

THE GRE A BULLETIN

JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

SUMMER 2020



Covid-19 Cancels GRE A Convention

The GRE A Governing Board, after hearing from many of our members and our leadership team, decided to cancel the GRE A Annual Convention that had already been postponed from May until August! The Board was unanimous in its decision to cancel for this year. The fear of the ongoing virus was just too much for our membership to safely attend the meeting this year. The Board members expressed their disappointment in having to make this decision but felt all our members would understand this decision.

In addition, the Board decided to keep the current leadership team in place until the May 2021 convention in Augusta. President Jo Ann Tomlinson, President-elect Dr. Henrietta Gray, Past President Mickey Wendel, Secretary Dr. Beverly Roberts, and Treasurer Dr. John Upchurch all graciously accepted the invitation to continue in their position.

President Tomlinson's theme of "Cheering for GRE A" will continue this year as it is very appropriate for these strange times in our world. In addition, President Tomlinson is asking each local unit continue this year with her humanitarian project of raising money for the Alzheimer's Organization.

Even with the cancellation of many local unit meetings across the state we still had a record-breaking year in membership of 3,008 new members. President Tomlinson thanks every one of you for your support this past year and we hope to have an even better year in 2020-2021.

Message From the President

Keep on Trucking and "Cheering for GREA"

By Jo Ann Tomlinson, GREA President

Get Ready!!!! We are off to another great year!!! It may be different but GREA members are going to make it special. As educators you are creative, flexible and motivated to make your local REA a Unit of Distinction or Unit of Excellence or Both!!!! As a retiree in the great state of Georgia, you are smart, kind, hardworking, good looking and have a passion for GREA to be the BEST BEST!!!!



Jo Ann Tomlinson

Be sure your planning meeting is on the calendar with a date, time and location. Maybe you will meet as a group or maybe you will hold a virtual meeting. Wow!!! Aren't you becoming the "techie" by using technology for a conference call or Zoom meeting. Pssst—don't be afraid, just ask your grandchild or someone that age to show you slowly, as you write step by step what to do, to be successful. You CAN do This!!!!

GREA is one big team all working for the same goals. Let's make our plans for the year and begin working towards the Unit of Distinction and Unit of Excellence like a well-oiled machine—maybe a little black truck to Keep on Trucking and "Cheering for GREA." You may be retired but you have lots of "good" No "Great" talents left in you that are just waiting to be used!!!

GREA Goals for 2020-2021:

- ▶ Increase membership by 2,500 members .
- ▶ Encourage each unit to purchase two bricks for the museum.
- ▶ Encourage each Area Director to strive for 40% or more of their units to receive the Unit of Distinction Award.
- ▶ Encourage each Area Director to strive for 50% or more of their units to receive the Unit of Excellence Award.
- ▶ Encourage each unit to give \$250 or more to the "Cheering for GREA" Humanitarian Project Alzheimer's Association. Our goal is at least \$25,000.

Everyone is responsible for Membership—that means You!!! Let's be sure to make our goal of 2,500 new members for 2020-2021. Remember there are 100,000 retirees that need to join GREA. You know who they are!! Invite the new retirees to your meetings that you make informative and fun.

If you are a retired educator in Georgia, I think you must belong to the Georgia Retired Educators Association. Dues are \$24 for an ADD—Automatic Dues Deduction or \$27 for an annual or Stripe member. Stripe means dues are paid by credit card. You get a real bargain for your money!!! AMBA benefits are a great reason for joining!! Do you know someone that is not a member, but is always wanting to know what's happening or needing a benefit like discounts, insurance or ??? Invite them to visit garetirededucators.org, click on Benefits for AMBA and Forms to become a GREA member!!!!

Alzheimer's is still our Humanitarian Project. Plan to join a Walk for Alzheimer's near you. If you didn't get to attend last year, put it on your calendar now and plan to attend. Every Walk in Georgia has a GREA Team—Join-Donate-Share. For a disease that ALL of us have seen its toll on family and friends, please contribute to the Alzheimer's Association. Your support is needed more than ever. The Alzheimer's group is ready and willing to have a virtual meeting for you. Website alz.org/walk/georgia or mail to Amy Richardson, Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter, 41 Perimeter Center East, Suite 550, Atlanta, GA 30346

Looking forward to a great GREA Year!!! You are an impressive group of folks. You have class, manners, hospitality, spirit and love enough to share with all. You are an ole GOAT—Greatest Of All Time!!!! #CheeringforGREA #GREAistheBEST #FellowshipServiceSupport #StayHealthy

Blessings, JoAnn Tomlinson

In Memory of Mary Ann McDaniel

GREA Past-president Mary Ann McDaniel, 83, passed away on June 26 in the Irwin County hospital in Ocilla, Georgia. Her graveside funeral services were held at the Spring Hill Cemetery in Irwin County. Mary Ann served as the GREA State President in 2012-2013. The theme for her year was GREA: Flying Higher and Higher. She was an outstanding president and will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Mary Ann was a lifelong resident of Irwin County and graduated from Irwin County High School in 1955. She attended ABAC before earning her Bachelor's Degree from the Women's College of Georgia. Later, she earned her Master's and Specialist Degrees from Valdosta State College. She left Irwin County to teach Social Studies temporarily in Albany, Columbus, Willacoochee and then returned home to Ocilla where she had a very outstanding career. She eventually became the Curriculum Director for Irwin County Schools.

She made a name for herself across the state of Georgia. She served as President of the Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors, the Georgia Retired Educators Association, the Georgia Retired Educators Museum, served two terms as the Area 7 Director of GREA and was a Past Board member



of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders. Among her other many accomplishments were as a member of the Beta Pi Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma, Society of Women Educators, and the Irwin County Library Board. Mary Ann had been a member of the Spring Hill Primitive Baptist Church since 1954 and served as the Church Clerk for many years.

Tragically her husband, Elliott, passed away three days after Mary Ann. Both had been very sick and had been in and out of the hospital recently. A joint funeral service was held for them. Elliott was not a retired educator but was very active in our organization. He was her right-hand man and drove Mary Ann all over the state during her time as President. He was a wonderful person and many GREA members will miss his quite easy-going personality.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent to the Spring Hill Primitive Baptist Church, c/o Woody Woods, 362 Magnolia Rd. Ocilla, Ga. 31774 or to the Spring Hill Cemetery Fund, c/o Roy Hogan, 4557 Wycliff Roberts Road, Alapaha, Ga. 31622 or to the Georgia Retired Educators Museum, 4311 Falcon Parkway, Flowery Branch, Ga. 30542 or to the Beta Pi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, c/o Pam Haire 1229 Waterloo Highway, Chula, Ga. 31733.

Ramblin' Around With the Executive Director

By Bill Sloan, Executive Director



William Sloan

April 27 was a big day for GREA and GREM! The long-awaited completion of the Museum project was accomplished. We now have a museum dedicated to the history of public education in Georgia. Marcia Wendel headed up a curator committee that has done an outstanding job in preserving the history for everyone to enjoy. Please come and visit whenever you can.

After visiting in the museum, I began to reflect on my 15 years as your Executive Director and what outstanding things have been accomplished by GREA members and the 15 State Presidents I have been privileged to work with over the years. Each President had a theme for their year. Although unintentional, they have some connection to a common goal for GREA growing larger and more visible. Lester Dean came into office in 2005 and GREA had approximately 15,000 members and was in an office that did not have hot water in the men's restroom and on some days the back door would not open (no kidding). When Jo Ann Tomlinson leaves office in August 2020 GREA will have almost 32,000 members. In addition to this growth we are now housed in a brand-new office and museum building that cost approximately \$1.5 million dollars and GREA/GREM does not owe one cent to anyone. In addition, AMBA came along in 2005 and has been an outstanding partner for us to offer benefits for our membership. They share in many of these accomplishments! Thank you AMBA!

These are the themes that each one used to lead GREA! Lester Dean started off "Leading the Way"; Harry Werner decided that we had to then go "Hand in Hand: Together We Can"; Sue Thornton wanted us to be "Proud of the Past: Focusing on the Future"; Dr. Beverly Roberts found "The Keys to the Heart of GREA"; Dr. John Upchurch wanted to find "New Horizons for GREA by Building for the Future"; Dorothy Wilson continued by "Building a Gigantic Organization"; Kate Finch believed in "GREA: A Growing Force"; Mary Ann McDaniel saw "GREA Flying Higher and Higher"; Rita Marable had "GREA: Rocking and Rolling for You"; Vivian Teasley encouraged GREA to be "Busy as Bees"; James Haymans wanted to see GREA "Soaring with Eagles"; Jesse Hunter asked GREA to "Reach Out to Make A Difference"; Myrtice Johnson had GREA "Running with Champions"; Mickey Wendel then thought we should "Share the Light" and Jo Ann Tomlinson ended this journey by "Cheering for GREA"!

What a great job these 15 Presidents have done to make GREA grow and prosper! GREA and GREM owe each of them a debt of gratitude for their hard work. Being a State President is a tough and sometimes thankless task but each of these have stepped up and accomplished their mission. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for what you have done to help make GREA one of the premier REA's in the nation.

Where can the next 15 Presidents carry GREA? I look forward to being a part of the journey!



TRS in a Virtual World

By L. C. (Buster) Evans, Ed.D
Executive Director, TRS of Georgia



Buster Evans

As we enter the summer of 2020 it's almost unbelievable that we are only at the halfway point in the year. So much has happened at TRS and in our state since the beginning of the year and we are more than pleased that we are able to continue to serve you all in excellence despite some very new challenges.

I'd like to give a big shout out to our recent retirees as you have gone through a very interesting school year. Every generation has their event that has somewhat defined part of their careers and you definitely have one to talk about for ages to come. Some of you, and those of you who have retired in years past, may be feeling "Zoomed out" as they say with having to transition the way we meet to virtual formats over the past few months. Many of us never thought we would be interacting with our coworkers, friends, and family online. While it takes some getting used to, it is amazing to see what has been done in the midst of sudden changes. The expectations were that most of our interactions would be in-person this year, but thankfully we now have the means to communicate in ways we never thought we would. We recently conducted a board meeting online and we're thrilled with the fact that we were able to take care of business as usual. Additionally, not being able to meet at our Atlanta office has not hindered our ability to make sure that our core functions are intact.

We are also pleased to say that our payroll functions have rolled along without any hiccups and we have been able to send monthly benefit payments while majority of our agency works remotely. It was unimaginable that the job could get done without our staff physically being on site as it has never occurred otherwise. I'm proud of what we have been able to accomplish and we even surprised ourselves of how efficient we could be by changing how we do things. This was no easy feat, but all of our operating divisions, especially our IT division, pulled together to make sure that we live up to our commitment to you.

Making sure that we are accessible to you is of utmost importance, so please be sure to log in to your TRS accounts and verify your phone, address, and payment information. If you haven't already, we strongly urge you to enroll in direct deposit of your monthly benefit. This ensures the quickest way for you to receive your payments and is probably more important now than ever. We have seen how quickly events can change and the last thing you want to have to worry about is tracking down a mailed payment or waiting in long drive-thru lines at the bank. It's easy to set up and you can do so by going to our website, www.trsga.com, or by giving us a call and we will be happy to assist you.

Many of our members have asked about the status of our TRS fund during the Covid-19 crisis. You are aware that the stock market has been quite volatile over the last three months. I am pleased to report that as of June 1, our fund is actually approximately three percent higher than when we began the fiscal year back on July 1. While we would certainly love to make our actuarial assumed rate of the return of 7.25 percent for the year, we are delighted that the markets and our fund has largely recovered from the lows experienced in the month of March.

Above all, our hope is that you and your families are faring well through all the changes. No matter what challenges are ahead, rest assured that we are committed to providing you with the high standard of customer service you are accustomed to. We have and will continue to make every effort possible to be accessible to you who have and continue to be flexible with our ever changing world.

Still We Rise

By Dr. Henrietta Gray, 2019-2020 President-elect



Henrietta Gray

My Sorority Sister and world renowned, illustrious poet, author, actress, humanitarian, and dispenser of wisdom, Dr. Maya Angelou, penned and elucidated eloquently about the subject of this writing. I borrowed this title from one of her poems in an effort to encourage all of us. We are indeed, faced with an unprecedented crisis. I have been seeking God for words to encourage and inspire you to STILL RISE above this present disturbing and distressing challenge. I am “unctioned” to tell you that this, too, shall pass and decree that STILL WE MUST RISE.

The impact of the Corona virus pandemic has brought the world to a “virtual” standstill. Even so, I submit to us that GREA must Still Rise. I do not minimize the gravity of this pandemic. The growing concerns about Covid-19 necessitates that we exercise skillful and Godly wisdom. I reference my previous article entitled “We Are In Good Hands” with this Leadership Team. I am even more confident that GREA is in capable hands. Our current crisis makes it clear that GREA has steady, measured and competent leadership. We are praying, planning and projecting with great concern for the Health and Well Being of GREA members and friends.

We can't gather for lunch or dinner, but Still We Must Rise to engage each in Fellowship using creative technological tools that strengthens the cords of our Fellowship. We can't meet and plan up close and personal, but STILL WE MUST RISE to ensure that we continue to Serve by the commitment to recruit many members using various social distancing platforms. We can't have face to face conversations with President JoAnn and members of the Leadership Team, but STILL WE MUST RISE and solidify our support by text, emails, calls, and notes of encouragement that undergirds our outstanding incumbent President. We are privileged and blessed to have JoAnn as our President.

As educators, we are the foundational profession. We are trained and charged to lift, enlightened and inspire others to

develop unstoppable strength, unmovable faith and unbelievable power.

As the GREA Leadership Team Still We Must Rise with a great resolve to...

- Lead with Excellence
- Serve with Elegance
- Model Authentic Fellowship

We Still Rise to strengthen all Areas as we grow GREA. We serve significantly and remain vigilant in perpetuating an organization that maintains excellence through sustainable service. Still We Rise to leave a legacy of service that is not just words, but that is intentional, far-reaching and impactful. Still We Rise as the GREA Governing Board to oversee the current operational integrity and ensure a viable and productive future.

GREA Leadership and Governance Still Must Rise to enhance our Organizational Culture and Systems so that we save you stress, energy, time and money. We love and appreciate the members of GREA. It is imperative that I recognize the importance of the Administrative staff in Flowery Branch. They are an important part of our success. I pray for them often and thank God for their kindness, competence and professionalism. They indeed Rise and help GREA succeed at every level. We would have a real challenge without them and what they do and how they serve every day. We are proud of and vigilant in protecting all that GREA stands for as an organization. We are committed to our continued and enhanced success.

Finally, I challenge all of us to embrace and execute our title-STILL WE RISE!! A Rising Tide lifts all ships. May we all be Rising Tides that lifts All...

- Lift the Leadership of GREA
 - Lift the Membership of GREA
 - Lift the Vision and Mission of GREA
 - Lift our Fellowship, Service and Support of GREA
- STILL WE RISE—CHEERING FOR GREA!!

News From GREA Local Units

The **Peach County Retired Educators Association** awarded the Mamie Miller Memorial Scholarship to Bryce McGuire. Bryce is an honor graduate of Peach County High School where he was a member of the Peach County Trojan football team and was dual enrolled at Fort Valley State University. Mr. McGuire will attend Fort Valley State University in the fall and plans to major in Agricultural Engineering.



The **Richmond County Retired Educators** recently presented a \$1,000 scholarship to each of two teachers in the Richmond County School System.



Scholarship Recipients: (L-R) RCREA President Joe Moore; Diamond Lakes Elementary Principal Ms. L Pinkney and recipient Carissa Keels; Cecil Clark, HR Richmond County Board of Education; recipient Kamiya Jackson and Goshen Elementary School Principal Ms. C. Scoggins; RCREA Committee Chair Dr. Gloria Toy.

GREA/AMBA Partnership Supports Membership

By Bo Carr, Director Association Relations, AMBA

GREA partnered with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) nearly fifteen years ago with a common mission: to strengthen and grow membership for GREA. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization and this focus on growth has given GREA additional influence with the Georgia Legislature, has been a central force within the Teacher Retirement System, and has positively impacted communities throughout the state.

This year was an exceptional year for membership growth at GREA, and AMBA is excited to celebrate and champion the people who made that achievement possible. Members who helped spread the word, local chapter efforts to recruit newly retiring teachers, and increased communication and outreach from GREA all contributed to a successful year. In 2019, AMBA invested in GREA's growth by adding new tools to support these efforts. AMBA helped develop a new GREA website that includes links to local chapters, helpful resources for retirees, and online membership and payment. AMBA also supports GREA by providing additional content for Facebook posts and updates that members can use and share with friends—a virtual word-of-mouth campaign.

In March 2020, the world experienced a disruption like we have never seen before. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we engage, communicate, interact, and socialize. During this time, however, GREA continued to grow and strengthen its membership. Why? Members realize the importance of GREA's influence in the legislature, the value of social connections in their communities, and the benefits provided through GREA for financial security. The investments AMBA has made in GREA over the years support GREA's efforts to continue to grow and serve members during this time.

As we begin to return to normal and adjust to the “new normal,” members can rest assured that the partnership and commitment between GREA and AMBA is stronger than ever. William H. Hastie reminds us that history “inspires us and gives confidence and hope bred of victories already won.” The growth experienced this year is exciting—and not fleeting. At AMBA, the strength and growth we support at GREA is the new normal!

GREA Members receive a FREE benefits review. To find a representative near you, call 866.619.6463 or visit amba-review.com/grea.

Thank You

By Amy Richardson, Sr. Director, Development
Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter

I want to thank all of GREA for the amazing support everyone has given to the Alzheimer's Association through our Walk to End Alzheimer's program. I am pleased to report that, thanks to the passion and leadership of JoAnn Tomlinson, over \$44,000 was donated to the Alzheimer's Association on behalf of GREA this past year! We are beyond excited to be able to partner with you all again this year and are looking forward to virtually meeting with even more GREA members than we did last year.



Due to Covid-19, our Walks have been reimagined for this fall, but the exciting part is we will be Walking EVERYWHERE rather than in just 21 locations throughout the state. I'm encouraged to think that more GREA members will be able to participate than ever before because there will be no geographic constraints this year. On Walk day, opening ceremonies will be held via an online platform and then everyone will be encouraged to begin their Walk wherever they are. My staff would love to hear from you or any of the GREA Unit Presidents.

Again, thank you so much for your support of the Alzheimer's Association. GREA's contributions are making a difference and bringing us closer to a world without Alzheimer's and other dementias.

New Sod In Place

We wanted you to see the final results of our recent beautification project. The new sod certainly enhances the beauty of our facility. Many thanks to Jesse Hunter for overseeing this project.



Membership Awards Update

Membership winners and award recipients that would have been announced at our convention will be listed in our Fall *Bulletin*.

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 supplying the funding for the scholarships. Thank you to all local REA's that participate.

—Patricia Bassett, Chair

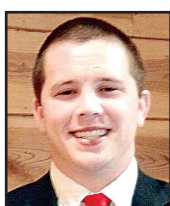
ANNA KATHRYN BAILEY teaches in Bibb County. She has 12 years' experience in elementary school and is presently teaching 4th-grade math. Katy says that the best educators never stop learning; there is always more to learn that can be taken back to the classroom. She teaches in a Title 1 school where 100% of the students qualify for free breakfast and lunch. Along with her regular classes she teaches in an after-school program 3-4 days a week to help struggling students reach their goals. She also teaches Saturday School for students who are almost on target. She is the District Math Teacher Leader for her school which means meetings, planning, and gathering information to take back to the faculty and administration. In the past she was an active team member of Relay for Life, and she personally raised over \$1000 per year for several years. For years she traveled and kept the statistics for the high school basketball teams. She is an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She stated that she is paying off loans for her graduate degree and will have more to pay as she works on her T-6. The scholarship will help with the T-6 payments.



MELISSA CAMAROTA is from Byron (Houston County), has eight years' experience, and is a 4th-grade math, science, social studies teacher. Melissa expressed the thoughts that educators must not stop learning; there are always new strategies and techniques that can benefit the students. Melissa is a grade representative, part of the school's Guiding Coalition, a volunteer for the Warner Robins Civitan Group that built a place for special needs adults to call home, and recently, because of COVID-19, is doing on-line teaching with her 4th graders. She is also delivering food to a student who lives in a hotel. In addition to her teaching duties she has become the school photographer for all events. Her list of many other activities is too numerous to list. She said that she is recently divorced; her husband would tell her that she was "just a teacher." He was financially successful and she never worried about money. She is having to learn to live the new normal and prove to herself that she can navigate and control her future. The scholarship is important for that reason.



WILDER ELLIOTT, from Moultrie, is a second-year teacher of Environmental Science in the 11th and 12th grades. Wilder has a B. S. in Middle School grades with a concentration in Science and Social Science. He took and passed the GACE and after one year of teaching he was accepted in the online program for a Master of Science in Kinesiology. He says that he has taken advantage of professional development opportunities through RESA. As the newly named department head, he used the summer to analyze test scores and



rewrite lesson plans for the department in hopes of filling in gaps in the instruction. He is the assistant Wrestling Coach and he works closely with the Wrestling Booster Club. He said that even though he was on an academic and wrestling scholarship in college, he still had to go in debt with student loans. The scholarship will help him afford further education.

MARGARET DEDMAN is from Dallas and has a middle school provisional certificate. She has one year of experience and teaches 8th-grade math. She said she wanted to learn how to accommodate and push her students in and out of the classroom. She wrote that she felt that middle grade students were a challenge and were often overlooked. Margaret said she wanted to learn the skills to better aid her students both mentally and emotionally. She is an active participant in the school wide PLC groups. She is working on ways to help students transition from grade to grade in mathematics. The county does not have sports, so she saw a need and has started a jogging club with the mission to complete a couch to 5K jog. She is a member of the leadership organization of the school where students with leadership potential work to help each other. This past year the students planned an activity and raised \$1,500 to be used to buy new technology for the school. Margaret said the scholarship would help her with her own schooling, but it would allow her to be financially able to purchase more supplies for her students.



CHRISTINE DURKIN is from Gainesville. She has 11 years of experience and is a para pro in a self-contained special education middle school classroom. She said that students with special needs often lack social opportunities, and Christine's goal is to educate her peers on the needs of this population of students. Last summer she volunteered with a special-needs basketball program; she worked to get her Autism Behavioral therapist certificate; she volunteers in the nursery at her church; she volunteers with the marching band at her children's school; she is an active member of the Mountain Fiber Arts Guild; during school she assists with field trips. She stated that she is newly widowed and is struggling on all levels with normal bills and funeral costs. She stated that the scholarship would be used to pay for the GACE tests that she is required to take in order to gain certification.



MOLLY ELIZABETH GEORGE is from Americus. She is a para pro with one year of experience in the kindergarten. Molly says she is pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in ESOL. She states that these classes are exposing her to various teaching methods, materials, and instructional support. She teaches Sunday school for middle and high school students at her church; she is part of the Night to Shine committee which supports a prom for ages 14 and up for people with intellectual disabilities; she has volunteered for her church after school program; she is the Yearbook editor for her school so she is known around school as one of the camera ladies, this allows her to interact with students and teachers not in her normal daily routine; she is an assistant softball coach for the high school varsity team. Molly wrote that she made the choice to become a para pro even though her finances would be limited. She wanted to be part of the school culture. With the scholarship she will be able to reduce the amount coming from her savings and use that to invest in becoming a certified educator.



Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

SAVANNAH HORNE lives in Savannah and has a para pro certificate with one year of experience. Even though this was Savannah's first year in the classroom, she said she loved the job and it inspired her to go back to school and work for her teaching certificate. She said her ultimate goal is a Masters in Special Education. She says she has been a substitute in the school system; she teaches children's church and helps with the youth group; she said that because she is not a teacher she cannot sponsor a club or a sport, but she does volunteer where she can; she has volunteered at the 5th grade Dance and various PTO events. She is planning to attend a private university because she can complete her degree online and continue working. The scholarship will help with the extra expenses.



ALISHA JONES-CALDWELL has eight years of experience, is from Atlanta and has a middle school T 5 certificate. She is the lead teacher in 8th-grade Special Education. As a lead teacher, Alisha says that her main responsibility is to be sure that the students are receiving the specially designed instruction and that the IEP's are implemented with fidelity. She is a member of PAGE, Phi Kappa Phi, an alumnus of the Teach for America Corps, and a mentor for a program at Spelman College. She has served as a grade level chair, cheerleading coach, design team member, and an after-school tutor. She said that she had student loans from her undergraduate and graduate degrees. The scholarship will enable her to continue her education without having to take out more loans.



CASSANDRA KITTLE is a para pro from Dalton, but will have her Registered Behavior Tech certificate July, 2020. She has three years' experience, works in the kindergarten and is a para pro in German. Her goal is to be a positive influence and help set a good foundation for the decisions, behaviors, and strengths of her students. At school she works with special needs students; sometimes she babysits for some of the families so they can have a break; meets parents at the grocery store and tends the children while the parents shop. She helps regularly in the After-School Care; she volunteers with the chorus teacher for the school play; she volunteers for her own daughter's baseball team. After her divorce, she became a single mom of two children. She says she knew she wanted to become a teacher, and the scholarship will help her meet that goal and let her daughters know that life can be better for them.



MEREDITH LAMB is from Guyton, has three years of experience and teaches 9th-grade math. She states that she is pursuing higher education so she can research strategies that will have a positive effect on student's learning. In her community she is a members of her church's Children's Ministry team. The team provides family opportunities at the Pumpkin Patch, North Pole Experience, and summer camps.



She is a member of her school's Response to Intervention Team that identifies students who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally. Meredith says she is living with family and going to school. She says there are very few scholarships for graduate study; she is teaching on an extended day to supplement her income and the scholarship would help her graduate with fewer loans.

JANA LANE, with 18 years' experience, teaches 12th-grade economics in Monroe County. She says she has strong scores on the Economics Milestone and the AP Macroeconomics Exam, but she feels it is time to learn new methods for reaching her students. She teaches Sunday School at her church, serves as the Vacation Bible School director, serves as a reader of the AP Macroeconomics Exam, has membership in PAGE, and serves as regional chair of the Georgia Tech President's Scholarship committee. She interviews students to help them prepare for applying for scholarships; she volunteers yearly for Homecoming dance, Prom, Basketball Tournament, and One Act Play chaperon duties. Jana wants to continue her education, but during these trying times, she does not want to put her family in debt. The scholarship will help toward that goal.



KRISTEN LIPTHRATT is from Brunswick, has 6 years of experience and teaches 6th-grade mathematics. Her personal goal is to continue listening to the needs of her community and to create actionable efforts towards disrupting social injustice within the schools. Kristen says she has a strong interest and is committed to creating equitable learning environments for students. She stated that she participates in local forums and board meetings regarding equity. She is a member of the school's Leadership Committee, Team Leader on her hall, leader of the Student Council, and she plans school dances. She wrote that the scholarship will enable her and her husband (a teacher) to avoid crippling effects of student loans.



Have You Bought A Brick Yet?

Honor educators, friends,
family and others with an
engraved brick on our
HONOR ROLL PLAZA!



Personally Engraved Bricks
are \$100.00 Each
and TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Purchaser Name _____ Local Unit _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

☐ Memorial ☐ Honorarium

Information to be engraved on brick: (18 characters and/or spaces long, up to 3 lines tall)

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.

Send to: Georgia Retired Educators Museum, Inc. P.O. Box 2001, Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Check Enclosed for \$ _____ Acknowledgment Card to be sent to the following address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GREA Welcomes Three New Board Members

GREA has always been blessed with outstanding individuals who have been willing to serve on the Governing Board. It takes a commitment of time and energy to fulfill the duties of a Board member. We again had three excellent candidates who applied and were elected as new Governing Board members for a two-year term for 2020-2022.

Keith Lee will be the new Area 2 Director. Keith is from the Sumter County REA and has previously served on the Board from 2012 to 2016. Keith's professional career covered 36 years in public education serving as a coach, teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal in Sumter County, Americus Georgia. He is an Adjunct Professor of Education at Georgia Southwestern State University. He currently is a consultant for the Work Based Learning Program for a nearby high school. Keith and his wife Donna recently distinguished themselves by serving as Co-Chairs of the 2019 GREA State Convention in Augusta. They did an outstanding job in leading our convention. Keith is the outgoing President of Sumter County REA.



Penny Howerton will be the new Area 16 Director. Penny is from the Walker County REA and has served as their President for two terms. Penny's career in the Walker County School System included various positions from teaching Music, Regular Education and Special Education. She later served as a Curriculum Specialist, Assistant Principal, and Special Education Director. She recently has served as an Adjunct Instructor as Chattanooga State Community College in the Early Childhood Department teaching the Development of Exceptional Children class. She is actively involved in her church by directing children's choirs and volunteering in the community theater.



Brenda Hunt will be the new Area 18 Director. Brenda is from the Habersham County REA and has served as their President for three years 2016-2019. She has also served as a Vice President and as Treasurer of her unit. She began her teaching career at a Junior High School teaching earth science, then life science and physical science. She taught in the PECE program for three years at the ninth-grade level. After transitioning to a middle school, she taught life science and social studies focusing on Africa. Their school was on the Soque River and she developed a 25-acre outdoor classroom with 12 community partners. They built and revitalized a farm pond and assisted five Eagle Scout Projects. Her program was a Project WET School of the Year. She raised over \$200,000 in grants to make this a reality. They were in *Southern Living Magazine* and had a special on Georgia Public TV. Brenda won the honor of Georgia's State Middle School Science Teacher of the year in 2007.



GREA is excited to have these outstanding retirees join our Governing Board. Welcome to each of them!

GREA

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Donna Kemp, Area 9
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Dr. Janet Lee, Area 11
Emanuel Larkin, Jr., Area 12
Alice Moore, Area 13
Patricia Leming, Area 14
Liz Bouis, Area 15
Penny Howerton, Area 16
Suellen Jones, Area 17
Brenda Hunt, Area 18

GREA BULLETIN

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

Johnny Smith, Editor

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