



# Georgia Rehabilitation Association

## May 2011 Newsletter

### Message From The President, *Larry Shedd*

We are number one in the nation as a NRA subchapter, and that is something to be very proud. We have held that position for a long time and it has always been a sense of pride and of position nationally for Georgia. It is my intention as President, to keep and magnify that position. Georgia has influenced a lot of national issues because of our strength in numbers and in our work. So, as

*"We are number one in the nation as a NRA subchapter"*

each of us continue this year in 2011 to become the best that we can become in GRA, I continue to call upon each Chapter, Division, GRA as a whole, and each office where we are housed, to "Sign up 7 in 2011". Some of you are continuing to sign up new members and because of you, we will grow. I call upon the rest of us to do the same. We can't wait until our Board meetings to get fired up. If we do, we have lost valuable time to achieve our numbers, where we derive our strength in what we do and accomplish. In Georgia, we can get others involved through membership. Eventually each who respond, as well as all who are now members, will determine once and for all that out of a sense of pride and downright refusal to become less that what we are will begin to work diligently for GRA growth. We must be fired up from where we are in order that we grow and achieve.

***This year, membership is at the top of my Strategic Agenda***, because it fuels who we are and how influential we are to become. We established the "Marketing of GRA", which can inspire and enhance insure the future of GRA. A

"Grants" committee, which can help in matters of self support. I have pledged to support each of you as professionals in where you are with letters and meetings in support of career ladders and advancement. I am preparing us to go into 2012 ready to meet the challenges early with pre-planning in October with our President-elect, I have proposed opportunities for CRC and CEU credits for GRA members.

Our representation and influence nationally is of utmost importance to our success for the future. We do have influence in being number one. We have the advantage of personally knowing and collaborating with Lynnae Rutledge, RSA Commissioner in Washington DC, which enables us to have her speak at our Annual Training Conference at St. Simons in August/September. She is a remarkable woman and vital to our knowledge of what is happening with our "parent" organizations. It is also with a great deal of personal satisfaction that we have presented ourselves to Commissioner Butler and other leaders from the State Capitol on down through the ranks of Department leaders that we are who we say we are. "We advocate for and educate with persons with disabilities", which if we stay tied together professionally, each to respective fashion and need, it will make us all better able to help the citizens of this great State of Georgia. It is a win-win situation if we all take advantage of the opportunity. Commissioner Butler and other leaders in DOL/VR will also have a part in our Annual Training Conference, of which we are very proud.

July 14-15 are scheduled to be our next meetings for GRA at Warm Springs. It is hopeful

that things will be renovated and back to speed with our lodging, but if not, there will be the opportunity for us to stay at the Institute at very reasonable prices, or at other facilities in the surrounding communities. Whatever the case, I know that GRA will come prepared and ready to meet the challenges and rewards that are before us as we get ready for the Annual Training Conference.

It is an exciting time for us all, and our Annual Training Conference is to be very exciting also. Let's get revved up with that GREAt pride that each of us feel toward GRA, in appreciation of from where we have come, where we are now, and where we are going! Nominate yourself or someone else NOW for the GRA offices coming open this year. Remember, shoulder to shoulder we will move forward, with Management and Department support, but foremost with the tenacity of GRA members that enables us remain the largest, strongest, independent, and most influential private, professional organization in these United States. We ARE, GREAt! ***See you in July, ready to move forward and not look back.***



### Inside this issue:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| NEWS FROM LOCAL CHAPTERS                                     | 2-5   |
| GRA TRAINING SURVEY  | 5     |
| GRA DIVISION UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS                         | 6-11  |
| 2011 GRA CALENDAR  | 8     |
| NOMINATIONS FOR 2012   | 9     |
| 2011 GRA TRAINING EVENT REGISTRATION FORM                    | 12    |
| 2011 GRA AWARDS INFORMATION                                  | 14-19 |
| 2011 GRA TRAINING EVENT EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION | 20    |
| 2011 GRA TRAINING EVENT PROGRAM ADS ORDER FORM & INFORMATION | 21    |
| 2011 GRA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE                                    | 22    |



## News From GRA Local Chapters

### Southwest Chapter, *Matthew Barnes, President*

ON 3/25/11 the SWGRA Board had its first meeting in 2011. The SWGRA Board voted to give the Albany ARC Annette Bowling Golf tournament - 4/29/11 \$100.00 FOR A HOLE SPONSORSHIP. All of the proceeds for this golf tournament will go towards the Individuals with disabilities fund. This will go down as being a special project activity.

On 4/11/11 the SWGRA sponsored a training event. In the morning Dr. James Patrick was the presenter on the CRCC code of professional ethics IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING.

Dr. Patrick gave a short explanation of the historical aspect of rehabilitation counseling. Then we went on to discuss the new 2010 CRC Code of ethics. Then Dr. Patrick discussed some of the ethical issues that apply to the rehabilitation counseling field. Then Dr. Patrick set us into different groups and we discussed some scenario's that were dealing with some real world situations of ethical violations.

Dr. Patrick then went on to discuss advocacy and accessibility, professional responsibility confidentiality and privileged communication. In the afternoon Dr. William Kelso was the presenter on medical aspects - (spine health) first this presenter discussed the range of disorders as well as the vocational impacts. Dr. Kelso went on to discuss what some of what we thought we knew on how to control/reduce back pain but we really didn't.

this presenter then went on to talk about what research tells us about the back pain we have. Dr. Kelso finally shows us some simple exercises that really helps reduce back pain. After the southwest Georgia Rehabilitation Association training we had our first SWGRA chapter meeting of the year.

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



RWSIR's #1 Priority for 2011 is the Camp Dream Dock Project—plans are moving forward to begin demolition & renovation!

### RWSIR Chapter, *Rosanna Borders, President*

RWSIR Chapter is determined to move forward during 2011 with our Camp Dream Dock Project. We have acquired a quote and have the committed support of RWSIR Maintenance Department to help with the 1st phase of this project. Demolition of the condemned fishing docks and installation of a redesigned side walk are included in the 1st phase and GRA is ready to begin.

In addition to the Dock Project, we continue to recruit new members and prepare for the 2011 Training Conference. We are proud to introduce you to our newest member, Deisy Saumell, from RWSIR Financial Services. We have good representation from RWSIR Chapter that have submitted requests to attend the training.

RWSIR Chapter made a \$200.00 donation to the West Georgia Wolverines, the local American Association of Adapted Sports Program team. The Wolverines compete in wheelchair basketball, soccer, and football. The funds donated to them will help purchase wheels/tires for their sports wheelchairs.

RWSIR Chapter is sponsoring a Books Are Fun Book Fair on Friday, June 17th. The donation to our chapter from this book fair has been designated towards the Wounded Warrior Project. Additionally, we are participating in the Statewide Campaign to collect change for the Wounded Warrior Project. Collection jars will be placed strategically throughout campus.



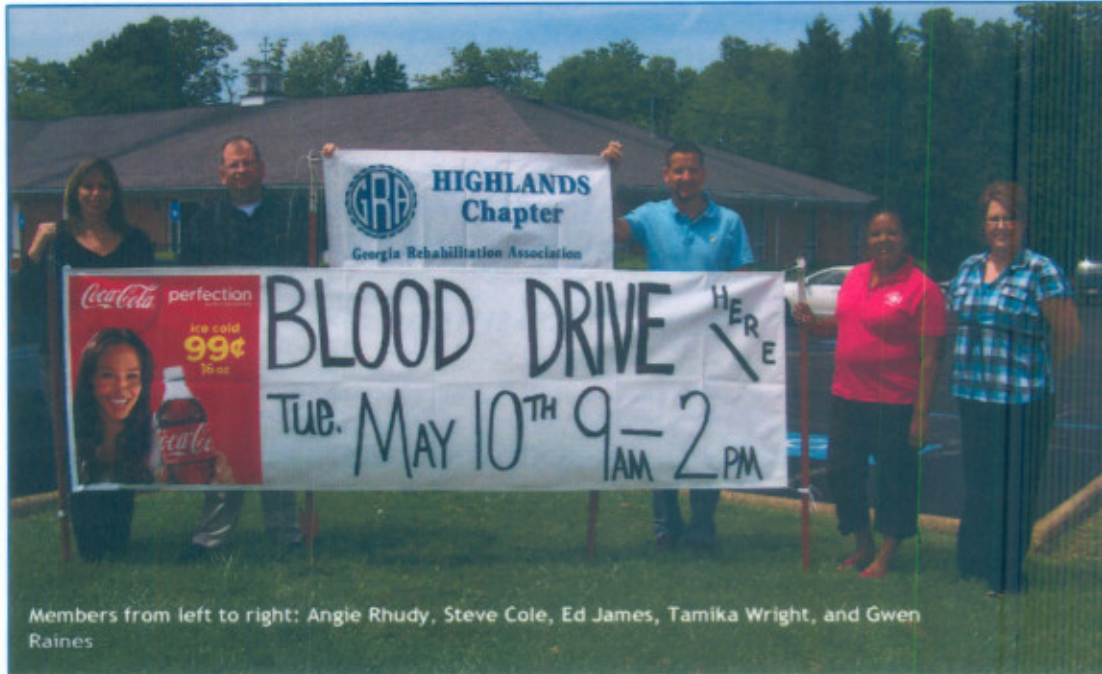
Above—Laura Ray, Wolverine Quarterback, receives hike in wheelchair football. Below—Laura Ray (daughter of GRA Member, Beth Ray) takes a shot in wheelchair basketball. Laura lost her hearing at age 6 due to meningitis. The Wolverines were 2nd in the State for the 2010 Season.



## News From GRA Local Chapters



### Highlands Chapter, *Ed James*



Members from left to right: Angie Rhudy, Steve Cole, Ed James, Tamika Wright, and Gwen Raines

The Highlands Chapter of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association has been very involved in the relief effort for the tornado victims in Walker, Catoosa, and Dade counties. The chapter has taken up donations of needed items and also organized a blood drive at the LaFayette Department of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation office.

The blood drive was a big success with 44 pints of blood donated to help the tornado victims. The Highlands Chapter is also very pleased to announce their support for Angie Rhudy as she runs for GRA Board Member at Large.

### West Chapter News—2011 1st Quarter, *Sherri Kirby*

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, our subchapter sponsored training and a membership drive for Region 4. We assisted with food, decorations and activities. Many members and non-members donated food items and new member Dan Matthews won the chili cook-off.

We had three members attend the Legislative Forum in Atlanta. All reported this event to be useful and informative.

Upcoming plans include a general meeting to coordinate with our Region 4 Counselor group. We also have plans to participate in the Conference social, goody bags, door prizes, ads and donations. We also plan a fundraiser for the Conference.

### East Chapter News, *Carmella Jennings, President*

The Local East Chapter held their first meeting on March 31st. Vivian Stewart, Education Department Manager of the Thomson One Stop and Paige Tidwell, GDOL/VR Rehabilitation Unit Manager conducted a training on the Work Keys Assessment and Accommodations. During the business portion of the meeting members volunteered and selected chairpersons for each of the following committees: Communication, Membership, Special Projects, Education & Advocacy, and Fund-raising. A motion was made and approved for the Special Projects Committee to work on a project focusing on Wounded Warriors this year. Our chapter is also working on a fund-raising project and ways of increasing membership in our area. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 23rd in Augusta.



## News From GRA Local Chapters

### Northeast Chapter, Dana Skelton-Sanders

**NorthEast Chapter has 2 new members since the last GRA board meeting.** Our first new member, Dawnna Franks-Baker was the honored speaker at the Legislative Event in Atlanta. The other new member is a provisional counselor, Teresa Leahey, who is pursuing her CRC credentials at this time.

At our last meeting, we obtained a list of projects for the remainder of the year. We have one of our transition high Schools, specifically the Metals department working on fabricating a Handicap stamp to realign the handicap parking spaces in our community. Actual VR students are making the handicap stamp. A photograph has been taken, with an article documented in our local newspaper the collaboration that VR and the school will participate in community service efforts to re-paint the handicap parking spaces in the community we serve. We will be participating in fund-raising at the conference and we have some fantastic things to raffle.

We continue daily to work on the state challenge to sign 7 in 2011. We hope to exceed this goal by the end of the year.

GRA Treasurer Elect, LaDeteria King, brought this dessert to the May GRA Board Social at Camp Dream in Warm Springs. The dessert was so delicious we asked her to share her recipe—Enjoy!



### A GRA Favorite Turtle Brownie Recipe *LaDetria King, East Chapter*

German Chocolate Cake Mix

½ cup of margarine

1 egg

Mix these three ingredients. Reserve 1 cup of the mixture. Press the remainder into a 13 x 9 pan and bake at 350 degree for 10 minutes. Allow to cool.

To make filling mix a 14 oz bag of caramel candy, ¼ cup of butter and ½ cup of evaporated milk. Cook slowly on low until all caramel is melted and it is in liquid form.

(Note: The last time I made this recipe, I used the caramel in the jar but if you do this the amount of milk needs to be decreased to ¼ cup).

Mix one cup of nuts (I use pecans), 6 ounces of chocolate chips and the cup of reserve cake mix concoction.

Once the cake mix concoction has cooled, pour the caramel filling on top then add the nuts/chocolate chips/reserve cake mix concoction on top of that and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

## News From GRA Local Chapters



### South Chapter Updates,

*Kay Morris, President*

We will be selling raffle tickets for a basket at the 2011 GRA Training Conference. Let us know how many tickets you'd like to purchase.



**2011 Officers**  
 President - Kay Morris  
 President-elect - Bill Barnes  
 Vice President - Kim Wagner  
 Treasurer/Secretary - Cheryl Williamson

**Board Members:**  
 Valdosta - Patsy Morris  
 Tifton - Pam Eaton  
 Waycross - Kim Bennett  
 Private - Nicole West (Wiregrass Ga.Tech)

*We would like to extend an invitation to attend our next meeting on Friday, 06/03/11 at the Valdosta GDOL Career Center at 10:30 am. Lunch is being provided!*

### Notice From GRA Certification Committee

Paige Tidwell

**GRA Members:**

As your continuing education chair, it would be very helpful to know what continuing education needs our membership has. Therefore, I have created a survey to gather this information that will be shared with the Board and utilized for future trainings.

Please use the following link to access the survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XB9TVRK>

I look forward to seeing everyone in St. Simon's.

Thank you!

## *GARL Upcoming Webinar Information*



### **GARL** *a Division of NRA/GRA*

The Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership

and

### **Tools for Life**

Present a Webinar:

## **Work, Ethics, and Leadership! Oh My!**

**Friday, June 10, 2011**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 EST

***Presenter:***

*Lee Ann Rawlins, Ph.D., University of Tennessee*

***Moderators:***

*Joy Kniskern and Trish Redmon*

***Credits Available!***

**CEU's** - Visit [www.aacoinstitute.org](http://www.aacoinstitute.org) after June 6<sup>st</sup> to register for CEU's.

**CRC's have been Requested**



## GARL Webinar Registration Form

**Register Today!**

**A Webinar**

**Work, Ethics, and Leadership! Oh My!**

**Friday, June 10, 2011**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 EST

**Presenter:**

Lee Ann Rawlins, Ph.D., University of Tennessee

**Moderators:**

Joy Kniskern and Trish Redmon

**To Pre-Register, complete the information and  
mail your check or P.O. by  
June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 *made payable to:***

**Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership**

**C/O Dru Fentem, GARL Treasurer**

**301 S. Corder Road**

**Apt. 815**

**Warner Robins, GA. 31088**

- I am requesting CRC Credits  
 I am requesting CEU Credits  
 I am a GRA Member (\$30.00 due)  
 I am not a GRA Member (\$40.00 due)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address, City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

Log on to the webinar site in advance of the webinar at





<http://74.208.96.53/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rs21c4e11226b6>

to download webinar software. When you log on the day of the webinar, please list your full name for the CRC and CEU roster. There is NO Password required on this website. For more information, please contact [dru.fentem@dol.state.ga.us](mailto:dru.fentem@dol.state.ga.us)

*A Collaboration Initiative with Tools for Life, the Pass It On Center and the Georgia Association of Rehabilitation Leadership (GARL) to support rehabilitation leadership and scholarships.*

# GRA 2011 Calendar

## July 2011–December 2011

| Date   | <i>Please be on time-Each GRA Board Meeting starts promptly as indicated.</i>  |
|--|--|
| July 2011<br>   | Thursday, July 14- Finance Review-9:30<br>Finance-10:30<br>Executive Committee-1:00<br>Conference Committee-3:00-5:00<br><br>Friday, July 15 - GRA Board-9:30-12:00<br>"Let's Celebrate Our Freedom"   |
| August & September<br>2011<br>                                    | Conference Meeting times will be published-<br><b><i>Wednesday, August 31- 1st day of Conference @ Sea Palms on St. Simons<br/>           Through Thursday &amp; Friday, Sept. 1 &amp; 2</i></b><br><br>Labor Day-September 5 <sup>th</sup> - The Monday after the Conference ends on Friday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup> !! |
| October 2011<br>Disability Employment<br>Awareness<br>Month<br> | Thursday, October 6- Finance Review-9:00<br>Finance-Executive Committee-1:00<br>Conference Committee-3:00-5:00<br><br>Friday, October 7- GRA Board-9:30-12:00  |
| December 2011<br><br>MERRY CHRISTMAS                            | Wednesday November 30- Finance Review-9:00<br>Finance-Executive Committee-1:00<br>Conference Report-3:00-5:00<br><br>Report of each committee from Conference<br>Thursday, December 1- 9:00-GRA Leadership Training-Jennifer Howell<br>Friday, December 2-GRA Board- 9:30-12:00-Recognition of New Officers                |



News From ARTS of Georgia, *Jean Stewart*

ARTS of Georgia held their meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2011 at the Macon VR Unit office. Pam Eaton, 2011 ARTS of Georgia President, was unable to attend because of a family illness. Please keep Pam and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Vice President, Jean Stewart, conducted the meeting in her absence.

Committee Chairs were discussed. It was decided that Donna Wright will be in charge of Nominations and Awards. Jacqueline Brown will be our Special Project Chair, and Janie Fuller will be in charge of Fundraisers, Ellen Longino is Membership Chair and Jean Stewart as Program Chair. At the last meeting ARTS members had decided to go with "Bucket of Tropical Fun" for the ARTS fundraiser for the 2011 GRA Conference. Members brought in donations of gift cards and other articles to go in the bucket. Members will be accepting donations prior to the training. Please be supportive of ARTS by making a donation for the opportunity of receiving the bucket this year. Tickets will go on sale soon - \$2.00 for one ticket, \$5.00 for 3 tickets, and \$10.00 for 7 tickets. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a North Georgia food bank.

ARTS member, Donna Wright will be accepting nominations for Service Award and Boss of the Year. Deadline for nominations will be Friday, July 15, 2011. Please see nomination forms and criteria on pages 17-19 of this newsletter. ARTS is still searching for new members, please consider joining our Wonderful Division in GRA. Please contact Ellen Longino or any ARTS member if you would like to join.

## Nominations

Leadership is critical to the success of any organization. GRA needs You to get involved in leading this great organization.

The following positions are up for election this year:

President Elect - a 3 year commitment

Vice President Elect- a 2 year commitment

Board Member at Large- 4 seats open, 3 year commitment



If interested, please contact La Detria King at  
706 650-5644 or [ladetria.king@dol.statega.us](mailto:ladetria.king@dol.statega.us)

by June 24, 2011

## **News From GRCEA, Jason Williams, President**



### **GRCEA Report - May 2011**

GRCEA will once again offer our annual training on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at Sea Palms prior to the GRA Training Event ([see Registration on Page 11](#)). This training will be "Professional Ethics for the Rehabilitation Professional" presented once again by Dr. Lee Ann Rawlins from The University of Tennessee. At least 3.5 CRC/CEU hours will be offered so please complete and return the registration form in this newsletter 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 coming this summer and will also be included in our advertisement 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 on page 14. Finally, our division would like to thank everyone for their support over the last two years. We often describe GRA as a family and this has never been more apparent as demonstrated by the assistance so many of you have offered to our division. GRCEA has an extraordinary past and a bright future and I encourage you to consider joining our division as we welcome Counselors, Educators and

## **News From Archives Committee**

*Jason Williams & Ann Jones, Co-Chairs*

### **GRA Archives Report - May 2011**

The GRA Archives Committee plans to inventory the entire collection of materials that are currently stored at RWSIR related to the state chapter association. This process will take place in May and June. A list of all documents in the archives will be created for the board to review this summer. *If any local chapter, division or GRA member has material directly related to the history of the state association, we would appreciate these items being donated for review and possible inclusion into the archives.* Please save these materials onto a disc or portable storage device as there is not enough room to store loose materials or folders at present in the archives. *We would ask that these be turned in at the next GRA Board Meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> at RWSIR.*

Once all materials have been inventoried, we will begin the process of scanning the items so that they may be stored and saved for future reference. This will be very labor intensive and it is hoped that we may partner with RWSIR students in vocational training to complete this process.

**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](mailto: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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Georgia Rehabilitation Association**  
**Waves of Change - Tides of Growth**  
**August 31<sup>st</sup> - September 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

**Verifiable NRA membership is REQUIRED**

Enter your NRA membership information here: NRA# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tickets will not be available on-site. No refunds after July 15, 2011**

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)\*\*

\*Guest registration must accompany paid member registration (full or student). Guest registration includes all Conference activities except Awards Breakfast.

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, you MUST mark this form. Guest tickets may be purchased for \$30.00. Enter total number of registrants & paid guests who will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Registration Form and check(s) to:

**Early Registration  
 Deadline  
 July 15, 2011**

Jennifer Howell  
 P.O. Box 824  
 Thomson, GA 30824  
 (706) 597-8575 office

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**  
 Mention "GRA Conference Rate"

**Are you a Past President?** (Circle)

GRA      SERNRA      NRA

**Are you a VETERAN?** (Circle)

*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](mailto:jack.gilson@dol.state.ga.us) or*  
*[yovancha.lewis-brown@dol.state.ga.us](mailto:yovancha.lewis-brown@dol.state.ga.us)*

## 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](mailto:stacey.hayes@dol.state.ga.us)

## 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**



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

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 July 15, 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  
Donna.Wright@dol.state.ga.us

# NOMINATION FORM

*FOR*

ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION TECHNICIANS AND SPECIALISTS (ARTS) OF GEORGIA  
**SERVICE AWARD 2011**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # : \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly state why you believe this person would be a good candidate for the ARTS Service Award:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # : \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY July 15, 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  
Donna.Wright@dol.state.ga.us

## GRA Training 2011

Sea Palms Resort and Conference Center, St. Simon's Island, Ga. Website: [www.seapalms.com](http://www.seapalms.com)

*"Waves of Change – Tides of Growth"*

**Wednesday, August 31 – Friday, September 2, 2011**

### EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

Name of Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for Conference Badges: \_\_\_\_\_

Products or Services \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (if possible, include toll free number for program listing) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Website Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Exhibitor assumes the entire responsibility and liability for losses, and claims arising out of exhibitor's activities on the hotel premises and will indemnify and hold harmless GRA and Sea Palms Golf & Tennis Resort and Convention Center, 5445 Frederica Rd., St. Simon's Island, Ga. from any and all such losses, damages and claims.*

\*\*\*\*\* EXHIBITS AND EXHIBITS COMBO PACKAGES \*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE: EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT IF YOUR ORDER RECEIVED BY 5/15/11**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit booth ONLY @ \$400 (6 ft. skirted table, chair, electrical outlet, internet)

(Price if ordered by 5/15:\$350)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit booth AND Full Page Ad Combo @ \$550\*\*\* (Price if ordered by 5/15:\$500)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit booth AND Break Signage/Sponsorship Combo @ \$550

(Price if ordered by 5/15: \$500)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit booth AND Break AND Full Page Ad Combo @ \$700\*\*\* (By 5/15:\$650)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsorship Donation - GRA Dance (9/1) – sponsors recognized by signage

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Awards Breakfast Tickets (9/2) @ \$ 30 each. (Receive (2) free with Booth)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Remitted (Make check or money order payable to GRA)

\*\*\* If ordering an "Ad Combo", remember to send full page (7 ½ x 10 inch), camera ready black and white ad by deadline of July 15, 2011. Please do not fax; Send by email or USPS.

(Note: Your order includes two free tickets to Awards Breakfast on 9/2/11; PLEASE DO NOT SIGN UP FOR TICKETS IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO ATTEND) Additional tickets are available for \$30 each. Enter TOTAL number of tickets you will use: \_\_\_\_\_

Door Prizes: Please check if you will be donating door prizes to GENERAL drawings \_\_\_\_\_  
(If so, we will list you in program as donor; please bring prizes on 8/31)

**\*\*\*\*\* Exhibitor Registration deadline is 7/15/11 \*\*\*\*\***

Exhibit space is limited and registration will be honored on a first come, first serve basis. Hotel registration deadline to receive conference rate is August 6, 2011 at 800-841-6268.; request GRA Conference Rate @ \$125.00 per night. Please mail your completed application and payment (check or money order) made out to GRA to:

**Tamie Roper, GRA Exhibit Chair**

C/o GDOL - VR Program, 243 S. Main St., Suite B, Cleveland, Ga. 30528-1404  
Phone: (706) 348 - 4882; Fax: (706) 865 9602

**G.R.A. Training Conference 2011**  
**8/31-9/2/2011 Sea Palms, St. Simon's Isl., Ga.**  
Conference Program Advertising Order Form

All ads are printed in black and white

Ads must be submitted in high quality PDF or JPEG format, "camera ready". (You may wish to include VR Provider No. in ad)

Payment and ads must be received by 7/15/11; payment will not be refunded for ads purchased but not received by 7/15/11.

- Make check payable to Georgia Rehabilitation Association
- Mail payment, ad order form and ad to: Ken & Kim Bennett/ GRA, 2604 Mesa Rd., Waycross, Ga. 31501. Ph. (912) 283 6253; email [graads2011@yahoo.com](mailto:graads2011@yahoo.com) ; FAX (912) 287-6698.

Rate Schedule For "Ads Only"

(If you are interested in purchasing booth or break sponsorship PLUS ad, see enclosed exhibit rate sheet.)

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| \$200 | Full Page (ad size 7 ½" x 10")            |
| \$125 | Half Page (ad size 7 ½" x 4")             |
| \$75  | Quarter Page (ad size 3 ½" x 4 1/2")      |
| \$50  | Eighth Page (Business Card Size)          |
| \$350 | Inside Front Cover Full Page (call first) |
| \$325 | Inside Back Cover Full Page (call first)  |
| \$400 | Back Cover Full Page (call first)         |

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person & Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Amount \_\_\_\_\_ (Pay by check, due by 7/15/11)

**Sign 7 in 2011  
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 CA\$H 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](mailto:rwatts@albanytech.edu)**

**or**

**Ellen Longino**

**[ellen697@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen697@yahoo.com)**

**Georgia currently ranks #1 in membership with 418 members.**

**Ohio is a close second with 340.**

**2011 GRA Newsletter Deadlines**

**July Edition—7/8/2011**

**November Edition—11/11/11**

Please send news and information to be shared in the GRA Newsletter to Sara Godowns, 2011 Newsletter Chairperson @ [sara.godowns@dol.state.ga.us](mailto:sara.godowns@dol.state.ga.us) by the deadlines listed above—Thank you!