

Summer/Conference Edition, Jul. 2016

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### **Division Reports**

### **GARL**: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

ARL is still seeking nominations for the Leadership Award and the Continuing Education Grant. Please see the nomination criteria in the newsletter or on the website. The deadline for submission of nominations is August 1. We are also seeking items for donation for our Annual Auction. We will hold this event as usual at the conference in an area adjacent to the President's Reception (details on the exact room location, date and time to follow). All proceeds from our auction will go towards supporting training and the continuing education grant. Speaking of sponsored training, we will be partnering with GRCEA to once again sponsor a session at the GRA Conference. We will also be donating door prizes for this event. We endorse the following members running for officer positions:

President: Cheryl Braswell President Elect: Jeff Allen Secretary: Joya LeNoir Treasurer: LaDetria King

### **GAMRC**: Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns

-Life Balance". GAMRC reports an increase in membership of four members in the Q1.

AMRC is sad to report the passing of Holly Miller, GRA member who served diligently as GAMRC Treasurer. GAMRC plans to honor and remember Holly at this years conference.

GAMRC is partnering with GRA Metro Division to host Metro VR's Employment Engagement Workshop held on May 13. The theme of the workshop is "Thriving While Maintaining a Work

NAMRC, our national body is still in its membership drive and is awarding money to the state chapter with the largest increase. The NAMRC conference is being held in NOLA on July 14-16, 2016 details at NAMRC.org.

GAMRC continues to focus on membership increases and advocacy issues.

Katavia Sloan, GAMRC President

### **GRCEA**: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

RCEA is gearing up for the SERNRA/GRA conference in the fall. We are happy to report that Dr. James Martin and Dana Skelton-Sanders will be providing our Pre Conference Ethics Training on Sept. 6 from 1 - 5 PM in Savannah at the Hyatt. We are excited about being in Savannah this year and have collected several door prizes for the Pre Conference and the entire week.

We look forward to learning with you in Savannah this year.

Dana Skelton-Sanders, GRCEA President

### **Chapter Reports**

### **EAST—Carmella Jennings**

AST CHAPTER AWARDED THE AUGUSTA EXCHANGE CLUB GRANT
On February 25, 2016, the East Chapter Special Projects Committee members were awarded a 2,000.00 grant. This grant will help cover the expenses for students in the High School Job Club in Richmond, Burke and Jefferson counties to attend the High School Job Workshop, Resource Fair and Career Day during the 2015 – 2016 school term. The purpose of the High School Job Club is to prepare juniors and seniors for competitive employment in the community after graduation.



**East Chapter Project: March on 4 Veterans** 

#### **MOSSY CREEK COMMUNITY PROJECT – MARCH ON 4 VETERANS**

In March, students at Mossy Creek Elementary School from Kindergarten to 5th grade teamed up with the Local East Chapter Members to collect over 450 toiletry items (toothbrushes, tooth paste, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, comb, brushes, shampoo soap, etc.) for the Wounded Warriors at Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home.

#### HIGH SCHOOL JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR

On April 14, the East Chapter Special Committee members attended the Richmond County High School Job and Community Resource Fair. This momentous event took place at the Augusta Richmond County Career & Technical Magnet School. Students from eleven schools in the greater Augusta area, including Burke and Jefferson counties, 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 juniors and seniors 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. A lunch, featuring tasty barbeque and chicken fingers was also provided. 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. 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.

Click HERE for pictures from the Job Fair.

**Continued on the next page** 

### **Chapter Reports**

### **EAST—Carmella Jennings**

#### **BUSINESS BUZZ BREAKFAST**

On May 13, the East Chapter Special Projects Committee members attended the Business Buzz Breakfast, held at the Augusta Richmond County Technical Magnet School. This collaborative effort brought workforce professionals in contact with hundreds of ambitious and career-conscious youth, each engaged in a particular vocational pathway, for mock interview training. After some light refreshments, willing employers met with some of the brightest and most creative young thinkers our community has to offer. Students, many of whom were interested in emerging career fields such as engineering, software design, and multimedia productions, presented their resumes and formal calling cards to their interviewers. The students had the opportunity to tell of their passions and outline their strategies needed for vocational training and securing satisfying jobs. Business men and women listened with eager hearts and then provided an honest critique of how each individual could improve their presentation and begin to build a reputation of confidence and professionalism. Each student demonstrated an amazing level of preparedness and creativity as they related their story and told of the careers they so earnestly hoped for and desired to obtain. This event was a great success and served to remind all involved of the power of dreams and importance of meaningful work.

#### HIGH SCHOOL JOB CLUB AWARDS DAY

Throughout the month of April, the East Chapter Special Projects Committee members attended the High School Job Club Awards Day held at each of the following schools: Burke County High School, Jefferson County High School, Butler High School, Westside High School, The Academy of Richmond County High School, Cross Creek High School, T.W. Josey High School, Glenn Hills High School, Hephzibah High School and Lucy C. Laney High School. The Awards Day ceremonies were held to celebrate the hard work and dedication that the students have demonstrated throughout the year by participating in HSJC classroom discussion, HSJC classroom activities, attending the HSJC Workshop and the Job and Resource Fair. Each student received recognition for completion of the 2015-2016 High School Job Club and a Breakfast Celebration or Pizza Party was held afterwards. Seniors also received the High School Job Club Manual, to use as a guide when seeking employment after high school. All of the students and teachers enjoyed the High School Job Club Awards Day!

#### HIGH SCHOOL JOB CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - FAMILY FUN BASKET

Congratulations to Glenn Hills High School in Augusta, winner of the High School Job Club Community Service Project Fundraiser for 2016. Students at Glenn Hills High School collected more donations than any other school in Richmond County. Funds will be used to support the East Chapter in their efforts to continue serving the local community.

On May 20, the Winner of the Family Fun Basket was announced – Mr. Joseph Nero, Teacher/Coach at Butler High School in Richmond County, Georgia.

A huge thank you to all that made donations toward this very worthy cause!

### **Chapter Reports**

### **METRO**—Jessica Gordon

uring the month of May, we discussed and planned to hold a Lunch & Learn in June regarding AWT. We plan to raise funds to donate toward a charity walk. We raffled a summer fun basket during Metro Training Day held May 13. In August, we plan to donate backpacks and school supplies to a local school.

### **SOUTH—Kim Wagner-Bass**

outh Chapter had our first meeting of the year on February 26. The following board of directors were approved: Kim Bass, President; Wendy Thomas, Vice President; Secretary/ Treasurer, Cheryl Braswell; Board members: Ken Bennett, Pam Eaton and Jennifer Gillard. We established a calendar of activities for the year. We plan to sponsor the GRCEA Ethics training in July. We would like to partner with another disability group for Disability Awareness in October. We will participate in the GRA conference again this year by selling ads and exhibits, contributing door prizes and items for bags. We plan to develop a 2017 calendar featuring activities and successes of people with disabilities. We welcomed four new members: Celesta Spencer, Gwen Carter, Wendy Thomas, and Andera (Nicky) Lamb. We are sad to say we lost a long time member, Eddie Carter.

A yearly calendar will be sent out shortly to our membership. The GRA calendar will be sent out also. As president, I encourage all members to attend the GRA statewide meetings.

#### WEST—Jason Williams

ur local chapter is sponsoring a training for the GVRA West Quadrant once again with CRC Credit to be provided. We plan to support the GRA Conference by donating door prizes for the event and hope to have at least 10 of our local members to participate in the conference. We endorse the following members running for officer positions:

President: Cheryl Braswell President Elect: Jeff Allen Treasurer: LaDetria King Secretary: Joya LeNoir

### **NORTHEAST—Dana Skelton-Sanders**

e have a balance of 222.67. Slate of Officers for 2016; Dana Skelton-Sanders- President, Keita Alston – Secretary/Treasurer. The NorthEast is activity planning for the Southern Region/GRA Conference. We're gathering door prizes and have already been seeking out donations/ads and exhibits for the conference. We are working on a NorthEast Ethics training and will be providing information on a future date and time for GRA membership to attend.



Georgia Rehabilitation Association

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

Presents the

### **2016 SERNRA-GRA Training Conference**





Hyatt Regency Savannah 2 W. Bay Street Savannah, Georgia, USA, 31401 Phone: 912 238 1234

To make hotel reservations, click <u>HERE</u> or the link below:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do? mode=welcome\_ei\_new&eventID=14297769

**September 6 - 9, 2016** 



### 2016 GARL Auction



# 2016 SERNRA-GRA Conference Registration Information

Hello everyone-

As promised, I have the online registration process open for business for our SERNRA-GRA 2016 conference. Please feel free to share with membership, friends, family, neighbors, or whomever would like to attend this year's conference.

Please note, that I have sent in a proposed method for processing potential conference attendees that are GVRA employees. Nancy has my proposed process in hand and is in the process of reviewing it with Ed and Greg and will follow up with me this week. So, please but a disclaimer that GVRA employees will get more information to follow. Aisha, please send out to membership and the conference committee. Also, I am listing our hotel link.

Here are instructions for online registration:

- Go to <a href="http://events.evareg.com/sernra-gra2016">http://events.evareg.com/sernra-gra2016</a>.
- When you get to webpage, you have several options to choose from. Notice I have separated our mini-events and costs into individual tickets.
- You can click on the Green button called *Order Now* and it should let you select tickets and it will either give you the option of create new account (meaning you can create by using your own email login as your id and a individualized password---meaning you can come back and add to your registration later if you are unable to do it in one sitting) OR you can select *Continue as Guest*.
- Follow the prompts and fill in all the required information (some are areas are self-explanatory and others are check boxes or require a short response).
- We have several ways you can pay for your registration online. You can use our PayPal feature
  which will allow you to pay with a credit or debit card. If you prefer to write a check, please select
  check as your form of payment and follow the Check Payment instructions and mail your check to
  the address provided.
- You should receive a ticket/receipt of confirmation that you have registered when you have completed the process. GVRA employees will pick the option of payment by check (but only have you have followed the procedure on getting approved to attend the conference).
- For GVRA employees, you will have to follow a process of getting approval...Nancy Shreve will be working with us on this process.
- If you need to make a hotel reservation, please go to the following link and secure your room:
   https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\_ei\_new&eventID=14297769

   GVRA employees will have further instructions on how to use this process--there will be direct billing process for GVRA employees only.

If you need help with your online registration, or have any questions, click *Contact Organizer* on the webpage and someone from my registration team, will be happy to help you. Please note you can also register for your pre-conference events (GRCEA & AWT) and for the GARL auction, etc.

Mary Ellen Mendiratta, GRA Vice President

# **2016 GRCEA Pre Conference Ethics Training Registration Form**

Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (GRCEA)

Annual ETHICS Training

Professional Ethics for the Rehabilitation Professional

Dr. James Martin and Dana Skelton-Sanders, CRC

September 6, 2016 Hyatt Savannah

12:30 PM – 1 PM - Registration 1 PM – 3 PM – Professional Ethics 3 PM – 3:30 PM – Break 3:30 PM – 5 PM – More Ethical Concerns for CRCs

3.5 CRCC Ethics credits/ CEUs will be requested (\$10.00 fee for CEU's)

### Please bring a copy of CRCC Code of Ethics to this session

Please bring a copy of CRCC Code of Eth	HCS to this session
Registration fee is <u>not</u> included in the main of	GRA Conference Registration Fee
Name:	
Address:	
Job Title:	
Daytime Telephone:	
	e Format, Interpreter, etc Deadline for Request is
***Registration Fee: \$50; GRCEA Members: NOTE: You do NOT have to be a member of	: \$30. NRA or GRA in order to attend this training
PERSONAL PAYMENT: if you are paying v below ALL REGISTRATION FORMS (regaleMAILED TO:	ia check or money order, send your payment to address rdless of payment method) SHOULD BE SENT OR
Kim Bennett for GRCEA 2604 Mesa Road Waycross, Ga. 31501- 7648 Ph. 912 657 1740 (Fax 706-865-9602) Email: kimebennett@yahoo.com	REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE IS 8/31/16; LIMITED REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR.
Make Check Payable to: GRCEA	Total Enclosed: \$

### **News from GRA Committee Chairs**

### **Continuing Education News**

The conference committee is working diligently to bring to you another fabulous training event in 2016. 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 the following committee chairs:

Shareen Ashtiani - <u>sashtiani@ging.org</u>
Paige Tidwell - <u>paige@uga.edu</u>
Ashia Walker - <u>awalker@ging.org</u>

### **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 <a href="maryellen@ablegeorgia.ga.gov">maryellen@ablegeorgia.ga.gov</a> or Carmella Jennings at <a href="maryellen@ablegeorgia.ga.gov">carmel-la.jennings@gyra.ga.gov</a>.

### **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 300 attendees. For more information, please contact Tamika Wright at <a href="mailto:Tamika.wright@gvra.ga.gov">Tamika.wright@gvra.ga.gov</a> or Angie Rhudy at <a href="mailto:arhudy@unum.com">arhudy@unum.com</a>. The expectation are that each Chapter or Division will need to provide items indigenous to their areas.

Items need to be shipped to:

450 Mall Blvd, Suite B, Savannah, GA 31406

### **GRA Fundraiser**



Please purchase tumblers and portfolios for your offices, chapters, divisions or as an incentive for increasing membership. The 16 oz GRA tumblers are \$20 and lids are \$3. The 25 oz GRA tumblers are \$24 with lids.

The GRA portfolios are \$15.

These are wonderful items, please buy for yourself or as gifts. Order today and we will deliver.



### **GRA Tervis Tumbler/Portfolio Order Form**

Name:	
Address:	
Phone number	
Email address:	
Method of Payment:	
•	

Style	Number Ordered	Cost	Total Cost
16 ounce GRA Tervis Tumbler(\$20)			
16 ounce lid (\$3)			
24 ounce GRA Tervis Tumbler with lid included (\$25)			
GRA Portfolio (\$15)			

Mail payment to:

Cheryl Braswell, GRA, 820-C Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794.

If you would like these mailed, postage will be an extra cost.

### CANDIDATE BIOS



### Cheryl Braswell - President-Elect

My name is Cheryl Braswell. I am running for 2017 GRA President Elect. Since joining GRA in 1997, I have been very active in many different ways. I began by producing the GRA Newsletter with 500+ members and this was then done by hand and we finally moved up to having it printed. I have served as Local Chapter President several times, Board Member of GRA, GRA Treasurer, GRA Secretary, numerous committees and on the GRA Finance committee since 2001. I have not served as Vice President but have helped negotiate contracts for the annual training conference for many years. I have worked on the conference committee for as long as I can remember.

I began my rehabilitation career as a rehabilitation assistant with the Valdosta Region Office in 1997. I worked as the RA for the HRD (training coordinator) and Network Specialist until I transferred to the unit in 2003 as a RA. I left Vocational Rehabilitation in October, 2009 to pursue a career in retail management. After many events in my life, I returned to Vocational Rehabilitation in August, 2014. I remained active in GRA even when I was in the private sector. I am currently working as a counselor assistant with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency in the Tifton Office. VR and GRA have always been my family.

My goals for GRA are to increase special projects by giving back with hands on assistance and financial assistance, have the conference committee have the each one, teach one concept with all committee chairs, and bring back the family aspect of GRA by reaching out to each chapter of GRA and helping them make sure new members feel welcome. I promise to do my best to represent GRA if you put your confidence in me as the 2017 GRA President Elect. I would appreciate your vote!!

Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later. Og Mandino



### Jeff Allen - Vice President-Elect

Hello GRA Members, My name is Jeff Allen and I am running for the 2017 GRA Vice President-Elect position. Since joining GRA in 2010, I have had the opportunity to serve GRA in several capacities including: Board Member -At-Large, Secretary of the RWSIR Chapter in 2011, Co-Chair of the Ads & Exhibits Committee for the 2013 Training Conferences, and Co-Chair of the Education and Advocacy Committee for 2015 and 2016.

A little info about me, I received my Master's of Science Degree in Counseling and Psychology with a concentration in Vocational Rehabilitation from Troy University in December of 2010, and I am a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. I began my career in rehabilitation at Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation as a Counseling intern and working Part time as a Social Service Tech in the dormitory. Once I completed my degree at Troy University, I was hired as a CRC in the Gainesville VR office. I served as a

Transition Counselor covering Hall County Schools for three years prior to being promoted to the Statewide Coordinator for Transition Services for Vocational Rehabilitation. As of January of this year I was promoted to the role of Career Pathways Specialist under the newly developed Transition Unit. My true passion is serving people with disabilities, but more specifically our transition age youth. I have been working with this population for about 6 years and truly find it rewarding. I am truly honored to have been nominated for this opportunity to serve in this role, and I hope, with your blessings and support, to continue to work with and enhance services for all people with disabilities.



### Joya LeNoir - Secretary

My name is Joya LeNoir and I am would like to announce my candidacy for GRA Secretary. Although I have been only been an active member of NRA/GRA since 2012, I have whole heartily committed myself to GRA's mission to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. I have served as the GRA Conference Ads & Exhibitor Chair for two years, Board Member At Large and a member of GRA Northeast chapter.

The majority of my career has been dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities to prepare for, and obtain, meaningful competitive employment. I hold accreditation as Disability Healthcare Professional (DHP) and a Disability Income Associate (DIA). I have been a State employee for approximately 13 years, and for the last eight years I have been employed with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. For four years I was the Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) for Region 1 and Region 2 before I began working as a Rehabilitation Job Readiness Specialist/Counselor Assistant and currently am an Office Assistant in the Gainesville office. I have also worked with T.E.A.M. 26, which is an outreach to assist disabled military veterans in obtaining gainful competitive employment.

I believe in the mission of Georgia Rehabilitation Association and being a member of GRA is like being a part of a big family. A family that is dedicated and passionate about the improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Thank you for taking the time to read my bio J and I sincerely ask for your support and your vote.



### La Detria King - Treasurer-Elect

Fellow GRA Members,

It is once again time to elect a Treasurer-Elect, one of the critical position in our great organization. Please allow me this opportunity to tell you why I am best suited to be elected to serve as your Treasurer-Elect. I have been a member of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association since 2002. I have served in numerous capacities at the state and local levels to include President of GRA and the East Local Chapter and have served on and chaired numerous committees. I have specific experience with managing our organizations funds having served as the Treasurer of GARL, was elected to a previous 3

year term as Treasurer of GRA followed by serving a 2 year as the Financial Review Chair making me the ideal candidate for this position. In addition, I am currently serving as the SERNRA Treasurer.

Vote for La Detria King GRA Treasurer-Elect "I will work hard with GRA's money"

### CANDIDATE BIOS: BOARD MEMBERS AT-LARGE

### Frank Krause

Frank is a Developmental Disabilities Professional with the ARC-Macon. His responsibilities include Home/Environmental Reviews of the ARC Properties, coordinating supported employment functions, assisting in Special Olympic Events and maintaining a caseload of individuals to insure that Individual Support Plan Goals are being met. Prior to his Association with the ARC, Frank worked in Vocational Rehabilitation at the Macon Unit for approximately 11 years. At the Macon Unit, Frank was employed as a Rehabilitation Employment Specialist.

Frank is from the Cleveland, OH area. After graduation from high school he served in the U.S. Military. Areas where he was stationed include Korea, Okinawa and Vietnam. Upon being discharged honorably from the military, Frank attended and graduated from The Ohio State University and received his MPA and MBA. His undergraduate work was focused in Psychology and Developmental Disabilities.

After receiving his education, Frank was employed with a large Hospital Corporation and worked in the area of hospital administration. His experience in the area of hospital acquisitions and development allowed him to be a contributing factor of growth for the hospital companies that he worked for.

Frank has always had a interest in the area of vocational rehabilitation and in the year of 2003 he began his journey of employment in the area of vocational rehabilitation – he became employed in the Macon Region.. Throughout his years of work he has always wanted to advance the principals and vision of the American Disabilities Act.

In the year of 2004, Mr. Charles Wells, CRC introduced Frank to the Georgia Rehabilitation Association. Frank became an active member and became involved with the planning and organizing of GRA Conferences. In 2007, Frank became a Board member and in 2011 he was elected as Vice President and served with Larry Shedd who was elected as GRA President. In 2011 the GRA conference was held at Sea Palms in St. Simons and was one of the most successful conferences held.

### Janie Fuller

My name is Janie Fuller and I have been a member of GRA since 2003. Since I joined GRA I have held various positions with SERNRA, GRA, ARTS, and am now running for GRA Board Member at Large. Last year I retired from GVRA but have remained active in GRA because I believe in our values and our mission. If elected as a Board Member I will attend all board meetings and be available to answer any questions GRA members may have about our organization. Thank you for allowing me to run for this position and your vote will be greatly appreciated.

### **Catherine Phillips**

Hello, I am Catherine Phillips and I want to serve you as a GRA Board Member at Large. My previous Regional Director insisted that I join NRA/GRA on my first day of employment with Vocational Rehabilitation which was April 2002. Looking back through the years, GRA has served me well. GRA has provided me with needed training, opportunities to network, learning opportunities, and of course CRC credits. Now, it is time for me to serve GRA.

A little bit about my work history, personal life and educational attainments: I began my rehabilitation career as an account representative in Tifton, Georgia. For those of you that do not recognize the job title of account representative, it is the current position called Employment Consultants. Before that, I worked as a contracted employee for the WIA program. In 2009, while employed as an account representative, I saw the need for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors. Now, I serve as a CRC in the Tifton office.

I am the proud parent of six dogs, all strays and rescues, and too many fish to count. Hobbies consist of riding my Harley (during good weather), reading (mostly health and finance related articles) gardening and never ending yard work.

My first experience with post secondary training was when I attended East Central Technical School in Fitzgerald, and obtained a Secretarial certificate. Yes, this was a long time ago; we were taught short hand. My Associates degree in Business Administration is from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton. My Bachelors degree in Business is from Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus. My Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling is from the University of Kentucky (United we stand – Divided we fall). I obtained my Certification as a Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) in March 2010 before I had graduated from the UK program, and I am currently employed as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor in Tifton. I want to serve you as Board Member at Large but I need your vote.

Please vote for me, Catherine Phillips, for Board Member at Large. Thank you for your consideration.

"All men are equal before fish" ~ Herbert Hoover

### **Cheryl Meadows-Ussery**

I am running as a candidate for the position of GRA Board Member at Large. Having being involved in GRA for many, many years, I have much to offer from experience and longevity.

Since 1992 I have served as Executive Director for Speech, Hearing, and Rehabilitation Enterprises of Coastal Georgia, Inc.

#### **Professional Organizations:**

- Easter Seals Board of Directors, 1986-1990. Served as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President
- Council of Presidents, National Easter Seals
- Life, Inc., Board of Directors Savannah Chapter
- National Rehabilitation Association, Board of Directors and served on numerous committees
- National Association of Professional Women Women of the Year for Non-Profits
- Georgia Rehabilitation Association Board of Directors' President and received President's Award of Excellence
- Coastal Georgia Regional Development Counsel on Aging Board

#### **Volunteer Service:**

- American Cancer Society
- St. Simons Island Chamber of Commerce, Public Relations Committee
- President, Episcopal Church Women, St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- Symphony Guild
- Salvation Army Board of Directors
- Co-Chair Feasibility Committee for Study of Aquarium

I would consider it an honor to have to privilege of serving on the GRA Board of Directors.

### (Christina) Dawn Viljoen

Prior to beginning my career at Unum, I worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the State of Georgia for two years. I have a varied background, but spent most of my career in construction and architecture. I received a BA in Communications and Rhetoric Studies from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta and a M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling from Auburn University. Outside of work, I am married and we have an extremely independent toddler and a baby on the way. We like to spend our weekends with family and friends. I am a huge Auburn fan and most fall Saturdays are spent watching the game. War Eagle!

The Georgia Rehabilitation Association is a membership organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. I have been a member of NRA/GRA since 2015. I have continued to enjoy the amazing leadership and training opportunities, as well as the personal networking that comes with being an active member. If elected, I would encourage other professionals to join with me in the pursuit of GRA's mission.

### GRA BALLOT 2016 Election



PRESIDENT-ELECT	VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT
(Check one)	(Check one)
Cheryl Braswell	Jeff Allen
Name of Candidate	Name of Candidate
(Write-in)	(Write-in)
SECRETARY	TREASURER-ELECT
Joya LeNoir	LaDetria King
Name of Candidate	Name of Candidate
(Write-in)	(Write-in)
Board Members section of the ballot will be din the Manual of Operations.  Frank Krause	be invalid unless four (4) names are marked for vortices.  Cheryl Meadows-Ussery
Janie Fuller	Dawn Viijoen
Catherine Phillips	Dumi rigoch
	(Write-in)
EASE MAIL TO: Mary Ellen Mendiratta,	GRA Ballot, 2756 Atlanta Hwy, Gainesville GA
	GRA Ballot, 2756 Atlanta Hwy, Gainesville GA
TER'S NAME:	GRA Ballot, 2756 Atlanta Hwy, Gainesville GA

### **GRA Conference Awards**

### GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION LEADERSHIP (GARL) AWARD

#### J. ELLIES MORAN OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

GARL is seeking your nominations for our "J. Ellies Moran Outstanding Leadership Award". We have had many dynamic individuals win in the past, i.e., Tom Gaines, Yvonne Johnson, Peggy Rosser, David Bennett, Sandy Payne, Don Williams, Elizabeth Kinne, Ava Scearce, Ann Heeth, Melanie Poole, Dr. John Williams, Trish Cooper, Cynthia Woodruff, Charlotte Tolbert, Susan Sherman, Carl McRae, Catherine Andrews, Annette McCauley, Ken Hise, Karen Royston and Twyla Crump! The nominee does not have to be a GARL member. We are looking for individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities during the past year. Think about someone who has proven to be a leader in planning and/or implementation, in ethical decision-making and/or in conflict resolution.

Leadership is exemplified by a clear sense of purpose, persistence, ability to attract and energize others, being results-oriented, and displaying resourcefulness & resilience. Think about what it takes to be a successful leader in the team environment of today: building up others, leading by example, a team player as well as the leader, possessing empathy, is accessible & accountable, has humility, & cultivates the potential in each team member.

We look forward to reading about the nominees!

Please send all nominations along with three letters of support for each nominee to:

Jason Williams
Attention: GARL Leadership Award Nominations
1220 Hogansville Road
Suite #400
LaGrange, GA 30241
Jason.Williams@gyra.ga.gov

Deadline for Nominations: August 1, 2016

### 2016 GARL Continuing Education Grant Criteria

The Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) will present a Continuing Education Grant of up to \$250 to an individual who is employed in the field of vocational rehabilitation in Georgia. This assistance must be utilized for continuing education as part of their professional development such as in completion of coursework or training. The continuing education must be directly associated with their work in vocational rehabilitation (Counseling, Assessment and Evaluation, Assistive Work Technology, Case Management, Job Placement, and Job Readiness/Employment Skills Training) or in a field that supports rehabilitation professionals (Clerical, Finance, Human Resources, Management, Public Relations, and Training).

Each applicant must agree that they will utilize the funds within 12 months from receiving the grant. The grant will be awarded at the 2016 GRA Annual Training Conference in Savannah.

Applicants or their managers may submit a nomination of one page or less describing the proposed course of study or training, how it relates to their role in vocational rehabilitation, their future plans and how they will utilize the funds in pursuing these plans as they advance in their career.

### **Deadline for Nominations: August 1, 2016**

Please send all nominations to:

Jason Williams
Attention: GARL Continuing Education Grant
1220 Hogansville Road, Suite #400
LaGrange, GA 30241
Jason.Williams@gvra.ga.gov

### NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The purpose of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association's scholarship program is to provide recognition by offering scholarship assistance to an individual with a disability who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement, community involvement, and school participation.

Nominations for the NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD are submitted by Chapter members to the Scholarship Committee who select a prospective winner and submit their recommendation to the Board for approval.

The scholarship is awarded annually in the amount of \$1000 to be presented at the Annual Conference Awards Ceremony. This year, due to a generous donation from the family of Nancy Crowder, GRA will be able to award two (2) \$1250 grants. The winner's travel costs to attend the Awards Ceremony are funded in coordination with the Awards and Recognitions Committee as outlined in the Manual of Operations (Section IV, Awards and Recognitions, g, NOTE).

The name of the **NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD** winner will be submitted to the Southeast Region NRA Scholarship Committee Chairperson as the Georgia Chapter's nominee for the SERNRA Scholarship.

**NOTE:** Purpose, criteria, application process, and entry forms for the SERNRA Scholarship can be found on pages 10 - 13 of Appendix B.

#### NOMINATION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA:

- 1. Nominations for the NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD will be called for by the Scholarship Committee and will be submitted by Chapter members to the Chairperson.
- 2. Each nominee must be a person with a disability.
- 3. Each nominee must be a resident of the state of Georgia.
- 4. Each nominee must be accepted into a post secondary educational program.
- 5. Nominations should be submitted on the Entry Form for the Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship. Applications must be postmarked, emailed or scanned no later than COB **August 10, 2016** to:

Lauri Tuten c/o GVRA/VR Program PO Box 824 Thomson, GA 30824 lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov Wk # 706.360.9953



### ENTRY FORM For the NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL Scholarship

Please print or type all responses to the following questions.

Nominee's Name:	SSN:
Home Address:	
<u> </u>	
Phone:	Birthdate:
High School Name & Address:	
	City State
more of the major life	Zip  LITY. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or activities of an individual  sability (Include specific limitations; how & when impairment was acquired, etc.):

Discuss how the nominee has overcome societal barriers related to his/her disability:
Discuss difficulties nominee has encountered in working to surmount his/her disability:
Education (please list <u>all</u> institutions attended and dates attended):
Explain how nominee has overcome barriers in the educational environment, if any:

List nominee's accomplishments in school:
List nominee's extracurricular activities:
List nominee's community activities:
List nominee's other accomplishments not already covered in previous questions:

#### AWARDS DEADLINE

### AWARDS MUST BE POSTMARKED, EMAILED OR SCANNED BY COB AUGUST 10, 2016

Lauri Tuten, PO Box 824, Thomson, GA 30824 / Phone: 706.360.9953

lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

### THE ISAAC MAX HELLER EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award was established to honor employers who have provided excellent services to citizens with disabilities by providing them with employment. Considerations, criteria, and procedures for nominations:

- 1. How long has this employer been cooperating with rehabilitation service providers and employing persons with disabilities?
- 2. How many persons with disabilities has this employer hired?
- 3. What is the total number of all employees in this establishment?
- 4. Is the employer using as many persons with disabilities as is feasible for his/her operation?
- 5. Has this employer provided reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities?
- 6. Is this employer's business and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities?
- 7. Has this employer been instrumental in advocating for the employment of persons with disabilities? Does this employer inform rehabilitation service providers about employment possibilities that might be filled by persons with disabilities?

Letters of nomination should be one typed page or less.

#### THE SERVICE AWARD

This award is specially oriented toward honoring an individual for outstanding contribution(s) to the field of rehabilitation. The recipient does not have to be a member of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association and cannot be an employee of the Division of Rehabilitation Services. Consideration, criteria, and procedures for nominations:

- 1. What has the individual contributed towards advancement of the field of rehabilitation?
- 2. What special recognition or awards has the Nominee received?

Itemize articles or writings in professional publications.

One supporting letter should accompany the letter of nomination.

#### THE PROFESSIONAL ACHEIVEMENT AWARD

This award was established to honor a chapter member who has been outstanding in professional achievement during the past year. The recipient must be a member of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association. Nomination procedures and criteria:

- 1. List outstanding achievements of the Nominee with particular emphasis on services to clients.
- 2. Describe the nominee's cooperation with related agencies and use of community resources.
- 3. List special recognition by peer groups, community organizations, etc.

Itemize articles or other items published in professional publications.

Two supporting letters (one from a supervisor and one from a peer) should accompany letter of nomination.

#### GRA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR/GRA DIVISION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The purpose of this award is to honor a Local Chapter and Division for their unique and diverse achievements, innovative ideas, and dedicated service on behalf of persons with disabilities and local chapter members.

Nominations for the Local Chapter of the Year Award and Division of the Year Award shall consist of the Local Chapter year-end reports, for the prior calendar year, required to be submitted to the GRA Board of Directors through the Finance Committee Chairperson. Local Chapters may also submit to the Awards and Recognitions Committee additional letters of support, newspaper articles, pictures or other supporting information, to be included and considered along with the year-end report nominations packet.

The Awards and Recognition Committee shall obtain copies of such year-end reports to serve as nomination packets for the award.

### **2016 GRCEA AWARDS**

Please review the following information on the GRA's Personal Achievement Award and Counseling Achievement Award as well as the Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association's (GRCEA) Counselor of the Year Award. Then, take the time to nominate your fellow co-workers and/or colleagues so they may be honored for their exceptional work.

#### \*GRA Personal Achievement Award

Established to recognize and honor a client of rehabilitation services who has demonstrated exceptional determination and motivation to overcome substantial impediments to employment resulting from a severe disability, and who has successfully completed a rehabilitation program and become gainfully employed during the 2013 calendar year.

### \*GRA Counseling Achievement Award

Established to recognize the dedication and hard work of the GRA member who served as the vocational rehabilitation counselor responsible for developing and implementing the work plan of the recipient of the Personal Achievement Award, and whose counseling, guidance, and other services empowered this client to become successfully employed. Recipients of the GRA Personal Achievement and Counseling Achievement Awards will be the Georgia Chapter's nominees for the Southeast Region NRA Personal Achievement and Counseling Achievement Awards.

### To Submit Nominations:

- Obtain approval from the client.
- Complete a narrative of not more than 3000 words, to describe the problem identification of services provided, solution of the problem(s) and job placement information.
- Remove identifying information which would allow the GRCEA Awards Committee members to recognize either the client or the counselor.
- Obtain written permission from the client for members of the GRCEA Awards Committee to visit and/or contact him/her and discuss the services provided.
- Attach a fact sheet (to be removed by the GRCEA Awards Chairperson), containing the client's name, address, and phone number along with the counselor's name and phone number.

\*Recipients of these two GRA awards will be selected by the GRCEA Division and will be judged on the basis of the NRA guidelines.

### 2016 GRCEA AWARDS (Continued)

#### **GRCEA Counselor of the Year**

The honoree will be a counselor working with a caseload of individuals with disabilities. All nominees must be a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and a member of the National Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (NRCEA). These criteria must be met in order for Georgia's winner to compete at the regional and/or national level.

### To Submit Nominations:

Attach a fact sheet (to be removed by the GRCEA Awards Chairperson), containing the counselor's name and phone number along with a nomination letter stating why the nominee is entitled to receive this award. The letter should not mention the nominee's name or geographic location.

### **Please submit nominations ASAP to:**

Dana Skelton-Sanders CRC
Attention: GRCEA Award Nominations
243 South Main Street, Suite B
Cleveland, GA 30528
Phone: 706-348-4882

Fax: 706-865-9602

 $\underline{dana.skelton\text{-}sanders} \underline{@} \underline{gvra.ga.gov}$ 

### **2015 ARTS AWARDS**

### ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA

#### 2015 Service Award Criteria:

- Employed in a rehabilitation setting in a technical support, clerical or secretarial position for at least three (3) years at the time of nomination
- Individuals nominated must be members of ARTS of GEORGIA
- Nominations are to be submitted only by GRA members
- The choice of the award recipient is based on outstanding contributions to the field of rehabilitation. Nominee justification should include, but should not necessarily be limited to the following:
  - Has promoted public interest, confidence and trust in the cause of rehabilitation
  - Has performed duties conscientiously, taken pride in work, shown initiative and assumed added responsibilities when called upon
  - Has demonstrated a good working relationship with supervisors, co-workers and the public
  - Any other reason that you may have to justify your nomination
- Material should be submitted in a concise form. Include biographical sketch of nominee, educational background, reason why the nominee is entitled to the award (limited to 100 words). Letters from people who know nominee may also be included and attached to your nomination form.

If, in the careful judgment of the Awards Committee, too few or non-acceptable nominations are received, no award should be made.

#### 2015 Boss of the Year Award Criteria:

- ARTS OF GEORGIA Boss of the Year nomination must be submitted by GRA members only.
- This "Boss" should be totally involved in the rehabilitation process and show support and genuine interest in ARTS OF GEORGIA. He/She should be a member of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association.

# NOMINATION FORM ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA SERVICE AWARD 2015

Name	-
Address	
Phone Number	
Place of Employment	
Briefly state why you believe this person would be a good candidate for the ARTS of Award. The candidate must be a member of ARTS.	Georgia Service
Submitted by	
Phone Number	

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 7, 2015

### PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:

Cheryl Braswell

820-C Love Avenue Tifton, GA 31794 **Phone**: (229) 402-6991 **Fax**: (229) 386-7325

Cheryl.Braswell@gvra.ga.gov

## 2015 BOSS OF THE YEAR AWARD ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA Name Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number Place of Employment\_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Professional & Non Professional-Organizations Community Activities\_\_\_\_\_ Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_ Education/Training \_\_\_\_\_ What support has nominee shown to ARTS and why do you feel he/she should be Boss of the Year?

Submitted by

### ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 7, 2015

#### PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:

Cheryl Braswell 820-C Love Avenue Tifton, GA 31794 Phone: (229) 402-6991

Fax: (229) 386-7325 Cheryl.Braswell@gvra.ga.gov

### GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION 2016 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

\* Executive Committee

**President** 

\* Myndi Hoffman mhoffman@ging.org

**President Elect** 

\* Lauri Tuten

Lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

**Past President** 

\* Paige Tidwell paige@uga.edu

**Vice President** 

\* Mary Ellen Mendiratta

Maryellen@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

**Vice President Elect** 

\* <u>Dana.skelton-sanders@ablegeorgia.ga.gov</u> danapssanders@gmail.com

Secretary

\* Ashia Walker awalker@ging.org

**Treasurer** 

\* Pam Eaton

Pamela.eaton@gvra.ga.gov

**Board Members** 

Class of 2016

**Keita Alston** 

keita.alston@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

\* Laura Gall

laura.gall@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

**Lauren Knox** 

Lauren.knox@gvra.ga.gov

\* Raj Pagadala

rajesh.pagadala@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

**Class of 2017** 

Jeff Allen

jeff.allen@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

**Jennifer Howell** 

jennifer.howell@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

Joya LeNoir

Joya.lenoir@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

**Angie Rhudy** 

ARhudy@Unum.com

**Class of 2018** 

Jerica Dixon

jdixon488@yahoo.com

**Cecelia Hockett** 

Cecelia.hockett@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

**Ruby Kaspers** 

Ruby.kaspers@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

**Mike Pryor** 

mpryor@ging.org

**Division Presidents** 

**GAMRC** 

**Katavia Sloan** 

gamrc4u@gmail.com

**GARL** 

**Jason Williams** 

Jason.williams@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

**ARTS** 

**Pam Eaton** 

**GRCEA** 

**Dana Skelton-Sanders** 

### GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION 2016 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Local Chapter Presidents** 

East

**Carmella Jennings** 

Carmella.jennings@gvra.ga.gov

Highlands

Ashia Walker

Metro

**Jessica Gordon** 

jessica.gordon@ablegeorgia.ga.gov

Northeast

**Dana Skelton-Sanders** 

**RWSIR** 

**Cheryl Leidy** 

Cheryl.leidy@gvra.ga.gov

South

**Kim Wagner-Bass** 

Kimberly.wagner@gvra.ga.gov

West

**Jason Williams** 

**Committee Chairs** 

Accessibility Ad-hoc

Laura Gall

Administrative Policy

**Jennifer Howell** 

**Archives** 

**Ruby Kaspers** 

**Awards** 

**Lauti Tuten** 

**Building & Modifications** 

**Cece Hockett** 

Certification (CEUs)

Shereen Ashtiani & Paige Tidwell sashtiani@ging.org & paige.uga.edu

Conference

Mary Ellen Mendiratta

**Credentials** 

Kim Wagner-Bass

**Education & Advocacy** 

Jeff Allen & Mike Pryor

**Finance** 

Pam Eaton

Finance Review

**Patsy Morris** 

Pgmorris1954@outlook.com

**Fundraising** 

**Cheryl Braswell** 

Cheryl.braswell@gvra.ga.gov

bonabeth60@gmail.com

**Cheryl Ussery** 

Cheryl@sharecoastalga@comcastbiz.net

Hospitality

**Dana Skelton-Sanders** 

Marketing/PR

Tom Wilson

Tom.wilson47@gmail.com

Membership

**Carmella Jennings** 

Newsletter

**Keita Alston** 

**Nominations** 

**Paige Tidwell** 

### GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION 2016 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Ex-Officio** 

Remembrance
LaDetria King

(See Finance Review info)

Resolutions
Jennifer Howell

Scholarships Lauri Tuten

Special Projects
Cece Hockett

Strategic Planning
Lauri Tuten

Training Ad-hoc
Mary Ellen Mendiratta

Website
Keita Alston

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

NRA Board Member At Large
Jennifer Howell

GRA Rep to SERNRA
Dana Skelton-Sanders

Southeast Region ARTS Board

Cheryl Braswell
Janie Fuller

jdpfuller@yahoo.com

**Ellen Longino** ellen697@yahoo.com

**Patsy Morris** 

**NADBS Board** 

Paige Tidwell—Southeast Rep.

**VEWAA Board Paige Tidwell** 

**SERCEA** 

**Dana Skelton-Sanders** 

NRA Membership Committee

Mary Ellen Mendiratta

**NAMRC Board Member** 

**Michell Temple** 

**GRA Contact Administrative Assistant** 

**Ellen Longino** 

### **2016 GRA CALENDAR JULY - SEPTEMBER**

JUL	QUARTERLY MEETINGS
2016	Jul. 14
	Financial Review - 10 AM
	Executive Board - 11 AM
	Conference Committee - 2 PM
	Jul. 15
	GRA Board Meeting 10 AM - 12 PM
	Location: Macon VR Office
	Jul. 20: Required Quarterly Financial Information due to Adminis-
	trative Assistant from all Chapters & Divisions
AUG	Aug. 15: If extension requested and granted by IRS for 990 in
2016	May, this becomes the deadline to have the document complet-
	ed by the CPA, signed by GRA officials, postmarked, and in the
	mail to the IRS (or, for the CPA to request a second extension until November 15, 2016). NOTE: The IRS does not have to grant
	request for second extension.
SEP	Sept. 6 - 9: Annual GRA State Training Conference, Hyatt Regency
2016	Savannah, Savannah, GA.
	Sept. 13 - 15: 2016 NRA Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
	Sept. 15: Deadline for renewal of Charitable Contribution Regis-
	tration/Renewal with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office

### 2016 GRA CALENDAR OCTOBER—DECEMBER

DISABILITY AWARNESS MONTH
QUARTERLY MEETINGS
Oct. 6
Financial Review - 10 AM
Executive Board - 11 AM
Conference Committee - 2 PM
Oct. 7
GRA Board Meeting - 10 AM - 12 PM
Location: Macon VR Office
Oct. 20 - Required Quarterly Financial Information due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters & Divisions
Aug. 15: If extension requested and granted by IRS for 990 in May, this becomes the deadline to have the document completed by the CPA, signed by GRA officials, postmarked, and in the mail to the IRS (or, for the CPA to request a second extension until November 15, 2016). NOTE: The IRS does not have to grant request for second extension.
QUARTERLY MEETINGS
Dec. 8
Financial Review - 9 AM
Executive Board - 10 AM
Leadership Training - 12 PM - 5 PM
Dec. 9 - GRA Board Meeting 10 AM - 12 PM
Location: Roosevelt Warm Springs

# We'll see y'all in Savannah!

