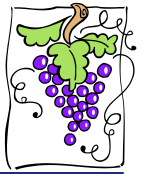


The GRApevine



The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Spring Edition, February 2019



Wow! I wanted to thank you for allowing me to serve you this year as your 2019 President. "I am in AWWWW of each of you!" Thank you for stepping up in your role for our plan of work for Georgia Rehabilitation Association for 2019! Together we can make this organization "shine like a diamond" this year! It is our 60th anniversary! Our mission has always been to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. This year, I hope to include avocation for our profession. Without a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, I would not be where I am today! I implore you to aid in this venture this year.

Did you know Georgia is #1 in the NATION in membership for National Rehabilitation Association? Let's recruit new members! Let's retain our "seasoned" members! Let's look outside the box and bring in individuals to serve the organization!

I am looking forward to attending the National Rehabilitation Association Disability Summit in a few weeks with a huge number of Georgia Representatives! I was excited to hear of the winners of the GRA "Tom Wilson Takes You to Washington" Scholarship, I know you are going to represent Georgia well and love D.C! I was most excited that Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (GRCEA) created a scholarship similar to GRA's to support a GRCEA member to attend Washington as well! Kudos!!!! To our membership, we know how important it is to have representation at our national events! It is going to be a blast!!!!

I so look forward to seeing you at our board meetings, Chapter events and our Annual Training Conference, as we meet again in Savannah! (My favorite city in Georgia!) Again, thank you to each of you for your service to our organization. Each one of you brings a vital part to our mission!

Again thank you, Friends!

If I can be of any assistance to any of you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Serving,

Dana Skelton-Sanders, B.S.Ed., MRC, CRC
2019 GRA President

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2018 GRA Past President Cheryl Braswell (left) passing the gavel to incoming 2019 GRA President Dana Skelton-Sanders (right) at Meadows Classroom in Warm Springs.

Chapter & Division Reports

EAST—Tamekia Parker

Tamekia Parker reported a brief recap of reported initiatives for the East Chapter. They're to meet at the end the month with board members to set tentative quarterly GRA meeting dates, discuss special project ideas, fundraising and membership.

NORTHEAST—Joyesha Blake

Keita Alston reported we are planning on discussing fundraising. He said the Chapter hopes to increase membership.

WEST—Jason Williams

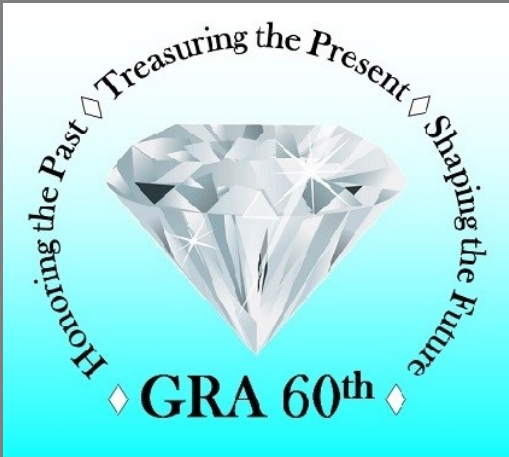
Our local Chapter looks forward to sponsoring a training event this spring for local members and to support the GRA Annual Training Conference in August.

GARL: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

Please plan to donate and purchase items at the 2019 GARL Annual Auction to be held on the opening day of the GRA Annual Training Conference in Savannah in August. Also, please submit a nomination for the GARL Continuing Education Grant (an award of \$250 to support Rehabilitation Professionals in completion of education and training) and the J. Ellis Moran Leadership Award.

GRCEA: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

Shirley Robinson reported that the current budget is \$16,564.57. As a special project, GRCEA donated \$500 to RWSIR Cafeteria, which also included lunch for the participants of the Financial Training held on December 5, 2018 at RWSIR. For 2019, GRCEA will be developing a resource list for counselors, which will include free online training offering CRC credits. GRCEA will also be offering the GRCEA Washington Summit Scholarship, which will mirror the Tom Wilson Takes You To Washington Scholarship. Those interested are asked to submit a 300-word essay or a video essay supporting his/her request to attend. The deadline is January 31, 2019. The GRCEA Board will review the applications and make a decision by the close of day the following Friday. The amount of the scholarship is \$1,500, which will go towards registration and travel costs. This scholarship's requirements will mirror the Tom Wilson Scholarship. GRCEA will also continue with the school supply drive at this year's Pre-Conference in Savannah. Toiletries will also be collected to support a local battered women's shelter.



Save the Date!
2019 GRA Conference
Aug. 6-9, 2019
Savannah Marriott Riverfront
More info to come!

GRA Committee News

Ads & Exhibits Committee

We're looking for ads and exhibitors for the upcoming 60th GRA Conference this year. If you're interested, please see the below link for the Exhibitor Prospectus Form. **Deadline for submissions is June 3.**

Please contact Inger Neal at 404-780-6736 or email her at inger.neal@gvs.ga.gov.

[2019 GRA Conference Exhibitor Prospectus Form](#)

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 below to find out about each award.

Lauri Tuten & Shelley Kraft
Awards & Scholarships Co-Chairs

Name of Award/Scholarship	Deadline Date
<u>Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (GRCEA) Personal Achievement Award & Counseling Achievement Award</u>	July 1, 2019
<u>Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) Award</u>	July 1, 2019
<u>Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) Continuing Education Grant</u>	July 1, 2019
<u>Isaac Max Heller Employer of Year Award</u>	July 1, 2019
<u>Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship Award</u>	July 1, 2019
<u>Professional Achievement Award</u>	July 1, 2019
<u>Service Award</u>	July 1, 2019

Education & Advocacy Committee

There were several great essays submitted for the “Tom Wilson Takes You To Washington” scholarship and the decision for the two best was most difficult. This year, the winners are Shawna Lewis and Johnesha Harris. Both wrote outstanding essays, are active in GRA and certainly deserve the award. Congratulations!

Please consider attending the NRA Disability Employment Summit in Alexandria, VA/Washington, D. C. from March 31—April 1 with visits to Capitol Hill. It’s a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our government, how it works and to advocate for people with disabilities.

For more information about the summit, please click [HERE](#). If you are interested or have questions, please contact either of the Cheryls.

Cheryl Braswell & Cheryl Meadows Ussery, Co-Chairs E & A

Nominations Committee

GRA Call for Nominations

Elections to be held at the 2019 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, Secretary-Elect and Board
Members at Large (4) during 2020.***

**If interested, please contact Cheryl
Braswell at cheryl.braswell@gvs.ga.gov.**

Program Committee

If you're interested in becoming a presenter or speaker for this year's conference, please see the below link for the Call for Proposal Form. **Deadline for submissions is April 15.**

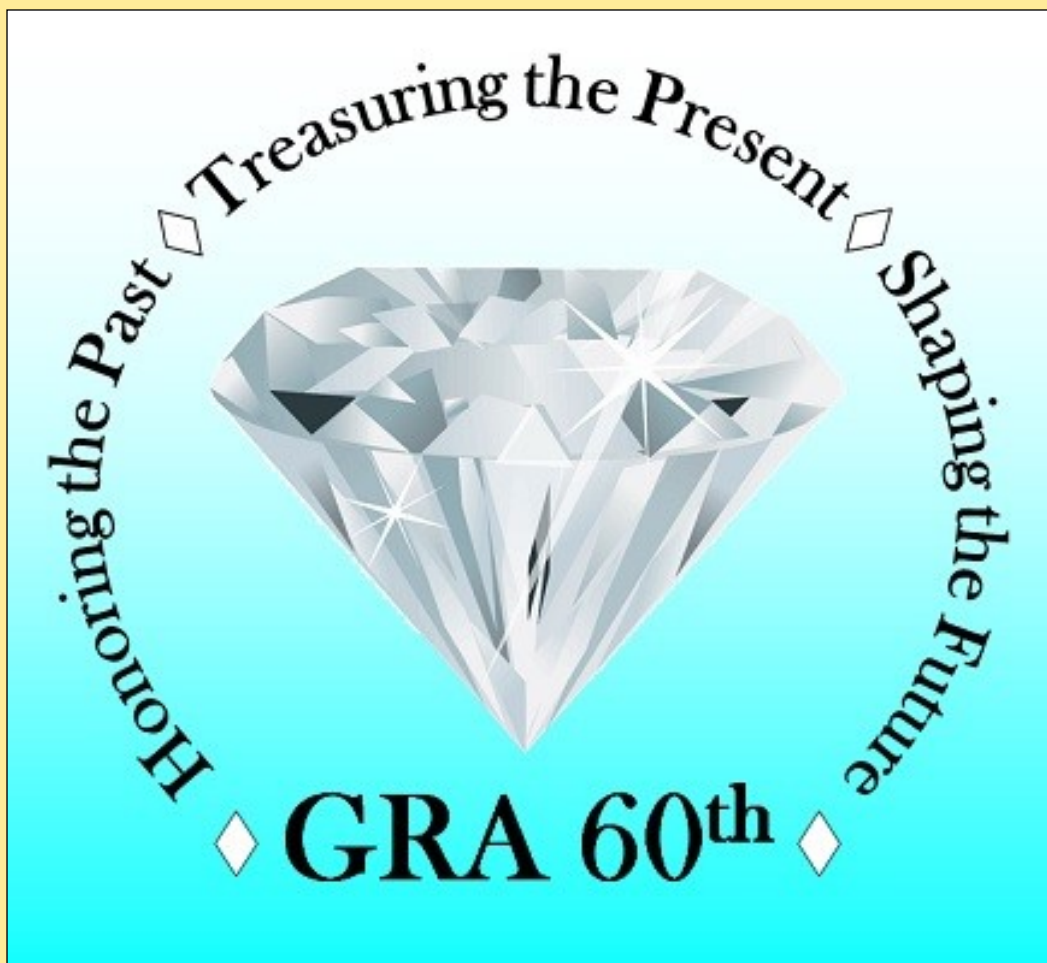
Please contact Cece Walker at gra2014ch@gmail.com or Cecelia.Walker@gvs.ga.gov.

[2019 GRA Conference Call for Proposal Form](#)

2019 GRA Conference Info

Please click the links below to access the following forms:

- [2019 GRA Conference Call for Proposal Form](#)
- [2019 GRA Conference Exhibitor Prospectus Form](#)
- [2019 GRA Conference Registration Form \(Non-GVRA\)](#)



2019 GARL Auction



The Georgia Association of
Rehabilitation Leadership
(GARL)



Needs You!

Clean Your Attics, Make and Bring Stuff!

Donate Now to the **GARL 2019 Auction***!

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

OR

Bring items when you come to the 2019 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.

Cash and/or Checks are both accepted as payment.

**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.

*For more information on how to become a member of NRA, please visit <https://www.nationalrehab.org/> and click the **Join Us** tab.*

GReAt Pictures

2018 Governmental Affairs & Public Service Award: Senator Butch Miller



GReAt Pictures



GReAt Pictures

Metro GRA Chapter 2018 Christmas Toys for Tots



GRA members participated by donating new toys to Metro GRA Chapter for their annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive.

GReAt Pictures

REIMAGINING THE FUTURE:

MOVING BEYOND TALK TO ACTION

SAVE THE DATES
JULY 17-20, 2019



HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA

265 PEACHTREE STREET NE, ATLANTA, GA 30303
(404) 577-1234

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

WWW.NAMRC.ORG

JULY 17 PRE-CONFERENCE: CRCC EXAM PREPARATION

JULY 18 PRE-CONFERENCE: REHABILITATION GRANT WRITING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TRAINING PRESENTED BY LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

JULY 18-20 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2019 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

* Denotes Executive Committee Members

President

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

President-Elect

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

Past President

* Cheryl Braswell
Cheryl.braswell@gvs.ga.gov
Bonabeth60@gmail.com

Vice President

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

Vice President-Elect

* Cecelia Walker
Cecelia.walker@gvs.ga.gov
gra2014ch@gmail.com

Secretary

* VACANT

Secretary-Elect

* Johnesha Harris
Johnesha.Harris@gvs.ga.gov

Treasurer

* LaDetria King
ladetriaking@yahoo.com

Treasurer-Elect

* Paige Tidwell
Paige@uga.edu

Board Members

Class of 2019

* Janie Fuller
jdpfuller@yahoo.com

Carmella Jennings
Carmella.Jennings@gvs.ga.gov

Frank Krause
fbkrause4@gmail.com

* 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
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Raj Pagadala
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Class of 2021

* Michael Dorsey
mcdorsey@live.com

Cheryl Leidy
Cheryl.leidy@gvs.ga.gov

Shawna Lewis
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Jason Williams
Jason.williams@gvs.ga.gov

Division Presidents

GAMRC
 Shrika Montgomery
Shrika.montgomery@gvs.ga.gov

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

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

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
2019 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Local Chapter Presidents

East

Tamekia Parker

Tamekia.parker@gvs.ga.gov

Highlands

Angelica Sanchez

Angelica.sanchez@gvs.ga.gov

Metro

Lutrell Thomas

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Northeast

Joyesha (Joi) Blake

Joyesha.blake@gvs.ga.gov

RWSIR

Cheryl Leidy

Cheryl.leidy@gvs.ga.gov

South

Nicky Lamb

Nicky.lamb@gvs.ga.gov

West

Jason Williams

Jason.williams@gvs.ga.gov

Committee Chairs

Administrative Policy

Jennifer Howell

Jennifer.howell@gvs.ga.gov

Archives

Paige Tidwell

paige@uga.edu

Awards & Scholarships

Shelley Kraft & Lauri Tuten

Shelley.kraft@gvs.ga.gov

Lauri.tuten@gvs.ga.gov

Building & Modifications

Raj Pagadala

Raj.pagadala@gvs.ga.gov

Certification (CEUs)

Carmella Jennings & Paige Tidwell

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paige@uga.edu

Conference

Keita Alston

Keita.alston@gvs.ga.gov

Credentials

LaToya Bivins & Katavia Sloan

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Katavia.sloan@gvs.ga.gov

Education & Advocacy

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Bonabeth60@gmail.com

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Finance Review

Pam Eaton

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Fundraising

Tamie Randall

Tamie.randall@gvs.ga.gov

Hospitality

Michael Dorsey

mcdorsey@live.com

Marketing/PR

Inger Neal

Inger.neal@gvs.ga.gov

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
2019 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership

Jennifer Howell

Jennifer.howell@gvs.ga.gov

Newsletter

Keita Alston & Ruby Kaspers

Keita.alston@gvs.ga.gov

Ruby.kaspers@gvs.ga.gov

Nominations

Cheryl Braswell

Cheryl.braswell@gvs.ga.gov

Bonabeth60@gmail.com

Remembrance

LaDetria King

ladetriaking@yahoo.com

Resolutions

Jason Williams

Jason.williams@gvs.ga.gov

Special Projects

VACANT

Strategic Planning

Jeff Allen

jeff.allen@gvs.ga.gov

Website

Keita Alston & Ruby Kaspers

Keita.alston@gvs.ga.gov

Ruby.kaspers@gvs.ga.gov

Ex-Officio

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

GRA Rep to SERNRA Board

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Dana.skelton-sanders@gvs.ga.gov

danapssanders@gmail.com

NAMRC President

Michell Temple

michelltemple@yahoo.com

RCEA President

Dru Fentem

dmfentem@gmail.com

SERCEA

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Dana.skelton-sanders@gvs.ga.gov

danapssanders@gmail.com

VEWAA treasurer & Rep. to NRA Board

Paige Tidwell

paige@uga.edu

GRA Contact Administrative Assistant

Ellen Longino

ellen697@yahoo.com

2019 GRA CALENDAR

MAR 2019	<p>Mar. 7: Financial Review 9:30 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Mar. 8: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p> <p>Mar. 31-Apr. 2: 2019 NRA Annual Disability Employment Summit @ Hilton, Old Town Alexandria, VA</p>
APR 2019	<p>Apr. 22: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
MAY 2019	<p>May 16: Financial Review 9:30 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>May 17: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Meadows Classroom at Georgia Hall, RWS</i></p>
JUN 2019	<p>Jun. 27: Financial Review 9:30 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Jun. 28: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p> <p>Jul. 22: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
JUL 2019	<p>Jul. 22: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
AUG 2019	<p>Aug. 6-9: GRA Annual Training Conference Savannah Riverfront Marriott</p>
OCT 2019	<p>Oct. 17: Financial Review 9:30 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Oct. 18: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p> <p>Oct. 21: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
DEC 2019	<p>Dec. 4: Financial Review 9 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Leadership Training 12 PM—5 PM</p> <p>Dec. 5: Leadership Training for 2020 GRA Board</p> <p>Dec. 6: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: TBD</i></p>