



GCREA Newsline

February 2019
Volume 6 Issue 3

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2019
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING
FRIDAY
FEB. 15
11:00 a.m.**

**Northwoods
Country Club
3157 Club Drive
Lawrenceville, GA**

**President:
Terrie Adkins
President-elect:
Jan Calkins
Secretary:
Teresa Nichols
Treasurer:
Sara Lee**

**Fellowship
Support
Service**

From the President

Terrie Adkins

T'was the season to be... How did you finish that statement? Jolly? Happy? Stressed? Blessed? All of these may apply at one time or another for most of us. For me the holidays were a time to pause and reflect on the year just ending. I am so proud of all we have accomplished in GCREA already this year. In November we had a very successful auction, which funds our scholarship program. To date we have amassed over \$5,300 for scholarships, thanks to your generous buying and giving.

We are well on our way to purchasing 5 bricks for the GRE Museum. In addition, at least 5 of our members have purchased a brick in honor or memory of special people. Each brick purchased helps to retire the mortgage on the GREM building in Flowery Branch.

Many of us are reading the St. Simons trilogy by Georgia author, Eugenia Price. Each of these historical fiction novels teaches us a bit more of our Georgia history. I loved this journey and have finished all 3 books because once I got started on any of them, I couldn't put it down. I hope you are participating in our Reading Club. There will be a special surprise at the May meeting for all who have completed all 3 books (this year - not 20 years ago!!).

Earlier this month, I received the very welcome news that we have reached the 10% state membership goal. That means with all the other goals we know we can accomplish, GCREA will be a Unit of Distinction this year at the state convention in May. Way to go GCREA!!

So, however you reflect and celebrate the holidays, be proud of your contribution to our GCREA organization. Invite a friend to join you and enjoy a new chapter in retirement.

Happy New Year and Blessings from your Pres.

Terrie

GCREA Programs

GCREA has enjoyed some wonderful programs so far this year. Most recently at our December meeting we were entertained by a cello choir made up of ten advanced orchestra students from Mill Creek HS. The students, in full dress black and white shared several Christmas selections. Their conductor, Mrs. Dana Ballard, made it all the more interesting by sharing insights into many of the pieces as well as information about each individual student. The performance was made all the more special because the students were sacrificing a portion of the first day of their Christmas Break to entertain us!

February's meeting will welcome two speakers. Kelly Herndon will represent the Gwinnett Foundation and will share about some new "perks" and supports that are beginning for retired Gwinnett educators. Mary Barbee will also be sharing about some reading initiatives that are taking place in the form of a "bookmobile" that goes into the less affluent areas of the community to bring books to kids who might have a harder time getting them. I am sure Ms. Barbee will share ways she feels we could support her efforts with this project at this meeting.

In March we will have a speaker from the Gwinnett Medical Center who will talk about tips for getting and staying healthy for seniors. She would welcome specific questions the group might have about health-related issues. If you have a "burning question" you would like her to address, please send it to me at Jcalk52@gmail.com. Also, our own Paula Parris will share some tips regarding making the best use of our health insurance policies.

As if the programs were not enough of a reason to come out to the meetings, the food has been amazing! Hope to see you in February.

Jan Calkins

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Read Across Gwinnett

Friday, March 1, 2019

Readers Rally

Berkmar HS

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Details on page 7

Our February 15 meeting is the last day to turn in your Volunteer Service Record!

We have met the minimum requirements, but we want to go way above and beyond and show the state organization our generosity of spirit and service to our community. Plus, you know you did these things--please write them down! Please bring you completed form to the meeting and turn it in.

The new forms require only a date and description of a minimum of 10 times the member has volunteered. The date can be just the month and the year. You can go all the way back to service you did in March 2018 and forward to activities you have scheduled for late February of 2019. If you don't get your form filled out before the meeting, get one of the forms on the tables and fill it in and give it to me that day.

Everyone who turns in their forms will be entered in a drawing for a *fabulous* prize to be awarded at the March meeting.

Sarah Davis

Auction “Winners”



Paint and Sip Party



Brunch for 10 at Chez Presson

GCREA BEACH-HOUSE RAFFLE

It's that time of year and YOUR last chance to buy tickets for the 2018-2019 GCREA Beach Raffle! Were you aware that we have only two weeks before the GCREA Beach House Raffle drawing on February 15, 2019? Have you already bought your tickets? I certainly hope so, for the time is getting short for you to win! Are you also aware that if each member of GCREA (over 550 members) would purchase ONE TICKET each, we would raise a minimum of \$2,750, almost two scholarship awards rather than for the one we have consistently raised with the raffle? **Don't you want to be a part of that? What if every member bought two tickets? WOW!**

Here's how we increase our scholarship awards. If you regularly attend GCREA meetings and will be present on February 15, 2019, you can buy as follows:

Buy one ticket - \$5.00

Buy two tickets - \$10.00

Buy five tickets - \$25.00 PLUS an extra ticket for a total of SIX!

If, for some reason, you are unable to attend the February 15, 2019 meeting, send a note indicating how many tickets you wish and a check made out to GCREA to the following address ASAP. **BE A PART OF SOMETHING STAGGERING!**

Dr. Barbara B. Wilson
1535 Duluth Hwy
Unit 1004
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Don't wait!!! Order today and enjoy seven days at Fernandina Beach, with cleaning fee paid. The house sleeps nine people. Take your friends! This is a steal of a vacation!!



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

We are gearing up for the presentation of our GCREA scholarships to deserving high school students, teachers and Georgia Gwinnett College students at our April 12 meeting. On January 18, our executive board voted to give three \$1500 scholarships to high school students who plan to become educators. This is one more than we gave last year.

Two \$1500 scholarships will continue to be awarded to outstanding Gwinnett teachers who are pursuing advanced degrees. Also, two \$1500 scholarships will be given to deserving rising seniors at Georgia Gwinnett College.

As a reminder, it is not too late to donate to our scholarship fund. You can mail your check to treasurer, Sara Lee at 245 Chandler Ct., Sugar Hill, GA 30518. Also, if you will be attending the February 15 meeting, you can purchase a chance on Barbara Wilson's beach house with all those proceeds going to scholarship.

Carolyn Fetner

Teacher Scholarships

Do you know a teacher who may want to apply for one of our teacher scholarships? You may want to give them the following information.

Educators who apply for this scholarship must currently be accepted into an accredited graduate program, employed by GCPS, and plan to return to GCPS as an educator next fall.

The application form may be found on the Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association (GCREA) website at gcrea.org. The application form should be completed in its entirety and mailed to: Gloria James-Scholarship Chair, 945 Bramlett Shoals Rd., Lawrenceville, GA, 30045. It should be postmarked no later than March 12, 2019.

Community Service

GCREA will continue their community service at the March meeting by donating to the Ronald McDonald House near Emory. Plan to bring any of the following items to the meeting or you may donate cash or checks to the charity. Thanks so much for your continued support for this good cause.

Teresa Nichols

WISH LIST FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Breakfast items - bars, cereal, eggs /coffee - regular and decaf/coffee creamer- individual packets

Fresh fruit and fruit cups

Sandwich meat and cheese

Juice boxes, bottled water, juice, milk

Ravioli, soup, mac-n-cheese bowls - individual sizes / snacks (salty & sweet) - individually wrapped/

Microwave popcorn

Tea bags - family size/ sugar/low calorie sweetener

Mustard, Ketchup, Hot Sauce, Ranch dressing/Salt & Pepper

Cleaning Supplies

All-purpose cleaner/Bathroom cleaner (bleach-free)/Disinfectant wipes and spray/Dish cloths/scrub brushes/Dishwashing liquid/automatic detergent/Laundry detergent, fabric softener

Household Items

Disposable plastic Solo cups/insulated coffee cups with lids

Food storage containers - all sizes

Paper towels/paper plates + bowls/plastic forks & spoons

Plastic wrap/foil/Ziploc storage bags - all sizes

Liquid hand soap/hand sanitizer

New blankets- queen size /neutral color

New standard pillows

Band-Aids - no other medical supplies

For Families

Gift Cards: grocery, gas, retail, restaurant

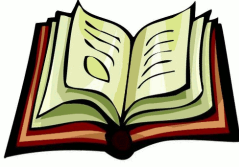
Gaming Accessories & Games: Xbox One, Wii, PS4

Office

Copy paper

Postage stamps





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE GWINNETT READERS RALLY

The Gwinnett Readers Rally is a quiz bowl style competition for students in grades 4 - 12. Students read books from a predetermined list and answer questions about those books. Each Gwinnett County school may send one team of up to 10 players to the Readers Rally. The 2019 Gwinnett County Readers Rally Competition will be held at Berkmar High School on Saturday, March 16, 2019.

We are still in need of volunteers for Rally Day on March 16th! All are welcome! This is an incredibly fun day in which volunteers get to share with students at their best! Volunteers DO NOT need to have read any of the books. Volunteers need to arrive at 7:30 am for training and the day is usually over around 2:30 pm. We have open positions for moderators (reading the questions) and console judges (working the buzzers).

If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please contact Juliana Anglada at janglada004@gmail.com

READ ACROSS GWINNETT

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd every year, schools participate in Read Across Gwinnett as a part of the national Read Across America. This year schools will be participating on Friday, March 1st. The day is devoted to reading, with guest readers visiting classrooms to read books to students and encourage reading. Schools are very appreciative of being contacted in advance by volunteer readers. You can select a school close to where you live or contact me if you are interested in participating. I will help you find a class to read to.



Coordinator: Gloria James
(overbrook@mindspring.com) or 770-963-1927 or cell
404-556-5892

Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newsline will be published April 1, 2019.

Deadline for articles is March 23, 2019

sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com

Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association
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Lawrenceville GA 30043

Please invite your friends to join us at our next meeting as we “Share the Light!”

