



# GCREA Newsline

July 2022  
Volume 9 Issue 5

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2022  
NEXT  
GCREA  
MEETING  
FRIDAY  
SEPT. 16TH  
10:00 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

“Find Joy in Fellowship, Support and Service” with GCREA. We should be joyful that our Retired Educators Association has thrived and grown for 50 years! Therefore, I am honored to serve as your President 2022-2023 with our Executive Board and Chairs. My heart is full of anticipation and prayer for a successful continuation of GCREA into the next 50 years.

Monthly meeting attendance needs to increase from the membership starting in September. The Sugarloaf TPC is a great place to have our meetings. The food service, security, and guest hospitality are outstanding. Let’s all come together at the Sugarloaf TPC in Duluth, for our scheduled meetings on 9/16, 11/6 (GA Retired Educators Day, location TBA), 12/16, 1/20, 2/17, 3/17 and 4/21.

Our Goal for this year is to joyfully and purposefully follow our motto. **Fellowship - Support - Service**

**Fellowship** - By joining GCREA and attending monthly meetings you will find connections that will bring joy to your heart. Everyone who has educated students has experiences to share and a lifetime of memories.

**Support** - Bring a friend and prospective member to the very first GCREA meeting this year. You will bring joy and tools to a new retiree who may need information on TRS, the State Health Benefit Plan, AMBA Dental or MASA (discounts on travel, computers and pet insurance). We always update our membership on these benefits and partners.

**Service** - Be involved in our charitable giving and outreach, bring joy to all who receive your gifts. Follow and give to our Humanitarian projects of which there are many. (Walk 2End Alz, Book Mobile through GCPS, March of Dimes through GREA, and High School (GCPS), College (GGC) and Teacher (GCPS) Scholarships).

GRECA welcomes all retired educators from public and private schools in this area to our membership. Our growth will bring confidence for a strong Retired Educators Association of the future.

Sincerely, Kimberly Rooker - President, GRECA

### Putting on a New Hat

Many of you are already aware that your Membership Chair (Terrie Adkins) is now wearing another hat - that of GRECA Area 14 Director. This is definitely a new direction and assignment for me and one I am honored to accept. So, you may be asking, "Just what IS an Area Director?". If you attended any of our local GRECA meetings, you may have met Pat Leming, who I am succeeding. She was our former Area 14 Director. An Area Director is a member of GRECA and a local county unit, like GRECA. The Area Director oversees communicating with and helping several local units reach all the goals they can in order to achieve the state awards of Unit of Excellence and Unit of Distinction. In my case, I will work with six local units in our area, Gwinnett Co. (GRECA) being one. I will have the privilege of attending some of these other counties' meetings and communicating state information to all of them. I am still a member of GRECA, and I am still your Membership Chair, but I feel I can help some smaller counties reach their goals as well. I was very honored to be asked to assume this new position and I accepted it, in large part, because of the tremendous support and encouragement I have always received from all of you in GRECA! Thanks so much for continuing to support me as I wear this new hat!

Blessings from your New Area Director

Terrie Adkins

Pictured L - R Pat Leming, Terrie Adkins



## May Meeting/Luncheon

Our May 20th Meeting memorialized our members who are no longer with us. For a prelude to our memorial service, we listened to some beautiful viola 🎻 music from Dr. Claudia Malchow. Ramona Ricks and Sue French read the names of our Memorialized.

We heard from Terri Adkins, our luncheon speaker, in her new role as the Area 14 Director. Please Congratulate Terri on her accomplishment the next time you see her. We also enjoyed our scrumptious luncheon of a beautiful Pasta 🍝 Bar, carefully prepared by the Sugarloaf chef and staff. The food was sensational! We missed you if you were not able to attend ❤️. We request your presence at our next meeting.

Terri installed GCREA Executive Board for 2022-23 as follows:

President - Kimberly Rooker

President Elect - Karen Efstrotation

Treasurer- Holly Gardiner

Secretary- Ellen Sumner

Immediate Past President - Tina Duncan

Parliamentarian - Carolyn Fetner

We especially look forward to seeing you Friday, September 16th for our Welcome New Members meeting in the Fall at the Sugarloaf TPC. Put it on your calendar 📅. The remainder of the meeting dates will be posted on our website this summer. Also, 💡 remember to become a member of GREA and plan on attending the State Conference on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th in 2023 in the Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center.

Kimberly Rooker

## Now is a Good Time to Evaluate Your Membership!

1. As a member of GCREA you have the advantage of participating in an exciting, involved and growing local unit. GCREA meets at a beautiful, spacious facility, Sugarloaf County Club in Duluth. We support several charitable and school related projects. We have lively and informative meetings. Your leadership is excellent with enthusiasm and vision. You pay annual dues one way or the other. There are two options:

A. ADD membership - which means your annual dues are subtracted monthly from your GCPS retirement check at the rate of \$2.09 per month. You sign up one time and then forget about it. Your dues are automatically paid and GCPS sends GCREA a check each month. Easy Peasy!! I am happy to send you the form to fill out to enroll in ADD membership.

B. Regular Annual membership - which means that you pay your dues by check once a year - in June. A renewal letter is sent to you with an information update form and a return envelope. You must write a check and mail this in. **YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER TO RENEW EACH YEAR.**

c. **WE NO LONGER OFFER** Lifetime memberships, but we have many Life members. It has become very difficult to keep up with many of our Life members, especially if they have moved away or are deceased. After six years, the \$160 they originally paid no longer supports the activities of GCREA. So, if you are a Life member of more than six years, please consider becoming an ADD member so you continue to support GCREA. Again, I am happy to send you the enrollment form.

2. GREA (our state organization) membership - Our state organization has a membership of approximately 32,400 members statewide. Membership in the state organization is very important because that is our loudest voice at the Capitol when matters of education and teacher (current and retired) pay and benefits are concerned. The louder our voice the better chance we have of keeping that legislation fair and legislators on our side. Those of us who are already GREA members wear a gold ribbon attached to our GCREA nametag to show our support. If you are not currently a GREA member, please consider joining us. We worked hard for our retirement pay and benefits - we need that voice to help us keep what we earned!! I am happy to send you enrollment information.

As we roll into a hot Georgia summer, be safe, be happy, stay cool and **HAVE FUN!!** See you in September when we resume our meetings at the beautiful Sugarloaf CC.

Blessings from your Membership Chair, Terrie Adkins



## In Memoriam



<p><b>Jack Dempsey Britt</b> September 14, 1926 - May 28, 2021</p>	<p><b>Nita Elise Perigo Chambless</b> January 12, 1940- November 15, 2021</p>	<p><b>Dianne Crossman</b> 1948 - July 3, 2021</p>
<p><b>Sarah A. Finger</b> September 8, 1946 - December 5, 2021</p>	<p><b>Reba Hightower</b> May 5, 1936 - July 7, 2020</p>	<p><b>Mary Frazier Long</b> May 4, 1932 - July 19, 2021</p>
<p><b>Barbara Ann May</b> August 14, 1938 - November 28, 2021</p>	<p><b>Charles Ray "C.R." Milam</b> November 17, 1936 - March 8, 2022</p>	<p><b>Wanda Lee Thomas</b> March 30, 1945 - August 13, 2021</p>

A special memorial edition of the Newslines containing full memorials will be posted on the GCREA website.



## Pictures from the GREA Convention



**Editor's Note:**  
The next edition of the Newsline will be published September 1, 2022  
Deadline for articles is August 23, 2022  
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**Please invite your friends  
to join us at our next  
meeting!**