



GCREA Newsline

November 2023

Volume 11 Issue 2

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2023
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING
Nov. 10, 2023
TPC Sugarloaf
Country Club
Doors Open 10:00
Meeting Starts 10:20**

**President:
Karen Efstration
President-elect:
CeCe Landress
Secretary:
Carolyn Madden
Treasurer:
Holly Gardiner**

**Fellowship
Support
Service**

From the President

Karen Efstration

November reminds me that it's a time to be thankful. Many of us are celebrating Georgia Retired Educators Day, voting, cooking turkey and seeing family. I'm thankful for these things too, but I'm also thankful for YOU. GCREA decided early this summer to be a TEAM and WE ARE!

We had 60 members register and attend our first meeting in September! I value your support. The location, the food and the speakers were great, but the time for fellowship was the best.

I also am thankful for the present and past board members. We try our best to complete our duties but are not afraid to ask others to help. I want to especially thank Holly Gardiner, our treasurer. Holly decided earlier this year to step away from her role as our AMBA representative but then she assured me that she would continue to be our treasurer and tech support. I want to share also that she recently married, and her name now is Holly Gardiner Novajovsky.

By deciding to be a TEAM, we all can help each other, maybe just by staying in touch. **Please mark your calendars for our Gwinnett County Retired Educators meeting on Friday, November 10, at Sugarloaf Country Club. Pat Baker, Gwinnett County expert on supporting caregivers, will update us on how to "care for the caregivers" in our lives.**

Remember that Together We Can Achieve More!
Thank you GCREA!

Georgia Retired Educators Day by Carolyn Madden

On Tuesday, October 3, 2023, Grayson, GA, Mayor Allison Wilkerson, invited members of the Gwinnett Retired Educators Association to Grayson City Park to celebrate the proclamation stating November 5, 2023, will be known as “RETIRED EDUCATORS DAY.”

Mayor Wilkerson graciously greeted various members of GCREA and expressed her appreciation for their service to the students of Gwinnett County. Mayor Wilkerson is a product of Gwinnett County Public Schools and is an avid supporter of our students and teachers.

After the proclamation signing, several members of GCREA enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Sam’s on Main in historic downtown Grayson.



Greetings from your GCREA Membership Chair,

Can you believe, it's already November! Are you getting used to the idea of being retired?

What a pleasure it is to have the option "to do" or "not to do". This is the greatest thing about retirement. But one of the benefits of retirement, that we hope is on your "to do" list, is joining GCREA.

GCREA monthly meetings are designed to keep you informed of the local, state, and national affairs that impact us as retired educators. We encourage you to come and to join us, eager to learn and eager to share.

We especially want to reach out to new retirees and to those retirees who have not yet joined our group. Please come and invite a friend. If you attend with a guest, your name will be placed in a drawing for a gift card prize.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting.

Luthenya Conyers Wright

luthenyacwright@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Just a Reminder....

We will be having a gift basket auction at our December meeting/luncheon as a fundraiser for our scholarships. Have you been thinking about what your basket might be? Karen Efstrotation, our president, has an interesting take on this.

During our summer months, I was the loudest complainer about hot weather. It kept me from going outside at midday to clip dead flowers, pull weeds or even water tomato plants.

Now that our cooler, wetter weather is here, I'm complaining again! This time it's about things I could have gotten done this summer and didn't. Going through my closet to sort out old clothes, shredding old tax papers, defrosting my garage freezer, donating old toys that my grandsons no longer play with are things I'm dealing with now. I'm such a "penny pincher" that I must donate things that I can't use or recycle them. As we face the holiday season, let's think about our current "stuff" and how we might best use it or get rid of it.

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Our December meeting comes to mind when we donate baskets with items that someone else would appreciate enough to “buy the basket.” The basket could have a theme like “holiday decorating”, “college keepsakes”, or “Let’s Have a Party”. We could combine old items with a few new things to make a basket with any theme. The donated baskets will be put in a “silent auction” where all the money we raise goes to fund our scholarships for high school, college, and teacher education costs.



Teacher Tales by Karen McKnight

I moved to Snellville in June of 2004. Since it was summer, we spent time outside. This is a story about my half golden retriever, half Labrador retriever, Abby, who was very friendly. Most of the children met Abby. One little boy of about five or six asked to use the phone to call his mom and let her know where he was. (I was impressed.) I handed him my cordless phone. This is his half of that phone call. “Hi Mom, it’s me, I’m over at the dog’s house. Yes, the lady says it’s okay. Bye.” I was amazed that the mom knew exactly where he was. I didn’t know that my corner was the school bus stop until school started. By then I had met most, if not all the kids in the neighborhood. I taught high school and usually got home before the school buses. One day I let Abby out as the bus pulled up. It was still warm outside and many of the bus’s windows were open. Some of the students called out to Abby. She ran to the open bus door and proceeded to board the bus. She was going up and down the aisle of the bus by the time I got there. Everyone was calm, especially the bus driver. I don’t know if Abby was her first four-legged rider. Abby then got off the bus with one of my 10-year-old neighbors. Luckily, she only decided to board the bus that one time.

This is a shout out to our wonderful GCPS bus drivers who seem to take everything in stride, even a four-legged visitor on the bus.

A Message from CeCe

Hope you are having a great FALL!

Just wanted to remind you of some fun events. If you have not registered for the GCREA team, please do so. Info below.

Gwinnett County Retiree Luncheon on November 3! You should have received your email from the county with your registration link. If you retired from Gwinnett and you did not receive this information, please contact Cindy Bolton. cindy.bolton@gcpsk12.org We look forward to seeing you all at the event. We will have celebration ribbons available on this day also.

Our next GCREA luncheon at Sugarloaf is on November 10.

November 11 is the Alzheimer's Walk in Suwanee!! I hope you will all join the GCREA team. Register at https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2023/GA-Georgia?pg=entry&fr_id=16480 The team's name is GCREA. The walk is free for you, as well as your friends and family. You can walk or just show up to support us that day! If you would like, you may donate when you register to walk Alzheimer's. All donations will be reflected under the GCREA team, but you will receive an email for your taxes for your donation!!

Looking forward to seeing you at all these fun events!!!

Cecelia Landress

President Elect GCREA

Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newsline will be published Feb.1, 2024

Deadline for articles is Jan.23, 2024

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Fun and Fellowship at September's Meeting and Luncheon

