

THE GRETA BULLETIN



JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR
RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

Visit our Web Site at:
garetirededucators.org

See our member
benefits at:
Greabenefits.com

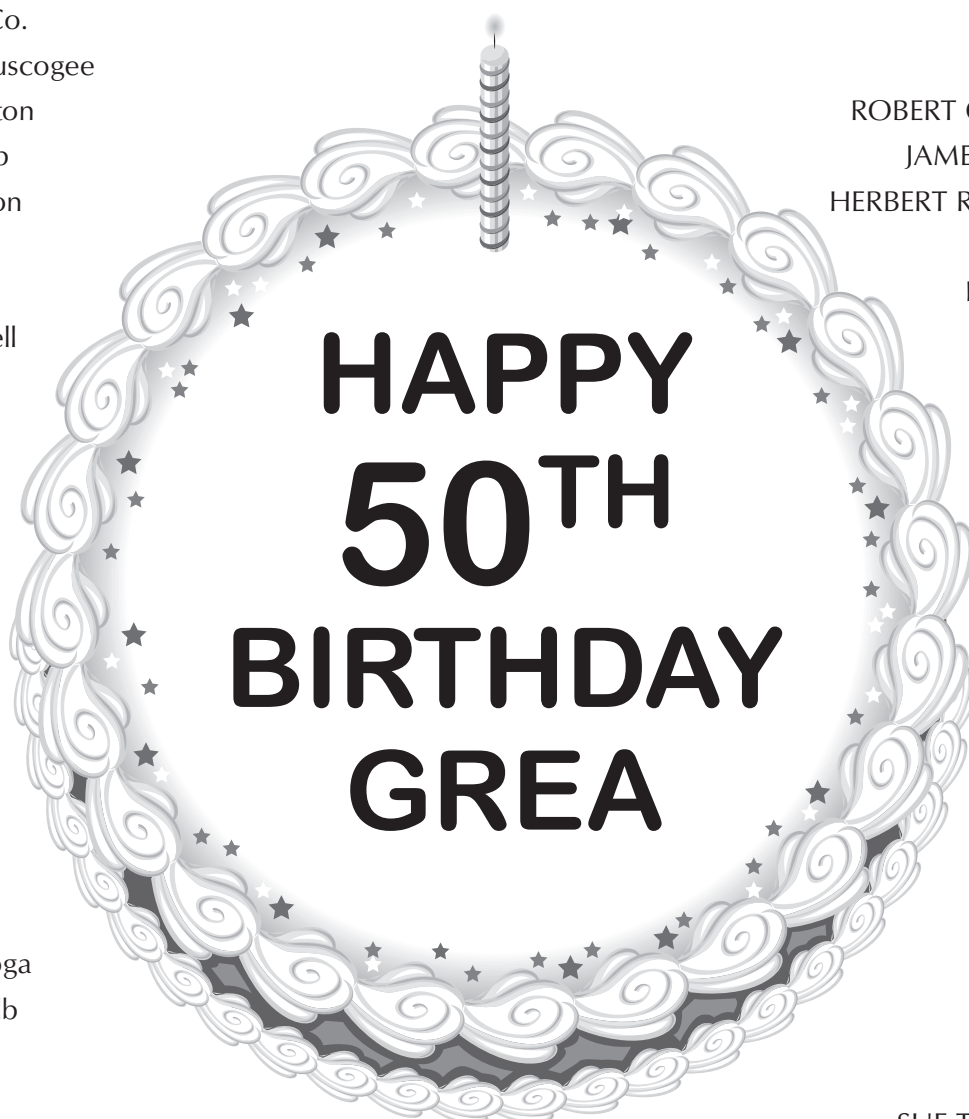
VOL. XXVI, NO. 4

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

SPRING 2008

50 Years of Serving Georgia Retired Educators PAST PRESIDENTS OF GRTA AND GRETA

ALLIE MANN, 1958-1959, Fulton Co.
W. T. HARRISON, 1959-1965, Troup Co.
BOYD B. LITTLEJOHN, 1965-1967, Muscogee
HANNAH FLANIGEN, 1967-1968, Fulton
ELIZABETH DAVIS, 1968-1970, DeKalb
FRANK M. HUGHES, 1970-1971, Fulton
KANKAKEE ANDERSON, 1971, Polk
J. W. HORN, 1971-1972, Fulton
RUTH COCHRAN, 1972-1973, Mitchell
JOHN H. WEST, 1973-1974, McDuffie
AARON COOPER, 1974-1975,
Hall/Gainesville
WARE T. BEALL, 1975-1976,
Chatham
JIM THREATTE, 1976-1977, Lanier
CLARA WEST, 1977-1978,
McDuffie
HENRY C. EDDelman, 1978-1979,
DeKalb
G. NATHAN HUNTER, 1979-1980,
Muscogee
ALENE S. SHAW, 1980-1981, Bryan
EARL MAY, 1981-1982, Wayne
GENEVA JARRETT, 1982-1983, Chatooga
CLYDE T. WARREN, 1983-1984, DeKalb
ELEANOR LEE, 1984-1985, Ware
LOYD KIMMELL, 1985-1986, Lee
WILLATHEA JACKSON, 1986-1987, Henry



RALPH HOGAN, 1987-1988, Thomaston/Upson
FRANCES McBRIDE, 1988-1989, Clark
W. STARR MILLER, 1989-1990, Coweta
ROBERT CORLEY, 1990-1991, Thomaston/Upson
JAMES W. FLOWERS, 1991-1992, Dougherty
HERBERT ROBINSON, 1992-1993, Hall/Gainesville
REID MULLINS, 1993-1994, Gwinnett
PEGGY L. McMAHAN, 1994-1995, Hart
NARVIE J. HARRIS, 1995-1996, DeKalb
WILLIAM BRINKLEY,
1996-1997, DeKalb
JAMES F. JOHNSTON, 1997-1998,
Griffin/Spalding
JOHN A. DEMONS, 1998-1999,
Peach
MARINELLE W. SIMPSON,
1999-2000, Henry
GERALDINE G. TILSON,
2000-2001, DeKalb
PATRICIA BASSETT, 2001-2002,
Crawford
JOHN F. PEARCE, 2002-2003,
Hall/Gainesville
MARY F. LONG, 2003-2004, Gwinnett
ZIMMA C. JONES, 2004-2005, Tattnell
LESTER DEAN, 2005-2006, Cobb
HARRY WERNER, 2006-2007, Henry
SUE THORNTON, 2007-2008, Bibb/Crawford

Important Convention Phone Numbers

Hilton Garden Inn	706-353-6800	Rate \$117
Holiday Inn	706-549-4433	Ask for Code "REA" Rate \$114
Holiday Inn Express	706-546-8122	Rate \$104
Foundry Park Inn	706-354-5433	Rate \$115 per night

Tell them you are with the GRETA Convention.

GRETA
615-C OAK STREET
GAINESVILLE, GA 30501-8522

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Notes From Sue

By Sue Thornton



Sue Thornton

It does not seem possible that my year as president is nearly over. For the past ten months, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you both at Area Meetings and at meetings of your local units. I am personally grateful for the great support that I have received this year. The members of the Governing Board have been continuous and enthusiastic in helping me in every way possible. I can assure you that each Area Director is conscientious in working for the benefit of local units.

The staff of our state office has been marvelous, as always. Most of all, I appreciate the love and support that you, as individual members, have shown me. We frequently say that GREA is a grassroots organization, and that is not just something that sounds good; it is a fact. You are our greatest strength, and I value each and every one of you.

I am continually amazed at the service that GREA members have contributed at the state and local levels. For the past two years, through the Wheelchair Project and the Ethiopian Schools Project, we have also contributed globally. I am also increasingly conscious of what we contribute to all of Georgia's retired educators, including those who do not support those efforts through membership in GREA. I dream of a day when every retired educator in our state will, by joining GREA, pay for his or her share of our work in maintaining and improving adequate pensions and health insurance as well as other needed benefits.

In only a few weeks, we'll have the opportunity to gather in Athens to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of GREA. Since more hotel rooms have already been reserved than ever before this far ahead of the convention, I am expecting a record-breaking attendance. I can promise you that it will be a meaningful and fun celebration. As I have said many times this year, those who don't celebrate this 50th anniversary with us in Athens will be cheating themselves, because by 2058, the year of our 100th anniversary, none of us will be around to celebrate!

One of our most significant accomplishments this year has been the creation of a new foundation, the Georgia Retired Educators Association Museum, Inc. This foundation's purpose is to direct the construction and maintenance of a new building which, in addition to the museum, will house our state office. Members of the GREA Building Committee have worked hard on developing the plans for this new, and much-needed building. This new foundation is qualified to receive tax-deductible donations, and many members have already contributed. We are, however, a long way away from having enough money to move on from the planning phase to construction. This presents every local REA unit with a marvelous opportunity to make a significant financial donation to the museum and thereby help ensure that GREA will continue to offer Georgia's retired educators effective "Fellowship, Service and Support" for the next fifty years. Every donation made to the new building will be evidence that we are, indeed, PROUD OF OUR PAST... FOCUSED ON OUR FUTURE!

GREA Member Benefits

The Georgia Retired Educators has endorsed Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to provide benefits to its membership. For more information about any of these benefits, please call AMBA at 800-258-7041 or visit www.amba.info or www.greabenefits.com.

Currently the GREA endorsed benefits include the following: Long Term Care/Home Health Care insurance, First Diagnosis Cancer insurance, Medicare Supplement insurance, Final Expense Life insurance, Tax-Deferred Annuity, Medical Air Services Association (MASA), Ameritas Dental insurance, VSP Vision Plans, Astrum Hearing Solutions, Government Employee Travel Opportunities, Grand Circle Travel, Vacations to Go, LaQuinta Inn and Suites discounts, Advantage and Budget Rent-A-Car discounts, Dell Computer discount, and a Costco discount.

If you would like to have someone speak at your meetings about these benefits, please contact Jeanie Coffey, AMBA National Director of Association Relations, at 800-258-7041 ext. 332. AMBA is looking for Georgia retirees who would like to become AMBA representatives. Please call Rick Billeaud, AMBA Vice President, at 1-800-258-7041 ext. 105 if you are interested in learning more about this position, or would like to

Congratulations on 50 Years and TRS Customer Service Commendations



Jeff Ezell

Congratulations to GREA on its 50th anniversary and success in helping the retired educators in this great State. TRS values its partnership with GREA and shares many common goals, including the safety and security of benefits, the preservation of the financial and actuarial soundness of the pension plan, and the maintenance of cost-of-living adjustments. We also appreciate the opportunity to participate in your annual conferences and chapter meetings. It provides the staff with an

opportunity to meet with GREA executive staff, area directors, local unit presidents, and all other GREA members. Meeting with GREA representatives and members to discuss issues and trade stories, and hear suggestions and concerns is what keeps this partnership prosperous. The entire staff at TRS truly appreciate the opportunity to work with you and provide you with the services you need and deserve. The dedication shown throughout your years of service to our children translates into the good you're doing for your fellow educators. Thank you for all that you do and we look forward to seeing you in Athens!

As you know, TRS has been working diligently to provide our customers with the best customer service in the State. We have not only been working with the Governor's Office of Customer Service, but have taken it upon ourselves to raise the bar even further internally. And it has paid off. In addition to receiving the Governor's Customer Service Call Center Excellence Award back in October, TRS received two certificates of commendation signed by Governor Sonny Perdue for its dedication to providing faster, friendlier, and easier customer service. Jeff Ezell and the Member Services Division were both recognized by the Office of Customer Service (OCS) for their efforts in going above and beyond the call of duty.

The Member Services Division was nominated and recognized for their efforts to train employees and streamline their processes, resulting in significant customer service improvements. Not only is the division operating more efficiently thanks to a new pension administration system that makes processing, managing, and measuring work easier and faster, but more effectively as well with the streamlining of processes and cross-training of skills and job functions. During 2007, the average processing time for all requests was reduced to 8.2 days for the year with no overtime worked, the average accuracy rate for the division was 99.4, and 100% of retirees were placed on payroll during the month of their retirement effective date.

Jeff Ezell was nominated and recognized for his leadership which resulted in improved services to the citizens TRS serves. The OCS states, "Mr. Ezell's focus on training, improved processes and accountability shows in the high level of performance across the TRS organization. He is dedicated to raising the bar on customer service." Under the leadership of Mr. Ezell, the agency continues to provide excellent customer service to its members. Mr. Ezell believes the best way to accomplish this goal and provide customers with faster, friendlier, and easier services is through efficient and effective processes supported by state-of-the-art technology and a competent, empowered staff.

These commendations recognize meritorious actions that enhance the public image of customer service and the way customer service is provided in Georgia. Nominees were selected on the basis of consistent high levels of performance and/or going above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of their jobs while still accomplishing their normal job responsibilities.

"My goal for the agency is to provide the best customer service possible to our customers—those who depend on TRS for information regarding one of the most important decisions of their lives—their retirement; those who rely on us for timely and accurate benefit payments; and the 385 employers who partner with us to make sure contributions and service credit are reported correctly each month. The information and services TRS provides make a huge difference in the important decisions TRS members are faced with at retirement and beyond," explains Mr. Ezell.

recommend someone.

AMBA has been a long-time supporter of GREA, and our 2008 goal is to work to bring you 1,000 new members.

GREA Convention Celebrates 50th Birthday

The Georgia Retired Educators Association's annual convention will be celebrating 50 years of being the only organization in Georgia that works full time for the benefits of retirees. This year's convention will be held in Athens, Georgia at the Classic Center. The Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express and the Foundry Inn are the host hotels for our convention. When you register at one of these hotels be sure to tell them you are with GREA as we get some credit for you staying with them.



This convention will be solely dedicated to the celebration of our history. The Luncheon speaker will be Ms. Lily Liu, AARP History Consultant, who does an outstanding presentation that several of your officers have heard and we know that you will enjoy also.

The Wednesday banquet will be a detailed history with skits prepared by the various areas of the state. You will not want to miss this historical presentation about the history of GREA. Mary Long and the Archives and History committee have been working for at least one year to make this a memorable occasion.

If you miss this convention, you will miss a great time as well as a great learning experience. See you there!

Convention Tours

On Wednesday afternoon, we have a committee that has planned a tour of the Athens area and the UGA campus. We had thought that we might have two separate tours but it was suggested by the folks in Athens to just have one combined tour. There will not be pre-registration for these tours. There will be a booth set up on Tuesday afternoon to register people. The cost is \$10 per person. The tours will be on a first-come, first-serve basis so register early on Tuesday afternoon. The plans right now are for the tours to begin at 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The tour will last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. If the demand is high enough they can add additional busses. If space is available, you can choose the 2:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. trip.

Come and Celebrate the 50th Birthday Party for GREA!



The annual convention will be held this year in Athens, Georgia on May 6, 7, and 8 at the Classic Center. According to President Sue Thornton, it will be a gigantic birthday celebration for 50 years of service to retirees by the Georgia Retired Educators Association. Come and join in the celebration for our Birthday and Anniversary.

CONVENTION PREREGISTRATION FORM

GEORGIA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

50th Annual Convention

Classic Center • Athens, Georgia

May 6, 7, 8, 2008

Please complete a separate form for each person registering.

PREREGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 25, 2008.

Local Unit _____ Area _____

Name (on convention badge) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GREA/Local Unit Office Held (if any) _____

CONVENTION PREREGISTRATION \$30.00 Amt. _____
(On Site Registration will be \$35)

PRESIDENTS/AWARDS DINNER (May 6, 6:30 p.m.) . . . \$35.00 Amt. _____

WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON (May 7, 12:00 p.m.) \$35.00 Amt. _____

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BANQUET (Birthday Celebration) \$35.00 Amt. _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE _____

Your check should be for the total amount shown above. **Please do not include any other types of payment/donations in your Registration check.** No refunds after April 25th!

Please Return Convention Preregistration Form and payment to:
GREA, 615-C Oak St., Gainesville, GA 30501-8522

General Overview of the Convention Activities

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Registration 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Athena A
GREA Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m., Olympia I
Credentials Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m., Athena C
Exhibits 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
GREA Foundation Board Meeting/Lunch 11:00 a.m., Athena C
GREA Governing Board Meeting/Lunch 11:00 a.m., Olympia I
All Attendees Welcome and Overview of Meetings . . . 1:30 p.m., Athena E
President's Workshop (choose either time) 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. or
3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m., Athena E
Membership Chairmen (choose either time) 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. or
3:15-4:15 p.m., Athena C
AMBA 2:00-3:00 p.m., Athena D
Teacher Retirement System (TRS) 2:00-3:00 p.m., Athena H
State Health Benefits 3:15-4:15 p.m., Athena H
How Do You Spell Success? (NRTA Program) . . . 3:15-4:15 p.m., Athena D
Silent Auction 1:00-5:00 p.m., Athena G & H
Hospitality Room 2:00-5:00 p.m., Athena B
GREA Chorus Rehearsal 4:45 p.m., Grand Hall South
Awards Dinner 6:30 p.m., Grand Hall South

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Registration 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Athena A
Exhibits 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
First General Session 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Athena E
Reports from:
State Health Benefits
Teachers Retirement System
GREA Committee Reports
Presentation of 2008-2009 Budget

Luncheon 12:00 noon, Grand Hall South
Ms. Lily Liu, AARP Historian Consultant-Speaker
Best Practices 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Fire Hall
John Pearce, Coordinator
Tours of Athens and UGA. 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. and 3:30-4:45,
Ticket Required
Silent Auction 2:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m., Athena G & H
New Area Directors Meeting 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Olympia I
50th Annual GREA Convention Banquet 6:30 p.m., Grand Hall South
50th Anniversary Celebration Archives and History Committee

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Memorial Service 9:00 a.m., Athena E
Conducted by Juanita Booker
Second General Session 9:30 a.m.-12 noon
Foundation Report
NRTA Report
Adoption of Budget
Executive Director's Report
President's Report
2008 Convention Report
Installation of 2008-2009 Officers
Presentation of President's Gavel
2008-2009 President's Message
Past President's Plaque
2009 Convention
Luncheon-GREA Governing Board, Museum Board, Foundation Board
and Spouses

A Message From AARP!

Time to Get Mad—Again.

AARP exists today because one retired educator from California lost her temper. Sixty years ago Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus went to visit a retired teacher. When she arrived at the woman's home, someone else was living there. The person Ethel was looking for **lived** out back... **in an old chicken coop**. She had **no money** and **no medical insurance**.

Ethel got mad. She couldn't believe that anyone who had dedicated her life to teaching children was forced to live in such dire conditions. **She also got organized.** With others, she started a campaign to get affordable health insurance for retired teachers. Well over 40 companies turned her down, but she persevered and succeeded. Eventually she decided to help other older Americans as well, and **AARP was born.**

Today, too many people—47 million—have no health insurance, and those who do, see their health security eroding as costs rise and quality of care decreases. Millions of Americans also struggle for lifelong financial security, and most older people worry about their children, who for the most part are even worse off when it comes to health coverage and pensions and savings.

While this goes on, where are our political leaders? **Stuck in gridlock**, unwilling and unable to come together to fix these problems. In Washington, partisanship trumps problem solving just about every time.

So it's time to **get mad** again—and to **get organized**. That's what AARP is doing. We're reaching out to our members and other like-minded people and organizations fed up with our leaders' failure to get things done. We're demanding they lay partisanship aside to address the country's most pressing domestic issues—affordable, **quality health care** and lifelong financial security.

Our movement is called **DIVIDED WE FAIL**. We began by **uniting** with the Business Roundtable and the Service Employees International Union. Last month the National Federation of Independent Businesses, representing 600,000 small businesses, added its voice to Divided We Fail. So did the Entertainment Industry Foundation (watch for our celebrity TV spots with calls for action). And faith communities called on their congregations during Divided We Fail Faith Week to focus on the moral imperative of health and **financial security**.

These issues affect everyone, and Divided We Fail is for everyone. The **American Dream** isn't Republican or Democratic or Independent—it belongs to us all. And we can all do our part to strengthen and preserve it.

As Divided We Fail grows, our millions of voices for change will press our political leaders to overcome partisanship and solve these problems. Many members of Congress have already signed the Divided We Fail pledge, and we are urging others to do so. **We want answers, action, accountability.**

Next month the process of deciding the presidential nominees begins. In just 11 months, the voters will elect a president and determine the makeup of a new Congress.

Now it's your time—to get mad, get organized, and demand action. Divided We Fail isn't about pointing fingers. It's about the voters electing people with big ideas and a commitment to finding solutions and giving everyone a shot at the American dream. Please **get involved**. Divided we fail, but together we can succeed.

GRE A ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMITTEE

Left to right, front: Dorothy Houston and Mary Frazier. Back: Mary F. Long—Chairman, Jackie McClendon, Mary Holmes, Deloris Mullins, and Lillian Lynch. This Committee has prepared a brochure for the Golden Anniversary recording the charter date of the Local Units.



Important Reminders to Local Presidents!

If possible, please bring or send an item for the Silent Auction at the State Convention. All proceeds raised by the Silent Auction will go to the GRE A Foundation to use for scholarships. BJ Bassett, Foundation Chair.

•••

The Hospitality Committee would like to remind all units to please send a \$10 donation to GRE A for expenses for the Hospitality Room at the convention.

Honor Flight Fayette

FCREA member, Gail Sparrow, is spearheading a project in Fayette County that has been her dream since she heard about a national organization that honors World War II veterans in a unique way. Gail and her friends Mark Buckner and Brenda Smith have established **Honor Flight Fayette** as a non-profit organization designed to thank World War II veterans by providing them with a trip to Washington, D.C. to see THEIR memorial. This program is a grass root effort to locate WWII veterans, raise funds, and organize a one-day flight (absolutely free) to D.C. for these heroes. This is a way for all of us to say "Thank You" to the brave men and women who helped make our freedom possible today. There is an urgency to this mission as WWII veterans are passing away at a rate of 1,200 every day.

Gail is following the guidelines of the national organization with the help of a group from Valdosta to implement a plan to provide our Fayette County veterans with everything they may need to make the flight. That includes medical personnel (doctors, nurses, EMT's) as well as "Guardians"—someone physically able to take care of 1, 2, 3, or 4 veterans during the trip with their every need. These guardians or escorts will pay their own way and take a training session before the trip.

The members of FCREA are being recruited as volunteers to help with organization, paper work and fundraisers, and anything else needed to make this wonderful project happen.

Gail, a former history teacher and the daughter of a deceased WWII veteran, also has a vision of every county in Georgia providing this experience for their veterans. To learn more about the project contact www.honorflight.org (the national organization), www.honorflightfayette.org (the Fayette County organization), email—info@honorflightfayette.org.

Toombs County REA Takes Annual Field Trip

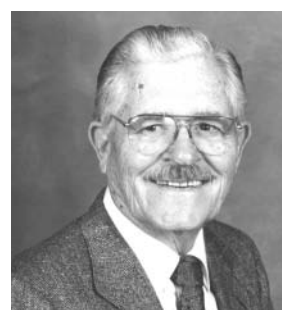
By Marlene Tomlin, President, Toombs County REA

TCREA is fortunate to have Fred Brogdon, former TCREA President and former history professor at Georgia Southern University, as an association member. For the past three years, Fred has planned and coordinated a one-day trip, by chartered bus, for our members, to places of historical significance. He has also provided an informative history of the places visited by TCREA. Past field trips have included visits to the Ebenezer Townsite, also known as New Ebenezer, East of Springfield, Georgia, and Savannah, Georgia. This year's trip was to Washington, Georgia.

TCREA members had a very enjoyable day visiting various historical venues throughout Washington and the surrounding area. A local guide provided a lively and informative tour of the area. An overall tour of the town of Washington was given with many homes that are significant in the history of our state included in the tour. After a delicious Southern lunch at the recently restored Fitzpatrick Hotel, members toured the Robert Toombs home. This was a "must see" place to visit as our county is named for Robert Toombs, who was so influential in the history of the State of Georgia and our nation. Members also visited the Callaway Plantation where it was possible to see the original Greek Revival style manor house, a one-room school house, a blacksmith shop, a general store, along with several other buildings and a cemetery. Callaway Plantation is unique because it has been in the control of the same family since the arrival of the settlers in the late 18th century.

Fred Brogdon is already busy planning for next year's historical field trip. This is a day our membership eagerly anticipates. The trip has become a selling point for TCREA membership. It is a wonderful fellowship opportunity for members as well as an opportunity to expand our members' knowledge about the history of our state.

Former GRE A President Passes Away



Jim Threatte

Jim Threatte, GRE A President, 1976-1977, passed away on February 20, 2008 at the age of 98. His funeral service was held on Saturday, February 23, 2008, at Lakeland, Ga. at the Threatte Civic Center. Jim was buried in Tifton, Ga. He was a member of the Lanier County REA.

The officers and Governing Board of GRE A extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family. I am sure some of you might like to send a card to: Mary Threatte, 718 Main St., Lakeland, Ga. 31635.

Thank You Local Unit Presidents

The Governing Board, Officers, and Staff wish to extend a big THANK YOU to the following people for serving as a Local Unit President this year. The Local Unit President is a vital position in GREA and we appreciate what all of you have done this year to lead and help celebrate our 50th Birthday.

Bainbridge/Decatur, Gwendolyn T. Conyers
Decatur/Seminole, June C. Mosely
Dougherty, Lillian H. Parkman
Early/Clay/Calhoun, Esther June Wills
Grady, Lavonne A. Childers
Lee, Sarah Harris
Miller, Beverly M. Richardson
Mitchell/Baker, Jaan Y. Thomas
Southwest Georgia, Juanita W. Himes
Worth, Linda W. Medders
Cordele/Crisp, Charles C. Kerr
Dooly, Gloria H. Martin
Macon, Erma H. Hankerson
Randolph/Quitman, Minnie R. Lewis
Stewart, Fannie L. Perrymond
Sumter, Dr. Andrew Carroll
Terrell, Joyce A. Lee
Terrell/Lee, Dr. Clifford D. Browner
Turner, Hattie F. King
Berrien, Elna M. Bragdon
Brooks, Frank L. Thomas
Colquitt, Jo Anne W. Smith
Cook, Shelva Dean Keeley-Roberts
Lanier, Carolyn A. Berryhill
Lanier, Genese C. Bryant
Thomasville/Thomas, Eleanor T. Hallman
Tift, Dr. Joyce P. Parker
Valdosta/Lowndes, Joseph Brown
Bacon, John Deloach
Brantley, Michelle Stieve
Camden, Mary T. Keating
Charlton, Charles E. Edwards
Clinch, Mary Lynn Ayers
Coffee/Atkinson, Carol R. Morgan
Jeff Davis, Ann M. Brookhardt
Pierce, Mary Lott Walker
Waycross/Ware, Linda Sweat
Appling, Elizabeth S. Dunn
Golden Isles/Glynn/McIntosh, Mickey A. Wendel
Liberty/Long, Jane M. Cart
Tattnall, Ronald E. McCall
Toombs, Marlene B. Tomlin
Wayne, Lucille Brock Thomas
Bryan/Evans, Eloise M. Hodges
Bulloch, Dr. John B. Karrh
Candler, Joseph F. Johnston

Chatham, Shirley C. Spears
Effingham, Patricia C. Clayton
Emanuel, Linda Webb
Jenkins, Jim Hite
Screven, William J. Tyre
Ben Hill/Irwin, Karel M. Mobley
Bleckley, Willis Harper
Dodge, Mary J. Holley
Laurens/Dublin, Margaret P. Pauldo
Telfair/Wheeler, Tommie Ruth D. Bartlett
Truetlen, Patty B. Barnhill
Wilcox, Tommie B. Phillips
Bibb, Dr. Charles R. Cronin
Crawford, Janice H. Hunt
Houston, Grace M. Daniel
Lamar, Annie R. Bush
Monroe, Deborah J. Mathews
Peach, Rossetti Yates
Pike, Bonnie Byrd Gardner
Thomaston/Upson, Robert L. Corley
Harris, Etta Perry
Marion/Schley/Webster, Estella H. Jones
Meriwether, Dorothy Y. Orr
Muscogee, Edna J. Hagan
Troup, Ralph T. Johnson
Butts, Edna S. Miller
Butts, Sandra C. Brooks
Carroll/Heard, Sue J. McBrayer
Clayton, William I. Marsh
Coweta, Ruth Mealor
Fayette, Carol H. Love
Griffin/Spalding, Joan J. Melin
Henry, Annie Lois Keith
Baldwin, Arthur J. Owens
Hancock, Earnest Carswell, Jr.
Jasper, Opal Simmons
Johnson, Bobby Elbert
Washington, Bern L. Anderson
Burke, Emanuel Larkin, Jr.
Columbia, Sue B. Padgett
Jefferson, Bonnie B. Perry
Lincoln/Wilkes, Frances F. Zellars
McDuffie/Glascock/Webster, Clara B. Roberts
Richmond, Gloria D. Toy
Atlanta, Malissa B. Cox
Decatur/DeKalb, Patricia B. Ireland

Douglas, Beverly B. Smith
Fulton/North, Martha P. Paris
Fulton/North, Barbara Wilbanks
Athens Area, Donald L. and Margaret Schneider
Barrow, Brenda G. Fleeman
Greene, Ethel M. Gilliam
Gwinnett, Nona Patterson
Morgan, Joyce S. Thomas
Newton, Charles D. Woods
Rockdale, Sheila G. Hoynes
Rockdale, Katherine A. Lawrence
Walton, Willie Enus
UGA, Dave Anderson
Bartow/Cartersville, Virginia Garrison
Cherokee, Susan J. Hughes
Cobb/Marietta, Virginia M. Ramsey
Floyd/Rome, Frances B. Herron
Haralson/Bremen, Henry Frank Hutcheson
Paulding, Barbara C. Cohran
Pickens, Bobbie E. Edge
Polk, Yates Davis Brown, Jr.
Calhoun/Gordon, Christine C. Smallwood
Catoosa, Carolyn F. Turner
Chattooga, Carolyn Stacks, Mayo
Dalton/Whitfield/Murray, Martha L. Wassum
Walker, Belva G. Gilbert
Banks, Rita I. Hawkins
Elbert Mary S. Fortson
Forsyth, Johnny W. Tallant
Franklin, Betty P. Goolsby
Hall/Gainesville, Joseph L. Hall, Jr.
Hart, Ronald R. Jonson
Jackson, Linda C. McMullan
Madison, Betty Y. Pallas
Oglethorpe, Linda Lousie Banks
Stephens, Ann C. Mills
Dawson, Rebekah T. Oliver
Fannin, Constance M. Hand
Gilmer, Dr. Mary O. Jones
Habersham, Nellie Patricia Burrell
Rabun, Janine P. Bethel
Towns, Charles R. Adams
White, William H. White
Union, Jo Ann Hamby
Lumpkin, Toni Cambron

With Our Youth Projects

It is now not necessary to send With Our Youth scrapbooks in to the Awards Committee for judging. Any local unit that desires to do so can complete the short form of application and submit it to NRTA for consideration for National winner. Anyone desiring a form can contact me at lpjbassett@pstel.net or 478-836-3234 for the information.

Complete the following form to receive your **With Our Youth** certificate at the Awards Dinner on Tuesday night of the Convention.

Name of Local Unit _____ Area _____
President or WOY Chair _____
Number of members _____ Number who participated in projects _____
Four or five examples of some of the WOY projects done this year _____

Date due—April 10, 2008. Please email to the address above or mail to Patricia Bassett, 190 New Street, Roberta, GA 31078.

Community Service Hours

Complete the following form to receive your **Community Service** certificate at the Awards Dinner on Tuesday night of the Convention.

Name of Local Unit _____ Area _____
President or Community Service Chair _____
Number of members _____ Number who participated in projects _____
Total hours for the local unit _____
Name of the member with most hours _____ # of hours _____
Four or five examples of some of the Community Service projects done this year _____

Date due—April 10, 2008. Please email to the address above or mail to Patricia Bassett, 190 New Street, Roberta, GA 31078.

By Bill Sloan



William Sloan

Greetings to all of you on a springlike day in North Georgia! Well it looks like spring is coming early in North Georgia today. It is about 70 degrees outside with a cloudless sky on this early March Day.

Have you made plans for our annual convention yet? It is on May 6, 7, and 8 at the Classic Center in Athens, Ga. It may be the biggest and best ever with a lot of pre-registration already received. Athens will be beautiful in May and the GREA committee headed by Lester Dean is working hard to make this a memorable event. It's our 50th Birthday

Celebration and the banquet on Wednesday night will be a review of the history of GREA with skits and special guests. Don't dare miss it.

On Wednesday afternoon, there will be tours provided at \$10 per person and they will visit the Athens area and the campus of UGA. See information elsewhere in this *Bulletin* for details.

We were excited this week to learn that our Museum Fund has been designated as a tax deductible contribution. We hope every GREA member will make some kind of donation to the fund.

I am so excited about how we are growing this organization. We went over the 17,000 mark in February and are receiving new members everyday. Thanks to all of you for working on this! Maybe retirees across the state are seeing that GREA can make a difference for them in their retirement years. In addition, the membership committee and the district membership directors wish to express their thanks to all of you for working hard on membership.

The legislature is still in session as I write this and we hope that retirees will profit by the work of GREA at the Capitol. Charlie Roberts does a great job working for the interest of retirees everyday in Atlanta.

If the state office can ever be of service to any of you please let us know. Joy, Linda, and I are here to serve you, the members of GREA. Thanks for all that each of you do for GREA.

Alpha Phi Alpha Honors Dr. Carlton H. Morse

Dr. Carlton H. Morse, a longtime resident of Fort Valley (Peach County), Georgia was honored as "Brother of the Year" by his peers, Gamma Sigma Lambda and Gamma Zeta Chapters, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

This distinguished occasion was the Fourteenth Annual Celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Awards Luncheon held Monday, January 21, 2008 in the Food Service Center of The Fort Valley State University.

Dr. Morse and Brother Lawrence Young, Sr. were named co-honorees for this year's award.

This renowned educator is a native of Sparta (Hancock County), Georgia. He received his diploma from the Sparta A&I Institute and immediately matriculated at Georgia State College, subsequently the name changed to Savannah State University. He received the B.S. degree in Education. Additional degrees of M.Ed. and Ed.D were earned at Atlanta University and the University of Oklahoma respectively.

Dr. Morse devoted his life ambitions in the Field of Education as an effective teacher and administrator for our youth over a period of 40 years. He taught one year each at Wayne County School System and Liberty County School System. He also served eleven years as a Principal in his hometown at L.S. Ingraham High School and as a Professor of Education at Fort Valley State University for 27 years. After his successful tenure and retirement at this great institution, he was later bestowed the title of Professor Emeritus in 2005.

Dr. Morse is a Past President and an immediate Past Treasurer of The Peach County Retired Educators Association. He is an active member of his beloved Saint Luke Episcopal Church located in Fort Valley, Georgia serving as a faithful, dedicated member in several capacities.

The Peach County Retired Educators Association proudly salutes Dr. Carlton H. Morse for receiving this distinguished honor.

Butts County Honors Edna Miller

During its October 2007 meeting, Butts County REA, honored member Edna Miller for her many years of service to the unit.

Ben Paget is shown presenting her with a plaque showing their thanks for her years of service.



Decatur-DeKalb Retired Educators Honors Retired Teachers at Budd Terrace

For many years DDREA has honored the retired educators who live at Budd Terrace in Atlanta with a Valentine's Party. Naomi Bell, Community Service Chair, coordinates the occasion along with her sister-in-law, Margaret Bloodworth. Naomi is our liaison with Budd Terrace collecting used magazines and greeting cards from our unit members and taking them to Budd Terrace for the enjoyment of their residents and for use in the arts and crafts classes. Naomi has been recognized for her outstanding service on our behalf.

On Wednesday, February 13, 2008, members of our unit joined Naomi and Margaret for an afternoon of visiting, serving refreshments, and playing games with our retired colleagues who live at Budd Terrace. As we share memories and laughter with our new friends, our members gain much more than we give. Margaret even gave a prize for a guest older than she is... one who was 103+ years. Margaret is our oldest active member of the DDREA.

Our community service is one of the things of which we are most proud. In addition to Budd Terrace our unit also serves the students of the International Community School in DeKalb County, and the Women's Resource Center.

Area X Cluster Meeting

February 19 was an exceptional gathering for GREA and Area X. Butts County, Clayton County, Fayette County, Henry County, and Griffin/Spalding units met in Jonesboro for a large cluster meeting. Three past GREA presidents and all unit past presidents were recognized and thanked for their service. All five current presidents pictured below were present and were introduced.



(Left to right): Bill Marsh, President Clayton CREA; Sandra Brooks, President Butts CREA; Carol Love, President Fayette CREA; Lois Keith, President Henry CREA; Joan Melin, President Griffin/Spalding REA; and Dr. Beverly Roberts, GREA President-Elect.

us have these used items and that they will make a wonderful addition to many of our community service projects.

CCREA President Bill Marsh then presented a special 17-minute CD entitled "Make a Difference With The Power of Compassion." While many of us have read the book, the CD brought tears to many eyes at its end.

Two door prizes were awarded to individuals from each unit. One lucky winner received \$90 as part of CCREA's continuing activities for scholarships. Nearly everyone present remained to feast on chili, baked potatoes, salad, and brownies prepared by the church kitchen staff.

PEACH COUNTY REA'S VALENTINE'S PARTY

John A. and Jacquelyn Demons of the Peach County REA took time to join other retired educators at the Valentine's Party planned by the Unit's Recreation Committee, February 8, 2008. The occasion was held at Sharpe's Restaurant in Fort Valley, Georgia. John Demons is a Past President of the GREA and the Peach County REA.



One hundred and five educators met in the Activities Building of the Jonesboro UMC and gave total attention to Dr. Beverly Roberts, GREA President-Elect. Dr. Roberts told of her recent injury at home. She then related how she hopes each unit will collect used eyeglasses and used hearing aids. She believes that many of

The **Burke County REA** Unit donated a copy of the book, *Reflections of Georgia Educators II*, to the Burke County Library. The donation was in celebration of BCREA's 34th Anniversary and the 50th Anniversary of the Georgia REA with the theme, "Proud of Our Past... Focused On Our Future."



Forsyth County REA member, Sue Tribble and her husband Jim, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 8th.

Retired Educators Publish Children's Book

Jeri Stapleton and Jo Anne Edge, both retired educators from Wheeler County, Georgia, have recently published their first children's book. The book, *Taylor Visits the Farm*, is the story of a Boston terrier puppy named Taylor, who makes a trip with her "person mama" to visit the farm of friends Jo Anne and Tony Edge. While at the farm, Taylor learns about farm animals and gardening. As a part of her adventure, she goes for a swim in the pond where she encounters underwater life. Taylor's real discovery is that God made her and that she is special.

Taylor Visits the Farm is the first book in a series that will include at least four more titles. These books, authored by Jeri Stapleton, are written to appeal to children from ages three to nine. Each picture in the 32-page book is a beautiful watercolor painting by Jo Anne Edge, who is known in the middle Georgia area for her artistry. The two women feel that there are not enough stories for children that are exciting as well as inspirational. The series of stories will explore such issues as cultural diversity, dealing with death, and the true meaning of Christmas. A portion of the profit from the sale of the books will be donated to childhood cancer research.

Anyone who would like more information or wishes to purchase one of the books should go to www.taylorstories.com.

Jackson County Educator Writes How to Book

Danny Kofke teaches Special Education in Jackson County and he recently published a book titled *How to Survive (and perhaps thrive) on a Teacher's Salary*. A book written for teachers by a teacher. Many people find it hard to believe that one teacher can support a family of four but his book explains the steps necessary for other teachers to follow suit and save for life's journeys. You can find his book at www.tatepublishing.com. It is also available on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

Good Health Information from United Health Care

Members of the United Health Care insurance group may wish to visit their web site at www.myuhc.com. There are some valuable tools for retirees at that address.

White County REA lost one of its long-time members on February 24th. Mrs. Willie Mae Humphries died after a long illness but even during her illness she attended all the local meetings. Her love for education and students was evident in her 43 years as a classroom teacher followed by 15 additional years as a substitute teacher in the White County School System. She was named the 1980 STAR teacher. She would have been 94 on March 24th.

Volunteer Opportunities at Fernbank Museum!

Home to the world's largest dinosaurs, cultural collections from around the world, prehistoric artifacts, vistas into Georgia's natural world, a five-story IMAX® Theatre and more. Fernbank Museum of Natural History inspires life-long learning of natural history through dynamic programming to encourage a greater appreciation of our planet and its people. Fernbank's team of enthusiastic volunteers are not only Museum members but they also serve as Museum ambassadors, providing the highest level of customer service to make the Museum one of the greatest cultural venues in the South.

Join the Polaris Volunteer Guild and share your enthusiasm for science, nature, and culture with visitors. Fernbank Museum needs greeters, IMAX® attendants, exhibition facilitators and support teams for special activity days. Volunteers must commit to at least one 4-hour shift each month, or approximately 50 hours of volunteer service each year.

In addition to Museum membership benefits, volunteers receive exclusive perks, including:

- Complimentary admission to IMAX® films (on a space available basis)
- Complimentary guest passes earned for hours of service (in 50-hour increments)
- Ongoing educational opportunities, including a training program, lecture series and visits to other cultural institutions
- Bi-annual Guild socials
- Field trip opportunities
- Annual awards party

To learn more about Polaris volunteer opportunities at Fernbank Museum of Natural History, contact the Volunteer Department at 404-929-6360 or volunteer@fernbank.edu.

Tutors Needed for Georgia K-12 Program

The Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Georgia Child and Adolescent Consumer Supports Program seek tutors to assist children and adolescents with severe emotional and/or substance abuse disorders who are currently being served by an approved Core/IFI provider agency working with the State of Georgia.

We're seeking teachers, principals, and retired educators. Tutors are paid \$30 per hour. Hours are flexible and at your discretion. For more information contact us: 866-835-3371 or online at PPLGA@pcgus.com.



SUMTER REA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF GREA

Plymel, et.al. v. TRS of Georgia

On February 29, 2008, the Superior Court of Fulton County issued rulings in the above case. The ruling means that all class members will be entitled to recover back benefits from April 8, 1984 forward. Those TRS members who retired between August 1, 1983 and January 31, 2003 and took one of the options that left money to a beneficiary upon the death of the member will be involved in the settlement. TRS members who are affected by the ruling should have gotten a letter from the Garden City Group several months ago about this issue. If you think you are in this group but did not receive a letter from them, you should call 1-888-420-1664 and ask if you are a part of the ruling.

You can read the judge's ruling by going to HYPERLINK "<http://www.trssuit.com>" www.trssuit.com and click on February 29th Rulings. TRS has 30 days within which to appeal the Court's ruling on the statute of limitations issue. We are hopeful that the TRS Board will not appeal the ruling and will pay all eligible retirees the amount due as determined by the Fulton County judge.

GREA OFFICERS:

Sue Thornton, President
Dr. Beverly Roberts, President-elect
Harry Werner, Past President
Patricia Bassett, Secretary
William Chandler, Treasurer
Dr. Bill Sloan, Executive Director

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