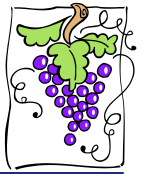


The GRApevine



The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Spring Edition, February 2018



Greetings to all fellow GRA Members!

First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your GRA President for 2018. I am so honored and very excited to begin this journey with you! Remember first and foremost, the Georgia Rehabilitation Association (GRA) is a membership organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. With that being said, I would like to challenge each member to become an "active" member of GRA, not just join to attend the conference. I would like for you to participate throughout the year, become a member of the board or the conference committee!

Jeff Allen is the vice president of GRA and has begun to plan the 2018 conference. If you are interested in assisting with the conference, please contact Jeff Allen at Jeff.Allen@gvs.ga.gov or call him at (404) 780-6726. We will be going to the Savannah Riverfront Marriott, August 8-10, 2018. This year's theme is "In the Garden of Knowledge". I am hoping to see all of you there!

National Rehabilitation Association will be hosting the 2018 Government Affairs Disability Employment Summit on Mar. 25-27, 2018. If you are interested in attending, go to nationalrehab.org for more information.

My goals for 2018 are to increase membership and increase our awareness in the community by joining with partners to advocate for persons with disabilities. Another goal for this year is to increase our special projects for 2018.

I would like to close by thanking you for your support, continued dedication and desire to serve those who need our assistance. Georgia is a strong force within the national association as we continue to lead the nation in membership. Please be a part of the best association in the nation!

Looking forward to a successful year!

Cheryl Braswell
2018 GRA President

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2017 GRA Past President Jennifer Howell (right) passing the gavel to incoming GRA President Cheryl Braswell (left).

Chapter & Division Reports

HIGHLANDS—Ashia Walker

The Highlands Chapter is planning a meeting in February to begin planning for the year.

NORTHEAST—Keita Alston

Northeast Chapter will be meeting soon to plan for the year and the conference. Looking to have training sessions this year and a special project. This year, three members of Northeast Chapter are on the executive committee. Jeff Allen as Vice President, Dana Skelton-Sanders as President-Elect & Keita Alston as Vice President-Elect.

SOUTH—Nicky Lamb

The South Chapter will be meeting in February to plan out the events of the year. The South Chapter is hopeful to host a training this year. The 2018 officers for South Chapter are: President (Nicky Lamb), Vice President (Sally Willis) & Secretary/Treasurer (Pamela Eaton).

WEST—Jason Williams

The 2018 West GRA Chapter Officers are: President - Jason Williams, Treasurer/Secretary - Daniel Matthews & Board Members - Marnette Wilson and Doreene Carlisle.

GARL: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

2 018 GARL Officers are:
President - Jason Williams
Secretary/Treasurer - Virginia "Gigi" Taylor
Board Members - Raj Pagadala and Tamika Wright

GRCEA: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

Members plan on meeting in February to talk about this year's plans for the conference and also talk about the pre-conference ethics training.

GRA Committee News

Awards & Scholarships Committee

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

Lauri Tuten
Awards & Scholarships Chair

Name of Award/Scholarship	Deadline Date
Association of Rehabilitation Technicians and Specialists of Georgia (ARTS) Boss of the Year Award	July 2, 2018
Association of Rehabilitation Technicians and Specialists of Georgia (ARTS) Service Award	July 2, 2018
Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (GRCEA) Awards	July 2, 2018
Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) Award	July 2, 2018
Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) Continuing Education Grant	July 2, 2018
Isaac Max Heller Employer of Year Award	July 2, 2018
Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship	July 2, 2018
Professional Achievement Award	July 2, 2018
Service Award	July 2, 2018

Education & Advocacy Committee

Please consider attending the NRA Government Affairs Disability Employment Summit in Alexandria, VA/Washington D. C. in March of this year. The Summit begins March 25th and ends March 27th with visits to the hill. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our government, how it works and to advocate for people with disabilities. NRA will provide a Summit Prep Webinar on February 15th at 1:00 PM on how to make the most of your time with Members of Congress and their staff. It is free if you have pre-registered for the summit, otherwise it is \$25.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Janie or Cheryl.

Janie Fuller & Cheryl Meadows Ussery
Co-Chairs E & A

Membership Committee

GRA: Membership Matters!

“Membership Matters!” is once again the theme for our GRA Membership Committee in 2018. Please encourage all rehabilitation professionals to consider joining GRA. We have local Chapters in every part of the state along with specific divisions for specialty interests. \$100 will be awarded to the Local Chapter with the most new members recruited between the time periods of January 1, 2018 – July 1, 2018.

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

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

Nominations Committee

GRA Call for Nominations

Elections to be held at the Annual Conference



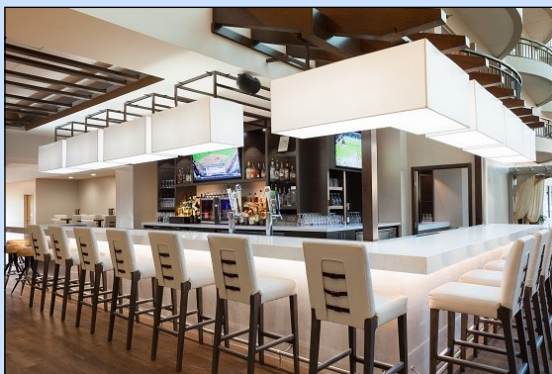
*Don't miss your
opportunity to
serve as a key
player with GRA!!*

We are looking for a few “GREAT” Rehab Professionals to serve as President Elect, Vice President Elect, Treasurer Elect, Secretary Elect and Board Members at Large (3) during 2019.

If interested, please contact Jennifer Howell—Jennifer.howell@gvs.ga.gov



Save the Date!
2018 GRA Conference
Aug. 7-10, 2018
Savannah Marriott Riverfront
See y'all in Savannah!



2018 GRA Conference Info

Please click the link to access the following forms:

- [**2018 GRA Conference Call for Proposal Form**](#)
- [**2018 GRA Conference Exhibitor Prospectus Form**](#)
- [**2018 GRA Conference Registration Form \(Non-GVRA\)**](#)

2018 GARL Auction

The Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL)

Needs You!

Clean Your Attics, Make and Bring Stuff!

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

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

OR

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

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

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

The Auction will take place in the same room as the President's Reception and will be in a Silent Auction Format.

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



The National Rehabilitation Association

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

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

Why Membership in NRA?

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

Historical Context

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

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

Mission

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

Vision and Values

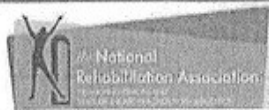
The NRA is committed to advancing the professional practices of rehabilitation driven by culturally-competent, ethical, evidence-based and accountable practices so that individuals with disabilities would be regarded and valued as full members of our society. These individuals deserve equal access, expression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

Please see the membership application that follows to join today!

Join Today

Get Connected

Get Involved



Membership Application

Promoting Ethical and State of the Art Practice in Rehabilitation

Membership at the National Level is required for Divisional Memberships.

Section 1 – Contact Information












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

Section 2 – NRA National Membership Categories

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

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

Section 3 – NRA Divisional Memberships (optional membership)

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

Join Today**Get Connected****Get Involved****Organizational Members ONLY**If you are applying for **ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**, please complete the below.

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

Section 5 – NRA Member Fee Summary**Fees Summary**

Summarize your membership fees.

NRA Fee	
Division Fee Total	
Total Fees	

Section 6 – Payment Information**Payment Information****1. Credit Card** – Complete the credit card section below:**Card Type:**

- ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Card Number (enter below)**Exp. Date:****Total Amount to Charge:****Authorized Signature:****2. Provide name, phone, and email address of the contact person for this charge (if different than individual applying for membership):**

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Billing Address (if different than above)

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

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

Authorized Signature:**Date:****Membership Policies**

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

Mailing Information:**National Rehabilitation Association
Attention: Membership Department**

PO Box 150235 | Alexandria, VA 22315

Phone: 703-836-0850

Fax: 703-836-0848

Email: info@nationalrehab.org

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

GReAt Pictures

Passing of the Gavel



Both Pictures: Cheryl Braswell (left) is the 2018 GRA President. Jennifer Howell (right) is the 2017 Past President of GRA.

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2018 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

* denotes Executive Committee Members

President

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

President Elect

* Dana Skelton-Sanders
Dana.skelton-sanders@gvs.ga.gov
danapssanders@gmail.com

Past President

* Jennifer Howell
jennifer.howell@gvs.ga.gov

Vice President

* Jeff Allen
jeff.allen@gvs.ga.gov

Vice President Elect

* Keita Alston
Keita.alston@gvs.ga.gov

Secretary

* Nicky Lamb
Nicky.lamb@gvs.ga.gov

Treasurer

* LaDetria King
ladetriaking@yahoo.com

Board Members

Class of 2018

Michael Dorsey
mcdorsey@live.com

* Ruby Kaspers
Ruby.kaspers@gvs.ga.gov

Lutrell Thomas
Lutrell.thomas@gvs.ga.gov

Cecelia Walker
Cecelia.walker@gvs.ga.gov

Class of 2019

* Janie Fuller
jdpfuller@yahoo.com

Frank Krause
fbkrause4@gmail.com

Catherine Phillips
Catherine.phillips@gvs.ga.gov

* Cheryl Meadows Ussery
cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net

Class of 2020

LaToya Bivins
Latoya.bivins@gvs.ga.gov

Pam Eaton
pamela.eaton@gvs.ga.gov

Kathryn Edger
kathryn71488@yahoo.com

Raj Pagadala
Raj.pagadala@gvs.ga.gov

Division Presidents

GAMRC
 Katavia Sloan
katavia.sloan@gvs.ga.gov

GARL
 Jason Williams
Jason.williams@gvs.ga.gov

ARTS
 Nicky Lamb

GRCEA
 Shirley Robinson
shirley.robinson@gvs.ga.gov

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2018 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Local Chapter Presidents

East

Carmella Jennings

Carmella.Jennings@gvs.ga.gov

Highlands

Ashia Walker

awalker@ging.org

Metro

Lutrell Thomas

Northeast

Keita Alston

RWSIR

Cheryl Leidy

Cheryl.leidy@gvs.ga.gov

South

Nicky Lamb

West

Jason Williams

Committee Chairs

Accessibility Ad-hoc

Michell Temple

mtemple@gsu.edu

Administrative Policy

Jennifer Howell

Archives

Ruby Kaspers

Awards & Scholarships

Lauri Tuten

Lauri.tuten@gvs.ga.gov

Building & Modifications

Raj Pagadala

Certification (CEUs)

Cece Walker

Conference

Jeff Allen

Credentials

Shana Shelby

Shana.shelby@gvs.ga.gov

Education & Advocacy

Janie Fuller & Cheryl Meadows Ussery

Finance

LaDetria King

Finance Review

Pam Eaton

Fundraising

Ashia Walker

Hospitality

Nicky Lamb

Marketing/PR

Kathryn Edger

Membership

Jason Williams

Newsletter

Keita Alston & Ruby Kaspers

Nominations

Jennifer Howell

Remembrance

LaDetria King

Resolutions

Tom Wilson

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

Special Projects

Gigi Taylor

gigibushtaylor@yahoo.com

Strategic Planning

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Training Ad-hoc

Mary Ellen Mendiratta

Maryellen.mendiratta@gvs.ga.gov

Website

Keita Alston & Ruby Kaspers

Ex-Officio

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

GRA Rep to SERNRA

Dana Skelton-Sanders

RCEA Board

Dru Fentem

dmfentem@gmail.com

Southeast Region ARTS Board

Cheryl Braswell

Janie Fuller

Ellen Longino

ellen697@yahoo.com

Patsy Morris

NADBS Board

Paige Tidwell—Southeast Rep.

VEWAA Board

Paige Tidwell

SER RCEA Board

Dana Skelton-Sanders

NAMRC Board Member

Katavia Sloan & Michell Temple

GRA Contact Administrative Assistant

Ellen Longino

2018 GRA CALENDAR

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