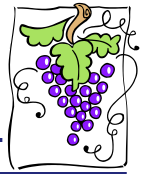




The GRApevine



The Georgia Rehabilitation Association Newsletter

Winter Edition, December 2017



Final greetings fellow GRA members!

It is with great honor that I have served you all in 2017. While my appointment was unexpected, I jumped in eagerly to carry GRA through the remainder of the year. I think we finished with a great group of active members ready to take on 2018!

I do want to commend Dana and the Conference Committee for all of their hard work. The conference was a great success and received excellent feedback. It is not an easy role and she carried us through with grace and determination.

As we move into 2018, I challenge all of you to focus on Special Projects and getting more involved in your communities. GRA members should be the driving force to establish and strengthen their presence so that more individuals can benefit from our advocacy and drive to assist. I know some Chapters and Divisions are already doing an excellent job of this but we can all do more.

We are all aware that "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" please don't forget this as we roll into 2018.

Best wishes and continued success in 2018 to you all.

Jennifer Howell
2017 GRA President

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GRA Member Paige Tidwell (left) presenting Wyman Poole (right) with the Eddie Carter Legacy Award.

Division Reports

GARL: Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

Congratulations to Dana Skelton-Sanders for receiving the 2017 GARL Continuing Education Grant! Dana will utilize the \$250 stipend to attend the SERNRA Training Conference this year. Thanks to everyone for supporting the GARL 2017 Auction. We raised over \$700 and a special thank you to the Northeast Chapter, Keita Alston, Jennifer Howell, Cheryl Ussery, Ellen Longino, Cheryl Braswell, Angie Rhudy, Cheryl Leidy and Gigi Taylor for their support.

2018 GARL Officers are:

President - Jason Williams

Treasurer/Secretary - Virginia "Gigi" Taylor

Board Members - Raj Pagadala and Tamika Wright

GAMRC: Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns

GAMRC continues to perform duties consistent with its mission to promote education and advocacy in issues of multicultural rehabilitation concerns. We had our most recent meeting on September 7, 2017. GAMRC was excited to be represented among the presenters slate at GRA 2017, special recognition to Johnesha Harris and Shrika Montgomery for presenting. GAMRC collected \$181 as a fundraiser during GRA and that money will be donated to a charity assisting with Hurricane relief efforts. GAMRC will have elections this Fall and will soon introduce a new slate of officers.

GRCEA: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

We had a successful preconference at the GRA Annual Conference. GRCEA made \$3,240 from the preconference that was transferred into our account. We also elected a slate of 2018 officers. President – Shirley Robinson, Vice President – Jennifer Page, Secretary/Treasurer – Keita Alston, Board Members, Ken Bennett & Dru Fentem. GRCEA look forward to increase our membership numbers and have a good year in 2018!

Chapter Reports

NORTHEAST—Jeff Allen

Northeast Chapter was not able to hold a meeting again this quarter due to scheduling conflicts. We did provide door prizes and items for the conference bags for the 2017 GRA Annual Conference. We also held a fundraiser at the conference and raised \$20. The 2018 officers are: President—Keita Alston, Vice-President—Dana Skelton-Sanders & Secretary/Treasurer—Joya LeNoir.

HIGHLANDS—Ashia Walker

The Highlands Chapter elected officers for 2018. Officers are President—Ashia Walker, Vice President—LaToya Bivins, Secretary—Scott Jackson & Treasurer—Matt Henderson.

WEST—Jason Williams

The West GRA Local Chapter was well represented at the 2017 GRA Training Conference as over a dozen members attended. We purchased an advertisement in the training conference program book and hope to provide some free training this year for our members.

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

WARM SPRINGS—Cheryl Leidy

RWS Chapter is holding its annual Christmas With Santa on Dec. 22. Santa will talk to the children from the special education classes at Mountain View Elementary, and give out presents and stockings. Then the students will sing for Santa and decorate cookies.

Our Chapter is currently looking for a new outreach project with which to get involved. We plan to collect school supplies for the 2018-2019 school year.

Our officers will remain the same for next year: President—Cheryl Leidy, Vice-President—Brian Dailley, Secretary—Vacant (Cheryl Leidy covering) & Treasurer—Regina Weidler.

Metro—Margaret Johnson

Metro is now finalizing plans for the close of the year. The Metro GRA Chapter's Ethics Symposium will be held on November 3, 2017 at Goodwill located at 2201 Lawrenceville Hwy, Decatur, GA. 30033. Dr. Jeff Ashby, Director of Georgia State University's Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program will be the Trainer. 6 CEU's will be available.

Membership will be asked to nominate candidates for the 2018 Board.

SOUTH—Nicky Lamb

South Chapter has elected officers for 2018. They are: President – Nicky Lamb, Vice President – Sally Willis & Secretary/Treasurer – Pam Eaton. The South Chapter also did a special project (see page 9 for info).

GRA Committee News

Education & Advocacy News

The Government Affairs Summit will be in Alexandria, Virginia/Washington D. C. in March of 2018. The summit begins on Sunday, March 25th and ends Tuesday, March 27th with visits to the Hill. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our government, how it works and to advocate for people with disabilities. If you have any interest in attending, please contact Cheryl Meadows Ussery at Cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net or 912-270-1683.

The Tom Wilson "Takes you to Washington" scholarship program provides financial assistance to GRA members that can be used for travel and/or accommodations to participate in the National Rehabilitation Association Annual Governmental Affairs Summit. This year, the dates of the event are March 25-27, 2018.

Scholarship recipients are typically first-time attendees of the event or individuals who have shown an extraordinary interest in GRA's advocacy initiatives throughout the past year. All recipients are expected to attend "Hill Day" to meet with federal legislators.

Today, it is more important than ever for agents to be engaged in the legislative and political process. With so many new Members of the 115th Congress, it will be critical for our delegates to meet with and educate these Members on important disability related issues.

The GRA Education & Advocacy committee asks that members interested in attending the Summit, submit a 250-300 word essay describing how they believe they can increase GRA's advocacy efforts on the National and Local levels by attendance.

Please include your name, home address, phone number and e-mail when submitting your essay. You can send them by e-mail to Cheryl Meadows Ussery at cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net.

The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on February 17, 2018.

Membership Committee News

Congratulations to Nicky Lamb for receiving the Janice Black Spirit Award! The Membership Committee hosted over 20 new GRA Members at the GRA Training Conference this year. A special welcome to all new members and thank you for choosing to join your professional association. Also, a special thank you to Tom Wilson, Dana Skelton-Sanders, Jennifer Howell, Ellen Longino and Cheryl Braswell for providing great training at the New Member Welcome.

Thanks also to GRCEA for sponsoring lunch and to Cheryl Ussery for assistance in arranging this event at the Hotel as well as to Ellen and Keita Alston for their work in updating the GRA Membership List.



The National Rehabilitation Association

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

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

Why Membership in NRA?

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

Historical Context

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

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

Mission

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

Vision and Values

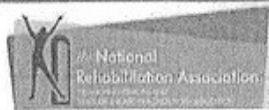
The NRA is committed to advancing the professional practices of rehabilitation driven by culturally-competent, ethical, evidence-based and accountable practices so that individuals with disabilities would be regarded and valued as full members of our society. These individuals deserve equal access, expression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

Please see the membership application that follows to join today!

Join Today

Get Connected

Get Involved



Membership Application

Promoting Ethical and State of the Art Practice in Rehabilitation

Membership at the National Level is required for Divisional Memberships.

Section 1 – Contact Information












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

Section 2 – NRA National Membership Categories

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

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

Section 3 – NRA Divisional Memberships (optional membership)

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

Join Today

Get Connected

Get Involved

Organizational Members ONLY

If you are applying for **ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**, please complete the below.

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

Section 5 – NRA Member Fee Summary

Fees Summary

Summarize your membership fees.

NRA Fee	
Division Fee Total	
Total Fees	

Section 6 – Payment Information

Payment Information

1. Credit Card – Complete the credit card section below:

Card Type:

- ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Card Number (enter below)

Exp. Date:

Total Amount to Charge:

Authorized Signature:

2. Provide name, phone, and email address of the contact person for this charge (if different than individual applying for membership):

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Billing Address (if different than above)

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

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

Authorized Signature:

Date:

Membership Policies

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

Mailing Information:

National Rehabilitation Association
Attention: Membership Department

PO Box 150235 | Alexandria, VA 22315

Phone: 703-836-0850

Fax: 703-836-0848

Email: info@nationalrehab.org

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

GReAt Pictures

South GRA Chapter Special Project



GRA officers Pam Eaton, Cheryl Braswell & Nicky Lamb of the South GRA Chapter presented Chance Veazey (seated) with a \$500 contribution from GRA. Chance was involved in an accident in 2009. He has a T8/9 spinal injury from an accident involving a scooter and car. He finished school after his accident and is now starting his own business. He is buying his first home that will need modifications for his bathroom and his ramp.

2017 GRA Conference





For more 2017 GRA Conference pictures, please click [HERE](#).

For pictures from the 2016 GRA Conference, please click [HERE](#).

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2017 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

* Executive Committee

President

* Jennifer Howell

jennifer.howell@gvs.ga.gov

President Elect

* Cheryl Braswell

Cheryl.braswell@gvs.ga.gov

Past President

* Myndi Kuhlmann

mhoffman@ging.org

Vice President

* Dana Skelton-Sanders

Dana.skelton-sanders@gvs.ga.gov

danapssanders@gmail.com

Vice President Elect

* Jeff Allen

jeff.allen@gvs.ga.gov

Secretary

* Keita Alston

Keita.alston@gvs.ga.gov

Treasurer

* Pam Eaton

Pamela.eaton@gvs.ga.gov

Treasurer-Elect

* LaDetria King

ladetriaking@yahoo.com

Board Members

Class of 2017

Raj Pagadala

Raj.pagadala@gvs.ga.gov

Angie Rhudy

ARhudy@Unum.com

Dawn Viljoen

cdawn.viljoen@gmail.com

Kathryn Edger

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Class of 2018

Lutrell Thomas

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* Cecelia Walker

Cecelia.hockett@gvs.ga.gov

Ruby Kaspers

Ruby.kaspers@gvs.ga.gov

Michael Dorsey

mcdorsey@live.com

Class of 2019

* Janie Fuller

jdpfuller@yahoo.com

Frank Krause

fbkrause4@gmail.com

Catherine Phillips

Catherine.phillips@gvs.ga.gov

* Cheryl Meadows Ussery

cheryl@sharecoastalga.comcastbiz.net

Division Presidents

GAMRC

Katavia Sloan

gamrc4u@gmail.com

GARL

Jason Williams

Jason.williams@gvs.ga.gov

ARTS

Patsy Morris

Pgmorris1954@outlook.com

GRCEA

Inger Neal

Inger.neal@gvs.ga.gov

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2017 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Local Chapter Presidents

East

Kerry Tracey
ktracey@ging.org

Highlands

Ashia Walker
awalker@ging.org

Metro

Margaret Johnson
mjohnson@ging.org

Northeast

Jeff Allen

RWSIR

Cheryl Leidy
Cheryl.leidy@gvs.ga.gov

South

Nicky Lamb
Nicky.lamb@gvs.ga.gov

West

Jason Williams

Committee Chairs

Accessibility Ad-hoc

Michell Temple
mtemple@gsu.edu

Administrative Policy

Jennifer Howell

Archives

Ruby Kaspers

Awards & Scholarships

Shelley Kraft
Shelley.kraft@gvs.ga.gov

Building & Modifications

Paige Tidwell
paige@uga.edu

Certification (CEUs)

Cece Walker

Conference

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Credentials

Katavia Sloan & Sondra Hudson
Katavia.Sloan@gvs.ga.gov
Sondra.hudson@gvs.ga.gov

Education & Advocacy

Jeff Allen

Finance

Pam Eaton

Finance Review

Patsy Morris

Fundraising

Ashia Walker

Hospitality

Tamika Wright

Marketing/PR

Kathryn Edger

Membership

Jason Williams

Newsletter

Keita Alston & Ruby Kaspers

Nominations

Myndi Kuhlmann

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

2017 BOARD MEMBERS, CHAPTER & DIVISION PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Remembrance

LaDetria King

Resolutions

Tom Wilson

Special Projects

Jeff Allen

Strategic Planning

Cheryl Braswell

Training Ad-hoc

Cece Walker & Mary Ellen Mendiratta

Cecelia.hockett@gvs.ga.gov

Maryellen.mendiratta@gvs.ga.gov

Website

Keita Alston & Ruby Kaspers

Ex-Officio

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

NRA

VACANT

GRA Rep to SERNRA

Dana Skelton-Sanders

Southeast Region ARTS Board

Cheryl Braswell

Janie Fuller

Ellen Longino

ellen697@yahoo.com

Patsy Morris

NADBS Board

Paige Tidwell—Southeast Rep.

VEWAA Board

Paige Tidwell

SERCEA

Dana Skelton-Sanders

SERCEA Board Member at Large-Southeast

Dru Fentem

dru.fentem@gvs.ga.gov

NAMRC Board Member

Michell Temple

GRA Contact Administrative Assistant

Ellen Longino

2018 GRA CALENDAR

MAR 2018	<p>Mar. 8: Financial Review 10 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Mar. 9: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p>
APR 2018	<p>Apr. 1-4: 2018 Rehabilitation Association Annual Governmental Affairs Summit @ Hilton, Old Town Alexandria, VA</p> <p>Apr. 20: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
MAY 2018	<p>May 17: Financial Review 10 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>May 18: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p>
JUL 2018	<p>Jul. 12: Financial Review 10 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Jul. 13: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p> <p>Jul. 20: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p>
AUG 2018	<p>Aug. 7-10: GRA Annual State Training Conference Savannah Marriott Riverfront</p>
OCT 2018	<p>Oct. 11: Financial Review 10 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Conference 2 PM</p> <p>Oct. 12: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: Macon VR Office</i></p> <p>Oct. 22: Required QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION due to Administrative Assistant from all Chapters and Divisions</p> <p>2018 NRA Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK</p>
DEC 2018	<p>Dec. 6: Financial Review 10 AM; Executive Board 11 AM; Leadership Training 12 PM—5 PM</p> <p>Dec. 7: GRA Board Meeting 9:30 AM-12 PM</p> <p><i>Location: TBD</i></p>



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

