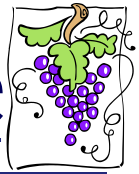


# The GRApevine



## The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Fall Edition Oct 2013



**G**reetings GRA members!

Fall has arrived and we are gearing up for our December training and the transition to new leadership. Before we get there I want to personally thank the conference committee on a wonderful conference. The theme was "On the Threshold of a Dream." I hope you were able to find some time to relax, reenergize and learn some great things. Again, Janie Fuller, your GRA Vice President did an outstanding job leading and preparing her team for the conference.

What a year it has been for GRA and me as president. I remember last January the first board meeting and how nervous I was, and now the year is gone and I am ready to turn that leadership over. By the way, I still get that nervous, and will be so till December. I remember Washington DC and the special place in history; where leaders have been at the forefront of advocacy. This is a strong part of the GRA legacy too. I hope those efforts continue.

I look forward to the transition when Mike Pryor becomes GRA President Jan 1, 2013. Mike's leadership will serve GRA well. Finally, thank you to all the GRA members for your support over the years and Remember always Finish Strong.

Your friend

**Ed James, GRA President**

**"Do what you feel in your heart to be right- for you'll be criticized anyway" - Eleanor Roosevelt**

### Inside this Issue:

- Presidents Message: Page 1
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- GRA Conference: Message from the Vice President: Page 2
- GRA Conference Memories: Page 3
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- GRA Calendar: Page 29



# Chapter & Division Reports

## GARL Report— Ed Leysath, President

**D**ue to overwhelming popular demand, the Town Hall meeting was sponsored by GARL at the GRA Conference in St. Simons Island. Our auction, which has been a fun event for many years, was conducted outside with the Candidate's Reception. Our auctioneers were Gigi Taylor and Ken Hise. GARL appreciates the support from the many folks who purchased the items!

## West Chapter Report— Jason Williams, President

**O**ur local chapter plans to host a local legislative reception in November 2013 for state house and senate legislators and also plans to adopt a family in need for the holidays to ensure that they are able to celebrate the festive season. In addition, we plan to make a donation to the Linda J. Miller Scholarship Fund, in honor of two of our members: Lee and Robert Miller.

We are happy to report that we have a new member, CRC Casey Carlile, from the Griffin GVRA – VR Program and continue to recruit new members. Our chapter was recognized as “Chapter of the Year” at the GRA Annual Training Event and we would like to thank Lauri Tuten for soliciting the nomination on behalf of our organization.

# GRA Conference & Training

**T**hanks to everyone who made the 2013 GRA Conference and Training Event at Sea Palms Resort on St. Simons Island such a huge success!!

The 2013 conference committee worked diligently for the past year to make the conference a reality and the superb event that it was. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

About 230 participants were in attendance and were able to receive up to 10 continuing education credits from excellent training offered by 15 outstanding presenters. We also had 16 exhibitors display their goods and services that could be used in the day to day practice of vocational rehabilitation and we appreciate them taking time from their busy schedule to attend/present.

Not only did we attend remarkable trainings and meetings, but we also had a little down time to network and socialize with our co-workers from across the state. This has always been a popular event in the evening of the first day and a chance to meet the candidates running for GRA offices for the next year.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your support and allowing me to serve as your Vice President for the past year. It has been an educational and enjoyable time and I am so glad to have shared it with you!

With best regards,  
Janie Fuller,  
2013 GRA Vice President



**GRA  
CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION  
DESK**





**OPENING  
CEREMONY  
AND  
KEYNOTE  
ADDRESS**





# EXHIBITORS

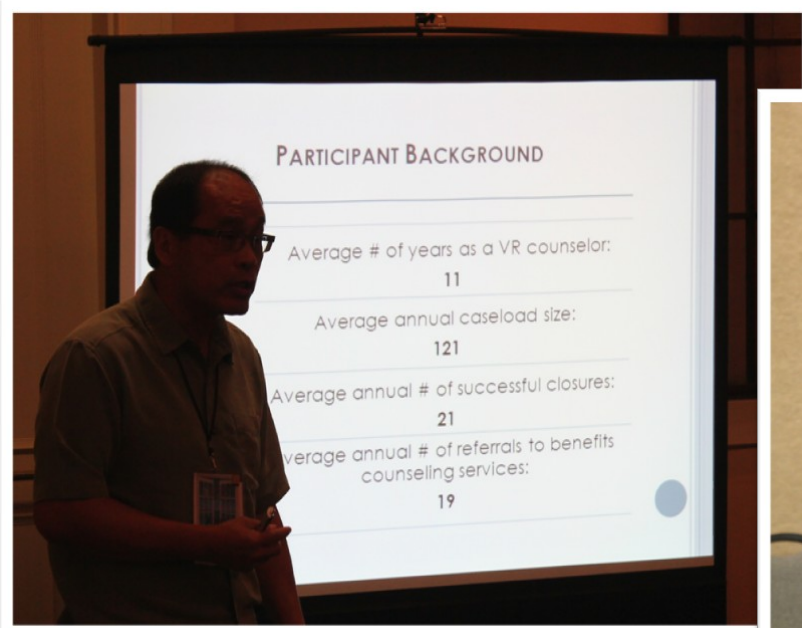








## PRESENTERS.....







**CRC CREDITS ANYONE?**





**Georgia Association of Multi Cultural Rehabilitation Concerns (GAMRC)**

## **DIVISION MEETINGS**



**Association of Rehabilitation Technicians & Specialists of Georgia (ARTS)**





**Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (GRCEA)**

## **DIVISION MEETINGS**



**Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL)**





## GVRA Board Meeting at Sea Palms





# REMEMBRANCE



**Patricia "Pat" King** - VR Counselor in Columbus (9/18/12)

**Marion W. "Red" Rainey** - VR Counselor in Macon (9/18/12)

**M. J. Williams** - Retired District Director, Decatur District (6/6/13)

**Nolan Robinson** - Facilities Section, Rehabilitation Services State Office (6/10/13)

**William "Bill" Muggridge** - Retired VR Counselor, Thomasville (7/7/13)

**Art Thomas** - Retired VR Counselor, Atlanta (8/9/13)

**Sandra Stuckey** - Former RA, Macon VR & GARSS President (12/27/12)







**Town Hall  
Meeting  
Sponsored By  
GARL**



**Nancy Crowder Scholarship Award**

**Madeline Jorges, VR Client—Region 1, with Ed James, Marcie Floyd, counselor & Inger Neal**



**Janice Black Spirit Award**

**LaShunda Williams, Rehabilitation Job Readiness Specialist receives her award from Ed James and Inger Neal**





**GRA Personal Achievement Award**

**Dr. Brian Hickox, Hickox Chiropractor & Wellness, LLC with Cheryl Brasswell, Kim Wagner, Counselor—Region 17 and Paul Raymond, Region 17 Director**



**GRA Counseling Achievement Award**

**Kim Wagner, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Region 17 South Unit, with Ed James, Cheryl Brasswell and Inger Neal**





**GRA Chapter of the Year—West Georgia Chapter**  
**Jason Williams, President of the West Georgia Chapter accepts the award**



**GRA Service Award**  
**Ray Bishop, President Goodwill Industries of North Georgia and members of Goodwill Industries with Wyman Poole who nominated Mr. Bishop for the award**





### **GRA President's Award Winners**

**Cheryl Ussery, Cheryl Brasswell, LaDetria King, Jennifer Howell and Angelia Rhudy with Ed James**



### **GRA Legacy Award**

**Ed James presents the award to Jimmy Defoor, GVRA Chairman of the Board**





**GRCEA Counselor of the Year**  
Inger Neal, Certified Rehabilitation  
Counselor, Region 2—Cleveland Unit



**ARTS Boss of the Year**  
Kenneth Hise, VR Regional Unit Manager, Region 2—Cleveland Unit



# Retirees Luncheon







**DOOR PRICES  
GALORE**









# GRA Elections



GRA Members  
cast their ballots



**New GRA Board Members (Left to Right): Raj Pagadala, Laura Gall, Sharon Brown, Mindy Hoffman, Laurie Tuten, Paige Tidwell, Regina Watts (not in picture.)**





**GRA Chapters & Divisions  
Sponsored Networking**

## GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

### BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE CHAIRS — 2013

#### President

\* [Ed James](#)

4144 East Broomtown Road  
Trion, GA 30753  
706-638-8135 h  
706-638-5536 w  
706-638-5558 f  
423-443-1422 cell  
[Ed.james@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Ed.james@gvra.ga.gov)

#### President Elect

\* [Mike Pryor](#)

[mpryor@ging.org](mailto:mpryor@ging.org)

#### Past President

\* [Jennifer A. Howell](#)

163 Devonshire Drive  
Thomson, GA 30824  
706-597-8289 h  
706-699-0540 c  
[jennifer.howell@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:jennifer.howell@gvra.ga.gov)

#### Vice President

\* [Janie Fuller](#)

150 Evelyn C. Neely Dr  
Athens, GA 30601  
706-354-3925 w  
706-354-3943 f  
[janie.fuller@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:janie.fuller@gvra.ga.gov)

#### Vice President Elect

\* [Cecelia Hockett](#) (Chair)

4898 Wolverton Drive  
Lithonia, GA 3003  
770-593-9068 h  
678-982-2287 c  
[cecelia.hockett@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:cecelia.hockett@gvra.ga.gov)

#### Secretary

\* [Angie Rhudy](#)

202 W. Villanouw Street  
Lafayette, GA 30728  
706-638-5536  
[Angelia.Rhudy@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Angelia.Rhudy@gvra.ga.gov)

#### Treasurer

\* [LaDetria King](#)

706 832-6679 cell

\* Executive Committee

#### South

[Kim Bennett](#)

Waycross GA 31501  
912 283-6253 h  
912-657-1740 c  
[Kim.bennett@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Kim.bennett@gvra.ga.gov)

#### West

[Jason Williams](#)

2200 61st Street  
Valley AL 36854  
706-298-7276  
[Jason.williams@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Jason.williams@gvra.ga.gov)

#### Board Members

#### Class of 2013

\* [Lauri Tuten](#)

PO Box 824  
Thomsopn GA 30824  
706-597-8575  
[Lauri.Tuten@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Lauri.Tuten@gvra.ga.gov)

[Regina Watts](#)

[rwatts@albanytech.edu](mailto:rwatts@albanytech.edu)

[Ken Bennett](#)

2604 Mesa Road  
Waycross GA 31501  
912-283-6253 h  
912-670-0231 c  
[Kenbenn@yahoo.com](mailto:Kenbenn@yahoo.com)

[Lynda Lovett](#)

101 Bainbridge Way Ste 200  
Dallas GA 30132  
770-443-3717  
[Lynda.lovett@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Lynda.lovett@gvra.ga.gov)



## GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

### BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE CHAIRS — 2013

#### **Class of 2014**

[Myndi Hoffman](#)

PO Box 967

Athens GA 30603

404-345-7652 p

706-549-4479 f

706-248-5362

[mhoffman@ging.org](mailto:mhoffman@ging.org)

\* [Frank Krause](#)

5316 White House Plantation

Macon GA 31210

[FbKrause4@gmail.com](mailto:FbKrause4@gmail.com)

[Paige Tidwell](#)

2 Peachtree St NW

6th Floor

Atlanta GA 30303

706-714-3659 c

[Paige.tidwell@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Paige.tidwell@gvra.ga.gov)

[Inger Neal](#)

243 S Main St. Ste B Cleveland GA 30528

706-210-4205 c

706-348-4882

[Inger.neal@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Inger.neal@gvra.ga.gov)

#### **Class of 2015**

[Brian Spillers](#)

[Brian.spillers@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Brian.spillers@gvra.ga.gov)

[Mary Ellen Mendiratta](#)

[Maryellen@infocusrehab.com](mailto:Maryellen@infocusrehab.com)

[Scott Jackson](#)

[Scott.jackson@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Scott.jackson@gvra.ga.gov)

[Carmella Jennings](#)

[Carmella.jennings@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Carmella.jennings@gvra.ga.gov)

#### **Local Chapter Presidents**

South

[Kim Wagner](#)

[Kim.wagner@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Kim.wagner@gvra.ga.gov)

#### West

[Jason Williams](#)

2200 61st Street

Valley AL 36854

706-298-7276

[Jason.williams@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Jason.williams@gvra.ga.gov)

#### **Division Presidents**

##### **GAMRC**

[Marilyn Butler](#)

[gamrc2012@gmail.com](mailto:gamrc2012@gmail.com)

##### **GARL**

[Ed Leyseth](#)

[Ed.leyseth@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Ed.leyseth@gvra.ga.gov)

##### **GARL**

[Ingrid Martin](#)

[Ingrid.martin@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Ingrid.martin@gvra.ga.gov)

##### **GRCEA**

[Dana Skelton-Sanders](#)

[Dana.skeltonsanders@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Dana.skeltonsanders@gvra.ga.gov)

#### **Committee Chairs**

##### Administrative Policy

[Jennifer Howell](#)

(see past president info)

##### Archives

[Kay Harbin](#), Co-Chair

PO Box 1000

RWSIR

Warm Springs GA 31830

[Ann.jones@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Ann.jones@gvra.ga.gov)

[Jason Williams](#), Co-Chair

(See previous contact info -

Archives Committee)



## GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

### BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE CHAIRS — 2013

#### Awards

[Lauri Tuten](#)

(See previous contact info –  
Board Member 2013)

229-873-1342 c

888 890-1612 f

[Patsy.marris@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Patsy.marris@gvra.ga.gov)

#### Building & Modifications

[Ken Hise](#)

243 S. Main St  
Cleveland GA 30528  
706-348-4882

[Kenneth.hise@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Kenneth.hise@gvra.ga.gov)

#### Hospitality

[Dana Skelton-Sanders](#), Co-Chair

(see previous contact info —  
Board Member)

[Mary Ellen Mendiratta](#) (see previous contact  
info— Board Member), Co– Chair

#### Certification

[Paige Tidwell](#)

(See previous contact info –  
Board Member 2014)

#### Marketing

[Larry Shedd](#)

PO Box 1683  
Clarksville GA 30523  
706-754-1916 w  
706-754-1809 f  
678-617-3063 c  
[readil@windstream.net](mailto:readil@windstream.net)

#### Conference

[Janie Fuller](#)

(See previous contact info—VP)

#### Membership

[Regina Watts](#)

Albany Technical College  
1704 S Slappy Blvd. Albany GA  
31701  
229 430-2854 w  
229-430-6180 f  
[rwatts@albanytech.edu](mailto:rwatts@albanytech.edu)

#### Credentials

[Cheryl Braswell](#)

[bonabeth60@gmail.com](mailto:bonabeth60@gmail.com)

#### Education & Advocacy

[Cheryl Meadows Ussery](#), Co-Chair

2228 Starling Street  
Brunswick GA 31520  
912-264-3141 w  
912-270-1683 c  
[share4@bellsouth.net](mailto:share4@bellsouth.net)

#### Newsletter

[Raj Pagadala](#)

[Rajesh.pagadala@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:Rajesh.pagadala@gvra.ga.gov)

[Jennifer Howell](#), Co-Chair

(see past president info)

#### Nominations

[Jennifer Howell](#)

(See previous contact info - past president)

#### Finance

[LaDetria King](#)

(See previous contact info—  
Treasurer)

#### Strategic Planning

[Mike Pryor](#)

(See previous contact info - President elect)

#### Finance Review

[Patsy G Morris](#)

PO Box 1606  
Albany GA 31702  
229-293-6076 w

#### Public Relations

[Kim Bennett](#)

[Kime.bennett@yahoo.com](mailto:Kime.bennett@yahoo.com)



## GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

### BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE CHAIRS — 2013

#### Remembrance

[LaDetria King](#)

(See previous contact info -  
Treasurer)

#### Scholarships

[Lauri Tuten](#)

(see previous contact info —  
Board Member 2013)

#### Resolutions

[Frank Krause](#)

(See previous contact info -  
Board Member 2014)

#### Special Projects

[Inger Neal](#)

(See previous contact info -  
Board Member 2014)

#### Fundraising

[Mike Pryor](#)

(See Previous contact info - President elect)

[Myndi Hoffman](#)

(See previous contact info -  
Board Member 2014)

#### Website

[Raj Pagadala](#)

(See previous contact info - Newsletter)

#### **Ex-Officio**

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

#### **NRA Board Members**

#### SERNRA Rep to NRA Board

[Frank Krause](#)

(See previous contact info - Board member  
2014)

[Jason Williams](#), Co-Chair

(See previous contact info - Local Chapter  
President - West)

[Jannie Fuller](#) - Board Member

[Patsy Morris](#) – Treasurer

GRA Contact Administrative Assistant

[Ellen Longino](#)

(See previous contact information—  
SERNRA rep to ARTS — National)

THANK YOU FOR MAKING  
THE 2013 GRA CONFERENCE  
A GRAND SUCCESS.

- THE GRA BOARD



General Registration Deadline  
Friday, October 18, 2013



**Metro GRA &  
GAMRC present  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Cost**  
GRA Members: \$75  
GRA Student Members: \$50  
Non-members: \$85  
(Lunch and Parking included)

Registration fee deadline  
Friday, October 18, 2013

**CONFERENCE LOCATION**  
The Conference Center @ Georgia Pied-  
mont Technical College

**Friday  
October 25, 2013  
9 AM—4 PM**

**General Registration  
Deadline  
Friday, October 18,  
2013**

Kristen Jacoway,  
Career Design Coach

Explore possible solu-  
tions to supporting clients  
with job search using the  
internet based on ethical  
principles

Cecelia Hockett,  
Senior Policy Analyst

Learn strategies to imple-  
ment to prevent ethical  
problems

Dr. Robin Dock,  
Professor

Increase ability to provide  
ethically competent ser-  
vices persons from di-  
verse backgrounds

**5**  
**CRC CREDITS/CEUs**  
*Applied For*  
*Seating is limited.*

# GRA CALENDAR—2013/2014

<b>OCT 2013</b>	<p><b>Thursday, October 3</b> - Financial Review-10:00am/Executive Board-1:00/Conference 3:00</p> <p><b>Friday, October 4</b> - GRA Board - 9:30-12:00</p> <p><b>Monday, October 21</b> - Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
<b>NOV 2013</b>	<p><b>Friday, November 15</b> – If second request for extension of 990 to IRS was needed, requested and granted, this is the deadline to have 990 completed by CPA, signed by GRA officials, postmarked, and in the mail unless further extensions are requested by GRA through CPA. NOTE: IRS does not have to grant these extension requests.</p>
<b>DEC 2013</b>	<p><b>Thursday December 5</b> - Financial Review-10:00 AM /Executive Board-10:30 AM Leadership training 1:00 AM -5:00 AM</p> <p><b>Friday, December 6</b> - GRA Board Meeting 9:30-11:30/Conference 12:00-1:00</p>
<b>JAN 2014</b>	<p><b>Thursday January 16</b> — GRA Legislative Event @ Depot</p>
<b>MAR 2014</b>	<p><b>Thursday, March 6</b> – Financial review at 10 AM; Executive Board meeting at 1 PM; Conference Committee meeting at 3 PM</p> <p><b>Friday, March 7</b>— GRA Board meeting: 9:30 AM—12 PM</p> <p><b>March 23 to March 25</b>— 2014 Government Affairs Summit, Alexandria VA</p> <p><b>March 20th to April 2nd</b>—SERNRA Conference, Perdido Key, AL</p>
<b>JUL 2014</b>	<p><b>Thursday Jul 10</b> - Financial Review-10:00 AM /Executive Board-10:30 AM Conference Committee—3 PM</p> <p><b>Friday Jul 11</b> - GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM -12 PM</p>