

THE GRE A BULLETIN

JOURNAL OF NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS OF GEORGIA

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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

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Retired Educators Day in Georgia



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

RETIRED EDUCATORS' DAY

- WHEREAS:** More than 141,000 retired educators have devoted their time and talents to public education in our state, fostering the academic development of millions of outstanding citizens in the State of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** Retired educators touched and influenced the lives of generations of young people, motivating and inspiring their students to use their innate talents and abilities to the fullest, prompting them to become responsible, contributing citizens; and
- WHEREAS:** Retired educators possess valuable knowledge and are able to use their vast experience and skill to enrich the education process in varied settings, often continuing to be a major source of insight and direction in education for our state and nation; and
- WHEREAS:** For sixty-four years, the Georgia Retired Educators Association has dedicated its efforts to improving the welfare of retired educators, and it has provided opportunities for them to become involved in community activities; and
- WHEREAS:** On Retired Educators Day, the State of Georgia recognizes these individuals for their time and commitment to bettering our country, and encourages Georgians to express their gratitude for the work done by retired educators; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 6, 2022, as RETIRED EDUCATORS' DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 23rd day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



B. Kemp
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

M. Kilpatrick
CHIEF OF STAFF

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 has declared November 6, 2022, as a day to recognize the 140,000+ retirees all across Georgia for their lasting contributions to our state.



(L-R): GRE A Director of Communications Johnny Smith, GRE A President-elect Joe Boland, Governor Brian Kemp, Mrs. Kemp, and GRE A Executive Director Dr. Bill Sloan. GRE A President Dr. Henrietta Gray was unable to attend the presentation due to the late hour and the distances involved to travel to Atlanta.

Message From the President

Area Meetings Extraordinaire

By Dr. Henrietta Gray, President



Henrietta Gray

I don't have command of words sufficient to express the full force and range of my great appreciation and exhilaration for our 2022 Area Meetings. The Area Meetings were planned with excellence, creativity and themed decorations that expressed how much our theme of Empowered to Serve is understood, appreciated, and embraced by Area Directors and their Locals.

The GREA Traveling Team was extended gracious reception, excellent Provisions, and exceptional, scrumptious lunches. I was so pleased and touched by the extent to which Area Directors stretched to display their love for GREA and our incumbent Leadership Team. Thank you, Area Directors, for serving significantly and strategically in the execution of your responsibilities as Area Director. I take this means and opportunity to thank Area Directors who gave me beautiful gifts, cards, cash, and other expressions of your love for and appreciation of your 2022-2023 President. I will forever be grateful. Know that I have much affection for you. It is my prayer that God Himself RICHLY bless you a hundredfold a thousand times more for what you did and how you served during our Area Meetings.

The gravitas of the 2022 Area Meetings was a fitting platform from which to launch the beginning of an invigorating year of Empowered to Serve. May we all remember the Clarion Call of our Area Meetings message—that we build a strong Statewide Team of Retired Educators who are empowered to serve based on Trust, Expectations, Accountability and Meaningfulness. I urge all of us to extend our embrace of the GREA Motto: Fellowship-Serve-Support!

I look forward to seeing many of you as I am invited and moving around attending your local meetings and other REA celebratory events. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, ideas, or observations.

Be Blessed, Safe, Wise, and Stay Healthy!

A Word from the President-elect

By Joe Boland, President-elect



Joe Boland

Thanks to everyone for the hospitality at the Area Meetings. I made all of them except Areas 5-6 in Jesup. My daughter and I were watching a tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio. You were very gracious and kind at the meetings. I did not get to tour the area as I would have liked, but I did see the Skyscraper in Dublin. Wow!

My wife and I look forward to going to our next Cobb/Marietta REA meeting. Things are not quite back to normal, but we are all doing what we can. We look forward to seeing our friends.

A tip of the hat to Marilyn Werner. She has been one of our most dedicated GREA members. Her late husband, Harry, was GREA president in 2006. Marilyn would prefer that this article be about him. They both went to Georgia Southern where Harry played basketball, and Marilyn was a cheerleader. Marilyn spent 31 years in education; Harry served for 32 years. Their first few years were in Dekalb County, and they taught most of the time in Henry County. Marilyn was a middle school PE teacher; Harry was a Math teacher/Coach/Principal. Their son Chris lives in Woodstock. Their daughter Sandra lives next door.

If you have been to convention, Marilyn is the person who gets the bags stuffed with all the goodies. In the past she has been to Area Meetings and sold GREA items.

Marilyn regrets that Harry did not get to see completion of the GREA/GREM building that we now occupy. After Harry passed, Marilyn donated the old school bell that is mounted at the building. She rings it every time she visits.

I enjoy being around Marilyn. She is a strong advocate for GREA and embodies our motto of Fellowship, Service, and Support. I hope she stays Involved for years to come.

Ramblin' Around With the Executive Director

By Bill Sloan, Executive Director



It is a perfect Monday morning in beautiful Flowery Branch, Ga. GREA membership is growing at a wonderful pace and my Georgia Bulldawgs are again ranked the No. 1 football team in the country. God is Good!

GREA now has over 33,000 members and it is steadily growing every day. Your GREA leadership is so thankful for the work so many of you are doing on the local level and the work being done by AMBA statewide. Many of the retired educator organizations across the U.S.A. are not growing and/or losing membership. but we have continued to grow even though the pandemic. Thank You!

We had 9 great area meetings throughout the state in August and they were well attended by GREA members. I want to thank all those who attended and especially those who had any part in putting them on. Our Area Directors did an outstanding job in coordinating the meetings. The President, President Elect, Director of Communication, the GREM Museum Curator and the Executive Director greatly enjoyed visiting with all of you.

I am happy to report that Past President Jo Ann Tomlinson is doing well and has resumed her duties. Jo Ann had to miss all the area meetings as she was hospitalized for a time. We are all grateful that she is doing well.

Once again, I would like to thank Dr. Henrietta Gray for serving 2 years as the GREA President. Being the President of an organiza-

tion with 33,000 members is a huge undertaking and only special people with great leadership skills can be successful in the position. The pandemic caused many unique problems for all state and local units but Dr. Gray and Ms. Tomlinson before her both stepped up and said I can serve a 2-year term. Thank you again ladies for being special people.

Do you follow GREA on Facebook? You are missing a real treat as our Director of Communications is doing an excellent job in highlighting the activities of local units all across Georgia. Particularly local unit presidents should be following GREA as you can see what other units are doing and you might find something that would work for your local unit. Some outstanding activities are happening, and you can see many of them on our Facebook page. If you do not know how to get on Facebook, you probably have a grandson or granddaughter that can fix you up in about 5 minutes.

To paraphrase one of our greatest presidents, "Ask not what GREA can do for you, but what can you do for GREA. We need local and state leaders, and we encourage you to step up and be a leader as all educators have been great leaders in the classroom. Why not be a great leader in GREA? What else can you do for GREA? Recruit a new member as there are 100,000 retirees who are not members. I bet many of them have never been asked. I challenge each of you to find just one new member. Boy we would be a powerful political force with that many members.

Thanks to all of you for being a GREA members. We are blessed!

TRS News

Where Y'all At?

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



Buster Evans

people that I know!"

Greetings to our GREA friends across Georgia and beyond! Some nearly 7,000 new retirees are now a few months into the status of being "newly retired!" I am guessing that, based on my experience, most of these new retirees have found out what the rest of our GREA retirees have already found out.... retirement is wonderful! As I love to say, "retired educators are some of the happiest people that I know!"

Have you ever asked someone this question: "where y'all at?" It may be a bit of a southern term, I realize, but I have no doubt that many of you have either asked this question or have been asked this question by someone else! You might be like our great GREA Executive Director and are at the University of Georgia football game on a fall afternoon among 100,000 faithful Dawg fans. You are wanting to meet up with someone else and you pull out the addictive electronic device known as the iPhone. You call up someone and say, "where y'all at?" After navigating hundreds of tailgating tents, thousands of coeds who look like they are still in middle school, you find your sought-after party. What a relief!

Well, allow me to ask the question: "where y'all at?" During the last session of the Georgia legislature, HB 385 was passed that allowed, under certain conditions and in certain content fields, retired educators to return to the classroom full-time and continue to draw their pensions. In case you haven't been keeping up, there is a growing teacher shortage in Georgia and the nation. I will not try to come up with all the reasons why I believe that shortage exists, but frankly, I am not surprised. Teaching is very rewarding, but it is challenging work. As a retired educator, you already know that.

In July, we began receiving notifications from employers who were beginning to obtain approvals to employ retired educators under the provisions of HB 385. Every week, I would ask our Retirement Services Division leadership to provide me with an update on the number of people who had requested to come back to work under HB 385. Even though I am repeatedly told there are many teaching vacancies across Georgia, we have only received approval requests for approximately 150 retired teachers to return to work in a full-time role. So, once again, I ask..." where y'all at?"

I believe there are several reasons that the number of requests to return to work are low. First, these are perhaps some of the most challenging times ever as educators. COVID brought new challenges to the profession, and it may be that it just isn't as attractive as it used to be for us "senior" educators in going back into the classroom. Secondly, clearly there were some provisions in HB 385 that restricted some interested retirees in returning to the classroom. That is what several of our employers are telling us as well as what we are experiencing. Hopefully, we will see some "tweaking" of the legislation at some point to make the legislation a bit more appealing to more of our retirees.

Retired educators are a wonderful resource for our local school systems across Georgia. Many return as substitute teachers, part-time teachers, teaching assistants and other roles. There are opportunities out there, so I hope you will join me in spreading the word that our schools in Georgia can use a little help, whether it is in a part-time role or even full-time as allowed by HB 385.

Thank you for your past service to education in Georgia! Thank you, as well, for your continued service as you support the profession by being an active member in your local retired educators association as well as GREA! I look forward to seeing many of you across the state during the coming months. Meanwhile, and once again, "where y'all at?"

AMBA News

You can't predict, but you can prepare". This old saying is especially relevant to the world we now live in. Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped many things. One of the most significant is how people think about and plan for their retirement.

With all the upheaval of the year, many people are confused about how they can be prepared for retirement. One of the biggest lessons of the pandemic is that the future is far from predictable. Your retirement goals should include room for flexibility and to pivot as needed. For those nearing or in retirement, keep the following in mind.



Protect Your Savings in Retirement

Unexpected market downturns at the beginning of retirement can harm your savings permanently. Protect yourself with cash savings so you can maintain your principal and prevent yourself from running out of money.

Plan for the Long Haul

The average life expectancy in the United States continues to rise. That means we could spend decades in retirement. Think carefully about how you would like to spend these years and what activities and options you'd like to prioritize.

With a potential retirement of 30 years or more, you may even decide to keep working for pay or as a volunteer so you can stay engaged and social as you age.

Make Your Physical and Mental Health a Priority

The activities and behaviors you take now will influence how active and fulfilled you can remain later. Find nutritious eating options and physical activity that you enjoy so you can remain fit and healthy later in life. Plan to carry the habits throughout your golden years.

It's true that the future is never certain. But by thinking ahead and making smart choices now, you can stay on track for a happy, healthy retirement. **For example, a Fixed Income Annuity from your association and AMBA, gives you locked-in income with a guaranteed competitive interest rate, multiple payout options, and even a nursing home waiver. If you want the assurance that your retirement plans never get jolted by sudden changes in the market or economy, AMBA can help find the right solution for you. Call AMBA at 1-866-684-5267 or visit amba-review.com to request a free Benefits Review.**

News From GREA Local Units

Brantley County REA created customized wooden decor plaques for each BC school and gifted them just prior to the beginning of the school year. Said Dr. Sawyer of the presentations, "The principals seemed enthusiastic and appreciative of the gifts, but we were the ones who were blessed to be able to meet with these leaders and provide a little something to show our appreciation to the faculties and staffs for all the hard work they do for the children of Brantley County. We look forward to continuing these partnerships throughout the school year, and beyond."

Burke County REA celebrated the 96th birthday of Emeritus Cynthia B. Mobley on August 21st. It was heartwarming. Nine members were in attendance for GREA 11 & 12 Area Meeting on August 3rd hosted by Laurens-Dublin REA. Attendees were Emanuel Larkin, Jr. President; Jannette Tindal, Life Member; Jackie Payton, Secretary; Rose Clinton, Program Chair; Cynthia B. Mobley, Emeritus Member; Belle S. Dent, Immediate Past President; Loretta Brinson, Membership Chair; Azalene Young, Archives & History Chair and Doris Smith, Vice-President. Our regular meeting was held on Thursday, September 1st. Kudos to our unit for achieving a 7% increase in membership growth. The Unit's Handbook was discussed, and committee reports were shared. Following our meeting several members attended Senator Reverend Ralph Warnock's Campaign stop which was held at Burke County Office Park in Waynesboro, Georgia. The speech was very informative.

Chatham REA held its Executive Board planning meeting on August 1st and the first unit meeting for the 2022-2023 year on September 12, 2022. Members now have the option of meeting face-to-face or hybrid. President Annette Mitchell presented an agenda full of exciting new activities. Chatham REA members look forward to meeting its goals of supporting the local schools and community.

Clayton County REA held its first meeting of 2022-2023 on August 16, 2022, at the First United Methodist Church of Jonesboro. More than 40 members and guests attended the meeting in person while others watched on Facebook Live. In celebration of the beginning of the unit's fiftieth year, members honored several past presidents; enjoyed the music of Faculty Grass, a bluegrass band, and shared fellowship once again over a delicious lunch.

Dalton Whitfield Murray REA members attended the GREA Area 15/16 meeting in Cedartown in August. Richard Rogers, Gary Cochran, and Sandra Derrick represented the unit and heard reports from TRS, GREA, and AMBA. The unit held the September meeting at Western Sizzlin in Dalton. Mike Ewton, Superintendent Whitfield County Schools, and Karey Williams, Deputy Superintendent Whitfield County Schools were the guest speakers. The members heard the latest updates from the school system.

Fayette County REA is off to an exciting start. We sponsored breakfast one day for new teachers in the district during the 2022-2023 new teacher orientation held the week of July 25-29. Our first in-person Unit Meeting was held September 8, 2022, with incoming president, Mrs. Doe Evans, presiding. Fifteen new retirees and/or reclaimed members were in attendance and signed up to join FCREA. Our theme for the year is

Stayin' Alive with Happiness and Devotion. Dr. Kelly Jackson presented the 'Drums Alive' program and led the members in an energetic, entertaining, and thoroughly enjoyable drumming activity. Additional information was provided by members of the Executive Board which included the following projects: (1) The Fayette County Board of Education Build-A-Mug service project. FCREA members assemble the mugs each month and deliver them to teachers and/or staff who have been selected to receive the Customer Service Award. (2) We expanded our annual scholarship auction to include craft vendors and are looking forward to hosting, the Little Red Crafthouse Arts and Crafts Fair, November 12, 2022. To promote member engagement and service, we have encouraged members to purchase our new monogrammed FCREA shirts because it is our aim to spread happiness throughout the unit and community.

Griffin-Spalding REA awarded their 2022 \$1,000 Memorial Scholarship to Sophia M. Hill, a paraprofessional working with Special Education students in a self-contained classroom at Cowan Rd. Elementary School in Griffin. She is working towards professional certification in the teacher education program with Western Governors University. Recent speakers at meetings were Davida Morgan-Washington, President and CEO of First Readers and Dr. Steve Ledbetter, the Spalding County Manager.

Gwinnett County REA celebrated its 50th Anniversary Year in 2022. Special guests at our Birthday meeting in March were Dr. Henrietta Gray, Dr. Bill Sloan, and many other GREA-t friends. In May several members attended the Convention in Stone Mountain to receive our Unit of Distinction Award. GCREA will resume meetings in September with Welcome New Members! We are supporting B. B. Harris Elementary (Duluth) with teacher gifts this Fall. Also, we sponsor the GCPS Book Mobile to Britt Elementary (Snellville) with a free book for every student this year. In December, we plan to have a return of the Holiday Basket Silent Auction to support our Scholarship Fund for 2023.

Habersham REA members recently visited Rowena Lovell, a retiree who will soon be 91. She retired with 31yrs. of teaching and is a member of GREA/HREA. HREA officers presented her with a certificate and a card. HREA is ready to begin the year with meetings full of Fellowship, Service, and Support for both GREA and HREA. We always add a little fun and good food as well.

Hall/Gainesville REA assisted in hosting the Area 17/18 Meeting on August 9th. Eighty plus members from across the two areas came to hear Dr. Henrietta Gray speak at the Gainesville Civic Center. President Elect Joe Boland commented on how well run the meeting was. Thanks to all the HGREA members who helped host this highly successful gathering!!!

Houston County REA held its first meeting of the year on Thursday, September 8, 2022, and over 55 people were in attendance. This was the largest number of attendees since before the pandemic. Louis Frank Tompkins, the new Area 8 Director, gave news from the state office and encouraged members to keep HCREA flourishing and to encourage others to join GREA. Scholarships, in the amount of \$1000 each, were given to two graduates of the school system, Reggie Thorpe and Carley

Clements, both of whom attended all thirteen years in Houston County Schools. Reggie, a second-year recipient, went from being a paraprofessional to earning his undergraduate degree and is now on the staff of Northside High School after working 17 years as a volunteer coach. He said his educational journey was a long one, but he wanted to impress upon his students and his own children to stick with it no matter how long it takes. He is currently working on his master's degree. Carley is a junior at Georgia Southern University working on her educational degree with plans to join both her parents and her brother as teachers in the Houston County School System. Her entire family graduated from schools in the county. The budget adopted by the Executive Committee in August was approved, and a list of programs for meetings for the entire year was given to those in attendance.

Lumpkin County REA Awesome News: Dr. Rob Brown, Superintendent of Lumpkin Co. Schools, has invited LCREA to each of the 5 schools to hold their monthly meetings. Meals will be provided by the school. Dr. Brown was unaware of our new Georgia Educator Museum. He has generously offered transportation for 2 groups of LCREA members to the museum. He is looking forward to accompanying one of these groups. We gratefully appreciate the support of our "SUPER"-intendent!

Mitchell-Baker REA has gotten off to a great start. The unit has held two executive meetings (July and August) to ensure effective planning and a smooth transition during the 2022-2023 year. The handbook, scheduled meetings, projects, and other pertinent tasks have also been outlined. Mr. Jewell Howard and members of the Mitchell-Baker Unit served as host for the Area 1 and 2 meeting held on August 18, 2022, at the Albany Technical College in Albany, GA. Mitchell-Baker's first scheduled meeting will be held the second Wednesday in September. Our very own city manager, Mr. Dennis Stroud, will be the guest speaker. Members are geared up and very excited. We are certainly off to an energetic beginning and expect to have an awesome year.

Monroe County REA has gotten back in the swing after a couple of crippling covid years. We co-sponsored a forum in June to highlight Board of Education candidates. It was helpful to voters and a good community service. Congratulations to MCREA Sherrye Battle for being elected to a school board post! In the spring we awarded two \$500 scholarships to deserving Mary Persons High School students. One plans to be a high school biology teacher and the other plan to be a school nurse.

Morgan County REA bounced back strong after COVID by hosting Dr. Jimmy Stokes, former Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL), who explained all the educational bills passed during this legislative session; a presentation on the new physicians and services at our local hospital; and volunteer opportunities at the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art. They ended the school year by hosting a reception for all newly retired educators, along with Teachers of the Year from all schools, and the system Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and STAR student and teacher. Each new teacher was given a gift certificate for an ice-cream cone the first week of school, and paperback and hardback books (fiction and non-fiction) were collected and placed in each school's Teacher's Lounge, along with handmade bookmarks from our unit. This year's activities are set to be just as strong..and fun!

Newton County REA had a great summer full of fun and fellowship! In June, we went to Buckner's Family Style Restaurant in Jackson for a wonderful southern style lunch served on their famous lazy-susan round tables. We then continued to Dickey's Peach House in Musella where we ate peach ice-cream and rocked on the porch before going home with lots of fresh peaches and produce! In July, we gathered for a overed dish Salads and Sandwiches lunch followed by homemade peach and vanilla ice-cream. We also played a few fun rounds of Bingo! August was a busy month! We hosted the Annual Meeting for Areas 13 and 14 at Alcovy United Methodist Church in Covington. We were excited to greet everyone with a buffet breakfast before the meeting! On August 18, we held our Newton County School System Retiree Picnic! This year we served a low country boil with lots of shrimp, sausage, corn, potatoes, and crayfish! We were excited to have the folks from Washington Street Community Center Afterschool Program join us for lunch! We held our first meeting for the 22-23 year on September 1. Our theme was It's Never Too Early to Tailgate! Members brought some of their favorite Tailgate snacks for everyone to enjoy! Our program was presented by Holly Gardiner, our AMBA representative. She provided us with lots of useful information about Membership, Medicare, SHBP, and AMBA benefits. We are growing our membership every year and look forward to seeing what we can accomplish here in Newton County!

Paulding REA was selected as July's Partner in Education with Paulding County Schools. Accepting this honor were PREA President Elect Susan Lester and PREA President Laura Weiss. The presenter, Jana Stegall, had this to say: "These educators not only gave many years of service to educate our students, they continue that dedication by continuing to serve during their retirement years. They raise money for various community groups, contribute to ongoing donations like Helping Hands of Paulding and provide clothing to Paulding students in need. They also volunteer in our schools, donate school supplies, and give scholarships to District employees who are working to further their education." Our organization is proud to support the community with donations to Helping Hands and donating supplies and time to the schools of Paulding County.

Richmond County REA recently attended the Area 11 & 12 meeting where school supplies for the children in the counties were collected. The supplies were divided evenly between both units. Area 12 Director Dr. Roger Williams and Richmond County President Dr. Sharon Ray presented the donated supplies to Ms. Talithia Newsome, Director of Sand Hills GNETS Program and two of her staff members.

South Fulton REA is proud to announce their scholarship recipient for the school year, 2022 is Zaria K. Beasley a graduate from Tri-Cities High School in East Point, Georgia. Zaria received a \$1,000.00 Scholarship from our association. While at Tri-Cities Zaria was President of the Fashion Club, Tri-Cities Theater Magnet stage management team member, Reaching Early Creatives Atlanta, Georgia student participant, and a member of the International Thespian Society. She also volunteered at the Atlanta Community Food Bank to help alleviate hunger in the community. She is currently enrolled at Georgia State University in the College of Nursing and Health.

GRE Foundation, Inc. Profiles Scholarship Winners

For the last twenty years the GRE Foundation has invited active educators in Georgia to apply for a scholarship. These scholarships started out in the amount of \$500, but this past spring the amount was changed to \$1000. The first scholarship was for one educator. Over the years, with the help of local REA's, the Foundation was able to present 18 \$750 scholarships a year. For the past two years the number was dropped to 10 scholarships. Some local REA's continue to donate to the cause. The GRE Foundation and the winning educators appreciate the help. Please continue to support the scholarships and the active educators through local unit donations, individual donations, and the Silent Auction at the conventions.

—Patricia Bassett, Chair

DaShaun McGee has 12 years-experience, is a high school instrumental, music education, and band teacher in Jesup, Georgia. He and his wife are both working on their doctorates and his goal is to take what he has learned and put it into practice as an educator. He wants to open doors for his students in rural South Georgia, and let them know that they are life-long learners and learning does not end with HS graduation. The scholarship will help defray his educational costs a allow him to continue his work in the community. He is a member of Rho Mu Lambda that does civic projects in the area of Brunswick, Waycross, and Jesup. He is a member of the National and Georgia Music Educators Association. He is the district 8 Chair for the GMEA southern division. He is the facilitator for the school marching band of 130 students. They perform at all varsity football games and in marching band competitions. In the Spring he volunteers to help the track team and mentor teenage boys



Brenda Joaquin has four years-experience and is a paraprofessional in Whitfield County. Her educational goal is to teach biology. She wants a classroom where students can have hands-on learning—not learning through the computer or cell phone. She stated that she was not financially able to attend college right out of high school and now there is very little aid for students her age. She said that she had been awarded parapro of the year by the school system; she has participated in the Conasauga Watershed cleanup; she has done mentorship for students in the Intensive English Academy; she serves as the liaison between non-English speaking parents



and the school system. She said that the school did not have clubs or sports, but she serves as a translator in meetings with parents; she serves as a teacher substitute when needed; she helps plan and organize special events. The GREF scholarship would meet a lot to her since she would be the first in her family to go to college.

Paula Axford is a high school media specialist in Cobb County. She wants to use social media to reinforce lessons on social and emotional learning. Her ultimate goal using social media as instructional technology is to improve the quality of mental health in a student using social media as instructional technology. She stated that the traumatic and accidental death of her husband and the father of her 10-and 15-year-old children has left her financially stressed. There was no life insurance, but she has made sure that her children were educated and were prepared for life. This has left little financially for her to pursue her educational goals. She is involved in many volunteer organizations. Included are: Clark's Christmas Kids, CURE Childhood Cancer, the Max Gruver Foundation to end hazing, and the Make-a-Wish Foundation. She is active in the school as the Sources of Strength advisor, the school coordinator and leader of the Believe in You student empowerment program, and advisor to the Tome Society Book Club. She wants it to be her life's mission to empower students and improve the quality of their mental health.



Kara Mills, a high school counselor from Cobb County, says that with Covid she has lost some of her "why" and she wants to pursue her EdS to renew her knowledge and skills. Wanting to help students remove obstacles to their success has motivated her to refresh her professional practice. She and her husband are both educators and the scholarship will help her to finish her degree on time while easing the financial burden on the family. She serves her community as a volunteer in many civic organizations. Among them: Cobb, Georgia, and American School Counselor Association, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Georgia Department of Education and Cobb Schools Dual Enrollment Committee. Her school activities include the District Dual Enrollment Workgroup, summer professional development, summer counseling programs offered to the students, and a former coach for cross country. She stated that the scholarship would allow her to take a course next semester instead of delaying it until later.



Important notice!

GREA was not able to print the Summer *Bulletin* because the paper we use to print it on was not available. We use a very large printing company, and they checked ever vendor that made the glossy paper that we use, and none was available. We made the decision to not print the Summer *Bulletin*. 18,000 of our members get it by email anyway and the bulletin is on our web site for everyone to see. (garetirededucators.org)

This Fall *Bulletin* has been printed on a cheaper paper

because we are told the glossy paper probably will not be available until January. We are sorry to have to lower the quality of the *Bulletin*, but we had no other choice. We hope the world will return to normal in the foreseeable future. The demand for goods and services far exceeds the supply right now for most things.

[UPDATE: We have changed printers and will be able to print on glossy paper.]

From GREA Director of Communications

By Johnny Smith

How do I get information about my group on the GREA Facebook page or in the bulletin?

It's actually quite simple. We are able to post just about anything on our Facebook page, but we are severely space limited in our quarterly bulletin. Please submit information via email to johnny.smith@grea3.org or grea3@grea3.org. The first email goes directly to our Communications Director while the second one goes to our general office email. To make sure we receive your information it would be better to submit it directly to Johnny Smith. If you don't use email, feel free to send it via USPS to our mailing address (GREA, P.O. Box 1379, Flowery Branch, GA 30542).



Johnny Smith

For articles, simply type them in the body of the email or type the article as a Word document then send it as an email attachment. Please do not send an article as a PDF. We sometimes have to edit for brevity, but it is not possible to edit a PDF. In an email or as a Word document are the preferred ways of sending us written information.

For photos, please send them as an email attachment at the highest quality possible. This might mean you can only send 1 or 2 photos at a time, but this is necessary if we want to use your photo for print purposes. You may not be aware, but your eyes are easily fooled. A computer screen displays photos at a resolution of 72 dots per inch but print photos have to be at 300 dots per inch. The numbers are not important we just want to make you aware of the difference. Please DO NOT send us screenshots of photographs. On an iPhone, you would press Up Volume then Power, then you hear a click. Screenshots are of very poor quality and are just barely suitable for Facebook but cannot be used for print publications. Please DO NOT write an article in Word and insert the photo in the document. The photo becomes unusable for both Facebook and print publications. As an email attachment at the highest resolution possible is the preferred way of sending us photographs.

What if you don't know how to do any of this? Feel free to reach out to our Communications Director Johnny Smith (johnny.smith@grea3.org) for help. We frequently tell folks to find them a teenager (grandson or granddaughter) and ask their help! We love posting your information on our Facebook page as it shows a very large audience what is going on in your group. It is free publicity for both you and GREA. We try to include as much in our quarterly *Bulletin* as we can, but we are severely space limited.

MARCH OF DIMES DONATION FORM

We believe that every baby deserves the best possible start. Your donation helps us provide services, programs and support for moms and babies in communities like yours across the country.

PLEASE SEND FORM AND YOUR DONATION TO:

March of Dimes
Donation Processing Center
PO Box 18819
Atlanta, GA 31126

Please complete this form so that we can appropriately allocate your donation to your local market. Thank you for your support of March of Dimes!

CONTACT INFO

Name: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: () _____

DONATION INFORMATION

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

March of Dimes location to credit: City: _____ State: _____

(Please do not mail cash.)

If you would like to designate a recipient, please check the appropriate box.

☐ March for Babies: Credit to team or walker? _____

Event: _____

☐ Signature Chefs: Apply to sponsorship or auction purchase? _____

☐ Nurse of the Year

☐ Board gift: Credit to: _____

☐ General donation

☒ Other: GREA Donation

Please make check payable to "March of Dimes."

The March of Dimes is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization (tax identification number 13-1846366.)



Have you visited our website?

Be sure to visit <https://www.garetirededucators.org> for the latest GREA information. Take time to explore and be sure to click the link to watch the video about the Georgia Retired Educators Museum.

Give this to a friend. Recruit a new member for GREA!

2021-2022		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____ Phone # _____
EMAIL _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATIC DUES DEDUCTION (A.D.D.) # _____ SS# or TRS Retirement # is required. My signature below authorizes TRS to deduct \$2.00/month from my TRS pension payment. This authorization will remain in effect until I choose to terminate it by notice to Georgia Retired Educators Association.		<input type="checkbox"/> \$27 ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> \$360 LIFE Send check with this card to the address below. Make check payable to GREA. Local Unit/County _____
Signature _____ Date _____		FOR OFFICE USE ONLY CONTROL # _____ DATE _____

Return this portion to: Georgia Retired Educators Association • P.O. Box 1379 • Flowery Branch, GA 30542

GREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

DETACH HERE, RETURN THIS SIDE

KEEP THIS SIDE FOR YOUR RECORDS

Georgia Retired Educators Association
2021 - 2022 Membership Card

Name _____

Fellowship — Service — Support

Membership July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Dr. Henrietta Gray
President 2021 - 2022
Website: [garetirededucators.org](https://www.garetirededucators.org)
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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).**



Bulletins by Email

Would you like to get your *GREA Bulletin* by email? Approximately 12,000 of our members are now getting their *GREA Bulletin* by email each quarter. The people who get it by email receive it approximately 2-3 weeks before the print edition is mailed to our members. In addition, the email copy is totally in color where the print edition is only partially in color due to the high cost of printing in color.

Postal rates are rising, so if you do not wish to receive the *Bulletin* or would like to receive it via email, please let us know by emailing us at greas3@greas3.org and we will be happy to put you on the email list. Thank you for considering getting your *Bulletin* by email.

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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

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

Telephone: 770-287-7721 • Fax: 770-287-0567

E-mail: greas3@greas3.org

Website: www.garetirededucators.org

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