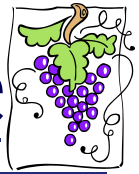


The GRApevine



The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Winter Edition Dec 2013



Greetings GRA members!

I hope everyone is excited for the new year and all the possibilities that it brings. As always this time of year people are making a New Year's resolution to begin anew or refresh an old resolution. The Georgia Rehabilitation Association plans to accomplish all the goals we have this year. I'm so excited to be a part of this amazing group of dedicated professionals that have a focus of enhancing lives of individuals with disabilities. We start this year off with a wonderful event January 16th in our "Legislative Event". We hope to bring more attention to our legislators about the need for funding programs that support individuals with disabilities and barriers. Putting more state dollars in the budget will allow us to draw down more federal dollars to fund programs to assist these individuals. Our next focus for 2014 is to truly increase our GRA membership. We're the largest state chapter in the National Rehabilitation Association. We have maintained our membership numbers but this year we have a goal to grow our membership to 500 strong. GRA plans on having an amazing conference this year in Savannah (Sept. 3-5). We're listening to feedback and are putting together relevant training needed to help serve individuals in our mission focus. A calendar listing 2014 events is located on our website.

Let's make this the best year ever! I want everyone to please join our team and help advocate for individuals with disabilities and make a difference in their lives. I'm so looking forward to serving you and this wonderful group of professionals over this next year. Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns that may come up over this next year.

Sincerely,
Mike Pryor

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Changing of the Guard

GRA President, Ed James (R) hands over the gavel to his successor, Mike Pryor (L) whose term starts in Jan. 2014.

Division Reports

GARL: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

GARL will have a more attractive President for next year: Angie Rhudy; and will have the competent assistance of Jason Williams as Secretary; Ken Hise as Treasurer; and Board members Joy Kniskern, Gigi Taylor, Cathy Manuel and Mary Wareham. We also have as President-Elect Bill Pease and Treasurer-Elect Angeline Ndonyi. Ed values the guidance of Past-President Lauri Tuten throughout this year. We look forward to having our Town Hall meeting and auction at the conference in Savannah!

GAMRC : Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concern

GAMRC hosted an informational session and partnered with the Metro-GRA for the Ethics Symposium .

GRCEA: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

The GRCEA Board is gearing up and preparing for the annual Pre Conference training in Savannah.

We are offering the topic of Ethics for a 3.30 hours of training the day before the conference begins.

GRCEA has nominated our 2013 Counselor of the Year, Inger Neal for the SERNA "Counselor of the Year".

We look forward to being on River Street with GRA in Savannah!

Chapter Reports

EAST—Janice Cassidy

- E**ast Chapter members participated in the following local meetings:
- Board Member meetings were held on Monday, January 14, 2013; Thursday, March 28, 2013 through telephone conference; and Thursday, June 13, 2013; and Thursday, November 7, 2013.
 - Members met at Helms College in Augusta for our June meeting. We received a tour and information re: services and training offered that includes an extensive culinary arts program. Dr. Heather Futral (licensed clinical psychologist) provided training on the new DSM-V and its impact on VR services for people with psychiatric disabilities for the November meeting.

Special Projects included the following:

- Athens continues to assist with the Clothes Closet as a service to people seeking employment who do not have appropriate clothing for interviews and/or work. Donations are accepted, sorted and distributed as needed.
- Augusta has continued support of veterans through solicited donations, letter writing and ongoing food drive.
- The East Chapter will be supporting the High School Job Club Awards Celebration which will be held in May 2014. Job Club has grown from 2 local high schools to 8 local high schools, so this is a way to support participating students in the program.

Fundraising goal of \$500.00 was met from donations received for the following items listed below (with the winners of each item):

- Naughty & Nice Basket - LaDetria King
- Sweet Tooth Basket - Lauri Tuten
- Hodge Podge Basket - Shundra Williams
- (Culbreath's Jeweler's) of a necklace/earrings of genuine, coin pearls - John Crowley
- Half & Half - Michael Sanders
- Laminated fans reflecting favorite college teams

Fundraising goal will remain \$500 for 2014.

Local members elected for state GRA positions are:

- Sharon Brown – Board Member at Large
- Lauri Tuten – Vice President
- Myndi Hoffman – Secretary
- Paige Tidwell – President-Elect

East Chapter gave some financial assistance to members running for positions on the state GRA board to help with the cost of the social at the conference. Assistance was also given to Athens, who hosted the State GVRA Board Meeting in June, to help with the cost of food for the event.

Other local members who serve in leadership roles include:

- Jennifer Howell – NRA Board Member
- Mike Pryor – President - GRA

(Continued on next page)

Chapter Reports

EAST Continued—Janice Cassidy

The Local East Chapter provided the following for the GRA Conference:

- 10 door prizes
- 300 donated items for conference bags
- 100 bottles of water for the candidates social.

Special Project Committee Members worked on the “2013 Campaign for Caring” which consisted of the following:

- Phase I began with the “Wounded Warrior Card Writing Campaign”. Committee members collected get well cards, letters, and drawings for our Recovering Wounded Warriors at Ft. Gordon and Recovering Service Members at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Administration Medical Center. All cards were given to veterans on “Veterans Day, Monday November 11, 2013”.
- Phase II consisted of the “Campaign for Caring Food Drive”. Members collected donated, non-perishable food items for the Golden Harvest Food Bank in Augusta. Golden Harvest Food Bank has been helping feed individuals and families in and around the CSRA since 1982.

METRO—Michelle Temple

Ethics Symposium was held on October 25 at Georgia Piedmont Technical College for 5 CRC ethics credits. Metro partnered with GAMRC to support GAMRC's revitalization efforts.

On December 13, they hosted the Annual Christmas Party and Toy Drive at the Goodwill on Buford Hwy. Thirty-nine toys were collected and donated to Toys for Tots. Additionally, the 50/50 raffle winner was drawn. Kandance, a Georgia State Rehabilitation Counseling major interning at GVRA won \$72.50! Merry Christmas, Kandance!

Also, Metro is proud to report they had the most new NRA/GRA members for 2013! Keep up the good work, Metro Members.

Finally, Lutrell Thomas begins her term as President of the Metro-Atlanta Chapter on January 1, 2014. Elections are underway and results will be announced January 3, 2014.

WEST—Jason Williams

The West GRA Local Chapter ended 2013 by making a \$100.00 donation to the Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities on behalf of two of our members to the Linda Miller Scholarship Fund. To date, the officers and board members for 2014 for our local chapter include:

President – Jason Williams

Treasurer – Dan Matthews

Secretary – Scott Karlen

Board Members at Large: Sherry Deakin and Lisa Hicks

We will have 2 – 3 members to attend the GRA Legislative Reception/Seminar on January 16th and hope to meet with our local legislators at that event.

Chapter Reports

NORTHEAST—Dana Skelton-Sanders

Several promotional events for disability awareness were held by Northeast Chapter during the month of October 2013. The Cleveland office had a disabilities awareness luncheon in conjunction with an employer and a school system. This employer has allowed several students to do supported employment at their location.

Another event was held in Gainesville by that office for disabilities awareness. In October, members participated in the “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” a domestic violence awareness program in Habersham County.

In October 2013, Dana Skelton-Sanders spoke to 147 Georgia Federation of Woman’s Club Members regarding disability awareness and the emphasis of an invisible disability.

In November, members participated in aiding the Circle of Hope –Domestic violence Shelter in Habersham County. Members who are Mary Kay Consultants gave facials to those women residing in the shelter, as well as over 100 toiletry items were donated to the center.

In December, several members donated coats and winter clothing to Goodwill. Goodwill states “When you donate and when you shop, you help us put people to work. That was more than 11,000 people in North Georgia last year!”

RWSIR—Cheryl Leidy

The Roosevelt Warm Springs Chapter had a busy end of 2013. We participated in the Harvest Hoedown Celebration in Warm Springs on October 12 & 13. Our booth featured our Spirit of the Springs Cookbook, and a lollypop tree.

During November we painted salt dough Christmas ornaments to assist in a fundraiser benefiting AT research. Josh Adkins is the brother of our member Megon Steele and has AT (Ataxia-Telangiectasia). Megon and Josh, along with their family, are very involved with the research foundation. Josh himself joined us to paint ornaments. All necessary supplies were donated. Painting provided a great fellowship opportunity for us, and a time when we could share GRA with others, as several volunteers arrived to help us.

In December, the ornaments were displayed and sold in GA Hall. Josh joined us to meet those who purchased his ornaments and to answer any questions about AT. He made quite the impression on our RWS family of students and staff. Josh was happy to report the ornaments sold out in only a few hours. We will help with Josh’s ornaments again in 2014.

2014 has started off with excitement as we plan for one of our favorite events – The Annual Easter Eggstravaganza!

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



GRA Board Meeting

The GRA Board Meeting was held on Dec 6th in the Meadows Room at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute of Rehabilitation.



Ed James, GRA president receives the President's Plaque from President-Elect Mike Pryor.



Ed James receives the President's Pin from Past-President Jennifer Howell.

Northeast Chapter Pictures



“Walk a Mile in Her Shoes”, a mile walk in high heels was held in the awareness of domestic violence in Habersham County. Northeast Chapter members are shown with local Sheriff Dept. officials.



Dana Skelton-Sanders was nominated to the State Rehabilitation Council by Gov. Nathan Deal. She is President of GRCEA and Northeast Chapter of GRA.

Metro Chapter 2013 Christmas Party



GRA Awards Committee

*The GRA 2014 Awards Committee reminds you to be considering
exceptional nominees for all categories of awards for the*

2014 GRA Conference Awards Event

Isaac Max Heller Employer of the Year

GRA Chapter of the Year

GRA Division of the Year

Service Award

Janice Black Spirit Award

Personal Achievement Award

Counseling Achievement Award

Professional Achievement

*For further information contact Lauri Tuten, Awards Chair at 706.597.8575
or Inger Neal at 706.348.4882*

lauri.tuten@gvra.ga.gov

inger.neal@gvra.ga.gov



NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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

For further information contact Lauri Tuten, at
706.597.8575 or lauri.tuten@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

Board Members

Class of 2014

Angie Rhudy

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Frank Krause

FbKrause4@gmail.com

Jeff Allen

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Inger Neal

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Class of 2015

Brian Spillers

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Mary Ellen Mendiratta

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Scott Jackson

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Carmella Jennings

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Class of 2016

Raj Pagadala

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Laura Gall

laura.gall@gvra.ga.gov

Regina Watts

rwatts@albanytech.edu

Vacant Board Member

Division Presidents

GAMRC

Michell Temple

mtemple@gsu.edu

GARL

Angie Rhudy

(see Board Member info)

ARTS

?

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.tidwell@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

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