



GCREA Newsline

September 2020
Volume 8 Issue 1

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2020
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING
FRIDAY
OCT. 16, 2020
11:00 a.m.**

**TCP Sugarloaf
Country Club
Duluth, GA**

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

**Fellowship
Support
Service**

From the President Penny Clavijo



Greetings Fellow GCREA Members,

I hope this greeting finds you and your loved ones well and continuing to adapt to our life as is now with the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is my first official greeting to you all as the incoming President for GCREA for the 2020-2021 term. It is such an honor to serve in this capacity, and I look forward to serving you, getting to know you all, and continuing to support the goals and initiatives of our fine organization.

First of all, I want to thank our out-going President, Jan Calkins, and her Leadership team of officers who have served us well during the 2019-2020 year. WOW!!! What a year it was... moving to two venues, and then the COVID-19 Pandemic keeping us from the joy of meeting together at all!!! Jan served with excellence and grace, and we thank YOU who served with her as Executive Officers and Committee Chairs who continued to serve us well and keep us engaged and informed. Many of our out-going officers have served in their roles for several years, and we ALL have some big shoes to fill!!! We appreciate all of your service for GCREA and appreciate your leadership and support with our organization. We have several awards we will share and spend time honoring these officers when we can meet face-to-face.

Just a little about who I am... I am a long-time resident of Gwinnett County, residing in the Harbins Community of Dacula, Georgia where I have lived since the 5th grade. My parents, Reid and Deloris Mullins, built their home on property here, and my husband, John and I built our home beside them when we married 28 years ago. John and I have two children. Our son Parker and his lovely wife, Carroll, live in Rome, Georgia. Our daughter Perrin and her sweet husband, Kyle, live in Midtown. I served 30 wonderful years with Gwinnett County Public Schools. I taught grades 4 - 6 in the following schools: Grayson Elementary, Lawrenceville Middle School, Creekland Middle School, and Harbins Elementary School. Then I transitioned to an Assistant

Assistant Principal role working at Magill Elementary School and opening Rosebud Elementary School in the South Gwinnett Cluster. From there I served as the Principal of Hopkins Elementary School, I retired as a Principal from Rock Springs Elementary School in the spring of 2018. This past year I served as a part-time professor with Georgia Gwinnett College supervising seniors who were student teaching. Due to budget cuts for this fall, they were unable to re-hire us part-time professors, so I am now working part-time at a Physical Therapy Clinic in Dacula, Georgia where I serve as the Lead Receptionist. I love this job and the new learning opportunities it affords me, yet I am able to draw upon my leadership skills to serve our clients and support our physical therapists.

Many of you have communicated with me already, and I have enjoyed talking with or emailing you to get to know you as well. In this newsletter you will see our Goals for the 2020-2021 Year, our Meeting Dates, and Community Service Projects we will support this year. We will continue to focus on supporting current and future educators with scholarships. Your support of these projects, goals and initiatives are appreciated.

We are in the process of updating our Website. Please use our website as a resource to keep abreast of current information and refer those you know who want to join to our website: www.gcrea.org.

We need for you to recruit members and help our organization to be a voice for public education within the system and the state of Georgia. If you know a retiree who is not a member of GCREA/GREA, please encourage them to join and direct them to our website or have them call me for membership information.

Our teachers who are working now need our support, encouragement, and positivity more than ever. Thank you for continuing to be a positive advocate for teachers and our great profession.

Our meeting Venue... when we are able to finally meet again... is Sugarloaf Country Club. We are excited to have this new venue and they are looking forward to working with our organization. **Please note... our first meeting scheduled for September 18, 2020 is CANCELLED due to COVID-19.**

Please let our Executive Board know how we may help you. We all are excited to serve and support GCREA/GREA, and we look forward to seeing you all and serving you this year.

Warm Regards,
Penny Clavijo

Have you checked out our new GCREA Facebook page?



GCREA 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule

September 18, 2020 Meeting/Luncheon at Sugarloaf Country Club *(CANCELLED due to COVID-19)*

Fall Kick-Off Meeting: Welcome/Membership Education Program: Goals, Website, Book Mobile, etc.
Guest Speakers: AMBA Representative to promote the services and benefits available to members
Legislative Members TBD providing legislative updates

October 16, 2020 Meeting/Luncheon at Sugarloaf Country Club

Guest Speaker: DR. Buster Evans, Executive Director for Georgia Teacher Retirement System providing updates from TRS
(October Field Trip and Fall Outing to Museum at State Office - Details to Come)

November 1, 2020 Retired Educators Day - Details TBD

November 7, 2020 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Duluth Town Green - Join our GCREA team

November 20, 2020 Meeting/Luncheon at Sugarloaf Country Club

Guest Speaker: Pat Leming GREA Area XIV Director
Silent Auction

January 8, 2021 Meeting/Luncheon at Sugarloaf Country Club Luncheon (note day is NOT third Friday)

Guest Speaker: Mr. Alvin Wilbanks, CEO/Superintendent Gwinnett County Public Schools providing updates and celebrations from GCPS and GRS

February 19, 2021 Meeting/Luncheon at Sugarloaf Country Club

Guest Speaker: Kim Franklin, Outreach Manager for Alzheimer's Association, sharing health updates on Alzheimer's awareness, healthy choices, aging and support for those living with Alzheimer's
Memorial Service

March 19, 2021 Members' Spring Outing Group Tour

Day Trip to Gibbs Gardens - Details to Come

April 16, 2021 Meeting/Luncheon at Sugarloaf Country Club

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Sloan, Executive Director GREA with State Office Updates
Awards Banquet: Highlighting Scholarship winners and Emeritus Members

May 4, 5, 6, 2021

State Convention - Details to Come (all members encouraged to register and attend)

May 21, 2021 Meeting/Luncheon at Sugarloaf Country Club

End of Year Highlights and Celebrations and Installation of 2021-2022 Officers

State Health Benefit Plan has released 2021 information about upcoming changes to our health insurance rates and limited information, at this time, about the plans themselves.

Health insurance providers will remain the same: UnitedHealthcare, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Kaiser Permanente. Co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles will also remain unchanged. SHBP’s stated goals include a “focus on continuity and stability” with an emphasis on maintaining financial health.

New benefits will be explained when the Decision Guides are released. These will include a case management program for rare diseases (ALS, cystic fibrosis, and Parkinson’s for example). A cut in out-of-pocket costs for insulin to treat diabetes and a new wellness program on lowering stress and anxiety are also new features.

There is an average increase in monthly premiums of 5%, although this will vary according to the individual plan. One good piece of news is that the UHC Standard Medicare Advantage will have a \$0.00 rate.

Here are details on the 2021 rates:

Medicare Advantage Rates

	Anthem	UHC
Premium	\$312.02	\$148.22
Standard	\$146.15	\$ 0.00

Retiree Under 65 Rates

	You	You+Child(ren)	You + Spouse	You + Family
Anthem Gold	\$175.68	\$320.11	\$436.33	\$580.76
Anthem Sliver	\$114.32	\$215.80	\$307.47	\$408.95
Anthem Bronze	\$76.58	\$151.64	\$228.22	\$303.28
Anthem HMO	\$143.03	\$264.61	\$367.76	\$489.34
UHC HMO	\$174.49	\$318.09	\$433.83	\$577.43
UHC HDHP	\$61.83	\$126.57	\$197.24	\$261.98
Kaiser HMO	\$154.13	\$283.60	\$391.49	\$520.96

If you are under 65 and have a spouse or dependent with part B with (MA plan), you will need to use this link on the SHBP Website to determine your rates: <https://shbp.georgia.gov/annuitant-basic-subsidy-age-65-or-older-medicare-advantage-part-b-submitted-shbp> This is often called the “split option.”

Click on the first link at the bottom of the page. It will open a very wide and somewhat complicated (32-column) Excel document, that you will need to move left or right to see all the information about the different combinations. (If you have trouble, give me a call at 770-394-6373, and I’ll help you.)

Remember that with split option plans, you and your spouse do NOT have to use the same company!! That is why the Excel spreadsheet is so big.

Please call me, Paula Parris, (770-394-6373) or email me (pjppaula@comcast.net) if you need help.

GCREA Goals for 2020 - 2021

- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA by providing opportunities for fellowship, service and support and increase our membership and attendance numbers within GCREA and GREA
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA with updates and current trends and issues of education, the teaching profession, and programs that impact members' well being
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA with insight and means to promote quality education in Gwinnett County, Georgia
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA in providing support through scholarships and mentoring to current and future educators to enhance their academic, social, and personal development to ensure their success as an educator
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members in bettering our community through service projects and sharing of their gifts and talents
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members in the GREA Museum and Foundation activities, programs, and goals through our support and active engagement

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Happy Fall, Y'All! It is time once again to start thinking about our fall activities - even though the air has not yet turned cool. However, GCREA is COOL all year long! So, please help us spread the word that being a member of this great organization has lots of benefits. Our state organization is gaining new Gwinnett members every week and we are calling each of them - THANK YOU, PAT TURNER - to invite them to join us as well. Experience has taught us that a personal invitation is the best way to gain a new member, SOOO, if you know of a retiree who is not one of us, please invite him/her to our October meeting. Membership information is on our website (www.gcrea.org) along with an updated brochure which can be downloaded and sent directly to me. I will expedite membership sign up and gladly welcome all new members.

Our new president, Penny Clavijo, has secured a wonderful meeting place at Sugarloaf Country Club. It is a beautiful place with lots of room, so we will truly enjoy a new "home"! Thanks, Penny!

Also, our Past President, Jan Calkins, has worked tirelessly all summer contacting every member to get current contact information. The results have been tremendous, but there are a few we cannot reach. If you know of someone whose information has changed, please let Jan or me know so we can make corrections. We truly want to be able to reach ALL our 544 members! Look for a question mark (?) by those names in the new handbook!

As we continue to "shelter" in whatever way is best for you, remember to stay in touch. Retired teachers never go away, they just put on a mask and continue teaching and learning!!!

Blessings from your Membership Chair - Terrie Adkins (ttadkins@sprynet.com)



August Board Meeting

THANK YOU TO OUR GCREA SPONSERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Dr. John C. Binkley
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www.gcps-foundation.org

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Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newline will be published November 1, 2020

Deadline for articles is October 23, 2020

sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com

Please invite your friends to join us at our next meeting as we “Cheer for GREA (and GCREA!)”



#GREAistheBEST #FellowshipServiceSupport #CheeringForGREA

#JoAnnTomlinson,GREAPresident