

THE GRE BULLETIN



JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR
RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

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Greabenefits.com

VOL. XXVI, NO. 4

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

SPRING 2010

GRE Announces New Officers For 2010-2011

For the first time in a few years, GRE had a statewide contested race for the position of President-Elect. Carol Lunsford, Area X Director, and Kate Finch, Area XVII Director, both qualified for the position and both were very well qualified candidates for the position which will lead to the Presidency of GRE FOR 2011-2012. The Nominations and Elections Committee chaired by Dr. Beverly Roberts, GRE Past President, met at the state office on March 19th and counted the votes. After all the votes were tallied, Kate Finch was declared the winner. Kate will be installed at the state convention as the 2010-2011 President-Elect of GRE. Congratulations to Kate and thanks to Carol for running a great campaign.

In addition, Dorothy Wilson, currently GRE President-Elect, will be inaugurated at the 2010 state convention as the new President of

GRE for 2010-2011. Dorothy will provide GRE great leadership for this coming year and all GRE members look forward to welcoming her to the position. Dorothy has already served GRE well in four years as Area VI Director and one year as President-Elect.

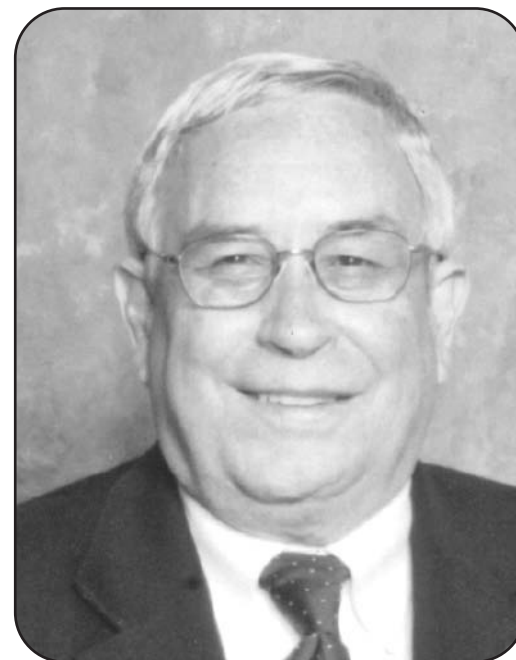
The current GRE President Dr. John C. Upchurch will become the GRE Past President after the convention. Dr. John has been an outstanding President and has served our membership well during his term in office. All GRE members thank him for his leadership and look forward to him serving as Past President and President of our Museum Board of Directors for next year. His term in office has led to tremendous membership growth as we celebrate our 20,000th member during his tenure in office.



Dorothy Wilson
President



Kate Finch
President-Elect



Dr. John C. Upchurch
Past-President

Make Plans Now

GRE
52ND ANNUAL
CONVENTION

MACON MARRIOTT CITY CENTER HOTEL
MACON, GEORGIA
MAY 4, 5, 6, 2010

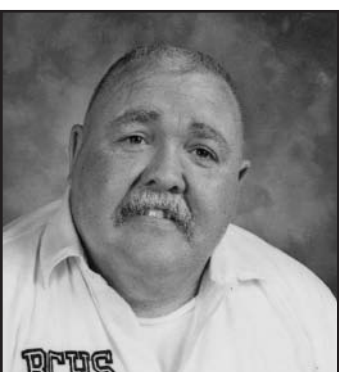
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GREA Welcomes Four New Governing Board Members

The Nominations and Elections Committee chaired by Dr. Beverly Roberts, GREA Past President, met at the State Office on December 4, 2009 and certified the following candidates as qualified for a position on the Governing Board. They all were running unopposed for their respective posts.



Donald Altman, Jr.

Area IV Director
Waycross

EDUCATION:

Waycross High School Class of 1966
Associate of Arts, Andrew College, 1971
BSED Georgia Southern College, 1974
Graduate work at Valdosta State and
Georgia Southern College

CAREER:

1966-1971 US Navy Air stationed on Guam
Teacher and Coach, Waycross City System, 1974-1978
Teacher and Coach, Brantley County System, 1978-2000
In-School Suspension Teacher
Athletic Director
GHSAA 2AA Region Secretary, 2000-2010
GHSAA Executive Committee 2000-2010

MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD:

Past President Brantley County Educators Association
Past President Waycross/Ware County REA
Georgia Athletic Directors Association
Georgia Athletic Coaches Association
Sunday School Superintendent
Georgia State Athletic Director of the Year 2006



Diane Lockwood

Area XIV Director
Lilburn

EDUCATION:

Georgia State University,
BS Elementary Education
Georgia State University,
MEd Elementary Education
UGA, Specialist in Education

EXPERIENCE:

Elementary Teacher, Clayton County Schools
Elementary Teacher, Gwinnett County Schools
Grade Level Chairperson
Gifted Teacher
Middle School Teacher, Gwinnett County Schools

ORGANIZATIONS AND POSITIONS HELD:

President of Gwinnett County Association of Education
Georgia Association of Educators
National Association of Educators
Gwinnett County REA
Past President of Gwinnett County REA
Program Chair, Gwinnett County REA
Convention Committee for GREA



James R. Haymans

Area X Director
Fayetteville

EDUCATION:

Bradwell Institute
Reinhardt Junior College
Georgia Southern College, BS, 1964
Georgia State, MEd Elementary Education
Georgia State, School Administration

EXPERIENCE:

Classroom Teacher Clayton County
United States Coast Guard
Southern Airways, Republic Airlines and Northwest Airline

MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD:

Fayette County Kiwanis Club President, 1st Vice President, Treasurer
Various church positions
Current President, Fayette County REA



Dr. Roger Williams

Area XII Director
Augusta

EDUCATION:

Morehouse College, B.A. French
Atlanta University, M.A. French
UGA, Doctor of Education, Language Education

EXPERIENCE:

Language Teacher, Lincoln County
US Army
Director, Wonder World Child Development Center

Instructor of French, Paine College
Assistant Academic Dean, Paine College
Acting Dean for Academic Affairs, Paine College
Dean for Academic Affairs, Paine College
Coordinator of the Gifted Program, Columbia County Schools
Principal, Warren County High School
Graduation Coach, McDuffie County Schools
Adjunct Faculty, Cambridge College
Director of Human Resources, McDuffie County Schools

ORGANIZATIONS AND POSITIONS HELD:

Research Assistantship, Office of Computer Services, UGA
Teaching Assistantship, Atlanta University, French Department
UGA Department of Romance Languages
French Prize, Morehouse College
Secretary, Georgia Association for Gifted Children
Warrenton Chamber of Commerce
Co-President, Augustans Together
Red Cross Board of Directors, Columbia Co.
Many others too numerous to mention!

Governing Board Members Beginning a New Two-Year Term In Office



Area II
Dr. Clifford Browner
Dawson



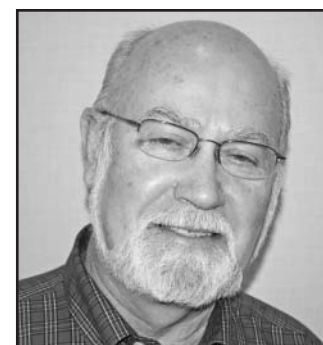
Area VI
Jim Hite
Millen



Area VIII
Dr. Bonnie Gardner
Meansville



Area XVI
Joella McGill
Lafayette



Area XVIII
Dr. Franklin Johnson
Dahlonega

President's Report

By Dr. John Upchurch



Dr. John Upchurch

One of the most pleasant and enriching aspects of being a GREA president is that of traveling across Georgia and visiting with local units. I have done a lot of that this year and fortunately still have over a dozen local units and cluster meetings yet to attend. I have met so many wonderful GREA members and have enjoyed our fellowship, all the while learning much about their units' projects and about how they provide support and service to one another and their communities. As I have said on many occasions, we have talented and dedicated members who do important, even essential things. Please know you have my heartfelt appreciation and admiration for all you do.

As of this writing, the 2009–2010 year is rapidly winding down. It has been a year in which our organization has met with considerable success in several key areas. Thanks to extraordinary recruiting efforts by our members, the GREA's growth has surpassed most everyone's expectations, and our finances are sound and growing. In addition, area directors, local unit presidents, and standing committee members performed their duties with skill and dedication. Moreover, the GREA Foundation dramatically increased the number of annual scholarship awards, and the GREM purchased land for the future museum and office complex.

I trust everyone is getting excited about the 52nd annual GREA convention scheduled for May 4-6 in Macon, Georgia. We hope to have a record-breaking crowd there, and it appears likely we will welcome our 20,000th member into the fold. When we reach that 20,000-member threshold, our organization will have moved to a different level; what we say and do from that point on will carry greater weight in our state. The convention will be a good place to introduce members of the local units, who have never attended a GREA convention, to the workings of the state organization; so bring them with you to Macon. Minimally, all current and new local unit presidents and their membership chairpersons should plan to attend.

If you have not already registered for the convention, please do it now. A registration form and hotel information may be found elsewhere in this edition of *The GREA Bulletin*. Know that the convention planning committee, co-chaired by Marilyn and past-president Harry Werner, has been working hard to develop one of the best conventions ever. The hotel is new, the rooms are plush, and the meeting and banquet facilities are well appointed and large enough that we will not be crowded. There will be ample time to visit the sites in and around Macon, interact with long-time friends, make new acquaintances, and have questions answered by representatives of TRS, State Health Benefits, AMBA, and other agencies and entities.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the individuals and local units that have embraced so willingly the "The Talking Books" project. Books and accompanying CD's are coming in steadily, as are checks mailed to the state office in Gainesville. The checks will provide Becky and me the opportunity to purchase additional titles and take advantage of on-line discounts. I am convinced the project will have an important and positive impact on future English instruction in Baishan, China. Additional books and checks will be accepted at the convention and at the state office; and a full report will be forthcoming in the fall edition of our *Bulletin*.

I thank each of you for all you do on behalf of the GREA, including your work on volunteer projects and other activities in your community. Retired educators truly demonstrate in myriad ways willingness and ability to serve others. Clearly, you have recognized NEW HORIZONS FOR GREA and are ensuring the organization is BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE. Now, onward to Macon to celebrate a most successful year.

GREA—A Performing Act

By Dorothy B. Wilson

Members performing many acts—acts of fellowship—acts of service—acts of support, and most of all, acts of LOVE.

They have all types of "feelings" which says: My Unit and Me! The members are asked: "What have you done for me lately?" And the response is: "With your help and cooperation, 'I Believe I Can Fly'."

As I travel over this great state, I witness units with programs and activities filled with excitement and substance. Members have rolled up their sleeves and doing more than their share of the work. Members who are dedicated to the purpose of GREA and know the impact they have upon one another.

New ideas are presented in a way that will not arouse resistance but

GREM Report

By Dr. Beverly Roberts, GREM President

We are very excited about the progress being made toward our GREM offices and our public access museum with visual and virtual history of public education in Georgia. Although our museum will begin on a modest level, there will be possibilities for activities for the community, the local schools, organizations, and families.

We have signed the purchased agreement for the property at the corner of Hog Mountain Road and Falcon Parkway. We have paid the first three years premiums and have seven more years to pay the remainder.

Meanwhile, we have contracted with FourSquare Research, Inc., of Atlanta, Georgia, to author the feasibility study, coordinate the financial accounting aspects (construction and operational), short- and long-term potential use of the museum, site utilization beyond its primary mission, public awareness, marketing, demonstrative appeal to potential investors, donors, foundations or other revenue sources, comparable facilities in the state for suitable exemplars, and other specific requirements set by the GREM Feasibility Study committee.

FourSquare is a dynamic research organization and has already completed the questionnaire surveys of 400 members of GREA across the State and 400 household with children under 18 in the census tracts surrounding the property site.

The preliminary report of the questionnaires from FourSquare is positive. The Georgia Retired Educators Museum Board will meet in Macon on March 30 for the final report. This report will be made available to the members of GREA at the 2010 State Convention in Macon.

GREA Foundation Plans For State Convention

By Deloris N. Mullins, Chair

The annual Winter meeting for the GREA Foundation Board of Directors was held in Macon, Georgia, at the Marriott-Macon City Center on Thursday, January 21, 2010.

Bill Edmonds, Scholarship Chairman, reported that he would be sending all Public School Superintendents the Application Forms by e-mail in the latter part of February. Also, copies would be available on the GREA website. Local Unit members are encouraged to share this information with certified teachers in their area. Contributions by the Local Units continue to be a vital part of the success of this Scholarship program. All Local Units who have participated will receive a special Certificate of Recognition at the GREA Convention. Also, this year we will recognize all Area Directors with 100% participation.

Elizabeth McEuen, Area IV Director, has made the necessary correction for the "Are You Ready?," *Tips for Planning Retirement for Georgia Educators*. The Foundation pay for the cost to have this booklet published for GREA. The booklets are made available to active teachers who will be retiring in the near future.

encourage participation. Discussions are held with other members and nearby units so everyone will have an opportunity to contribute. An ACT designed for all members—which makes progress easier when all are moving in the same direction.

In the words of William A. Ward:

"YOU ARE GREAT"

You were created in the image and likeness of God. Within you are unlimited possibilities for good, for growth, for achievement.
YOU ARE GREAT!

Your mind is mightier than the tallest mountain, stronger than the forces of the winds, and more powerful than the currents of the seas.
YOU ARE GREAT!

Your spirit, which is the real you, contains dormant seeds of vital energy, creativity, inspiration, infinite, potentiality, and dynamic immortality.
YOU ARE GREAT!

You have a beautiful, unique, and joyous influence that reaches far beyond your wildest dreams, blessing the lives of others behind your fondest imagination.
YOU ARE GREAT!

You are a finely-tuned instrument of love, health, peace, harmony, and generosity. The world is waiting for you to put your greatness into action and to rise to new heights of enthusiasm, service, attainment, prosperity, and freedom.
YOU ARE GREAT!

Begin now to harness the power that is within you and become even GREATER!

Ramblings from the Executive Director

By Bill Sloan



William Sloan

I hope spring has arrived at your house by the time you get this *Bulletin*. It has been cold forever here in North Georgia. We need some spring time weather here! As I am writing this on a beautiful Friday morning in late February, it is 25 degrees outside and just last week I heard a news report that there was snow on the ground in 49 of the 50 states. It really has been a cold winter in our neck of the woods. I am ready for a little Global warming myself! Come on spring time!

Well plans for the convention are well underway and I would like to thank Dr. John Upchurch, GREA President, and Harry and Marilyn Werner, Convention Co-Chairs for all their work. With Macon having a new hotel at the convention center we should have a wonderful place to hold our 52nd convention. The convention will be a great time with many activities going on for those three days. Herman Cain and Rubard Jones will be great speakers at our convention.

I am so excited to announce that we will exceed our goal to have 20,000 members by convention time. I certainly hope the 20,000th member will be able to attend and we can recognize them. Each and every member is important to GREA as our political power increases with every new one. If you want to do something for your organization, go find us another new member. There is an application blank elsewhere in this *Bulletin*—either copy it or just cut it out and pass it on to a prospect. All of you have done a wonderful job this year in recruiting members. When I challenged you to help us make 20,000 this year, I really felt it would be a difficult task to make it but you did it and I appreciate each and every one of you who help meet this goal. It took all of us.

GREA is very fortunate to have a great group of new Governing Board members and you can see their resumes in another section of this *Bulletin*. They bring a lot of new energy and experience to our Board. I along with all GREA members wish to thank the outgoing Board members for their four years of dedication to working for GREA. These folks will be missed on the Governing Board. We owe Elizabeth McEuen, Carol Lunsford, Betty Tutt, and Myra Stephens a real big “Thank You” for all your time and efforts for GREA.

In addition, on a personal note, I wish to thank Dr. Beverly Roberts, our going GREA Past President, for all of her efforts for the last three years in her rolls as President-Elect, President and Past President. She has been and will continue to be a real asset to our organization. Thank You, Beverly for the many hours, miles driven and the nights away from home while you were fulfilling your duties for GREA.

As the year is growing to a close, I also wish to thank all of the local unit GREA Presidents. This organization is strong because of you and what you do on the local level. You never get enough thanks for what you do for GREA. I am excited as to what next year can bring to GREA and look forward to working with all of you again.

GREA Member Benefits Program

January 2010

The Georgia Retired Educators Association has endorsed Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to provide a menu of “Members Only” benefits for GREA.

- To arrange for a speaker at your meetings concerning benefits, please call Jeannie Coffey, AMBA’s National Director of Association Relations, at 800-258-7041, ext. 332.
- AMBA is seeking to employ Georgia retirees as AMBA representatives. If you are interested in learning more about this position, or would like to recommend someone, please call Ryan Greenfield, AMBA VP, at 800-258-7041, ext. 114. For information about any of these benefits, please call AMBA at 800-8258-7041 or visit the web sites www.amba.info, or www.garetirededucators.org.

GPO/WEP Meetings

For the GREA members who are affected by this Social Security legislation, there were hearings in Washington, D.C. on March 9 and 10 about possible repeal of this legislation. GREA was represented by your Executive Director and at least one other person. This *Bulletin* went to the printer before there was time for a report but we will get you some information as to what occurred in the next edition.

State Health Benefits Update for 2010

By Andrea Abercrombie

The annual Retiree Option Change Period (ROCP) saw many changes for the 2010 Plan Year. Specifically, there was the requirement that all Medicare-eligible members and their Medicare-eligible dependents be enrolled in one of the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) Medicare Advantage options, in order to retain the state contribution toward the cost of their health insurance premiums. We realize this was a significant change for our retirees and understand that this change has caused both concern and perhaps some confusion among the retirement community. As a result, many retirees have sought assistance from others to help with issues they may be experiencing.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 controls how your Personal Information (PI) and your Protected Health Information (PHI) are shared with others. Therefore, it is important to remember that it is not always possible for SHBP staff to assist persons other than the SHBP member with questions regarding coverage, claims, premium payment or other information that identifies you as a SHBP member or contains PI or PHI.

REMINDER:

- Whenever possible, contact the Plan or Vendor yourself
- Be mindful with whom you share personal information
- If you still prefer to have someone else discuss your issue, you will need to identify them as a Personal Representative by acknowledging they may speak on your behalf by completing a Release of Information to Personal Representative Form available on the web site at www.dch.georgia.com/shbp under the link for SHBP Forms.

If you have questions about benefits under the option you are enrolled in, you should contact the Customer Service Number on the back of your ID card.

Proposed Changes to the GREA Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee recommended the bylaws changes below to the GREA Governing Board at its meeting on January 21, 2010. The Governing Board approved the changes. The changes must be approved by the GREA membership at the State Convention in May. The proposed changes are provided here for member information and for review by those who will attend the convention.

Article VIII, Section 2: Standing Committees

Add the following after the first sentence. “A majority of the committee, excluding ex-officio members, shall constitute a quorum.”

The new wording will be the following:

Each standing committee shall consist of the GREA President, the GREA President-elect and the GREA Executive Director, as ex-officio members, plus other members as designated. A majority of the committee, excluding ex-officio members, shall constitute a quorum. The Standing Committees shall be those listed below:

Rationale:

This change will establish the quorum necessary for a committee to officially meet and conduct business. Roberts Rules state that ex-officio members do not count when determining the quorum of a committee.

Article IX, Section 3: Other Vacancies

Change the name of the section as follows: “Vacancy in the office of President-elect”

The new new wording will be the following:

Section 3: Vacancy in the office of President-elect

Rationale:

The President-elect is the only office covered in the section; therefore, the new name will more accurately reflect the content of the section.

Article IX:

Add a new Section 4 as follows:

Section 4: Other Vacancies

A vacancy in the office of Recording Secretary or Treasurer shall be filled by the candidate recommended by the President and approved by the Governing Board to complete the term of office.

Rationale:

This new section will establish a process for filling a vacancy in mid-term should the Recording Secretary or Treasurer become unable to complete the term of office to which elected.

The Long View of GREA History

By Mary Long

The Archives and History Committee is comprised of Mary Long, Mary Frazier, Mary Holmes, Dorothy Houston, Lillian Lynch, Deloris Mullins, and Jacqueline McClendon.

The Archives and History Committee members have been busy hanging enlarged photos of GREA members on the walls of the state office.

Thanks to Dorothy Houston for donating a beautiful display cabinet and for arranging a collection of valuable books in the cabinet. We now have three lighted display cabinets in the entrance room at the state office.

Harriette and Bob Hamrick donated some valuable materials for display, as did Harry and Mary Werner. Harry Werner is currently working on a bookcase for our storage room.

Looking Back: In 1973/74 John H. West was president of GRTA and during his administration Dr. Julius Gholson, a retired Superintendent of Bibb County was employed as Executive Secretary. The annual Luncheon was held at the Top of the Mart in Atlanta.

Clara West was state president in 1977/78. Clara and John are the only married couple who have served as state presidents.

In 1977 the GRTA Convention was held at the Macon Hilton on April 28, 29. The Convention Committee members were Ruth W. Aultman, Mary H. Powers, Evelyn D. Ford, and Dorothy Simmons. Thanks to our past members who worked to make our organization a success. Thanks to Bibb County for the many times they have hosted our convention. See you in Macon at the convention in May, 2010.

Were you denied your COLA from TRS?

If you are one of the 1,800 educators who did not qualify for the COLA in July 2009 and January 2010 please send your name and email address to grea3@earthlink.net. Thank you and hopefully you will get the COLA in July 2010.

TRS FACTS as of 1/1/2010

Number of retirees July-December 2010.	2,218
Total TRS retirees drawing a check.	83,651
Gross Benefits paid per month.	\$230,412,615
Retirees having direct deposit of checks	95.2%
Educators who withdrew from TRS July-Dec. 09	4,103
Active Educators paying into TRS January 1, 2010	262,023
Number of Active Educators eligible to retire	22,786
Net TRS Assets December 2008.	\$ 41,907,312,157
December 2009	\$48,033,424,792
Net increase in assets from 07/2009 to 01/2010	\$ 5,558,864,592

Are You Prepared?

Within the last few years, Georgia has been rocked with floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, snow storms, and fires. Many times these have occurred with little or no warning for citizens. If needed, could you find quickly the documents that define or control your life? Plans that you make before disasters strike will determine how quickly you can recover from them.

You should begin now to prepare an emergency file box that can be found quickly and taken with you at a moment's notice. Just some of the things that might need to be there are: financial records such as bank account and credit card numbers, insurance policy numbers, birth certificates, prescriptions, medical records, valuable photographs, real estate records, vital phone numbers for relatives, friends, and anyone else that you might need to contact after the disaster, inventory of household items, safe deposit keys, passports, tax records, vehicle titles, property deeds, appraisals of antiques, artwork, or jewelry and last but not least is cash! If banks are closed and ATM's are out of service due to weather reasons, you might need to have some money in your pocket.

Since everyone's needs are somewhat different you might have other items that you need to add to this list as time goes on and items are thought of what you want to include in this file. The key to overcoming a disaster may be what you do today to prepare for it.

Teachers Retirement System of Georgia

2009-2010 LEGISLATION

The 2010 Georgia General Assembly convened on January 11, 2010, and was the second year of the two-year (2009-2010) biennium session. Retirement legislation that has a fiscal impact can only be introduced during the 1st year of a two-year session and can only be acted on during the 1st year.

Georgia law requires that fiscal retirement bills be funded concurrently with their enactment. To determine how much must be appropriated to the retirement system to pay for the benefits granted by the legislation, it is necessary for an actuary to conduct a study. The House and Senate Retirement Committees meet between the two legislative sessions and determine which fiscal bills should move forward for an actuarial study and which bills should die in committee.

The House and Senate Retirement Committees met on April 28, 2009, and voted not to forward any fiscal legislation impacting TRS for actuarial study. Therefore, **all** TRS fiscal bills introduced during the 2009 legislative session have died in committee and will not be considered for passage in the 2010 session. Non-fiscal bills introduced in 2009 may be considered during the 2010 session.

Silent Auction Bargains and Treasures Galore

Come one, come all to the GREA Silent Auction! Everyone has some little treasure to give up for the good of the cause. All three areas of GREA fundraising will benefit: The Archives and History, Foundation, and Museum. So dig deep down and plan to offer some interesting items for bidding. Please encourage your members to bring more than one item, since the proceeds will be divided three ways. We'll meet you there for shopping and fun.



(Left to right): Members of the Archives and History Committee: Jacquiline McClendon and Mary Long, Chair.

ORDER FORM MAGNETIC NAME BADGE WITH RIBBON FOR GREA MEMBERS

GREA Name Badge @ \$15.00 each, including S&H

Imprint as follows: (Type or Print legibly.)

Name: _____

Local Unit: _____

(Do not include the word COUNTY if you do not want it imprinted on the badge.)

Send to:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email (optional): _____

Send completed Order Form with payment to:
JOAN DICKSON, 3827 Arrel Drive, Columbus, GA 31909
706-561-3687 • reugenedickson@bellsouth.net

Make check for \$15.00 each badge, payable to Joan Dickson.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

Proceeds will be contributed to the GRE Museum Building Fund.

With Sadness We Report!

One important position that goes unnoticed in the GREA organization is being the spouse of a GREA President. Few people really realize the time and effort spent by GREA Presidents away from home. The spouse is truly the best one to understand the commitment required of a President.

GREA wishes to salute the following two ladies who supported their husbands in this important position of President. These ladies have both recently passed away and both were super supportive of their husband and they also did great things for our organization. GREA will miss them greatly. All the GREA family extends our condolences to their families!

Sally Ruark Johnson, GREA member and wife of Past President James Johnston passed away in July. She graduated from A.L. Miller Senior High School for Girls in Macon, Ga. in 1956. She then attended Georgia Teachers College (Now Georgia Southern University) and graduated in 1960 with a degree in Home Economics. She was then employed by the University of Georgia Extension Department as a Home Demonstration Agent in Monroe County. She married James in 1961 while he was a teacher in Forsyth, Georgia. John was GREA President 1997-1998.

They moved to Griffin in 1962 and she eventually became employed at Griffin Technical College where she taught Nutrition to Nurses and then became Financial Aide Director. Sally became active in AARP especially with the Tax Aide program and was District Coordinator for this program.

She will be remembered for her vocal solos at the GREA Conventions and for her faithfulness at selling pins, cups, caps and car tags at many conventions. She traveled extensively with James while he was President and visited many local units.

Jacquelyn Yvonne Smith Demons, GREA member and wife of Past President John Demons passed away in September. Jackie was a native of Atlanta where she attended the public schools. She graduated from Spellman College and taught mathematics and Spanish in the school systems of Sandersville, Savannah and Oconee County. Jackie's husband John was GREA President in 1998-1999.

Jackie was very active in her community! She spent untold hours in voluntary service to the Peach Area Habitat for Humanity serving on the Board of Directors; the Peach County unit of the America Cancer Society, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Inc. and many other civic organizations. She was an active member of the Trinity Baptist Church in Fort Valley

GREA, James Johnston and John Demons have loss wonderful ladies and spouses. They helped many people during their lives and made a difference in the lives of many people. They will be truly missed by all who knew them.

GREA Members In India

The following article was published in The Times of India. Jim and Joyce Hite are GREA members from Jenkins County and Jim is the Area VI Director. Both Jim and Joyce are avid runners and they were participating in a marathon in India.

DATELINE MUMBAI: One would expect the morning after the 7th Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon to be one of aches and pains. That's not quite the case. Henry Waniyoike, the visually challenged half marathoner and helper Joseph Kibunga showed no effects of the run and were out for their morning run.

Joyce Hite, the 76-year-old American who ran the women's half marathon, said the only problem was climbing down. "One solution is to do it backwards." She said that Greek brand ambassador Maria Polyzou had told her the best way to recover from the stress of the marathon was to down beer.

Joyce and her 75-year-old husband Jim (who ran the Dream Run) were guests of Vivek Singh of Procam International and enjoyed their first visit to India. Vivek's colleague on the world marathon body David Martin (the coach of legendary distance runner Michael Johnson) had told the couple to try the experience of running in Mumbai.

The two are co-ordinators at Atlanta Track Club, the second biggest athletics club in the US after the New York Track Club with 7,000 members and a 43-member track team. They have been married since the last 20 years. Joyce has run 111 full marathons and after taking to running after forty "after the kids grew up."

She has lost count of the half marathons. She was diffident about Mumbai after seeing the chaos on the street outside the Hilton with "people crossing the road anyhow unmindful of the vehicles coming." The marathon experience was enjoyable for her though some sections of the route she found hard on the legs, especially those with pacer-blocks.

"I was given the chance to start with the Elite runners and impressed by the courtesy shown to me by the fellow runners on the route." Her timing of 3:17.35 is way below her best of 1:40.01 in 1987.

In contrast her husband called quits after running his only marathon the Marine Corps event in Washington DC 20 years ago. "I prefer the smaller races having run the 10,000 on the track," said Jim who conducts courses for track

New Long-Term Care Annuity for GREA Members

If you are like many members who have either passed on long-term care insurance (LTCI) due to its high cost, purchased a limited benefit LTCI policy, or are "self insuring" because you feel you have adequate assets to pay your own way in the event that you need long-term care services, the following announcement may be of particular interest to you.

A new type of annuity is now available to GREA members, up to age 79. This policy guarantees you a minimum interest rate of 3% and **triples your account value** in the event that you need long-term care services.

For example, if a member repositions \$100,000 of their assets into a long-term care annuity and needs care after 24 months, the annuity will provide over \$300,000 in benefits for your care. These benefits are **tax free** and are payable for home health care, assisted living facility care, and nursing home care.

The Pension Protection Act changed, effective January 1, 2010, making distributions from a long-term care annuity tax free, as well as the cost of the long-term care rider. The cost of a long-term care rider attached to a fixed annuity is approximately one-third of the cost of traditional long-term care insurance. Because the payment comes from within the annuity, there is no impact on your monthly annual budget.

This is like having your cake and eating it too! Hopefully, you will never need long-term care services. However, if you do, a long-term care annuity triples your one-time deposit. If you are fortunate enough to never need long-term care then the full account value will bypass probate and go directly to your beneficiary.

By simply repositioning a portion of your assets into a long-term care annuity, you will enjoy a guaranteed 3% minimum rate of interest which will grow tax deferred and there is no market risk. Your deposit is secured by an A+ (Superior) carrier, rated by A. M. Best. You will have the peace of mind knowing that if you need care, your account value will be tripled.

To learn more about this new GREA endorsed policy, please call Association Member Benefits Advisors at 1-800-258-7041.

Exploring Educational History

Members of the Georgia Retired Educators Museum "Feasibility Study Committee" made an on-site visit to a pioneer museum, the Beulah Rucker Museum in Gainesville. Mrs. Rucker began an industrial school at the site in the 1930s. Members of her family and community members established a foundation and museum to preserve the site and its memorabilia.

In the process of establishing a museum, which will also house the Georgia Retired Educators state office and other GREA functions, the group toured the facility to learn of its impact on the education of African-American students. The historical aspects of early education is being emphasized in both facilities, with more interactive approaches to be utilized by the GREA.



Pictured (left to right): Li Li of Four Square Research, Emily Gunnells, Mary Ann and Elliott McDaniel, and Bill Chandler.

officials and is a certified level II coach.

Curiously the two were among the few Americans in the fray, Africans and a few Europeans being the dominant participants. The American couple was among the last to check out. The bulk of the athletes had headed for home in the wee hours of Monday. Farhad Irani, head of hospitality, Procam International, said, "They didn't laze around after they came in after the race. Just a shower and they were down in the lobby. Shockingly the runners had a healthier look than normal people."

Irani, who has been co-ordinating the movements of the guests since the first marathon, had lavish praise for them, "They were angels. Well behaved, no noise, complaints or commotion. The Ethiopians were a little noisy."

If the runners let themselves loose it was at the dinner table where after days of abstinence gorged into spicy food and the sweet dishes (fruits were the only ones they had before) though steering clear of carbohydrates. Their gestation period is six weeks (before the next marathon). They will eat as they please for about a week now, but no liquor. A week before their next race they start their regimen."

The athletes had 426 room nights and occupied 124 rooms. After their exit, The Hilton will miss the bustle of an exemplary bunch of braveheart athletes who scorched the Mumbai roads for half day on a memorable Sunday.

News from GREA Local Units

PEACH COUNTY REA held its first meeting of the new year (2010) in the beautiful facility of the Fort Valley State University Agricultural & Technology Conference Center in Fort Valley, Georgia. GREA Executive Director Bill Sloan was the guest speaker. On February 1st, Peach County members enjoyed the Annual Black History Program conducted in the Walker-Anderson Fellowship Hall, Trinity Baptist Church. The Peach County REA Choir gave the attendees a treat by singing Black History Songs.

PEACH COUNTY REA congratulates Dr. Robert and Mrs. Estella Green in renewing their wedding vows on their 51st Anniversary with a full ceremony.

PAULDING COUNTY REA held its first meeting of the new year at the First Baptist Church in Dallas. Margaret Nickell represented Helping Hands and updated members on the work of the organization for Paulding Co. residents who are facing hardships in these difficult times.

PAULDING COUNTY REA gave a Valentine Party for the residents of the Wellstar Paulding Nursing Center on February 12th. Entertainment "old songs", bluegrass and gospel. The residents had a great time enjoying the music, cake, punch, and handmade Valentine Cards.

CLAYTON COUNTY REA recently had the Forest Park based Zodiak dancers perform for the retirees in Clayton Co. at the Jonesboro First United Methodist Church. The dancers had recently won a 2nd place award in a national competition.

CLAYTON COUNTY REA member Eddie J. White was honored in a very special way by the Clayton Co. School Board naming a new school after the former school administrator and Board member. It will be the Eddie J. White K-8 Academy.

HOUSTON COUNTY REA has been very active this year while celebrating their 50th anniversary. They have enjoyed programs each month which included a Bluegrass band, state legislators, a comedian, 911 center representative, School Superintendent and other local leaders.

HOUSTON COUNTY REA honored Hulda Cook as the Community Service Volunteer of the year at its February meeting. Mrs. Cook is a very active member of the community and retired from the Houston Co. schools in 1983.

HENRY COUNTY REA had an on-going project this year to collect food for donation to the local community food bank. On several occasions various members have brought their donations of non-perishable and canned goods to the the monthly meetings.

HENRY COUNTY REA hosted the AREA X Cluster meeting in March 2010. HCREA President Joan Jordan and President-Elect Gordon Baker worked with various members and organizations to plan and organize the meeting. The unit worked with the Butts County REA to host the meeting in McDonough. The meeting was held at the Harper Event Center in McDonough on March 16. Mystery author Patricia Sprinkle was the guest speaker and President John Upchurch of GREA gave a report to the members in attendance. The two units provided a wonderful lunch by the Farm House Catering and door prizes were won by many attendees.

CRAWFORD COUNTY REA honored 88 residents at the local nursing home and 20 senior citizens at the Senior Center by presenting each with a silk rose for Valentine's Day. The roses were placed on their lunch trays. Each rose was tied with a ribbon and large heart shaped balloons were contributed to the nursing home to make the meal more festive.

RANDOLPH COUNTY REA presented Thelma Walker the Trailbazer Award at the Emancipation Proclamation program in January at the Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church in Culbert. In an effort to preserve the history of Randolph County Training School and Professor Fletcher Henderson, Walker sent artifacts and a history to the archives Division of GREA. Her account was published in the Reflections of Georgia Educators II.

RANDOLPH COUNTY REA celebrated Valentine's Day with the residents of the Joe-Anne Burgin Nursing Home and the Willows Assisted Living Facility in Cuthbert and the Fort Gaines Nursing Home. Members of the local unit donated a wide variety of health and beauty aids as well as reading materials, throws and sweat treats to the more than 150 residents.

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REA President Beauty Smith just returned from a great trip to the Holy Land. Lucile Mathis celebrated her 80th birthday with a card from President Obama.

DALTON/WHITFIELD/MURRAY REA had Mike Zarem, Communications Manager of TRS as the featured speaker at the February meeting. Mr. Zarem gave an update regarding

the fiscal year of TRS in 09-09. Brain Cooksey of Shaw Industry presented information on the Work Ready Program.

DALTON/WHITFIELD/MURRAY REA hosted a Retirement Workshop for current employees from the local school systems. The Workshop was conducted by Mike Zarem of the Georgia TRS. Approximately 70 teachers from 4 schools systems attended the workshop at the Career Academy.

WAYNE COUNTY REA honored Lois Thornton as a new Emeritus Member at their January 2010 meeting.

DECATUR/DEKALB REA has been generous as usual in the recent collection of store gift cards for the Women's Resource Center. At its February meeting \$560 in cards were collected. The annual Valentine Party at Budd Terrace was actually "snowed out" this year. Another date will be selected to bring joy to the retired educators living at Budd Terrace. The Dekalb County School Superintendent spoke at the February meeting and invited our unit to a tour of the new administrative offices. Dr. Crawford Lewis addressed the many financial challenges facing school systems including Dekalb. Our unit was saddened by the death of our Secretary Lois Durling in February. She will be greatly missed!

GWINNETT COUNTY REA had a joyous time participating in Read Across Gwinnett. In honor of the birthday of Dr. Seuss, members visited many of our local schools and celeb rated Read Across America Day. Our retired educators read old favorites such as GREEN EGGS and HAM and some members actually ate green eggs and ham on the visit.

Would you want to take a special trip?

Groups are forming now for both May and October trips to Sapelo Island off the Georgia coast. If interested go to www.supportthemansion.com

Marty Hale, GREA member in Union County, is organizing the trips

GREA OFFICERS:

Dr. John C. Upchurch, President
Dorothy Wilson, President-elect
Dr. Beverly Roberts, Past President
Patricia Bassett, Secretary
William Chandler, Treasurer
Dr. Bill Sloan, Executive Director

AREA DIRECTORS

Lucy Dunn, Area I
Dr. Clifford Browner, Area II
Carol Irwin, Area III
Elizabeth McEuen, Area IV
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June Bradfield, Area VII
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Betty Tutt, Area XII
Patricia Ireland, Area XIII
Myra Stephens, Area XIV
Cynthia Ables, Area XV
Joella McGill, Area XVI
Kate Finch, Area XVII
Dr. Franklin Johnson, Area XVIII

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

			2010-2011
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	
Address			SS# or TRS Retirement # is required.
City	State	Zip	Phone #
GREA MEMBERSHIP FORM		EMAIL	
<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"/> \$24 ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> \$360 LIFE Send check with this card to the address below. Make check payable to GREA.	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Signature	Date	CONTROL #	DATE
		Local Unit	

Return this portion to: Georgia Retired Educators Association • Park Place 1 • 322 Oak Street • Gainesville, GA 30501-3580