

The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Summer Edition

Aug. 2014

i GRA friends!

Summer is here which not only means warm weather and vacation-time, but it also means that our annual conference planning is in full swing. We have seen a lot of exciting events take place so far this year, and our

conference is sure to be as meaningful of an event as we've had in 2014. If you haven't registered and would still like to attend it's not too late. Our conference committee has worked very hard to bring us highly knowledgeable and talented presenters, so please make plans to attend if at all possible. Our mission at GRA is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. This is the reason for our conference and why we educate ourselves: to learn how we can better improve the lives our fellow citizens of Georgia.

This is also the time of year we elect our new officers and select new board members to serve in the upcoming years. Look for information about the candidates in this edition of our newsletter. Again please make plans to attend our conference in Savannah, September 3-5 at the Riverfront Marriott.

See you in Savannah!

Mike Pryor GRA President 2014

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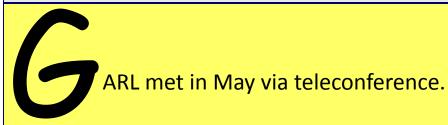
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From left to right: Angie Rhudy, Marcie Floyd, Alvan Beasley—Director of Boys & Girls Clubs in Summerville, William Mitchell (Highlands President) and Lila Guerra.

Division Reports

GARL: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership



GARL voted to purchase a half-page ad for the Training Conference Program.

We need nominations for the J. Ellis Moran Award as last year was the first time in several years that no nominees were submitted. 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. Please send nominations, along with 3 letters of support, to Angie Rhudy.

We will be hosting our annual auction at the GRA Training Conference this year. We are asking all GRA members to please donate items for the auction. Flyers with all the information will be placed in the GRA Newsletter.

GARL is also planning to host a training webinar in the fall. More information will be distributed as details are confirmed.

We are inviting all GRA members to also join GARL, which stands for the Georgia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership. Many of our members have held offices in NRA, SERNRA, and GRA. The cost is an extra \$30 per year for a professional membership, and \$15 per year for student membership.

Division Reports

GAMRC: Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concern



AMRC hosted an Ethics Roundtable on Jun. 6 from 11:30 AM—1:30 PM at 1630 Phoenix Blvd., Ste. 101 in College Park.

1 CRC Ethics Hour applied for
Dessert Available
Electronic Handouts
Bring CRCC Code of Ethics (hard or soft copy)

GRCEA: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

RCEA is working diligently toward a successful preconference and conference training event. We are have worked extra hard this year to lower the cost to our counselors to provide the Needed Ethics Training for them this year.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jackie Rogers will be here from University of Kentucky for our Pre Conference Ethics Training. GRCEA will be holding a 50/50 opportunity at the conference. Bring your dollars to the conference!

A GReAt big Thank You to the GRCEA leadership for aiding in helping to provide this Ethics training and a successful conference.

We look forward to seeing you in Savannah!

Chapter Reports

EAST—Janice Cassidy

embers met on July 7th in Augusta at their new office space. We had a speaker from the Dept. of Corrections who discussed issues of people transitioning from prison to the community. There is a great need for appropriate interview clothing for these individuals as they don't qualify for available assistance programs. Reviewed committee chairpersons and members for our chapter. Jean Newson will be the new chairperson for fundraising for Athens. Shirley Turner agreed to be the chairperson for fundraising for Augusta. Special projections will continue to be chaired by Carmella Jennings (Augusta) and Janice Cassidy (Athens). Sharon Brown will continue to chair the membership committee for Augusta and Richard Smith for Athens. A motion was made and accepted to solicit Elijah Carter to participate on the membership committee for Augusta.

Chapter agreed that we would limit fundraising efforts to a 50/50 raffle for this year with tickets being 2 for \$1. Athens will look into possible ongoing fundraising idea of selling bottled water in the Career Center for \$1 since it is usually \$1.50 in the Coke machine. We have already discussed the idea with DOL staff to make sure there is no contractual conflict with Coke for us to offer this option. Special projects continue to include assisting with the Clothes Closet in Athens and card writing campaign for Wounded Warriors. Both Athens and Augusta have begun to collect toiletry items that will be donated to ACTION, Inc. which is an organization that regularly serves people with disabilities within the community. This will be an ongoing project, and a donation box will be designated in each office. In June, the chapter assisted with the Job Club graduation ceremony for high schools in Richmond Co. This was a big success as students were rewarded for the hard work they had done.

After months of attempting to obtain a copy of the chapter by-laws through archives, etc. we were able to obtain them from Jennifer Howell who had maintained records from previous years as chapter President. Thank you Jennifer!

Chapter Reports

HIGHLANDS—William Mitchell

he Chapter voted to donate \$100.00 to the family of a two-year-old little girl named Emma Kate Roden who has been diagnosed with a degenerative eye condition and is at risk of losing her eyesight. The family is trying to raise over \$5,000 to take her to the Kellogg Eye Center in Michigan.

William Mitchell made motion to support Angie Rhudy for GRA Vice-President Elect for 2016 with \$100 check. The vote to accept the motion was unanimous.

The Highlands Chapter completed a community service project for the Boys/Girls Club in Summerville. The club was building a new picnic area and play area behind their facility. Several of us went and painted used tires, stacked them, and planted flowers to use around the borders of the picnic area. We also helped spread mulch and weedeated the area. The Chapter members volunteered a half day of labor for the project, and made a \$100 donation.

The Highlands Chapter is also considering assisting with a "Special Needs Prom" for students with disabilities who may not have the opportunity or desire to participate in the typical school prom.

NORTHEAST—Dana Skelton-Sanders

e have been gearing up for the conference. We are ready with our 15 door prizes thanks to Keita Alston, Dana Skelton-Sanders and the other chapter members. We will be looking to purchase an ad in the program for the conference.

We attended and assisted over 300 students register for the Toccoa-Stephens County Summer Reading Club sponsored by the Toccoa-Stephens County Public Library. 15 students were pre screened for potential LD in Reading to be seen by Stephens County School System.

We donated toiletries to the local domestic violence shelter in our area, the Circle of Hope.

We are looking to sell opportunity tickets at the conference for fundraising. Our next meeting is in Cumming Ga. for a fun filled night, dining out and social gathering.

Chapter Reports

METRO—Lutrell Thomas

ay 29, 2014 Board Meeting held at GVRA College Park office.

Discussed final preparation for upcoming lunch null Learn Assistive Technology

to be held on July 25th at Goodwill in Smyrna. The presenters were Virginia "Gigi" Taylor and Bill Barnes. Application for 2 CRC credits submitted. Flyers of the Lunch and Learn went out July 11.

Metro Chapter will work in collaboration with GAMRC on Ethic Symposium tentatively scheduled for October 7th.

Discussion around presentation and speakers.

Next Board meeting will be on Aug. 8 at 11 AM in College Park.

WEST—Jason Williams

he West Chapter plans to support the GRA Training Event this fall with donations of door prizes, refreshments, and active participation by several members attending. We are proud that our local membership is composed of rehabilitation professionals in the public and private sector. Our current balance is \$1,075.30 and we remain in good standing with the association in the timely submission of all reports.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Williams
West GRA President

News from GRA Committee Chairs

News from your Continuing Education Chair

The conference committee is working diligently to bring to you another fabulous training event in 2014. 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 Paige Tidwell at paige.tidwell@gvra.ga.gov at your earliest convenience.

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 maryellen@infocusrehab.com or Regina Watts at maryellen@infocusrehab.com or

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 250 attendees. For more information, please contact Tamika Wright at 706-638-5536 or you can email Tamika.wright@gvra.ga.gov.



Georgia Rehabilitation Association

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

Presents

SAVE THE DATE!!

2014 Annual Training Conference





Savannah Riverfront Marriott

100 General McIntosh Boulevard Savannah, Georgia 31401 USA Toll Free: 1-888-236-2427

Depths ~ Greater Heights

September 3-5, 2014

GARL

Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leaders

NEEDS YOU!

GARL ANNUAL AUCTION

2014 GRA Training Conference

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

at 8:30 p.m.

Supports Scholarships for Rehabilitation Professionals!



WE NEED YOUR DONATION OF ITEMS FOR THIS ANNUAL EVENT!

Tax Receipts available for donated items

Consider the following items:

Plants Woodwork Collectables Jewelry

GA BULLDOG Tickets?

Pictures Homemade Arts & Crafts ETC.

Questions? Contact Angie Rhudy or Joy Kniskern!

<u>Angelia.rhudy@gvra.ga.gov</u> 706-638-5536 joy.kniskern@amac.gatech.edu 404-894-7669



2014 Conference

SPECIAL PROJECT



To ALL Chapters and Divisions:

This year, we would like to collect **Hearing Aids, Eyeglasses & Cell Phones** for donating to this wonderful life-changing organization.

We ask that each **Chapter & Division** collect these items and we will present them to the Lighthouse Foundation during the Closing Session.

Please help us to impact the lives of deserving Georgians with sight and sound!

A large collection container will be provided Project contact: Inger Neal 404-780-6736







GRCEA: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association 2014 GRA Annual Pre-Conference Training Event Tuesday, September 2, 2014 Savannah Marriott Riverfront 100 General McIntosh Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31501

"Professional Ethics for the Rehabilitation Professional"
Dr. Jackie Rogers
The University of Kentucky

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Registration

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Professional Ethics

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm – Break 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm – More Ethical Concerns for CRCs
3.5 CRC/CEU credits will be requested (\$10.00 fee for CEUs)
Bring a copy of CRCC Code of Ethics to this session
NOTE: You do NOT have to be a member of NRA or GRA in order to attend & receive credits Registration fee for this event is not included in the main GRA Conference Registration
Fee
Name:
Address:
Job Title:
Daytime Telephone:
Accommodations Needed (Indicate Alternate Format, Interpreter, etc) Deadline for Request is <u>8/1/2014</u> :
Registration Fee: \$50.00 Registration Deadline: 8/31/2014 (limited registrations the day of event) Discounted registration – VR employees – 30.00 Discounted registration – GRCEA members 20.00 Send registration to: Kim Bennett, GRCEA Treasurer. 2604 Mesa Rd. Waycross, GA
31501 Email: kimebennett@yahoo.com Phone : 912-657-1740 FAX : 706-865-9602
Eman. Kimebernettwyanob.com Fnone: 912-057-1740 FAX: 700-005-9002
Make Checks Payable to: GRCEA Total Enclosed: \$

Presenter for the GRCEA Pre-Conference Training



Jackie Rogers, Ph.D., CRC

Dr. Jackie Rogers is a Clinical Assistant Professor with the University of Kentucky Masters Program in Rehabilitation Counseling. She has been with UK as a faculty or adjunct faculty member since January 2004. She is also the Rehabilitation Counseling Distance Education Program Coordinator. She completed her doctoral degree in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Rehabilitation Counseling in 2001 and has a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. Her background includes employment with the state Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation followed by over 30 years in private practice providing direct services to individuals with disabilities.

She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and serves as a Vocational Expert for the Social Security Administration.

Dr. Rogers is the Principal Investigator for the Master's training grant for distance education students. Her research interests are in the area of employment of Social Security Disability recipients, job placement of individuals with disabilities, and forensic rehabilitation.

Opening Keynote Speaker



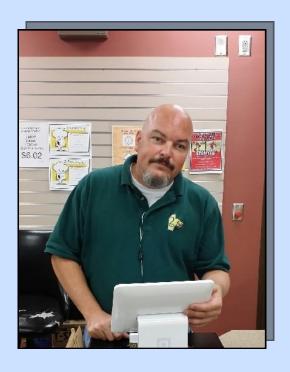
Nick Scott

A catalyst in personal transformation, with positive energy, unstoppable passion in his beliefs and mission, Nick Scott embodies a story and message so powerful that it ignites body, mind, and spirit in all he meets!

- IFBB Professional Wheelchair Bodybuilder
 - Champion Wheelchair Ballroom Dancer
 - Professional Speaker
 - Certified Fitness Trainer
 - Published Author
 - Business Entrepreneur

At 16 years old, a near fatal car accident left him paralyzed. Overweight and disparaged, Nick was determined to transform his life. He is now a professional speaker and author who has a remarkable list of accomplishments; being a 2-time world power lifting champion, professional wheelchair bodybuilder, professional wheelchair ballroom dancer, founder of www.Wheelchair-Bodybuilding.com and more! His mission is to instill the "can do" attitude in everyone he meets.

Keynote Closing Speaker



Zach Snow "The Road To Success"

Zachery "Zach" Snow is a nationally recognized BEP vendor. He has successfully operated Zach's Snacks the past 10 years and was recognized as vendor of the year in 2010. He is also the 3-time defending Pioneer and Mentor Award Recipient. Zach is a member of the Randolph Sheppard Vendors of America Board where he serves as the legislative chair. He credits much of his success to the Georgia VR and BEP programs. Zach will offer a client's perspective on what he found most beneficial as he progressed through the VR process and the BEP program.

Update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility

As noted in the GRA Manual of Operations in Section VIII,

"All participants in activities conducted or sponsored by the Georgia Rehabilitation Association or any of its Divisions, including Board meetings, committee meetings, training sessions, Annual Conference activities, and any other events, shall be provided equal opportunities for full participation. Opportunities to take part in GRA general and training sessions shall not be prevented to any individual with a disability because of the necessity to provide accessibility and auxiliary aids and services."

At the February 2014 GRA Board Meeting, the following was approved:

- Any division or local chapter who has a treasury under \$2,000 may request financial assistance from the GRA Board for the purpose of accessibility and/or provision of accommodations during any meeting or training.
- Should the event be intended to raise funds by way of charging a registration or other means, the division or local chapter will re-pay GRA within 30 days from the proceeds of the fundraiser.
- If the event is not intended to be a fundraiser and attendance is free, repayment is not required.
- The local chapter or division must apply four (4) weeks in advance of the event for financial assistance, which should coincide with the deadline for event registration.
- A local chapter or division can make a request one time per quarter, unless otherwise approved by the GRA Executive Committee.
- All divisions and local chapters shall submit a quarterly report to the Accessibility Committee chair reporting the frequency of accommodation requests and how those requests were met.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility will develop a Resource Guide for GRA local chapters and divisions.

For additional information or if you have questions please contact Ed Leysath, Jennifer Howell, Cheryl Braswell, Michell Temple or Paige Tidwell.

CANDIDATE BIOS



Myndi Hoffman—President-Elect

Greetings GRA Members,

My name is Myndi Hoffman and I am running for the 2015 GRA President-Elect position. Since joining GRA in 2008, I have had the opportunity to serve GRA in multiple capacities including: Board Member-At-Large, President of the East Chapter in 2011, Co-Chair of the Program Committee for the 2010 and 2012 Training Conferences, and currently as Secretary.

To briefly introduce myself, I would like to share that I have a Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi and have been serving people with disabilities for a little over a decade. Shortly after moving to Georgia, I discovered the Vocational Rehabilitation field, which ignited a passion for me and changed both my life and career paths. I began working for the state of Georgia's Vocational Rehabilitation Program in 2007, as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and then as a Rehabilitation Unit Manager. Currently I am the Director of Workforce Development for Goodwill of North Georgia, where I continue to have the opportunity to serve people with disabilities by helping them go to work. The vocational rehabilitation field has allowed me to do work that fulfills my personal values of empowering others, as well as advocating for others to have opportunities to obtain successful employment by maximizing their personal strengths and abilities. For this, I am truly grateful. I would appreciate your support in allowing me to continue on in this regard by serving GRA President in 2016.

Thank you!



Angie Rhudy—Vice President-Elect

My name is Angie Rhudy and I am very excited to announce my candidacy for GRA Vice-President Elect (2016)! I have been an active member of NRA/GRA since 2007. Currently, I am a GRA Board Member-at-Large, the President of the Georgia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL), a member of the Conference Registration Committee and an active member of the GRA Highlands Chapter. In the past I have held the positions of GRA Secretary, GRA Board Member-at-Large, and President of the GRA Highlands Chapter.

I have been a State employee for approximately 22 years, the last seven being with Vocational Rehabilitation. I am currently a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor in the LaFayette office. As a CRC, I have gotten to assist many people with disabilities in preparing for, obtaining and engaging in gainful employment. I cannot comprehend a more rewarding profession than helping people become self-sufficient and contributing members of society.

GRA's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. If elected, I will continue to work diligently to ensure that this association continues its quest to provide excellent training, information about current trends, technology and services available, and opportunities to network with rehabilitation professionals and community partners within the state of Georgia. It is a joy and honor to be a part of the GRA family!

I sincerely ask for your support and your vote.

CANDIDATE BIOS



Keita Alston—Secretary

Hello everyone! My name is Keita Alston, and I'm running for the office of GRA Secretary for 2015. It's an honor and a privilege to be nominated for this position.

I'm currently the Rehabilitation Assistant in the Cumming Unit and have been there for the past four years. I have been with GRA since 2012. Since that time, I've taken more of an active role within the or-

ganization. Currently, I'm the treasurer for the NorthEast Chapter. I also serve as committee chairs of both the Newsletter & Website committees for GRA. I'm also co-chair of the registration committee and the Printing & Printed Program Design committees for the this year's conference. I also served as chair of the registration committee for the 2013 GRA Training Conference in St. Simons.

I feel it's important to keep all members informed and updated with the latest news and information. As your secretary, I will do my best to make sure that I uphold the duties of the office while maintaining integrity to this GReAt organization.

Thank you very much and I appreciate your vote and support!



Pam Eaton—Treasurer

Hi! I, Pamela Eaton, have the privilege this year of being nominated for the office of GRA Treasurer-Elect for 2015. This is a three year commitment, which I am proud to offer to GRA.

I have been employed by GVRA as a Rehabilitation Assistant in the Tifton Unit for the past 7 years. I have been active in GRA since 2009.

During the past 5 years, I have held several positions on different levels within the NRA/GRA organizations. In the ARTS of Georgia Divi-

sion, I have held the office of president, board member and will serve as president again for 2015. In our local GRA South Chapter, I have served as a board member.

With the experience I have gained in my position with GVRA and in past employment as accounting clerk working with general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, coding and other financial transactions, I feel I am qualified to fulfill the financial requirements needed in maintaining good fiscal accountability that is necessary for our great organization.

I would like to ask for your vote and support in my endeavor to assist GRA as the 2015 Treasurer Elect.

CANDIDATE BIOS: BOARD MEMBERS AT-LARGE



Jeff Allen

Jeffery Allen is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. He has been a Transition Counselor for Hall County Schools for three years. Jeff is currently serving as a fill in Board Member at large for the Georgia Rehabilitation Association. Jeff also chairs a statewide steering committee whose purpose is to enhance and expand services

for students with disabilities that are enrolled in post secondary institutions.

I am interested in continuing to serve on the board of GRA because I believe in GRA's purpose. I am constantly striving to provide quality services for my clients, and always trying to come up with more efficient ways to provide those services. If I am elected as a Board Member-at-large, I will bring these same practices to this GReAt organization and work with the rest of the board to better GRA and services for people with disabilities throughout the state of Georgia.



Elijah Carter

Born and raised in Appling, GA, son of Ronald and Carleen Carter. Candidate graduated with highest honors from Augusta State University with a BA in Psychology in December of 2009. Candidate enrolled and subsequently received MS in Rehabilitation Counselor Education from Thomas University in September of 2012. Mr. Carter was a client of the GA VR Program, being served out of the Augusta office, under the guidance of Mrs. Terri Bartels for the duration of his academic preparation. Candi-

date has worked in multiple state rehabilitation agencies including Pennsylvania and Georgia, with a year and half of professional experience in delivering services to clients. At present, Mr. Carter is employed as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor for GVRA and has been an active member in GRA and ACA since his tenure as a graduate student.

As an individual, living and working in concert with a physical disability, I believe that all persons, regardless of their limitations or barriers faced in daily life, can achieve self-sufficiency and become productive members of society through competitive employment. If am elected as a Member at Large for GRA, I will embody this can-do attitude and affirmation of human dignity. Furthermore, I will encourage others, personally as well professionally, to focus on the talent, bring out the ability, and work to equip all Georgia's citizens living with disabilities to discover their power and unlock the potential for a more satisfying existence, through obtaining and maintaining employment, engaging in self-advocacy, and enriching their local communities in all they strive to accomplish.

CANDIDATE BIOS: BOARD MEMBERS AT-LARGE



Michael Edwards

My name is Michael Edwards, Rehabilitation Employment Specialist with Region 10, in Thomasville VR Unit. I am seeking office on the Board of Directors for GRA because of my desire to advance the mission and goals of the organization. My personal and professional experience have fashioned my desire to become an advocate and role model for individuals with disabilities. As a disabled U.S Air Force veteran, I understand some of the challenges that individuals with disabilities are faced with when seeking employment opportunities. My personal journey as well as my professional acumen makes me uniquely qualified to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for GRA.

I believe very strongly in serving the communities I represent as evidenced my current role as City Councilman in Boston, GA, former Southwest Georgia Chapter president for NRA, active church member, husband, father, and grandfather. I take all of these roles very seriously and would be honored to continue my service as a member of the GRA Board of Directors.

My experience includes the following: U.S. Air Force veteran, Local Veterans Employment Representative with the Georgia Department of Labor, Program Monitor, Workforce Investment Act and I have a master's degree in Computer Information Technology from Kaplan University. My goal is to add to the wealth of knowledge I have gained by building mechanisms for advocacy and capacity for the people we serve through membership, relationship-building, and leadership. I humbly ask for your support in my endeavor to represent you as a member of the board of directors for GRA.



Joya LeNoir

My name is Joya LeNoir and I am very thrilled to announce my candidacy for GRA Board Member-At Large. 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. For the past two years I have served as the GRA Conference Ads & Exhibitor Chair 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 11 years,

and for the last six years I have been employed with Vocational Rehabilitation. For four years I was the Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) for Region 1 and Region 2 and I am currently a Rehabilitation Job Readiness Specialist in the Gainesville office. I am also work 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. If elected, I will continue to work with GRA Leadership, reach out to community partners and network with rehabilitation professionals for opportunities to work cooperatively to advance the mission of GRA through educations and advocacy.

Thank you for taking the time to read my bio © and I sincerely ask for your support and your vote.

CANDIDATE BIOS: BOARD MEMBERS AT-LARGE



Stephanie Stringer

I'm Stephanie Stringer and I'm running for Board Member at Large. I have worked for GVRA for the past 8 ½ years as a Rehabilitation Employment Specialist (RES), serving GVRA clients in the Hall county area. As a native of Hall County, I have had the privilege of working with many individuals that I've been acquainted with over the years. These contacts have helped me to open doors on behalf of our clients but also to make GVRA a "Go-To" agency. I would like to do this on an

even greater scale with GRA. As a board member, I would like to grow with this organization and utilize the knowledge and insights that I've learned thus far, to develop a greater "brand recognition" of what we as an organization stand for, and our goals for the future.



Doreen Ventus

My name is Doreen Ventus. I am a Vocational Counselor in the Marietta Office, my RUM is Bernadette Amerein. I have two lovely and successful children, Kellian and Nicholas and a doting Husband, Sidney.

My life goal has been to assist people in need. It was a lifelong gift that was passed to me from generation to generation. My mother's family would feed the needy in our neighborhood. There were no questions asked when you saw a homeless man or woman leaving the house with food or cleaned up with a shave and bath.

My goal as a Board member would be ways to share the VR opportunities to all that are in need. To let them know that there are ways to become more than you think you can be, not matter what your disadvantage. I want to make families aware that their love one can improve their knowledge, living, driving and interpersonal s along with becoming a productive citizen in the meantime. There are many people and parents that are unsure of what will happen to a disadvantage family member when the caregiver is not longer able to provide for them. They need to know that GVRA may be able to assist with that issue if giver a chance.

Thanks!

GRA BALLOT

2014 ELECTION



	VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT	
(Check one)	(Check one)	
Myndi-Hoffman	Angie Rhudy	
Name of Candidate	Name of Candidate	
(Write-in)	(Write-in)	
SECRETARY	TREASURER	
Keita Alston	Pam Eaton	
Name of Candidate	Name of Candidate	
BOARD MEM Board Members section of the ballot will be	(Write-in) (BERS-AT-LARGE) invalid unless four (4) names are marked for v	
Board Members section of the ballot will be ed in the Manual of Operations.	BERS-AT-LARGE invalid unless four (4) names are marked for v	
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Emory Autism Center's Monarch Program — Annual School Inclusion Workshop

Teresa Leahey and Inger Neal recently attended the Emory Autism Center's Monarch Program — Annual School Inclusion Workshop on July 10-11 in Atlanta and presented on "Roadmap to Success: Navigating the Vocational Rehabilitation Process" with employment as the ultimate destination toward independence and fulfillment.

The entire workshop provided practical information that educators, families, providers and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) could use to overcome barriers and build for success. Numerous concurrent sessions addressed topics such as self-advocacy, coping skills, medications and ASD, a home environment to increase functional communication skills, video modeling, and education of an Aspie (secondary and post secondary).

Other speakers included John Miller, a teacher, author and individual with Asperger's who shared his unique perspective on ASD. Dr. W. Joe Lewis, an award winning scientist who grew up as a sharecropper's son in south Mississippi inspired attendees with his presentation on "SURGE - Students Using Resources for Growth and Excellence: A Systematic

High School-Based Program for Transitioning "At-Risk" Students to Careers and Meaningful Life Roles. He said that in order to reach extraordinary achievements, you must recognize that you have a purpose, have high expectations and dreams, take ownership in who you are and the circumstances you face – play with the cards you hold, see the world from a positive and enthusiastic perspective, live life for the right reason – people and relationships, not material gain, and sustain endless energy and enthusiasm.



From left to right: Sheila Wagner, M.Ed., Teresa Leahey, CRC, Inger Neal, CRC and Matt Segall, Ph.D..

GAMRC Ethics Roundtable June 6, College Park





GAMRC Ethics Roundtable June 6, College Park







GRA Awards Committee

Please help us honor those deserving recognition with nominations for the following awards:

*The Isaac Max Heller Employer of the Year

*The Service Award

*The Professional Achievement Award

Submission Deadline: COB August 15, 2014

Please mail, scan or email all nominations to:

GRA Awards Chairperson, Lauri Tuten

PO Box 824

Thomson, GA 30824

lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

Work Phone: 404.780.6985

AWARDS DEADLINE <u>AWARDS MUST BE POSTMARKED, EMAILED OR SCANNED BY COB</u> AUGUST 15, 2014

Lauri Tuten, PO Box 824, Thomson, GA 30824 / Phone: 404.780.6985

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 the 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.

GRA Awards Committee

Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship Exciting NEWS!!!

Due to a generous annual donation by the Nancy Crowder Family, GRA will be able to offer two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$1250 each!



\$1250 is waiting on the line for <u>2 DESERVING</u>

<u>STUDENTS</u> with disabilities who have demonstrated academic achievement, advocacy and community involvement. Chapter and Division members can nominate any student for this award.

Submission deadline is August 15, 2014

For more information, contact Lauri Tuten at 404.780.6985 or lauri.tuten@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 15, 2014**:

Lauri Tuten

c/o GVRA/VR Program PO Box 824 Thomson, GA 30824

Lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

Work Pone: 404.780.6985



ENTRY FORM For the NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL Scholarship

Please print or type all responses to the following questions.

Nominee's Name:		S	SSN:	_
I				
Home Address:				
Phone:		Birthdate:		
High School Name & Address:				
	City	State		Zip
Definition of DISABILITY more of the major life act Describe the nominee's disabiletc.):	ivities of an individu	ual		

Discuss how t	he nominee has ove	ercome societal l	barriers related	to his/her disab	ility:
Discuss diffic	ulties nominee has	encountered in v	working to surn	nount his/her dis	sability:
		_			
Education (ple	ease list <u>all</u> institutio	ons attended and	l dates attended	l):	
Explain how r	nominee has overco	me barriers in th	ne educational e	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 q	uestions:

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION LEADERSHIP AWARD

J. ELLIES MORAN OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

Opportunity time! 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 folks who have proven to be leaders in planning and/or implementation; in ethical decision-making; and 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.

I look forward to reading about the nominees!

Please send nominations and three letters of support to Ed Leysath, P.O. Box 7839, Macon, Ga., 31209-7839; fax 478-757-4391; or e-mail ed.leysath@gvra.ga.gov by Thursday, July 31, 2014.

Don't wait until the last minute—send nominations now! Call me at 478-757-4083 with any questions.

2014 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.

2014 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:

Inger Neal, CRC
Attention: GRCEA Award Nominations
243 South Main Street, Suite B
Cleveland, GA 30528
Phone: 706-348-4895

Fax: 706-865-9602 Inger.Neal@gvra.ga.gov

ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA

Service Award 2014 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.



NOMINATION FORM FOR

ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA

SERVICE AWARD 2014

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

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY <u>AUGUST 12, 2014</u>

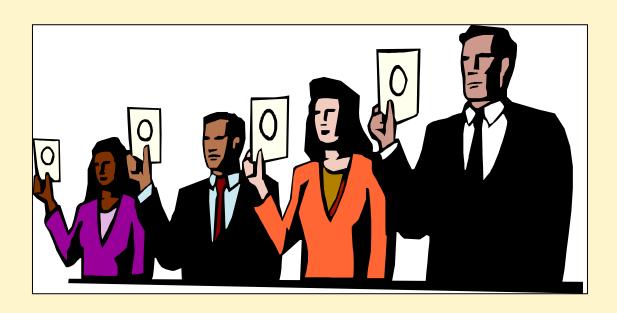
PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
Donna Wright
150 Evelyn C. Neely Dr., GA 30601
Telephone: 706-354-3907

Fax: 706-354-3943 Donna.Wright@gyra.ga.gov

ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA

2014 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.



2014 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 <u>AUGUST 12, 2014</u>

PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
Donna Wright
150 Evelyn C. Neely Dr., GA 30601
Telephone: 706-354-3907
Fax: 706-354-3943

Donna.Wright@gvra.ga.gov

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS — 2014

* Executive Committee

President

* Mike Pryor

mpryor@ging.org

President Elect

* Paige Tidwell

paige.tidwell@gvra.ga.gov

Past President

* Ed James

Ed.james@gvra.ga.gov

Vice President

* Cecelia Hockett

gra2014ch@gmail.com

Vice President Elect

* Lauri Tuten

lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

Secretary

* Myndi Hoffman

mhoffman@ging.org

Treasurer

* Patsy Morris

patsy.morris@gvra.ga.gov

Class of 2015

Brian Spillers

Brian.spillers@woodrightind.com

Mary Ellen Mendiratta

Maryellen@infocusrehab.com

Scott Jackson

Scott.jackson@gvra.ga.gov

Carmella Jennings

Carmella.jennings@gvra.ga.gov

Class of 2016

Raj Pagadala

rajesh.pagadala@gvra.ga.gov

Laura Gall

laura.gall@gvra.ga.gov

Regina Watts

rwatts@albanytech.edu

Lauren Knox

lauren.knox@gvra.ga.gov

Division Presidents

Board Members

Class of 2014

Angie Rhudy

angelia.rhudy@gvra.ga.gov

Frank Krause

FbKrause4@gmail.com

Jeff Allen

jeff.allen@gvra.ga.gov

Inger Neal

Inger.neal@gvra.ga.gov

GAMRC

Michell Temple mtemple@gsu.edu

GARL

Angie Rhudy

(see Board Member info)

ARTS

Jacqueline Brown

Jacqueline.brown@gvra.ga.gov

GRCEA

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Dana.skelton-sanders@gvra.ga.gov

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS — 2014

Local Chapter Presidents

East

Janice Cassidy

Janice.cassidy@gvra.ga.gov

Highlands

William Mitchell

william.mitchell@gvra.ga.gov

Metro

Lutrell Thomas

Lutrell.thomas@gvra.ga.gov

Northeast

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Dana.skeltonsanders@gvra.ga.gov

RWSIR

Cheryl Leidy

Cheryl.leidy@gvra.ga.gov

South

Ken Bennett

kenbenn@yahoo.com

Southwest

Regina Watts

rwatts@albanytech.edu

West

Jason Williams

Jason.williams@gvra.ga.gov

Committee Chairs

Administrative Policy

Ed James

(See Past President info)

Archives

Ann Jones

Ann.jones@gvra.ga.gov

Awards

Lauri Tuten

Lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

Building & Modifications

Ken Hise

Kenneth.hise@gvra.ga.gov

Certification

Paige Tidwell

Paige.tidewell@gvra.ga.gov

Conference

Cecelia Hockett

(See VP info)

Credentials

Julie O'Connor

julie.oconnor@gvra.ga.gov

Education & Advocacy

Myndi Hoffmann, Co-Chair

mhoffmann@ging.org

Jennifer Howell, Co-Chair

jennifer.howell@gvra.ga.gov

Kevin Harris, Co-Chair

kevin.harris@gvra.ga.gov

Finance

Patsy Morris

(See Treasurer Info)

Finance Review

LaDetria King

ladetriaking@yahoo.com

Hospitality

Dana Skelton-Sanders, Co-Chair

(See Northeast Chapter & GRCEA info)

Mary Ellen Mendiratta, Co-Chair

(See Board Member info)

Marketing

Larry Shedd

readil@windstream.net

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS — 2014

Membership

Regina Watts

rwatts@albanytech.edu

Newsletter

Keita Alston

keita.alston@gvra.ga.gov

Nominations

Ed James

(See Past President info)

Strategic Planning

Paige Tidwell

(See President Elect info)

Public Relations

Tom Wilson

Remembrance

LaDetria King

(See Finance Review info)

Resolutions

Frank Krause

(See Board member info)

Scholarships

Lauri Tuten

(See VP Elect Info)

Special Projects

Inger Neal

(See Board Member Info)

Fundraising

Dana Skelton-Sanders, Co-Chair

(See Northeast Chapter & GRCEA info)

Tamie Randall, Co-Chair

tamie.randall@gvra.ga.gov

Website

Keita Alston

(See Newsletter info)

Ex-Officio

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

NRA Board Member At Large

Jennifer Howell

(see Education & Advocacy info)

GRA Rep to SERNRA

Tom Wilson

Tom.wilson@gmail.com

Southeast Region ARTS (National)

Ellen Longino

ellen697@yahoo.com

Cheryl Braswell - President

bonabeth60@gmail.com

Janie Fuller - Board Member

Janie.fuller@gvra.ga.gov

Patsy Morris – Treasurer

Patsy.morris@gvra.ga.gov

NADBS Board

Paige Tidwell—Southeast Rep.

(See President Elect info)

VEWAA Board

Paige Tidwell

(See President Elect info)

NRA Membership Committee

Mary Ellen Mendiratta

(See Board Member Info)

GRA Contact Administrative Assistant

Ellen Longino

(see Southeast Region ARTS (National) info)

GRA CALENDAR—2014

JAN 2014	Thursday, Jan. 9 - Financial Review -10 AM; Executive Board -11:00 AM; Leadership Training—1 -5 PM Friday, Jan. 10 - GRA Board Meeting 9:30 -11:30 AM; Conference Committee—12 -1 PM; Location: Macon, GA Thursday, January 16 — GRA Legislative Event at Georgia Railroad Freight Depot
MAR 2014	Thursday, Mar. 6 – Financial Review - 10 AM; Executive Board - 1 PM; Conference Committee - 3 PM; Location: Tifton, GA Friday, Mar. 7 — GRA Board meeting: 9:30 AM—12 PM Mar. 23 - 25 — 2014 Government Affairs Summit, Alexandria VA Mar. 20 - Apr. 2—SERNRA Conference, Perdito Key, AL
MAY 2014	Thursday, May 8 - Financial Review -10 AM; Executive Board -11:00 AM; Conference Committee: 3 PM Friday, May 9 - GRA Board Meeting 9:30 - noon; Location: Macon, GA
JUL 2014	Thursday, Jul. 10 - Financial Review -10 AM; Executive Board—1 PM; Conference Committee—3 PM Friday, Jul. 11 - GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM -12 PM; Location: Athens, GA
SEPT 2014	Sept. 3-5 - Annual State Training Conference GRA in Savannah ,Georgia, Marriott Riverfront
OCT 2014	DISABILITY AWARNESS MONTH Thursday, Oct. 9 - Financial Review—10 AM; Executive Board -1 PM; Conference Committee—3 PM Friday, Oct. 10 - GRA Board Meeting -9:30—noon; Location: Macon, GA Oct. 30 — Nov. 2—2014 Annual Training Conference in Des Moines, Iowa
DEC 2014	Thursday, Dec. 4 - Financial Review -10 AM; Executive Board -10:30 AM; Leadership Training—1-5 PM Friday, Dec. 5 - GRA Board Meeting 9:30 – 11:30 AM; Conference Committee—Noon—1 PM; Location: Warm Springs, GA

