

Minutes

Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association (GCREA)

Date: July 17, 2024

Location: Georgia Retired Educators Museum, Flowery Branch, GA

Time: 11:00am

Call to order:

A board meeting of the Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association was held at 11:00 am at the GREA Museum, Flowery Branch, GA. It began at 11:05am and was presided over by Cecelia Landress, President, with Carolyn Madden as secretary.

Attendance:

Cecelia "CeCe" Landress, President
Karen Efstrotation, Past President
Carolyn Madden, Secretary
Holly Novajovsky, Treasurer, Website, and Health Service
Laura Raiman, Parliamentarian, Website assistance, Facebook
Luthenya "Lu" Wright, Membership
Terri Adkins, GREA Area 14 Coordinator
Lisa Eubanks, Communication
Ellen Sumner, Bookmobile
Jan Calkins, Scholarships
Tina Duncan, Scholarships
Betty Worthington, GCREA member

Agenda Items:

1. CeCe welcomed the board members and thanked them for attending.
2. Members of the board introduced themselves, stated their roles within GCREA, and gave a brief history of their teaching. We have approximately 500 members in GCREA. Laura has been working on updating the list.
3. Ellen reviewed how the BookMobile operates and is considering 2 BookMobiles this year. To be determined.
4. Luthenya stated that we need more technology with membership. She would like it to be a seamless process to join and renew. She will be following up with the GCPS Retirement office to see if we can have new retirees sign up when they do their retirement paperwork. Lifetime members are difficult to get information about. Lisa stated she can make "groups" in Constant Contact if that would help. Holly can see who opens up their QuickBooks emails to pay for lunch. Holly also

stated there are 1700 unpaid members and 900 paid members. The majority of the membership is ADD and 75 are on annual renewal.

5. Jan made 500 phone calls last year to try and reach members we have not heard from and found that some are deceased or are not around anymore. We need to have an inactive list formed. This may be a good project for the Sunshine Committee. Terrie mentioned we could all take a part of the inactive list and call the lifetime list as well. Terrie has a list of questions we can follow to get the information we need.
6. Carolyn provided a copy of a flyer her husband created for membership purposes. It contains our motto and mission statement as well as a QR code to join GCREA. She will have this printed to poster size and framed for our meetings and for events such as GCPS Retiree luncheons, etc..
7. Jan is concerned about the decline in young people not going into education. She feels we are not reaching the students. She would be happy to meet with the counselors. Perhaps she can meet with all of the counselors at one of their county meetings. She will get a contact name and reach out to them.
8. Lisa reviewed Constant Contact with the board members. Constant Contact is used for luncheons and other GVREA information that needs to go to the membership. She does need updated information that is received from members to stay up to date. Lisa asked when she should send out the luncheon invitations. Lisa and Holly both stated that paying ahead helps with the check in process at the luncheons.
9. Tina let the board know she had 5-6 applicants for scholarships last year. We might need another for next year. Terrie added we want the school system to know how much we support the school system with Bookmobiles and scholarships for students, teachers, and college students.
10. Laura is our parliamentarian and works on the website and Facebook page. Please join our Facebook page. We also need a link from our website to the Facebook page. It would also be helpful to have some other members with technology knowledge.
11. Dr. Bill Sloan, GREA Executive Director, stopped by and thanked us for meeting at the headquarters and using the conference room. Please visit the museum!
12. Betty is a retired paralegal and her sister was an educator. She is ready to help us in any way she can.
13. Terrie is working on the handbook for this 2024-2025 year and it will be online and updated for the current year. We need goals, meeting dates, and general topics.
The new GREA theme is "Hats off to Education" and the colors are black and red. Shirley Grant from Habersham county is the new state president. There is a state deadline to get this information completed and she would like it to be completed by August 15.
14. Karen thanked everyone for all of their help last year and was happy we made a great TEAM.

15. Holly, our treasurer, supports several local chapters and is currently the acting president of the Newton Co. chapter due to the sudden death of their president. She also feels our website is dated and is due for a refresh. She would like to have a committee formed to look in to this. She would like for Scholarships and Donations to be in a bigger space on the website and wants to simplify membership. We have had a couple of very good years recently.

12:15pm – Break for Lunch

12:50pm – Business Meeting:

Officer's Reports:

Treasurer:

1. Holly reviewed the 2023-2024 business activity and reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the past year.
2. We were very successful with donations - \$12,000.00
3. Last month we received a scholarship refund from GA State for \$1500 for the 2020 school year.
4. This past year we paid a full \$9000 in scholarships without the use of our endowments. Vanguard holds our endowment.
5. We have a little over \$42,000 in the bank going into this year, \$12,000 in the operating account, \$11,000 in our scholarship account, and \$19,000 in our money market account. Holly does not have the June Endowment report yet, but will receive it soon.
6. We are \$5,000 short with meeting expenses and still have 3 unpaid lunches. We pay for our speakers (non-GCREA) lunch and scholarship recipients' lunches.
7. Our organization is a qualified charity for IRA RMD's.
8. The budget for the 2024-2025 was proposed. Carolyn moved to approve the budget and it was seconded. The board voted to approve.
9. We have not had a lot of fluctuation in our budget over the years. Meal cost increases and technology can impact our bottom line.
10. Microsoft has approved for GCREA.org free email accounts. The board agreed that this was good for the board to access.
11. Terrie added that other organizations have corporate sponsors to help offset costs. Perhaps we can find some organizations that would make a \$1,000 donation and speak to our group about their organization.

Additional Items/Dates:

Possible dates for GCREA meetings were discussed. It was agreed that Sugarloaf Country Club is still a good location to meet even with increased costs. It provides a safe environment, parking and is centrally located in the county.

August 21, 2024, is the GREA Units 13-14 meeting in Conyers, GA. Terrie encouraged members to attend as we are required to have members there. She will send out the information about attending closer to the date.

September 13, 2024, first GCREA meeting at Sugarloaf Country Club, Duluth, GA.

September/October – We are looking for a local city official who would recognize Georgia Retired Educators day. We would like a photo of members with that official. Georgia Retired Educator's Day is November 3, 2024. We will be ordering ribbons for this event.

September/October – The date for the Gwinnett Retirees Reunion Luncheon is to be determined.

October 25, 2024, GCREA Meeting, Sugarloaf Country Club, Duluth, GA.

October 26, 2024, Alzheimer's Walk, Suwanee, GA, 9:00am. A team has been set up under GCREA Team. Please make your donations under that team name. It is a 3-mile walk.

November 15, 2024, GCREA Meeting, Sugarloaf Country Club, Duluth, GA, Annual Fundraiser Meeting. We are looking for someone to manage the auction for that day.

December 2024 Meeting – TBD, we do not have to meet this month.

January 10, 2025, GCREA Meeting, Sugarloaf Country Club, Duluth, GA.

February 21, 2025, GCREA Meeting, Sugarloaf Country Club, Duluth, GA.

March 21, 2025, GCREA Meeting, Sugarloaf Country Club, Duluth, GA.

April 2025, TBD - GCREA Meeting, Sugarloaf Country Club, Duluth, GA.

May 6-8, 2025, State GREA Convention, Augusta, GA.

May 16, 2025, GCREA Meeting, Sugarloaf Country Club, Duluth, GA., Installation of new officers.

May 2025 – New Gwinnett Retirees Luncheon, date TBD

Award Requirements:

3 Service Projects

Alzheimer's Walk - community
BookMobile - GCPS
Make-A-Wish - state

3 Public Relations Events – pictures/articles

Facebook
Proclamation for Retired Educator's Day
Alzheimer's Walk – article

2 Newsletters (Name Tags)

Sharon Larkin needs articles for the newsletters.

1 Area Meeting 13-14 Meeting

In August, Conyers, GA

2025 GREA Convention

Please attend

Retired Educator's Day – November 3, 2024

Scrapbook

Scholarships

Handbook/Photos

7% Membership growth – Goal

We need 56 new members. Join GREA first, then join GCREA.

Additional Items:

We are still looking for a President-Elect.

CeCe is talking to several people about this position.

We have a storage closet at ISC. Tina will see if they have a room for us to use at ISC for a Microsoft class.

Cecilia L. moved that the meeting be adjourned, and this was agreed upon at 2:00 pm.

Submitted by,

Carolyn B. Madden
GCREA Secretary 2024-2025

