

# THE GREA BULLETIN

JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

FALL 2019



## Retired Educator Day in Georgia

It has become a tradition in Georgia for the first Sunday in November to be proclaimed Retired Educator Day! Thanks so much to our new Governor, Brian Kemp, for continuing the tradition. He has designated November 3, 2019 as a day to recognize the 130,000+ retirees all across Georgia for their lasting contributions to our state!



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

### A PROCLAMATION

#### RETIRED EDUCATORS DAY

- WHEREAS:** More than 130,000 retired educators have devoted their time and talents to public education in our state, fostering the academic development of millions of outstanding citizens in the State of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** Retired educators touched and influenced the lives of generations of young people, motivating and inspiring their students to use their innate talents and abilities to the fullest, prompting them to become responsible, contributing citizens; and
- WHEREAS:** Retired educators possess valuable knowledge and are able to use their vast experience and skill to enrich the education process in varied settings, often continuing to be a major source of insight and direction in education for our state and nation; and
- WHEREAS:** For sixty-one years, the Georgia Retired Educators Association has dedicated its efforts to improving the welfare of retired educators, and it has provided opportunities for them to become involved in community activities; and
- WHEREAS:** Citizens of Georgia are grateful for the work done by retired educators. We commend these individuals for their time and commitment to bettering our country; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 3, 2019 as RETIRED EDUCATORS DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to recognize the lasting contributions of our state's retired educators.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



*B. Kemp*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST  
*Timothy K. Fleming*  
CHIEF OF STAFF

# Message From the President

By Jo Ann Tomlinson, GREA President



Jo Ann Tomlinson

The GREA people were putting on the Ritz or showed out or as my students use to say they were styling and profiling!!! People all over this great state of Georgia were classy showing top notch true Southern Hospitality to our GREA Traveling Team.

August 5-8, we traveled:

- Homerville to Jesup for Areas 5 & 6 Meeting hosted by Marcia Wendel, Area 5 Director and Dr. Connie Cooper, Area 6 Director;

- Jesup to Adel for Areas 3 & 4 Meeting hosted by Brenda Moore, Area 3 Director and Karen Chauncey, Area 4 Director;

- Adel to Albany for Areas 1 & 2 Meeting hosted by Jewell Howard, Area 1 Director and Evelyn Fillingame, Area 2 Director.

August 12-15, led us:

- Homerville to Gainesville in north Georgia for Areas 17 & 18 Meeting hosted by Suellen Jones, Area 17 Director and Shirley Grant, Area 18 Director;

- Gainesville further north to Canton and Waleska home of Reinhardt College for Areas 15 & 16 Meeting hosted by Liz Bouis, Area 15 Director and Barbara Howard, Area 16 Director.

- Waleska to the middle of the state near the Alabama line in Columbus for Areas 9 & 10 Meeting hosted by Donna Kemp, Area 9 Director and Vicki Davis, Area 10 Director.

August 19-21, we traveled:

- Homerville north to Stone Mountain and Decatur for Areas 13 & 14 Meeting hosted by Alice Moore, Area 13 Director and Patricia Leming, Area 14 Director.

- Decatur south to the middle of the state to Dublin, Ga. for Areas 11 & 12 Meeting hosted by Dr. Janet Lee, Area 11 Director and Emanuel Larkin, Jr., Area 12 Director.

August 28-29, we traveled:

- Homerville to McRae and Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge. Faith Baptist Church in McRae was the last Areas 7 & 8 Meeting hosted by Coleen W. McIver, Area 7 Director and Janice Habersham, Area 8 Director.

All of the venues were awesome and the decorations were great!!! The folks in all areas were so creative with their decorations using the little truck logo and Cheering for GREM!!!

THANK YOU to each Area Director for all the hard work, time and effort to put together such a fantastic meeting that was smooth and exciting. Areas 3 & 4 had 139 in attendance. The largest number of attendees, we have ever had attend an Area Meeting! All of the Area Meetings were well attended with several over 100. Give yourselves a pat on the back for attending your Area Meeting. GREA is the BE ST BEST!!

The GREA Traveling Team which consisted of our Executive Director, Dr. William Sloan; GREA President-Elect, Dr. Henrietta Gray;; TRS Representative, Mike Zarem; GREA Merchandise Marilyn Werner and Nancy Hall; AMBA Representatives Ryan Greenfield, Brad Jones, and John Lengnick (rotated depending on location of the Area Meeting); and my two special friends Patsy Harrell and Karen Chauncey who sold this year's T-shirts, lapel pins, ink pens, and posters; and of course, to round out the Traveling Team myself, Jo Ann Tomlinson, GREA President. All of these people were excellent to travel with around the state. We bonded and became a Team who enjoyed each other's company to help and support each other. It was a fun and exciting time traveling from one destination to another. Dr. Henrietta Gray rode in the car with Patsy, Karen and I. She kept us laughing and enjoying our adventures!!!

A BIG THANK YOU to Dr. Sloan for making sure we all knew where to go and how to get there. In many instances, he was our navigation leader and we followed behind his vehicle from place to place. There are lots of little things that need to be seen about and Dr. Sloan makes sure the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed. Thank You Dr. Sloan for ALL you do for GREA!!

A very Big Thank You is in order for two very special friends, Patsy Harrell and Karen Chauncey, for being my traveling partners. They are real troopers. Not only traveling with me but driving at times, setting up the table to sell the T-shirts, lapel pins, ink pens, etc. They were up at sixish every morning to dress, eat breakfast and travel to get ready for the Area Meetings.

Membership is going good!! Thank you for your hard work toward increasing our membership. Congratulations to Cook, Jefferson, Washington, Taylor, Stewart, Lincoln/Wilkes, Pike, Sumter, Pickens, and Gilmer Counties. As of September 9, 2019, these have already made 10% growth and are still working to gain even more members. A special Thank You to AMBA for all the memberships they have obtained which is approximately 900 since January, 2019. The benefits AMBA offers are great for all people and if you join GREA, you are entitled to all the benefits. Thank You AMBA for being a part of our Traveling Team!! AMBA gave some nice door prizes at each meeting some \$50 and \$25 gift cards. Anyone can join by going online to garetirededucators.org. Come One, Come All join GREA!!!

Remember to register online for your Alzheimer's Walk that is near you. Go participate, fund raise and invite others to join you at the walk. Let's help make an awareness about Alzheimer and raise funds for research. Alzheimer is a growing disease that YOU and I have to help fight! Our goal is \$25,000!!

Let's keep Cheering for GREA!!! And smile because you are retired in Georgia!!!

## Polk Retired Educators Association

In April 2019 Polk Retired Educators honored 42 educators who have passed away in the last five years and had served in Polk County Schools for at least ten years. The ceremony took place at the Polk Retired Educators Memorial Wall next to the Courthouse in Cedartown and over 100 people attended. Polk REA is very proud of this Memorial Wall. It has developed a reputation among educators who have visited it as the best one in the state.





# Building Manager Report

By Jesse Hunter



Jesse Hunter

As an appointee of the GREM Board of Directors to be the GREM Building Manager, I would like to report activities that I have engaged in since the last report.

I met with a member of the Hall County Extension Service Master Gardeners to assess the general condition of the plants, shrubs, and trees on the property. He shared with me info on plant identification, fertilization, pruning, and soil sample testing. He identified plants needing fertilization and ones that would need pruning.

During my inspection of the plants, shrubs, etc., I became aware of a water drainage problem on the east end of the building. I asked Dan Hartley, owner of the construction company that built our building, to determine a remedy for the water problem. He explained that his construction company started work after grading was completed by another company. In his estimation, the initial grading was just barely acceptable in the beginning to allow rain water to run-off, but in the four years since construction, the water is trapped at the end of the building. This is very problematic with continual water at or near the building foundation. I contacted David Jones of JoneCo Landscaping Company who presented a plan to eliminate the water drainage problem. This project was completed in mid September.

Another outside item that needs much attention is the grass- or the lack of acceptable grass. The green/yellow stuff now is crabgrass! In spring 2020, I hope to contract with Mr. Jones to sod the yard in the front of the building and hydro-seed the rest of the area around the building. There is already a sprinkler system installed that adequately waters the entire yard.

I installed a three-foot square sign directing visitors to the museum from Hog Mountain Road. Generally, GPS systems give incorrect directional information when going to the museum. Hopefully, the sign will assist members.

I have contracted with a company to clean the wooded area on the east side of the building (between the building and Hog Mountain Road). It is very unsightly with a large number of dead trees in the area. This is approximately one acre of wooded area.

As part of the periodic cleaning of the outside of the building, the entire perimeter of the building was power washed in September.

Another aspect of the outside care was the replacement of the company doing lawn care with a more reputable firm in Gainesville. Additionally, the same company previously doing the outside care was providing inside janitorial services. Beginning September 1, we replaced the old company with two separate companies providing better services at a slightly lower cost.

A priority inside the building was modification of the large museum room. The Curator's Committee, under the direction of Marcia Wendel, decided more wall space was required to display the info and artifacts of the history of public education in Georgia. Two main tasks were determined to accomplish this mission: remove the past presidents' portraits from the museum wall and relocate in the board room; and, build a two-sided wall thirty-six feet in length down the middle of the museum room. This two-sided wall will display the four periods of Georgia education spanning from the 1700's to the present time. These two construction projects were completed by John Tatum, GREM member from Pickens County.

During the summer, brick sales were very slow with only thirty-two bricks installed in July. There are approximately 500 unused bricks in the plaza which should take a year or so to sell. It doesn't appear that there are acceptable areas around the building to add additional brick areas. Be sure to get your order in soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist in the maintenance of the GREM/GREA building and grounds. Have a great year!

# My Journey to Becoming GREM President

By Mickey Wendel, GREM President



Mickey Wendel

During the third week of May 2004, I was invited with other Glynn County retirees to the King and Prince Hotel Restaurant for the annual Glynn County Retiree Luncheon. Because of a terrible head on collision two years before, which made it impossible for my mom to go back to work, I had the honor of retiring with my mother. At this ocean-side venue, my mom and I enjoyed great food (one of Marcia and my favorite places to eat) several congratulatory remarks and a plaque given by our superintendent. At each setting there was a brochure about GREM and an invitation to the Golden Isles Glynn/McIntosh REA meeting in September. This was the first time that I had ever heard of GREM. When September came, my mother wanted to go to the meeting, so my Dad and I took her. It was an enjoyable meeting and they even had great food. At the next meeting, I met James Twiggs, who was Area V Director at that time, and a great friendship started. I attended all the meetings that year and was asked to go the convention at the Augusta Marriott. This was Lester Dean's year as state president. I sat at a table with Rufus Akins and another great friendship was created. I enjoyed seeing so many people from all over the state celebrating being retired but still wanting to make a difference in their schools and communities and I even won a door prize.

After the convention, our local unit president, Eva Bentley, who I had known since I was 6, asked me to consider being president-elect for our local unit. She said and I quote "you will not have to do anything for two years." I ended up doing a lot the next four years because I wanted our unit to achieve unit of distinction. After my tenure as local unit president, James Twiggs and Rufus Akins, who was Area V Director at that time, ask me to succeed Rufus as the new Area 5 Director (I put a 5, but we used V back then). I had a great time being area director. I had never considered myself a public speaker, but I found myself getting excited every time I went to speak, because I was able to meet so many wonderful people in the great counties of Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne, Tattnall, Liberty, Long, Appling, and Toombs. Later Jeff Davis County was added to our area. I was making many new friends and in Appling REA I was able to be reacquainted with my fourth-grade teacher Joyce Tillman, one of my favorite teachers.

During my time as area director, Harry Werner ask me to be on the state convention committee which brought me into a whole new relationship with the leaders of GREM. At one of these meetings I met Kate Finch who has become my GREM momma and who did a wonderful job at my GREM President installation. This was John Upchurch's convention year and now he and Becky now are great friends of ours. While I was serving as Area 5 Director, Rita Marable asked Marcia and me to serve as co-chairs of her convention that was going to be in Savannah. The Rockin' and Rollin' for GREM theme was very successful and a lot of fun. After Marcia and I co-chaired James Haymans convention two years later, several people encouraged me to put my hat in the ring for GREM President. I ended up running against and being defeated by Myrtice Johnson. This ended up being a blessing because we were still keeping our granddaughter Cadence in her last year before pre-kindergarten. I was elected state president-elect the following year and because of the year delay, Marcia was able to attend the meetings with me as we shared the light all over Georgia. We had a great time with the big event of paying off the museum note and becoming debt free. Participating in all these events, helped Marcia and me to develop a tremendous friendship with Dr. Bill Sloan.

I am now serving as your GREM President with the task of turning our building into a really fine museum telling the story of K-12 public education in Georgia. I encourage you to still purchase bricks to help fund the museum project. I will be telling you more about the progress of the museum in the next *Bulletin*. Let's keep Cheering for GREM and promoting this great heritage of education in which we have all played a big part and are still in the game.

# GRE Foundation, Inc. Profiles Scholarship Winners

*Each spring since 2002 the GRE Foundation invites active certified educators to apply for a scholarship. The applications are reviewed and for the past three years 15 winners were chosen each year and each received \$500.00 to use toward furthering their education. We recognize the winners each year in THE GRE BULLETIN. We are supported in this endeavor by the local REA units. Most of the REA's donate \$50.00 a year for the scholarships, and this along with the Silent Auction money and individual contributions has been suppling the funding for the scholarships. Thank you to all local REA's that participate.*

—Patricia Bassett, Chair

**Candace Grant** is a teacher with Echols County schools and has 13 years of experience. She is an 8th-grade ELA teacher. She said that Echols County was a small system with a large Hispanic population. Many of the students struggle with English while working to become proficiently literate. This has prompted her to return to school for herself.



She is a member of the National Council of Teachers of English and PAGE. These organizations help her stay abreast of recent educational changes. She has served on various school committees: Language Arts improvement, Independent Reading Program, Attendance Committee. She has been involved with Jr. Beta Club, Drama Club, Student Council and she helped sponsor the school's Veteran Day Program and Homecoming Court.

She is a full-time parent of a special needs child and a full-time teacher; therefore, the scholarship will help her both personally and financially.

**Joshua Brock Hawkins** from McDuffie County has certificates in Special Education, Health and Physical Education and Middle Grades Science. He is currently a P. E. teacher in elementary school. His goal is to pursue a masters in Kinesiology so that he can better prepare his student athletes to perform at a higher level by providing them with the skills needed to improve their nutrition, physical fitness, and a concept of how lifestyle habits can contribute to their long-term life. He came back to his home school system after graduation and is active in community and school activities. As the father of two small children, he is the head coach for the baseball team and an assistant football coach at the middle school, volunteers as an assistant coach for the varsity teams at Thomson HS. He is an active member of Kiokee Baptist Church where he volunteers with the elementary age boys; he is an active PAGE member, has been part of the PBIS committee at Thomson McDuffie MS, and has served on the SACS committee at Thomson McDuffie MS. He says he want to grow his knowledge base so he can better serve his students.



**Emilie Hedou**, a second-grade teacher in Fayette County with six years of experience, has a goal of pursuing leadership focused on Early Childhood Education. She is combining this with her work on her master's degree. She has a long list of extra-curricular activities in which she has been involved. This past year she attended the National Council for Teachers of Math, the Georgia Educational Technology Conference, and an Early Childhood focused training for PBIS. After each, she shared content and strategies with the school staff in a variety of ways. She says one of her favorite experiences has been to serve as teacher mentor to new staff in the school. She also served as part of a pilot test for the Georgia Department of Education in their development of a new assessment program for primary grades. She says she is a daughter of a single mother and she worked hard for her education. She earned academic scholarships and worked to make up the difference so that she graduated with no school debts. Scholarships are not that available for advanced degrees so this scholarship will be an asset as she works toward her master's degree.



**Ladonna Nicholette Legreair-Dean** is a paraprofessional from Eastman, Ga. with 4+ years of experience. Her personal goal is to become more knowledgeable of the content that she delivers to her students so that they are better prepared to go into the world and become productive citizens. She wants to be disciplined and remain



teachable so that she can instill these same traits into her students. She is involved in the local community by volunteering as a co-leader at Our Children, Our Community, a group that focuses on keeping youth occupied with activities that keep them out of trouble. She also volunteers at an after school facility—The Club of Dodge County. Her volunteering continues into the school. She is a Check and Connect Mentor where she checks with her mentees once a week and keeps tract of their progress. She is a Heart Mentor; these are college students who were REACH students and she has been connected with them as a mentor since they were in middle school. She is a member of the PBIS Committee, an advisor of the SWAG (Students With A Goal) Club, a helper with the 21st Century After School Program and the 21st Century Summer Program. These programs help students with homework, enrichment activities and educational field trips. She was late getting into education because she was a single mom, but a fellow educator saw her passion for youth and helped her get started. She is married now and she and her husband, a fellow educator, both have side jobs to help pay for the schooling. The scholarship will go a long way toward some of the expenses.

**Chelsie Metcalf** teaches 10th-grade Honors American Literature at Mary Persons HS in Forsyth, Ga. She is working on her Ed.S degree in Curriculum and Instruction with the goal of becoming an instructional leader in her school and department. She says she loves the process of learning and wants to become a stronger educator. As part of her service to the school and the community, she serves as the instructional coach for the English department; she is in charge of the Junior Executive Council, prom coordinator for the HS, supports the Fellowship of Christian Athletes club, volunteers for annual drama shows, basketball tournaments, and homecoming activities. She averages one Saturday a month as a proctor for the ACT or SAT. She states that she is first in her family to attend college while staying out of debt has been an emphasis. She had to borrow money to complete her Masters degree and start her Specialist degree, but she works two jobs to be debt free. The scholarship will help in this journey.



## **The B.J. & Patricia Bassett Scholarship in Memory of Dr. Leona Raughton**

**Leann Weaver** from Douglasville, Ga. is a special education teacher in the Paulding County Schools. She is a single mom with two adult special needs children. Her desire is to obtain a general education certification for middle school social studies and science. She is currently certified to teach several areas of special education but needs certification in all areas.



She has served two years with the School Council team, has sponsored the Relay For Life for the school, is a school sponsor for Disability Awareness, is a special needs sponsor for an annual field trip. Her home situation has given her a feel for special needs children and adults. The scholarship will help defray school expenses as she continues her education.

## **NCREA**

NCREA had a great summer! We had 18 members, family, and friends attend a day trip in June to Dickey's Farms and Peach House in Musella, Ga. We stopped on the way for lunch at Buckner's Family Restaurant in Jackson, Ga. We ate, bought peaches and other fruit and vegetables. I think the best part was rocking and eating peach ice cream on the old loading dock! In August we gave out scholarships to three deserving students, one from each of the three high schools in our district. We are looking forward to another great year.





## TRS News

By L.C. (Buster) Evans, Ed.D.



Buster Evans

Is it fall yet? I don't know about you, but I'm ready for some cooler weather. At this rate, I'd be happy with temperatures in the high 80s, but it doesn't look like that will be happening any time soon. But we're trying to stay cool here in the Atlanta office while providing excellent customer service to our members and paying our wonderful retirees!

### *Thanks for Having Us*

As always, we appreciate being included in your Area Meetings throughout the State. I was fortunate enough to have the pleasure of attending one and truly enjoyed meeting with many of you. I know Mike Zarem looks forward to speaking to all of you each year and is already looking forward to your annual convention in May. I look forward to attending it as well.

### *Working After Retirement*

We know that for a growing number of you, retirement can mean going back to work. TRS members may decide to get another job for various reasons: your spouse is still working; begin an entirely new career; you love what you do, you just don't want to do it full time; you miss working; you are supporting a family member, or you need more money to maintain or increase your standard of living. Regardless of your reasons, you need to be aware of a few things if you're thinking about going back to work in a TRS-covered position.

- You are prohibited from having an agreement to work for a TRS-covered employer prior to retirement, including work as an independent contractor.
- You must have at least a 1-month break in service before you begin working for a TRS-covered employer again. There are penalties that you must pay if don't have a full month break.
- All employment with a TRS-covered employer is subject to salary and service limitations as outlined in Georgia law. All employment of retired TRS members must be reported to TRS and certified by TRS before you begin working. Again, if you do not adhere to the law, your retirement can be suspended and you may have to reimburse your employer for retirement benefits paid to you during any period of non-compliance.
- A schedule of the maximum hours you are permitted to work is available each year.
- It is your responsibility to inform any TRS-covered employer that you are a retired TRS member.

We realize that hiring skilled and knowledgeable TRS retirees helps fill critical positions within our public school systems, but it's very important to follow the law in an effort to avoid complications with your retirement benefits.

### *Reporting a Death or Fraud*

No one likes preparing for the inevitable, but planning is important and we need your help. It is imperative that the death of a TRS retiree or beneficiary receiving monthly TRS benefits be reported to our office as soon as possible so we can settle your account with your beneficiaries (if applicable). Please inform your beneficiaries on file with TRS that they need to report any such death immediately. Any payments received and deposited or cashed in the retiree's name, after the death of said retiree, even by the lawful beneficiary, is not legal. TRS must process the retiree's death and any remaining funds or payments will be transferred to the beneficiaries on file. Payments received unlawfully by anyone other than the retiree whose name is on the check must be repaid in full to TRS. We appreciate your help in informing your beneficiaries about notifying TRS so we can make it as easy as possible on them.

### *Stay Informed*

I know in this day and age, information overload occurs on a daily, if not minute-by-minute, basis. So we do our best to update you only when it's something important (with maybe a few fun things thrown

## If You Fall Off The Horse, Make Sure Your Ambulance Is Covered

When Sonna Anderson's trusty steed Cody got spooked, tripped, and fell on top of her, that was scary enough. But then came the air ambulance bill.

She could hardly believe her eyes: \$54,727.26. Less than a third was covered by insurance, leaving the 60-year-old with a balance due of \$41,029.53.

"It shocked me," she said.

Unfortunately, most people don't realize Medicare only covers about 60% of medical air transport. Keep in mind, airlifts aren't just for ski buffs who wipe out in the Alps. Ninety percent of emergencies occur within five miles of home, and even if you're near a hospital, air transport is sometimes necessary if street traffic is heavy or time is of the essence.

Fortunately, there's a solution. **Medical Air Services Association (MASA) covers best-in-class emergency air and ground transport 24/7 from home or anywhere in the world**, plus transportation of vehicles, children, grandchildren, and even pets at no additional cost. There are no premiums, deductibles or other hassles.

Recently, for example, a Texas retiree had a stroke at home and needed specialized care pronto. The 17-mile airlift came to \$24,952 and MASA covered the entire amount.

In Hawaii, a couple's vacation was cut short when the husband fell ill. The flight back to their home to Florida exceeded \$50,000. Once again, MASA paid every penny.

Ask an expert from AMBA about an emergency transport policy that works for you and special discounts available through your association.

As for Anderson, both she and her horse have fully recovered from their injuries, although she still feels the sting of the air ambulance charges.

"No one should feel shocked or panicked by a bill like this," she says.

SOURCE: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/26/health/air-ambulance-high-price/index.html>  
[www.myambabenefits.info/grea](http://www.myambabenefits.info/grea)  
(800) 258-7041

in on our Facebook page) via our website or social media. We encourage you to check our website and Facebook page every so often to see what's going on at TRS. We especially encourage you to register for a TRS account, if you haven't already, so you can monitor your account and make updates as needed. Your account is updated each month and you can do various things online without having to call the office. You may view your payment history, change your direct deposit information, change your address, download your current 1099R, and much more. We are more than happy to help you set up your account if you need assistance by calling 404-352-6500. It truly is the best way to manage your account and TRS membership.

We look forward to another great year. Look for the latest and greatest from TRS on [www.trsga.com](http://www.trsga.com) and follow us on Facebook and/or Twitter. Enjoy the fall and here's hoping we will get to enjoy some football fall weather soon!

### *Have you moved or changed your email address recently?*

It is very important that you notify  
these organizations as soon as possible  
after you move or change your email address:  
State Health Benefits, TRS, GREa and  
Social Security (if applicable).



# Ramblin' Around With the Executive Director

By Bill Sloan, Executive Director



The weather in Northeast Georgia has been incredibly hot this summer and fall. It is early October and it is 95 degrees outside. Here's hoping all of us will get a little cooler weather soon.

Beginning in April, GREA has had a wonderful few months. In April, we paid off our mortgage on our state office/museum. GREA members should be so proud of themselves for this great accomplishment. We have a 1.5 million dollar building that was totally paid for by our members through their membership dues, buying bricks, and donating money. There is not one cent of outside money in our facility. In May, we had a wonderful convention in Augusta with great attendance by our members. In July, we reached our goal of 30,000 members for our organization. Thanks goes to many people for achieving this goal. In August, we had nine outstanding area meetings all across the state. Thanks to all of you who helped us reach these achievements.

President JoAnn Tomlinson's slogan for the year is "Cheering for GREA"! She has challenged all of us to help the Alzheimer Association in Georgia by raising \$25,000 this year. Many of you have already participated in the many Alzheimer Walks across the state to raise money for the goal. Thanks to each of you who have walked and donated money to this worthy cause. Thank you President JoAnn for your great leadership!



GREA is alive and well due to the outstanding work by so many people. We are blessed!

## Bibb County REA

Bibb County REA was well represented at the Area 7 & 8 meeting that was hosted by Area 7 Director, Coleen McIver, in McRae, Ga. at Faith Baptist Church on Thursday, August 29, 2019. The facility, the food and fellowship was par excellence. Featured are Bibb County representatives along with GREA President-Election, Dr. Henrietta Gray and Past President Myrtice Johnson.



## News From GREA Local Units

**Berrien County REA** held the first meeting for the 2019-2020 year with President Joyce Akins presiding. After the devotion and blessing by Jeanne Griffin, the luncheon meal, hosted by Lovein Funeral Home and prepared by Berrien High FCCLA Club, under the direction of Leigh Johnson, was enjoyed by all in attendance. The tables were gaily with objects representing the state president's theme "Cheering for GREA." GREA President JoAnn Tomlinson and GREA District 3 Director Brenda Moore provided the program. Members Joyce Akins, Norma Gaskins, Donna Herrin, Susan Keen, Jo Lovein and Sue Whidden were presented certificates for having 100% attendance at the meetings for the 2018-2019 year. After the business meeting, the drawing for the cake raffle was held. Cathy Jo Mathis and Brenda Moore were the raffle winners.

**Burke County REA** observed its 45th Anniversary June 13th. The keynote speaker was Dr. Daphney Ivery, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for Burke County Public Schools. Dr. Ivery spoke on the theme "Share the Light" and was presented a gift and the GREA Outstanding Educator Award in recognition of exceptional service to the education profession. Jackie Payton, scholarship committee member, presented the BCREA Scholarship Award of \$500 each to Jaylon Kelly and Tyrus Webb. Agnes Dixon, Awards and Recognition Chair, presented the GREA Community Service Award to Doris Smith. Linbern Henderson received the BCREA Education Supporter of the Year Award and President Veronica Graham was presented the BCREA Presidential Leadership Award for effective leadership 2017-2019. Our unit contributed to the CSRA United Way "Stuff the Bus" Project which collects school supplies for students in Burke County.

**Calhoun/Gordon County REA** began the year with a meeting/picnic at Wesley Chapel UMC's outdoor garden. President Gary Lemmons presided. Georgia State House of Representative Matt Barton (R-5) shared legislative actions to be discussed. Barbara Howard, Area 16 Director, shared GREA plans. Kathy Russell shared plans for the Scholarship Auction, set for November 20, 2019. Ken Russell shared about the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Rome on October 19, 2019.

*Continued on page 7*

## Richmond County REA

Members of the Richmond County Retired Educators traveled over two hours to attend the Areas 11 and 12 area meeting in Dublin, Ga. It was a great meeting and our table hosted the Executive Director of TRS Buster Evans. We are lucky to have such a dynamic, enthusiastic leader of TRS.





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**Chatham REA** is proud to have members Dr. Henrietta Gray installed as the GREA 2019-2020 President-elect, and Dr. Connie Cooper as the Area XI Director! The unit was also recognized at the 2019 GREA Conference as a Unit of Distinction. Twenty-three members attended the 2019 GREA Convention. The year for Chatham REA began with newly elected President Clara Williams at the helm on September 9, 2019. CREA anticipates having a very busy year supporting several community agencies, to include: Greenbriar Children's Center, Rape Crisis Center, The Austin House (for homeless families), Ronald McDonald House Tab Drive, and providing school supplies for the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

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**Clayton County REA** met on August 20th to begin their 2019-2020 scheduled meetings. Scott Lange, Executive Director of AWARE Wildlife Center, was the guest speaker. This group not only takes in wildlife that have been injured to get them ready to go back into the wild, but also helps in finding a sanctuary for those animals that cannot return to the wild. This wildlife center is located in Stonecrest and has tours on Saturdays and Sundays. Ambassadors there are volunteers who help in taking care of the animals housed at the center. CCREA members were treated to seeing a small hawk, and owl, a snake and a possum. CREA is planning for their annual silent auction and bake sale in October to raise money in support of the Good Shepherd Clinic in Morrow.

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**Cobb Marietta REA** kicked off our 50th anniversary year with a bang! Our guest speaker for our August meeting was Chief Justice Harold Melton of the Georgia Supreme Court. Chief Justice Melton is a Wheeler High School (Cobb County School District, Marietta Address) graduate. He spoke on how the schools, court system, social welfare groups and families must work together to solve problems in our community.

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**Coweta REA** is excited to begin their first year as a Unit of Distinction. CARE executive officers and committee chairs met at Sprayberry's July 16 to set goals, plan programs, and brainstorm social gatherings for 2019-2020.

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**Dawson REA** invited for the third year North Georgia Assisted Living residents to a worship service to an 11:00 a.m. worship service at Lumpkin Campground with a meal to following the service. The temperature was so hot the residents had to take a "rain check" so we all still had a great time of worship, food and fellowship.

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**Early/Clay/Calhoun REA** kicked off the new year with a tailgate party. Frances Prince, 96 years old member emeritus, was a special guest. Joining her was Faye Lewis, newly named member emeritus. Both were presented floral bouquets. Another reason to cheer was the celebration of 50 years for ECCREA.

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**Effingham REA** held their last meeting of year in May with a presentation by Olivia Morgan, Effingham County Elections Supervisor. She spoke about the new voting machines which should be in place for our next elections. We attended the BOE Retirement Program to meet the new retirees and extended them an invitation to join our unit. Our September banquet was cancelled due to the threat of Hurricane Dorian so our first meeting of the new year will be October 14.

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**Floyd County/Rome REA** met in September to kick off the local service project, Purposity. Social workers from Floyd County School and Rome City Schools presented the information. Membership Chairman, Diane Lanham, recognized four Emeritus Members: Helen Smith, Dr. Nevin Jones, Gertrude Selman, and Ollie Poe.

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**Forsyth County REA** began their year Friday, September 6, setting up with a Hawaiian theme. Our first guest speakers were Forsyth County Alzheimer's Manager Amy Richardson and Walk Manager

Lauren Schmitt. We formed our walk team, The Beacons, to walk October 5th in Gainesville with many members and donations.

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**Greene County REA** met on Thursday, September 12, 2019. Kim B. Fuller received a warm welcome as this year's first new member. Area Director Pat Leming was on hand to install new Officers for 2019-2020. GCRE filled a basket with nonperishables to help stock the food pantry box at Tendercare Clinic in support of Heroes for the Hungry. Food items will be collected at each meeting as an ongoing project of the organization.

Guest speaker, Ife Oyeleye, spoke on the 2020 Census and ways the state of Georgia is preparing for it. She explained the new initiative designed to increase accurate, self-response which allows people to respond anytime, anywhere, via phone or internet and incorporating the use of handheld data collection devices. Ife repeatedly stressed the importance of completing the census as "money follows the numbers" not the need.

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**Habersham REA** are excited about the new year. Two new members were added at the September meeting. Plans are being made for some members to join the Walk to End Alzheimer's Walk in Gainesville October 5.

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**Houston County REA** outgoing president Sharon Carter installed Judy Moore as its new president at its September 2019 meeting. At that same meeting, Lindsey Scott was awarded the HCREA Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 for the third year in a row. She spoke to the members about teaching at Mossy Creek Middle School in Houston County and her goal of finishing her certification in May 2020. A special presentation was made to Jane Ballard, one of our own HCREA members, and also caterer of our meals every year. We will be honoring her with a brick in her name on the Honor Roll Plaza at the Georgia Retired Educators Museum.

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**Ogelthorpe County REA** held their first meeting of the new year with Dr. George Dougherty, incoming president, presiding. He apprised the unit of information received at the area meeting in Gainesville and was pleased to report that twelve local members attended. The unit welcomed Judy Spurgeon, the county's assistant superintendent, who presented a very informative program on the schools in the county. She reported on the system's state-wide test scores and other initiatives being implemented through grants and other monies received.

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**Paulding REA** held its first meeting of the 2019-2020 year in September. We heard from our three 2019 Scholarship recipients (Ashley Poole, Zachary Coker, and Marcus LeGear), Dustin Mason from the Alzheimer's Association, and Liz Bouis, our new Area 15 Director. We are very excited to be having our own "Walk to End Alzheimer's" October 19th at the Paulding Senior Center. All our members, their families and friends, and anyone walking at the center that day will be invited to join us. We hope to introduce more people to all the activities offered at the Senior Center.

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**Polk REA** honored 42 educators who passed away in the last five years and had served in Polk County Schools for at least ten years in April. The ceremony took place at the Polk Retired Educators Memorial Wall next to the Courthouse in Cedartown with over 100 people attending. Polk REA is very proud of this Memorial Wall and it has developed a reputation among educators who have visited it as the best one in the state.

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**Tift County REA** met September 9th for their first meeting of the years. We had two new members to join which surpassed our 10% goal needed for Unit of Distinction. We now have 23 new members. We will be participating in our first ever "Walk to End Alzheimer's" In October to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association.

## Thank You to Everyone Who Bought a Brick

Thank you so much to these members who purchased a brick since the last *Bulletin*. These cover up until September 29th.

Bradley Jones  
Charles Hale  
Elizabeth Nevil  
Frank Hutcheson (2)  
Habersham REA  
Houston REA  
Jean B. Hale  
Jimmie Neil Spivey  
Kimberly S. Petty  
Martha C. Thrift  
Mary Ann McDaniel  
Pamela Ingram  
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*If you wish to order more than one brick, please write the engraving information for the other brick(s) on a separate sheet of paper. Brick will not hold more letters or spaces than the boxes provided.*

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Dr. Henrietta Gray, President-elect  
Mickey Wendel, Past President  
Dr. Beverly Roberts, Secretary  
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Karen Chauncey, Area 4  
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Suellen Jones, Area 17  
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### GREA BULLETIN

Georgia Retired Educators Association  
*The Only Organization That Concentrates Exclusively On The  
Welfare of Retired Educators of Georgia*

Bill Sloan, Editor

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