



GCREA Newsline

April 2021
Volume 8 Issue 4

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

2021
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING

Friday May 21st
10:00
TPC Sugarloaf
Country Club

President:
Penny Clavijo
President-elect:
Tina Duncan
Secretary:
Ellen Sumner
Treasurer:
Debra Ault-
Butenko

Fellowship
Support
Service

From the President Penny Clavijo



Greetings and Happy April Fellow GCREA Members,

It is with much excitement and HOPE that I greet you. We have come so far since this time last year, and I know many of you have gotten your COVID-19 vaccinations and are excited to get out and about. We had almost 20 members attend our March outing to Gibbs Gardens. We had beautiful weather, and the flowers were abundant and vibrant in color. The best part of all was seeing smiling faces and meeting in person. What a glorious day for us all.

Speaking of meeting in person, mark your calendar for our next meeting and luncheon on **May 21, 2021**. We do plan to meet in person at TPC Sugarloaf Country Club. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am. Registration is required for this meeting, so be on the lookout in your email for a registration invitation. We will continue to follow expected CDC guidelines and protocols. A virtual option for this meeting will be available through ZOOM.

Our May meeting will be full of celebrations. We will celebrate our scholarship winners, Emeritus Members, and honor those members who are no longer with us to celebrate their life and service to our profession and organization.

I am happy to share that we are continuing our GCREA tradition of EXCELLENCE and qualified to be a *Unit of Distinction* for GREA. This is a testimony to the excellent teamwork and dedication that each of YOU have provided for GCREA this past year. We have exceeded our goals with fundraising, volunteer hours, and more, even during the pandemic. We have a lot to celebrate at our meeting on May 21, 2021.

From the President continued p.2

I look forward to seeing you all soon. Again, we will **not** have an April meeting, but plan to meet in person on May 21, 2021 at TPC Sugarloaf Country Club at 10:00 am. Registration is REQUIRED. Look for an email to register in the near future.



BE A DAFFODIL!

Oh my! The beauty of Spring is upon us! The daffodils in my garden were fabulous this year, the irises are beginning to put up buds now and the dogwood and azaleas are not far behind. Our trip to Gibbs Gardens last week was a splendid display of nature coming alive after the long, cold winter.

As we walked along the paths in the daffodil fields, a thought occurred to me. Daffodils do not usually come up in single plants or flowers. They arrive in clumps! I noticed this same thing in my own garden. Even though we planted single bulbs several years ago, the daffodils emerged this year (and probably in years past) in clumps, arriving with their daffodil friends in a happy profusion of color.

If we, as GCREA members, were to copy this “clumping” effect of the daffodils, imagine how our organization would grow! Granted, it has been very difficult to gather in new members in these pandemic times. However, with the advent of vaccines (Many have already had both shots!); hopefully, we are getting back to a more normal life. So now may be the time to reach out and “plant” the idea of joining GCREA to a few of your retired teacher friends. I have brand new, updated member brochures just waiting to be sent to interested prospects. Talk it up, ask your teacher reunion group if anyone would like to consider joining GCREA. I will be glad to send a friendly, welcoming letter and new brochure to anyone whose name and address I have. It is easy to plant a seed, then step back and watch it grow! When we are actually able to meet again in person, I hope we can fill the room at Sugarloaf CC with returning AND new members.

So, make a point to welcome Spring by inviting several friends to join you. After all, the bigger we are, the better we shine and the louder our voice at the Capitol when needed.

Blessings from Terrie Adkins, Your Membership Chair



Gibbs Gardens Trip 03/19/21



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



GCREA Members and Beta Sigma Serve the Community - by Sigrid Serpico

Recently, several GCREA members, who are also members of Beta Sigma, a chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, participated in a variety of altruistic projects inspired by GCREA speakers. Alpha Delta Kappa is an international honorary organization for women educators, committed to excellence in education, altruism, and world understanding. In November, Beta Sigma members collected food items for the Nothing but the Truth Ministry, whose organizer, Scarlett Rigsby, spoke to GCREA members in 2019. The food was delivered to their warehouse, where it will be sorted and given to students throughout the Lawrenceville cluster.

On March 1st, Beta Sigma also co-sponsored a GCPS bookmobile event at Chesney Elementary School. Through this event, over 700 students were provided with books to keep for their own. Jan Wilson, coordinator of the GCPS bookmobile events, also spoke to GCREA members in 2019. Both speakers inspired GCREA and Beta Sigma members to provide goods and services to our Gwinnett County community.



Have You Had Your Shots?



Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newsline will be published June 1, 2021

Deadline for articles is May 23, 2021

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#GREAIstheBEST #FellowshipServiceSupport #CheeringForGREA
#JoAnnTomlinson,GREAPresident