



GCREA Newsline

April 2018
Volume 5 Issue 4

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2018
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING
FRIDAY
APRIL 20
11:00 a.m.**

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

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

**Fellowship
Support
Service**

From the President

Joyce Parks

Dear Fellow GCREA Members,

We have had an exciting year in GCREA. We have made some good changes, too. Our best change is that we are now meeting at the Northwoods Country Club, 3157 Club Drive, Lawrenceville. It is convenient to get to and to park. There is a circular drive so that those who can't walk a long distance may be driven to the door. It is a beautiful setting for fellowship, good food, and an efficient business meeting. I hope you will make your reservation for April and May so that you can get in on the fun and excitement.

We have until April 15, to get our state memberships in to meet the state goal for a Unit of Distinction. Please check your membership. Maybe you have thought that by joining GCREA you are automatically a member at the state level. That is not the case. You need to join on the state level in order to be counted in our current membership goal. It is important to have all our people as state members for the clout it gives when we take a stand on an issue. To meet the goal this year we need to add 55 new members. We have gained 40+ but need this final push to meet the goal. Please check your status and invite friends and colleagues to join also. The only requirement is to support education in Georgia.

Our meeting site will be lovely in the Spring as we celebrate our emeritus members, award scholarships and honor our recently deceased members. Please join us for these worthy events.

Joyce Parks, President

PROGRAM NOTES from Terrie Adkins

Over the past several months we have had some wonderful programs.

In **December**, we were treated to the music of Bill and Sheri Eppright who played both favorite Christmas songs and a few of their own originals. Bill even danced with some of our ladies, bringing an extra element to our gaiety.

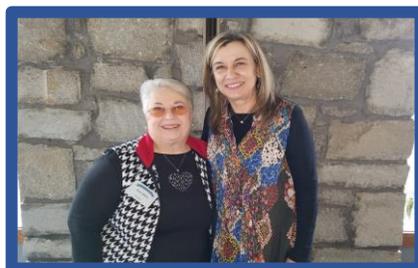
January brought snow and more snow and no meeting for GCREA!

In **February**, we enjoyed Duluth Mayor Nancy Harris, who is also a retired GCPS educator, as she shared her extensive volunteer experiences after leaving the classroom. She brought along a guest, Coach Patrick, from Fit Body Boot Camp who explained the programs he has for staying fit and healthy at age 55 and older. He even gave away some books and a couple of complimentary fitness sessions.



Bill and Sherri Eppright

Terrie Adkins and Nancy Harris



2018/19 Slate of Officers

The nominations for new officers for 2018/2019 was announced at the March 16th luncheon. They are as follows:

President - Terri Adkins

President Elect - Jan Calkins

Secretary - Teresa Nichols

Treasurer - Sara Lee

We will vote on these new officers at our April luncheon on April 20th. The installation of officers will be on May 18th.

In **March**, we enjoyed the music of the **Legacy Flute Quartet** bringing us popular Celtic and Irish music. Our very own Ann Crain is a member of this group and we were excited to share this program.

In **April** we will be awarding our scholarships. Please plan on wearing a “teacher” related article (apple pins, earrings, “teacher” necklaces, etc.) to be eligible to win a door prize.

Our new venue at **Northwoods Country Club** is terrific. The food is excellent, the room is bright, cheery and spacious and the fellowship is always uplifting. Please plan to come and join us as we keep up with what is happening in our neck of the woods!



Legacy Flute Quartet



Coach Patrick and Nancy Harris

Scholarship Meeting

Be sure to attend our April 20 meeting to honor our scholarship winners. This year we will be able to award six \$1500 scholarships -- two to high school seniors, two to current teachers who are pursuing graduate degrees and two to Georgia Gwinnett College seniors. This is a great look at the future of education for many years to come.

The recipients of the Georgia Gwinnett College scholarships are Dominique Cottle and Karen Williams. Come to the meeting to learn the names of the other four recipients.

Carolyn Fetner

WIN A NECKLACE AT OUR APRIL MEETING!



We will hold our necklace raffles at our April meeting, so this is your LAST CHANCE TO INVITE GUESTS AND BE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED INTO THE RAFFLE! Each guest you bring to a luncheon meeting equals one entry into our April drawing for a handmade necklace. The following members are already entered in the raffle: Terrie Adkins, Carol Casserly, Jeanne Fanning, Evelyn Grant, Nita Killabrew (twice!), Pat Marr, Becky Suggs, Janene Sullivan, and Beth Thompson. Each guest that becomes a member will also be entered in a separate drawing for another necklace. Lois Bean, Jeanne O’Gwynn and Karen Zinkel are our current raffle entries of guests who became members. What’s more, the winners will be able to choose their prize from a variety of handmade necklaces. If you have brought a guest and they haven’t become a member yet, give them a call to remind them to join and attend the April meeting for their chance to win a necklace. A big THANK YOU to all of you who are helping to grow our membership!

Lorraine Presson

Volunteers

Oh! The Places You’ll Go! Sorry I got kind of stuck on the Dr. Seuss thing for March, but as I was going through your Volunteer Hours Logs this month (and having volunteered for Read Across America) I was amazed by all the places that our members are helping with their time and skills. Oh! The difference we make in our schools, churches, communities and organizations!

Altogether we spent **10,816** hours volunteering--and that's just the ones that got written down! My husband pointed out that that is more than 270 full time 40 hour work weeks!

This year we are recognizing three members for their outstanding volunteer service. Our state GREA award goes to Janis Ivie. She drives cancer patients and neighbors many miles for the Gwinnett Trippers, helps the homeless get back on their feet with Family Promise, stuffs Prayer Bears, works at the SE Co-op and volunteers in the media centers and is a reading mentor at both Gwin Oaks and Ferguson Elementary Schools. If she sees anyone in need, she is always moved to help! Thank you, Janis, for your generosity of Spirit.

Our local winner is Lois Bean. An avid reader herself, she leads the Lilburn Library Book Club discussions. She is also a Friends of the Library Volunteer. An artist, she is the Program Director for Lilburn Arts Alliance and has painted murals for the Lilburn Library. Thank you, Lois, for your willingness to use your creativity and talent for your community.

Honorable Mention goes to Sara Lee. She gives generously of her time to her church, Duluth United Methodist working in many areas as she also does for the Suwanee Kiwanis. She also volunteers in public school and at the North Gwinnett Co-op. Of course, our favorite way she spends her time is keeping GCREA's finances straight. She does a wonderful job as our treasurer. Thank you, Sara, for all you do.

There are so many who contribute countless hours of voluntary service to our organization. Not all wrote down those hours and turned them in, but their contributions are greatly appreciated by all who benefit from their service. Thank you to each of you for your service to others!

Sarah Davis



Sara Lee, Janis Ivie, and Lois Bean

Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newslines will be published June 1, 2018.

Deadline for articles is May 23, 2018

sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com

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