



GCREA Newsline

February 2018
Volume 5 Issue 3

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2018
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING
FRIDAY
FEB. 16
11:00 a.m.**

**Destin Events
Venue
1300 Peachtree
Industrial Blvd.
Suwanee, GA**

**President:
Joyce Parks
President-elect:
Terrie Adkins
Secretary:
Teresa Nichols
Treasurer:
Sara Lee**

**Fellowship
Support
Service**

From the President

Joyce Parks

Dear GCREA Members,

I hope you have had a delightful rest during the holidays and are now ready to get back to our scheduled monthly meetings. Terrie Adkins has provided outstanding programs for us this year. There are more good ones to come and you won't want to miss them. Please mark your calendars for the third Friday of February, March, April and May. I will be looking for you.

Please remember to get your volunteer form ready to give to Sarah Davis in February. I know you do a number of worthy things and we went to celebrate that fact. Also, we are going to do Spotlight Ads this year. Carolyn Fetner and Wylie Poulos are going to businesses requesting donations. You may also donate toward a spotlight on something or someone. You will have an opportunity to donate at the February Meeting.

Our Scholarship Committee is at work on getting applications. We look forward to celebrating with our winners: teachers, students and college education majors. Last year we awarded \$7500 in scholarships and hope to do as much or more this year

Our February meeting will be February 16. If you wear a valentine theme outfit, your name is put in a drawing for a prize. Also, Lorraine Presson has a gift for anyone bringing a new member. We want to build up our attendance and our membership. Please join the effort. We are about 2/3 of the way toward our 10% increase in state membership. If you can encourage people to join the state GREA, it will be a plus for GCREA.

Several of you have expressed some concerns this year. Do know that they are heard and action is being taken. You will be informed of changes via the Newslite. I ask that you support our local efforts and meetings as much as possible. The programs alone are worth the effort. Plus, you have contact with old friends, information on actions by the state that affect us and representation on important state committees.

Let's meet in February and spread the love of our calling to teach and touch lives!

Joyce Parks, President



Volunteer Hours Reminder

Please remember to turn in your forms for your volunteer hours at our meeting on February 19th. In addition to naming state and local winners, we turn the total number of hours for the entire chapter in to the state. Let's show the activism of our Gwinnett group. If you don't have your form, there will be more on the tables at the meeting. You can also email the forms or a short summary of your volunteer activities to sarahldavis@charter.net. Let's see if we can top our 6403.5 hours of community service we did last year!

Last year we served others in libraries, churches, schools, theatres, community organizations, homeless shelters, gardens, prisons, feeding programs for the food insecure, GCREA activities, transportation for friends and neighbors to doctor appointments, etc., refugees, and many other worthy causes. How many of these things have you been doing? Please tell us about them and the amount of time you spent between March 2017 and February 2018. Travel time counts too. If you have volunteering scheduled for later this month, by all means put that down too. I look forward to totaling up a huge number of hours that reflect the way we retired teachers continue to be an extremely valuable resource to our communities.

Sarah Davis

December Luncheon



[More luncheon pictures on page 4.](#)

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Read Across Gwinnett

Friday March 2, 2018

Readers Rally

Berkmar HS

Saturday, March 17, 2018

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. 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



Spotlight Award



This award is one of the requirements for units, such as GCREA, to earn toward being a unit of excellence or a unit of distinction. The past few years, we have always been a unit of excellence but not the highest award, unit of distinction.

In 2015-2016, we reached the membership award which is 10% of our membership who are new GREA members. That means over 50 new state members for Gwinnett since we have over 500 members. That year we did not participate in the spotlight award, so no unit of distinction.

In 2016-2017, we reached the spotlight award, but not the membership award, so again no unit of distinction.

This year, 2017-18, one of president, Joyce Parks' goals is to become a unit of distinction. Membership chairs, Murla Crawford and Stephanie Hodgins have been working diligently on membership. We still need at least 20 new state members and hopefully more GCREA members, too. Be sure to invite your retired teacher friends to come. So now we have to work on spotlight ads.

Fund raising chair, Wylie Poulos, and spotlight ad chair, Carolyn Fetner, hope to canvas several businesses to ask for the \$50 donation which will give them an ad on the GREA website. Of that \$50, \$25 goes to the state to help with expenses and GCREA keeps the other \$25 per ad which goes toward our scholarship fund. We can also accept an ad from any businesses you might contact or from individuals or groups who want to honor or memorialize a special person or outstanding educator. There is a form on the GREA website that you can copy to use, but let Carolyn have the information and money to compile and send in to the state. She will also have forms at the Feb. 16 meeting. We need to get 10 ads (\$500) to receive the award. That will give the state \$250 and us \$250 for our scholarship fund.

Carolyn Fetner

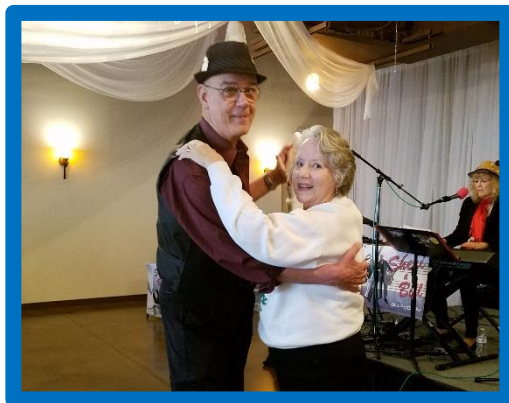
WIN A HANDMADE NECKLACE BY INVITING GUESTS!

Help us grow our GCREA membership. Each guest you bring to a luncheon meeting equals one entry into our April drawing for a beautiful handmade necklace. The more guests you bring, the more times you will be entered in the drawing. Each guest that becomes a member will also be entered in a drawing for another necklace, so we will have TWO winners. What's more, the winners will be able to select their prize from a variety of handmade necklaces. See samples of possible necklaces at our next meeting. Start inviting.



Lorraine Presson

More December Luncheon Pictures



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. I will also be collecting pop tops to take the Ronald McDonald House as well. Thanks so much for your continued support for these good causes.

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 2018 Gwinnett County Readers Rally Competition will be held at Berkmar High School on Saturday, March 17, 2018.

We are still in need of volunteers for Rally Day on March 17th! 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

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 19, 2018.

Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newsline will be published April 1, 2018.

Deadline for articles is March 26, 2018
sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com

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

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US!

