



Special points of interest:

- Message From the President
- 2012 GRA Conference Registration
- Conference Activities & Highlights
- 2012 Meet The Candidates
- Legislative Reports & Updates
- Chapter & Division News
- 2012 Scholarship & Award Information

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Chapter & Division News

Message From The President, *Jennifer Howell*

Spring greetings fellow GRA members!

I wish to extend a warm "Hello" and do hope that you are all doing well. As you all are aware, we had a small group attend the Governmental Affairs Summit in Alexandria, VA in March. Cheryl Ussery will provide you with a wonderful overview of this event later in the newsletter. You will also get to read a submission from Elijah Carter who attended with support from GRA. Mr. Carter is a rising star in the Rehabilitation Community and I am sure will bring great things to the field. We are fortunate that he is an active GRA member and an "active voice" at that.

Looking ahead, we have around eight members attending the upcoming Southeast Region National Rehabilitation Association's 64th annual conference in Safety Harbor, FL (May 6th through 9th). Looking at the agenda, it is sure to be an exciting conference. The theme is "Sailing the Winds of Change. Challenges and Opportunities in Rehabilita-

tion" which is very appropriate this year, especially in Georgia's public VR program.

As always, I want to remind you all of the importance of membership but also the importance of being active within the organization itself. While it is always lovely to receive your annual dues, more can be achieved with your time and commitment. Think back to the reasons as to why you initially joined GRA. Think back to the passion, the desire to make a difference, and bring that back to the surface. We need that passion and drive to encourage new members and to continue our cause.

Don't forget that that we will be heading to Savannah for our annual conference. It will be held at the Savannah Riverfront Marriott, September 5th thru 7th. Our theme this year is "Dream Big and Dare to Fail." We still have many opportunities to assist with the conference so, if you are interested please contact Ed James at ed.james@gdol.ga.gov or by phone at 706-638-5536."



I would like to close with this from *Alice and Wonderland*.

"One day Alice came to a fork in the road and saw a Cheshire cat in a tree.

'Which road do I take?' she stated.

'Where do you want to go?' was his response.

'I don't know', Alice answered.

'Then' said the cat, 'it doesn't matter.' "

Know your path and ensure that IT DOES MATTER. GRA has a long tradition and strong mission and it is important that through the trials and tribulations of our day, we don't lose sight of either.

Dream Big Dare to Fail

2012 Georgia Rehabilitation Association's Annual Conference, September 5-7, Marriott, Savannah GA



I wish to extend a personal invitation to you all to come and experience this year's conference in Savannah, GA. Our theme this year is "Dream Big Dare to Fail" and it will not disappoint. Savannah in the Fall will be a perfect time to come together and share GRA's passion for advocacy. Our expectation is that you will leave motivated, energized, with your passion restored as we **ALL** Dream Big and Dare to Fail.

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/savrf-savannah-marriott-riverfront>
See you on the Waterfront, Ed James, GRA Vice President

GRA 2012 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2012
SAVANNAH, GA
MARRIOTT SAVANNAH
RIVERFRONT

Registration Form on Page 17



SAVE

THE

DATE

DEADLINE FOR ROOM RESERVATION: AUGUST 4, 2012

ROOM RATE: \$135.00

PARKING RATE: \$12.00

CRC and CEU credits will be offered

Chapter & Division News

News from Southwest, *Michael Edwards*



The Southwest Chapter hosted a Legislative Luncheon. The event highlighted a personal testimony by a former VR client who discussed the impact of vocational rehabilitation on his successful employment and independence.

Representative Ed Rynders, from House District 152 who is presently serving as the Vice Chairman for the Health and Human Services Committee in

the Georgia State House, spoke to us about how funds for Vocational Rehabilitation Services are allocated, and how the upcoming budget is being looked at.

The event was attended by a host of other State Senators and Representatives.



Two GRA local chapters organize Legislative Events and Special Projects

News from South Chapter, *Kay Morris*

The South Chapter painted handicapped parking spaces at the Valdosta GDOL Career Center on Saturday, December 10th, 2011 for our annual community service project. Pictured below are Ken Bennett, Kim Bennett, David Howell, and Kay Morris.



2012 Chapter officers are:

President – Andy Courson
 Vice President – Johnny Hayes
 President-Elect – Kim Bennett
 Secretary/Treasurer – Cheryl Williamson

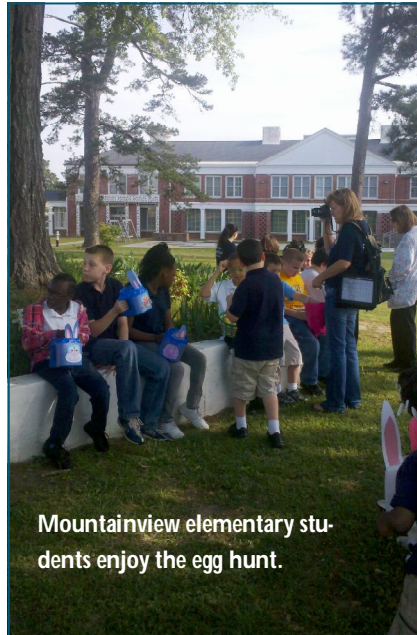


Chapter & Division News

News from RWSIR, *Sara Godowns*

RWSIR Chapter has been very busy this spring with service projects for the community and RWSIR customers. We actually sponsored two brand new events; an Easter Eggstravaganza for the Mountainview Elementary Special Education Students in the quadrangle and purchased belts used for gait training by the RWSIR therapy department. We sponsored two new fundraising events; a Trivia Night and a Zumbathon, which raised \$161.00 designated

for the Wounded Warrior Project. See pictures from our Easter Eggstravaganza to the Right:



Mountainview elementary students enjoy the egg hunt.



Looks like Peter, but it is really our own Bruce Dukes.

News From East Chapter, *Myndi Hoffman*

The East Chapter met for the first time this year on February 2nd. Our speaker Aliana Schuyler, MS, Director of Day Services for Soto Assisted Living Group shared information about services offered by Soto ALG including supported employment, community access services and pre-vocational training in the eastern area of Georgia. During the business portion of our meeting, members volunteered and then were selected as chairpersons for the following committees: Communication, Membership, Special Projects, Education and Advocacy, and Fundraising. We also discussed our recent support of one of our members Elijah Carter at the NRA Governmental Affairs Summit in Washington DC. The East Chapter assisted with registration for the Summit which enabled Mr. Carter to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities to our legislators. We also discussed continuing our partnership with the Vocational Rehabilitation program to collect donated clothing to be used for people with disabilities searching for employment. We also set our year's goals for fundraising and membership. Our next meeting is scheduled in Augusta on June 21st.

News From West Chapter, *Jason Williams*

West GRA helped to sponsor a very successful training in VR - Region 4 in January 2012. Stephanie Samuels, Workforce Investment Board Representative, provided a very informative presentation on services available to persons for child care, training and transportation. This fall, we plan to purchase an advertisement in the GRA Conference Program Book and send members to this training event as well. We hope to offer a 50/50 cash raffle as a fundraiser at the conference.

*Look throughout
this newsletter for
conference
activities sponsored
by local GRA
Chapters &
Divisions!*

Chapter & Division News

ence in
vannah,
our annual

car show in October, annual legislative event, and several fundraisers in our areas that we serve.

"We had 3 members attend the ribbon cutting at Cave Springs on 4/10/2012. " See pictures on page 9

News From Northeast Chapter, Dana Skelton-Sanders & Beverly Raznoff

In March, at our Meeting, our guest was Dr. Nicola Dovey, disability coordinator at Gainesville State College. We met in the office of Thomas McCoy, disability coordinator at North Georgia College and State University and member of our chapter. The two coordinators discussed the consolidation of the two institutions and what that would mean for students with disabilities.

A Membership Marketing plan is being organized for our NorthEast Region. Recruiting is a priority for our chapter and we plan on participating in the membership drive for the year.

We had 3 members attend the ribbon cutting at Cave Springs on 4/10/2012.

On April 28, 2012, we will be painting the handicap parking space at our office and our chapter will be scheduling time at schools and different locations served in our communities.

Planning is underway for several special and fundraising projects. Our chapter is beginning planning for the confer-



like to donate these trophies to our chapter to be used for the car show. He said he was

doing this because the car show will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Car show co-chairs Beverly Raznoff and Thomas McCoy met Michael Ruffalo in Dahlonega for dinner, and he brought the trophies. The Northeast chapter has been blessed by the outpouring of support we have seen for our car show and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Wounded Warrior Fund Raising Project, Paige Tidwell

Just a reminder about our conferenceJust a reminder about our conference fundraiser. Do you have your collection containers out in strategic location? If not now is the time. Remember this is a way to support our own Warm Springs and the Wounded Warrior Project. See more Details on Page 10



March 2012 GRA Board Meeting



2011 Membership Award Winners



2012 NRA Governmental Affairs Summit, Cheryl Ussery

The NRA Governmental Affairs Summit was held March 18th through the 20th, 2012. Attending from Georgia were: Jennifer Howell, President GRA, Ed James, Vice-President GRA, Tom Wilson, Immediate Past President NRA, Ken Bennett, President National RCEA, and Lauri Tuten and Cheryl Ussery, Education and Advocacy Chairs GRA.

There were quite a few outstanding speakers and among them was Robert Burns former Director of the Maryland Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and currently, Senior Policy Analyst for the University of Massachusetts' Institute for Community Inclusion, discussed creative ways for the State to get Federal matching funds for the VR Program. Mr. Burns was very informative.

Dr. Edward Anthony, Interim Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) and Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Thomas Finch, Director of Train-

ing and Service Program Division of RSA spoke on the status and future of the Federal funding of RSA's long-term training grants and issues of upmost interest to all NRA/GRA members.

Dr. Fredric Schroeder, former Commissioner of the RSA and presently Director of the Leadership Institute at San Diego State University, discussed the disability policy including the recently released Presidential Memorandum on the Randolph-Sheppard Program, (A vending facility program for the blind). Dr. Schroeder did a terrific job as always and as usual his speech was interfused with humor.

Morgan Duffy, who is presently an Intern to Senator Harkin, talked to us about her life with a disability. She is quite an accomplished young lady.

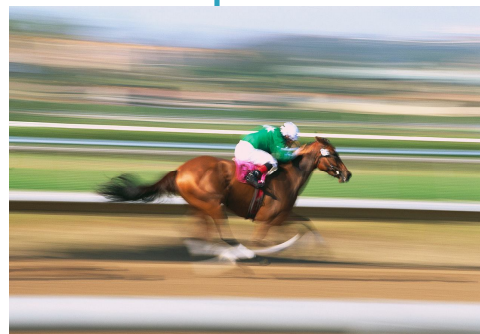
At the Congressional Luncheon, Captain Ryan Kules told us of his

remarkable story and the assistance given to him by the Wounded Warriors Project, and how he "gave back" by helping wounded soldiers in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. His commentary was very close to home for GRA, since we had collected money for the Wounded Warrior Project at the GRA Conference last year. The "Hill" visits went very well. Both Senators were revisited and all the Congressmen either were seen or materials were left at their offices.

BRAGGING RIGHTS, Regina Watts

The membership contest continues for 2012 until August. The Chapter, Division, Facility (public or private), or Office (public and private) that recruit the most members will be awarded the "Race Horse Award" trophy along with bragging rights. The Highlands chapter is the current recipient of the trophy. Also, the members who recruit the most members will be awarded a **cash incentive** during the annual training conference in Savannah.

Keep in mind that the membership chairperson has to be informed by email at rwatts@albanytech.edu in order for you to get credit for recruiting the new member. The NRA application is on the GRA website for you to copy and send in. However, potential members can also apply online on the website if paying via credit card. Membership is payable monthly or in total to NRA. RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT to win Bragging Rights!!!!



The Chapter, Division, Facility (public or private), or Office (public and private) that recruit the most members will be awarded the "Race Horse Award" trophy along with bragging rights.

News from Archives Committee, Jason Williams & Kay Harbin

The GRA Archives Committee is currently scanning documents related to financial information and past training events from the state board, divisions and local chapters. We have almost completed the records from 2010. Our next focus will be to scan all of the available financial information. The new GRA Archives Room is located in the old VRU, Room 255. All of the historical information records, photos, plaques, financial records, etc. are in this room for the past 10 years. Scanning of these items is underway. Mike Shadix has agreed to let us store all GRA material older than 10 years in the Library area until scanning is completed. We will be reviewing various “thumb” drives or external storage devices for purchase as a back – up for these documents along with an external storage device. Eventually, we hope to display these items at the RWSIR Heritage Center and may also incorporate items from the National Rehabilitation Association to create a combined GRA/NRA display. We are very grateful to RWSIR for allowing association records to be stored in a secure environment. A special thank you goes to Bruce Dukes, Kay Harbin, Mike Shadix and Ann Jones for their tireless work to scan, catalogue, and preserve these documents.

GRA Members!

Please go to the following survey monkey link to let me know your continuing education needs !

www.surveymonkey.com/s/SP8B9FT

You can also email me at paige.tidwell@gdol.ga.gov

News From GRCEA, Dana Skelton-Sanders

GRCEA will once again offer our annual training on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel prior to the GRA Training Event. By popular demand, the training will once again 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 as we expect a large turnout for the event given the positive response from training Dr. Rawlins has presented in the past. 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 also be found on Page 8 in the newsletter.

GRCEA will once again offer our annual training on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel prior to the GRA Training Event. See Page 16 for Registration Form.

2012 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 2011 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 1, 2012 to:

Jason Williams

Attention: GRCEA Award Nominations

1220 Hogansville Road, Suite #400

LaGrange, GA 30241

Fax: (706) 298 - 7288

2nd Annual 5K Prediction Walk/Run

The GRA Highlands Chapter will be hosting a 5K run/walk (appx. 3 miles) during the conference this year! The event is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 5th at 7:30 am**. This race will be a "Prediction 5K". Participants will be required to predict their finishing time prior to starting the race, and will not be allowed to have a watch, cell phone, or timing device of any kind during the race. It isn't about who finishes first, but who finishes closest to their predicted time. This makes the event fair for participants of all ages and abilities. Awards will be presented to the top 3 overall winning predictions. The race will be held at Forsyth Park, near the conference hotel. Transportation to and from the race will be provided for conference attendees.

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

Pre-registration: **\$20.00**, if postmarked by August 10th.

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

August 11th or later, and during conference: **\$25.00**

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

GRA Highlands Chapter 2nd Annual 5K Prediction Walk/Run 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I predict that I will finish this race in _____ hrs. and/or _____ minutes.

T-Shirt Size (all adult sizes):

_____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____ 4XL

Note: Any registrations received after August 10, 2012, will be given size large t-shirts.

Please include \$20 registration fee. Checks should be made payable to *GRA Highlands Chapter*. Mail to:

**GRA Highlands Chapter
Attn: Angie Rhudy, President
202 W. Villanow Street, LaFayette, GA 30728**

You must read the following before signing. I know that participating in a road race is a potentially hazardous activity for which I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of race official relative to my ability to safely compete in the walk/run. I hereby assume full responsibility for any risk or bodily injury, death, or property damage due to negligence and assume all risks associated with participation in this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, traffic, and the condition of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, I for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the GRA Highlands Chapter and sponsors, their representatives and successors, race volunteers and officials from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event. I grant permission to use any photographs or any other promotional record of this event for any other reason. I understand that all entries are final with no refunds for any reason.

Signature of Participant

Date

NEWS FROM HIGHLANDS CHAPTER: The GRA Highlands Chapter met at the Goodwill in Cartersville, GA on March 23rd. Ten members and three visitors attended. Pictures of 2012 officers and members in attendance were made. 2012 Highlands Chapter Officers pictured below: Gwen Raines, Secretary; Wayne Denson, Treasurer; Angie Rhudy, President



Highlands Chapter Members:

Front row: Wayne Denson and Gwen Raines

Back Row: Janell Smith (visitor); Ed James; Hope Welch; Beverly Barnes; Angie Rhudy;

Tamika Wright; Steve Cole; Traci Brown; Janine Sisk (Visitor); and Debbie Whaley

We are currently in the process of selling GRA polo shirts for a fundraiser. Shirts are royal blue with blue and silver logo, with the words Georgia Rehabilitation Association spelled out in white lettering beside the logo. Shirts are \$22 each for S-XL, 2X are \$24, 3X are \$25, and 4X are \$27. Shirts will be delivered to GRA representatives at the July 13th Board Meeting, and at the Annual Conference. Ordered shirts can be delivered via regular mail at any time for an additional \$3 postage fee. (Order form on Page 6)

The Highlands Chapter will be hosting their 2nd annual 5K walk/run fundraiser on Wednesday, September 5th, during the conference in Savannah, and we will again include t-shirts in the registration fee. More information and registration form will be distributed later.

GEORGIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

HIGHLANDS CHAPTER

FUNDRAISER!



The Highlands Chapter is currently accepting orders for new GRA shirts! The short-sleeved shirts are royal blue, 65/35 poly/cotton pique.

They have a flat knit collar and cuffs. Sizes range from adult small thru 4 XL.

(Note: This picture is not an exact replica of the shirt; it is only a sample of a polo shirt)



The round GRA logo and lettering will be placed on the left side of the chest area. The lettering "Georgia Rehabilitation Association" will be white.

Prices are as follows: Adult Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large are all \$22.00 each.

Adult 2X are \$24.00 each. Adult 3X are \$25.00 each. Adult 4X are \$27.00 each

Ordered shirts can be delivered to your local GRA President or representative at the July 13th Board Meeting in Warm Springs, or they can be picked up at the annual conference in September.

If you would like your shirt *early* and shipped *directly to you*, please select the "mail to" option and pay an additional \$3.00 for shipping to your address. Shirts being mailed can be shipped out in approximately 2-weeks from the receipt of payment.

Please see following order form.....

DON'T BE LEFT OUT! GET YOURS TODAY!

GRA Polo Shirt Order Form

Name: _____

Home Address or DOL Office: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name of your local GRA President or Representative: _____

***Deadline to order for delivery to your GRA rep. on July 13th is JUNE 22nd.**

***Deadline to order for delivery to the Annual Conference is AUGUST 17th.**

T-Shirt Size (all adult sizes) \$22.00 each

_____ Small _____ 2XL (\$24.00 each)

_____ Medium _____ 3XL (\$25.00 each)

_____ Large _____ 4XL (\$27.00 each)

_____ Extra Large

_____ Total Number of Shirts Ordered

_____ Total Payment Due **Do not need to add tax. **Remember to add \$3.00 per shirt if you would like to have your order mailed to you.*

Please make checks payable to **GRA HIGHLANDS CHAPTER**. Shirts will not be ordered until payment is received. **Please mail form and payment to: GRA Highlands Chapter, Attn: Angie Rhudy, 202 W. Villanow Street, LaFayette, GA 30728. For questions, call (706) 638-5536 or email angelia.rhudy@gdol.ga.gov**

2012 CONFERENCE REMINDERS!!



Hello all, Time is flying by and the 2012 GRA Conference will be upon us before we know it. I wanted to give you all few reminders so we can make this the best conference ever. Registration form will be going out today along with flyer. The following will need to be brought to the July board meeting so we can prepare for the conference. You all are AWESOME!!!!

1. Door prizes are needed by each Chapter and Division (10) is awesome but we can use more.
2. Time to collect for the conference bags, Chapters and Divisions please try to collect 100 of something to be placed in the bags(pens, note pads, squeeze balls etc).
3. Candidates not too early to start to thinking about what you are going to place in bags.(Stuffing 300 bags)
4. Candidates also begin thinking about what you want to do for the Social on Wednesday night

Northeast Ga Chapter members attend Cave Spring Open House





WOUNDED WARRIOR FAMILY RETREAT

WHAT

For Service Members who have been injured as a result of military service during *OEF/OIF/OND* and their immediate family.

Activities for the whole family: Sports, aquatics, outdoor activities, games, arts & crafts and MORE.

WHEN

Weekend of March 23-25, 2012

WHERE

Camp Dream in Warm Springs, GA



WHY

To provide the assistance and education for all participants to increase their level of function, both physically and emotionally.



For More Information:

www.WWfamilycamp.webs.com

Kate Lipton: kate@camptwinlakes.org ; 404-295-5295



Membership Updates

ATTENTION! URGENT!

Your GRA Secretary and GRA Membership Chair desperately needs you to update your membership profile information! We, along with NRA, have made great efforts to send out updates and valuable information, particularly via e-mail, however, many members do not list their e-mail addresses or their information is not current.

Please take a moment for the following:

Logon to NRA at www.nationalrehab.org

Log into the MEMBERS ONLY section

Create your logon password if you have never done it

Your username is your NRA member number

Under QUICKLINKS

Click on UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

If any of your information is not current, please make changes.

The update will take approximately 24 to 48 hours to process.

We also ask you email GRA Secretary, Paige Tidwell, with your updated information so that we can make those changes in our local records.
Paige.tidwell@gdol.ga.gov

Thank you,

SWGRA has begun its fundraiser with a Game Basket valued at \$150.00; donations are \$2 for 1 ticket or \$5 for 3 tickets.



Tickets will be available at the SWG-VR offices and SWGRA chapter members' soon. Kudos Cathy Manuel for a great



**Join us in
Chicago
For The
National
Rehabilitation
Association 2012
Annual Training
Conference**

When: August 24-26, 2012; Pre-conference sessions on August 23rd

Where: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place

2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive

Chicago, IL 60616

Nationalrehab.org (JOIN NOW for Conference Discounts)

Pictures Below from 2012 SERNRA Conference. Georgia attendees pictured are Patsy Morris, LaDetria King, Janie Fuller, Jennifer Howell, Ken Bennett, Ed James, Gene Smith, & David Howell. Pictured right is the SERNRA table setting.



GRCEA: Georgia Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association

2012 Annual Pre- GRA Conference Training Event

Tuesday, September 4th, 2012

Savannah Marriott Riverfront, 100 General McIntosh Boulevard, Savannah , Ga. 31501

"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 (lrwlin1@utk.edu)

NOTE: You do NOT have to be a member of N.R.A. or G.R.A. in order to attend and receive credits

Registration fee for this event is **not** included in the main GRA Conference Registration Fee

Name: _____

Address: _____

Job Title: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Accommodations Needed (Indicate Alternate Format, Interpreter, etc) Deadline for Request is **8/1/2012**:

Registration Fee: \$50.00

Registration Deadline: 8/31/2012 (limited registrations

Send registration to:

available day of event)

Kim Bennett, GRCEA Treasurer, PO Box 2026, Waycross Georgia 31502

Phone (912) 285 6078 FAX (912) 287 6698

Make Checks Payable to: GRCEA

Total Enclosed: \$_____

GRA 2012
September 5-7, 2012, Savannah, Georgia

TRAINING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION



Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

☐ First Time Attendee NRA Membership # _____

Accommodations: **Deadline to request an accommodation is July 20, 2012**

☐ Large Print ☐ Braille ☐ ASL Interpreter ☐ Materials on CD/Disk

☐ Other (e.g. Dietary): _____

Name for Badge _____

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

Registration _____ \$165 On-site Registration _____ \$190

Early Bird Registration ends July 20, 2012

Non-Member Registration _____ \$340

Deadline is July 20, 2012

Guest Registration _____ \$50 (plus an additional _____ \$35 if attending Awards Breakfast)

Guest Name _____ Name for Badge _____

(Guest cannot be anyone working in the field of rehabilitation.)

Student Registration _____ \$50

Retiree Registration _____ \$100 (Includes Retiree Luncheon Thurs., September 6th)

Retiree Luncheon Only _____ \$35

President's Reception and Awards Breakfast, **included** in full \$165 registration fee. **No awards tickets available for purchase on site.** Name badges are required for all functions!! Even for guests.

Do you plan on attending? _____ All (President's Reception AND Awards Breakfast)

_____ President's Reception only _____ Awards Breakfast only

Will you need CRC/CEU Credits? _____ Yes _____ No (There will be a charge for CEUs)

Grand Total \$ _____ (Direct Bill to: _____)

Are you a Past President? (Circle) GRA SERNRA NRA

Please make checks payable to GRA and send registration form and check to: LaShunda Williams, P.O. Box 1189, Bainbridge, GA 39818 (229) 248-2480

****State Employees, please email Cheryl Williamson at bonabeth@yahoo.com or bonabeth@yahoo.com with your name, dates of lodging needed, and any accommodations needed. Cheryl will make reservation for you. Non-State Employees can make direct hotel reservations (Marriott Riverfront/\$135 per night) may be made directly with the hotel by calling (912) 233-7722. Deadline for hotel reservations is August 4th, 2012.**

The Georgia Rehabilitation Association

Invites you to participate in the

2012 Annual Training Conference & Exhibitor Showcase

September 5 – 7, 2012

Savannah Marriott Riverfront

100 General McIntosh Boulevard
· Savannah, Georgia 31401 USA

Room rate: \$135

Reserve your room now!

Toll-Free: 888-236-2427

"The Georgia Rehabilitation Association is a Member organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy."

Our Members include rehabilitation counselors, physical, speech and occupational therapists, job trainers, consultants, independent living instructors and other professionals involved in the advocacy of programs and services for people with disabilities.

Each year GRA hosts a well attended training conference where knowledge is shared and concerns are addressed. Rehabilitation professionals are able to stay current on subjects relevant to their career and earn many of the continuing education credits necessary for maintaining a variety of certifications.

Within this environment, the GRA Conference exposition provides an extraordinary marketplace for increasing sales while reducing sales costs. With its targeted audience, this conference can be a po-

Exhibitors Can:

- Demonstrate state-of-the-art products to a receptive audience.
- Meet individuals interested in new products and services.
- Interact with attendees during session breaks
- Reach people not usually accessible to sales representatives.
- Create immediate impact with high-energy displays.
- Showcase unique, innovative technologies.
- Communicate effectively with one-on-one contact.
- Discover new buying interests.

Special Addition

Exhibitors can apply to professional accrediting commissions for credits. If approved, conference attendees can earn credits toward maintaining certification for visiting your booth. This provides time to individually showcase your products and services to attendees. Further information will be provided if indicated on exhibitor registration form.

Exhibitors Fee

Price per booth: \$400

Booths are reserved upon receipt of a completed, signed contract and payment of \$400 per booth. Contracts will NOT be accepted without payment. Confirmation of the reservation will be sent as soon as the Signed contract and payment are received.

Exhibitor Fee Includes:

- One 8' x 8' exhibit booth space
- One 6' skirted table and two chairs
- One identification sign
- 8' high drape; 3' high side drapes
- Organization's name in Exhibitor Guide
- Free admission to the President's Reception
- One 120-volt electrical outlet, upon request
- Two Awards Breakfast Tickets, upon request

Directory, Sponsorship, Door Prizes & Conference Bags

The Conference Program & Exhibitor Guide is distributed to all conference participants inside a specialty designed tote bag. The Guide provides a complete listing of vendors, with the name and location of each booth. Advertising space is available and an excellent way to keep your company's information in the minds of our Members long after the conference is over.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available at levels to fit every budget. By helping to sponsor the conference, you not only provide added exposure for your company, but also receive enhanced benefits before and during the conference. For information on sponsorship and conference packages, please contact Cheryl Williamson at 229.333.5251.

Exhibitor-donated door prizes will be drawn throughout the conference. This is another great way to spotlight your company! Please indicate this on the exhibitor contract or contact Dale J. Arnold (dalearnold59@gmail.com).

*******Exhibitor Registration deadline is June 1, 2012*******

2007 Annual Training Conference Exhibitor Showcase

September 5-7, 2012

Please print or type.

Company Name: _____

(Name as it is to appear in the Exhibitor Guide and on Exhibitor Booth Sign)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

URL Address: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

Contact Person E-mail: _____

I hereby authorize the Georgia Rehabilitation Association to reserve exhibit space for use by the above company or organization during the 2012 GRA Annual Training Conference & Exhibitor Showcase. I also acknowledge receipt of and agree to abide by the Exhibit Rules and Regulations provided with this contract, and to all conditions under which exhibit space is leased to GRA. 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 the Savannah Marriott Riverfront from any and all such losses, damages and claims.

Signature: _____

Position: _____ Date: _____

Space will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.**Payment Terms:** Booth rental fee is \$400 per 8' X 8' booth space.Payment in full **MUST** accompany this contract or no booth space will be assigned.

We are interested in applying to accrediting commissions for potential certification credits. Y N

COMBO PACKAGES

\$_____ Exhibit booth (8' x 8') and Full Page Ad Combo (\$550.00)

\$_____ Exhibit booth and Break Sponsorship Combo (\$550.00)

\$_____ Exhibit booth, Break Sponsorship and Full Page Ad Combo (\$700.00)

We request space for a modified vehicle. Y N We require a 120-volt electrical outlet Y N

\$_____ Additional Awards Breakfast Tickets (9/7/12) @ \$ 20 each

Two Awards Breakfast tickets are included. Please indicate if your company will be utilizing these two tickets. Y N

\$_____ President's Reception & Dance Sponsorship Donation

\$_____ **Total** (Enclose a check made payable to the Georgia Rehabilitation Association.)**Please mail completed and signed exhibitor contract with payment to:**

Dale J. Arnold 165 Ballard Drive, Harlem, Georgia 30814

Phone: 706-556-9632; Fax: 678-913-0638

*****Exhibitor Registration deadline is July 20, 2012*****

We are interested in donating door prizes. Y N

We are interested in donating items to be placed in the conference tote bags. Y N

EXHIBIT RULES AND REGULATIONS

CONTRACT FOR SPACE – The signed official application for exhibit space constitutes a contract for the right to use space only when an acceptance is confirmed by the Exhibits Manager. All contracts are expressly subject to the terms of the Conference lease relating to the Exhibition Premises.

PAYMENT AND CANCELLATIONS – The charge is **\$400 per 8' x 8' exhibit booth and is due upon contract submission**. Exhibitors who cancel after June 15, 2012 will be obligated for 50% of the total booth rental fee (\$200) as liquidated damages. Exhibitors who cancel after August 1, 2012 will be obligated for full payment as liquidated damages. Failure to occupy booth space does not release the Exhibitor from obligation to pay the full cost of rental. If booth space is not occupied by 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 5, 2012, the Exhibits Manager reserves the right to use the space as he/she sees fit to eliminate empty space in the Exhibit Hall.

SPACE ASSIGNMENT – The Exhibits Manager will assign space on a first-come, first-served basis, according to the date received. In the absence of a legible postmark, the Conference will assign space according to the date the application and payment are received. GRA reserves the right to shift space assignment after the contract is completed if it is found necessary to do so. No changes in assigned spaces will be made without prior notice. Exhibitors may not sublease, reassign, or apportion all or any part of the space assigned without prior written permission from the Exhibits Manager. The Exhibits Manager reserves the right to reject, eject, or prohibit any exhibit in whole or in part or any Exhibitor with cause if exhibit is unsuitable or not consistent with the character of the Exhibition.

EXHIBIT HOURS – The Exhibition will be open from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Wednesday September 5th; from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Thursday, September 6th; and from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Friday, September 7th. These hours are subject to change.

INSTALLATION – Booth spaces and exhibit tables will be available for installation from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 6th. The installation of exhibits and removal of all boxes and crating must be completed by 6:00 PM. Absolutely no exceptions will be made.

DISMANTLING – Exhibitors agree to have all material removed by 11:00 AM Friday, September 7th. Any material left on the floor after this time will be discarded with cartage rates applied if applicable.

BOOTH FURNISHINGS AND DECORATIONS – Each booth includes a) a standard 8' high by 8' wide back wall drape; b) side rail drapes 3' high and 10' long; c) a standard 12" x 24" booth sign; d) aisle cleaning service; e) one 6' draped table f) two chairs; g) two Exhibitor badges; and h) one single 120-volt electrical outlet, if requested on reverse.

ADVERTISING MATTER – The Exhibits Manager reserves the right to refuse the distribution of souvenirs, advertising, printing material, or any other items considered objectionable. Distribution of allowed materials from any location other than the Exhibitor's space is prohibited.

SECURITY – Peripheral security guard service is provided by Exhibit Management. However, it is the responsibility of each Exhibitor to protect material from loss or damage. Any Exhibitor wishing additional security must contract individually with the security vendor selected by the Conference; all charges will be billed to the Exhibitor directly by the vendor.

ADMISSION – Admission to the 2012 GRA Conference will be by official exhibitor badge only, which entitles the owner to unlimited attendance. Each booth is entitled to two free badges. Exhibitor personnel shall be limited to four people per booth at any one time. Exhibitors and their representatives must wear their official badges at all times while on the display floor. Badges are not transferable and must not be loaned to any other person; violators will be barred from the Exhibit premises. The Exhibits Manager shall have sole control of admission policy at all times. An Exhibitor is permitted to enter the Exhibit Premises one hour before the scheduled opening time.

EXHIBITOR CONDUCT – The Exhibitor shall refrain from any action that distracts participants from attendance at the Conference during open hours. If an Exhibitor is rejected for violation of these rules or for any stated reason, no return of rental shall be made.

SOLICITATION OF BUSINESS – Only Exhibitors may solicit business in or near the Exhibit Premises. Sales and order taking are permitted on Exhibit Premises. The Exhibitor shall be responsible for any state or local taxes that may be applicable. Sales receipts must accompany all merchandise sold and delivered on the Exhibition Premises.

FILM, SOUND DEVICES, AND LIGHTING – Moving pictures, loud speakers, or sound devices will only be permitted if tuned to a conversational level and are not objectionable to neighboring Exhibitors. The Exhibits Manager reserves the right to restrict the use of glaring lights or objectionable lighting effects.

FIRE HAZARDS – Fire-hose cabinets must be left accessible and in full view at all times. Bottled gas or other type of open flame is not permitted. Flammable and related materials that conflict with the underwriting, Center, or Fire Department rules are prohibited. The use of paper in any form for decoration is prohibited. All decorations, drapers, table covers, etc., must be flame proof. All flammable materials and fluids are to be kept in safety containers. All packing containers, excelsior, and wrapping paper are to be removed from the floor and must be stored under tables or behind displays.

INSURANCE – Exhibitors wishing to insure their goods must do so at their own expense.

CARE OF BUILDING – Acceptance of exhibit space obligates the Exhibitor and its employees to not deface, injure, or mar the Exhibit Premises. Nothing shall be posted on, tacked, nailed, screwed, or otherwise attached to columns, walls, floors, or other parts of the building or furniture. No gasoline, kerosene, acetylene, candles, or other flammable or explosive substance will be permitted in the Center. Any damage done shall be made good by the Exhibitor to GRA or the owners of the Center as their interests may appear. In addition, this contract shall include all rules and regulations set forth by the Savannah Marriott Riverfront.

LIABILITY – Neither GRA, the Exhibits Manager, the Savannah Marriott Riverfront, the Decorator, nor others associated with the management of the Conference will assume responsibility for the safety of the property of the Exhibitor, its officials, agents, or employees, from theft or damage by fire, accident, or other causes, but will use reasonable care to protect against such loss. It is agreed that the Exhibitor shall indemnify and hold harmless GRA, the Decorator, the Center, and others associated with the Conference and Exhibits Management from all liability that might result from any cause whatsoever. GRA, the Decorator, and others associated with the management of the Conference and the Center shall not be liable for non-fulfillment or commitment for delivery of space by reason of the Center premise being damaged, destroyed, or rendered unusable by fire, accident, acts of nature or public enemy, strike, authority of law, or any other cause. In the event that the Conference cannot be held or space delivered to that purpose, GRA's sole liability shall be to reimburse the Exhibitor pro-rata on monies actually paid in by such Exhibitor less any and all costs or charges paid or incurred for advertising, administration, and similar purposes. These rules and regulations are subject to revision by the Conference and all points not covered herein are subject to the decision of the Conference.

These rules have been formulated for the best interests of the Exhibitors, the Conference, the Decorator, and the Resort. Exhibitors are respectfully requested to observe all rules.

The Exhibits manager shall be the final authority on any question regarding the interpretation of these rules and regulations.

The Georgia Rehabilitation Association

Invites you to participate in the
2012 Annual Training Conference

September 5-7, 2012

Conference Program Advertising Rates

Ad Cost/Type Dimensions Specifications (Please see reverse for actual advertising sizes)

\$200.00 Full Page Black and White (7 1/2" x 10")

\$100.00 Half Page Black and White (7 1/2" x 4")

\$75.00 Quarter Page Black and White (3 1/2" x 4 1/2")

\$50.00 Eighth Page Black and White (Business Card Size)

\$350.00 Inside Front Cover Full Page Black and White

\$325.00 Inside Back Cover Full Page Black and White

\$350.00 Outside Back Cover Full Page Black and White



These prime ads sell
quickly. Please call for
availability!

Please print or type.

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Person E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Payment Amount: \$_____ (All payments are due by July 20, 2012)

Enclosed a check made payable to the Georgia Rehabilitation Association

Please mail completed advertising contract with payment to:

Dale J. Arnold 165 Ballard Drive, Harlem, Georgia 30814

Phone: 706-556-9632; Fax: 678-913-0638

**All ads must be submitted in high quality PDF or camera-ready format, with payment in full by
July 20, 2012 to be included in the 2012 Conference Program & Exhibitor Guide.**

Payment will not be reimbursed for advertising purchased but not submitted by deadline date.

All advertising is black and white.

This Year.....COMING TO THE DANCE..... TALENT SHOW.

Can you Sing? Can you dance? BRING YOUR talent to GRA! And be GReAt!!!!!!!

We will be taking a collection money for the winner. You can start collecting now for the event.

If you are interested in participating in the talent show during the dance, please send a detailed description of your talent to

dana.skelton-sanders@gdol.ga.gov

Please bring any costume/props/music needed to perform. The DJ is willing to aid in anything that you need him to do for you!

Please put this in too....

Fundraising Committee.

Bring your dollars to the conference. You can purchase tickets to win several prizes in the fundraising efforts at the Conference.

Don't Throw Money Away!!

Submitted by Lauri Tuten and Lauren Knox, Scholarship Chairs

Don't "throw" away the opportunity to nominate a deserving individual in the field of rehabilitation for the Paula McIntosh Memorial Continuing Education Grant and the Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship Award. Deadlines are **August 3, 2012** 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. Due to the ending of funds for this grant, this will be the last year for the McIntosh Education Grant so don't delay in sending in nominations. We express our sincerest thanks to the family of Paula Dooley McIntosh for their support of deserving professionals in the field of rehabilitation.



For more information, contact Lauri Tuten at 706.597.8575 or lauri.tuten@dol.state.ga.us or Lauren Knox at 706.649.7400 or lauren.knox@dol.state.ga.us. Completed applications should be mailed and postmarked no later than August 3, 2012 to:

Lauri Tuten
c/o GDOL/VR
PO Box 824
Thomson, GA

See Pages 23 –28 for criteria and nomination information.

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.

Applications must be postmarked no later than August 3, 2012 and mailed to:

**Lauri Tuten
c/o GDOL/VR
PO Box 824
Thomson, GA 30824**

ENTRY FORM (Pages 24 & 25)
For the NANCY CROWDER MEMORIAL Scholarship

Please print or type all responses to the following questions.

Nominee's name:		SSN	
-----------------	--	-----	--

Home address:	
---------------	--

--

Phone:		Birthdate	
		:	

High School name and address:	
-------------------------------	--

Name

--

Street

--	--	--

City

State

Zip Code

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.

NOTE: The PAULA DOOLEY MCINTOSH MEMORIAL CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT Application Form can be found on pages 16 and 17 of Appendix B.

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:*

1. Complete the attached application form.
2. Obtain two (2) letters of reference to be submitted with the application form.
3. All applications must be complete and legible.
4. Return completed application package to:

**Lauri Tuten, MA, CRC
c/o GDOL/VR
PO Box 824
Thomson, GA 30824**

5. Application package must be postmarked no later than **August 3, 2012**.

**Application Form
for the**

PAULA DOOLEY MCINTOSH MEMORIAL CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT

Please print or type all information requested below.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

NAME		SOCIAL SECURITY #	
------	--	-------------------	--

HOME ADDRESS		
No. & Street		City, State, Zip

HOME PHONE		BUSINESS PHONE	
------------	--	----------------	--

U.S. CITIZEN?					RESIDENT OF GEORGIA?			
Yes		No			Yes		No	

EDUCATION:

HIGH SCHOOL		
Name		City, State

GRADUATION DATE	
-----------------	--

BUSINESS OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL		
Name		City, State

DATES ATTEND- ED	
---------------------	--

COLLEGE		
Name		City, State

DATES ATTEND- ED	
---------------------	--

GRADUATE SCHOOL		
Name		City, State

DATES ATTEND- ED	
---------------------	--

Page 2 Paula Dooly McIntosh Continuing Education Grant Application

EMPLOYMENT:

JOB TITLE	
-----------	--

EMPLOYER	
----------	--

MAILING ADDRESS		
-----------------	--	--

No. & Street

City, State, ZIP

PHONE	
-------	--

REFERENCES:

NAME	
------	--

ADDRESS		
---------	--	--

No. & Street

City, State, ZIP

PHONE	
-------	--

NAME	
------	--

ADDRESS		
---------	--	--

No. & Street

City, State, ZIP

PHONE	
-------	--

In the space below 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.

"Dream Big and Don't Fail"

to

GARL ANNUAL AUCTION

Wednesday September 5, 2012

8:30 PM

**GARL needs your donation of
auction items**

Bring your spending money!
Bid on Sports paraphanelia, Jewelry,
home goods and more

Questions or Donations: Contact Lauri Tuten at
706.597.8575 or lauri.tuten@dol.state.ga.us

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 to be 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.

Application is available in the newsletter or by contacting Yovancha Lewis-Samuels at [Yo-vancha.Samuels@dol.state.ga.us](mailto:Yovancha.Samuels@dol.state.ga.us)



Entry Form For the Georgia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership Education Grant

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:

Lauri Tuten

PO BOX 824

Thomson, GA 30824

Deadline is August 3, 2012

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 Searce, Ann Heeth, Melanie Poole, Dr. John Williams, Trish Cooper, Cynthia Woodruff, Charlotte Tolbert, Susan Sherman, Carl McRae, Catherine Andrews, Annette McCauley, Ken Hise and last year's winner Karen Royston!.

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 10, 2012.**

Don't wait until the last minute—send nominations now!
Call me at 478-757-4083 with any questions.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR GRA AWARDS

Please help us honor those deserving recognition with nominations for the following awards. ***Awards Descriptions on Page 34.***

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 13, 2012

Please send all nominations to:

GRA Awards Chairperson, Sherri Kirby

1220 Hogansville Rd., Suite 400

LaGrange, GA 30241

sherri.kirby@dol.state.ga.us

GRA 5K Walk/Run

DREAM BIG DARE TO FAIL

Savannah 2012

Hosted by Highlands Chapter

Myndi Hoffman & Karen Royston—2012 Conference Program Co-Chairs

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, you will not want to miss the GRA training conference being planned for Savannah in September.

The program committee is "going the extra mile" to plan a conference packed with training for all rehabilitation professionals. Not only are we planning to provide 19 concurrent sessions, we are planning on two outstanding keynote addresses, one at the opening of the conference and one at the closing of the conference. Below is some information on the motivational and highly energetic speaker that is planned for opening session.

Eddie Slowikowski - Going the Extra Mile

Eddie Slowikowski is the country's most dynamic professional speaker and Empowerment Strategist who goes the extra mile in each and every aspect of his presentations. From set-up, to customer service to programs jam-packed with energetic storytelling, working with Eddie is a one-of-a-kind experience. With his multimedia approach and wide-ranging programs, Eddie gets results for organizations while having a lot of fun along the way. And with a history as a world-class runner, you can count on Eddie to be out in front. Here are just a few of his considerable accomplishments:

- Entrepreneur for 20 years as a speaker and trainer.
- Founder & Director of the LifeRide Leadership Camp
- Special Guest to the Illinois School Bullying Task Force
- **3:58.63** (Eddie's mile time)
- 5-time All-American & Member of the Loyola University Hall of Fame
- Gold Medal Winner - USA Track Team
- Master of Multimedia Presentations
- Creator of "Revolution of Dance", "Make Your Move" and dozens of others

THE ISAAC MAX HELLER EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award was established to honor employers who have provided excellent services to citizens with disabilities by providing them with employment. Considerations, criteria, and procedures for nominations:

How long has this employer been cooperating with rehabilitation service providers and employing persons with disabilities?

How many persons with disabilities has this employer hired?

What is the total number of all employees in this establishment?

Is the employer using as many persons with disabilities as is feasible for his/her operation?

Has this employer provided reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities?

Is this employer's business and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities?

Has this employer been instrumental in advocating for the employment of persons with disabilities?

Does this employer inform rehabilitation service providers about employment possibilities that might be filled by persons with disabilities?

Letters of nomination should be one typed page or less.

THE SERVICE AWARD

This award is specially oriented toward 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 Division of Rehabilitation Services. Consideration, criteria, and procedures for nominations:

What has the individual contributed towards advancement of the field of rehabilitation?

What special recognition or awards has the Nominee received?

Itemize articles or writings in professional publications.

One supporting letter should accompany the letter of nomination.

THE PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award was established to honor a chapter member who has been outstanding in professional achievement during the past year. The recipient must be a 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 recognition by peer groups, community organizations, etc.

Itemize articles or other items published in professional publications.

Two supporting letters (one from a supervisor and one from a peer) should accompany letter of nomination.

GRA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR/GRA DIVISION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The purpose of this award is to honor a Local Chapter and Division for their 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 and Division 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 Recognition Committee shall obtain copies of such year-end reports to serve as nomination packets for the award.

NOMINATIONS FOR GRA Officer 2012

President Elect

Mike Pryor

Vice President Elect

CeCe Hockett

Secretary:

Angie Rhudy

Treasurer Elect:

Patsy Morris

Board Member at Large (4):

Carmella Jennings

Brian Spillers

Scott Jackson

Mary Ellen Mendiratta

Meet The Candidates

Cecelia Hockett:

Cecelia "Cece" Hockett currently serves in the role of VR Program Policy Chief for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Program. She has worked in Georgia VR since 1996 to include six years as a counselor, three years as a unit manager and four years as a policy appeals advisor. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Georgia. She is a member of NRA and a past president of the Georgia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership. Currently she participates on the GRA Board and services as the chair for the Administrative Policy Committee. "On the job" she also serves as the VR Program policy representative to the State Rehabilitation Council. She has also served as an advisory board member for Georgia State University Rehabilitation Counseling program for 6 years.

"I value the role of GRA in our profession and would love the opportunity to continue to contribute in a meaningful and productive way. I would love to have your vote!" Cece



My name is Angie Rhudy and I am very excited to announce my candidacy for GRA Secretary! I have been an active member of GRA/NRA since 2007. Currently, I am a GRA Board Member-at-Large, and a member of the Conference Registration Committee. I am also the President of the GRA Highlands Chapter. During the past year, my local chapter was awarded the "Race Horse Award" for membership recruitment.

I have been a State employee for approximately 21 years, the last six being with Vocational Rehabilitation. I am currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from Auburn University. Following this achievement, I plan to become a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. 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 Secretary, I will continue to 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 have made many new friends within GRA and I would like to continue to focus on increasing our membership even more!

I sincerely ask for your support and your vote.



TREASURER ELECT



Hi! I am Patsy Morris and I have the privilege this year of being nominated for the office of GRA Treasurer-Elect for 2013. The office of GRA Treasurer-Elect, followed by becoming GRA Treasurer, is a three-year commitment, which I am proud to offer to GRA.

I am presently employed by the VR Program as a Contract Specialist, having worked previously as an Operations Analysis Technician (OAT) for the past 12 years. I have been a proud member of NRA since my employment with VR began in 2000.

During the past 12 years I have held several positions, on different levels within the NRA/GRA organization. In the ARTS of GA Division, I have held the offices of President and Board Member. In the local South Chapter, I have held the office of Treasurer for many years, as well as Board Member. On the regional level, I have held the office of Treasurer of the SE Region ARTS division for the past several years. And in 2010, I was asked, and agreed to finish the term of the GRA Treasurer, when the elected treasurer was unable to continue in that office. With the experience that I gained during that period, I feel I am qualified to fulfill the financial requirements needed in maintaining good fiscal accountability that is so necessary for our great organization.

I would like to ask for your vote and support in my endeavor to assist GRA as the 2013 Treasurer-Elect.

Meet the Candidates

Hello Everyone!

I am Mike Pryor and I'm very excited about having an opportunity to lead GRA in 2014. I have been a member of this valuable organization since 2007. I've been very fortunate to meet so many wonderful people associated with GRA. In 2009, I served as the East Chapter president. In addition, I have taken part on panels of discussion at the GRA conference and have served on several different committees.

For those of you that I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I am the Director of Workforce Development for Goodwill of North Georgia. In 2006, I began my career with Goodwill as the Northeast Regional Manager for workforce in Athens/Toccoa. Prior to working with Goodwill, I was a Special Education teacher and Administrator.

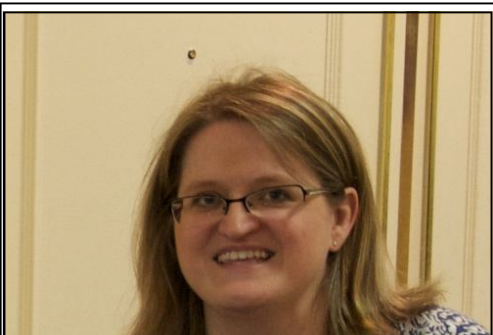
What an exciting time to be a part of such a wonderful group. The changes taking place at the state level with the Vocational Rehabilitation Program will inevitably have an impact on Georgia's rehabilitation field as a whole. With these changes ahead, it is crucial that GRA doesn't miss this opportunity to have a positive impact by making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. We can look at this as a challenge, but I choose to look at this as an opportunity.

Please vote and please vote for me MIKE PRYOR GRA PRESIDENT ELECT 2014.



Greetings everyone! My name is Carmella Jennings and I'm excited to announce my candidacy for GRA Board Member at Large. I am a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with the Vocational Rehabilitation Program in Augusta, Georgia. I have worked for GDOL/VR for 10 years. Helping individuals with disabilities become employed has been a very rewarding experience for me. I have been an active member of GRA since 2004, serving as the East Georgia Local Chapter President in 2011. I am running for Board Member at Large in hopes that my involvement and sharing of ideas, will promote GRA's mission of improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through education and advocacy. It would be a great honor to serve in this new role. I certainly would appreciate your vote, and I look forward to seeing you at the conference!

[Vote Carmella Jennings For Board Member At Large](#)



Hi! My name is Mary Ellen Mendiratta. I believe in doing GReAt things in rehabilitation! It takes a team to work with our professional and greater community to make those GReAt things happen. This is why; I am running for Board Member At Large for GRA. I am Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and I have over 15 years of rehabilitation experience. I think I bring a great mix of both private and public rehabilitation to the GRA Board. I have worked both for a major rehabilitation facility; for VR and I currently own and operate my own small business called, In Focus Rehab, LLC. I believe what we do as a profession takes a very special set of skills, passion and dedication. I believe in the mission of GRA and NRA and I am proud to attend these organization's conferences to help strengthen our roles as rehabilitation professionals in the Southeast. I would appreciate your vote and would be happy to serve as your next GRA Board Member At Large!

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Meet The Candidates

My name is Scott Jackson and I am excited to announce my candidacy for GRA member at large! I have been a member of GRA for a number of years as well as past president of the Highlands Chapter. I have attended three GRA conferences and have always been impressed with the commitment of GRA's members.

I have been a state employee for 19 years. I have been an employee with Vocational Rehabilitation for the past ten years. I am currently a transition counselor working in Pickens County. I am in Region 1 and work out of the Canton office. In addition, I have been a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor for the last eight years. I have always worked with the developmental disability population and currently foster a young man with developmental delays. I have been involved in numerous organizations in my community and have been in leadership positions for the last twenty-five years. I look forward to the possibility of serving with a group that is so dedicated to the mission of GRA!

I sincerely ask for your support!



Brian Spillers for Board Member-at-Large



I am excited to announce my candidacy for Board Member-at-Large of the Georgia Rehabilitation Association. I have been a member of NRA and GRA for a number of years but have recently felt the need to become more directly involved in all aspects of the organization. I believe that the field of Vocational Rehabilitation in Georgia is at an exciting crossroad, and I would like to be one of those working to see Georgia return to its place as a national leader in Vocational Rehabilitation.

Currently, I am a Rehabilitation Unit Manager in Region 1 (Rome double hub). I have worked in this capacity since 7-1-2006. I also served as a VR transition counselor for over 6 years prior to becoming a unit manager. I have also worked as a therapist providing home based counseling services to at risk families and individuals. My entire professional career has been in the helping professions and as I approach nearly 12 years of employment with VR it feels like a world wind.

I have served as my region's representative on the now defunct State-wide policy committee. I served as a team member on work groups to improve case management. I was honored to be chosen by then Governor Roy Barnes to serve as the field services representative to the State Rehabilitation Council, an appointment that continued under Gov. Sonny Purdue. I have always given my best to Vocational Rehabilitation and plan to improve on that by giving my best to GRA. If chosen as GRA Board Member-at-Large, I will use my considerable expertise in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation and my strong background in advocacy to champion GRA causes. I need your vote of support to do this.