



# GCREA Newsline

September 2022  
Volume 10 Issue 1

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

2022  
NEXT  
GCREA  
MEETING  
FRIDAY  
SEPT. 16TH  
10:20 a.m.

TPC Sugarloaf  
Country Club

President:  
Kimberly Rooker  
President-elect:  
Karen Efstration  
Secretary:  
Ellen Sumner  
Treasurer:  
Holly Gardiner

Fellowship  
Support  
Service

## From the President Kimberly Rooker

In 4 months, our 50th year is drawing to a close. Remember our first meeting of 2022-23 will be September 16th at the TPC Sugarloaf. I will be very grateful to see you at our meeting. I would like to encourage you to help us grow our unit. I would like to share some ideas that I gathered from other REA units.

### Ideas for the 5th Decade of GCREA

“How do you (the membership) keep the local Unit vital, strong, and growing?”

“Stay connected using the 4 C’s:

Concern, Community, Communication and Change.”

The purple font shows areas where GCREA is growing. The black font shows ideas from other REA units that would help us grow.

### Membership Ideas: Be Positive, Be Proactive, Be Open to new ideas

- Build value in your membership by building a cause/service project for all members to support. GCPS Book mobile, March of Dimes/Walk2EndAlz
- Text a friend to bring a friend, each one brings one.

GCREA is a group of retired school personnel. We welcome all retirees. • Develop a Facebook page; a newsletter to advertise your mission and good service projects; highlight fun events with lots of pictures.

- We have a Facebook page; we need an administrator. We need to update the photos. We also have a Newsline (5/year).

- For members that are missing from your meetings, send cards, pick up the phone and call, tell them you missed seeing and talking with them. Let us know who is homebound, ill or having surgery.

### **Something spontaneous**

Monday Teacher Modality or Teacher Tuesday, Invite GCREA friends to meet casually at a restaurant. Have groups that meet in different areas of the county (Lawrenceville, Buford, Suwanee, Snellville or Grayson) for breakfast or lunch.

### **Service Project ideas**

- Service projects that include books for school children. GCPS Book Mobile is your partner project with the school system
- Supplies for a designated school in September and January.
- Soap, paper towels, disinfectant wipes for local schools/homeless shelters.
- Canned items for food banks.
- Food pantries need volunteers, foster animals in shelters, donating Pop Tabs to Ronald McDonald House.
- Working at churches, other local service organizations.
- Adult literacy programs like Learn to Read or ESOL classes.

Tutoring College students at GGC

- Volunteer to judge events in schools, Art Show, History Fair, Science Fair, Talent Show

Let us know any connections you have to help us implement these service projects.

### **Fundraising**

Supporting the GREA Humanitarian projects and the Holiday Basket Silent Auction to raise funds for Scholarships.

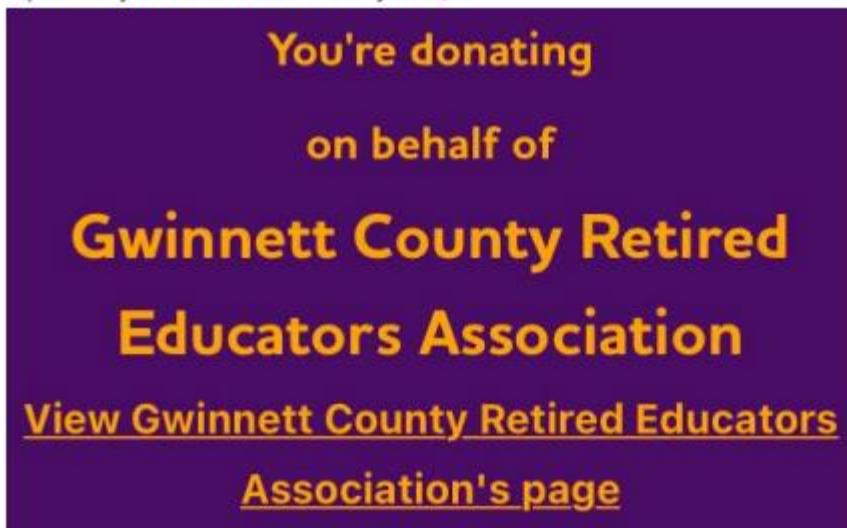
I look forward to seeing you soon. Blessings, Kimberly Rooker

Dear Members,

Our Walk2EndAlz Team page is ready for your donation. Please donate in memorium or in honor of your loved one who is suffering through this disease. Many in our membership have lost loved ones to this disease, so we hold this charity close to our hearts. ❤ Saturday, November 12th is our Walk2EndAlz in Suwanee, GA at the Town Center Park, 330 Town Center Ave. Arriving around 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.

Please give a donation to find a cure, please follow these steps to donate:

- Google - Walk2endAlz Gwinnett County 2022
- You do not need to make a login, that is optional
- Click on the White "Donate" box
- Next page is Search to Donate page, scroll down to "Donate to a Team", type in our entire name Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association, click on yellow "Search"
- Up comes our name and my name as the captain, click on the blue writing [Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association](#). Then you are on Our Team page.
- Click the Yellow "Donate to the Team" Box
- Scroll down our page and click the Purple "Donate to the Team" box
- Select your amount, your payment method and then select "process my donation". So many who are impacted by this disease will thank you! ❤



## Teacher Tales

We would love to hear from you, the membership, about your time in the classroom. Perhaps you had a memorable student, a funny story, or an inspiring tale. You may send a short story to me, Sharon Larkin, at the following email, [sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com](mailto:sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com). Jan Calkins has the honor of being the first person to be featured in Teacher Tales.

# TEACHER TALES

## First Job

It was 1970 and being raised in a traditional middle-class home in the Midwest, I wanted to get a job that interested me AND would be attainable with a bachelor's degree. I settled on Speech-Language Pathology, which was perfect EXCEPT I had no sooner graduated than the national association decided you needed a master's degree to get hired. Soooooo, I applied all round and got accepted at U of Wisconsin and U of Fla. Easy choice (I did mention I grew up in the Midwest, right?)

Fast forward, finished my Masters, decided I liked Gainesville, Fla and wanted to stay there, so job-hunting I went. Ironically at this time SLP jobs were not so plentiful. I applied in the area and got an offer - (here is the first job part)- in Palatka, Fla. Several important things to know about being an SLP in Palatka.

- 1) There weren't nearly enough SLPs, so I was assigned FOUR schools. At no time did anyone in any of the schools know who I was or what I was doing there. Most assumed I was a sub! I couldn't tell you how many kids I had on my "caseload", suffice it to say definitely over 100.
- 2) There weren't rooms in all these schools for the SLPs to work. . . So presto-chango- they gave each of us a "converted bread truck" to drive to each school and plug into the front of the school. See picture below of me and my "chariot." Add to the fun this was a "standard shift" vehicle, which (of course) I had never learned to drive.
- 3) Finally, for those who don't know, Palatka has a really large paper mill! Lovely, in an open-air truck! Depending on the direction of the wind it was quite an experience.

Other than the colorful story this provides, the best part of this experience was the realization of the improvements in my work-life over the years, we've come a long way!!

by Jan Calkins



The March of Dimes is one of the GREA Humanitarian projects that GREA president, Henrietta Gray encourages us to support. Here is a form you can print out if you wish to donate.



## DONATION FORM

We believe that every baby deserves the best possible start. Your donation helps us provide services, programs and support for moms and babies in communities like yours across the country.

### PLEASE SEND FORM AND YOUR DONATION TO:

March of Dimes  
Donation Processing Center  
PO Box 18819  
Atlanta, GA 31126

Please complete this form so that we can appropriately allocate your donation to your local market. Thank you for your support of March of Dimes!

### CONTACT INFO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

### DONATION INFORMATION

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

March of Dimes location to credit: City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please do not mail cash.)

### If you would like to designate a recipient, please check the appropriate box.

- March for Babies: Credit to team or walker? \_\_\_\_\_  
Event: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature Chefs: Apply to sponsorship or auction purchase? \_\_\_\_\_
- Nurse of the Year
- Board gift: Credit to: \_\_\_\_\_
- General donation
- Other: GREA Donation

Please make check payable to "March of Dimes."

The March of Dimes is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization (tax identification number 13-1846366.)

**SAVE**



## TIME TO FALL INTO STEP WITH GCREA & GREA!

As I sit on my back porch and enjoy the cooler temperatures, I am reminded that Fall brings back many memories. I can hear the soft roar of the school buses as they travel through my neighborhood, I see a few eager leaves turning gold and bronze, and I start thinking about where my warm sweaters spent the hot summer months! I also remember the hectic days of getting back into the school routine and those late nights and weekends grading endless essays and tests. English teachers cannot get away with multiple choice or true/false tests! Mine took hours to grade!

Then my thoughts jump ahead to the present and all the joys of being retired. I can plan my days more leisurely, go to lunch with friends, volunteer my time where I want and SLEEP IN when I need to!! I can also choose my interests and my activities. One of those interests that is very important to me is being a member of GCREA and GREA. Both of these organizations are working for me AND YOU to ensure that our retirement funds and our health benefits are kept safe and secure for our retirement future. Each of us individually has a very small voice when it comes to the Legislature and state government control, BUT our combined voices through these professional organizations are heard above the din of governmental static. Sooo, my point here is that if you are not a member of GREA - our state organization - PLEASE consider joining today! Not only are you helping yourself and your fellow retirees, but you are helping future generations of active teachers who hope to one day retire as well.

I am attaching a GREA membership application for your use. Consider joining as an ADD member and have your dues automatically deducted - that's the easy way and you get a discounted cost! You can give your application to me at the Sept. meeting or mail it in yourself. Just remember, we put GWINNETT on the county/local unit line.

As always, I encourage you all to stay active in mind, body, and spirit at whatever level you can. We educators are **lifelong learners** and as such, we can continue to teach by example. I am so proud to be a member of GCREA and be surrounded by my teacher friends!

Blessings from you Membership Chair - Terrie Adkins

2022-2023		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone #		
EMAIL _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATIC DUES DEDUCTION (A.D.D.) # _____ SS# or TRS Retirement # is required.		
My signature below authorizes TRS to deduct \$2.00/month from my TRS pension payment. This authorization will remain in effect until I choose to terminate it by notice to Georgia Retired Educators Association.		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$27 ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> \$360 LIFE		
Send check with this card to the address below. Make check payable to GREA.		
Local Unit/County _____		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		
CONTROL # _____		
DATE _____		
GREA MEMBERSHIP FORM DETACH HERE, RETURN THIS SIDE		
KEEP THIS SIDE FOR YOUR RECORDS		
Georgia Retired Educators Association 2022 - 2023 Membership Card		
Fellowship — Service — Support Membership July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023		
Dr. William G. Sloan, Jr. Executive Director Website: <a href="http://garetaleducators.org">garetaleducators.org</a>		
Name _____		
		
Dr. Henrietta Gray President 2022 - 2023 Website: <a href="http://garetaleducators.org">garetaleducators.org</a>		

Return this portion to: Georgia Retired Educators Association • P.O. Box 1379 • Flowery Branch, GA 30542

## September Meeting/Luncheon

Our September meeting will be held at the clubhouse at TPC Country Club on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:20. Make note of that time change. If you haven't attended a meeting there yet, we hope to see you this time. It is a beautiful facility, and the food is great. Our speakers will be Dr. Buster Evans of TRS and Lee St. John, author, humorist, and retired educator.

There are so many members that we haven't seen in quite a while. (I know...I do the nametags.) We miss you and sincerely hope that you will be able to join us this time. Be looking for an email so that you can RSVP.

Sharon Larkin

## Have you visited the GCREA website recently?

It is full of important information and always loads of pictures. The most recent directory is available there as a pdf. You can also find back issues of the Newsline. You can find it at [gcrea.org](http://gcrea.org).

### Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newsline will be published November 1, 2022

Deadline for articles is October 23, 2022

[sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com](mailto:sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com)

