



The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

#### Summer Edition, May 2019



#### 📕 RA Family,

I can't believe it is May! Time flies when you are having fun!!!! Our conference is going to be amazing! The training this year is going to be fantastic. I am hopeful that you all take advantage of this training in our field. I look forward to seeing you all in Savannah!

Remember, 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, and supporting our field of work! I hope you join GRA to become active and participate in all aspects not just the conference. I can remember in 2005 when I joined NRA/GRA and how excited I was to help make a difference. I encourage you to become active in a local chapter or division, join the conference committee next year or become a part of the board. I have be enriched by this organization and the FAMILY that I have here.

Please encourage your co-workers and friends to join NRA/GRA and become a part of a wonderful family and organization.

Thank you again,

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

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Shawna Lewis (left) and Johnesha Harris (right) were both winners of the 2019 Tom Wilson Takes You to Washington Scholarship. Both attended the NRA Disability Employment Summit held on Mar. 31—Apr. 2 in Washington, DC.

# **Chapter Reports**

## EAST—Tamekia Parker

he chapter met on February 22 and discussed the following topics with a goal of getting motivated to move forward:

- Possibly engaging a speaker from Wells Fargo Bank to discuss banking skills to the unit and organization.
- Creating a "Summer FUN Basket" for high school participants in "Job Club" (no ticket price discussed).
- Basket as a fund raiser for East Chapter (contributions to be accepted). Community donors invited.
- Ten door Prizes for GRA for upcoming August event in Savannah, August 6-9, 2019.
- Possible free membership as an incentive to grow membership.
- Incentivize active participation from members from the Athens, GA location.

Specific meeting date and time not established but expected to be in held mid-April.

# METRO—Lutrell Thomas

etro Board met on March 4 to brainstorm and plan activities and events for the year. Decided on two Lunch and Learns and ethics training later in the year. Topic ideas and potential speakers were also discussed, with the first lunch and learn to tentatively occur in May. Board members selected committees to chair. Metro will support the conference with an ad and other things that GRA is asking that we support.

# NORTHEAST—Joyesha Blake

he Northeast Chapter had a new member who passed away, Jessica Eilen, from the Cumming VR office. She will be remembered at the Remembrance Ceremony at the GRA Conference. Members are looking forward to the conference and have donated multiple door prizes as well as donating items to the GARL Silent Auction. They will also be talking about fundraising opportunities for the conference.

# WEST—Jason Williams

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

# **Division Reports**

# GAMRC: Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns

e are happy to announce the 2019 NAMRC Conference is coming to Atlanta on July 17-20. It will be held at the Hyatt Downtown. They are currently accepting proposals and will be doing ethics and student CRC exam workshops. More details are on NAMRC.org or on social media platforms @NAMRC. We also want to congratulate Johnesha Harris on being a scholarship recipient for Tom Wilson Takes You to Washington to represent NAMRC. We'll also be planning a spring ethics and membership drive, dates to be announced. We'll be working with Ellen Longino to locate new members and reaching out to those individuals we met at our social during the last conference.

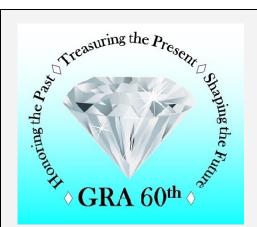
GARL: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

Please plan to donate and purchase items at the 2019 GARL Annual Auction to be held during breaks opening day of the first 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

eita Alston is the winner of the 1st Annual GRCEA scholarship to attend the NRA Disability Employment Summit held in Washington, DC from Mar. 31—Apr. 2. This is the first year the division has sponsored this scholarship. Division President Shirley Robinson attended the summit as well.

Speakers for the pre-conference ethics training include Cece Walker, Latoya Bivins, Paige Tidwell, Johnesha Harris, Shrika Montgomery and Katavia Sloan. The training will be broken into three different sessions throughout the day. GRCEA will continue supporting high school students by asking for donations of school supplies, as well as donations of toiletries for the battered women's shelter in north Georgia.





# 2019 GRA Conference: Aug. 6-9, 2019 Savannah Marriott Riverfront

Please click the links below to access the following forms:

- 2019 GRA Conference Exhibitor Prospectus Form
- 2019 GRA Conference Registration Form
- 2019 GRA Conference Registration Form (for GVRA Employees)
- 2019 GRCEA Preconference Registration Form





# **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
Georgia Rehabilitation Association Personal	
Achievement Award & Counseling Achievement	
Award	July 1, 2019
Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership	
(GARL) Award	July 1, 2019
Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership	
(GARL) Continuing Education Grant	July 1, 2019
Isaac Max Heller Employer of Year Award	July 1, 2019
Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship Award	July 1, 2019
Professional Achievement Award	July 1, 2019
Service Award	July 1, 2019

# **Facilitators Needed**

Please contact Cheryl Meadows Ussery at <u>cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net</u> if you're interested in becoming a facilitator for this year's conference.

# **Education & Advocacy Committee**

This year's 2019 National Rehabilitation Disability Employment Summit was a great success. Eleven people represented Georgia:

- Stephanie Woods
- Paige Tidwell
- Tom Wilson Past NRA President
- Shawna Lewis Tom Wilson Scholarship Winner
- Johnesha Harris Tom Wilson Scholarship Winner
- Jeff Allen President Elect
- Shirley Robinson and Keita Alston Division Scholarship Winners
- Dana Skelton Sanders President
- Cheryl Braswell Education and Advocacy
- Cheryl Ussery Education and Advocacy

There were a total of 95 people registered for the summit. There were a number of speakers and they were outstanding. The "Hill" visits were Tuesday and the Georgia.

Delegations spoke to our Senators and Congress Persons about the issue statements that were discussed on the two previous days of the Summit. The two new attendees who won the Tom Wilson Scholarship were very quick to pick up on what the "Hill" visits were and what they needed to discuss with the Congress Persons. They were both very impressive young ladies.

The Cherry Blossoms were absolutely beautiful.

The Cheryls, Education and Advocacy Chairs

# **Facilitators Needed**

Please contact Cheryl Meadows Ussery at <u>cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net</u> if you're interested in becoming a facilitator for this year's conference.

# **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 <u>cheryl.braswell@gvs.ga.gov</u>.

# **Registration Bags Committee News**

We would like for each chapter to start asking vendors for donations to place in the conference bags. We are expecting about 300 attendees. For more information, please contact Nicky Lamb at <u>nicky.lamb@gvs.ga.gov</u>. The expectation are that each Chapter & Division will need to provide items indigenous to their areas.

The Savannah VR office is happy to assist in this year's conference preparations. If anyone needs to ship or mail items to us for holding until conference time, please contact Candace Mims at 912-356-2226 or <u>Candace.mims@gvs.ga.gov</u>. Please let her know ahead of time what you'll be sending as a courtesy. Thanks!

Savannah VR Office Attn: Candace Mims—GRA Conference 450 Mall Blvd. Suite B. Savannah, GA 31406

# **Registration Committee Volunteers Needed**

Please contact Nicky Lamb at <u>nicky.lamb@gvs.ga.gov</u> if you're interested in becoming a volunteer with the Registration Committee at this year's conference.

# 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 during breaks in the GRA Opening Session 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: <u>info@nationalrehab.org</u> | <u>www.nationalrehab.org</u>

#### 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 Unites 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 processional practices of rehabilitation driven by culturallycompetent, 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 <u>https://</u> <u>www.nationalrehab.org/</u> and click the **Join Us** tab.



Metro GRA Chapter: Lutrell Thomas Retirement Party March 29, 2019 at College Park VR Office

#### Lutrell,

The College Park VR Office wishes you much luck and happiness in your Retirement! 30 Vears

We will miss you!

Love, Your VR Family



















# 2019 NRA Disability Employment Summit March 31—Apr. 2, Washington, DC







# GRAAt Pictures

# 2019 NRA Disability Employment Summit

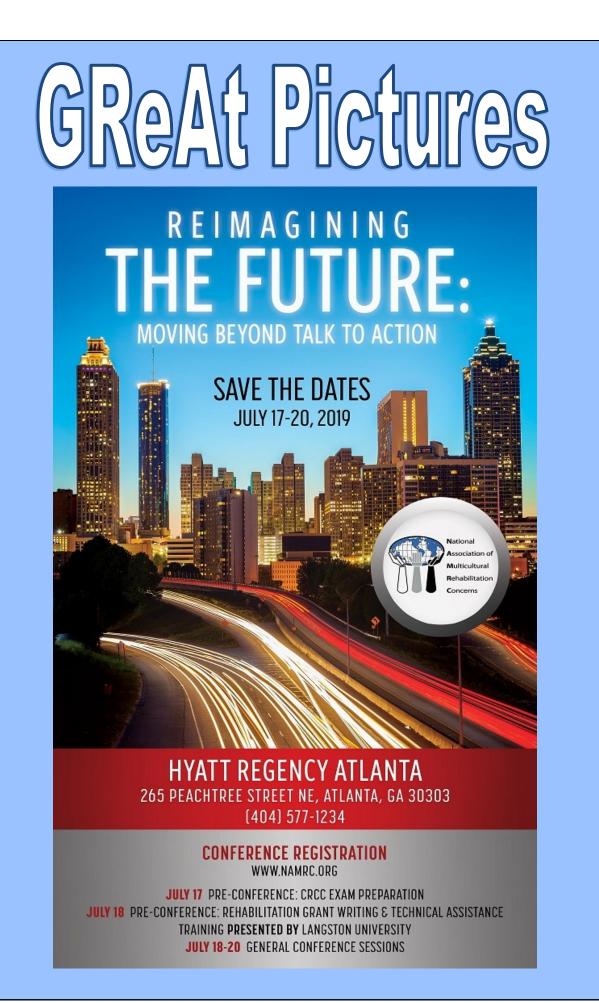


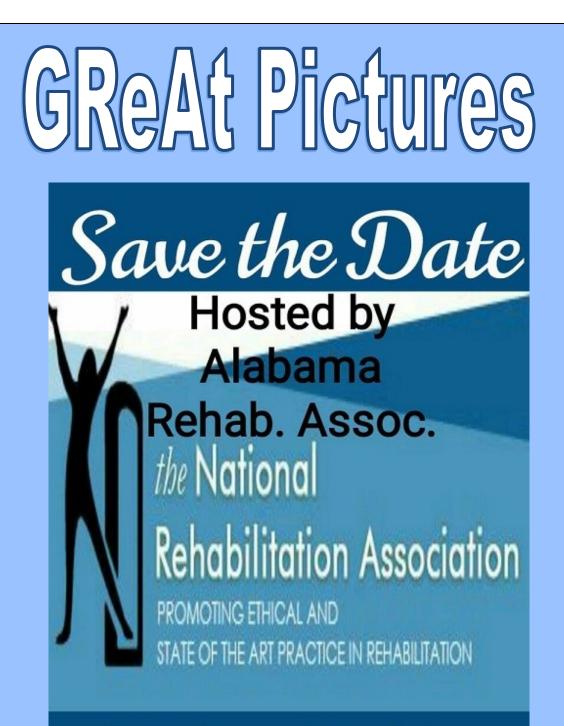






Click <u>HERE</u> to see more pictures from the 2019 NRA Disability Employment Summit.





2020 Annual Training Conference Sept. 9th - 13th, 2020 Birmingham, AL

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

#### \* Denotes Executive Committee Members

#### President

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

President-Elect \* Jeff Allen jeff.allen@gvs.ga.gov

Past President \* Cheryl Braswell 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@vahoo.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 <a href="cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net">cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net</a>

#### **Class of 2020**

LaToya Bivins Latoya.bivins@gvs.ga.gov

Pam Eaton pamela.eaton@gvs.ga.gov

Kathyrn Edger kathryn71488@yahoo.com

Raj Pagadala Raj.pagadala@gvs.ga.gov

#### **Class of 2021**

\* Michael Dorsey mcdorsey@live.com

Cheryl Leidy Cheryl.leidy@gvs.ga.gov

Shawna Lewis Shawna.lewis@gvs.ga.gov

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 Lutrell.thomas@gvs.ga.gov

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 jhowell07@hotmail.com

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 Carmella.Jennings@gvs.ga.gov paige@uga.edu

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

Credentials LaToya Bivins & Katavia Sloan Latoya.bivins@gvs.ga.gov Katavia.sloan@gvs.ga.gov

Education & Advocacy Cheryl Braswell & Cheryl Meadows Ussery Bonabeth60@gmail.com cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net

Finance LaDetria King ladetriaking@yahoo.com

Finance Review Pam Eaton pamela.eaton@gvs.ga.gov

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