

THE GREA BULLETIN

JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 3

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

WINTER 2022



Retired Educators Day in Georgia

It has become a tradition in Georgia for the first Sunday in November to be designated Retired Educators Day! Thanks, so much to our Governor, Brian Kemp, for continuing the tradition. He declared November 7, 2021 as a day to recognize the 140,000+ retirees all across Georgia for their lasting contributions to our state!



Glad and Grateful

By Dr. Henrietta Gray, President



This article is being written in November, 2021. It is prior to Thanksgiving. Nevertheless, whenever you read it the importance of being thankful will still be relevant. Thanksgiving was a time to count our blessings and give thanks to God for all He has done for us.

As I am writing this article during the Thanksgiving month, I take opportunity to admonish us to be grateful and be recipients of the benefits of the Attitude of Gratitude. Christian Research Firms report that gratitude, living thankful and appreciative, is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness, peace, and good health. Gratitude helps us feel more positive, relish good experiences, deal with adversity, build strong relationships, improve our sleep quality, reduces stress and burnout, and increase our resilience. Therefore, I admonish all of us to be glad and grateful.

At the time of your reading this article we will be into a New Year. I trust that your holidays were enjoyable and safe. It is my prayer that you entered the New Year with a renewed hope, strengthened vitality and power to serve continuously. Know that all you do for GREA is appreciated.

We are certainly hopeful that we will be able to move for-

ward and have a great 2022 Convention in May. We are diligently planning for a convention that will be Inspirational, Informative and Enjoyable. Going forward we will share specific plans and requests with you concerning our Convention and other matters. Presently, I reiterate my request that you continue to recruit members to grow our organization. Also, locals please send a minimum of \$350.00 to March of Dimes to the following Name and Address: Angel Whitworth, March of Dimes, P.O. Box 18819, Atlanta, GA 31126. Please, please make sure you mark your Donation from GREA and identify your Local REA from which it is sent. Thank you in advance.

I believe many of you will join me in saying we are Glad and Grateful for GREA. We can also be thankful for all the dedicated State Office Staff, Executive Director, Board members, and members of GREA who continue to serve at a high level. I am indeed Glad and Grateful for each of you and ALL that you do for GREA and your service in your local units.

I speak Peace, Protection, and Provision to all of us as we continue to serve. I am humbled and honored to serve you as the GREA President. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, ideas, or observations.

A Word from the President-elect

By Joe Boland, President-elect



I am writing this (my wife is typing it) on Sunday after the Braves World Series Parade... UGA is #1....the Falcons beat the Who Dats... I am so happy, so proud, and so tired.

We have had our booster shots; our seven-year-old granddaughter had her first shot yesterday; and the four-year-old will have one next month. We are so fortunate and appreciative to have this vaccine. Hopefully, things are getting

better, and we can all get out a little more.

My REA, Cobb/Marietta, has been meeting in person for a few months. It is great to be with our friends again. Attendance is less than half of what it normally is. We don't have a meal, and we wear masks. We still have speakers, do service projects, recruit new members, and keep our members informed with excellent newsletters. It's a credit to our leadership. It does seem that every month we are getting a little closer to normal.

We all miss seeing our friends from GREA. Among others I miss seeing James Twiggs and his wife Jenean. James is a fixture at convention selling 50/50 tickets for the GREA Foundation scholarships and giving advice and information along with his friend Rufus Akins. James is witty, dependable, positive, and always willing to help.

Home is Baxley in Appling County, where he was a history teacher, principal, and superintendent. He started in 1961. And believe it or not he is still working as a consultant with Heart of Georgia RESA in Dublin. He met his future wife in Florida when he was serving in the United States Air Force, and she was teaching school. They have two children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. July 2021 marked their 65th wedding anniversary.

James has served GREA as a long-time member, local President, Area Director, and Membership Director. I hope to see James, Jenean, and so many of you at convention in May.

A Word from the Past President

At The BEST Tailgate Party EVER!!

By Jo Ann Tomlinson, Past President



Jo Ann Tomlinson

Over the last two years there has been a lot of Flipping and Flopping and Changing of Plans as GREA has tried to navigate the Covid-19 Pandemic to keep our GREA members safe. Thinking positively, GREA is planning a Celebration with a GREA Convention "Cheering for GREA" at Stone Mountain, Ga. May 3-5, 2022 at the Evergreen Marriott.

Make plans NOW to attend! Send in your Convention Registration and make your reservations at the Evergreen Marriott as soon as the reservations open. Check page 5 for more information about the convention registration. The presidents of the local Retired Educators Associations will be sent an email with the information about room reservations as soon as it is available.

Having missed the convention not only in May 2020 but also in May of 2021 and again October 2021, I think we are ALL ready to go meet and visit our friends from across the great state of Georgia! We are planning a Big Tailgate Party "Cheering for GREA" for Tuesday night. You do NOT want to miss the fun and fellowship!

As Past President, I am humbled, grateful and thankful that President Dr. Henrietta Gray so graciously agreed to let me serve as President at the convention this coming May 3-5, 2022 since I missed being able to do that honor in 2020 and 2021. President Dr. Gray will host her convention in May of 2023. A very special thank you to my very special friend President Dr. Henrietta Gray!

It is a great time to be a Georgia Retired Educator! Do NOT miss all the amazing enthusiasm and good times that will be had May 3-5, 2022 at Stone Mountain! NOW is the time to plan to go. Be on the lookout for convention registration information in the GREA Bulletin or from your local president.

See YOU at the Evergreen Marriott in Stone Mountain!

Ramblin' Around With the Executive Director

By Bill Sloan, Executive Director



William Sloan

It is a cool, crisp, and perfect morning in the suburbs of beautiful Flowery Branch, Ga. The red, gold, yellow and green leaves on the trees around our state museum/office building are a beautiful sight this November morning! The Northeast Georgia mountains in the distance are very visible on this perfectly sunny day. We are truly blessed with such a wonderful location for our museum and state office. We could not ask for a prettier view this morning.

We are so excited that most of our local units have resumed meeting again in person. We have been missing this interaction with each other. After the first of the year, we hope all local units will be meeting again!

Retired Educators Day in Georgia was really a successful event in November and many of you have sent pictures about your activities. We have highlighted many of you on our Facebook page enjoying visiting with your local political leaders and your local churches. Thanks to Governor Brian Kemp for declaring November 7th as Retired Educators Day in Georgia.

I am so excited that our 2022 convention will be held this year at Stone Mountain, Georgia. After having to cancel the last three attempts to have a convention, this one is going to happen on May 3, 4, and 5. I hope all of you will try to attend. Our convention chair Becky Upchurch and Past President Joann Tomlinson have already been working to make it a nice event. Since Ms. Tomlinson missed her convention on three occasions, we have decided that this will be her convention and your current President Dr. Henrietta Gray will have her convention in May of 2023. I greatly look forward to seeing all of you at Stone Mountain.

I would like to take a moment and commend the GREA office staff as they do a tremendous job for all GREA members. Linda Wright, Joy Smith, Janet Allison, Jesse Hunter, and Johnny Smith are such a great asset to this organization. I certainly appreciate their work as I observe them every day working hard to make GREA a great organization.

Thank you to each of the local units who have continued to work on membership. Many of you have already achieved our goal of growing by 7% this year. We have added over 1,400 new members this year despite the Covid pandemic. You have kept working hard to achieve this goal. A special thanks to AMBA as they continue to recruit members for us.

How about the Atlanta Braves on winning the World Series? They overcame many obstacles this year to win the championship. Persistence and teamwork always produce great results.

Thanks to each of you for your membership in GREA and I challenge each of you to find us one more member. We are growing a great organization one member at a time. Hope to see you in Stone Mountain in May.

SAVE THE DATE!
GREA 62nd Annual Convention
Atlanta Evergreen Marriott
Stone Mountain, Georgia
May 3-5, 2022

TRS News: Are You a HROB?

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



Buster Evans

Merry Christmas and the happiest of holidays to our GREA friends all across Georgia! We have been thrilled to be able to at least see some of you in recent meetings across the state. Hopefully as we get into 2022, we will further see our meeting schedules return to where we can see each other face to face.

Each stage of my career has brought some joys that I could have never anticipated early in my work life. In fact, it took me several years to get established in my career as an educator and educational administrator. As I look back, the privilege of seeing students learn, grow, achieve, compete, and graduate was clearly the highlight! Additionally, the relationships with colleagues in our life's work left a lasting memory that I continue to cherish. Now, in my 6th year as your executive director of TRS, one of the true joys has been getting to work with others in the process of retiring and the relationships enjoyed with our nearly 140,000 TRS retirees! I often state that our retirees are "some of the happiest people I know!"

When I began making the regular commute to the Atlanta office in 2016, I began listening to podcasts. Now a true confession is that I was 59 years old at the time, and while I was a fan of YouTube and other recorded media, I was not a podcast subscriber. To make the commute more enjoyable, I began listening to podcasts. One of my favorites, though the format has changed in the past couple of years, has been "Money Matters" (now "Retire Sooner") featuring Atlanta's well known financial advisor, Wes Moss. In over five years of listening to his podcast every week as well as reading his books, I've realized that we share a common mission. We want the retirees that we work with to be the "Happiest Retirees on the Block!" Moss refers to these retirees as HROB's! Well, I could share with him that many our retirees are HROBs! I see them all across this state, and I hear their stories, and I know that they meet some of the criteria for happy retirees talked about by Moss including having "core pursuits!"

Read the Book! Those colleagues that have worked with me over the years know that I've been a fairly prolific reader, and I am not above sharing book recommendations as well as content from books that I read, especially in the areas of education and leadership. While I have not normally gone to "recommending" books in my TRS updates, I want to deviate from that and clearly suggest that if you want to be a happier retiree, read Wes Moss's most recent book "What the Happiest Retirees Know: 10 Habits for a Healthy, Secure, and Joyful Life." If you are already a happy retiree, this book will help explain why you are. If don't feel satisfied in retirement, I think the findings in this book will perhaps help get you on track for a happier life in retirement.

In closing, we do sincerely want our retirees to be the happiest retirees ever! Your life commitment as an educator has earned you, in our opinion, the right to be happy in retirement. Your contributions to shaping the future successes of thousands of students that you influenced has forever changed the trajectory of success for them and their families. I am proud to call so many of you my friends, and I truly hope that you are one of the "happiest retirees on the block!"

News From GREA Local Units

Ben Hill-Irwin REA held their first face-to-face meeting in eighteen months Wednesday, October 13th, at the Ocilla Church of God Fellowship Hall. Forty-seven members were in attendance, which is lower than the average meeting prior to COVID, but it was great to be back to “Fellowship, Service, and Support”, one of the purposes of GREA. Two members were honored for their Emeritus Status —Mrs. Bertha Wright and Mrs. Shirley Coxen. These ladies were presented with certificates and a rose. Both ladies were quite surprised as they may be the first to receive this honor. This was our legislative meeting with members hearing from Mayor Seale of Ocilla, Senator Tyler Harper and Representative Clay Pirkle. Updates were given on local status, COVID, education, broadband connection for our area, agriculture, forestry, redistricting, common sense measures in medical area, foster care, “porch piracy”, transportation, etc. A very informative meeting.

Bibb REA President, Dr. Janet Lee and member Eddie Mae Reid presented a \$100 check and baskets of masks, hand sanitizer and wipes worth \$100 to principal, Dr. Danielle Howard on November 8, 2021. BREa member Pat Galloway and the retired staff members paused from their work day to join in the photo opportunity. The staff was so appreciative of the gifts because they were a pleasant, well-needed surprise. Dr. Howard presented each retired staff member a gift bag to celebrate Retired Educator Day. Dr. Howard made the entire week Retired Educator’s Week at Ingram Pye. Each year BREa selects a school to support in its Adopt-A-School program. Ingram-Pye Elementary was selected as the Adopt-A-School for the school year 2021-22.

Burke County REA is geared up and ready to go for the new year. Our unit won \$150 for the 10% goal. The guest speaker for October’s meeting was State Representative Gloria Frazier of District 126 who shared legislative updates which were very informative. She read the Retired Educators Day Resolution presented it to President Belle S. Dent. This special day will be observed on November 7th. We would like to thank businesses and churches in advance for their participation in recognizing retired educators. Congratulations to Anne Patterson for earning the Emeritus Member Status. Members who celebrated birthdays were given ribbons. Emanuel Larkin, Jr., GREa Area Director for District 12 presented the unit’s awards to the president and installed officers for 2021-2022. We still hold the title of “Unit of Excellence.” The guest speaker for November’s meeting was Corporal Gary Jenkins of Waynesboro Police Department, accompanied by Willie Burley, Chief of Police. Corporal Jenkins shared vital information regarding the “Top Ten Financial Scams That Target Seniors.” Tips were given on how to report online scams to the Federal Government Commission. He urged all on how to handle phone calls asking for personal information. The session was very enlightening.

Calhoun/Gordon REA this year chose to honor all bus drivers within the Calhoun City and Gordon County Schools. Treat bags were prepared with a special Thank You note attached. Every driver was presented with thanks from CGCREA.

Cherokee REA recognized Retired Educators Day in Georgia in several exciting ways this year. Twenty-seven thank you cards were sent to retirees who are homebound or could otherwise use a boost. Through the generous support of Chick-fil-A at Woodstock, a gift card for a FREE Chick-fil-A sandwich was included with each note of appreciation. The business also provided gift cards to all attendees at the October Cherokee REA meeting. For the sixth year, the Cherokee County School District interviewed three retired educators (Jim Brookshire, Les Conley and Dr. Janice Fuller) for the “Learning From Legends” partnership project. A trailer of the interviews was shown at the Cherokee County Board of Education meeting on October 15 at which time the BOE also passed a Proclamation honoring Retired Educators Day in Georgia on November 7th.

Clayton County REA met again face to face and via Facebook. Our October guest speaker and presenter was Clayton County Commission Chair Jeff Turner. Mr. Turner thanked the teachers present and via Facebook for their contributions and volunteering in the county. Commission Chair Turner then spoke about the status of Clayton County. After his brief message, Mr. Turner took questions from the CCREA members present. He then presented the assemblage with the Proclamation for Retired Educators. After the regular business meeting, CCREA members shopped for silent auction items brought by members. This is a fund-raising function for CCREA.

Dalton-Whitfield-Murray REA members heard news from member Bill Weaver regarding State Health Benefit Plan at the October meeting, along with updates from Whitfield Education Foundation, led by member Smitty Barnett. Sonya Planzer, membership chair, organized unit goodie baskets for local schools dealing with tragedy from COVID 19. Members celebrated Georgia Retired Educators Day on Sunday, November 7, 2021, by wearing ribbons noting the special day. The November meeting featured representatives from Dalton Education Foundation, and news from Gary Cochran, legislative chair, on state issues. Janice Spence Wilmot reported on Quilts of Valor. Dorothy Gray and Twinkle Chitwood, auction committee co-chairs, discussed plans for the December Luncheon/ Auction to benefit the scholarship fund. The event will be held on December 2, 2021, at the Dalton

Golf and Country Club, and will feature a live auction, a silent auction, and some pre-priced items for sale.

Effingham REA began our new year in September with a nice banquet. New retirees were recognized, as well as our scholarship recipient, Kaity White. Rep. Bill Hitchens brought updates from the Georgia General Assembly. Recognized our octogenarians in our unit: Barbara Brant, JoAnn Conaway, Naomi Dasher (deceased), Margaret Drayton, Lee Hanberry, Libby Heidt, Beverly Long, Cornell Mock, Gwen Moss, Liz Mydell, Dean Partain, Gail Paulk, Betty Smith, Marcia Smith, Louise Yarbrough. For our October meeting, Elizabeth Waters of Effingham United Way spoke and gave updates on programs and assistance in the county. Our local project will be collecting items for our local nursing home, such as packaged food, books, etc. Bake/craft sales are planned to support our state project, The March of Dimes. The City of Springfield signed a proclamation to celebrate Retired Educators Day in Georgia on November 7. Dr. Henrietta Gray, State President, spoke at our November meeting, explaining the goals and projects for this year. Our collected items for the nursing home were delivered and distributed November 8. Bake/craft sales will be in December at two different school locations. We are planning another February trip to visit the State Museum in Flowery Branch. We are almost to our 10% goal for the year. Looking forward to a great 2022!

Floyd Rome REA held its September meeting at the Thornton Recreation Center in Armuchee. The program began with Area 15 Director Liz Bouis presenting FRREA president Juanita King with the unit’s annual awards for: Unit of Excellence. Then Ms. Bouis gave us information about GREa membership and the membership goal FRREA needs to reach this year. She discussed the state yearly service project, The March of Dimes, and continuing to buy bricks for the state office building. Mike Zarem of TRS brought us up to date on the number of retirees, and statistics concerning the age of retirees, state income tax changes and that our retirees are the second largest spending group in the state: therefore we are great supporters of the economy. FRREA’s Community Service Committee Chair, Cheryl Willoughby has been very busy with our service projects. Cheryl and her committee gave school supplies, coloring books, and educational activity books to the children at the Hospitality House for Women in Rome. Cheryl said that the November project is collecting canned food goods for the Community Kitchen. All of this is happening as we emphasize the March of Dimes as our participation in the state service project.

Greene County REA, in partnership with St. Mary’s Good Samaritan Hospital and Oconee Valley Healthcare, posted pink bows on local businesses for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On Monday, October 4, members of the local unit worked in pairs to stroll the downtown business district greeting business owners and/or employees and attaching vibrant pink bows on storefronts. These ladies did not let the intermittent drizzle of the day deter them from getting the job done. So many lives have been impacted by cancer; therefore, our members are keenly aware that BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MATTERS!

Houston REA bypassed its October meeting and instead offered an opportunity for members during this time to receive COVID Pfizer booster shots given by Houston HealthCare personnel. The November meeting was held on Veterans Day and honored those who have served in the military. Five entertainers, four of whom were former students, from three different decades of HCREa President Judy Moore, performed patriotic songs such as “America the Beautiful”/“God Bless America” medley and the “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Between those two meetings were recognitions of Retired Educators Day in Georgia on November 7th with Mayor Randy Toms proclaiming the day as Retired Educators Day and asking “the citizens of Warner Robins to observe that day in an appropriate manner honoring retired educators.” Perhaps the most touching aspect of the day the was reaction HCREa member Sherin Hinnant received after placing a sign in her yard for the week which stated, “This Sunday is Retired Educators Day in Georgia. Please take time to Thank a Teacher.” When she got home from church, there was a sign in her yard, facing her house, which read, “I can write, so I’m thanking a teacher—Thanks.” On the back of that sign, Sherin put, “Thank YOU to whoever left this kind message.” It turns out this lady was a neighbor who endured an extremely difficult childhood having attended 9 schools in 12 years and lived to go to school each day and would stay as long as she could so she didn’t have to go home. She said it was her dedicated teachers who provided the stability she lacked elsewhere. In this tearful conversation, this lady acknowledges that there are millions of students who would never have succeeded without their teachers. Sherin said placing that sign in her yard made her realize the magnitude of her 40+ years in the classroom.

Newton County REA got off to a busy start this year beginning with our Retired Educators Picnic in August for all Newton County retired teachers and staff. In September, the first meeting was held in our new high-tech meeting space provided by Newton Schools at the Palmer Stone Building. Vice President presented the program about the history of the Rosenwald Schools; one of which was located directly across from the Palmer Stone Building. During the October meeting, Area 13 Director, Dr. Sallie Mills, presented the Unit with awards earned in 2021

Continued on page 5

culminating with the Unit of Distinction Award. Mr. Joey Montgomery of Edward Jones Financial spoke to the group about the state of the economy and our finances. Member and AMBA Representative, Holly Gardiner, was available to answer questions about benefits. NCREA began our "Empowered to Serve" Spotlight on Members awards. Each month two members are recognized for their achievements and community service. Members are recognized at our monthly meeting, on our Facebook page and in our newsletters. October Spotlights were Willie Mae Durden and Leila Elkins. On November 3 members attended a proclamation signing with County Commission Chairman, Mr. Marcello Banes, as he named November 7, 2021, as Georgia Retired Educators Day in Newton County. To celebrate Georgia Retired Educators Day, NCREA hosted a Scholarship Fundraiser Paint Party at WildArt LLC in Covington which will successfully fund one of the three scholarships offered to Newton County seniors. At our November meeting, member and veteran James Mullins spoke about what it means to him to be a veteran. Our Spotlight members of the month were Dr. Sallie Mills and Dr. Arlene Woods. Members wrote notes of encouragement for current teachers at a local middle school and finalized plans for Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts at 4 local schools. NCREA is feeling "Empowered to Serve!"

Paulding REA met on November 9th at Dallas First United Methodist Church. Our first speaker was Vicky Hogue who informed us about the effect of Covid-19 on the hospital, medical staff, and the Paulding community during the pandemic. The hope for our future is bright with increased numbers of vaccinations and the knowledge we've acquired to keep each other safe. Cristen Cochran spoke to us about all the insurance options that are available to our members. Georgia's Teacher Retirement System remains strong, affording all retired teachers a dependable, safe retirement. Our organization's charitable efforts this year are the March of Dimes and Helping Hands Paulding. Our next meeting is January 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Dallas.

Pickens County REA held its first in-person meeting for the 2021-2022 year on November 10, 2021. Members that attended were happy to see each other face-to-face. Cindy Parks, and her sister, with Originals to Remember served a delicious lunch. Following the luncheon, the business portion of the meeting included learning about market trends from Greg Davis with Clyde Cody's office at Edward Jones, Chris Rumble gave updates on CARES, Pickens' local food pantry and emergency financial assistance and Erin Bleisath spoke about ACES Youth Home and their sup-

port for teens in the Pickens area. PCREA will be collecting Christmas donations for the youth. It was a very entertaining and informative meeting. Next month we look forward to hearing from Rick Jasperse, State Representative for District 11 and Erin Bleisath will return to collect Christmas donations for the youth on Wednesday, December 8th @ 11:30 a.m. at the Community Center.

Polk REA has been recognizing the essential and dedicated employees of Polk County Schools. Last year we provided snacks and bottled water to all the faculty and staff of the 12 schools in the county. This school year Polk REA recently showed appreciation to Polk School District bus drivers for the service they provide for the families and children of our county. A variety of snacks was left at the Bus Barn so that all 64 bus drivers could enjoy a treat from Polk REA. We Love Our Bus Drivers!

Schley County REA met October 7th for a business meeting and dinner at the Sign of the Dove Restaurant in Buena Vista. President Lou Chase presided. Some of the business discussed was Christmas bags for all Schley County School employees, special monetary gifts to student teachers, and the in-memory presentation for the purchase of new books of \$250 to each school library—Schley County Elementary and Schley Middle/High School. Several additional items of business were discussed. Meals were served following adjournment of the business meeting.

White County REA is extremely excited that our unit made the front page of the Fall 2021 *Bulletin* along with many other statewide winners. Congratulations to all recipients. What an honor to be named a Unit of Distinction for 2020-2021. Our faithful officers and members worked together to make it happen, but the overall effort that drew us together was due to the excellent leadership we experienced by our President, June Collins. Sadly, we lost June on September 28, 2021, to a rare disorder—Multiple System Atrophy. June never gave up, always exhibiting her usual positive attitude. June was fully supported by her husband Lamar Collins who saw that she never missed a regular or called meeting of our White County Retired Educators. We have resumed our regular scheduled meetings under the leadership of Mrs. Jackie Townley. At the September meeting a candle lighting memorial service was held recalling members who had passed away during the last year. In October and November meetings Area Director Brenda Hunt visited our unit and brought good advice to leaders and members that will help us stay on track throughout the year. Brenda is an enthusiastic cheerleader for GREA. On November 1, White County Commissioners presented a proclamation to President Jackie Townley recognizing Nov. 7, 2021, as Retired Educators Day in Georgia.

What'll Ya Have...What'll Ya Have

By Jesse Hunter

This historic sales pitch is shouted-out to customers of the Varsity Restaurant as they prepare to order their food. The Varsity is famous for its chili dogs, hamburgers, fries, onion rings just to name a few.

Why do I invoke this chant that is synonymous with tasty fast food with my goal to finish the Honor Roll Plaza at our museum/offices building? Well, time is drawing near to have the bricks sold and I want you to have at least one brick in the plaza. As of November 20th, there are fifty-one bricks available to honor yourself, relatives, friends, and local units or memorialize those that have passed. Bricks are \$75 each. "What'll Ya Have?"



Jesse Hunter

REGISTRATION FORM—GREA 62nd Annual Convention Atlanta Evergreen Marriott • Stone Mountain, Georgia • May 3-5, 2022

Please do a separate form for each person registering!

REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 18th

Name on convention badge _____

Wednesday Awards Breakfast May 4th—8:30 a.m. \$45 Amt. \$ _____

Local Unit Name and Area _____

Wednesday Night Banquet May 4th—6:30 p.m. \$50 Amt. \$ _____

Office Held _____

Total Due Amt. \$ _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____

Registration for the Convention \$50 Amt. \$ _____

Early Bird Registration before April 1st \$40 Amt. \$ _____

Tuesday Night Tailgate May 3rd—6:30 p.m. \$50 Amt. \$ _____

Your check should be for the total amount shown above. Please do not include any other types of payment/donations in your Registration check. No refunds after April 18th. **A reminder that meal tickets must be bought before the convention and they will not be sold at the convention. Everyone taking part in any convention activities, including meals, must register for the convention.**

Mail to: GREA Convention Registration
P. O. Box 1379 • Flowery Branch, Ga. 30542

Deadline to register is April 18, 2022.



Atlanta REA member and former Area 13 Director Alice Moore submitted this photo of the sign outside her church honoring retired educators.



Newton REA Newton County proclaims November 7, 2021 as Georgia Retired Educators Day in Newton County. In Photo: L to R Sara Hamby, NCREA President; Marcello Banes, Chairman of the Newton County Commission; Beth Moore, NCREA Treasurer.



Vidalia Mayor Doug Roper signs a proclamation declaring Sunday, November 7th, 2021 Georgia Retired Educators Day in Vidalia, Georgia. Witnessing the signing is Lucy Claroni, President Elect of the Toombs County Retired Educators Association.

2021 Retired Educators Day

Editor's Note: This is just a representative sampling of the many photographs submitted for Retired Educators Day. Thank you for your submissions. Lack of space prevents us from using every single photo.



Clinch REA members at Sunday church service celebrating Georgia Retired Educators Day.



Effingham REA The City of Springfield has signed a proclamation stating Sunday, November 7 will be recognized as Georgia Retired Educators Day. Citizens are urged to observe Sunday, November 7, 2021, in an appropriate manner to honor retired educators in Georgia. Pictured are Effingham Retired Educators: Sandra Moore, Brenda Barrow, Kimberly Johnson and Pam Anderegg with City Manager Matt Morris.



South Fulton REA members were excited to celebrate Georgia's Retired Educators Day on Sunday, November 7, 2021, in person at the Historic Green Manor Restaurant in Union City, Georgia since gatherings are now more permissible. The group enjoyed an afternoon of lunch and fellowship with each other and invited guests.



Pickens County REA: In Pickens County, along with wearing our ribbons, one of our local banks—Community Bank—celebrated us on their scrolling marquee. They are always so supportive of our teachers—present and retired!!



Burke County REA President Belle Dent receives a Resolution from State Rep. Gloria Frazier (left) commemorating Georgia Retired Educators Day November 7, 2021.



Clayton County REA: Clayton County Commission Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner presents the Proclamation for Retired Educators Day to Susan Croft, President of the Clayton County Retired Educators Association, at the October meeting in the Millie Sharkey Christian Activities Building of the Jonesboro First United Methodist Church.



Habersham REA members attended the service at Victory Baptist Church in Clarkesville in recognition of Retired Educators Day. Several members attended their church and met at the restaurant. Attendees enjoyed fellowship and a buffet lunch at the Cornelia Food Factory after the service.



Waycross-Ware REA: Waycross Mayor Michael-Angelo James presents a proclamation to members of the Waycross-Ware County REA during a recent meeting of the Waycross City Commission recognizing November 7 as "Retired Educators Day." Left to right: Barbara Jordan, Karen Ethridge, Minnie Dotson (President), Mayor James & Pamela Altman.



Lee County REA Mayor Billy Breeden is signing the proclamation for Retired Educators Day. It was taken at our October meeting with all our members of the Lee County Retired Educators that were present that day.



Coffee Atkinson REA members: Jessie Porter, Irene Murray, Elizabeth White, Sandy Gibbs, Cheryl Evans, President Linda Cribbs and Nancy Cross looked on as Douglas Mayor Tony Paulk signed the 2021 Georgia Retired Educators Day Proclamation.



Chatham REA members at Sunday church service celebrating Georgia Retired Educators Day.



North Fulton REA Milton Mayor Lockwood presented a Proclamation for Georgia Retired Educators Day to Stella Boayue, Latrelle Hinckley and Debbie Reeves of North Fulton Retired Educators Association



Bibb REA members celebrated Retired Educators Day at Macedonia Baptist Church. The Pastor, Rev. Eddie Smith gave a special recognition to the retired educators in the congregation. The announcer read the proclamation from Governor Kemp during the service. BRE President, Dr. Lee, Past President Myrtice Johnson and other educators in the congregation joined in for a photo opportunity.



Peach County REA members met with Fort Valley Mayor Barbara Williams at City Hall on Friday November 5th. Mayor Williams signed a proclamation proclaiming Sunday November 7th as Retired Educators Day. Pictured Left to right: Sylvia Malone, President Mable Oglesby, President Elect Dr. Quentin Green. Brenda Weatherspoon, and Barbara Humphrey Pictured in the center Mayor Barbara Williams.

Want Expert Benefits Advice? Work with An Expert: An AMBA Agent

Though friends and family can be helpful when you're considering benefits options for what insurance you need, there's no substitute for the expert benefit advice of a field agent through your association and AMBA.

Why? Because your needs are as unique as you are. Your lifestyle and health issues aren't the same as your friends and family. What's good for them might not necessarily be right—or enough—for you. An AMBA agent knows this and can give recommendations and advice tailored for your specific needs.

For instance, if you are having issues obtaining life insurance because of health or lifestyle issues, an AMBA representative can direct you to a Whole Life policy that guarantees benefits acceptance regardless of lifestyle or pre-existing health issues.

Your own health and/or family history should also play a role in what insurance you should consider. Even which Medicare plan you choose can be a factor in determining if a MedSup plan is right for you.

And, of course, your peers and loved ones might not know about the need for a Medical Air Services Association (MASA) membership or which of our Dental Plans is right for you.



As your association's trusted benefits partner, AMBA provides knowledgeable Customer Service Associates and insightful Field Agents. We are here to help you review options and determine the right coverage for you—whether it's **dental insurance, vision plans, or other policies**. They're just a phone call away. It's nice to know that anytime you have questions about your insurance benefits, someone is ready to assist.

Request a FREE Benefits Review with an AMBA field agent at www.amba-review.com or call 866-615-4063 Mon.-Fri 8 a.m.-5p.m. CT.

GREA

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GREa BULLETIN

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

Johnny Smith, Editor

Published quarterly by GREa

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