

# THE GRETA BULLETIN

JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

WINTER 2021



## Retired Educator Day in Georgia

It has become a tradition in Georgia for the first Sunday in November to be designated Retired Educator Day! Thanks, so much to our Governor, Brian Kemp, for continuing the tradition. He has declared November 1, 2020 as a day to recognize the 130,000+ retirees all across Georgia for their lasting contributions to our state!



The Rome City Commissioners presented the Floyd-Rome Retired Educators Association with a Proclamation from Governor Kemp recognizing November 1, 2020 as Retired Educators Day in Georgia. Accepting the Proclamation for FRREA are Left to Right: Anita Bridges, Phil Herron, Frances Herron, and Juanita King, President with Mayor Bill Collins and Commissioner Jamie Doss.



White County Retired Educators received a proclamation for Georgia Retired Educator Day presented by the White County Board of Commissioners. President June Collins, Lamar Collins, Martha and Frank Seinkbill and Area Director Brenda Hunt attended the presentation.



Clayton County Commission Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner presenting the Proclamation for Retired Educators Day to Susan Croft, President of the Clayton County REA, at the Clayton County Administration Building in Jonesboro, Georgia.



Members of the Peach County Retired Educators Association met with Fort Valley Mayor Barbara Williams at City Hall, who signed a proclamation on October 15th, proclaiming November 1st as Retired Educators Day. Pictured left to right: PCREA President Josephine Davis, Mary Byrd, Julia Law and Mayor Barbara Williams.



Board of Commissioners Chairperson Terri Lodge Kelly (center) proclaims November 1, 2020 as Retired Educators Day in Burke County, Georgia. Witnessing the signing are Burke County REA President Belle S. Dent (left) and GREA Area 12 Director Emanuel Larkin, Jr. (right).



County Commission Chairperson, Mr. Marcello Banes, declared November 1, 2020 Georgia Retired Educators Day in Newton County. On hand for the proclamation were NCREA President, Dr. Sallie Mills; Treasurer, Beth Moore; and committee chairs, Marie Davis, Lily Roberts, and Sara Hamby.



Emanuel Retired Educators Association members: Vikki Womack, President Elease Turner, Mayor Charles Schwabe-City of Swainsboro, and Lena Nwakudu during signing of Proclamation (Retired Educators Day).

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# Message From the President

## GREA is Ready for 2021

By Jo Ann Tomlinson, GREA President

The holidays are coming! Are you Ready? 2020 has definitely been a different year. Here's hoping and praying that 2021 will be twice as great as 2020 was not.



Let's look on the positive side. Reconnect with an old friend you haven't seen or heard from in a while. Look on Facebook for your friend or Google them or call someone that is a mutual friend. If you try and can't find them get your grandchildren or next-door neighbors' children to come help. Send a card to let them know you are thinking of them. Bake a cake, pie or some goodies to share, give generously to the Salvation Army red bucket workers, and leave an unusually big tip for a waitress when you eat out or go through the drive-through.

Have a Big Heart and Open Pocketbook as you give to your favorite charity. Of course, I would ask you to give to Alzheimer's Association, but also give to your favorite charity whatever it might be. Ask your school counselor to give you a name or two of children that you can be Santa for them. Remember charities, families, church activities for kids, and lots of others have had a time of less funds. You can provide hope for many. You may have to look or ask to find a group that you want and trust to help.

February is Heart Month. Begin with the new year to promise yourself that you are going to eat healthier and exercise more each week. If we eat more fruits and vegetables, we are less likely to have pain in our body. We are smart people and we just need to make up our minds and do what we know is best for our body. Here are warning signs for a Heart Attack and Stroke:

### HEART ATTACK WARNING SIGNS:

- Chest discomfort—Involves discomfort in the center of the chest lasts for a few minutes or goes and comes. Feels like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

- Discomfort in areas of the upper body—pain or discomfort in one of both arms, the back neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath—usually comes along with or without chest discomfort
- Other Signs—breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.
- Alone—Cough as hard as you can, call 911, take normal aspirin, and unlock front door for EMTs.

—American Heart Association.

### STROKE SIGNS:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause
- Remember FAST: Face droops, Arms/legs won't move, Speech slurred, Time fast call 911. American Heart Association.

Thank you for working hard to keep your local REA active and participating in activities for GREA. Keep up with your Volunteer Projects, purchase a brick in honor or memory of someone for the GREM plaza (only a few hundred left), continue to work on membership, your local scholarship, humanitarian project and stay connected to your members. Congratulations to all of you who have achieved the 7% and 10% Membership Goals! Awesome!!

How many books have you read since our last *GREA Bulletin*? Have you chosen a hobby and are enjoying it? My hope is that you have done both of these things!

Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people. A heart that forgives the worst. A mind that forgets the bad. And a soul that NEVER loses faith in God.

From page 1

### GEORGIA RETIRED EDUCATORS DAY

Sunday, November 1st is Georgia Retired Educators Day! This day honors the many men and women who dedicated their lives to educate and encourage the youth of Georgia. If you have the opportunity, please thank a teacher (retired or active) on this day.



Lyons Mayor Willis NeSmith, Jr. signs a proclamation declaring Sunday, November 1, 2020, Retired Educator's Day in Lyons. President-elect Paula Jones of Toombs County Retired Educator's Association and member, Judy Hart watch as Mayor NeSmith signs the proclamation.



Coffee Atkinson REA members were represented at the signing of the Proclamation for Retired Educators Day in Georgia for Douglas and Atkinson County. Signing the Proclamation at Douglas City Hall was Mayor Tony Paulk. Attending the signing was President Linda Cribbs, Jessie Porter and Elizabeth White.



Mayor Jimmy Palmer, City of Calhoun, and Mr. Kevin Cunningham, Gordon County Board of Commissioner proclaimed November 1, 2020 as a day set aside to honor retired educators in an appropriate manner in the community. CGREA President Ken Russell is in the middle.

# Ramblin' Around With the Executive Director

By Bill Sloan, Executive Director



William Sloan

2020 will easily go down as the year that changed the lives of all Americans for the worst. Every facet of life for everyone of us changed in February and still is not better. We can only hope that 2021 will eventually return us to a normal life. All GREA members send their sympathies to the families who lost loved ones due to Covid-19.

One bright spot for GREA even with the cancellation of two statewide conventions, the area meetings in August, and many local unit meetings, the GREA Governing Board held its annual Fall meeting in November at the Evergreen Marriott Hotel at Stone Mountain. Eighteen of our 23 members were able to attend and it was a great meeting. Just being able to get together to visit, laugh and socialize together while conduct-

ing our regular business was wonderful. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the opportunity to get together once again.

Will we be able to have our usual State Convention in May 2021? It is anyone's guess right now. We are continuing to plan for it on May 4, 5 and 6 in Augusta, Georgia. We usually have a registration form in this edition as well as the Spring edition, but we will wait until the Spring *Bulletin* to decide if the convention will be held.

I would like to thank Shirley Grant and Suellen Jones for their work on the Archives and History Committee. They come to the state office at least once a month and file the records that each local unit sends to the State Office. They recently did a major remodeling and cleaning out of the storage room. They are a very valuable part of GREA!

In addition, thanks to Marilyn Werner who drives 90 miles each way to just volun-

teer to work in the state office. She comes on a regular basis and pays her own way to just help us file membership information. She is a gem of a volunteer!

Johnny Smith, GREA Director of Communications, has been doing an outstanding job on the GREA Facebook page. Have you seen it? If not, you are missing a real treat. At least 40 local units are regularly sending us pictures and information about their activities. I challenge you to become a part of our Facebook page. If you do not know how, contact Mr. Smith and he will help you get access to it.

GREA loves AMBA! They do so much for our organization! Thank you, Ryan, Brad, Bo, and Omarr. We appreciate what you do for GREA!

Please continue to be careful and safe so we can survive this pandemic together! As our President says, "Keep on Cheering for GREA!"

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## Staying the Course in Retirement Security

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



Buster Evans

Hello to all of our TRS friends across Georgia and beyond! We sincerely hope you and your families are staying safe and well, but the reality is that we know some of our TRS family have faced challenging times over the last nine months. In fact, we know that we have seen a slight, but noticeable increase in deaths from some of our members. We are optimistic, though, that the end of this pandemic is in sight in the coming months!

### COVID-19 and Retirement Implications

While yes, we continue to do a large part of our work remotely, for the most part, all of our functions continue to be offered for both active and retired members. We are not seeing members face-to-face at this point, but we are busy serving members via video and phone-based counseling. That being said, our expectation is to continue to provide remote based sessions, in conjunction with some of our traditional methods of communication, even beyond the resolution of the pandemic. Also, while the stock market has been pretty volatile over the past nine months, I am pleased to continue to report to you that our fund is still in positive territory for the year as of today (November 4).

### TRS Board Chair President of NCTR

TRS of Georgia has long participated in the National Council on Teacher Retirement. NCTR is a national organization that works to protect, advocate, and educate regarding teacher pension programs. We are thrilled our Board Chairwoman, Debbie

Simonds, is now serving as the president of NCTR. Ms. Simonds' presence on that Board further enhances the value of TRS here in our state and around the nation.

### The Macon Office Location

Over the past several years (before COVID and when we were counseling members in the Atlanta office), I often enjoyed walking through our visitation center to meet our members who are coming in for retirement counseling. I often ask them where they drove in from. A number of our guests usually say they've driven from somewhere deep in South Georgia such as Valdosta, Bainbridge, Savannah, etc. Over the years, we considered but never acted on establishing a satellite office for counseling members. With the support of our Board of Trustees, we entered into an agreement with the Bibb County Board of Education to acquire office space in Macon to make counseling services more accessible to members in the central and southern part of the state. That center is now up and running and we look forward to eventually conducting in-person sessions without members having to drive all the way to Atlanta. So, if you are from central and southern parts of the state and want retirement counseling, plan on coming to see us in Macon!

We look forward to seeing you all over the State at your meetings throughout the year. Look for the latest and greatest from TRS on [www.trsga.com](http://www.trsga.com) and follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Spotify and/or Twitter. Our very best to each of our educators who are either working, retired, or perhaps enjoying the best of both worlds!



Teachers  
Retirement  
System of  
Georgia

# GREA—We Are Better Together

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



Henrietta Gray

I love to watch TBN's telecast, *We Are Better Together*. Their Method, Message and Mission is reflective of the Method, Message and Mission of GREA.

Having just celebrated the Thanksgiving Season, GREA was in my thoughts. I pondered how grateful I am for our Method, Message and Mission. Our Method of connecting and caring is a cornerstone of who we are as an organization. I was a personal recipient of this fact during the time of my daughter's shocking, untimely death and Homegoing Service. My heart was warmed and strengthened by the attendance of 95% of the Executive Committee, several Area Directors and other members who attended her Homegoing Service in Tallahassee, Florida.

Together, we are doing great things led by our outstanding Executive Director and excellent incumbent President whose love for GREA is clearly seen in the fervor of how they execute their responsibilities. Even in this difficult time of having to operate in unchartered waters, we are still growing and thriving. The work that we have accomplished and projected is made possible because of your generous support.

Our message of Fellowship, Service and Support is amplified by our working together. Our working together is reaping for us an incredible harvest of members, increased service and sustain-

able support. Together, we continue to propagate our message so that many others see the value of joining, working and supporting GREA.

I admonish us to continue to be encouraged and active in Cheering for GREA. This Covid crisis will pass and GREA will still be standing strong. Our message will still be relevant and inspirational. Our service will still have a positive impact on the well-being of current and future retirees. Given the capable and strong leadership of Executive Director Dr. William Sloan and President JoAnn Tomlinson, we are experiencing continued success in the practical application of our Methods and Message.

Your continuous support of GREA is crucial to ensure that our Mission is accomplished. Going forward the Leadership Team aims to grow stronger in enhancing the depth of our commitment to educate, serve, and support this organization with marvelous cutting edge breakthroughs. We are Rising and Reaching for programs that will give us many occasions to be Cheering for GREA.

You are making a significant difference as a local President, Committee Chair, Committee Member or contributing individual serving in your local unit. You're assisting in our Method, Message and Mission is having a prolific impact on this administration.

We are moving strategically to achieve our President's goals as we continue CHEERING FOR GREA!

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## Proper Preparation Makes Recommended Recovery Easier: The Importance of Home Health Care

By AMBA

Whether you're a parent or have mentored and supervised others in your career, you've spent a significant part of your adult life looking after and caring for others. From preparing those you supervised for the unexpected to being sure your own kids put on a helmet or protective padding before heading out to the skatepark, your focus has always been to look out for others and make sure they were ready and informed for challenges or to cushion the blow if they get hurt while playing. Now it's time to put that same preparation and care towards yourself.

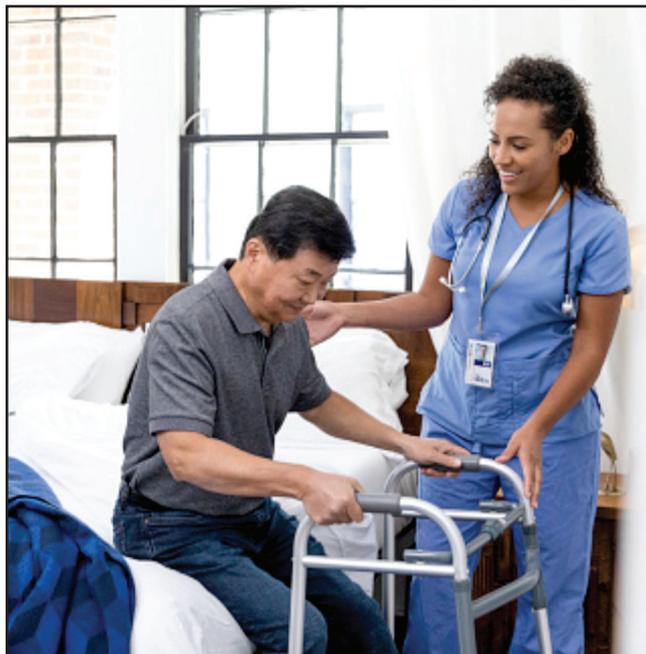
Retirement is meant to be when you finally have the time and financial security to do all the things you were too busy to do while you were working. But are you prepared if the unexpected happens?

Whether it's a sudden car accident or the recovery time from a scheduled knee surgery, there are times home healthcare is more than just a convenience. It's an outright necessity. Whether you live alone or with your spouse, patients can exasperate their injury or recovery time by trying to (liter-

ally) get back on their feet and resume their normal activities too soon. There are chores and needs that professional help can assist with, including transportation to doctor's appointments, making sure you take your medications at scheduled times, and preparing your meals.

Short-term care is important and can make a world of difference on the road to recovery. But it can also be very expensive. The problem of cost can be solved and cushioned with a Home Health Care policy. Short-term care policies can provide coverage for a period such as six months or one year. They generally cost less per premium than long-term policies and qualifying for the coverage is usually easier.

A Home Health Care policy can not only help make sure you are prepared for taking the recovery time as your doctor recommends, it can also cushion (or even shield you from) the blow of significant medical bills. **Find out more by calling AMBA at 866-979-0497 or scheduling a visit with a local representative at [amba-review.com](http://amba-review.com).**



# News From GREA Local Units

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**Burke County REA** members continue to keep the faith and stay safe during this pandemic with the belief that “This too shall pass.” Emeritus Cynthia Mobley, Anne Patterson, and Azalene Young were honored with Drive-By Birthday Celebrations. Kudos to members who sponsored voter registration events. Memorial Service and welcoming meeting for new members and renewing members were held at September’s meeting. Awards and recognition were presented by Emanuel Larkin, Jr, GREA Director of District 12. The Guest Speaker for October was Ceretta Smith, Candidate for the District 23 seat. She shared her plans for serving in the Senate. The Proclamation for Retired Educators Day was signed by Terri Kelly, Board of Commissions Chairperson. Southern Bank displayed the announcement on their marquee. Our unit donated \$100.00 for Alzheimer’s Association toward the GREA Project. The Guest Speaker for November was Crystal Preston. Her subject was “Gift of Love.” She included information about Social Security, Insurance and Funeral Services. The information was very informative. Let’s remember the GREA Theme “Cheering for GREA.”

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**Calhoun/Gordon REA**—The Georgia Retired Educators Association had challenged each area unit to spotlight and encourage people in our schools because of the extra stress involved with COVID-19 procedures. Calhoun Gordon County Retired Educators Association decided to honor and treat all custodians in the Calhoun City and Gordon County Schools. A committee including Linda Crawford, chair, Barbara Burgess, Anne Barton, Ruth Kleeman and Rosellen Burns volunteered to work on this project. A treat bag was put together for all 75 custodians in both school systems who have cleaned and sanitized and continue to clean and sanitize. Then the committee members delivered each treat bag to all the custodians with CGCREA’s appreciation for their hard work.

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**Chatham REA** monthly meeting was called to order by President Omie Flournoy on Monday, November 9, 2020. CREA thanks all veterans for their service! CREA received Proclamations from: **The Savannah City Council, Chatham County Commission, Town of Thunderbolt, City of Pooler, City of Bloomingdale and the Savannah-Chatham Board of Education**, CREA members worshipped via Zoom at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, and other churches throughout the city and state.

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**Clayton County REA** continues to hold its meetings virtually. In October, Clayton County Commission Chairman Jeffrey Turner presented the Retired Educators Proclamation virtually. Chairman Turner then discussed the status of Clayton County. In November, CCREA Secretary Diane Cox presented a program on the Mayflower and its landing commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of this historical event. She was technically assisted by her daughter-in-law Anna Cox, Academic Coordinator for World Languages, Clayton County Public Schools, International Center.

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**Dalton-Whitfield-Murray REA** held in-person meetings this 2020 year, while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. The September meeting featured a report from Dalton Public Schools Superintendent, Tim Scott. DWMERA member,

Bill Weaver, hosted an information meeting on SHBP and answered questions from members at the October meeting. For the November meeting, Mike Zarem from TRS presented information concerning the retirement system fund. Five local state legislators gave projections concerning areas of interest to retirees. Gary Cochran, DWMREA legislative chair, hosted the event. The annual December Auction for 2020 will be the Christmas Market and be held at the Dalton Golf and Country Club. The drop-in event will feature items to purchase and benefit the DWMREA Scholarship fund. Members and guests may shop and enjoy a boxed lunch to take home. Masks are required and social distancing will be in place. Dorothy Gray and Twinkle Chitwood are co-chairs for the event.

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**Effingham REA** held their October meeting with our new Senator, Billy Hickman, bringing us information from the Georgia legislature. We participated in the recognition of all of our faculty and staff at all of the county schools in October. Over 1,700 candy bars with an uplifting message were distributed to acknowledge their hard work and efforts during this Covid pandemic. Melissa Miles, local author of “Jeremiah Justice Saves the Day,” spoke at our November meeting about the insights and reasons she decided to publish this book about a young boy who learned how to live a “superpower” life with a tracheotomy tube in his neck. On November 16, our unit sponsored a walk to “stomp out” Alzheimer’s. Donations from this walk will be sent to that association, which is our state project for this year. Members were also recognized at their respective churches on Sunday, November 1, in honor of Retired Educators Day in Georgia.

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**Gilmer REA** took the challenge from GREA to show appreciation to Essential Workers: teachers and all support staff. The local chapter worked with Gilmer County Apple growers to provide apples for every employee of the Gilmer County Schools. Barry Pritchett (The Red Apple Barn) and John Reece (B.J. Reece Apple House) supplied bushels of apples. The Gilmer County Retired Educators’ officers counted, bagged, boxed and labeled the apples. The Gilmer County Maintenance Department delivered the apples to every school and department. The Gilmer County Retired Educators appreciates the support from GREA to make this collaborative event to express our support and compassion during these difficult times.

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**Houston County REA** of Area 8 conducted “Operation Salute Our Schools” on October 20, 2020 in coordination with GREA. HCREA members delivered yard signs of salute to all 39 schools in the county as well as the central office. On the same day, nine teachers nominated by their principals also received \$100 HCREA Scholarships with accompanying certificates. Members also placed lime green yard signs all over the county the week prior to Retired Educators Day in Georgia on November 1st reminding people of the day and asking them to “Thank a Teacher.” Signs were placed in individual yards, at local businesses, churches, and at voting sites where the law allowed. The signs were lime green to differentiate them from the multitude of political signs.

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**Newton County REA** held their October meeting by conference call and on October 14, 2020 County Commission

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Chairperson, Mr. Marcello Banes, signed a proclamation designating November 1 as Georgia Retired Educators Day in Newton County. Our Unit celebrated our day by hosting a painting party fundraiser to benefit our scholarship fund at WildArt in Covington. October 23 we held a drive-by event for members to pick up their Retired Educators Day Ribbons and Volunteer Record Sheets along with a little goodie bag. Even though we continue to meet by conference call, we are continuing to be an active part of our community.

**Pickens County REA** delivered a variety of individually wrapped treats to every school in Pickens County on Wednesday, November 18th. The idea to honor and appreciate educators throughout the state especially during these difficult times came from Georgia Retired Educators Association Executive Board and local units throughout the state of Georgia were invited to implement this idea within their county. Through the generosity of several PCREA members 490 treats were purchased and delivered to every school in Pickens County to be enjoyed by faculty and staff! Please join us in thanking all Pickens County educators, faculty, and staff for the great job they are doing especially during these pandemic times.

## Gold Star Family Honored

The family of 1st Lt. Weston C. Lee, son of Aldene and the late Eddie Lee, was honored September 25, 2020, at the White House during their Gold Star ceremony. This was done to remember those taken from us too soon, to honor the memory of their loved ones for their sacrifice and bravery. 1Lt. Lee was killed in action April 29, 2017 in Mosul, Iraq. The phrase "Gold Star Family," dates back to World War I, when military families displayed service flags featuring a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the Armed Forces. The star's color would be changed to gold if the family lost a loved one in the war, hence the term, "Gold Star Family." Aldene Lee is an active member in the Early-Clay-Calhoun Retired Educators Association.



## GREA Group Email Address Project

GREA would like to get an email address from every one of our members. We feel there are times the State Office needs to communicate with our membership in a timely manner. We recently sent out a test email to approximately 16,000+ members. This is only half our total membership of just less than 32,000. If you did not get the test email and would like to join the GREA email group, then please send your name and email to [greas3@greas3.org](mailto:greas3@greas3.org). We will not share your email address with anyone and will use this means of communications only for important news. You can unsubscribe anytime you wish if you do not want important news from GREA. This will be a service to our members because a *Bulletin* four times a year is not much communication from our office to you. Thank you for considering becoming a member of the GREA email group.



**Attention!**  
GREA has a new  
email address:  
[greas3@greas3.org](mailto:greas3@greas3.org)

An illustration of a person in a green shirt sitting on a large white envelope with a blue '@' symbol. The person is holding a megaphone and shouting. The background is a blue and white geometric pattern.

# 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 GREA 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

**SARAH LUCAS**, from McDonough is an ESOL teacher with six years' experience. She states that her elementary school students are English Learners, but the standards for them are the same as for native English-speaking students. Her goal is to advance her degree and get a reading endorsement so that she can understand any linguistic challenges her students may face. She wants to find engaging and creative ways to present the material so her students will better understand. She serves as the Coordinator of the Dual Language Program; she provides parents and other educators information about the program and the benefits of having two languages. She works with the community by having "Back to School Drives" to ensure that students have the materials needed to begin school. She said that the school did not have clubs, but she did assist students and parents with applying for different school/choice magnet programs. Sarah says she has school loans from her undergraduate studies but is working to pay as she goes for her graduate degrees. Like many teachers, she used her own money to supply incentives and rewards for her students, and the scholarship would be much appreciated.



**JENNIFER NORTON** is from Woodstock; she has ten years of experience; she teaches 9-12 Computer Science. Because of COVID-19, Jennifer has seen the need for a variety of topics ranging from teaching and assessing in a virtual classroom. Her next education class will help in these areas. There was a need for Computer Science at her school and they did not have a CTAE pathway until four years ago. She started with 15 students and now has five full classes. She has presented at conferences on Computer Science and has created contacts with Facebook, College Board, and other APCSP teachers. She is head of the Awards Committee for her school, and is the sponsor of Girls Who Code Club, FBLA, and the coach for the E-Sports team. She says she has a son with a genetic condition who requires surgery and tests. She can defer her student loans for a time but not medical needs. The scholarship will help with the present educational expenses.



**ELLIOT PAULK** is from Kennesaw. He is a teacher with a T-5 certificate in Business Education and a provisional certificate for middle school. He has completed his third year of teaching. He said his personal goal was to change the way his students think, feel and learn about their personal finance, marketing and commu-



nication skills. For the past three years he has participated in a "Boys to Men" mentoring program for African America students. He has brought outside partnerships to the school. One was a \$2,500 partnership with Wells Fargo for original business ideas from the students. He mentors students who would like to start their own businesses. He assists in inter mural sports, hoops for heart, and plays soccer and basketball after school with students. He stated that the scholarship would help immensely to alleviate some of the daily pressures that he has to go through to afford his schooling.

**TONYA PINCKNEY** is from Decatur and is a papa pro in the kindergarten. She has six years of experience. Her personal goal is to complete her degree (she lacks eight credits from having her BA). She says she wants to be a teacher—not an assistant. She states that she is a member of AST, an African Sisterhood, a member of an Ethical book club, of Wolf Academy, and of the ethical Committee in her school system. She says she is a part of the Football Squad Support Program and she helps the boosters in the Snack Shack. She noted that the scholarship will help her finish what she has started. She wants her students to know that she means to complete the job. She stated that the scholarship would cover a small part of the fees, but it was exactly what she needed.



**DANIEL STANSBERRY** is an instructional coach at Spalding High School in Griffin with 17 years' experience. He stated that a goal was to make his school and system better. He said that as a teacher he could influence his students and as an Instructional Coach he could influence teachers who in turn would influence students. He said that he did not want his Leadership add-on to just be a piece of paper; he wanted it to be a way to give more to his students. He is a member of PAGE and serves his community as a volunteer leader with Wyldlife, a faith-based organization that works with middle school students. He has served as soccer coach and Beta Club sponsor, serves on the school's leadership team and on the "What's Happening" committee. This committee keeps the community informed about important happenings in the school. The scholarship will be much appreciated since he has two children nearing college age, a wife who was self-employed in a "non-essential" business, and his schooling to pay for in this time of COVID-19.



**KIARA TRIGGER**, from Macon, Georgia, has seven years' experience and is a Special Education teacher in the 2nd and 3rd grades. She is a member of a small church, but she advocates for her church to cater to the children of her school and the surrounding neighborhood. Every year the church sponsors a back to school drive, collects canned good and winter coats. At school she is a 2nd-grade Grade Level Chair, a member of the Adult Lighthouse Team, Leadership Action Team, and the district's Aspiring Leaders Academy. She is raising a 12-year-old son and pursuing higher education opportunities. The scholarship will be useful in working to provide a comfortable future for him.



# GREA loses a great leader!



Past President Dr. Marinelle W. Simpson passed away on October 16, 2020. Dr. Simpson served as GREA President in 1999-2000. Funeral services were held October 24, 2020 in the Haisten Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at McDonough City Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions are asked to be made to Henry County Cancer Services in memory of Dr. Simpson.

Dr. Simpson grew up in Lamar County on her family's farm, where she learned the importance of hard work, family unity, education and community service. She was an avid 4-H'er. On May 1, 1955, she married Henry County native, James Simpson. It was during this time, that her career path turned to teaching, teaching Math, English and Science in Hampton. She continued her studies in earth sciences and astronomy through a National Science Grant and a Fellowship in the program on the UGA campus, which led to a Master's Degree in Science Education. Upon completion of her master's degree, Marinelle returned to Henry County High School, teaching Science and Biology for the next 16 years. She obtained the Specialist Degree in Science in the first issuing of such a degree by the University System. This opened another doorway for service as she became the first ever woman administrator in Henry County at the High School level. Two years later, she was named Principal of Henderson Elementary School where she became the first female school Principal in Henry County. She remained the Principal at Henderson for the next 10 years until her retirement. During the Henderson years, she completed the requirements for the Doctor of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision.

In 1991, Dr. Simpson retired after more than 50 years in dedicated educational service to the citizens of Henry County and became a full-time volunteer for various projects close to her heart. She is survived by one son, two daughters, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

## GREA

P. O. BOX 1379  
FLOWERY BRANCH, GA 30542

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Gainesville, GA  
30501-8522  
Permit No. 271

## 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).



### GREA OFFICERS

Jo Ann Tomlinson, President  
Dr. Henrietta Gray, President-elect  
Mickey Wendel, Past President  
Dr. Beverly Roberts, Secretary  
Dr. John Upchurch, Treasurer  
Dr. Bill Sloan, Executive Director

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P. O. Box 1379 • 4311 Falcon Parkway • Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Telephone: 770-287-7721, 800-637-2883

Fax: 770-287-0567

E-mail: [greas3@greas3.org](mailto:greas3@greas3.org)

Website: [www.garetirededucators.org](http://www.garetirededucators.org)

**Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.**