



GCREA Newsline

June 2021
Volume 8 Issue 5

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

2020
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING
TBA

TCP Sugarloaf
Country Club
Duluth, GA

President:
Tina Duncan
President-elect:
Kimberly Rooker
Secretary:
Ellen Sumner
Treasurer:
Debra Ault-
Butenko

Fellowship
Support
Service

From the Past President Penny Clavijo



Greetings Fellow GCREA Members,

WOW! What an amazing meeting and luncheon GCREA had on May 21, 2021. It was so nice to hear and feel the energy and excitement in the room as members had time to **Engage** and **Connect**, through fellowship with one another. This being our first in-person meeting we have had in over a year, I must say, the experience made my heart overflow with joy. We had 77 members register for our May meeting, and including guests in attendance, our final registration number was 85. Sugarloaf Country Club serves as a beautiful venue for our members to meet, and we are excited to be able to continue to have our meetings there in the upcoming years. The food, space, and amenities are the best and they strive to serve our members well.

Our goals this year focused on continuing to **Engage**, **Connect**, and **Involve** members of GCREA in our Mission of committing to uniting retired educators for FELLOWSHIP, SUPPORT, and continued educational and community SERVICE. Many *CHEERS* to you all, as we have exceeded our goals throughout the year with each endeavor, we have participated in during the 2020-2021 year: Alzheimer's Walk, Annual Fundraiser, Book Mobile, Membership Growth, Volunteer Hours... just to highlight a few. As a result of YOU continuing to **Engage**, **Connect**, and **Involve** yourself as a member of GCREA, you have helped us to again be a UNIT of DISTINCTION with the Georgia Retired Educators Association.

It was wonderful to meet our College, High School, and Teacher Scholarship winners who were able to attend the luncheon. Thank YOU for helping us exceed our annual Fundraiser goal and allow us to Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA in providing support,

through scholarships and mentoring to current and future educators to enhance their academic, social, and personal development to ensure their success as an educator.

What a pleasure it was to have Mr. Alvin Wilbanks, the CEO/Superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools and our GREA Executive Director, Dr. Bill Sloan join us and serve as our guest speakers. Mr. Wilbanks was jovial and provided updates and news about Gwinnett County Public Schools, sharing the many successes and achievements of our great school system. I do hope we get a photo of him in his flip flops, shorts, and beach shirt following his retirement. Dr. Sloan provided updates and highlights from the Teacher Retirement System and encouraged us to come visit the state office, and he encouraged all of us join him in Augusta at the 62nd Annual Convention October 19-21, 2021. Register now through this link in the “EVENTS” section of the GREA website. I also encourage you to join GREA as a member as well if you are not already a member. You can register for the Convention and join GREA at this link: <https://www.garetirededucators.org/>

I want to thank you all again for your support and insight during my President term for 2020-2021. I mentioned during our meeting that Jan Calkins has fondly referred to me as, “Penny the Pandemic President”. It has been such a joy and privilege to serve as the President of GCREA. What an honor to be a part of the Past-President Leadership Legacy for GCREA. I have been a long-time “behind the scenes” supporter of GCREA as I assisted my parents with various project through the years or served as their driver in the most recent years. Reid and Deloris Mullins who served as Past Presidents of GCREA during the years of 1990-1992 and 1996-1997 respectively, have been excellent models for our family of service to the education profession and community at large.

I look forward to supporting and mentoring Tina Duncan, our new President for 2021-2022. I am confident Tina will continue to support the mission of GCREA and lead us to great success.

See YOU at our first chapter meeting in the Fall,

Penny Clavijo

Upcoming Events

GREA Convention

October 19-21, 2021

See info with link

<https://www.garetirededucators.org/>

Walk to End Alzheimer’s

November 13, 2021

More info in Newsline

Welcome to our 2020-2021 Officers!!

Our new slate of officers was installed at the June 21st meeting.

President: Tina Duncan

President -Elect: Kimberly Rooker

Secretary-Ellen Sumner

Treasurer-Debra Ault-Butenko



Pictures from May 21st Meeting



Donating to the Walk2EndAlz Gwinnett
In advance of Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021 ❤️

The Teams are up and I want to encourage you to follow the steps below to begin our 2nd year of supporting the Alzheimer's Association. Together we can raise as much or more than last year and support the quest for a cure. Our walk in Gwinnett is Saturday, November 13th, so mark that on your calendar and hope to see you in person to walk in 2021. Jan Calkins is serving again as our team Captain. This website is very deep so please follow these EASY instructions:

- Go to Google and type in Walk to End Alzheimer's, press enter
- Careful here.....Do Not Click on "Find Your Walk"
- Click on the writing below that "**Find A Team**"
- On the Find a Team fill in **Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association** click Search and up will come the blue letters in the next step
- [Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association - click on this, it is blue](#)
- And FINALLY you are on OUR team page, click the yellow tab DONATE
- Then Click the Purple Tab that says DONATE TO THE TEAM, here you can make a one time or monthly donation and you can give a donor recognition for a loved one on our page. I made a memorial donation for my mother. ❤️
- This takes you right to the Credit/Paypal donation screen and it is very easy!
- After you donate, you can immediately find scrolling on OUR PAGE your name or your "in honor" or "in memorium" loved one's name. ❤️

These steps are much easier than making a log in on their site and if we do it this way you can be sure the money is going to our TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More with GCREA. ❤️
Thank you, Kimberly Rooker, Volunteer Hours

More Pictures from Meeting



Please join the GCREA in recognizing and honoring the Emeritus Members, Class of 2020-2021



<p>Barbara Bagwell 93 May 10, 1928</p>	<p>Jack Britt 94 September 14, 1926</p>	<p>Virginia Kraweic 95 February 16, 1926</p>
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In Remembrance of GCREA Members Who Passed Away This Past Year

Leslie Jo Bentley	Charlotte Dispain	Lester Erving	Patricia Frederick
Michael Grace	Linda Hall	Mary Leach	Janice May
Syble McDaniel	Jane McKenzie	Gailya Raines	Sara Roberts

A special Newsline Edition, In Memoriam 2021, is available on the GCREA website in the Members Only Newsline section. It contains expanded information.

The scholarship committees are pleased to announce the 2020 recipients of GCREA scholarships.

Gwinnett County High School Recipients

Mackenzie Woodward

Makenzie Stewart

Georgia Gwinnett College Recipient

Wendy Arnoux

GCPS Teacher Recipients

Taylor Davis

Ashley Farrington

Apita Waters

Please visit the GCREA website for a special Newline Scholarship Edition for pictures and information on each scholarship recipient.

It is that time of year to pay your annual membership dues of \$25.

Payment deadline is July 1st!

Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association is a great organization that keeps you up to date on issues pertaining to our profession and especially our retirement funds and benefits. We meet monthly for a luncheon and informational meeting from September through May (except for busy December!) We are currently meeting at the beautiful Sugarloaf Country Club. Luncheon reservations are made online - look for the email each month - and the \$25 luncheon cost is payable at the door. We hope you will consider joining us for this very informative and enjoyable monthly event.

Our organization is also affiliated with the state organization, Georgia Retired Educators Assn. (GREA). Please consider being a member of BOTH. Our combined voices across the state make a powerful statement to our legislators about all things pertaining to retired educators and retirement funding. We need your voice to help keep us strong.

If you would prefer an easier payment option, please consider Gwinnett Automatic Dues Deduction (ADD) of \$2.09 a month, for Gwinnett Co. Public School retirees. Simply complete the form below and return it to the Membership Chair (see below) in lieu of your annual check. Please note that your SS # or ID # is **required** for this. Your Membership Chair will see that it gets sent to the county office immediately. Option 2 remains the same, annual dues payments of \$25.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please be aware that failure to pay annual dues for 2 years will result in your membership being cancelled. We would hate to lose you as a member!! So **please act right away** and keep your membership active! If you have questions, just call or email. I am in the handbook!

Blessings,

Terrie Adkins, Membership Chairman

3846 Carriage Gate Drive

Duluth, GA 30096

Print name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

GCREA ADD PAYMENT OPTION:

_____ **Option 1 - BEST!!**

Gwinnett Automatic Dues Deduction

My signature below authorizes GRS (Gwinnett Retirement System) to deduct \$2.09/month from my GRS pension payment. This authorization will remain in effect until I choose to terminate it by notice to the Treasurer of Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association.

I understand that this service is provided as a convenience for GCREA and its members by the Gwinnett Retirement System and that GRS assumes no responsibility for my membership in GCREA.

All membership issues and transactions, including refunds, remain the sole responsibility of GCREA.

Signature: _____

Social Security OR School ID number: **REQUIRED**

Even more meeting pictures



Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer!

See you in September!

Editor's Note:
The next edition of the Newslines will be published Sept. 1, 2021
Deadline for articles is Aug. 23, 2021
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