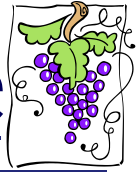


The GRApevine



The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Fall/Winter Editions, Dec. 2014



Greetings!

Wow, how the time has flown by this past year! The training conference is behind us and now we turn our attention to the National Conference and bring on our new officers for 2015. Speaking of our training conference, I would like to thank CeCe and her amazing team on a very successful conference in Savannah.

As we enter the fall season and turn our attention on getting new officers and board members in place, I would like to thank everyone this year for their support and willingness to work together to create a stronger and more thoughtful organization. I will soon turn the leadership over to Paige Tidwell and her team of leaders as they begin to guide this wonderful organization into a new year. I could never imagine how truly I personally have grown. I have also increased my appreciation of the people in GRA. This is truly a group of people who care and want to make a difference for others that are less fortunate. My deepest thanks go to my team of unwavering individuals who went above and beyond time and again throughout the year.

Sincerely!

Mike Pryor
GRA President 2014

Inside this Issue:

- Presidents Message: Page 1
- Division Reports: Pages 2-3
- Chapter Reports: Pages 4-7
- GRA Conference News: Pages 8-9
- 2014 GRA Conference Pictures: Pages 10-18
- GRA Chapter/Division Pictures: Pages 19-26
- GRA Leadership & Officers Directory: Pages 27-29
- GRA Calendar: Pages 30-31



Passing of the Gavel
GRA President, Mike Pryor (R) hands over the gavel to his successor, Paige Tidwell whose term starts in Jan 2015.

Division Reports

GARL: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

The GARL Division Officers for 2015 are:

President - Jason Williams

President Elect - Vacant

Treasurer - Angeline Ndonyi

Treasurer Elect - Ken Hise

Board Members at Large: Cathy Manual, Gigi Taylor,
Tamika Wright & Joy Kniskern

We are happy to report that Gigi Taylor, with Tools for Life, has volunteered to fill a vacant Board Member at Large position on our division board. GARL is committed to supporting a key component of GRA's strategic planning to provide Leadership Training to members. We hope to work with the Annual Training Event Committee to plan opportunities for training and to host our annual Auction. We also hope to present a Scholarship this year along with the J. Ellis Moran Leadership Award during the training week in Augusta.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Williams
GARL President

Division Reports

GAMRC : Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns

GAMRC meet during the GRA Annual Conference held in Savannah.

GAMRC collaborated with Metro GRA for the Ethics Symposium held on November 7, 2014 at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. Five (5) ethics hours was applied for. This year's GAMRC speaker for the Ethics Symposium is L. Robert (Bob) McConnell, DPA, CRC. DR. McConnell presented for two hours on the topic of "Understanding ethics: An examination of theories, culture and one's personal ethical profile." Dr. McConnell is one of the founding members of the NAMRC division.

GAMRC was featured in the National Association's Newsletter for its June Ethics Lunch and Learn. To view the newsletter, click [here](#).

Lastly, Michell Temple was elected to the National Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns executive board as a Board Member-at-Large. Congratulations Michell!

Chapter Reports

EAST—Janice Cassidy

East Chapter members participated in the following during this quarter:

- Attended annual GRA conference in Savannah, GA. Many members volunteered on various committees and participated in facilitating training sessions. A commemorative plaque of appreciation was taken to be presented to former chapter president, Sharon Brown.
- Held 50/50 raffle for donations for our chapter where 2 tickets were sold for \$1. Total ticket donations came to \$288. Half of that amount was awarded to the winner (Shirley Turner) which left a total of \$144 to be added to our chapter budget. Ms. Turner (fundraising chair – Augusta) graciously agreed to split her winnings with another recipient, so a second drawing was made. Jean Newson (fundraising chair – Athens) held the selected ticket and was awarded half of Ms. Turner's cash prize.
- Members agreed that next year, we will re-visit having gift baskets to include the "Naughty & Nice" and "Sweet Tooth" baskets since we had several people who expressed disappointment that we did not have them at the conference this year.
- Athens will begin an ongoing donation campaign soon in the local career center. Water bottles have been donated by area businesses and will be sold to co-workers at a reduced rate compared to vending machine prices.

Special Projects include the following:

- Athens continues to assist with the Clothes Closet as a service to people seeking employment who do not have appropriate clothing for interviews and/or work. Donations are accepted, sorted and distributed when needed.
- Both Athens and Augusta have begun an ongoing special project to collect toiletry items to be distributed to people in need. Augusta plans to distribute items to ACTION, Inc. and Athens will contribute items to the Athens Homeless Shelter.

Next local chapter meeting will be November at the Athens Career Center. Elections will be held for President-Elect, Secretary and Membership Chairperson following training.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Chapter Reports

EAST CONTINUED

- Board meeting was held in Athens, GA on November 13, 2014. Leon White, CWIC, from Augusta, GA provided excellent training on the impact of work on people receiving SSI/SSDI benefits.
- Members voted to award future training providers with a \$25 stipend to assist with the cost of travel and their time. It was agreed that donations would continue to be received to assist with the cost of snacks provided for meetings.
- Athens began an ongoing donation campaign in the local career center. Water bottles have been donated by area businesses and will be available for co-workers at a reduced rate as compared to vending machine prices. After 6 weeks, \$30 has been collected.
- Elections were held with the following people voted into office:

President-Elect	Carmella Jennings
Secretary	Stacy Johnson
Membership Chair	Janice Cassidy

Jean Newson will service as our President for 2015. Walker Merritt will continue in his role as Treasurer.

- Jean Newson presented former president, Janice Cassidy, with a plaque of appreciation for her service at our board meeting.

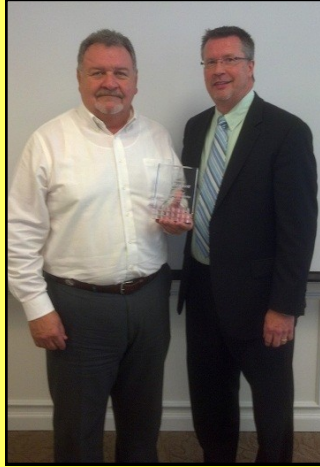


Special Projects include the following:

- Athens continues to assist with the Clothes Closet as a service to people seeking employment who do not have appropriate clothing for interviews and/or work. Donations are accepted, sorted and distributed when needed.
- Both Athens and Augusta have begun an ongoing special project to collect toiletry items to be distributed to people in need. Augusta distributes items to ACTION, Inc. and Athens contributes items to the Athens Homeless Shelter. A full box of toiletry items was distributed to the homeless shelter recently. They provided a letter of gratitude for our part in helping people to attain greater independence.

Chapter Reports

At the December Board Meeting held at Roosevelt Warm Springs, Ken Bennett was awarded with a plaque for his 27 years of leadership to the South Chapter.



NORTHEAST—Dana Skelton-Sanders

In October, the Cleveland & Cumming offices and NorthEast GRA Chapter celebrated National Disabilities Awareness month with a luncheon event. We were honored to have the State Rehabilitation Counsel to attend the event and Kevin Harris from External Affairs with GVRA.

The SRC continued their meeting by attending a visit to AutoZone to see the distribution center. There they saw students and individuals hired by AutoZone, who were in the VR program.

In November, our chapter with Cumming and the Cleveland offices celebrated Thanksgiving together in our 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Potluck.

Our Chapter aided with three other organizations in sponsoring a coat drive to help over 300 individuals who didn't have coats for the winter.

Chapter Reports

METRO—Lutrell Thomas

Chapter sponsored Ethics Symposium jointly with GAMRC on Nov. 7, 2014. Five (5) Ethics credits were offered. The speakers were Dr. Bob McConnell who presented “Understanding ethics: An examination of theories, culture and one’s personal ethical profile & Dr. Terry Reese, who presented “Boundaries in Rehabilitation”. There were 37 conference attendees.

The chapter sponsored their annual Christmas Celebration/Luncheon on Dec. 19, 2014 at the Goodwill location on 3337 Buford Hwy, NE Plaza. The event is an affair designed to celebrate chapter membership and recruit new members.

Elections were held and the following were elected as officers for 2015:

President-Elect: Jessica Gordon

Vice President: Joanne Lannan

Secretary/Treasurer: Kermisha Stringer

Board Members at Large: Cynthia Boyd, Cody Watts & Ruby Kaspers

President will be Henrietta Archie and Past President Lutrell Thomas to round out the board.

WEST—Jason Williams

The West Local Chapter has successfully submitted our first quarterly report to the GRA Administrative Assistant. We hope to offer training on Ethics and Customized Employment this year to our chapter members and look forward to supporting GRA during the Annual Training Event in Augusta.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Williams
West GRA President

Save the Date



*GRA Training Event
September 2 – 4, 2015*

*Augusta Marriott
at the Convention Center
2 10th Street, Augusta, GA 30901*



Shopping

- Augusta Mall
- Cabela's
- Gander Mountain
- Stein Mart
- Target
- Costco/Sam's
- Old Navy
- Bed, Bath and Beyond
- Home Goods
- DSW Shoes

Please contact Lauri Tuten, Vice President
Elect at 404.780.6985 or
lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov if you want to
serve on the GRA Conference Committee
or have ideas for training.

Local Restaurants

(rated by *Urbanspoon*)

- [Miyabi Kyoto Japanese Steak House](#) 85%
- [The Bee's Knees](#) 90%
- [Rae's Coastal Cafe](#) 89%
- [Takosushi](#) 82%
- [Mellow Mushroom](#) 89%
- [Hibachi Grill And Supreme Buffet](#) 85%
- [Bonefish Grill](#) 86%
- [Frog Hollow Tavern](#) 91%
- [Nacho Mamas Burritos](#) 87%
- [Yosko's](#) 86%
- [Giuseppe's Pizza & Italian Specialties](#) 84%
- [Rhinehart's Oyster Bar](#) 81%
- [Sheehan's Irish Pub](#) 90%
- [Village Deli Sub & Pub](#) 90%
- [Five Guys Burgers and Fries](#) 84%

News from GRA Committee Chairs

News from your Continuing Education Chair

The conference committee is working diligently to bring to you another fabulous training event in 2015. As usual, we will be requesting CRCC approval for continuing education credits. If you have an additional or a different credential and would like to obtain pre-approval for continuing education credits for your conference attendance, please contact Cece Hockett at cecelia.hockett@gvra.ga.gov at your convenience.

Membership Committee News

We would like to encourage any current GRA/NRA member or any prospective GRA/NRA member to try to renew online with the NRA website. We are being told this helps expedite the process and reduces confusion for the NRA office as well as for GRA Membership committee. We are able to confirm memberships in one to two days rather than 4-6 weeks (when done via regular postal service). If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Mendiratta at maryellen@infocusrehab.com or Joya Lenoir at Joya.lenior@gvra.ga.gov.

Registration Bags News

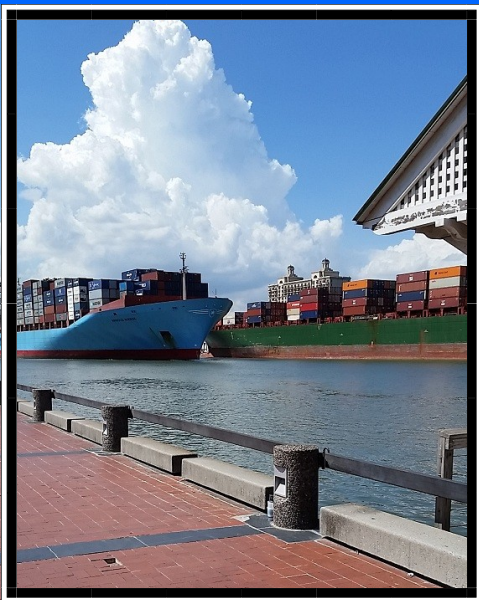
We would like for each chapter to start asking vendors for donations to place in the conference bags. We are expecting about 250 attendees. For more information, please contact Tamika Wright at 706-638-5536 or email Tamika.wright@gvra.ga.gov.

2014 GRA Annual Training Conference

Sept. 3-5, Savannah

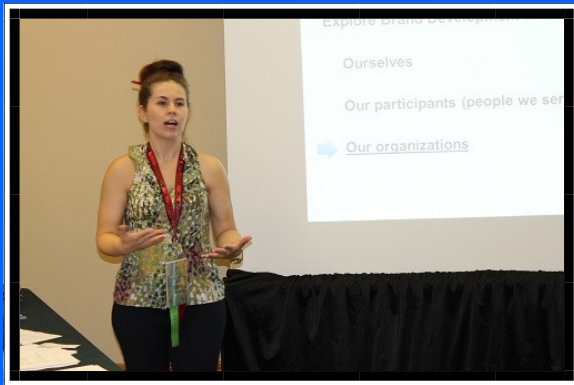


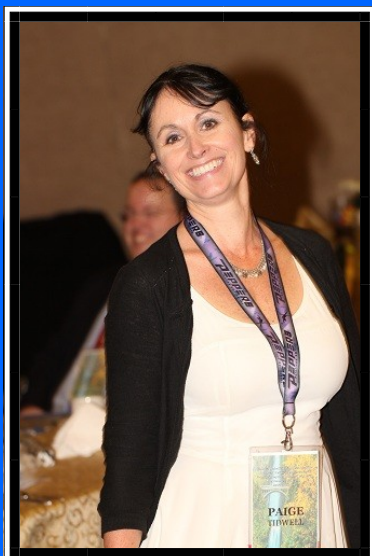




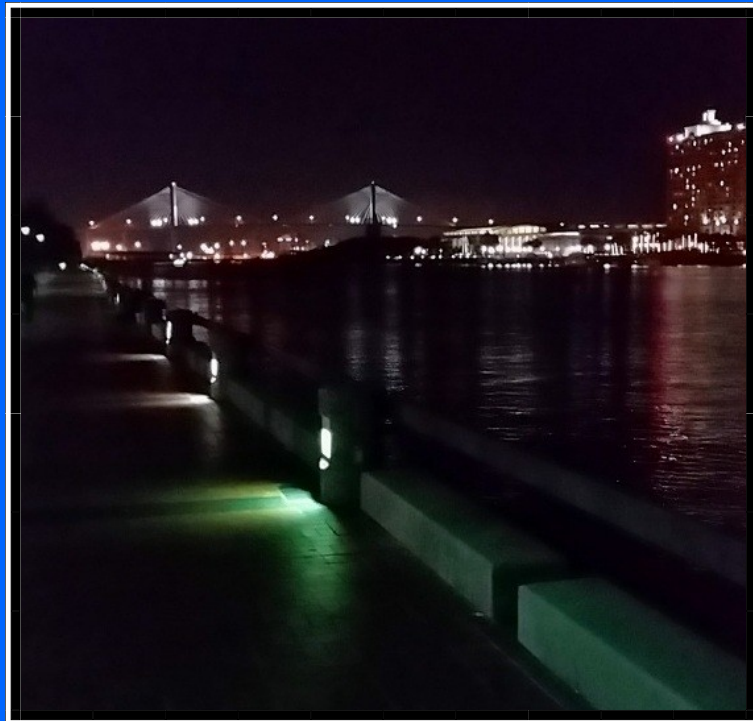
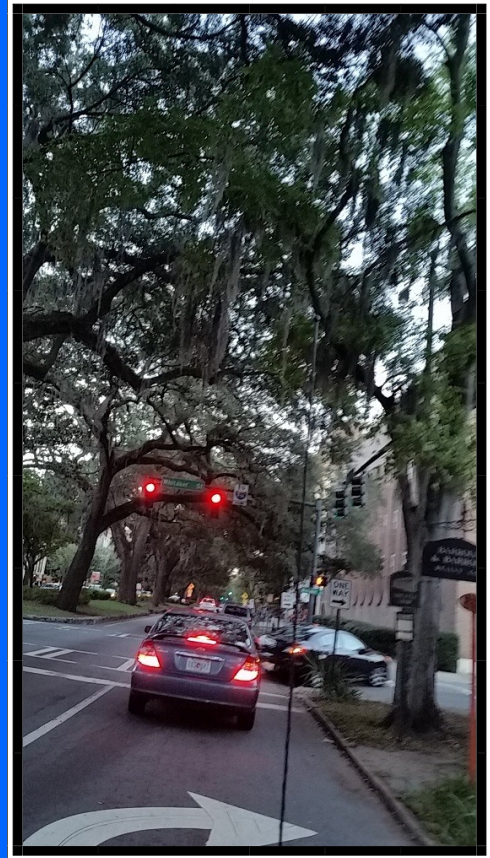
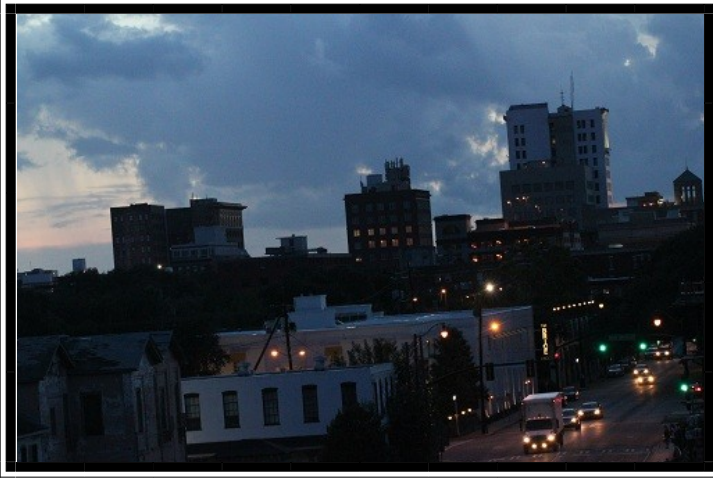
Keynote Speaker: Nick Scott











**For more pictures from the
2014 GRA Annual Conference,
please click the below link:**

**[http://www.georgiarehab.org/photos-of-
2014-gra-conference.html](http://www.georgiarehab.org/photos-of-2014-gra-conference.html)**

Metro & GAMRC Chapter Pictures



Metro GRA & GAMRC
present
**8th Annual
Ethics
Symposium**

Cost

GRA Members: \$75
GRA Student Members: \$55
Non-members: \$85
(Lunch and Parking included)

Registration fee deadline
Wednesday, October 29, 2014

CONFERENCE LOCATION

**The Conference Center @ Georgia Piedmont
Technical College**
495 North Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, Georgia 30021

Friday
November 7, 2014
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Check-in begins at
8:30 am
First session starts
promptly at
9:00 am

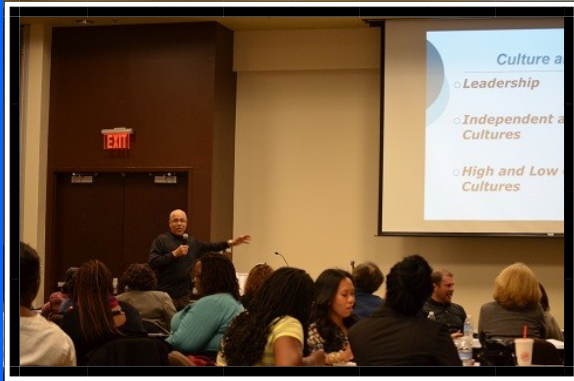
- Dr. L. Robert (Bob) McConnell
Understanding ethics: An examination of theories, culture and one's personal ethical profile

- Dr. Theresa Reese, CRC
Coffee, Dinner, Gift
...What's next...Sex?! --
Boundaries in Rehabilitation
Counseling

5
CRC
CREDITS/CEUs
APPROVED
Seating is limited.

8th Annual Ethics Symposium

Nov. 7, 2014, Clarkston



Metro & GAMRC Chapters 2014 Christmas Celebration/Luncheon





NorthEast Chapter Pictures

State Rehab Council Meeting

October 22 - 23, Toccoa



**NorthEast Chapter Pictures
National Disability Awareness Month
October 22, Toccoa**

**The NorthEast Georgia Rehabilitation
Association Chapter
&
The GVRA Cleveland Office
proudly invites you to the
National Disability Awareness Month Event**

October 22, 2014 at 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.
Toccoa-Stephens County
Chamber of Commerce
Mitchell Allen Community Room

Hope to see you there!

RSVP by 10/20/2014
706-348-4882







GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2015 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

* Executive Committee

President

* **Paige Tidwell**

paige.tidwell@gvra.ga.gov

President Elect

* **Myndi Hoffman**

mhoffman@ging.org

Past President

* **Mike Pryor**

mpryor@ging.org

Vice President

* **Lauri Tuten**

Lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

Vice President Elect

* **Mary Ellen Mendiratta**

Maryellen@infocusrehab.com

Secretary

* **Keita Alston**

keita.alston@gvra.ga.gov

Treasurer

* **Patsy Morris**

pgmorris1954@outlook.com

Treasurer Elect

* **Pam Eaton**

Pamela.eaton@gvra.ga.gov

Board Members

Class of 2015

Cecelia Hockett

Cecelia.hockett@gvra.ga.gov

Jennifer Howell

jennifer.howell@gvra.ga.gov

Scott Jackson

Scott.jackson@gvra.ga.gov

Carmella Jennings

Carmella.jennings@gvra.ga.gov

Class of 2016

* **Laura Gall**

laura.gall@gvra.ga.gov

Lauren Knox

lauren.knox@gvra.ga.gov

* **Raj Pagadala**

rajesh.pagadala@gvra.ga.gov

Regina Watts

rwatts@albanytech.edu

Class of 2017

Jeff Allen

jeff.allen@gvra.ga.gov

* **Elijah Carter**

Elijah.carter@gvra.ga.gov

Joya LeNoir

Joya.lenoir@gvra.ga.gov

Stephanie Stringer

Stephanie.stringer@gvra.ga.gov

Division Presidents

GAMRC

Michell Temple

mtemple@gsu.edu

michelltemple@yahoo.com

GARL

Jason Williams

Jason.williams@gvra.ga.gov

ARTS

Pam Eaton

(See Treasurer Elect info)

GRCEA

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Dana.skelton-sanders@gvra.ga.gov

danapssanders@gmail.com

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2015 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Local Chapter Presidents

East

Jean Newson

Jean.newson@gvra.ga.gov

Highlands

TBD

Metro

Henrietta Archie

henrietta.archie@gvra.ga.gov

henrijoy@icloud.com

Northeast

Dana Skelton-Sanders

(See Division Presidents info)

RWSIR

Cheryl Leidy

Cheryl.leidy@gvra.ga.gov

South

Kim Wagner

Kimberly.wagner@gvra.ga.gov

West

Jason Williams

Jason.williams@gvra.ga.gov

Committee Chairs

Administrative Policy

Jennifer Howell

(See Board Members info)

Archives

Ann Reid

Ann.reid@gvra.ga.gov

Awards

Julie O'Connor

julie.oconnor@gvra.ga.gov

Building & Modifications

Ken Hise

Kenneth.hise@gvra.ga.gov

Certification (CEUs)

Cecelia Hockett

(See Board Members info)

Conference

Lauri Tuten

(See VP info)

Credentials

Elijah Carter

(See Board Members info)

Education & Advocacy

Jennifer Howell

Jeff Allen

(See Board Members info)

Finance

Patsy Morris

(See Treasurer Info)

Finance Review

LaDetria King

ladetriaking@yahoo.com

Hospitality

Dana Skelton-Sanders

PR/Marketing

Mike Pryor

(See Past President info)

Tom Wilson

Tom.wilson47@gmail.com

Membership

Joya LeNoir

(See Board Members info)

Newsletter

Keita Alston

(See Secretary info)

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2015 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Nominations Mike Pryor	Ex-Officio (GRA members who hold office within NRA or SERNRA or any division thereof)
Strategic Planning Myndi Hoffman (See President Elect info)	NRA Board Member At Large Jennifer Howell
Remembrance LaDetria King (See Finance Review info)	GRA Rep to SERNRA Tom Wilson
Resolutions Elijah Carter	Southeast Region ARTS Board Ellen Longino ellen697@yahoo.com
Scholarships Julie O'Connor (See Awards Info)	Cheryl Braswell bonabeth60@gmail.com
Special Projects Inger Neal Inger.neal@gvra.ga.gov	Janie Fuller Janie.fuller@gvra.ga.gov
Fundraising Cheryl Braswell Cheryl.braswell@gvra.ga.gov bonabeth60@gmail.com	Patsy Morris
Cheryl Ussery Cheryl@sharecoastalga@comcastbiz.net	NADBS Board Paige Tidwell—Southeast Rep. (See President info)
Website Keita Alston	VEWAA Board Paige Tidwell
Accessibility Ad-hoc Laura Gall (See Board Members info)	NRA Membership Committee Mary Ellen Mendiratta
Training Ad-hoc Mary Ellen Mendiratta (See Vice President Elect info)	NAMRC Board Member Michell Temple
	GRA Contact Administrative Assistant Ellen Longino (see Southeast Region ARTS Board info)

2015 GRA CALENDAR

JAN 2015	<p>Jan. 15 - Financial Review - 10 AM; Executive Board -12 PM; Conference Committee - 2:30 PM</p> <p>Location: Macon VR Office</p> <p>Jan. 16 - GRA Board Meeting 10 AM -1 PM</p> <p>Jan. 20 - Required Quarterly Financial Information due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters & Divisions</p> <p>GRA Legislative Day at the Capital: TBD</p>
FEB 2015	No activity this month
MAR 2015	<p>Mar. 5 - Financial Review - 10 AM; Executive Board - 1 PM; Conference Committee - 3 PM;</p> <p>Location: Roosevelt Warm Springs - Meadows Classroom</p> <p>Mar. 6 - GRA Board Meeting: 9:30 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Mar. 22 - 24 - 2015 Government Affairs Summit, Alexandria VA</p>
APR 2015	<p>Apr. 1 - Corporate Annual Registration must be postmarked and sent to Secretary of State's Office</p> <p>Apr. 20 - Required Quarterly Financial Information due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters & Divisions</p>
MAY 2015	<p>May 7 - Financial Review - 10 AM; Executive Board - 1 PM; Conference Committee - 3 PM</p> <p>May 8 - GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Meetings held via conference call</p> <p>May 15 - IRS Deadline to CPA</p>
JUN 2015	No activity this month

2015 GRA CALENDAR CONTINUED

JUL 2015	<p>Jul. 9 - Financial Review - 10 AM; Executive Board - 1 PM; Conference Committee - 3 PM</p> <p>Jul. 10 - GRA Board Meeting 10 AM -1 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location: Athens (location TBD)</p> <p>Jul. 20 - Required Quarterly Financial Information due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters & Divisions</p>
AUG 2015	<p>Aug. 15 - If extension requested & granted by IRS for 990 in May, this is the deadline to have document completed by CPA, signed by GRA officials, postmarked and in the mail to the IRS.</p>
SEP 2015	<p>Sept. 2- 4 - Annual GRA State Training Conference, Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center, Augusta, Georgia</p> <p>Sept. 15 - Deadline for renewal of Charitable Contribution Registration/ Renewal with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office</p>
OCT 2015	<p>DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH</p> <p>Oct. 5 - 8 - 2015 NRA/SERNRA Annual Conference, Beau Rivage, Biloxi, MS</p> <p>Oct. 15 - Financial Review - 10 AM; Executive Board - 1 PM; Conference Committee - 3 PM</p> <p>Oct. 16 - GRA Board Meeting - 9:30 - 12 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meetings held via conference call</p> <p>Oct. 20 - Required Quarterly Financial Information due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters & Divisions</p>
NOV 2015	<p>Nov. 15 - If second request for extension of 990 to IRS was needed, requested and granted, this is the deadline to have it completed by CPA, signed by GRA officials, postmarked and mailed to the IRS unless further extensions are requested by GRA through CPA.</p>
DEC 2015	<p>Dec. 3 - Financial Review - 10 AM; Executive Board - 1 PM; Conference Committee - 3 PM</p> <p>Dec. 4 - GRA Board Meeting 10 AM -1 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location: Roosevelt Warm Springs - Meadows Classroom</p>