

# THE GREA BULLETIN



JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR  
RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

SUMMER 2005

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If your membership expired on June 30, 2005 or earlier, then see the renewal form on page seven of this *Bulletin* to renew your membership and help keep GREA a strong and effective voice for retired educators in Georgia.

*GREA—Leading the Way*

# 540 Attend 47th Annual GREA Convention

By Ronald E. McCall, Collins, Georgia

Zimma Jones of Reidsville finished her term as President of the Georgia Retired Educators Association (GREA) in Augusta in grand fashion at the 47th annual GREA Convention. Zimma took office in May 2004 at Macon with the motto "GREA United" and traveled across the state for 12 months in a dedicated effort to fulfill her motto. Lester Dean, of Powder Springs, assumed the state presidency for 2005-2006 with the motto "GREA leading the way."

Although the number of retirees attending did not exceed last year's record attendance, it was an enthusiastic gathering that enjoyed the wisdom and humor of two outstanding speakers in the Reverend Claude McBride of the UGA Foundation, and Georgia Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham. Both men were able to effectively communicate with

wonderful humor how great teachers affected their lives and contributed to the success they have enjoyed in their individual careers. They provided a clear message. Teachers who believed in them caused them to believe in themselves. In short, the task of an educator is not only to teach the necessary information that students require to progress educationally and become successful in society, but great teachers encourage students and lead them to believe that they are capable of achieving great things. Indeed, theirs was a message that all teachers understand, but it was also a message that bears repeating at frequent intervals.

The convention itself was a flurry of activity. On Wednesday, Mayor Bob Young of Augusta welcomed convention participants to the beautiful city of Augusta. Dr. Charles Larke, Superintendent of Richmond County Schools; Tommy Price, Superintendent of Columbia County Schools; and Anne Patterson, President of Burke County REA; also welcomed everyone to the convention.

Nancy Stafford, of the Department of Community Health, presented information on the State Health Benefits Plan. Since there are significant changes in that plan for the 2005-2006 year, she often spoke to a standing room only crowd. Her question and answer sessions did much to clear up issues for individuals and provide information needed to help make more effective insurance selections from the available choices.

Cathy Hart, of the Teachers Retirement System, provided an update on TRS, and Bill Chandler, GREA Treasurer, presented the 2005-2006 budget. Additionally, the GREA Committee Reports were presented.

The Reverend Claude McBride, spoke at the luncheon on Wednesday in the form of his alter-ego, Happy Calhoun from Possum Gap. Happy took the stage dressed in overalls and floppy mountaineer hat. Had he possessed a rusty muzzleloader squirrel rifle, he could have been mistaken for the comic strip character, Snuffy Smith. Happy's recollection of Miss Lula and the successful lawyer Billy Joe Gasoway was based on his own experience with his second and third grade teacher Miss Bessie Pickett. It was a great story which reminded everyone that telling a teacher or teachers how much they meant in one's life has enormously beneficial effects.

On Wednesday afternoon, there were additional information sessions, and a tour of historic Augusta was offered. Those who took the tour were extremely complimentary. Most participants knew some of the early history of Augusta, particularly the importance as an early inland port on the



JUDGE ROBERT BENHAM, Guest Speaker, and ZIMMA JONES, GREA President, at the Convention Banquet on Wednesday evening.

Savannah River. But the details of that history were fascinating. One lady commented that she needed to take the tour again, it was simply too much to absorb in one trip.

The Convention Banquet was held at 6:30 Wednesday evening in the Oglethorpe Ballroom. Georgia Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham was the speaker. Justice Benham was eloquent in his description of how his third grade teacher, Miss Mary E. Kay, encouraged him to set high goals. "When I said I wanted to be President, she told me I could if I worked hard enough even though she knew that for a young man of my race in the 1950's, it was little more than a pipe dream," he said.

He recalled that as a youngster he threw rocks at the Methodist Church window and completed the task of breaking them all out. When his preacher came to inquire about the windows, he denied any knowledge of the incident. "You don't understand," the preacher said. "I've been begging the congregation for new windows for years, and now the Lord has sent a fool like you along to help me get them." Instead of punishing the youngster, the preacher took a personal interest, and he was another great teacher in a very real sense. Justice Benham noted that one of the most important roles of the teacher is an encourager.

A wonderful memorial service for members of GREA who deceased during the previous year was held at 9:00 a.m. Thursday. In the following session, President Zimma Jones officially passed the gavel to incoming President Lester Dean.

There were many emotional moments for Zimma throughout the convention. Her tenure as President has been a labor of love, and she has traveled across the state to all local teacher retirement organizations. Perhaps her most enjoyable memories of the year as GREA President was meeting so many people and making so many new friends. Anyone who knows Zimma understands that one cannot know her and not be her friend. She will simply not allow it, and that is one of her many strengths. That ability to develop friendships is one reason she can look back on her year as state president and revel in the fact that she passed on a much more united GREA to President Lester Dean.

## GREA

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# Message from the President

By Lester L. Dean



Lester L. Dean

What a wonderful state convention we had in May! Good organization, good food, good speakers, and, best of all, so many fellow retirees. A lot of people worked hard to make the convention one of the best I can remember.

And now is the time that we all think about the new year all across the state. New officers, new goals, new programs, and new members. Local units have been working hard to plan for the next year. The June meetings all across the state will help bring all retired educators together, and now we can relax and enjoy the summer.

GREA stands ready to help local units in any way it can. Just give us a call.

One item of business is vital to our organization and needs to be taken care of right away. We need addresses of those who have recently retired. Please try to get those to us and send them to the state office. Even if you can't get all of them, send what you have.

I hope all of you have a fun-filled and enjoyable summer.

## GREA Officers To Attend NRTA Leadership Meeting

GREA President Lester Dean with his wife, Betty, and President-elect Harry Werner with his wife, Marilyn, will attend the NRTA Leadership Meeting to be held August 14-16, 2005 in San Francisco. Because the focus of this year's meeting will be on strategies to recruit, engage, and retain members within a state retired educators association (REA), state membership chairs have also been invited. Solomon Sparks, GREA Membership Chair, and his wife, Barbara, will also be attending the meeting as will Executive Director Bill Gardner.

The meeting will include an exchange of ideas of effective membership practices and programs, networking among participants and presentations by NRTA and AARP. The conference is sponsored and fully funded by NRTA. There is no expense to the individual state associations for participation in the conference. Some of the programs implemented by GREA and some of the benefits enjoyed by GREA members have been the direct result of participation in previous conferences. At the 2004 conference, held in Washington, D.C., GREA members and local units were honored for their outstanding participation in NRTA's "With Our Youth" program.

## "Thank You For WOY!"

Dear GREA Members,

I'm just back from Wimbledon, England and wanted to say "thank you" for your enthusiastic and record-setting participation in this year's grandparenting essay contest. The theme "Stories from my Grandparent's Childhood" is especially important to me given my close relationship with both my paternal grandmother, Nonna, and my maternal grandfather, Roy. My grandfather was even present for the launch of this year's essay contest at Hickory Hills Elementary School in Marietta.

I understand that 52 units worked with 103 elementary schools resulting in more than 5,000 students participating this year as part of the NRTA *With Our Youth!* program. Since the launch, I have been on the road quite a bit. Through many airports, hotels, and on the court, it gave me hope and inspiration knowing that you were helping 5th graders to improve their writing skills in my home state.

Just as importantly, it has been reassuring to know that your efforts may have assisted students in getting to know their grandparents even better, thereby helping to bridge the generations. I am grateful to the Georgia Retired Educators Association, AARP Georgia and NRTA: *AARP's Educator Community* for supporting this statewide contest. Most importantly, I thank each individual retired educator for your dedicated work in reaching out to local schools, reviewing essays, and celebrating all of the remarkable fifth-grade students who participated in the 3rd Annual Grandparenting Essay Contest.

Best Wishes,  
Robby Ginepri

# Beverly Roberts Elected Lions International Director

Area XII Director Dr. Beverly A. Roberts was recently elected to the position of International Director at the 88th Lions Clubs International Convention held in Hong Kong. Beverly will serve for two years as one of 33 International Directors. The International Board is composed of International President Ashok Metha from India, Immediate Past President Clem Kuziak from Maryland, the First and Second Vice Presidents Jimmy Ross from Texas and Mahandra Amarasuriya from Sri Lanka, and 33 directors from around the world. The International Association of Lions Clubs is the world's largest service organization with 1.4 million members in 193 different countries and geographical locations.



Beverly Roberts

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### University Instructors

University Instructors is a network of certified teachers, professors, business leaders, retired professionals, and others who are committed to assisting K-12 students in the classroom and in life. University Instructors has been approved by the Georgia Department of Education as a Supplemental Services Provider for school districts throughout the state. University Instructors is currently seeking applicants for a full-time position of Account Representative in Georgia. Strong enthusiasm for helping children succeed and excellent presentation skills are required. For more information you should contact Jennifer Campfield at [jcampfield@universityinstructors.com](mailto:jcampfield@universityinstructors.com).

## Consumers to Benefit from Best Buy Drug Project

A six-month consumer awareness campaign to put easy-to-understand information about the effectiveness and cost of prescription drugs in the hands of Atlanta area residents was recently launched, led by Consumers Union, publisher of *Consumer Reports* magazine, and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC).

*Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs* project—a free public-education initiative to help consumers stretch their health-care dollars by providing independent information on the cost and effectiveness of medicines—selected the Atlanta area to launch its outreach program because of the region's diversity and ARC's extensive ties to the community.

Consumers Union has created a free Web site, [www.CRBESTBUYDRUGS.org](http://www.CRBESTBUYDRUGS.org), to make information on drug effectiveness, safety and cost more accessible to consumers. Visitors to the site can find in-depth reports about how drugs used to treat a particular illness or condition stack up against each other, as well as safety and price information. The site also identifies Best Buy picks for each drug category. Consumers can then take the information to their doctor or pharmacist to discuss which drug may be best for them.

The collaboration with ARC is designed to reach those who may not have easy access to the Internet. In such cases, information is presented to groups of older adults in senior centers, churches, and civic clubs, explaining the program face-to-face and providing copies of the Best Buy Drugs reports.

Currently available on the Web site are reports on cholesterol-lowering drugs (statins), drugs to treat heartburn and acid reflux (proton pump inhibitors), arthritis medications (NSAIDs), antidepressants and blood pressure medications (beta blockers). Consumers Union plans to publish reports on a total of 20 different categories of drugs at the rate of about one per month between now and the middle of 2006.

"The decision about which drugs to prescribe rightfully belongs with the physician, in consultation with the patient," said Dr. Buck Baker, MD, FACP, president of the Atlanta Regional Health Forum and former vice president of health services at Piedmont Hospital. "With the Best Buy Drug program, however, physicians and patients have information that previously was not easily available. Patients get the medications they need, at a price they can afford."



# What is Identity Theft?

Here are a few basic steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft:

**Identity theft is the fraudulent use of a person's personal identifying information.** Often, identity thieves will use another person's personal information, such as a social security number, mother's maiden name, date of birth, or account number to open fraudulent new credit card accounts, charge existing credit card accounts, or obtain new loans. They may obtain this information by:

- Stealing wallets that contain personal identification and credit cards.
- Stealing bank statements from the mail.
- Diverting mail from its intended recipients by submitting a change of address form.
- Rummaging through trash for personal data.
- Stealing personal identification information from workplace records.
- Intercepting or otherwise obtaining information transmitted electronically.

**Pretext calling is a fraudulent means of obtaining a person's personal information.**

Pretext callers may contact bank employees, posing as customers, to access customers' personal account information. Identity thieves may also engage in pretext calling to obtain personal information to create fraudulent accounts.

- **Do not give personal information**, such as account numbers or social security numbers, over the telephone, through the mail, or over the Internet, unless you initiated the contact or know with whom you are dealing.
- **Store personal information in a safe place** and tear up old credit card receipts, ATM receipts, old account statements, and unused credit card offers before throwing them away.
- **Protect your PINs and other passwords.** Avoid using easily available information, such as your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your social security number, your phone number, etc.
- **Carry only the minimum amount of identifying information** and number of credit cards that you need.
- **Pay attention to billing cycles and statements.** Inquire of the bank, if you do not receive a monthly bill. It may mean that the bill has been diverted by an identity thief.
- **Check account statements carefully** to ensure all charges, checks, or withdrawals were authorized.
- **Guard your mail from theft.** If you have the type of mailbox with a flag to signal that the box contains mail, do not leave bill payment envelopes in your mailbox with the flag up.

Instead, deposit them in a post office collection box or at the local post office. Promptly remove incoming mail.

- **Order copies of your credit report** from each of the three major credit bureaus once a year to ensure that they are accurate. The law permits the credit bureaus to charge \$8.50 for a copy of the report (unless you live in a state that requires the credit bureaus to provide you with one free copy of your report annually).
- **If you prefer not to receive preapproved offers of credit**, you can opt out of such offers by calling (888) 5 OPT OUT.
- **If you want to remove your name from many national direct mail lists**, send your name and address to:  
**DMA Mail Preference Service**  
P. O. Box 9008  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008
- **If you want to reduce the number of telephone solicitations** from many national marketers, send your name, address, and telephone number to:  
**DMA Telephone Preference Service**  
P. O. Box 9014  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

Source: U.S. Dept. of Treasury

## If You Become a Victim of Identity Theft

Contact the fraud department of each of the three major credit bureaus to report the identity theft and request that the credit bureaus place a fraud alert and a victim's statement in your file. The fraud alert puts creditors on notice that you have been the victim of fraud, and the victim's statement asks them not to open additional accounts without first contacting you.

The following are the telephone numbers for the fraud departments of the three national credit bureaus: Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289; Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; and Experian: 1-888-397-3742.

You may request a free copy of your credit report. Credit bureaus must provide a free copy of your report, if you have reason to believe the report is inaccurate because of fraud and you submit a request in writing.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Treasury

## ANNE FRANK EXHIBIT

### Volunteer Opportunity

The "Anne Frank in the World Exhibit: 1929-1945," located on the campus of Kennesaw State University, is seeking individuals to serve as volunteers and docents during the coming school year. The exhibit is the only one of its kind in the United States. More than 10,000 Georgia middle and high school students representing school districts throughout the state visited the exhibit last year to learn more about the life and times of Anne Frank and of her courage and fortitude in the face of the horrors of the Nazi regime in Germany. This is a rewarding opportunity for retired educators who live in the Atlanta area. To volunteer or to learn more about this opportunity please call Mike or Debra at the Kennesaw State Center for Continuing Education, at 678-797-2083.

### Thanks From Linda Bray

Dear GREA Friends,

Since my husband died June 4th, I have received so many beautiful, heartwarming letters, cards, flowers, and memorials from GREA members and local units. I really appreciate all of the caring thoughts, words of comfort and encouragement, and prayers of all my GREA friends. Because they mean so much to me, a simple THANK YOU seems inadequate to express my feelings, but I am sincerely grateful for all of your kindnesses.

With love and affection,

Linda Bray, GREA State Office

## THE STEPHENS COUNTY "GOLDEN GIRLS"

Stephens County REA has four active Emeritus members. Seated from the left are Marion Ariail, 91, and Elizabeth Hayes, 90. Standing from the left are Mildred Wiley, 91, and Virginia Nix, 90. Mrs. Hayes received the 2004-2005 GRE Community Service Award for volunteering over two hundred hours to youth and community organizations in Stephens County.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY LONG

The Annual Student Scholarship awarded by the Lawrenceville First Baptist Church has been named the **Mary Long Scholarship Fund** in recognition and honor and of her contributions to the fund and her tireless and unselfish efforts on behalf of the fund for many years. Shown above with Mary are Dean Long, along with the church Pastor and other family members.





**DR. CAS ROBINSON**, President, AARP GA, brings greetings to the convention at Wednesday luncheon.



### 47TH ANNUAL GREA CONVENTION FIRST GENERAL SESSION



**GREENE COUNTY REA** Officers present door prize for stay at Ritz Carlton Hotel. Door prizes are a fun part of the convention. Thank you to all of the local units for your generous donations.



**PRESIDENT ZIMMA JONES** LEADS THE CONVENTION.



**2000-2002 GREA PRESIDENT GERRY TILSON**, Decatur/DeKalb REA and **RUBY PERRY**, Greene County REA enjoying the convention hospitality activities.



### GREA PAST PRESIDENTS ATTEND CONVENTION

(Left to right) front row: Geraldine Tilson, Francis McBride, Willathea Jackson, Patricia Bassett, Marinelle Simpson, Narvie Harris. Back row: Reid Mullins, John Demons, John Pearce, James Johnston, Mary Long, James Flowers.

# ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 3-5, 2005—AUGUSTA



**RETIRING AREA DIRECTORS, SECRETARY HONORED**

*(Left to right) Arthur J. Owens, Area XI; Joan Dickson, Area IX; Helen Cook, Area VII; Marjorie Fitzsimons, Area III; Elizabeth Scarborough, Secretary; Emily Gunnells, Area XVII.*



**LOCAL UNIT SCRAPBOOKS**

*On display at "Best Practices"*



**GREA "HAT LADY" MARY LONG**



**JUDGE HAYNES TOWNSEND** installed 2005-2006 GREA President Lester Dean and Area Directors and Secretary.



**JACQUELINE McCLENDON, WALTON COUNTY REA**



**ATHENS AREA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

*(Left to right) Olin Parker, President; Charles Knapper, Past President; Jan Brown, Past President; Willie Farmer, Past President; Brenda Biggam, GREA Area XIV Director.*



**REV. CLAUDE McBRIDE**, (a.k.a. Happy Calhoun), entertained and inspired the audience at the Wednesday luncheon.

# Executive Director's Message

By Bill Gardner

**Dental and Vision Insurance.** In May of this year, after more than nine months of study and preparation by the Service to Members Committee, dental and vision insurance was offered to GREA members for the first time. All GREA members should have received a mail-out from Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) with a brochure describing the two programs and with enrollment forms. (Note: where both husband and wife were GREA members, only one mail-out was sent to that address.) Benefits are excellent and as of the end of June over 1,300 GREA members had enrolled in one or both of the programs. The open enrollment period ended on July 15th, after which members may still enroll but will be subject to a waiting period for benefits. You may receive additional information by calling GREA at 770-287-7721 or AMBA at 1-800-258-7041.



William Gardner

**June Meetings.** Another round of highly-successful June Area Meetings was concluded in Lawrenceville on June 27th. The GREA leadership crisscrossed the state from Newnan to St. Mary's, Albany to Gainesville, and Waycross to White to meet with over 500 local unit presidents and officers. The spirit among the new officers was contagious and encouraging. Guidance was provided to the local unit leaders and they were challenged by the story of the American pioneers who found woodpiles at the temporary shelters along the trails. The wood was there and ready for their immediate use upon arriving at one of the shelters. It has been said that the conscientious among them would leave the woodpiles higher than they found them. Local unit presidents were challenged to "make their mark" and to leave the local unit larger and stronger than they found it.

**NRTA Study.** The fourth edition of NRTA's report on the "Cost of Living Adjustments for State Teacher Retirement Systems" was recently released. The purpose of this ongoing study is to present information on the way in which states provide adjustments to their members to help offset the effects of inflation. The COLA's for states range from 1%-6% with every state providing some form of adjustment. Georgia's automatic, compounded COLA of 3% (1½% on January 1st and 1½% on July 1st) compares favorably with most other states. The complete report can be found on the AARP website at [www.aarp.org/nrta](http://www.aarp.org/nrta).

**Search Committee.** At the regular meeting of the Governing Board following the convention I informed the Board of my decision to step down/retire as Executive Director and asked the Board to begin the process of selecting a successor.

It was with much prayerful consideration with my wife and family and with mixed emotions that I came to my decision. I have enjoyed this position more than any other position that I have held in my career largely because of the many wonderful people with whom I have worked. I do look forward to the freedom of retirement and especially to the opportunities to travel with my wife and spending precious time with my children and new grandson. I will remain active and supportive of GREA and am committed to doing whatever I can, large or small, to assist the new Executive Director. I thank each of you for your support and for your dedication and commitment to GREA. *I believe that GREA is a great organization with a great future.*

The members of the Search Committee are: Lester Dean, Charles Adams, Brenda Bigham, Bill Chandler, Commodore Conyers, James Twiggs, and Reid Mullins. Applications are due in the state office no later than August 5, 2005. Anyone interested in becoming a candidate may call the state office to get an application.

# Convention Spotlights

Appreciation is expressed to the following businesses and organizations for supporting GREA with Convention Spotlight Ads that were not included in the Spotlight Booklet.

- In memory of Mary B. Kemp Wesley . . . . . Johnson Co. REA
- Ralph Jackson, Attorney-at-Law. . . . . Johnson Co. REA
- Robinson, Whaley, Hammonds & Allison, P.C. . . . . Henry Co. REA
- Regions Bank . . . . . Hall Co. REA
- First National Bank, Barnesville . . . . . Lamar Co. REA
- United Bank. . . . . Lamar Co. REA
- Brody Jewelers, Rossville . . . . . Walker Co. REA
- State Farm Insurance, Bobby Emerling, Agent . . . . . Walker Co. REA
- Talley Southeastern Materials, Rossville. . . . . Walker Co. REA
- Baker & Summers Construction, Inc. . . . . Walker Co. REA
- Pray Chiropractic, Ft. Oglethorpe . . . . . Walker Co. REA
- Carthell Rogers Construction, Rossville. . . . . Walker Co. REA
- N. Elaine Godbee, DMD, PC . . . . . Richmond Co. REA
- Jerry White's Pharmacy, Toccoa . . . . . Stephens Co. REA
- Northeast Georgia Bank: Lavonia, Carnesville, Commerce, Hartwell, Braselton, Toccoa, Royston, Elberton . . . . Stephens Co. REA
- Kay's Pharmacy, Inc., Harlem. . . . . Columbia Co. REA
- Billy Smith, Superintendent, Coffee Co. BOE. . . . . Coffee Co. REA
- Terry Barnard, State Representative, Dist. 166 . . . . . Tattnall Co. REA
- Southeastern Bank, Hazelhurst . . . . . Jeff Davis Co. REA

Local Units set a record for the third straight year by selling over 900 Spotlight Ads, up from 708 last year and 352 two years ago. Spotlight ads are sold to local businesses, organizations, and individuals for \$50 each, which is split evenly between the local unit and the state association. Income from spotlight ads is used to help defray convention expenses. Congratulations and commendations to the following local units that sold ten or more ads.

Local Unit	No. Ads	Local Unit	No. Ads
Butts Co. REA . . . . .	57	Treutlen Co. REA . . . . .	14
Hall/Gainesville REA . . . . .	46	Walker Co. REA . . . . .	14
Thomaston/Upson REA. . . . .	37	Crawford Co. REA. . . . .	13
Meriwether Co. REA . . . . .	33	Jeff Davis Co. REA . . . . .	13
Appling Co. REA . . . . .	30	Wayne Co. REA . . . . .	13
Forsyth Co. REA. . . . .	29	Camden Co. REA . . . . .	12
Bartow/Cartersville REA . . . . .	27	Fayette Co. REA. . . . .	12
Tattnall Co. REA . . . . .	26	Houston Co. REA . . . . .	12
Coffee Co. REA . . . . .	23	Madison Co. REA . . . . .	12
Macon Co. REA . . . . .	23	Columbia Co. REA . . . . .	11
Brooks Co. REA . . . . .	21	Laurens/Dublin REA . . . . .	11
Rockdale REA . . . . .	21	Mitchell/Baker REA . . . . .	11
Henry Co. REA . . . . .	19	Peach Co. REA . . . . .	11
Dooly Co. REA . . . . .	18	Walton Co. REA. . . . .	11
Pickens Co. REA. . . . .	18	Waycross/Ware Co. REA. . . . .	11
Stephens Co. REA. . . . .	16	Ben Hill/Irwin REA . . . . .	10
Cobb/Marietta REA. . . . .	15	Fannin Co. REA . . . . .	10
Hancock Co. REA. . . . .	15	Griffin/Spalding REA . . . . .	10
Morgan Co. REA . . . . .	15	Rabun Co. REA . . . . .	10
Bryan/Evans REA . . . . .	14	Southwest Georgia REA . . . . .	10
Towns Co. REA . . . . .	14	Early/Clay/Calhoun REA . . . . .	10

Appreciation is expressed to the following local units for donations to the convention hospitality suite, which were not included in the Spotlight Booklet.

- Atlanta REA
- Bainbridge/Decatur REA
- Burke Co. REA
- Jenkins Co. REA
- Oglethorpe Co. REA
- Toombs Co. REA

## Muscogee Retired Teachers Back In the Classroom

Muscogee retired educators have returned to the classroom. Yes, that's correct. But in this case, one is the teacher, and the others are the students. This spring Muscogee Retired Educators Association offered a "Personal Computer" course for members. The concept was of particular interest to those who retired before computers were common in the classroom.

Muscogee County School District provided the classroom in a computer magnet school. Samie Lott, Master Instructor and GREA member, offered her time and expertise to afford other retired educators the opportunity to learn to use computers for their own personal needs and satisfaction. The requirements were to have a computer installed with Windows XP. The two 3-hour class sessions included Computer Essentials and Basic Word Processing which included using some clip art.

We never stop learning. This is especially true for *teachers*. Just ask those convinced "*students*" who attended the classes. Muscogee claims still another benefit that being a member of Retired Educators Association in Georgia offers.



# Convention Silent Auction Raises Record Support for GREA Foundation

Thanks to the huge participation for the Silent Auction during the GREA State Convention in Augusta, a total of \$1,775 was raised to benefit the Foundation. The Foundation wishes to express sincere gratitude to all individual and Local Units who provided items for the auction. Also, the fun begins when competition for a particular item becomes evident in the bidding.

The Silent Auction along with the Local Unit participation for the annual scholarship has allowed the Foundation to increase the Scholarship/Grants to five (5) this year. Again, the volunteer efforts of all who participated is greatly appreciated.

## FIVE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FOR THE FOUNDATION ARE ANNOUNCED

The following is a listing of the teachers who have received the Foundation Scholarship this year: *(Photo and personal profiles in later issues).*

- Tommy R. Carl, T. Harry Garrett Elementary School in Augusta
- Vickie P. Duncan, Gordon Central High School in Calhoun
- Vera C. Phillips, Southside Middle School in Albany
- Cynthia G. Rodriguez, Lyman Hall Elementary School in Hinesville
- Joey Lynn Thomas, Montgomery County Middle School in Mt. Vernon

These deserving teachers will have a better opportunity to complete their additional college work due to the terrific GREA members. Thanks to all of you.

## Archives and History Committee

By Mary Long

The Archives and History Committee has had several contributions during the 2004-2005 year and we say a heartfelt thanks to all the individuals and local units who have sent money to our committee. We especially say thanks to Rockdale County for the generous donation of \$150. Other units that have contributed include Dougherty County in memory of Byrd Anderson; Thomaston/Upson in memory of Lila Ward and Bethel Salter; Floyd/Rome in memory of Alice Evans; Telfair/Wheeler in memory of Nellie B. Garrison; Worth County in memory of Catherine Wingate; Chattooga County in memory of A. J. Strickland II. Units who made other donations were Walton, Richmond, and Mitchell/Baker. Units who made contributions in memory of Dr. John Adler Hulseley were Brantley County; Cherokee County; Thomasville/Thomas County; Colquitt County; Berrien County, and Dougherty County. Other contributions will be acknowledged in a later article.

The committee continues to work on the Book of Memories and we hope to have it in print during 2005/2006.

Members of the Archives and History Committee who have worked together since 2000 are Lillian Lynch, Mary Holmes, Deloris Mullins, and Mary Long; Narvie Harris joined the committee during 2003 and Brenda Bigham joined in 2004. During the years of working together the committee has collected, framed, and put in place portraits of all state presidents and executive directors. The Archives and History room was painted and a wallpaper border was added by committee members. The committee also purchased and put together two filing cabinets and a mahogany bookcase with glass doors. A filing system has been put in place with a file for each convention and each past state president.

The committee has met on a regular basis to sort and edit stories that were submitted by educators across the state. Brenda Bigham is presently in the process of typing the stories. We appreciate the encouragement of units across the state and your contributions have helped us achieve the goal of keeping the important records of the history of our association.

## EMANUEL COUNTY REA OFFICERS

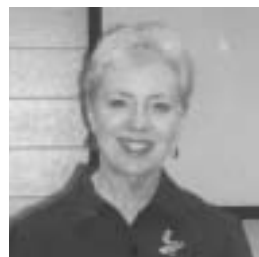
*Emanuel County Officers for 2005-2006 were installed by Dr. Jean Bridges. Pictured are (l-r) Bridges; Dr. Willie Gunn, President; Woodrow Billups, Past-President; Carolyn Derden,*



*President-Elect; Betty Jean Thompson, Treasurer; and Kay Stephens, Secretary.*

# GREA Grapevine

By Pat Miller, Jackson County REA



Pat Miller

The Jackson County Retired Educators reorganized in April of 2004 after several years of inactivity. Leading up to the first meeting a group of interested retirees met with Mary Long, then president of GREA, and Betty and Charles Adams, state chairperson of membership and area 17 director. That group selected a proposed president and secretary. Old lists were reviewed and ideas for a meeting place, date, and time were suggested.

At a subsequent meeting, the local president met with other retirees who agreed to telephone prospective members and serve as a telephone committee. Each name on the list was reviewed, and if the telephone committee member knew that person, she took that name so there would be a personal touch. Other names were randomly assigned.

At the state level, Mrs. Long and Mrs. Adams with the help of others did a mail-out letter inviting prospective members to attend the first reorganizational meeting.

The local president visited the superintendents of the three school systems in Jackson County and asked for names, addresses, and phone numbers of the educators who were retiring that year. Their names were submitted to the phone committee for invitation to the July meeting. Packets of information about the state association and certificates were distributed to the new retirees.

At the first meeting the president and secretary were approved, and a president-elect and a treasurer were elected. Mr. Adams installed the officers. The newly-elected officers and the committee chairpersons selected by the president met to write by-laws for the association which were submitted and approved at the next meeting.

The telephone committee has continued to call members and prospective members for each meeting. The president and president-elect also continue to visit the three superintendents in the spring to get the names of the new retirees and give them packets of information. A newsletter also is mailed out to members who miss meetings and to prospective members.

## GREA Reaches Record Membership

GREA ended the 2004-2005 year with a membership of 15,428, an increase of 370 over last year and up 2,039 on June 30, 2002. The increase is attributed to the continuing efforts by local units as well as the additional membership benefits added in the past year. GREA members now have access to group dental and vision insurance coverage. Both of these benefits are offered through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA), Austin, Texas and provide exceptional coverage at very competitive rates.

If you have not renewed your GREA membership for 2005-2006, you may do so by completing and returning the membership form below. We encourage you to consider becoming an ADD member and make a continuing commitment to the GREA, *the only organization that exists solely for the benefit of retired educators in Georgia.*

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

2005-2006

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
<b>GREA MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATIC DUES DEDUCTION (A.D.D.) My signature below authorizes TRS to deduct \$2.00/month from my TRS pension payment. This authorization will remain in effect until I choose to terminate it by notice to Georgia Retired Educators Association.		<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL  <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> \$360 LIFE Send check with this card to the address below. Make check payable to GREA.  Local Unit _____
Signature _____ Date _____		<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>  I.D.# _____  CONTROL # _____  DATE _____
Address _____		Social Security # _____
City _____	State _____	Zip _____ Phone # _____

Return this portion to: Georgia Retired Educators Association • 615-C Oak Street • Gainesville, GA 30501-8522

# News from GREA Local Units

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES LIST:** We extend our sincerest congratulations to the following GREA members who have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries: **GEORGE-ANN AND EARL BABBITT OF AUGUSTA, JUNE 11, 1955; MARY AND EDWIN COLLINS OF MILLEDGEVILLE, MAY 15, 1955; ROMA SUE AND WILLIAM COLLINS OF BLAIRSVILLE, MAY 23, 1942 (63 YEARS); ELIZABETH AND CHARLES ELMORE OF MILLEN, JUNE 12, 1955; NAN AND PAUL JONES OF ALBANY, JULY 31, 1955; JUANITA AND RALPH LONG OF ATLANTA, JUNE 26, 1955; LILLIAN AND WOODROW MCCREA OF ALMA, SEPTEMBER 11, 1954; DORRIE AND PAT NELIGAN OF MILLEDGEVILLE, JUNE 19, 1954; MARINELLE AND JAMES SIMPSON OF McDONOUGH, MAY 1, 1955; LOIS AND C. J. SMITH OF SOPERTON, JUNE 5, 1955; GAIL AND EUGENE WYLES OF SYLVESTER, DECEMBER 29, 1954.**



**COBB/MARIETTA REA:** A new school in Cobb County has been named the Lula Charlotte McClure Middle School in honor of Miss McClure who was President of Cobb/Marietta Retired Teachers Association, 1988-1989.



**CHEROKEE COUNTY REA:** Cherokee County REA President, Joan McFather, was honored on June 8, 2005 as Cherokee County "Volunteer of the Year."



**POLK COUNTY REA:** PREA sponsored a successful community outreach project with donation of books for grades K-5 in the Polk County School System. Scholarships were given to students from Rockmart High School and Cedartown High School.



**MADISON COUNTY REA** member Joyce Duncan participated in a church mission trip to Jamaica. She and other mission team members ministered to over 1,000 children and adults in ten towns and villages.



Mrs. Duncan shown here with toddler at the Rock Church.



Carolyn Heath and Frankie Ware

**TREUTLEN COUNTY REA:** Frankie Ware received an Emeritus Certificate from Carolyn Heath, President, Treutlen County REA.



**WHITFIELD COUNTY REA:** Former Dalton City Schools Superintendent and Emeritus GREA member Clifford Hale died recently at the age of 91. He was remembered by those who knew him as a visionary who believed in people and maintained his interest and involvement in the Dalton Public Schools until his death.



**GWINNETT COUNTY REA** honored Ralph Greene for his dedicated service to the "Hands Are Not For Hitting" program. Greene has been nominated by GCREA for an AARP National Award.



Henrietta Wilder

**WORTH COUNTY REA:** An Emeritus Certificate was presented to Henrietta Wilder at Pine Shadows Retirement Manor in Sylvester.



**CALHOUN/GORDON REA** honored four members as Emeritus Members. President Netha Dunlap is pictured with (left) Charlie Connor and (right) Jerline Porch. Unable to attend were Geneva Parsons and Bertha Hicks.



Calhoun/Gordon REA

## Important Telephone Numbers

### PUBLIC EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

Nurse Call 24 . . . . . 1-800-524-7130  
 State Health Benefit Plan Retiree Line . . . 1-800-586-9288  
*(Not for Prescription Drug Questions)*  
 Internet Site for Provider Lists . . www.healthygeorgia.com  
 Blue Choice Vision Program . . . . . 1-800-377-6436  
 Express Scripts, Prescription Drugs . . . . 1-877-650-9342  
 Medical Pre-Certification (MPC) . . . . . 1-800-762-4535

### TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

JEFF EZELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Atlanta Area . . . . . 404-352-6500  
 Toll Free . . . . . 1-800-352-0650

### VALIC ANNUITY

State Area . . . . . 1-800-448-2542

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TOURS

State Area . . . . . 770-534-4203  
 Fax . . . . . 770-531-1978

### AMERICAN HEARING AID ASSOCIATES (AHAA)

Toll-free . . . . . 1-800-984-3272  
 Web site . . . . . www.AHAAnet.com

### GREA OFFICERS:

Lester Dean President  
 Harry Werner, President-elect  
 Zimma Jones, Past President  
 Patricia Bassett Secretary  
 William Chandler, Treasurer  
 William Gardner, Executive Director

### AREA DIRECTORS

Commodore Conyers, Area I  
 Liz Totty, Area II  
 Jacqueline Harper, Area III  
 Solomon Sparks, Area IV  
 James Twiggs, Area V  
 Dorothy Wilson, Area VI  
 Mary Ann McDaniel, Area VII  
 Rita O. Marable, Area VIII  
 Penny Carter, Area IX  
 Jane P. Thomaston, Area X  
 Lucius Skrine, Area XI  
 Beverly Roberts, Area XII  
 Geraldine G. Tilson, Area XIII  
 Brenda Bigham, Area XIV  
 Dorothy Houston, Area XV  
 William B. Weaver, Area XVI  
 William B. Edmonds, Area XVII  
 Charles Adams, Area XVIII

### GREA BULLETIN,

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**Office hours:**  
**Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**