



July 2011 GRA Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- 2011 GRA Annual Training Event
- 2011 GRA Annual Awards & Scholarships
- Meet the 2012 GRA Officer Candidates
- 2011 Keynote Speaker—Scott Rigsby

Annual Training Edition

Message From the President, Larry Shedd

On behalf of the GRA Board of Directors and Conference committee, I extend a warm welcome to each of you as we get ready to attend our annual Conference, on beautiful St. Simons and Sea Palms hotel August 30 – September 2, 2011!

For ALL GRA members, my hat is in my hand, and my hand is over my heart, to say THANK you for who you are and who you are to become because of your presence in this GREAt organization. I support you and your efforts, and I want to encourage you to not give up your cause for which you work,

professionally and for GRA. Many thanks to Frank Krause, co-chair Cheryl Ussery, Cheryl Williamson and the Conference Committee. **They have put together a GREAt Conference!** We will train, get certifications, and fellowship that will strengthen us as a private, professional organization for years to come. We anticipate a full house of GRA members, exhibitors, and partners! Please be safe in your coming to and leaving the GRA Conference, and look forward to a time of relaxation and training that will benefit us all.

I was reminded again this



July 4th, 2011, of the sacrifices that have been made by the men and women of this country and especially by the people of the Great State of Georgia. GRA is grateful for their sacrifice.

(Con't on Page 5)

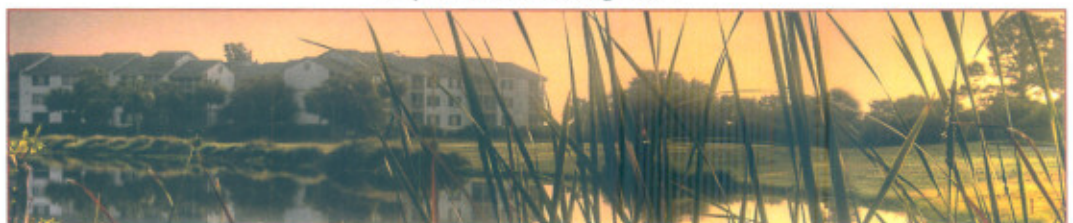
Waves of Change—Tides of Growth 2011 GRA Annual Training, Sea Palms, St. Simon's Island, GA

Come Experience Waves of Change & Tides of Growth at our 2011 GRA Annual Training Event in St. Simon's Island, Georgia. www.seapalms.com

This is the perfect time to be renewed, receive excellent training and experience inspiration so we can continue to serve Georgian's with the energy and professionalism they deserve. See Page 8 for

registration and reservation information.

See you on the Island!!



News From GRCEA, Jason Williams, President

"Professional Ethics for the Rehabilitation Professional" presented by Dr. Lee Ann Rawlins from The University of Tennessee. - August 30th

GRCEA will once again offer our annual training on Tuesday, August 30th at Sea Palms prior to the GRA Training Event. (See page 9 of this newsletter for registration information.) This training will be "Professional Ethics for the Rehabilitation Professional" presented by Dr. Lee Ann Rawlins from The University of Tennessee. CRC/CEU hours will be offered so please complete and return the registration

form in this newsletter (see page 9) as we expect a large turnout for this event given the positive response from the training Dr. Rawlins presented last year. We also plan to hold one or two fundraisers at the GRA Training Event as well so please stop by to visit our table to help us out or to learn more about our division. More information about these fundraisers will be included in our advertise-

ment in the program book at the Training Event. I would also encourage everyone to consider nominating a fellow co-worker or colleague for one of our awards we plan to present at the training. More information on these awards may be found in this newsletter.

East Chapter, Carmella Jennings, Chapter President

The GRA East Georgia Subchapter Meeting was held at the Columbia County Library on Thursday, June 23rd. Dr. Kevin

Turner, Licensed Clinical Psychologist was our guest speaker, topic of discussion, "Understanding the Psychological Evaluation Report". CRC credits were offered for this training. During the business

portion of the meeting, the following committees selected themes for their baskets:

- Special Projects - "Georgia Basket"
- Fundraising Committee - "Sweet Tooth Basket"
- Membership Committee - "Florida Basket"
- Communication Committee - "Naughty but Nice Basket"

These baskets will be raffled

off at the GRA Annual Conference as a part of our chapters Fundraising Campaign for 2011. The Education and Advocacy Committee continues to work on a theme for their basket.

The East Chapter is excited to report that a motion was made and approved at the June 23rd meeting to have a Legislative Breakfast in Athens (Early Fall 2011). Members are looking forward to this important event.

The East Chapter's Special Projects Committee is also excited to report the success of the 2011 Wounded Warriors Card Writing Campaign. The committee received get well cards, drawings, and letters, from all over the state, specifically from churches and daycare centers (even a daycare center and church in South Carolina

helped out with this worthy campaign). The goal was for the recovering service members and wounded warriors to have these items before the July 4th Holiday. Committee members delivered get well cards, drawings, and letters on June 28th to the Recovering Wounded Warriors at Fort Gordon, Recovering Service Members at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, and the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home. The committee sincerely appreciates the efforts of everyone over the state that got involved in this important project. Again, it was extremely successful.

*Our next East Chapter meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2011 at the GRA Annual Conference at St. Simons Island (Time and Location TBA).

The East Chapter is excited to report that a motion was made and approved at the June 23rd meeting to have a Legislative Breakfast in Athens (Early Fall 2011).

News From Highlands Chapter, Hope Welch, Chapter President

On June 2, 2011, the GRA Highlands Chapter donated approximately 50 new children's books to Kids 4 Christ. Kids 4 Christ is an independent non-profit organization supported by churches and individuals from all over Northwest Georgia. K4C is dedicated to making a positive impact on LaFayette by bringing hope to the community's at-risk children and their families.

The GRA Highlands Chapter met on May 20, 2011 with 8 members present. Discussion included ways the Chapter could support Angie

Rhudy in her campaign for GRA Board Member-At-Large. Upcoming fundraising events planned are an Ethics Training in the fall, and a 5K Run/Walk at this year's conference. (See Page 4 for registration.) A Chapter logo was designed for use on new polo shirts for members to purchase and wear to events. The previous Chapter secretary resigned her office therefore Gwen Raines was appointed to fulfill the term. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5th in the Dalton VR office at 10:30 am.



L to R: Steve Cole, Gwen Raines, Hope Welch, Ed James, Marcie Floyd, Tamika Wright, and Angie Rhudy

Southwest Chapter, Matthew Barnes, Chapter President

SWGRA CHAPTER MEETINGS AND TRAINING (TENTATIVE DATES):

- JUNE 17TH, 2011
- SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2011
- DECEMBER 16TH, 2011

The SWGRA has also planned on participating on two fund raising activities:

50/50 drawing - picked the winning ticket during the last day of the GRA Training Conference - 9/2/11

SWGRA Christmas Auction
 APRIL 1ST - JUNE 30TH 2011 -
 During the SWGRA chapter meeting we voted to sponsor/give \$47.00 to Cairo high school for a plaque presented on hon-

ors night.
 The SWGRA is planning on having a 50/50 raffle that will be drawn on 9/2/11 - (last day of the GRA Training Conference. We will be selling tickets at the GRA conference - ONE TICKET - \$2.00 3 TICKETS - \$5.00 7 TICKETS - \$10.00

50/50 drawing - we will pick the winning ticket during the last day of the GRA Training Conference - 9/2/11

News From RWSIR, Rosanna Borders, Chapter President

RWSIR Chapter members have been busy preparing for the upcoming GRA Training Event in August. We have some great door prizes for the conference and we are still gathering items to be placed in the GRA Training Bags. We would like to extend a special

'thank you' to Corley Drugs in Manchester, GA for donating bottled water for our conference bags and for their assistance with door prizes.
 RWSIR Chapter sponsored a Books Are Fun Book Fair on Friday, June 17th in Georgia Hall Lobby. This event is a fundraiser for

our Chapter and these funds have been designated for the Wounded Warrior Project. A second book fair has been scheduled for November 2011. Also, we will be collecting change across campus for the Wounded Warrior Project. Collection jars will be placed strategically across campus to encourage participation.



The GRA Highlands Chapter will be hosting a 5K run/walk (a little over 3 miles) during the conference this year! The event is scheduled for Wednesday, August 31st at 8:00 am. It will begin at the Sea Palms Conference Center, and end at the same location. We encourage all GRA members and adult guests to come out and enjoy the fun, fitness, and camaraderie of what we hope will be an annual event. This run/walk is for everyone – from leisurely walkers and joggers to competitive runners! The top 3 time finishers will receive awards.

To register, complete and submit the form printed below, along with payment. Registration cost includes a commemorative GRA 5K Walk/Run t-shirt. The registration fees are:

\$20 per person through July 29th.

(Any registrations received after this date will be given size L t-shirts)

\$25 per person on day of race.

Checks should be made payable to GRA Highlands Chapter. We will not be able to accept debit/credit cards.

Please come out and join us! Sign up today!!

GRA Highlands Chapter 5K Run/Walk 2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

T-Shirt Size (all adult sizes):

____ Small ____ Medium ____ Large ____ XL ____ 2XL ____ 3XL

Note: Any registrations received after July 29, 2011, will be given size L t-shirts



Message From The President, Con't from Cover

So, we are again supporting the Georgia Wounded Warriors Project at Conference through a "Pocket Change for WWP" collection in all Regions of the State, as well as offices and hubs of our VR program, facilities and private entities. They are our heroes. We will bring these collections to St. Simons to present to a representative of the Georgia Wounded Warrior Project. Designated persons will receive the monies and tally them at Conference for WWP.

And I thought of you. You make tremendous sacrifices serving in your profession every day, and maybe without any recognition, award or reward. You may not want recognition. You, who are on the front lines of serving people with disabilities, working with them in the public, private or facility sector, **are heroes to us all.** Many of you have personally "saved" the lives of individuals from destruction and de-

spair by your presence in their lives. Daily you go about your profession, working for things to get better in all areas where are. **THANK YOU!**

GRA binds people together for service through education and advocacy, never self-serving or self-centered in that service. We

have the power to serve because we search out to do the right thing. We had the honor of partnering with DOL Commissioner Mark Butler (he will speak at our conference), Legislative Representative Michael Harden, Tommy Smith, and other State Representatives in our March Legislative Forum in Atlanta. We made real strides because of that effort. We personally know and have a good relationship with, Lynnae Rutledge, RSA Commissioner. She will speak at our

"GRA binds people together for service through education and advocacy"

We visited Congress in Washington and gave our message of hope for things to come for NRA/GRA to our Congress Conference and continually support our ef-

forts in Georgia for persons with disabilities. We have been to SERNRA in Mississippi, and we will

go to Utah in October for our NRA conference. The groundwork is being laid for growth and what I believe we can become. My Strategic Agenda is fitting into place.

We are still number one in the Nation as a Sub-chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association. But, we still have room to grow!

GRA, we are at the End of where we Were, the Beginning of where we Are and What we are to Become! So, be encouraged! Ask prospective members to come home to where they belong and grow with us!

Come home, to GRA!

South Chapter, Kay Morris, President

South Chapter is sponsoring a one-day training workshop on October 13, 2011. It is currently planned for the Valdosta VR office; (GDOL Career Center). However, the location may be changed to a more centrally located venue; watch for details as plans are finalized.



South Chapter is sponsoring a one-day training workshop on October 13, 2011.

Constitution & Bylaws IMPORTANT NOTICE

The GRA Board has made a motion that through Constitutional Amendment the Ad-Hoc Marketing Committee be made a permanent standing committee.

This motion will be voted on during the annual GRA Business meeting at the GRA Training Event in St. Simons.

The business meeting is to be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2011.

GARL, Joy Kniskern, President

GARL has had a productive year. We have recruited new members, sponsored a successful Ethics and Leadership webinar in May as a way to generate funds for GARL scholarships, announced the 2011 GARL scholarship application featured in this newsletter and worked on leadership events to take place at the GRA Annual Conference. **Ms. Annette McCauley, Interim Direc-**

tor of Rehabilitation Services will be our featured speaker for the GARL Town Hall meeting. She will share important updates about Rehabilitation Services and a vision of how the vocational rehabilitation program is evolving to increase employment outcomes of clientele. One of GARL's annual activities is to award a deserving rehabilitation leader the J. Ellies Moran Leadership

Award and we are actively encouraging members to nominate a deserving professional for consideration no later than August 15, 2011. GARL is working to bring conference participants an incredible auction hosted again by Mr. Wyman Poole!

See page 11 of this newsletter for more information on our 2011 GARL Auction.



Make Plans to Attend the GARL Auction on Thursday, September 1st @ Sea Palms!

"Look For our 50/50 Fundraiser @ the 2011 Annual Training—You may be the big winner!!"

West Chapter, Sherri Kirby, President

Recent resignations of our secretary and treasurer prompted the following appointments by Sherri Kirby, Chapter president.

Acting Secretary: Linda Fisher

Acting Treasurer: Dan Matthews

Fundraising Chair: Jason Williams

Our chapter is currently making plans for a general meeting in August and a region 4 fundraiser/training sponsorship.

We also have plans to participate in the Conference social, goody bags, door prizes, ads and donations. We also plan a 50/50 fundraiser for the Conference.

Northeast Chapter, Dana Skelton-Sanders

NorthEast Chapter has accepted the challenge from our State President, Larry Shedd - to create a change jar for the wounded Warrior Project, and we are actively collecting funding in our office for the project.

NOW, we have **FOUR**

new GRA members thus far and are actively working toward our challenge to sign 7 in 2011.

Our chapter and legislators are beginning to work on a legislative event for October 2011 for our NorthEast area.

Plans and Preparations

have been made for our annual Car Show October 8, 2011, at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Cleveland, Ga. From 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm, proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior project in conjunction with collaborative partners in the community.

"...our annual Car Show October 8, 2011, at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Cleveland, Ga. "

Annual Training Edition

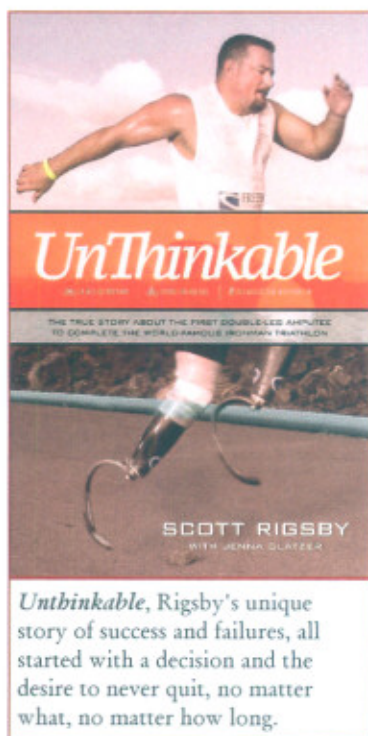

**News From the Family,
Joe Siman, 2009 Past President**

The 2011 GRA Training Event "Waves of Change- Tides of Growth" is drawing closer and I can almost hear the waves on the beach on St. Simons Island. Much has taken place since our last GRA Training Event. GRA President Larry Shedd and Vice-President Frank Krause and all the Committee Members have worked extremely hard to make this a great learning experience. Our new DOL Commissioner, Mr. Mark Butler, will be our closing speaker and we are all anxious to hear what Mr. Butler has to share about the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Great Break-out sessions are planned for all VR Staff. There will be a number of our Vendors to showcase their new products and technology. There will also be time for leisure after hours with The GARL Auction which is always a highlight and provides a good time for all, plus plenty of great deals, there is also the Candidates Social and the Presidents' Reception. The closing day we will have the Remembrance Service for our GRA Family Members who have passed away in the last year and also our Awards Ceremony. So in closing "Come one, come all" to the 2011 GRA Training Event at St. Simons Island, it will be fantastic.



Do The Unthinkable

Frank Krause, GRA Training Event Co-Chair



Unthinkable, Rigsby's unique story of success and failures, all started with a decision and the desire to never quit, no matter what, no matter how long.

As mentioned above, our GRA Annual Training at St. Simons Island, GA is coming up on August 31 – September 2, 2011.

You will not want to miss the hearing the great slate of speakers we have lined up for you and the informational training sessions. *We look forward to seeing you in St. Simons.*

One of our keynote speakers will be Scott Rigsby and he will deliver an inspirational message --"Do the Unthinkable"

He was an 18 year old kid on a hot summer day just prior to his first college semester, riding in the back of a

pickup truck in rural Georgia with friends after a hard day of landscaping work. They were talking sports, girls and plans for the weekend, when suddenly the truck is hit by a passing 18-wheeler, throwing him underneath a 3-ton attached trailer and dragging him 300 feet. His back suffered third degree burns, his right leg was severed off and his left leg hung barely intact.

"Do the Unthinkable" is the inspirational message that Scott Rigsby has shared with over 10,000 people about how he turned his life around, reaching unprecedented heights as a world-class athlete. *Doing the un-*

thinkable is not easy. It requires an unshakeable determination to overcome any obstacle. Rigsby embraced this motto when he decided in 2005 to change his life, and the world, by breaking down barriers for physically challenged athletes. He is on a mission fueled by a prayer that if God would open a door for him, then he would go through it.

Come to the 2011 GRA Annual Training to hear *'the rest of the story....!'*

Georgia Rehabilitation Association
Waves of Change – Tides of Growth
August 31st – September 2nd 2011
Sea Palms, St. Simons Island, GA

Name _____ Name for badge _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City/State/Zip _____ Daytime Phone _____

Note: Awards Breakfast reservations must be made in advance. Tickets will not be available on-site. No refunds after July 15, 2011 Send

Verifiable NRA membership is REQUIRED

Enter your NRA membership information here: NRA# _____ Expiration date: _____

Early Bird Registration \$150.00

Retiree Registration \$100.00

Single Day Registration \$100.00

Guest Registration \$50.00* (DOES NOT INCLUDE AWARDS BREAKFAST)

Guest Name: _____

Retiree's luncheon \$30.00 (luncheon only)**

Regular Registration \$175.00

Non-Member Registration \$282.00

NRA Student Registration \$50.00

One (1) ticket to the Awards Breakfast is included in the full advance registration. If you plan on attending the breakfast,

Registration Form and check(s) to:

**Early Registration
Deadline
July 15, 2011**

Jennifer Howell
P.O. Box 824
Thomson, GA 30824

Make Checks Payable to:
GRA
Total Enclosed: \$ _____

(If group billing, fax a copy of registration form & direct invoice to the above number.)

Accommodation Needs (MUST NOTIFY AND REQUEST BY 7/15/11)

Accessible parking Interpreter _____
 Accessible Van Parking Large Print Braille
 Other (Including special diet) _____

ASL Interpreters will Only be Provided
During Business Hours (not social
events).

Hotel Reservations: Sea Palms

1.800.841.6268

Reserve by August 6, 2011

Are you a Past President? (Circle)

GRA

SERNRA

NRA

**Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association
(GRCEA)**

2011 Annual Pre- Training Event

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

St. Simons Sea Palm

“Professional Ethics for the Rehabilitation Professional”

Lee Ann R. Rawlins, PhD, CRC, CFLE

Program Coordinator

Center on Disability and Employment (CDE)

The University of Tennessee

- 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 CRC’s
- 3.5 CRC/CEU credits will be requested (\$10.00 fee for CEU’s)
- Bring a copy of CRCC Code of Ethics to this session

Please send examples of your ethical dilemmas, questions or other ethical issues that you would like to discuss to:
LeeAnn Rawlins (lrawlin1@utk.edu)

Registration is not included in the main GRA Training Fee

Name: _____

Address: _____

Job Title: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Accommodations Needed (Indicate Alternate Format, Interpreter, etc—Deadline for Request is 8/5/2011):

Registration Fee: \$50.00

Registration Deadline: 8/30/2011

Send registration to:

Kim Bennett, CRC

PO Box 2026

Waycross Georgia 31502

Phone (912) 285 6078

FAX (912) 287 6698

Make Checks Payable to: GRCEA Total Enclosed: \$ _____

2011 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 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 2010 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.*

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. 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.

Submit Nominations by August 12, 2011

To: Stacey Hayes, Attention: GRCEA Award Nominations

2756 Atlanta Hwy.

Gainesville, GA 30504

Fax: (770) 535-5994

Phone: (770) 535 5925

Email Address: stacey.hayes@dol.state.ga.us

GARL
NEEDS YOU!
GARL ANNUAL AUCTION
2011 GRA Conference

Thursday, September 1 at 8:30 p.m.

*WE NEED YOUR DONATION OF ITEMS FOR
THIS ANNUAL EVENT!*

*"And don't forget to bring your spending
money! There'll be some great things to
buy!" Jack Gilson, GARL Auction Chair*

Consider the following items:
Plants Woodwork Collectables
BRAVES Tickets
Pictures Homemade Arts & Crafts ETC.

Questions? Contact Jack Gilson or Yovancha Lewis -Brown
jack.gilson@dol.state.ga.us or
yovancha.lewis-brown@dol.state.ga.us



Meet The Candidates 2012 GRA Officers

Ed James for President Elect

I am very excited to announce my candidacy for President elect of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association. I am an active member of both NRA and GRA and have enjoyed serving the association in any and all capacities. I have served as President of the Highlands subchapter of GRA and GRA Board Member at Large class of 2010 and currently Vice President Elect. During this time I have had the pleasure to work with a number of dedicated individuals within the GRA family.

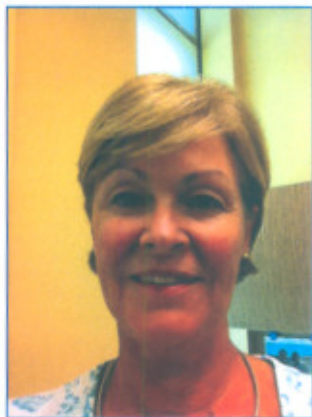


Currently, I am a Rehabilitation Unit Manager in Region 1 Lafayette Hub. I have been in this capacity since March of 2005. Prior to this, I was the director of a private non-profit mental health agency serving North Florida. In this capacity I provided mental health services to children, adolescents, and young adults including School to Work transition services. During this time I also sub-contracted with the Florida Brain and Spinal cord injury program to provide behavioral modification services to individuals with Brain or spinal cord injuries. I began my career providing behavior modification services to adolescents in a wilderness residential setting and then working for the State of Florida as a Child Protective Investigator.

Throughout my career I have had the honor to advocate and serve individuals with disabilities. When elected as President elect, I would like to continue our focus on increasing our membership among traditional ranks (VR and other service agencies), and among our customers (consumers, vendors, Legislators, employers, etc.). I would also like to increase our outreach to individuals with disabilities to allow GRA to continue to expand its advocacy efforts.

I ask for your vote and support. *Ed James*

VICE-PRESIDENT ELECT



My name is Janie Fuller and I am presently employed by the GDOL VR Program as a Program Associate and it is with great pleasure that I announce my candidacy for GRA Vice-President Elect. Since joining NRA I have had the pleasure of holding several positions, at different levels of GRA. On the state level GRA members honored me by electing me GRA Secretary. On the division level I have served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Board Member of ARTS of GA. Regionally, I served as SERNRA Secretary, Awards Co-chair, and a Board member of SERARTS. Each position I held reminded me how important and meaningful our organization is for persons with disabilities.

I am asking for your vote and support to assist GRA in reaching our goal for people with disabilities.

Meet The Candidates (con't)

2012 GRA Officers

Secretary

Hello! I am Paige Tidwell and I am looking forward to becoming GRA's Secretary in 2012. I have been blessed with many friends within GRA, but if you do not know me I am currently a Rehabilitation Unit Manager with the Vocational Rehabilitation Program in Monroe, GA. I am a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Certified Vocational Evaluator and Licensed Professional Counselor. I have worked for the GDOL/VR program for 7 years, and prior to that I was employed with a local community rehabilitation program.



I have been an active member of NRA/GRA since 2001 and since that time I have served as the Georgia VEWAA's President and GRA's 2010 Vice President. I have also held several different offices with the National VEWAA division, to include President, Member at Large, NRA Board Representative, and I am currently Secretary and Membership Chair for VEWAA. Additionally, I am the Treasurer for the recently developed Registry for Professional Vocational Evaluators.

I am running for the Secretary position because it is a way for me to serve our professional organization and be involved. I have the experience, knowledge and passion to assist the GRA Board in meeting the needs of our membership organization. There are many challenges facing NRA at this time and it is crucial for Georgia to continue to be the leading state association.

Not only do I want you to vote, but I want you to vote for me, Paige Tidwell, 2012 GRA Secretary.



Greetings GRA Family,

My name is Regina Watts and I am asking for your vote of confidence. Vote for me as GRA secretary. I am committed to:

- attending all executive board meetings as well as all other board meetings
- providing an accurate record of all proceedings
- distributing pertinent information to the membership in a timely manner
- working closely with the President

With a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and CRC, I possess the computer, office and communication skills that are required for the position of GRA secretary. I have been a member of NRA since becoming employed with VR in 1997. I have been active since day one and have held numerous offices to include:

- Newsletter editor for about 5 years
- President of GARL
- Secretary of GARL
- SWGRA local chapter President
- Awards Chairperson
- Board member
- Currently co-chairperson of Membership committee

Even though I am no longer employed with VR, my passion is to still advocate on behalf of people with disabilities. As Special Needs Coordinator at Albany Technical College for approximately 2 ½ years now, I hit the ground running to assure that our students receive the services that they are entitled to. I will bring this same vigor and attention to detail to the position of secretary for GRA. I humbly ask for your vote. Thank you for your confidence.

Meet The Candidates 2012 GRA Officers

Board Member @ Large



It is my life goal to help people navigate from one phase of their life to the next and VR has allowed me to reach this goal. Vocational Rehabilitation is not just a job for me it is a life work and I see every day the importance of what we do. I believe the Secret should be told, broadcast in every home, community, school, company, organization and agency. I see how what we do changes lives, families, communities and the world we live in. I believe that "abilities count" and we work with individual who have the ability and motivation to work, to contribute to their family, community and world.

Shortly after joining the Outstanding VR office in Cleveland I was impressed by their dedication to a Organization called Georgia Rehabilitation Association GRA. I wanted to be part of an organization that looks beyond the external to see the internal abilities of not just Georgians but every person in our Nation that has a disability; an organization that stands up and fights for the rights of people who often have no voice; an organization that remembers the past lives in the present but plans for the future. I want to be part of that future. I want to be on the front line fighting for individuals who cannot fight for themselves. I want to be in the trenches digging deep to make a difference and I want to Stand proud with the warriors who will not stop until they have concurred the mountain. To paraphrase a very famous man who fought for equality Rev Doctor King; I will work toward reaching a time when individuals will be judged by the content of their character not their disability. I am a PROUD member of GRA and after joining I hit the ground running. Last year I served as a Co-chair for the State Fund Raising Committee, I'm a GRCEA Board Member and currently hold the office of President of my Local GRA Chapter. I believe I should be the change I want to see and do that I must actively engage in the work at hand. I attended the Legislative Event held in Atlanta Georgia and continue to speak to Legislators making them aware of who we are and what we do for individuals with disabilities. Our Chapter is currently planning to host a Legislative Event to bring light to our cause and encourage support for our organization.

I ask for your vote and I stand on the platform that "Abilities Count"

Remember.....our 2011 GRA

Absentee Ballots will

Be mailed to you

Via U.S.P.S.



Watch for your ballot in *Snail Mail* and remember

Your Vote Counts!!

Board Member @ Large

Meet The Candidates (con't)
2012 GRA Officers

My name is Angie Rhudy and I would appreciate your vote to elect me GRA Board Member-At-Large. I am an active member of GRA/NRA. I am the President-Elect of the GRA Highlands Chapter; I am currently a member of the GRA Marketing Committee and the Conference Registration Committee. This year I organized a very successful blood drive to benefit the tornado victims of Ringgold and Trenton, GA. I also lead our chapter in collecting and donating new children's books to a charity for less fortunate children in our area.

In the past I have been actively involved in Special Olympics, Tri-County Committee on the Employment of People With Disabilities, Stocking Full of Love (Christmas food for the needy), the Empty Stocking Fund (Christmas toys for needy children), LaFayette Noon Optimist Club, Walker County Chamber of Commerce, Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce, Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce, Dade County Family Connection, GA County Welfare Association, and many more over the years. My husband, children, and I are members of Ridgeway Baptist Church in LaFayette.

I have been a State employee for approximately 20 years, the last five being for Vocational Rehabilitation. I will begin pursuing a Master's Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling at Auburn University in the fall of 2011. Following this achievement, I plan to become a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor so that I will have the opportunity to become a counselor in the LaFayette office in the future. I very much enjoy working for VR, and could easily see myself working here until I retire from the State, many years from now.

As a current Rehabilitation Employment Specialist in the LaFayette Hub, I have gotten to witness and assist many disabled people in preparing for, obtaining and engaging in gainful employment. I cannot comprehend a more rewarding profession than helping people become self-sufficient and independent.

GRA's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. If elected Board Member-At-Large, I will 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 around the state of Georgia. I sincerely ask for your support and your vote. Enjoy the conference!

VOTE FOR THE BIGGEST "FAN" OF GRA.....ANGIE RHUDY



My name is Lynda Lovett and I am seeking the office of Board Member at Large.

My career with Georgia's public Vocational Rehabilitation Program began in 2000 as did my membership with GRA.

I began my VR career as a Work Preparation Technician with Georgia's public Vocational Rehabilitation program in February 2000. I completed my B.S. in Psychology from Kennesaw State University and was strongly encouraged to continue my education in the field of vocational rehabilitation. Working as a Counselor Associate, I graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from the University of Kentucky with a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. I became certified through CRCC in 2005, and

have been employed as a Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Georgia Department of Labor in Dallas, Georgia since that time.

Since becoming a GRA Member, I have been given a broader perspective of the advocacy for people with disabilities and employment concerns regarding us as rehabilitation professionals. I have served as Board Member and Vice President as well as chair and co-chair of several committees and sub-committees. I have worked in cooperation with other Members on numerous projects including the GRA Annual Training Conferences, Education & Advocacy and Public Relations. I have been fortunate to participate in numerous legislative summits which play a critical role in assuring that VR services nationally are properly recognized and appropriately funded. I am extremely thankful for the encouragement and opportunities I have been granted.

I consider it a privilege to serve GRA and request your vote for me for Board Member-at-Large.

Board Member @ Large

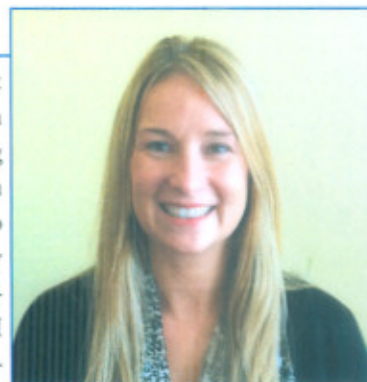
Meet The Candidates (con't)

2012 GRA Officers



My name is Lauren Knox and I am running for the office of Board Member at Large. I began my career with Vocational Rehabilitation in 1989, when I was hired to work under the JTPA contract. Since that time, I have worked as an Account Representative (RES), CRC counselor, and Unit Manger. I have attended the GRA conference for most of my career with VR and have participated in several planning committees, but have never run for office. I made the decision to run for the position of Board Member at Large because I would like to get more involved with the organization that supports the field that I have worked in and loved for approximately 20 years.

I, Myndi Hoffman am running for GRA Board Member at large. To introduce myself, let me start by stating that I earned my Master's of Science in Counseling Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi. After moving to Athens, GA, I began working with the GDOL-VR Program as a Rehabilitation Counselor and obtained my CRC in 2008. Currently, I am a Rehabilitation Unit Manager for Region 5. Prior to coming to the VR Program in 2007, I worked in the private sector in Knoxville, TN as a family therapist for 2 ½ years. I have been a member of GRA since 2009 and currently am President-Elect for the East GA local chapter of GRA. If elected Board Member at Large, I hope to provide ideas that will support and promote growth in our organization to further achieve our goal of advocacy and professional development in the rehabilitation field. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to serve GRA in this new role.



Greetings, fellow GRA Members! My name is Sara Godowns and I am running for the office of Board Member @ Large! I have worked in the field of rehabilitation for 33 years and held a variety of positions. I began my career at RWSIR in Warm Springs, Georgia where I worked in the Brace Shop (now Re-Tech) for 11 years, then served as the Coordinator for the Brain & Spinal Cord Injury State Registry from 1989—1996. Since that time I have served as Program Assistant in the RWSIR Brain Injury Program, Program Associate in the Columbus Regional VR Office, and Executive Secretary in the RWSIR Administration Building. I first became a GRA Member in 1990. I re-activated my membership in 2005, at which time I served as President of the RWSIR Chapter for two years, I have served as Nominations Committee Chairperson at the local level, as well as worked on the Special Projects Committee. Additionally, I served a 3 year term as GRA Board Member @ Large beginning in 2006, during which time I was the 2005 Recipient of the Janice Black Spirit Award. I have been the GRA Newsletter Chairperson for the past two years. I have gained great knowledge and experience in my career in rehabilitation and with my involvement in GRA. I have had the opportunity to give back by serving in this professional organization. One of my greatest joys is serving persons with disabilities in & around Warm Springs and experiencing 1st hand the difference GRA makes in their lives—and more often than not; my life is richer because of it. GRA has provided me the avenue to grow professionally and to develop leadership qualities in an environment that I might not have had the opportunity to do so.

I seek your vote for GRA Board Member @ Large. If elected, I pledge to Serve, Act, Respond, and Advocate for persons with disabilities.



Sign 7 in 2011

Georgia Membership Challenge

If each local chapter signs 7 new members in 2011, our goal of 100 for the year will be achieved. In addition to this accomplishment, there will be CASH presented to those outstanding individuals who take on this challenge. It is a WIN WIN situation. Take advantage of the Membership Tool Kit on NRA's website for strategies.

Contact Co-Chairs

Regina Watts at

(229) 430-2854

rwatts@albanytech.edu

or

Ellen Longino



SIGN 7 IN 2011 MEMBERSHIP CONTEST UPDATE

President's Membership Incentive Prize Announced!

A top prize of \$250 will be awarded to the Local Chapter, Division, or individual GRA member to be the first to sign up 7 verified new members by December 1, 2011. (If there are not 7 signed up and verified, there will not be an award unless there are special circumstances to warrant it.) To be counted in the contest, please notify Regina Watts (rwatts@albanytech.edu) **AND** Ellen Longino (ellen697@yahoo.com) when you recruit a new GRA member so we can count you correctly in the contest! We'd like to receive a copy of the NRA membership application showing the recruiter's name, if possible, as well. You may scan it and send it as an e-mail attachment or mail it to Ellen Longino, 697 Stratford Green, Avondale Estates GA 30002. Good luck!



**Keep Up To Date with our Professional
Organization
at the National Level.**

Visit www.nationalrehab.org

SAVE THE DATE

Join us in Salt Lake City for

2011 NRA Annual Training Conference

The theme of the 2011 Conference is "**Utah – Where Ideas Connect!**" Come and *connect* with your rehabilitation colleagues!

October 11-16, 2011

Marriott Hotel

Salt Lake City, Utah



Money IS Growing on Trees!!

Submitted by Lauri Tuten, Scholarship Chair

Deadlines have been extended until **August 5, 2011** to give you time to nominate deserving individuals for the Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship Award and Paula Dooley McIntosh Memorial Continuing Education Grant. 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. Rehabilitation professionals employed in the field of vocational rehabilitation and enrolled in a course of study to further their education in support of our field can apply for the **\$750** McIntosh Education Grant

See Pages 19-22 for
Scholarship Criteria
and Application Forms

Please, please, please submit nomination for these awards. Contact Lauri Tuten, Scholarship Chair, 706.597.8575 or lauri.tuten@dol.state.ga.us. Completed applications should be mailed to Lauri Tuten, c/o GDOL/VR, PO Box 824, Thomson, GA and postmarked **no later than August 5, 2011**.

2011 SERNRA Conference A Huge Success

The Southeast Region National Rehabilitation Association met in Biloxi, MS May 24—27, 2011 at the Beau Rivage Resort for annual training. The event was well organized and Georgia had the largest delegation in attendance out of the eight states in the southeast region with 15 in attendance. SERNRA in Biloxi, MS was reported to be a great training by GRA Members. “Nobody does it like Mississippi does” was exactly how the training was reported to the GRA Board Meeting on 7/15/11.

Thank you, Mississippi, for the great professional training and for your great southern hospitality!

Next year the SERNRA conference will be in Tampa, FL at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa May 6—9, 2012.



Back Row L to R: Ken Bennett, Larry Shedd, Wyman Poole, Jim Jung

Middle Row L to R: Melanie Poole, Cheryl Ussery, Janie Fuller, Gene Smith

Front L to R: Tom Wilson and Ellen Longino

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. 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. (See pages 8 and 9 of Appendix B).

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 8/5/2011

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO: LAURI TUTEN

GRA SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR 2010

P.O. BOX 824

THOMSON, GA 30824

Email: lauri.tuten@dol.state.ga.us

ENTRY FORM

For the NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL Scholarship

Please print or type all responses to the following questions. (Include additional sheets if needed)

Nominee's name:		SSN	
Home address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Phone:		Birthdate:	
High School Name:			
High School Address:			
City/State/Zip:			

Definition of DISABILITY. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual

Describe nominee's disability (Include specific limitations; how and when the impairment was acquired, etc.):

Discuss how the nominee has overcome societal barriers related to his/her disability:

Discuss difficulties nominee has encountered in working to surmount his/her disability:

Education (please list **all** institutions attended and dates attended):

Explain how nominee has overcome barriers in the educational 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 questions: _____

PAULA DOOLEY MCINTOSH MEMORIAL CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT

- The PAULA DOOLEY MCINTOSH MEMORIAL CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT was established by the family of Paula Dooley McIntosh to provide recognition of the contributions of Paula Dooley McIntosh to the lives of Georgians with disabilities. The Grant is to be awarded annually to a Georgia resident employed in the field of vocational rehabilitation in Georgia to provide funds for the continuation of that individual's professional development.
- Applications for the MCINTOSH GRANT are submitted to the Scholarship Committee who select a prospective winner and submit their recommendation to the Board for approval.
- The grant is awarded annually in the amount of \$750 to be presented at the Annual Conference Awards Ceremony. 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).

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA:

1. Application forms for the MCINTOSH GRANT will be distributed by the Scholarship Committee throughout the professional rehabilitation community in Georgia and will be submitted by applicants to the Chairperson.
2. Each applicant considered must be a Georgia resident employed in the field of vocational rehabilitation in Georgia.
3. Each applicant's course of study must be directly associated with vocational rehabilitation or a field that supports the applicant in his/her specific job duties as a rehabilitation professional; e.g., clerical, accounting/budget, VR counseling, administration, assessment, human resources development, quality assurance, public relations, job skills training, etc.
4. Each applicant considered must agree that if chosen the winner, he/she will use the funds within twelve (12) months of receiving the grant.

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
Paula Dooley McIntosh Memorial Continuing Education Grant
Instructions for Application:

Complete the attached application form.

Obtain two (2) letters of reference to be submitted with the application form.

All applications must be complete and legible.

Return completed application package to:

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 8/5/2011

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO: LAURI TUTEN

GRA SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR 2010

P.O. BOX 824

THOMSON, GA 30824

Email: lauri.tuten@dol.state.ga.us

**Application Form for the
PAULA DOOLEY MCINTOSH MEMORIAL CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT**

Please print or type all information requested below. Attach additional sheets, if needed.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

NAME				Soc Sec #			
U.S. CITIZEN? Circle	Y	N		RESIDENT OF GEORGIA? Circle	Y	N	
HIGH SCHOOL							
City, State, Zip							
GRADUATION DATE							
BUSINESS/TECHNICAL SCHOOL							
	From			To			
Graduate School, City, State							
	From			To			

EMPLOYMENT:

JOB TITLE						
Employer						
Address						
City, State, Zip						
Phone:						

REFERENCES:

NAME						
Address						
City, State, Zip						
Phone						
NAME						
Address						
City, State, Zip						
Phone						

On a separate sheet explain why you believe you should receive this award. Include a discussion of your academic achievements, school and community activities and awards, and goals for the future.

In the space below, or on a separate sheet, explain why you believe you should receive this award. Include a discussion of your academic achievements, school and community activities and awards, and goals for the future. Use an additional sheet if necessary.

ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA

BOSS OF THE YEAR AWARD CRITERIA

2011

- ARTS Boss of the Year nomination must be submitted by ARTS members only
- This "Boss" should be totally involved in the rehabilitation process and show support and genuine interest in ARTS. He/She should be a member of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association.

ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA

2011 SERVICE AWARD CRITERIA

Employed in rehabilitation setting in a technical, support, clerical or secretarial position for at least three (3) years at the time of nomination.

- Individuals recommended must be members of ARTS.
- 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, coworkers, 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.

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 (ARTS) OF GEORGIA
BOSS OF THE YEAR AWARD 2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone # _____

Place of Employment: _____

Position: _____

Professional & Non-Professional Organizations: _____

Community Activities: _____

Hobbies: _____

Education/Training: _____

What support has nominee shown of ARTS and why do you feel he/she should be Boss of the Year?

Submitted by: _____

Telephone #: _____

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY August 1, 2011

Please submit nominations to:

Donna Wright

GDOL-Vocational Rehabilitation Program

150 Evelyn C. Neely Drive

Athens, GA 30601

TELEPHONE 706-354-3900 FAX 706-354-3943

Georgia Rehabilitation Association 2011 Annual Awards & Recognitions

The GRA 2011 Award Committee is accepting nominations for the following 2011 GRA Awards

- The Isaac Max Heller Employer of the Year Award

- The Professional Achievement Award

ISAAC MAX HELLER EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Georgia Rehabilitation Association's Isaac Max Heller Employer of the Year Award was established in memory of Mr. Isaac Max Heller to recognize employers who have provided exceptional 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 of this establishment?
4. Is this 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 place of business and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities?
7. Has this employer been instrumental in advocating for the employment of persons with disabilities?
8. Does this employer inform rehabilitation service providers about employment possibilities that might be filled by persons with disabilities?
9. Letters of nomination should be one typed page or less, and should be submitted to:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 7/29/2011
GRA Awards Chairperson, Sherri Kirby
1220 Hogansville Road, Suite 400
LaGrange, GA 30241

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Georgia Rehabilitation Association's Professional Achievement Award was established to honor a Chapter member who has been outstanding in professional achievement during the past year. The recipient may be any member of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA:

- List outstanding achievements of the nominee with particular emphasis on services to clients.
- Describe the nominee's cooperation with related agencies and use of community resources.
- List special recognitions by peer groups, community organizations, etc.
- Itemize articles or other items published by nominee in professional publications.
- Letters of nomination should be accompanied by two (2) supporting letters, one (1) from a supervising person and one (1) from a peer of the nominee, and submitted to the Georgia Rehabilitation Association's Awards and Recognitions Committee Chairperson.
- The recipient of the Professional Achievement Award will be selected from all nominations by the Awards and Recognitions Committee.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 7/29/2011
GRA Awards Chairperson, Sherri Kirby
1220 Hogansville Road, Suite 400
LaGrange, GA 30241

SERVICE AWARD

The Georgia Rehabilitation Association's Service Award is specifically oriented towards 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 State Division of Rehabilitation Services.

CONSIDERATIONS, CRITERIA, AND PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS:

1. What has this individual contributed towards advancement of the field of rehabilitation?
2. What special recognitions or awards has the nominee received?
3. Itemize articles or writings in professional publications.
4. Letters of nomination should be accompanied by one (1) supporting letter and submitted to the Georgia Rehabilitation Association's Awards and Recognitions Committee Chairperson.

The recipient of the Service Award will be selected from all nominations by the Awards and Recognitions Committee.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 7/29/2011
GRA Awards Chairperson, Sherri Kirby
1220 Hogansville Road, Suite 400
LaGrange, GA 30241

GRA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The purpose of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association's Local Chapter of the Year Award is to honor a Local Chapter for its 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 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. The Awards and Recognitions Committee shall obtain copies of such year-end reports to serve as nominations packets for the award.

CONSIDERATIONS, CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS:

- Must be a Local Chapter in good standing with the State Chapter.
- Must demonstrate outstanding achievement in the effort at the Local Chapter level to advance the mission of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association.
- Must demonstrate exemplary activities in professional training, public awareness, consumer advocacy and membership growth.
- Must have been consistently viewed as innovative, creative and willing to respond to the changing needs of its membership.
- Local Chapter year-end reports for the prior calendar year, as submitted to the GRA Board, shall be considered the official nomination packet for this award. Year-end reports must show compliance with Local Chapter reporting requirements, as recommended by the GRA Board's CPA. Year-end reports shall contain:
 - Bank Statements and reconciliations - 13 months December - December, ending with December of the most recently completed prior calendar year.
 - Detailed treasurer's report (summary) for the year.
 - Check register for the year.
 - Record of deposits for the year.
 - Year-end budget for the year.
 - Detailed activity report for the year.

In addition, local chapters must have also complied with the GRA requirements for Local Chapter reporting at each scheduled Board of Directors meeting for the prior calendar year. 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 Recognitions Committee shall review all nominations packets and supporting documentation, and recommend to the GRA Board of Directors a selection for the Local Chapter of the Year Award, for their acceptance and approval. The recipient approved by the GRA Board will be presented with a plaque at the Annual Conference Awards Ceremony.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 7/29/2011
GRA Awards Chairperson, Sherri Kirby
1220 Hogansville Road, Suite 400
LaGrange, GA 30241

Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns ROSSER AWARD

This award is to acknowledge an individual who works collaboratively in support of multicultural populations with disabilities to attain their maximum potential through the delivery of equitable and qualitative rehabilitation services.

In addition the nominee shall promote and advocate for a greater understanding of the diversity of multicultural populations with disabilities; to empower and promote self-determination through informed choices, for full inclusion and integration into services for the pursuit of meaningful opportunities.

It is also in recognition of those who are committed to actively engaging in recruiting, employing, retaining, advancing, and education culturally sensitive rehabilitation professionals and paraprofessionals to serve in leadership positions within the public and private rehabilitation community. Furthermore, the individual shall exemplify the essence of our mission statement:

The Georgia Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns is a diverse group whose purpose is to advocate for and with multicultural populations with disabilities to achieve equity and quality in services; to ensure facilitation of full inclusion and integration in the social, cultural, educational and economic experiences in society, advocate and encourage the recruitment of ethnic professionals to provide role models and culturally sensitive professionals to meet the changing demography of Rehabilitation Services.

The nomination shall state specific activities in which the nominee has demonstrated the above criteria, and shall include three letters of support.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 7/29/2011
2011GAMRC PRESIDENT, William Mitchell
450 Riverside Pkwy, Suite 200
Rome, GA 30161

Georgia Association Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL)

2011 Annual Awards & Recognitions

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 Scarce, Ann Heeth, Melanie Poole, Dr. John Williams, Trish Cooper, Cynthia Woodruff, Charlotte Tolbert, Susan Sherman, Carl McRae, Catherine Andrews, Annette McCauley and last year's winner Ken Hise!. 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 or ed.leysath@dol.state.ga.us by **Friday, August 12, 2011**. Don't wait until the last minute—send nominations now! Call Joy Kniskern at 478-757-4083 with any questions.

Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership Education Grant

The purpose of the Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) Education Grant is to provide assistance to an individual already employed in the field of public or private vocational rehabilitation for the continuation of that individual's professional development.

The education grant is awarded annually in the amount of \$500 and is presented at the Annual Conference Awards Ceremony.

Nomination Procedures and Criteria:

Nominations for the GARL Education Grant will be submitted by GARL members to the Scholarship Committee chairperson, Yovancha Lewis-Samuels.

The GARL member making the nomination should submit a letter of recommendation.

Each nominee must be employed in the field of vocational rehabilitation (public or private) in the state of Georgia.

Each nominee's course of study must be directly associated with direct service delivery or management in vocational rehabilitation.

Each nominee must complete the Application for Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership Grant and provide one letter of professional reference from a colleague or supervisor.

Deadline for submission of complete packet is August 15, 2011.

Application is available in the newsletter or by contacting Yovancha Lewis-Brown at

Yovancha.Lewis-Brown@dol.state.ga.us

Entry Form

For the Georgia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership Education Grant



GARL

Please print or type all responses to the following questions. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Nominee's Name: _____

Occupation: _____ Company _____

Home Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Name of School (Must be Enrolled Currently): _____

Major: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Professional Associations (List any offices held): _____

Career Goal(s) _____

Community Activities (Within the last 2 years): _____

List any other accomplishments: _____

Submit Entry form along with one letter of professional reference from a colleague or supervisor to:

**Yovancha Lewis-Brown
PO BOX 2520
Hinesville, GA 31310
Deadline is August 15, 2011**