



# GCREA Newsline

November 2021  
Volume 9 Issue 2

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION [GCREA.org](http://GCREA.org)

**2021  
NEXT  
GCREA  
MEETING  
FRIDAY**

**JAN. 21ST  
10:00 a.m.**

**TPC Sugarloaf  
Country Club**

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

**Fellowship  
Support  
Service**

## From the President

**Tina Duncan**

Hello GCREA Members:

We've had a great start to the year! Our September meeting was well attended; we heard from Kim Franklin and Anna Scott. They shared about early signs of Alzheimer's for us and our loved ones, Alzheimer's community resource connections and pamphlets. I'm so excited we were able to capture a wonderful Alzheimer's team photo for the upcoming walk. In October we heard from one of our own members, The Honorable Mayor of Duluth, Nancy Harris. Nancy shared her story of being a lifelong Gwinnett County resident and how her educational experience of leading schools aligns to her role of Mayor for Duluth. Nancy also brought an official Duluth proclamation celebrating/declaring Retired Educator's Day on November 7, 2021. Don't forget to take a picture wearing your ribbon on the 7<sup>th</sup> and send it to Anne Gregory for our website. If you need a ribbon, please reach out to me by email ([tduncan2227@gmail.com](mailto:tduncan2227@gmail.com)). We also got an uplifting update on the state of the Teacher Retirement System from Dr. Buster Evans, Executive Director for Georgia Teacher Retirement System.

October also brought about a small change for our organization. The county needs daily access to the space we had allocated for our chapter at Suwanee Center. Therefore, we cleaned out the conference room and moved several items into storage. We were able to sell a few pieces of furniture and have placed some items in a consignment shop. There is a keyboard and sound equipment still available, we are hoping to identify a school to donate these items. Have no fear, we will continue to have access to Suwanee Center for meetings and copying documents as needed. A special thank you to two of our board members, Karen Efstration and Terrie Adkins for their support in cleaning out the room and dispersing the items to Goodwill and/or consignment.

The Alzheimer's walk will serve as our gathering for November. Let's plan to meet on the steps of City Hall in Suwanee Town Center on November 13<sup>th</sup> around 8:00 am to gather and begin our walk for Alzheimer's. I'm excited to report our Alzheimer's team has grown and we are extremely close to

reaching our goal of \$5000.00. Please don't forget, we did cancel the November Luncheon that was originally scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> to allow everyone time to get their COVID booster shot and hopefully see a decline in the number of COVID cases for Georgia.

Don't forget to wear Blue to our January 21<sup>st</sup> for the luncheon in honor of our law enforcement community. We will hear from School Resource Officer, Patrick Reed. Officer Reed works tirelessly in the Archer cluster to make sure the students and families have support through the pandemic. In February we will be celebrating fifty years for GCREA with some very special people. This meeting will also include our annual fundraiser for the yearly scholarships and bookmobile visit. We are really excited about the event and would love to gather some information from each of you regarding your memories through the years. First, would you be willing to share an article or interesting story for our next Newsline publication? Second, we would love to have each of you complete a short questionnaire regarding your memories from 1972. Please click this [link](#) to complete the survey.

As always, I want to thank the board and committee members for their continued dedication to keep this organization moving forward. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes in planning, organizing, budgeting, communicating, and recruiting. I am forever grateful of everyone's support. I also want to continue to remind each of you to reach out to a friend or recent retiree and invite them to join GREA and GCREA. Membership forms are on the GCREA website and can be sent electronically. Improving our membership numbers at the local and state levels helps to support our goal of continuing to be a Unit of Distinction.

## Upcoming Events

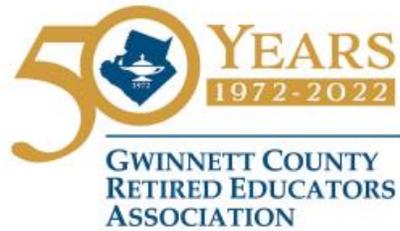
### Retired Educators Day

Sunday, November 7, 2021  
Don't forget to wear your ribbon.

### Walk to End Alzheimer's

Saturday, November 13, 2021,  
Suwanee Town Center Park





## **GCREA Annual Fundraising Campaign**

### Funding Teacher Scholarships



We need you to help provide support through scholarships to current and future educators to enhance their academic, social, and personal development to ensure their success as an educator.

Mail Check Donation to:  
c/o Deloris Mullins  
GCREA Fundraiser  
3400 New Hope Road  
Dacula, GA 30019

Deadline: December 15, 2021

Make check made payable to:  
**Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association**  
For: **GCREA Annual Fundraiser**  
Tax Deductible Donation  
*This is in lieu of our Silent Auction due to COVID-19*

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Back in 1972, Gwinnett County Retired Educators got its start at the old Educational Building in Lawrenceville, GA. A representative from the State Department of Education, Retired Teachers Division, and one from the Retired Teachers Association of the Ninth District met with thirteen retired Gwinnett County teachers to organize our Gwinnett County unit. Mr. T. Carl Buice was elected as the first GCREA president.

Today, 50 years later, GCREA is a large and thriving organization which is involved in many charitable endeavors, a successful scholarship program and interesting and informative monthly meetings at the beautiful Sugarloaf Country Club in Duluth.

We currently have 527 members, many of whom are scattered across the United States. Of those, 284 are Lifetime members, sometimes making it difficult to keep track of them and where they are. The Lifetime membership was instituted at a time when our organization needed an influx of money, so the one-time dues of \$160 was offered. This provided the seed money for our investment program which provides funding for our scholarship program. However, our Board decided to drop this membership option last year since its original purpose no longer exists.

With the cooperation of GCPS accounting Dept., we have been able to offer the ADD (Automatic Dues Deduction) option to members who taught in Gwinnett. Their annual dues of \$25 is deducted from the monthly retirement check at the rate of \$2.09 per month. This option provides a convenient way to pay dues a little at a time. No hassle, no worry! We currently have 156 ADD members. This means the county sends our treasurer a check each month for a little over \$300. Multiply that times 12 and it comes to approximately \$3,900. Not bad, huh!!

Our regular members, which currently number 87, are sent an annual statement each June and they then send in their dues check of \$25. If all rejoin for another year, that is another \$2,175 added to our treasury. Although we lose a few members each year due to a variety of circumstances, we continue to add new members and our numbers always seem to grow.

As we enter the next 50 years in existence, we need to remember that in order to keep our organization strong, we must continue to add new members. That is where each of us comes into the picture! So, ask your retired teacher friends and colleagues to consider joining GCREA. We are a great organization, and we need a strong voice to keep our retirement situation strong and intact!

Blessings from your Membership Chair

Terrie Adkins



Dear Members,

Saturday, November 13th is our Walk2EndAlz in Suwanee, GA at the Town Center Park, 330 Town Center Ave. Arrival between 8 and 9 am is great! The parking is in a large lot if you take the first right after turning onto Town Center Ave. 9:00 am is the short opening ceremony and then walk as you are able. If you donated \$100 or more, please look for your 2021 Walk shirt in the mail. As your Captain, I am so grateful for your generous donations to the Alzheimer's Association. We are reaching for our \$5000 goal and almost there! We have 36+ verified donors and if we pushed that to 50 donors, we would exceed our goal. I am humbled to walk in honor of a loved one suffering from Alzheimer's or in memory of a loved one who died with this disease 💜. Alzheimer's has no cure and is heartbreaking to the support families. Please give a donation to find a cure. 💜 I look forward to seeing all of you at the Walk2EndAlz. The Suwanee Town Center Park will be a safe and pleasant place for a Walk2EndAlz. Get on your walking shoes and join us. 💜

Kimberly Rooker, Volunteer Hours Coordinator



## 50 Years of Memories of GCREA by Carolyn Fetner

I moved to Gwinnett County in the summer of 1970 to be the librarian at Lawrenceville Elementary School, so although I was not a member of GCREA, I do remember when it was formed. I think they used to meet in the Female Seminary on Perry Street in Lawrenceville.

My mother, Mary Guiney, moved to Gwinnett in 1972 at age 60 after retiring as a librarian in West Virginia, but she was soon hired to become the library clerk at B. B. Harris Elementary where she worked until age 70. At that time, she joined GCREA where she was an active member until her death at age 102. Surprisingly, she was not the oldest emeritus member since Harriet Coffee outlived her by one year. Harriet taught at Lawrenceville Elementary when I was there, and she was a delightful lady!

For many years, mother rode to GCREA meetings with Annie Frances Flanigan who was one of the first teachers to be televised teaching lessons on public television. Annie Frances was definitely a groundbreaking educator. She was also GCREA President in 1984-85.

When I retired from Dyer Elementary in 2003, one of the first things I did was to attend GCREA meetings with mother and join as a life member. One of the most memorable longtime members was Jane Alexander. Jane was not a charter member, but she was one of the first presidents in 1980-82. Jane always wore colorful suits with matching hats. I can't imagine how many hats she owned! Jane died in 2018 at the age of 98.

For many years, GCREA met at Hamilton Mill Golf Club. When it was sold, GCREA began a quest to find a suitable meeting venue. These included Payne-Corley House in Duluth, Destin Events in Suwanee, Northwood Country Club in Lawrenceville, Apalachee Farms Clubhouse in Dacula and now (and hopefully for a long time) Sugarloaf Country Club in Duluth. There were also occasional meetings at Lawrenceville Methodist Church and Lawrenceville Depot necessitated when venues were either sold or went out of business. Through it all, GCREA has continued meeting, even during the pandemic, often online using Zoom. Hats off to our officers who kept it going now and through the past 50 years!

Pictures from the September and October Meetings



**Editor's Note:**

The next edition of the Newslite will be published February 1, 2022  
Deadline for articles is January 23, 2022  
sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com

Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association  
1826 Prospect View Drive  
Lawrenceville GA 30043

Please invite your friends  
to join us at our next  
meeting!

