The 2012 Fulton County Health Insurance Plan was approved on October 5, 2011 by the Board of Commissioners. Changes included new rates and a separation of active and retirees into separate risk pools. Association members can log into the site and proceed to the "Current Issues" page to view a summary of the approval process and the Association's objections to some of the proposed changes to the 2012 Plan.
- The Health Benefits Oversight Committee on March 10, 2011 submitted to the Association board its report on the findings and recommendations concerning the review of Fulton County documents related to retiree health benefits. The report was also presented at the April 12, 2011 association meeting. The report can be read by logging into the website and following the link on the Current Issues page.
- The Health Benefits Oversight Committee met on February 22, 2011 to discuss the results of the recent document reviews and to formulate a future plan of action. The following individuals attended the meeting: Horace Copridge, Joe Drolet, Gordon Flippo, Belinda Gay,

Steve Gay, Marion McDonald, Peg McDonald, Wanda Messina, Bob Meyers, Barbara Plunkett, Chester Plunkett and Jim Stephens.

- Judy Hudson, Wanda Messina, and Barbara Plunkett reviewed documents at the County Finance Department on January 27, 2011. The county provided the committee with a CD reportedly containing documents. The members of the committee attempted to view the documents on the CD but no one could get the CD to open. No documents of value were obtained in this review.

2010

- After numerous exchanges of correspondence between the County Attorney's Office and the Committee between August 24, 2010 and January 21, 2011 to work out the logistics of another review, the dates of January 27 and January 28, 2011 were finally agreed upon for another review.
- Based on the inadequacies of the documents furnished in the August 4, 2010 review, a verbal request to renew this request for documents was made by committee chairman Bob Meyers to the County Attorney's Office. The County Attorney's Office responded by letter dated August 24, 2010. Association members can view letter by logging in to the website.
- On August 4, 2010, the following members of the Health Benefits Oversight Committee -- Judy Hudson, Marion McDonald, Barbara Plunkett -- reviewed the documents requested in the committee's March 29, 2010 letter. Association members can view a summary of this review by logging in to the website.
- On March 29, 2010, the Association's Health Benefits Oversight Committee mailed a letter to the Fulton County Finance Department requesting access to documents related to the topics discussed at their March 11, 2010 meeting. Association members can view letter by logging in to the website.

- **The Association's Health Benefits Oversight Committee met on March 11, 2010. The main topics of discussion concerned an issue with the Fulton County Insurance Stabilization Fund and the recent problems retirees have been experiencing with the Prescription Drug Plan. Recent feedback received from retirees concerning problems and changes encountered with their health insurance coverage was also discussed. Strategies were developed to pursue a resolution to these issues. The following individuals attended the meeting: Joe Drolet, Belinda Gaye, Steve Gaye, Marion McDonald, Peg McDonald, Wanda Messina, Bob Meyers and Jim Stephens.**
- **On March 9, 2010, President Wanda Messina met with the Pension Board Research Committee to discuss the directives developed by the Association officers at their January 15, 2010 meeting. Edward "Skip" Platt was elected Chairman of the Pension Board Research Committee.**
- **On January 15, 2010, the FCREA officers met to formulate directives for the Pension Board Research Committee. The directives developed at this meeting can be viewed by Association members by logging in to the website.**

2009

- **At the October 13, 2009 meeting, a Pension Board Research Committee was appointed. The purpose of the committee is to investigate the pension board membership makeup of other closed pension plans. Members of the committee are Cynthia Duhart, Marc Henson, Tom Malone, Neal McDaniel, Edward "Skip" Platt, Barbara Plunkett, Brenda Scott and Gaye Stewart.**
- **On August 18, 2009, the Health Benefits Oversight Committee met to analyze the information received from the Finance Department and to plan further strategies to resolve the issues addressed in the committee's correspondence with the Finance Department. The following committee members and interested association members attended this meeting: Horace Copridge, Joseph Drolet, Gordon Flippo, Belinda and Steve Gay, Marion McDonald, Wanda Messina, Bob Meyers, and Barbara Plunkett.**

- **The Finance Department in a letter dated August 5, 2009 replied to the Oversight Committee's letter dated June 1, 2009. Association members can view the letter by logging into the website.**
- **The Health Benefits Oversight Committee submitted a letter dated June 1, 2009 to the Finance Department requesting clarification on the transfer of funds in the Insurance Stabilization Fund to the Risk Management Account. Association members can view the letter by logging into the website.**
- **The Fulton County Attorney's Office, in a letter dated April 14, 2009, replied via law firm Rumsey and Ramsey to the Health Benefits Oversight Committee's letter dated November 17, 2008. Association members can view the letter by logging into the website.**
- **Law firm Rumsey and Ramsey submitted a second letter dated April 2, 2009 to the Fulton County Attorney's Office requesting a reply to the Health Benefits Oversight Committee's letter dated November 17, 2008. Association members can view the letter by logging into the website.**
- **Law firm Rumsey and Ramsey submitted a letter dated February 27, 2009 to the Fulton County Attorney's Office requesting a reply to the Health Benefits Oversight Committee's letter dated November 17, 2008. Association members can view the letter by logging into the website.**
- **The Fulton County Board of Commissioners recently passed a resolution establishing a Fulton County Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Agreement. Further information and details regarding this resolution and trust agreement can be viewed by Association members by logging into the site and following the links on the Current Issues page. Additional information can also be found on the first page of the FCREA's April, 2009 "Prime Times Newsletter."**
- **The Health Benefits Oversight Committee submitted a follow-up letter to the Finance Department dated January 5, 2009, requesting a reply to the Committee's letter dated November 17, 2008, which had not been forthcoming. Association members can view the letter by logging into the website.**

2008

- An issue involving Beneficiary Life Insurance coverage after the death of the retiree has come to the attention of the Association. On December 4, 2008, a letter was sent by the Association to the Board of Commissioners asking for a change in the current policy. The Association's letter and the County Manager's reply may be viewed by logging in to the site and following the link on the Current Issues page.
- The Association's Health Benefits Oversight Committee submitted a letter to the Fulton County Finance Department on November 17, 2008, requesting further clarification of data previously furnished to the committee regarding the County's Insurance Stabilization Fund. Association members can view the letter by logging into the website.
- The Association's Health Benefits Oversight Committee met on November 10, 2008 to discuss the information received from the County Finance Department regarding the County's Insurance Stabilization Fund. The following members attended the meeting: Horace Copridge, Judy Hudson, Marion McDonald, Wanda Messina, Bob Meyers and Jim Stephens.
- The Association's Benefits Oversight Committee submitted a letter to the Fulton County Finance Department on September 9, 2008, requesting data on the Fulton County Insurance Stabilization Fund. Association members can view the letter by logging in to the website and following the link on Current Issues link.
- The Association's officers, pension board representative, and newsletter editor met on Friday August 22, 2008 to discuss current issues.
- Andy Weathers resigned as Association attorney due to personal considerations on August 20, 2008. The Association is seeking another attorney.
- It was announced at the June 19, 2008 Association luncheon that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners had approved a new retiree position on the Fulton County Pension Board.

- On June 19, 2008 Mr. Jim Edens of the Fulton County Pension Office made a presentation at the Association's luncheon regarding the new Retiree Medical Savings Plan. Association members can login to the website and view the PowerPoint portion of that presentation.
- On June 16, 2008, the Georgia Court of Appeals dismissed Fulton County's appeal of the April 14, 2008 ruling because all issues in the suit had not been addressed at the Superior Court level. Association members can login to the website to view the ruling.
- On May 20, 2008, several members of the association's Health Benefits Committee met with association attorney Andy Weathers to brief him on past activities and to obtain input on future committee activities.
- On April 14, 2008, a Fulton County Superior Court judge ruled in favor of a group of county retirees who filed a suit in connection with how our pensions are calculated under the 1991 Pension Plan. Association members can login to the website to obtain further details.
- James W. Stephens has won re-election to the retirees' Position #6 on the Pension Board. Association members can login to the website and view additional details regarding the election.
- On February 18, 2008, Retired Senior Assistant District Attorney Robert A. (Andy) Weathers agreed to serve as the association attorney. Association members can login to the website and view more information about this appointment.
- On February 14, 2008, the Health Benefits Oversight Committee directed a letter to the Pension Office outlining two health benefit issues that did not comply with the pension law or court, and requested that steps be taken to correct this. More information on the results of this inquiry will be published later.
- On February 12, 2008, Association members voted unanimously to endorse the candidacy of James W. Stephens for the retirees' position (Position #6) on the Pension Board in the election to be held on March 12, 13, and 14, 2008.

- **The Health Benefits Oversight Committee met on January 14, 2008 to further evaluate the documents received from the Pension Office.**
- **Health Benefits Oversight Committee met on January 8, 2008 to evaluate the documents received from the Pension Office.**

2007

- **On November 1, 2007, the Health Benefits Oversight Committee directed a letter to the Pension Office requesting 2007 health insurance financial and insurance carrier reports. Association members can login to the website and view the text of this letter on the Current Issues link.**
- **The Health Benefits Oversight Committee met on September 20, 2007.**
- **On September 10, 2007, the Association directed a letter to the members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, expressing our concern over the disparity in retiree representation versus active employee representation on the Pension Board. Association members can login to the website and view the text of this letter on the Current Issues link.**
- **On August 27, 2007, President Wanda Messina appointed association members to serve on the Health Benefits Oversight Committee. Association members can login to the website below and click on the Current Issues link to view a sample of the appointee letter, which outlines Committee responsibilities in detail.**
- **On August 14, 2007, Association members voted to create a Health Benefits Oversight Committee. This committee is charged with the responsibility to monitor the county's compliance with the health insurance benefit levels for retirees mandated by the pension law, and the federal court order issued as a result of our litigation with the county on this issue.**