



GCREA Newsline

April 2022
Volume 9 Issue 4

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2022
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING
FRIDAY
APRIL 15TH
10:00 a.m.**

**TPC Sugarloaf
Country Club**

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

**Fellowship
Support
Service**

From the President

Tina Duncan

We made it! GCREA (Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association) is once again a Unit of Distinction. What does this mean? Here is the list of achievements for the year.

- We published a Handbook
- We submitted a history update with our Local Unit Officers information
- Our membership at the state level -GREA grew by 7%
- We publish a newsletter
- We have Public Relations
- We offer a scholarship
- We contributed to the convention
- We have a list of members who have volunteered throughout the year
- We are a Unit of Excellence

I have to say it repeatedly; the board and our committees do the heavy lifting to help us attain this honor. Terrie Adkins, our membership chair, never stopped. She challenged us at each meeting to find a friend and check our own membership to make sure we are each a part of the state organization.

Our GCREA board supported the mission monthly by planning meetings, keeping our finances up to date, taking minutes and helping us to follow the rules. Thank you, Kimberly Rooker, Penny Clavijo, Ellen Summer, Debra Ault-Butenko, and Carolyn Fetner.

The communications team kept us informed through constant contact, email, newsletters, telephone calls, sunshine updates, and our fabulous website. Thank you, Penny Clavijo, Janis Ivie, Sharon Larkin, Linda Mason, Anne Gregory, Lisa Eubanks, Patricia Turner, Eveyln Grant, and Joyce Parks.

The Benefits Liaison team kept us informed with GREA/TRS updates, Health, and Legislative Updates. Thank you, Rick Cost, Karen Efstration, and Robbie Cole.

Terrie Adkins and Jan Calkins updated our handbook and Sharon Larkin is always present and ready with our name tags at each meeting. Thank you, ladies!

In April I know everyone will enjoy getting a chance to meet our six scholarship winners from high school, college, and the teacher level. Thank you, Jan Calkins, Kimberly Rooker and Gloria James for serving as committee chairs and identifying our recipients. We also need to thank Ramona Ricks and Deborah Ollinger who will lead our Memorial service in May.

Let us not forget our fabulous finance and fundraising team who helped our unit raise over seven thousand dollars to support the scholarships and the Book Mobile. On top of this figure, we have raised five thousand dollars for the Alzheimer's Walk and close to one thousand dollars for the March of Dimes. Thank you, Penny Clavijo, Deloris Mullins, Debra Ault-Butenko, Kimberly Rooker, Judith Ford, Sara Lee, and Emmett Mullins.

Emmett Mullins also needs a shout out for all the technological support he gives at our monthly meetings.

Get your calendars out to mark these upcoming events. April 15th at 10:00 AM for our next luncheon honoring our scholarship recipients. On Saturday, April 30th our GCREA team will be walking for the March of Dimes. Wednesday, May 18th we will be sponsoring the Book Mobile at Harbins Elementary. Terrie Adkins, Past President, and our new Area Director, will be speaking at our May 20th Luncheon.

Of course, I cannot close without talking about our fabulous 50th celebration on the 18th of March. We were honored to have twelve of our past Presidents attend. I personally had a lot of fun gathering a few facts about each of their terms as President. Several GREA (Georgia Retired Educators Association) state officers were also able to attend the festivities. We are thankful Dr. Sloan, Executive Director; Joann Tomlinson, GREA Past President; Dr. Henrietta Gray, GREA President; Joe Boland and his wife, President Elect; and Pat Lemming, Area 14 Director were able to join our fun. It was great to also have our member, Marlene Buchannan, bring some needed laughter when she shared some stories from her books. We also need to thank the honorable Mayor of Duluth, Nancy Harris, for the 50th Proclamation. I loved seeing everyone mingle and work on their Bingo cards. Carolyn Fetner is our winner for ten dollars off her next luncheon.

As we come to the end of this year, I would also like to thank each of you for your fellowship, service and support this year. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to collaborate with you and be a part of a stellar unit.



Past Presidents Attending Meeting

L-R Ralph Greene, Deloris Mullins, Judy Shaklee, Don Burt, Carolyn Fetner, Joyce Parks, Terrie Adkins, Jan Calkins, Marie Beiser, Stephanie Hodgin, Tina Duncan, Penny Clavijo, Harriette Hamrick, Bob Hamrick



**Presenting proclamation from GREA
Henrietta Gray, Tina Duncan, Bill Sloan**

**Presenting proclamation from the city of
Duluth**

Mayor Nancy Harris, Tina Duncan



WE DID IT!! CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!!

As of this morning, March 22nd, our Gwinnett Co. Retired Educators Assn. has reached our 7% goal of new GREA members! That means we will be recognized as a Unit of Distinction for this year at the May GREA convention! I must admit, we have AMBA to thank for many of those new members and some joined when they retired from GCPS last summer, BUT our GCREA members also put on a last-minute push to get us over the top to meet our goal by the April 1 deadline.

This is a clear indication that we are a vibrant and active unit, even in the face of Covid and our 2-year pandemic. We have remained strong and connected either in person, by mail or phone calls and by Zoom. During this last year we have gained 14 new GCREA members and 52 new GREA members, however, sadly we also lost 7 members to death. Our membership currently stands at 530 GCREA members.

Our March meeting was very well attended, plus we had several state officers in attendance. I can tell you that they were impressed with our unit, our program and us! We owe a special thanks to our current officers, President Tina, Pres. Elect Kimberly, Treasurer Debra, Secretary Ellen and all our Board members. Keeping this unit going is a community effort and it takes all of us as a village to be a Unit of Distinction!!

So, as your Membership Chair, I encourage everyone to keep inviting friends to join, keep talking about the importance of joining our state organization (GREA), and keep being active by attending meetings. It is a well-documented fact that the more active and involved we are as we continue in retirement, the happier and healthier we stay. We need each other and GCREA is a great way to stay connected.

Now that Spring is here, enjoy the sunshine, warmer temperatures, the birds, and the flowers. As the new season blossoms out, put on your bonnets/hats, and grow where YOU are planted! See you at the April Scholarship meeting!

Blessings from Your Membership Chair, Terrie Adkins

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 30th March of Dimes Walk Mall of Georgia

Wednesday, May 18th Bookmobile Harbins ES

Friday, May 20th May Meeting/Luncheon TPC Sugarloaf CC

More pictures from our
50th Anniversary Celebration



Guest Speaker Marlene Buchannan





L-R

Pat Leming; Area 14 Director, Patsy Harrell, Henrietta Gray; GREA State President, JoAnn Tomlinson; GREA Immediate Past-President, Bill Sloan; GREA Executive Director

Editor's Note:
The next edition of the Newsline will be published June 1, 2022
Deadline for articles is May 23, 2022
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