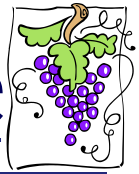


The GRApevine



The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Spring Edition

April 2013

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Greetings to all,

I would like to open by thanking the GRA membership for giving me this opportunity to serve you as President. It is an honor, while a little scary at times, to serve you all. I have pondered my thoughts regarding my opening remarks as we progress through this year. In doing so, I have reflected back into the history of our country's advocacy efforts. From the early advocacy efforts of our veterans, to the civil rights movement, to the present day, the mission has always been to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. I can say that I am proud to continue in that fight. I often wonder if talking with congress, local legislators, and community leaders is making a difference. I ponder these thoughts and I still come to the conclusion that someone a long time ago started the discussion, took the first stand, made the first step, asked the first question, and now it is our turn. I am willing to do my part. Let's have a GRaT year! See you soon.

Thanks

Ed James, GRA President

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



Jennifer Howell, Angie Rhudy & Ed James in front of the GA pillar at the World War II memorial.



NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Chapter and division members can nominate any student with a disability who has demonstrated academic achievement, advocacy and community involvement for the \$1000 Nancy Crowder Scholarship.

For further information contact Lauri Tuten, Awards

Chair at 706.597.8575 or lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

Chapter & Division Reports

Metro Atlanta Chapter Report — Mitchell Temple, President

The Metro-Atlanta Chapter ended 2012 with a Christmas Party and Toy Drive. Members donated toys to Pride for Parents. This organization's goal is to preserve the pride and dignity of the families that they serve in their community. They accomplish this goal by selling toys at extremely affordable prices, instead of giving them away; believing families would prefer to provide for themselves than receiving a hand out. Members donated 20 toys.



Calendar of Events for 2013

Date: **Friday April 19th 12 pm – 2 pm**
Lunch & Learn: **Social Security Disability**
Location: **Tommy Nobis Center, Marietta, GA**
Email: metrogra@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, July 26th 12PM—2PM **Lunch & Learn**
Friday, October 25th 10AM – 3PM **Ethics Symposium**

West Chapter Report— Jason Williams, President

We plan to offer at least one training event this year in the fall and hope to have several of our members to attend the GRA and GRCEA Training Events this summer.

Officers for 2013 include:

President:	Jason Williams
Treasurer:	Dan Matthews
Board Member at Large:	Sherry Deakin

GARL Report— Ed Leysath, President

GARL and the Highlands Chapter sponsored President-Elect Angie Rhudy to the NRA Governmental Affairs Summit. Angie experienced true advocacy in action as the GRA attendees met with Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson on Bill 803—the Workforce bill. Due to overwhelming popular demand the Town Hall meeting will be conducted at the GRA Conference in St. Simons Island. Our auction, which has been a fun event for many years, will be outside following the Social event for the candidates.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ARE YOU READY TO GET UP,
GET ACTIVE, AND GET
INVOLVED?



GRA WANTS YOU!

Email or call Jennifer Howell if you are interested in running
for President-Elect ,Vice President-Elect, Secretary,
or Board Member at Large

Jennifer.howell@gvra.ga.gov
706-699-0540





Save the





Date



**August 21-23, 2013
for the
GRA 2013 Training
Conference
At
Sea Palms Resort
On Saint Simons Island**

Wonderful Training
Beautiful Setting
Great Networking
Hope to see you there!



GRA CALENDAR—2013

APR	<p><u>Monday, April 1</u> – The Corporation Annual Registration must be post marked by this date and sent in to the Secretary of State’s Office. Fee for renewal is \$35 (\$55 if paid 4/2 or later.)</p> <p>Monday, April 22 – Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
MAY	<p>Thursday, May 2 - Financial Review-10:00am/ Executive Board-1:00pm /Conference 3:00pm Friday, May 3 - GRA Board Meeting 9:30- 12:00noon</p> <p>Monday, May 13 – Thursday, May 16 – SERNRA, Louisville, KY</p> <p>Wednesday, May 15 – Deadline for CPA to complete the IRS Form 990, having it signed by GRA officials, postmarked, and in the mail to the IRS (or, for having CPA request and obtain an extension from the IRS.)</p>
JUL	<p>Thursday, July 11 - Financial Review-10:00am/Executive Board-1:00/Conference 3:00</p> <p>Friday, July 12 - GRA Board-9:30-12:00 Noon</p> <p>Monday, July 22 - Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
AUG	<p>Thursday, August 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, 2013). NOTE: IRS does not have to grant request for second extension.</p> <p>NRA 2013 Annual Training Conference: August 18-20 @ Brooklyn Bridge Marriott, NY, NY</p> <p>GRA 2013 Annual Training Conference: August 21-23 @ Sea Palms, St. Simons</p>
SEP	<p>Sunday, September 15 (actually due Monday, September 16) – Deadline for renewal of Charitable Contribution Registration/Renewal with the Georgia Secretary of State’s Office. NOTE: Renewal required every two years (even-numbered years) by Sept 15.</p>
OCT	<p>Thursday, October 3 - Financial Review-10:00am/Executive Board-1:00/Conference 3:00</p> <p>Friday, October 4 - GRA Board - 9:30-12:00</p> <p>Monday, October 21 - Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
NOV	<p>Friday, November 15 – 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>
DEC	<p>Thursday December 5 - Financial Review-10:00 AM /Executive Board-10:30 AM Leadership training 1:00 AM -5:00 AM</p> <p>Friday, December 6 - GRA Board Meeting 9:30-11:30/Conference 12:00-1:00</p>

METRO-ATLANTA CHAPTER

Taste of Metro-GRA & Learn

Social Security Disability

Come learn how clients may benefit from vocational rehabilitation
and
Social Security Disability benefits!

Presenter: Dana Carroll, Esq.

Friday, April 19, 2013, 2 PM - 2:00 PM

Tommy Nobis Center in Marietta, GA

2.0 CRC CREDITS

Taste of Metro-GRA Contest: Entry deadline Friday, April 12, 2013

- Enter a side dish and win \$50 cash
- Claim the first annual title of "Best Cook in the Metro-GRA Chapter" of 2013 calendar year
- Prepare a side dish that complements chicken that is baked and/or fried. Bring it to the
- Lunch and Learn on Friday, April 19, 2013 for your chance to win \$50 cash!
- A \$5 entry fee to enter
- If you aren't interested in entering, you are invited to EAT! Come prepared to taste and choose the winner of Taste of Metro-GRA!
- **Lunch costs \$8 to include Fried or Baked Chicken**
- Lunch begins at 11:30 am to ensure training starts promptly at 12:00 pm

TASTE OF METRO-GRA Entry form

Deadline to enter Taste of Metro-GRA Friday April 12, 2013

Name: _____

Dish: _____

Main Ingredients: _____

Current NRA/GRA member? Yes or No

Would you like to join NRA/GRA? Yes or No

I agree to pay the \$5 entry fee before or on the day of the Lunch and Learn to a Metro-GRA board member.

Name: _____

Date: _____

NRA Government Affairs Summit

Conference Update

The 2013 NRA Government Affairs Summit, held in Washington D.C. on March 17th through March 19th was excellent.

A Business Panel discussed current federal policy and legislation that impacts the recruitment, hiring and retention of employees with disabilities in both the public and private sector. The discussions included the President's Executive Order # 13548 and changes in Schedule A regulations which impact the hiring requirements and process in the federal government.

The Honorable Janet LaBreck, Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, has been nominated by President Obama to be the next Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in the U. S. Department of Education spoke and was most informative about programs in Massachusetts. Ms. LaBreck is a very beautiful and intelligent lady.

Some of the other speakers were: The Honorable Lynnae Ruttledge, Member, National Council on Disability (NCD) formerly, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in the U. S. Department of Education. The Honorable Michael Yudin, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) U. S. Department of Education. The Honorable Edward Anthony Interim Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and Deputy Commissioner, Thomas Finch, Ph.D., Director of Training for RSA. Mary Fisher Murray, Combat Stress Recovery Program (CSR), Wounded Warrior Project.

The LEAD ON Awards were presented Tuesday, March 19th at NRA's Congressional Luncheon. Visits to all the Georgia Congressman and both Senators were also made on Tuesday.

GRA was well represented by Ed James, Jennifer Howell, Mike Pryor, Angie Rudy, Tom Wilson and Cheryl Meadows Ussery.



From Left to Right: Angie Rhudy, Jennifer Howell, Representative Tom Graves, Mike Pryor and Ed James

Jennifer Howell
Cheryl M. Ussery
Education and Advocacy Co-Chairs



From Left to Right: Jennifer Howell, Angie Rhudy and Ed James in front of the Capitol.



Ed James , Jennifer Howell, Angie Rhudy, Mike Pryor in the Cannon Building.



Angie Rhudy & Ed James in front of Rep. Graves Office.

THE NRA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS SUMMIT: MAR 17-19, 2013 WASHINGTON D.C.



Mike Pryor, Jennifer Howell, Angie Rhudy, Ed James, Cheryl Ussery & Tom Wilson in D.C.

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

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

President

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* [LaDetria King](#)

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GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

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

Class of 2014

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Class of 2015

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[Mary Ellen Mendiratta](#)

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[Scott Jackson](#)

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Division Presidents

GARL

[Ed Leyseth](#)

* Only GRA Officers, Elected Board Members, and Local Chapter and Division Presidents vote at the GRA Board Meetings

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

[Jason Williams](#), Co-Chair

(See previous contact info - Archives Committee)

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

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

Awards

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

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

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[Larry Shedd](#)

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Certification

[Paige Tidwell](#)

(See previous contact info –
Board Member 2014)

Conference

[Janie Fuller](#)

(See previous contact info—VP)

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[Regina Watts](#)

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Newsletter

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[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](#)

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Public Relations

[Kim Bennett](#)

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

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)

*The GRA 2013 Awards Committee reminds you to be considering
exceptional nominees for the 2013 GRA Awards*

Isaac Max Heller Employer of the Year

GRA Chapter of the Year

Professional Achievement

Service Award

For further information contact Lauri Tuten, Awards Chair at

706.597.8575 or lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov