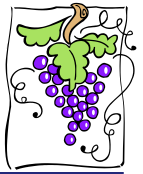


The GRApevine



The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Conference Edition, June 2018



Greetings GRA Members!

Hello to each of you and hope you are all doing well. It is hard to believe we are already half way through the year. Conference planning is going full force. Our theme this year is "In the Garden of Knowledge" in beautiful Savannah, GA. The 2018 GRA Training Conference will offer many training options for you to attend this year. I hope each of you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Remember, "The Georgia Rehabilitation Association (GRA) is a membership organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy." For this reason, I hope you join GRA to become active and participate in all aspects not just the conference. I can remember 21 years ago when I joined NRA/GRA and how excited I was to help make a difference. I encourage you to become active in a local chapter or division, join the conference committee next year or become a part of the board. This has been such a great experience for me personally and I have grown in so many ways.

Please encourage your co-workers and friends to join NRA/GRA and become a part of a wonderful family and organization.

See you in Savannah!!

Cheryl Braswell
2018 GRA President

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Division Reports

GAMRC: Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns

GAMRC announces the 25th Silver Jubilee National Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Conference on July 11-14, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV. The theme for this year's conference is "Shaping Innovation in Multicultural Rehabilitation." Registration information and more details at www.namrc.org. Flyer included in newsletter.

GAMRC is planning a workshop in observance of Mental Illness Awareness Week. Tentatively scheduled October 11, 2018. Details to be announced.

GARL: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

Please submit a nomination for the Leadership Award and Continuing Education Grant (please review the GRA Newsletter and Website for more details).

Also, we will once again hold our Auction at the GRA Training Conference in Savannah but this year hold the event during breaks in the Opening Session. Flyer is included in the newsletter.

GRCEA: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

Members had a meeting Apr. 27 to talk about choosing a speaker for the conference. Members decided to do an electronic vote to end at the close of business on Apr. 30 on who to choose for a speaker. A follow-up meeting was held on Apr. 30. Dr. Silvio Reyes was chosen as this year's speaker.

Members also voted to cover half of the cost for the boxed lunches for the New Member Welcome at the conference. They also designated Dana Skelton-Sanders to purchase items for the preconference bags.

GRCEA will be participating in donating door prizes for the pre-conference and the conference. As a community service project, GRCEA will be donating classroom supplies to an inner-city high school in Savannah. These items will be collected at the preconference. A flyer has been created and included in the Conference 2018 Edition of the GRA Newsletter.

Chapter Reports

EAST—Carmella Jennings

HIGH SCHOOL JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR

On March 13, 2018 the East Chapter Special Committee members attended the Richmond County High School Job and Community Resource Fair. This momentous event took place at the Julian Smith Center in Augusta, Georgia. Students from 12 schools in the greater Augusta area had the chance to visit with a variety of employers and community partners. Some of the vendors included the Job Corp, the Salvation Army, Georgia Regents University, Augusta Technical College, Kenneth Schuler, Georgia Institute for Cosmetology, Walton Options, BioMat, CSRA JATC Electrical Apprenticeship, Gold Mech, Teleperformance, MAU, CSRA Workforce Development, Empire Beauty School, and recruiters from each branch of the Armed Forces. Information was provided to interested students regarding available jobs and academic programs that could prepare them for a successful transition from school to work. Tables were also set up to assist students in completing applications and locating current job leads via popular internet sites. The event was brought to a close with a ceremony of recognition for those students who demonstrated outstanding participation and superior levels of job readiness as the result of their dedication and contribution during the course of the High School Job Club. Individuals who provided support or assisted in the success of the High School Job Club were also celebrated with certificates of appreciation. The host of the event was Jay Jefferies, a local news celebrity. Mr. Jefferies did an outstanding job as host and entertaining the students. Most importantly, students with disabilities were equipped with knowledge and discovered potential means for achieving employment using the resources and willing employers in their local community.

MOSSY CREEK COMMUNITY PROJECT – MARCH ON FOR VETERANS

The month of March 2018, students at Mossy Creek Elementary School from Kindergarten to 5th grade teamed up with the Local East Chapter Members to collect over 500 toiletry items (toothbrushes, tooth paste, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, comb, brushes, shampoo soap, etc.). The items were delivered to Wounded Warriors at Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home. This is the largest collection of toiletry items since starting this community project.

Chapter Reports

METRO—Lutrell Thomas

Metro Chapter is planning a Lunch and Learn on topic of Autism in July and the Annual Ethics Symposium in October 2018. We will also be having an opportunity basket at the conference.

NORTHEAST—Keita Alston

The Northeast Chapter will have a meeting between now and June to discuss fundraiser ideas for the conference. Also, we are teaming with Gwinnett Technical College in Alpharetta to have a Provider Fair on Sept. 13 from 10 AM – 2 PM. Flyer will be in the newsletter.

We will also have a meeting to discuss fundraiser options at the conference.

SOUTH—Nicky Lamb

South Chapter has welcomed seven new members this quarter. South Chapter and GRA State Chapter donated \$500 to a family in Effingham County that lost their home in a fire. The Chapter is currently working with staff from the Grady County School System to help a disabled student build a wheel chair ramp. They are also working on planning a fundraiser for the fall. Chapter President Nicky Lamb and Cheryl Braswell have offered to go around to different offices and talk about GRA to help increase GRA membership. South Chapter is working on ways to advertise membership with local vendors in our communities and with the special education teachers in our local school systems.

WEST—Jason Williams

We plan to support the GRA Training Conference once again through the purchase of an advertisement and donation of door prizes.

GRA Committee News

Accessibility Committee News

The Accessibility Committee will request the program outline from the Program Committee. The Dropbox folder for the 2018 GRA Conference has been created. Please click [here](#) for the link.

Also, the Committee is seeking two additional committee members to assist with the development, implementation, and marketing of the DropBox. Interested persons should email Michelle Temple at michelltemple@yahoo.com.

Awards & Scholarships Committee

Awards/Scholarship Committee welcomes any ideas, thoughts, suggestions, or constructive criticism to improve the Awards Ceremony this year in Savannah. Please begin thinking now about a deserving rehabilitation professional to nominate. List of awards and scholarships are below. Click on the link below to complete the form.

Deadline date to send nominations is July 11. Please send via mail or email to:

Lauri Tuten
Awards & Scholarships Chair
PO Box 824
Thomson, GA 30284
Lauri.tuten@gvs.ga.gov

Name of Award/Scholarship	Deadline Date
Association of Rehabilitation Technicians and Specialists of Georgia (ARTS) Boss of the Year Award	July 11, 2018
Association of Rehabilitation Technicians and Specialists of Georgia (ARTS) Service Award	July 11, 2018
Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (GRCEA) Awards	July 11, 2018
Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) Award	July 11, 2018
Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) Continuing Education Grant	July 11, 2018
Isaac Max Heller Employer of Year Award	July 11, 2018
Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship Award	July 11, 2018
Professional Achievement Award	July 11, 2018
Service Award	July 11, 2018

Facilitators Needed

Please contact Cheryl Meadows Ussery at cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net if you're interested in becoming a facilitator for this year's conference.

Membership Committee News

GRA: Membership Matters!

The Membership Committee Theme for 2018 is once again "Membership Matters!". We will be offering a \$100 Cash Prize to the Local Chapter or Division that recruits the most new members this year.

Chapter Presidents: Please notify Ellen Logino and I immediately once you add a new member so that we may add them to the GRA Membership Roster.

Please submit your list of new members by July 2, 2018 to:

Jason Williams
Attention: GRA Membership Contest
1220 Hogansville Road, Suite #400
LaGrange, GA 30241
Jason.Williams@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

Nominations Committee News

We are looking for a few "GReAt" Rehab Professionals to serve as President Elect, Vice President Elect, Secretary Elect, Treasurer Elect and three (3) Board Members at Large for 2019. Elections to be held at the annual conference.

Don't miss your opportunity to serve as a key player with GRA! If interested, please contact Cheryl Braswell at cheryl.braswell@gvs.ga.gov

Registration Committee Volunteers Needed

Please contact Keita Alston at keita.alston@gvs.ga.gov if you're interested in becoming a volunteer with the Registration Committee at this year's conference.

Registration Bags Committee News

We would like for each chapter to start asking vendors for donations to place in the conference bags. We are expecting about 300 attendees. For more information, please contact Nicky Lamb at nicky.lamb@gvs.ga.gov. The expectation are that each Chapter & Division will need to provide items indigenous to their areas.

The Savannah VR office is happy to assist in this year's conference preparations. If anyone needs to ship or mail items to us for holding until conference time, please contact Candace Mims at 912-356-2226 or Candace.mims@gvs.ga.gov. Please let her know ahead of time what you'll be sending as a courtesy. Thanks!

Savannah VR Office

Attn: Candace Mims—GRA Conference
450 Mall Blvd. Suite B.
Savannah, GA 31406



2018 GRA Conference

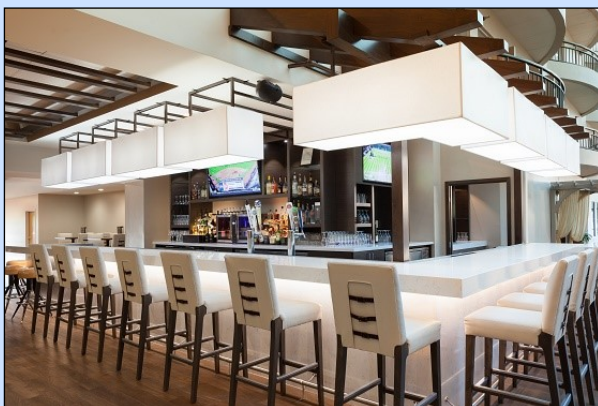
Aug. 7-10, 2018

Savannah Marriott Riverfront

See y'all in Savannah!

Please click below to access forms:

- [2018 GRA Conference Call for Proposal Form](#)
- [2018 GRA Conference Exhibitor Prospectus Form](#)
- [2018 GRA Conference Registration Form \(GVRA Employees Only\)](#)
- [2018 GRA Conference Registration Form \(Non-GVRA\)](#)
- [2018 GRCEA Preconference Registration Form](#)





**2018 GRCEA Preconference Speaker
Dr. Silvio S. Reyes**

Dr. Silvio S. Reyes is a Vocational Consultant and Life Care Planner actively involved in Personal Injury, Workers' Compensation, Wrongful Termination, Wrongful Death, Medical Malpractice, Matrimonial/Divorce, Veteran's Disability (TDIU), Premises Liability, Product Liability and Long Term Disability (ERISA) Cases. Additionally, he serves as a Rehabilitation Supplier for the Georgia State Board of Worker's Compensation and a Vocational Expert with the United States Social Security Administration's Office of Hearing Operations formerly known as the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. Dr. Reyes received his Masters Degree in Rehabilitation from South Carolina State University and his Doctorate in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University.

Dr. Reyes is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor, National Certified Counselor, Registered Professional Vocational Evaluator and Certified Life Care Planner who has provided services for people with disabilities since 2000. He has provided rehabilitation services to diverse populations for 18 years while credentialed by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists, National Board for Certified Counselors, International Commission on Healthcare Certification and the Registry of Professional Vocational Evaluators.

He can be reached at 770-987-7414 or Silvio.Reyes@mtbmglobalrehab.com.



GRCEA Division Gives Back to Transition Students

The GRCEA Division has selected an inner city high school in Savannah as an effort to demonstrate our commitment to the newly established collaboration with the Dept. of Education. We are asking attendees of the Pre-Conference Ethics Training to bring classroom item donations, which will be given to the chosen high school.

As we all know, teachers often have to spend their own money to ensure students have the supplies they need for school. GRCEA would like to show our support for teachers and students to DOE through this donation.

Please go and do some “Back to School” shopping for a high school student, and show your support for our teachers!

**Items Needed:
Paper, college ruled
No 2 Pencils
3 binder Notebook
3 prong folders
Pens
Composition books
Highlighters
Zip drives**



2018 GARL Auction

The Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL)

Needs You!

Clean Your Attics, Make and Bring Stuff!

Donate Now to the **GARL 2018 Auction!***

Call Gigi Taylor at 404-796-1991 for pick up in the Atlanta Metro Area

OR

Bring items when you come to the 2018 GRA Conference in Savannah:

- Art
- Athletic Event Tickets
- Calligraphy
- Clothes
- Collectibles
- Crafts
- Goodie Bags
- Household Items
- Jewelry
- Music
- Plants
- Wine

We would appreciate any of these or other items for donation!!

The auction will take place in the same room as the Opening Session (Wed., Aug. 8) and will be in a Silent Auction Format.

**All proceeds from the auction support continuing education scholarships for rehabilitation professionals.*

2018 GRA Conference on Social Media

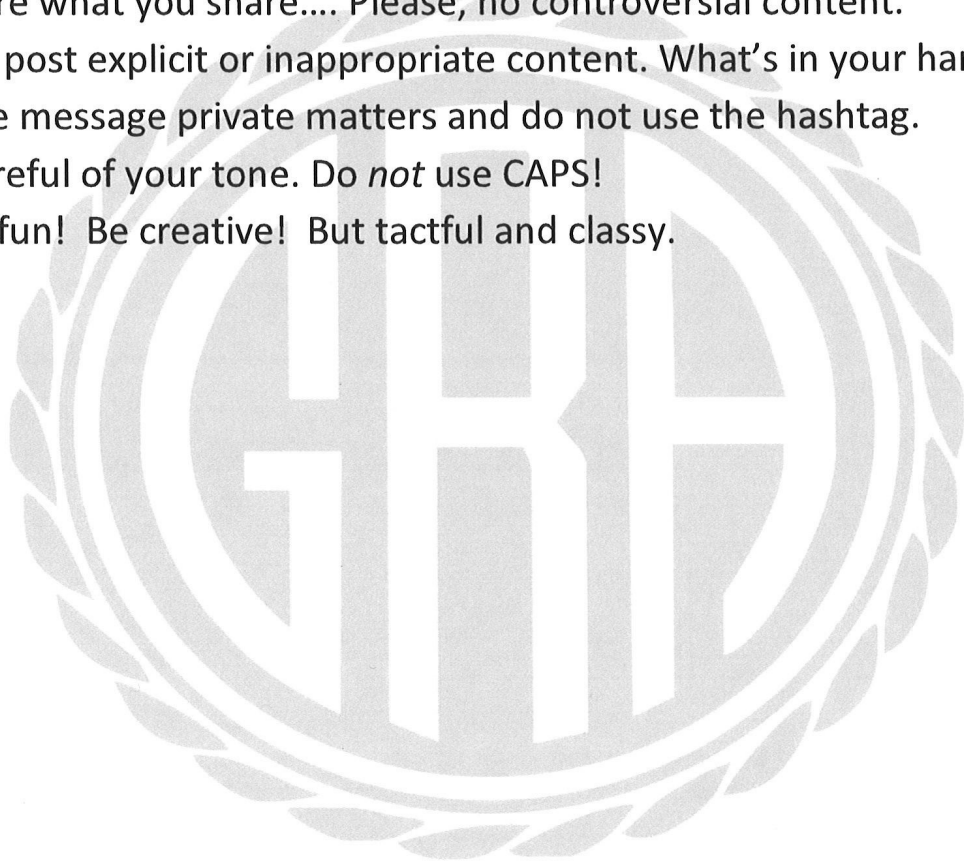
#GRA2018

A picture is worth a thousand words.

Our conference will be utilizing the **#GRA2018** for Instagram/Facebook/Twitter social media.

Please be aware of some business rules when posting photos

- Think before you tag. Ask others in pictures before you tag them.
- You are what you share.... Please, no controversial content.
- Don't post explicit or inappropriate content. What's in your hand?
- Please message private matters and do not use the hashtag.
- Be careful of your tone. Do *not* use CAPS!
- Have fun! Be creative! But tactful and classy.



CANDIDATE BIOS



Jeff Allen - President-Elect

Jeff received his Masters of Science Degree in Counseling and Psychology with a concentration in Vocational Rehabilitation from Troy University in December of 2010, and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). Jeff began his career in rehabilitation at Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation as a Counseling intern and working Part time as a Social Service Technician in the dormitory. Once he completed his degree at Troy University, Jeff was hired as a CRC in the Gainesville VR office. Since that time he has served in several different roles within GVRA including a Transition Counselor covering Hall County Schools,

Statewide Coordinator for Transition Services, Career Pathways Specialist under the E3 Grant, and his current role as a Policy & Appeals Advisor for GVRA. Jeff currently serves as Vice-President for the Georgia Rehabilitation Association (GRA), and in the past has filled the roles of Secretary for the RWSIR Chapter, Vice President of GRCEA, and President of the Northeast Georgia Chapter of GRA. He has served on several statewide Advisory boards including the State Advisory Panel for Special Education, and the Tools for Life Advisory Board. Jeff has also served several years on the state's Interagency Directors Team.



Cece Walker - Vice President-Elect

Cecelia "Cece" Walker is a native of Georgia and has worked as a state employee for over 25 years. She currently serves as the Special Projects Manager for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Since beginning with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation in 1996, she has served as a counselor, a unit manager, a policy appeals advisor, Program Policy Chief, Agency Policy Director and Agency Special Projects Manager. She has been a stalwart in developing program policy and ensuring regulatory compliance. She has also been instrumental in the development of several statewide training modules and has presented at several

association conferences.

Cecelia is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, a Nationally Certified Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Georgia. She holds a BS in psychology from Howard University, a MA in psychology from the University of Virginia and a MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from Georgia State University.

Cecelia is a member of the National Rehabilitation Association, currently sits on the Georgia Rehabilitation Association (GRA) board and is a past president of the Georgia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership. She also serves on the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) Ethics Committee. Additionally, she served 5 years as an advisory board member for Georgia State University Rehabilitation Counseling program.



Johnesha Harris - Secretary Elect

Johnesha Harris is running for Secretary of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association. Johnesha originates from Macon, Georgia and currently resides in Riverdale, Georgia. She holds a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, both from Georgia State University. Through her previous work with the Office of Disability Services at Georgia State University, Johnesha assisted adults with disabilities with navigating the world of post-secondary training. During this time, Johnesha recognized her passion for working with young adults transitioning from high school to post-secondary training. She decided to continue her work with transitioning youth at Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Johnesha began her work with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency as a transition counselor and she quickly began to emerge as a leader among her peers. After two years of working as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Johnesha accepted a promotion to Team Lead in June of 2017. In this role, Johnesha is able to encourage and motivate her team members and other rehabilitation professionals towards success.

Johnesha has been a member of the National Rehabilitation Association/Georgia Rehabilitation Association and Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns since 2016. Additionally, she currently holds the position of Treasurer of GAMRC. Johnesha presented at the GRA 2017 Annual Training Conference on the topic, "Are You Afraid of Transition," which was inspired by dispelling the myths and misconceptions surrounding working with our transition population.

Johnesha has a true passion for working with individuals with disabilities and she believes that she is living out her purpose in life in doing so. She would love the opportunity to broaden her experience with GRA with becoming Secretary. If elected, Johnesha plans to further the mission and values of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association. She would greatly appreciate your support!



Paige Tidwell - Treasurer Elect

Hello GRA! I am Paige Tidwell and I am running for Treasurer-Elect!

If our paths have not yet crossed, I have been in the Rehabilitation Profession for a number of years. This includes working at Georgia VR for 11 years where I worked as a counselor, evaluator, unit manager, and state office coordinator. In 2015 I began working at UGA's Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD) as a project manager, vocational specialist and consultant. Also in my spare time I provide vocational expert testimony for SSA's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

The passion I have had for the rehabilitation field has led to incredible leadership opportunities on both the National and State level. This includes serving on the National VEWA division's Board of Directors since 2004, with the last three years as treasurer and Representative to the NRA Board of Directors. I am also the treasurer for the Professional Vocational Evaluator Registry.

Also over the years I have served as GRA's secretary, Vice-President, Member at Large and most recently, GRA President in 2015 and SERNRA President in 2016. Now, I am ready to take advantage of my national experiences and return home, and serve GRA in a new capacity. So, don't delay, get out and vote!

Loyalty and Dedication Matters, and so does Money!
Vote for me, Paige Tidwell, as your 2019 Treasurer-Elect.

Paige #1 for Getting the Job Done!

CANDIDATE BIOS: BOARD MEMBERS AT-LARGE

Michael Dorsey



I have 15 years of experience in both the Public (GVRA) and Private Sector in assisting individuals with disabilities to define their return to work objectives and reach their overall employment goal. I am the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Employment Logistics which is a National Rehabilitation Firm that provides Vocational Experts to the Federal Government for Social Security Disability hearing purposes. I've been a member of GRA for many years and have had the pleasure of serving as Board Member at Large in the past.

Cheryl Leidy



Cheryl Leidy
Certified Rehabilitation Counselor
Roosevelt Warm Springs

I have been a member of NRA & GRA for approximately 10 years and truly believe in its mission and commitment to advocate for persons with disabilities in independence and employment; and to support those working in the field of vocational rehabilitation. I am currently the President of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Chapter; a role I have held since 2012. I previously served as GRA Secretary in 2011. I would love to serve for the next three years as a Board Member-at-Large to continue to promote and support the Georgia Chapter.

I have worked at Roosevelt Warm Springs for seven years, beginning as a Program Associate in the Center for Therapeutic Recreation. I have been a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at RWS for five years; after graduating from the University of Kentucky in 2012. I am a Leadership Redwood Class of 2008 graduate. My husband Greg and I have been married for almost 35 years, and live in Hogansville, GA. We have one son and daughter-in-law, Greg Jr. and Kaisa, and a granddaughter, Emily, who live in Helsinki, Finland. I am an avid animal lover and animal rescue supporter.



Shawna Lewis

I'm Shawna Lewis and I am running for Board Member for GRA. I graduated from Fort Valley University in 2014 with my Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

I have been a member of GRA since 2013. I have been with the GVRA for 8 years: 4 years as a Rehabilitation Assistant, 3 years as a Counselor and now I am currently a Team Lead. I have a passion with helping people with disabilities to become successfully employed and an active member in their community.

I would appreciate your vote and look forward to serving GRA!



Jason Williams

Jason Williams serves as a Service Area Manager with GVRA. He holds a BS (HR Management) and MBA (Marketing) from Auburn University and has completed additional graduate coursework through the University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, the University of Kentucky and the University of Texas – Austin. Jason has been a member of GRA for 20 years and has served in every position from the Local Chapter to the State Board Level.

GRA BALLOT

2018 Election



PRESIDENT-ELECT

(Check one)

_____ *Jeff Allen*

_____ *Name of Candidate*

(Write-in)

VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

(Check one)

_____ *Cece Walker*

_____ *Name of Candidate*

(Write-in)

SECRETARY ELECT

_____ *Johnesha Harris*

_____ *Name of Candidate*

(Write-in)

TREASURER ELECT

_____ *Paige Tidwell*

_____ *Name of Candidate*

(Write-in)

BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

The Board Members section of the ballot will be invalid unless four (4) names are marked for vote as stated in the Manual of Operations.

_____ *Michael Dorsey*

_____ *Cheryl Leidy*

_____ *Shawna Lewis*

_____ *Jason Williams*

_____ (Write-in)

PLEASE MAIL TO: *Shana Shelby, P.O. Box 4188, Canton, GA 30114 by July 31.*

VOTER'S NAME: _____

NRA Membership Number: _____

ADDRESS: _____



The National Rehabilitation Association

P. O. Box 150235
Alexandria, VA 22315
Phone: 703-836-0850
Toll Free: 1-888-258-4295
Fax: 703-836-0848

Email: info@nationalrehab.org | www.nationalrehab.org

Why Membership in NRA?

1. **CONNECT** with affordable and varied opportunities to earn Continuing Education Credits in Rehabilitation
2. **NETWORK** with a variety of rehabilitation professionals
3. **DEVELOP** leadership skills through service on boards and committees
4. **ADVOCATE** to preserve the profession and the rights of individuals with disabilities
5. **ACCESS** to professional publications: Journal of Rehabilitation and Contemporary Rehab
6. **SAVE** on discounted health and professional liability insurance
7. **ENHANCE** your membership by joining divisions

Historical Context

The National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) is the oldest professional member organization in the United States that advocates for the rights of individuals with disabilities while also promoting high quality, ethical, and collaborative practice across the rehabilitation profession.

The NRA, comprised of counselors, educators, researchers, and diverse agents of community integration, is committed to continuously impacting and improving upon the multifaceted conditions, across our society, necessary to enhance quality of life of individuals with disabilities, their families, and our communities.

Mission

To provide exemplary leadership through social advocacy and legislation, advance cultural awareness and competence across communities, promote excellence in research and practice, and support professionals engaged in the employment and independence of individuals with disabilities.

Vision and Values

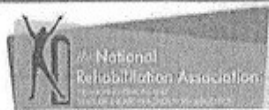
The NRA is committed to advancing the professional practices of rehabilitation driven by culturally-competent, ethical, evidence-based and accountable practices so that individuals with disabilities would be regarded and valued as full members of our society. These individuals deserve equal access, expression of choice, and security of freedom within our communities when engaging in all aspects of life.

Please see the membership application that follows to join today!

Join Today

Get Connected

Get Involved



Membership Application

Promoting Ethical and State of the Art Practice in Rehabilitation

Membership at the National Level is required for Divisional Memberships.

Section 1 – Contact Information












I am applying for		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Re-Instatement
		Member ID Number (If renewal or reinstatement)
Name		
Company/Organization		
Work Tel	Work Fax	
Work Email	Website	
Work Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code

Section 2 – NRA National Membership Categories

Membership to the National Rehabilitation Association affords you automatic membership in your region, state and local chapter. Membership to NRA Division is an additional fee, however, you must be a member of national to join a division.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional Member - \$150	Professional Membership Status is available to an industry professional currently working in the field.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Affiliate Member - \$108	Affiliate membership is available to those members who are not eligible for professional membership status but are involved in and/or retired from the Rehabilitation field. This category does NOT receive the Journal of Rehabilitation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Member* - \$700 List 4 employees (name/email) to receive member benefits (complete on page 3)	Organizational Membership/Group membership is available for a group of individuals who work for the same organization. Membership belongs to the organization and is non-transferable. You may however, replace the individual who receive benefits at any time.
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Professional Member - \$108	An individual who recently completed an accredited college university program – this category is only available for the first year after graduation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student Membership - \$48	An individual enrolled as a Full-Time undergraduate with a minimum of eight (8) hours per semester or equivalent and a Full-Time graduate student must have a minimum of six (6) hours per semester or equivalent.
	Full Time Student at:	
	Expected Date of Graduation (mo/yr)	

Section 3 – NRA Divisional Memberships (optional membership)

 Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (RCEA): Membership includes Rehabilitation Counselors, Rehabilitation Educators, Counselor Supervisors, Researchers in Rehabilitation Counseling, and Students in a Rehabilitation Education Program.	 National Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (NARL): Membership includes Rehabilitation leaders and administrators and persons interested in developing leadership skills for administration, supervision of education in the Rehabilitation industry.
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Member - \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$15
 National Rehabilitation Association of Job Placement and Development (NRAJPO): Membership includes all persons providing career development and placement and those that support the employment of persons with disabilities.	 Vocation Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA): Membership includes professionals, educators, and students in the practice of assessment, training and technology, promoting the successful attainment of career goals of persons with disabilities.
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Associate - \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$6
 National Association of Disability Benefits Specialists (NADBS): Membership includes benefits specialists, counselors/specialists, and individuals committed to the personal and economic independence of persons with disabilities.	 National Association of Service Providers in Private Rehabilitation (NASPPR): Membership includes persons employed in rehabilitation in the private sector (profit or non profit).
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5
 Association of Rehabilitation Technicians and Specialists (ARTS): Membership includes benefits specialists, counselors/specialists, and individuals committed to the personal and economic independence of persons with disabilities.	 National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC): Membership includes persons committed to the support and actively champion concerns that affect the rehabilitation needs and services of multicultural persons with disabilities.
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$15
 National Association for Independent Living (NAL): Membership includes professionals working together with consumers for the empowerment of persons with disabilities and to enhance the quality of life and to promote the rights of citizens with disabilities.	 Transition Specialists Division (TSD): Membership is available to all individuals who hold a membership in NRA and who have concerns regarding transition of young adults with disabilities into careers. The division is focused on joining efforts between all interested parties – rehabilitation professionals, special education staff, aides, resource teachers, placement staff, transition coordinators, teachers, paraprofessionals, parents and students.
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$40 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$15
 Rehabilitation Program Evaluation Network (RPEN): Membership includes professionals, educators, students and all other interested persons who are committed to the advancement and improvement of program evaluation, quality assurance and performance in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional - \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$15	

Join Today

Get Connected

Get Involved

Organizational Members ONLY

If you are applying for **ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**, please complete the below.

Primary Contact Name:	Email:
Organizational Member Name # 1	Email:
Organizational Member Name # 2	Email:
Organizational Member Name # 3	Email:
Organizational Member Name # 4	Email:

Section 5 – NRA Member Fee Summary

Fees Summary

Summarize your membership fees.

NRA Fee	
Division Fee Total	
Total Fees	

Section 6 – Payment Information

Payment Information

1. Credit Card – Complete the credit card section below:

Card Type:

- ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Card Number (enter below)

Exp. Date:

Total Amount to Charge:

Authorized Signature:

2. Provide name, phone, and email address of the contact person for this charge (if different than individual applying for membership):

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Billing Address (if different than above)

☐ **Check** - (Payable in U.S. funds to National Rehabilitation Association) ☐ (Please allow 2-3 weeks for processing) Enclose with a copy of your application form and mail to the NRA Membership Office.

☐ **ACH Bank Draft**- Complete the membership application and sign below to authorize NRA to debit your bank or checking account. Please remember to submit a copy of the voided check with your application. Please note that the ACH Payment carries a processing fee of \$1 per month.

Authorized Signature:

Date:

Membership Policies

- Membership is valid for 12 months from the date your payment is processed.
- Membership Dues are non-refundable and membership is non-transferable.
- Membership is portable should you change your employer (excluding organizational memberships)
- Members are assigned to the region and state chapter corresponding to their mailing address unless indicated otherwise.
- A \$15 charge will be assessed for returned checks.

Mailing Information:

**National Rehabilitation Association
Attention: Membership Department**

PO Box 150235 | Alexandria, VA 22315

Phone: 703-836-0850

Fax: 703-836-0848

Email: info@nationalrehab.org

You can also access the NRA/GRA Membership Application Form by clicking [here](#).

GReAt Pictures

NorthEast Chapter



The Student Affairs Office at Gwinnett Technical College and the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency is hosting a Community Resource Fair on Thursday September 13, 2018 from 10 AM—2 PM at the Alpharetta-North Fulton campus (2875 Old Milton Pkwy. Alpharetta, GA 30009).

We invite you to participate as a service provider, you will be able to showcase your products and services to the local community while connecting with students, parents, and potential clients on a one-on-one basis.

Additionally, you will also have an opportunity to connect with Gwinnett Tech's staff and learn more about the college. Space is limited to the first 15 service providers. To register, click [RESOURCE FAIR](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Juan Wilson at JWilson@GwinnettTech.edu or 470-282-5453. You can also contact Keita Alston at keita.alston@gvs.ga.gov or 470-728-5499.

South Chapter Community Project

Carrie and Chad's gift to Brittany

By Sandra McBride

Carrie and Chad met more than 20 years ago; Carrie a native of Effingham County, GA and Chad from Tallapoosa County, AL. Both had left their home towns to attend Roosevelt Warm Springs Intuition. The most they were expecting from this journey was to meet a new friend or two, to gain some employment skills and to get a job when they got back home. Never in their wildest dreams did they ever expect to fall in love, let alone find their soulmate. Every time Carrie shares this story, her voice shakes, lip trembles, and the tears well up in her eyes. She takes a deep breath with that big closed lip smile and says best of all, we have Brit. From this magical union, Carrie and Chad were blessed with Brittany. Now, they are amazing parents. Not only do they support Brittany in everything that she's involved in but if there is a need in the classroom or with other students Mr. and Mrs. Cox are always willing to help. They do not have much; however the blessing they are to others, you cannot place a monetary value on.

So often the Carries and Chads of the world do not get the recognition they deserve. They just go about their day, taking care of their business, providing for their family never complaining or asking for assistance from anyone. They live simple, love unconditional, give freely, and work hard. Earlier this year when the Cox family lost almost all of their possessions in a house fire, their family, friends and community were not surprised when the family picked up the pieces they could and carried on as best as they could. They moved in with Carrie's mom until they would be able to start fresh. After two weeks of being there they had to rush her mother to the hospital with complaints of severe chest pains. She had emergency triple bypass surgery. The Monday following her release, Chad was admitted into the hospital with heart attack symptoms. He had emergency surgery to include a stint and was out of work for several weeks. When it rains it pours; bad luck comes in three's. The house fire, momma and now Chad; I know it will get better. I'm just thankful that we are all still alive. That was all Carrie had to say, nothing negative just thankful.



Their daughter, Brittany, is just as kind and hardworking as her parents. She is a participant in 2017-2018 Effingham Project Search. Brittany accepted a full-time position with JCB in Pooler, GA on February 19, 2018. Her parents are so proud and really appreciate everything that Vocational Rehabilitation has done for their entire family.

A TRUE
love story
NEVER ENDS

East Chapter

2018 High School Job Club & Resource Fair



More pictures are available by clicking [here](#).

**East Chapter
Mossy Creek Community Project
March on for Veterans**



GRA Special Project



GRA is collecting travel sized toiletries for a domestic violence shelter in North Georgia. In January, we donated over 2 5-gallon buckets of toiletries. We are looking at filling up another 5 gallon bucket and will donate it in June. We provided 2 pairs of glasses for 2 individuals at the Circle of Hope.

NAMRC 25th Anniversary Annual Training Conference
July 11-14, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV

SAVE THE DATES
JULY 11-14
2018

JULY 11 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS I
JULY 12 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS II
JULY 12-14 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS



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IN MULTICULTURAL REHABILITATION**



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RESERVATIONS: 866 · 912 · 1020

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION: www.namrc.org

**NRA Annual Training Conference
Oct. 11-14, 2018 in Oklahoma City, OK**



SAVE THE DATE

The NRA 2018 Training Conference will be hosted in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
Oct. 11-14, 2018.

“Creating the Extraordinary in a Time of Change”

Look for More Details Coming Your Way

Mark Your Calendar.
Plan to Attend.

For more information, please click link below. Thanks!

[2018 NRA Training Conference Info](#)

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2018 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

* denotes Executive Committee Members

President

* Cheryl Braswell
Cheryl.braswell@gvs.ga.gov

President Elect

* Dana Skelton-Sanders
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Past President

* Jennifer Howell
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Vice President

* Jeff Allen
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Vice President Elect

* Keita Alston
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Secretary

* Nicky Lamb
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Treasurer

* LaDetria King
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Board Members

Class of 2018

Michael Dorsey
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* Ruby Kaspers
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Cecelia Walker
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* Janie Fuller
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Frank Krause
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Catherine Phillips
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Raj Pagadala
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Division Presidents

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 Katavia Sloan
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GARL
 Jason Williams
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ARTS
 Nicky Lamb

GRCEA
 Shirley Robinson
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GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2018 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Local Chapter Presidents

East

Carmella Jennings

Carmella.Jennings@gvs.ga.gov

Highlands

Ashia Walker

awalker@ging.org

Metro

Lutrell Thomas

Northeast

Keita Alston

RWSIR

Cheryl Leidy

Cheryl.leidy@gvs.ga.gov

South

Nicky Lamb

West

Jason Williams

Committee Chairs

Accessibility Ad-hoc

Michell Temple

mtemple@gsu.edu

Administrative Policy

VACANT

Archives

Ruby Kaspers

Awards & Scholarships

Lauri Tuten

Lauri.tuten@gvs.ga.gov

Building & Modifications

Raj Pagadala

Certification (CEUs)

Cece Walker

Conference

Jeff Allen

Credentials

Shana Shelby

Shana.shelby@gvs.ga.gov

Education & Advocacy

Janie Fuller & Cheryl Meadows Ussery

Finance

LaDetria King

Finance Review

Pam Eaton

Fundraising

Ashia Walker

Hospitality

Nicky Lamb

Marketing/PR

Kathryn Edger

Membership

Jason Williams

Newsletter

Keita Alston & Ruby Kaspers

Nominations

VACANT

Remembrance

LaDetria King

Resolutions

Tom Wilson

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
2018 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Special Projects

Gigi Taylor

gigibushtaylor@yahoo.com

Strategic Planning

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Training Ad-hoc

Mary Ellen Mendiratta

Maryellen.mendiratta@gvs.ga.gov

Website

Keita Alston & Ruby Kaspers

Ex-Officio

(GRA members who hold office within
NRA or SERNRA or any division thereof)

GRA Rep to SERNRA

Dana Skelton-Sanders

RCEA Board

Dru Fentem

dmfentem@gmail.com

Southeast Region ARTS Board

Cheryl Braswell

Janie Fuller

Ellen Longino

ellen697@yahoo.com

Patsy Morris

NADBS Board

Paige Tidwell—Southeast Rep.

VEWAA Board

Paige Tidwell

SER RCEA Board

Dana Skelton-Sanders

NAMRC Board Member

Katavia Sloan & Michell Temple

GRA Contact Administrative Assistant

Ellen Longino

2018 GRA CALENDAR

MAR 2018	<p>Mar. 8: Financial Review 9:30 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Mar. 9: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p> <p>Mar. 25-27: 2018 Rehabilitation Association Annual Governmental Affairs Summit @ Hilton, Old Town Alexandria, VA</p>
APR 2018	<p>Apr. 20: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
MAY 2018	<p>May 17: Financial Review 9:30 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>May 18: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p>
JUL 2018	<p>Jul. 12: Financial Review 9:30 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Jul. 13: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p> <p>Jul. 20: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
AUG 2018	<p>Aug. 7-10: GRA Annual State Training Conference Savannah Marriott Riverfront</p>
SEPT 2018	<p>2018 SERNRA Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK September 25-28, 2018 at the IP - Biloxi, MS</p>
OCT 2018	<p>Oct. 11: Financial Review 9:30 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Oct. 12: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p> <p>Oct. 22: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p> <p>2018 NRA Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK</p>
DEC 2018	<p>Dec. 6: Financial Review 9 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Leadership Training 12 PM—5 PM</p> <p>Dec. 7: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: TBD</i></p>