



GCREA Newsline

2017
Issue 1

Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association
GCREA.org

From the President
Joyce Parks

**2017
Next
GCREA
Meeting
Friday
Sept. 15
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**

Dear GCREA Members,

I am excited about our coming year! We have wonderful programs planned and a new meeting place. Please look in your new handbook to find out more about our programs and to get the new directions. You will like the easy parking area and the buffet serving line especially. I am hoping to see a big turnout on September 15. Our meeting time is the same, 11:00 AM, with the program, lunch and business meeting model.

At the meeting I will go over our goals for this year. You can find them in your handbook. I am focusing now on gaining more members for the state as well as GCREA. For two years we have aimed our goals at achievement of a Unit of Distinction. Two years ago, we only lacked one thing, Spotlight awards. We added that last year. We did not make Unit of Distinction because we lacked the ten per cent state member increase. For 2017-2018, we will again go for this level. We will continue with Spotlight awards (which will be explained again at our meeting). Our emphasis will also be on gaining new members both for GCREA and for the state. State membership is required for Unit of Distinction. We have achieved Unit of Excellence, for which I am proud.

From the President, continued

I will be asking you to focus on getting new members. You may know someone who retired in May. Contact them and bring them to GCREA. You may know someone whose membership has lapsed. Contact them and try to get them back. In addition to these folks, spouses may join, any friend of education may join, and current teachers may join (especially those close to retirement). We want them in GCREA but state membership is what counts for Distinction. If each one of us can get one or two new people, we can easily meet this goal. I hope you will accept the challenge.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in September. Reservations need to be made prior to the event. I am asking you to respond to your contact by September 8 if you plan to attend. It is very important that we get an accurate count for the meals. We must pay for each one reserved whether the person comes or not. I do know that life events happen and we can't always know if we are going to have to miss a meeting. I just want you to be aware of how it works.

Come on September 15th prepared to celebrate our fine organization.

Joyce



Georgia Retired Educators Association's New Logo

CHAMPIONS KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE
(September 2017 meeting)

You will NOT want to miss the GCREA September meeting!! We will hear Kathy Andrews Fincher, a world famous local artist, tell us the story of a new public art sculpture entitled "The Dream Keepers", located in downtown Duluth. Ms. Fincher is best known for her inspirational paintings of children in a wide variety of themes and situations. Whether painting, writing or public speaking, Kathy Fincher loves to tell a story. What better way than through the face of a child?

Kathy combines a discipline of classical art training with the freedom of impressionism to create her own style of "romantic realism". Kathy's passion is painting children on the brink of discovery, exposing their sense of wonder and purity of heart. The spirit of Kathy's paintings offers to us unbridled hope and trust like that found in the spirit of childhood.

This painting, now turned sculpture, is dedicated to memorializing the events of 9/11 with an emphasis on our children being the Keepers of the American Dream. The artwork of children expressing the pain and confusions in their sketches of burning buildings, made her realize that she had a responsibility to paint a message of hope. Not unlike what Norman Rockwell's work offered us during World War II, she must paint. As it turns out, Fincher (who is often referred to as the female Norman Rockwell) would create a painting called "The Dream Keepers" and copies of it would bless families, firemen, church goers, and businesses across America. The original painting ended up in George W. Bush's Oval Office. The story of this painting is an inspiration in itself and one you will want to hear and remember. In addition, we will also be honoring representatives of our local First Responders who play such a major role in keeping us safe and secure.

Terri Adkins

Kathy Andrews Fincher



Kathy Fincher with sculptor Martin Dawe



The 2017 GCREA Auction is Coming!

Once again we members of GCREA have the opportunity to raise money for our scholarships for teachers and students as well as have fun by creating and then purchasing wonderful items at our annual auction. As always, we will have the Silent Auction, the Live Auction, and the Country Store. In the past we have had wonderful themed baskets - gardening, tea-time, coffee-time, UGA, GA Tech, Spend a Day in Downtown Norcross, Duluth, Lawrenceville, holiday baskets and so much more. We have also had beautiful hand-crafted pottery, paintings, jewelry, quilts, and glassware. GCREA is a talented and generous group, and I know we will continue the tradition. The Auction Team already consists of Judy Shaklee, Sarah Finger, Diane Hughes, Susanne Perkeron, Margaret Leeper, Hermine Pasternak, and Beverly Mayes. If you would like to join this fantastic group, contact Judy Shaklee at jcshak@bellsouth.net. Be sure to attend the September 15th meeting to get more information about what you can donate and how you can contact businesses to contribute. Don't miss out on the fun!

Judy Shaklee

GCREA Altruistic Projects

GCREA contributes to two altruistic projects during the year. In December, we will be collecting items for the Gwinnett Children's Shelter. In March, collected items will go to the Ronald McDonald House in Atlanta. All you have to do is check your email, Newline, or website for a list of needed items for each charity. You can bring the items to the December and March meetings. Additionally, you can make a monetary contribution to these charities if you would prefer. Money will be collected at the meetings as well. These items will be delivered and the money sent by our treasurer. I hope everyone will be able to make a contribution to these worthy causes.

Teresa Nichols

Calling All Volunteers

GCREA is an organization of volunteers! Last year we recorded 6403.5 hours of community service. I'm sure there were many more hours that people didn't take time to record. This year, please take a little time to record your hours each month. These are turned into the state organization which uses them to show what a valuable resource we retired teachers are. We served others in libraries, churches, schools, theatres, community organizations, homeless shelters, gardens, feeding programs for the food insecure, GCREA activities (those count too) transportation for friends and neighbors to doctor appointments, etc., refugees, and many other worthy causes.

Outstanding volunteers honored last March were Paula Parris, State Honoree, Suzanne Ernst, Local Honoree, and

Judy Shaklee, Honorable Mention. If you are volunteering for a cause you are passionate about, please let me know (sarahldavis@charter.net) and I will schedule a meeting for you to make a 5 minute presentation and recruit other members to help. If you need a form to record your hours, you will find some on your table at our September meeting. Please take time to fill out the form and show how altruistic our Gwinnett County retired teachers are! Thank you.

Your Help Needed

We are currently trying to re-establish contact with one of our members, Ina Wilbanks. If you know her and have her current address and/or phone number, please contact Stephanie Hodgin at hhodgin@bellsouth.net or 770-365-4227. Thank you.

Just a Reminder

Our new venue is **Destin Events Venue**. It is located at 1300 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Suwanee, Ga. The location is 1.7 miles past the intersection of Sugarloaf Parkway and Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Look on the right side of the road for the Suwanee Station Shopping Center. When you turn in, go immediately to your left and then watch on the right for the venue. There is plenty of paved parking, and the meals will be full meals served buffet style with some choices of food items. The cost will still be \$20 per person.

GCREA PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Article II - Objectives

Section D: **Currently reads** "To promote excellence in education through the awarding of annual scholarships to Gwinnett Public Schools and Buford City School seniors who are planning to major in education, and to active teachers in the Gwinnett Public Schools and the Buford City schools who are pursuing advanced degrees."

Change to read "**To promote excellence in education through the awarding of annual scholarships to seniors in Gwinnett County Public Schools or Buford City Schools who are planning to major in education, to active teachers in the Gwinnett County Public Schools or Buford City Schools who are pursuing advanced degrees, and to Georgia Gwinnett College students who are rising seniors majoring in education.**"

Article IV - Officers and Duties

Section A: 1. **Currently reads** "A slate of officers shall be presented annually to the membership present at the March meeting."

Change to read "**A nominating committee consisting of the current elected officers shall present a slate of officers annually to the membership present at the March meeting.**"

Article V - Executive Committee, Board of Directors

Section A. Executive Committee and Duties

Add "**d. To serve as the Nominating Committee**"

Article VII - Standing Committees

Change Finance Committee to **Finance/Investments**

Delete Scholarship Investments (Fund Drive)

Add **Fundraising/Spotlight**

Add **Website**

Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newslite will be published November 1, 2017.

Deadline for articles is October 23, 2017

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You have opted to receive e-mails from GCREA as required.

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