



### Special points of interest:

- News From Chapters & Divisions
- 2011 Training Highlights
- 2011 Scholarships & Awards
- 2011 GRA Election Results
- 2011 Leadership Training Information
- 2012 Legislative Seminar Information

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# November 2011 GRA Newsletter

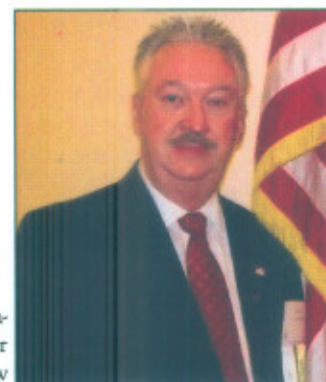
## Message From The President, Larry Shedd

I would be amiss to say that 2011 has always run smoothly and that we have had all of the answers for our GRA program in fulfilling our mission. We have accomplished a lot this year, and I believe this has been a building year for years to come. The things we set out to do in 2011 will help us grow and prosper. We must plan for our future when so much of it, due to economic and other professional issues, is not always clear. I applaud you. Our relationship at the National level with Lynnae Rutledge, RSA Commissioner, is unprecedented, as well as with Beverlee Stafford at the NRA level. We have chosen to lead, and lead we must!!! We needed to be decisive, and we were!! It demands continuous attention and action.

- Our fiscal situation is the best that I can remember in a long time, even in these economic downturns. We must continue to prepare for our growth and support for our programs in ways not considered before, maybe through Grants and scholarships to perpetuate ourselves and try to be as independent and private as we are intended to be.
- Our membership is growing and our leaders are feeling more enabled to serve because of the current support from State and Program leaders. Every-

one from the Commissioner of Labor (I am told a new member) on down through his VR management teams have shown that they want to work with us, and I am calling on them to continue that support. Our support of the public Rehabilitation program and they of us, make for a good partnership. GRA provides training and direction that is vitally important to the public Rehabilitation (VR) staff, facility and private entities that help them meet their personal and professional goals, as well as RSA requirements. VR through DOL provides support for members to participate to fulfill their requirements with staff. Through the CRC, CEU and LPC designations, we can be the premier training association in the State of Georgia, if we will, through our Chapters, Divisions and GRA Conference

- Our membership recruitment is looking better and better. Our involvement in the Wounded Warrior Project and other worthwhile community groups will bring in new members because we are doing the right thing. We are the largest membership among sub-chapters in the nation. Will we remain so? (Con't on Page 12)



## December Leadership Training, Jennifer Howell

This is a reminder to all 2011 Chapter/Division Presidents to stress the importance of attending the leadership training in December to your NEW Chapter/Division Presidents and Treasurers. We want to ensure that they are all aware of what is expected of them regarding the quarterly reports and working with our

Administrative Assistant (Ellen).

If you would please send me the names of the incoming Presidents and Treasurers, I will be glad to follow up with them as well. You can email this information to me @ [jennifer.howell@gdol.ga.gov](mailto:jennifer.howell@gdol.ga.gov).

### Mark Your Calendars

GRA Leadership  
Training

December 1, 2011

RWSIR

Meadows Classroom

Georgia Hall



## News From Highland Chapter, Hope Welch



We held a Silent Auction fundraiser during the Region 1 annual training event on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The fundraiser made \$320.00!

In the month of August, the Highlands Chapter met in the Dalton VR office with 9 members in attendance. Three members of our chapter announced they were running for state office: Ed James for President-Elect, Angie Rhudy and Lynda Lovett for Board Members-At-Large. The Highlands Chapter gained 8 new members so far this year: Gwen Raines, Steve Cole, Tamika Wright, Marcie Floyd, Brian Spillers, Lila Guerra, Debbie Whaley, and Judy Holcomb. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 members of the Highlands Chapter met at Angie Rhudy's home to prepare barbecue for the GRA Conference. Our chapter had 15 GRA members to attend the annual conference in St. Simon's Island.

During the Annual Conference, the Highlands Chapter held the first annual 5K Walk/Run fundraiser. 18 people paid registrations, however there were only 10 actual participants. The winners were as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Rafael Quinones-Morales; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Ed James; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Tom Wilson.

Gwen Raines, Hope Welch and Traci Brown put together a basket fundraiser for the conference as well. This raised \$73.00 for the chapter.

Ed James was elected President-Elect and Angie Rhudy was elected Board Member-at-Large. Celeste Harris won the GAMRC Peggy Rosser Award. Angie Rhudy won the Paula Dooley McIntosh Memorial Continuing Education Grant and the GARL Professional Development Scholarship.

During September, Ed James and Angie Rhudy personally met with Senator Jeff Mullis to tell him about GRA, to invite him to the GRA Conference in Savannah in 2012, and to ask him to sit on the panel during the "Town Hall Meeting" at the conference.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, DOL Commissioner Mark Butler spoke at the Walker County Chamber of Commerce. GRA members Ed James, Angie Rhudy and Gwen Raines met with Senator Mullis, Representative Jay Neal, US Senator Johnny Isakson's Senior Field Representative Denise Clopton, and Commissioner Butler.



L to R: Ed James, Hope Welch (President), Quinones-Morales, Tom Wilson



L to R: Mullis, Rhudy, Butler, Neal, Clopton, Raines, James

**LAST CHANCE  
TO ENTER THE  
SIGN 7 IN 2011  
MEMBERSHIP  
CONTEST - SEE  
ARTICLE ON  
PAGE 4.**



## News From GRCEA, Jason Williams

GRCEA would like to thank everyone for their support in attending our 2011 Ethics Training. We had an excellent turnout for this event and Dr. Lee Ann Rawlins once again provided outstanding training which was well received by the participants. We would also like to thank everyone for their support in our fundraisers during the GRA Training Event.

Congratulations to Dana Skelton - Sanders for being recognized as the GRCEA Counselor of the Year. We would also like to congratulate Dwanna

Franks - Baker for being selected as the GRA Personal Achievement Award winner as well as her Counselor, Beverly Raznoff, for winning the GRA Counseling Achievement Award.

GRCEA was also honored to be the recipient of the GRA Division of the Year Award.

We would like to invite everyone to attend our annual soup and sandwich fundraiser lunch on Thursday, December 1, 2011 during the GRA Leadership Training. This event will once again be held in the Center for Therapeutic Recreation at RWSIR.

*"We would like to invite everyone to attend our annual soup and sandwich fundraiser lunch on Thursday, December 1, 2011 during the GRA*



Stacey Hayes Working the Pocketbook Booth at the Training Event

## News from RWSIR Chapter, Rosanna Borders

RWSIR/GRA Chapter hosted its 4th Annual Halloween Festival for students at Mountain View Elementary School in Manchester, GA. This year more students came than ever before; we had over 30 students participate in special activities like Hidden Treasure, Go Fish, Ring The Witches Hat, Petting Zoo, Spooky Dark Room, etc. Each child had the opportunity to win prizes, interact with staff and leave with a bag full of trick or treat goodies.

We have begun making 60 perspective members and to promote GRA and it's mission. On Friday, November 18th, we will sponsor our 2nd Books Are Fun Book Fair this year. This is always a successful fund raiser for our chapter.

Our 2012 Officers are:  
President—Rosanna Borders  
Vice-President—Kay Harbin  
Treasurer—Deisy Saumell  
Secretary—Beth Ray

On Wednesday, October 26th, RWSIR/GRA sponsored a table at the 2011 Benefits Fair. We were able to provide membership information to over



Member Kay Harbin w/students



L to R: P. Mangum, K. Harbin, O. Holloway, M. Rozell. 2nd Row: R. Borders, V. Lucas, R. Garrett, Clown, S. Godowns, B. Dukes, M. Mangum, & R. White.





The Chapter plans to paint handicapped parking spaces in December

## News From South Chapter, Kay Morris

South Chapter held a successful training workshop on October 13, 2011 at the Valdosta GDOL Career Center. 4-CRC credit hours were awarded and topics included Medical Aspects of Diabetes; TBI & Spinal Cord Injuries; Post-Secondary Documentation & Accommodations, and HOPE changes.

The chapter met after the workshop and the following officers and board members have been elected for 2012:

President - Patsy Morris  
Vice President - Johnny Hayes  
Secretary/Treasurer - Cheryl Williamson

Board members: Andy Courson, Valdosta; Kim Bennett, Waycross; Pam Eaton, Tifton, and Kay Morris, Private.

The Chapter still plans to paint handicapped parking spaces in December for our annual community service project. The location will be the Valdosta GDOL Career Center and the

date is to be determined.

The chapter is currently collecting donations for (3) \$50.00 gift cards to give to needy families for Christmas, one in each area - Tifton, Waycross, and Valdosta.

We have a new email address: [southgra@gmail.com](mailto:southgra@gmail.com) and we are proud to introduce our newest member, Andy Courson.

GARL is *still*

*actively recruiting*

*committee*

*members to chair*

*and be a part of some*

*very exciting and*

*rewarding work in*

*2012.*

## News From GARL, Joy Kniskern

It's that "Thanks Giving" time of year, a time to share our gratitude for the many gifts of time and care given by GARL board, committee members and membership to make this year of service memorable. To the GARL team, my deep thanks to one and all for a GREAT auction, Town Hall Meeting, Ethics Webinar and GRA session, Scholarship and J. Ellies Moran awards, active work on getting two NARL grants to stretch our dollars further, membership recruitment, and neces-

sary administrative policy changes to clarify board and committee roles and responsibilities. We are thrilled with the GARL 2012 board and committee members and ask that our total GARL membership support them in our 2012 service that lies ahead! The new 2012 board and committee members are:

Lauri Tuten, President  
Bill Pease, President-Elect  
Jason Williams, Secretary  
Lary Hawkins, Treasurer  
Sharon Angel, Treasurer-Elect  
Karen Royston, Board Member-At-Large (2011-2013)  
Tangye Teague, Board Member-At-Large (2011-2013)  
Yovancha Lewis-Brown, Board Member-At-Large (2010-2012)  
Ed Leysath, Board Member-At-Large (2010-2012)  
Fundraising Committee, Greg

Schmieg  
Auction Chair - Jack Gilson  
Statewide Bike/Walk Event - Greg Schmieg, Ava Searce, Yovancha Lewis-Brown, Jack Gilson  
Audit Committee - TBA  
Membership - TBA  
Special Projects - Yovancha Lewis-Brown, Ava Searce, Ken Hise  
Mentorship - Ava Searce, Joy Kniskern and Dru Fentem  
Scholarship Committee - Shanti Aaron  
Administrative By-Laws, - TBA  
Program Committee - Karen Royston  
J. Ellies Moran Award - Ed Leysath  
Past President and Nominations - Joy Kniskern

As you can see, we are *still actively recruiting committee members* to chair and be a part of some very exciting and rewarding



Pictured Left: GARL Auctioneer, Wyman Poole & GARL President, Joy Kniskern kicking off the Auction.



## Scholarship Awards & Committee Report, Lauri Tuten

The GRA Scholarship Committee is pleased with the number of nominations received this year and the worthy nominees that received awards.

### *Paula Dooley McIntosh Memorial Continuing Education Grant*

Winner: Angelia Rhudy

Angelia Rhudy is an employee of Vocational Rehabilitation in the LaFayette Hub. She came to VR with an Associate's Degree in Management and Supervisory Development. Angie has worked as an RJRS and an RES and with encouragement from her RUM she completed her Bachelor's Degree at Bryan College and is

now attending Auburn University pursuing her Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

### *Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship*

Winner: Lalla "Anne" Barron

Anne Barron was nominated by GRA member Myndi Hoffman. She struggles with cognitive weaknesses in processing speed and working memory skills and test anxiety but she works hard and utilizes her accommodations and is maintaining a 3.65 GPA at Auburn University. In high school Anne advocated for people with disabilities by creating and implementing the "Barnabas Project". Barnabas means

"encourager" and the project grew from her taking her lunch hour to tutor other students with disabilities to an elective in the high school curriculum. She solicited professionals from the community to train 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders to tutor, encourage and help younger students to be "overcomers". Since she graduated the program has grown to over 30 junior and seniors helping 90 students.

*Paula Dooley McIntosh Continuing Ed Grant Winner, Angelia Rhudy*



*Nancy Crowder Memorial Scholarship Winner, Lalla "Anne" Barron*



## East Chapter Report, Carmella Jennings

### "A Look Back - 2011"

#### *East Chapter Annual Conference Fundraiser*

The East Chapter is excited to announce the success of its 2011 Conference Fundraiser ("Sweet Tooth Basket" and "Naughty but Nice Basket"). Donations from the fundraiser were doubled what our chapter collected last year.

**The Wounded Warrior Project** The East Chapter Members collected spare change from the VR Hubs and Offices in our area. All funds

raised were placed in the Wounded Warrior Project collection bin at the Annual Conference. **Wounded Warriors Card Writing Campaign** The East Chapter Special Projects Committee received get well cards, drawings, and letters, from all over the state for the "Wounded Warriors Card Writing Campaign". Committee members delivered these items to the Recovering Wounded Warriors at Fort Gordon, Recovering Service Members at the Charlie Nor-

wood VA Medical Center, and the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home. **East Chapter Campaign for Caring** The East Chapter Special Projects Committee has kicked off "The East Chapter Campaign for Caring". The campaign consists of a Food Drive (Phase I) the month of November to benefit local food banks in our area. Phase II will consist of a Toy Drive in December to benefit needy families with children.

**\*East Chapter Elections were held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, congratulations to the following individuals:**

**2012 President:** Myndi Hoffman

**President Elect:** Sharon Brown

**Secretary:** Janice Cassidy

**Treasurer:** Lauri Tuten

**Membership Chair:** Dorothy McKenzie

*"Thanks to all East Chapter Members for a Successful and Productive Year!"*

*The 2010 Janice Black Spirit Award was presented at our recent GRA training conference to a well-deserved GRA member, Ms. LaDetria King.* The award is presented annually to an individual who exhibits dedication to GRA through recruitment of new members, participation in committee work, volunteering for special projects, and general behind-the-scenes hard work and devotion, representing outstanding contributions to GRA. LaDetria has been an outstanding example of the spirit of GRA in advocating on behalf of persons with disabilities. Her passion for the work of service to others that our organization embodies serves as model to all members.

### 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 a \$250.00 CASH prize presented to the winner. The contest winner will be announced at the December Board Meeting. 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

404-788-3014

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

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

*Ohio is a close second with 340.*



# YOU ARE INVITED TO THE GRA LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR & RECEPTION

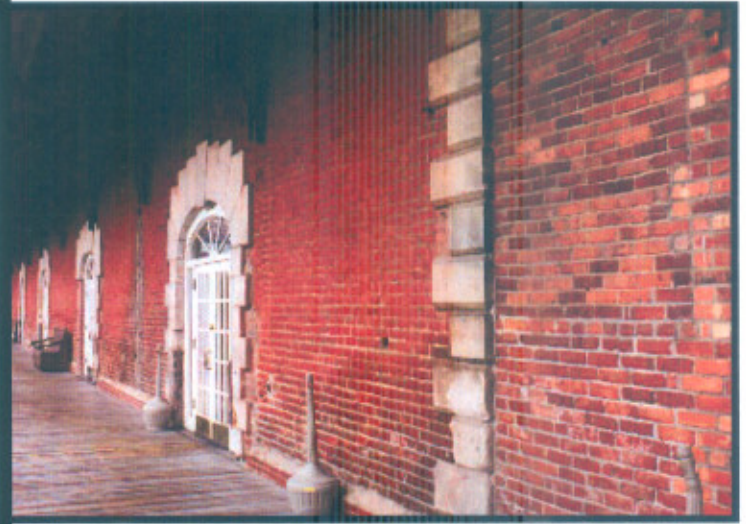
Wednesday January 11, 2012

2:00 p.m.

Georgia Railroad Freight Depot

Blue Room

Atlanta, GA



**Complete this form and mail check payable to: The Georgia Rehabilitation Association.**

**Please enclose \$85.00 registration fee per person.**

**(If group billing, please mail a copy of each individual's registration form & direct invoice)**

**Lauri Tuten**

**PO Box 824**

**Thomson, GA 30824**

**(706) 597-8575**

**For further information, call Cheryl Ussery at (912) 264-3141 [share4@bellsouth.net](mailto:share4@bellsouth.net)**

Attendee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name as it is to appear on name badge – include credentials, if desired)

Company/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **Verifiable NRA membership is required for attendance**

**Please enter your NRA Membership ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Not a Member?   Y   N   (Check)   *We will contact you regarding membership***

### **Accessibility Needs**

**If you are a registrant with a disability or a special need, please describe below:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**◀◀◀ Registration deadline is January 4, 2012 ▶▶▶▶**

**The Georgia Rehabilitation Association**  
**Public Service Award**  
**Nomination Form**



**Purpose:** Awarded to a public official who has demonstrated leadership in improving rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities within the State of Georgia.

**Criteria:** Outstanding contributions to rehabilitation through formation, integration or administration of their leadership over a period of years.

**Examples:** members of the State Legislature, State Legislature staff, Governor's Office or State Judicial branches of State government.

**Submit nomination form via fax (912) 264-6190 or  
 email Cheryl Meadows Ussery at [share4@bellsouth.net](mailto:share4@bellsouth.net) by December 16, 2011**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominated By: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Use additional paper as needed)

Leadership Qualities working with Georgians with disabilities:

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Committees, programs implemented service projects:

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Other information demonstrating this nominee's service to Georgians with disabilities:

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**Directions to Georgia Railroad  
Freight Depot—Blue Room**

65 Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**Northbound on I-75/85:**

- Exit at Central Avenue/Fulton St.
- Take a right at first light
- Take a left at next light, onto Capitol Avenue
- Take a left onto MLK, Jr. Drive, pass the Capitol on your left
- Go through intersection with Washington St., the Georgia Freight Depot will be on your right, underneath the large mural of whales
- The Blue Room is inside the front door, to the left

**Southbound on I-75-85:**

- Exit at Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive/State Capitol
- Go straight through three lights, pass the Capitol on your left
- The Georgia Freight Depot will be on your right, underneath the large mural of whales.

**Rehabilitation Professionals:**

The time for Ethics is upon us. Please see the flyer on Page 10 and hold the date.

Details are forthcoming from  
Metro GRA Chapter

**2012 Annual Legislative Event Coming Soon.....**

In preparation for our annual Legislative Event in January, we are hoping to have a VR client and their counselor speak regarding their positive experience with the VR program. If you know of a client who lives close to the Atlanta area and who may be interested in this unique opportunity to "tell their story", please contact Cheryl Ussery, Myndi Hoffman, or myself.

[www.georgiarehab.org](http://www.georgiarehab.org)







Metro GRA

6<sup>th</sup>

Annual  
Ethics

Symposium

Cost

GRA Members: \$65

GRA Student Members: \$55

Non-members: \$75

Location

TBA

Save

The

Date

December 9, 2011

Identify contemporary  
ethical issues in  
rehabilitation settings

Explore possible solu-  
tions based on ethical  
principles

Learn strategies to im-  
plement to prevent  
ethical problems

4

CRC CREDITS/  
CEUs

Applied For  
Seating is limited.  
Lunch included



## *Utah: Where Ideas Connect! NRA Conference a Success.....*

Nine GRA members traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah to attend the NRA Conference. Those attending were Larry Shedd, Frank Krause, Cheryl Ussery, LaDetria King, Jennifer Howell, Paige Tidwell, Joy Kniskern, Ava Searce, and Karen Royston. It was held at the Marriott downtown in Salt Lake, about 3 blocks from the Mormon Tabernacle and grounds.

The NRA program book looked good with our GRA ad was positioned inside the front cover, befitting our status in the NRA family. We were very proud of that representation.

We had 9 delegate votes, the most of any State. Georgia got a lot of respect and had a lot of influence in what went on at the NRA Conference this year. Next year, NRA will be in Chicago.

There were many opportunities for CRC and other credits at the conference. Karren Royston, Ava Searce and Joy Kniskern presented a session on "From Learning to Earning: Transition from School to Work". They did an excellent job and GRA should be proud of their representation of Georgia Rehabilitation Association. Cheryl Ussery was program co-chair and put together an excellent slate of speakers and topics. Frank Krause was unequal in his service to getting things done at the conference.

At the delegate assembly, delegates voted on several issues concerning several Constitution and By-Law changes. These included: an update to meeting technology, and to allow for secure voting in lieu of mailed paper ballots; add a new elected position of Secretary to the Board as a three (3) year position; clarification with regard to filling vacancies on the Board; current bonding issues vs. liability insurance was discussed; since audits cost approximately \$10,000.00 a year, it was proposed that a local CPA firm do a full audit every three (3) years with a compilation audit conducted for in-between years; that Regional Boundaries change to reflect Utah and Wyoming moving into the Pacific Region of NRA; rebates to Active Chapters within NRA receive a Chapter Rebate for a fixed amount instead of the current 20% as stated in the Constitution to coincide with a slight dues increase for members; that member dues be increased from \$132 to \$150 dollars for Professional members with a \$25.00 rebate to State Chapter, from \$20 to \$48 dollars for Student Members with a \$10.00 rebate for State Chapter, from \$96 to \$108 dollars for New Professional Member with a \$20.00 rebate to State Chapter, from \$96 to \$108 dollars for Affiliate Member with a \$20.00 rebate to State Chapter, and from \$650 to \$700 dollars for Organizational Members. These were all passed by the Delegates with an amendment that when the financial situation improves, the current delegation look at the rebate issue.

Proposal is also to sale the Headquarters in Washington and go virtual, thus saving a great amount of money and getting out of debt. Go to [www.NationalRehab.org](http://www.NationalRehab.org) for the full text of the proposed and now voted upon changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. We must stand behind NRA so that we can have a GRA future that "connects" it all together. We can do it! This small dues increase over a year hopefully will not discourage us as we move to grow. This is a changing world, and we must change to make our organization work, so don't be discouraged GRA. This dues increase should ensure a stable future for GRA and the rebate to the States issue. Dues can still be deducted in a monthly amount so not to make it hard to pay all at one time. Also, sign up new members now before the new rate increase above takes place. GRA is still on track to gain 100 members this year, so get recruiting!!!

Larry Shedd, GRA President 2011.



*Left: Cheryl Ussery Wins 2011 President's Award @*



## Message From The President, Larry Shedd

(can't from cover)

- We do not want to lose that distinction. This year, I am establishing a "transferrable" award entitled "The Racehorse Award" to go to the individual or group who rises to or above the yearly membership goal (7 in 2011). Hopefully, this award will "gallop" between the winners year after year as a symbol of pride for achieving the goal. It will be awarded, along with \$250.00 corporate donation for incentive for this year's winner, at the December Board meeting. The Racehorse symbol will become part of the Marketing goals for 2012. Pride! Our attention to the concerns of the membership has been inspirational and should get even better! We should always be about membership support, and look for ways to do it even better.

The face of GRA has and is changing, much as the face for the National, State and Local economy has changed the landscape of Georgia. If we are to survive and grow, GRA must remind ourselves to keep at the forefront the Mission and Goals that are set for us. Our focus should be to be fiscally responsible and as solvent as we can, so that we can fulfill our mission and goals. The focus of our annual conference, in its greatness, should be culmination of our work. We should make sure that membership is served and supported in those things relative to our mission. How we support our members is vital to our growth and the position within their professional goals. I believe in professional career ladders for the public sector of Rehabilitation, because I believe that the job, education, and responsibility requirements call for better pay "for what you do"! It is the right thing to do before we lose those "brightest and the best". Our new website will allow member feedback and suggestions for support.

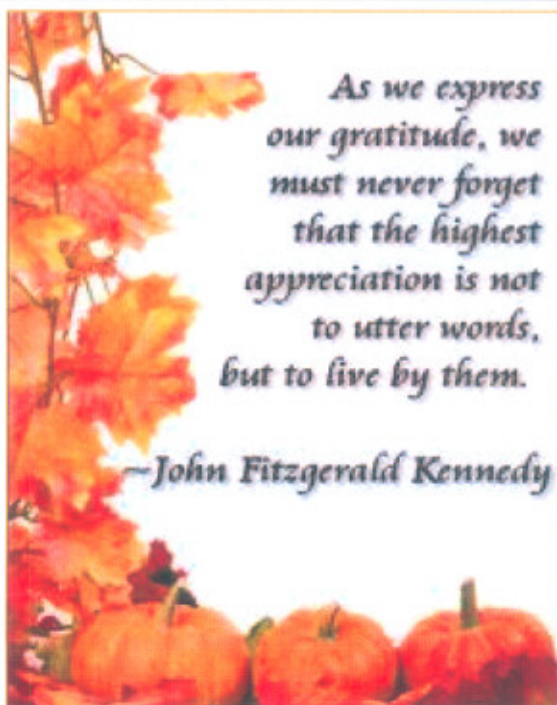
I am calling out all who are current members in GRA, whether we serve in the public, facility or private sector in our personal professions, -

To a service of pride and passion for our organization whether in leadership, committee work, or a supporting member; To make a difference in the lives of those that may want to join and may be waiting for you or I to ask them to be a part of a GReAt organization; To encourage ourselves and those where we serve not be discouraged. I am calling on our leaders in the Rehabilitation community to continue to support the membership and participation in this GRA because it benefits all concerned. Together, we can accomplish a lot for the people who serve and are to be served. I call...all that will hear my voice...to "STEP UP AND STEP OUT" for service. All that we have accomplished this year should find its place in the growth chart for next year, the next, and etc. "We should not forget from where we come- in order to get where we are going."

Thank you GRA for the opportunity to serve and be heard this year. Thank you, my Committee Chairs and Co-chairs, the Officers, Executive Committee and Board, who made this a successful year. Someone said that the President is just a figurehead position, which it may be if we are just looking at a job description. For those who take on any leadership challenge, that leadership can be more than just a figurehead position. Make it so! If our mind and heart is in the right place, great good can come from service. Are we willing to do that? Are we willing to put others before self? If we are doing things out of a belief of good and right, then it is an honor to serve! I am humbled to have served this GReAt organization!

*Thank you the people of GRA for your support of me, your intention to grow and prosper, and your intention be heard in order to help those who need us to stand up for them even more! Let's get our vision on!*

**WE ARE...GRA!**



The 2011 GRA Newsletter Committee would like to thank Dana Skelton-Sanders, Laura Mason, and Frank Krause for serving as photographers during 2011.



## 2011 GRA Annual Training Conference Opening Session



Top Left—Larry Shedd, GRA President, Welcoming Attendees

Top Right—St. Simon's Color Guard

Middle Left—Attendees @ Opening Session

Middle Right—GRA Administrative Assistant, Ellen Longino making sure everything is in order

Bottom Left—Lynnae Rutledge, RSA Commissioner, GRA Opening Session Guest Speaker & NRA President, Tom Wilson





## 2011 GRA Annual Training Days





# *2011 GRA Annual Training Conference President's Reception & Stepping Up & Stepping Out Awards*



Above: Cheryl Leidy, 2011 Secretary  
Stepping Up & Stepping Out Award



Left: Cheryl Williamson, 2011 Financial Review Committee  
Stepping Up & Stepping Out Award

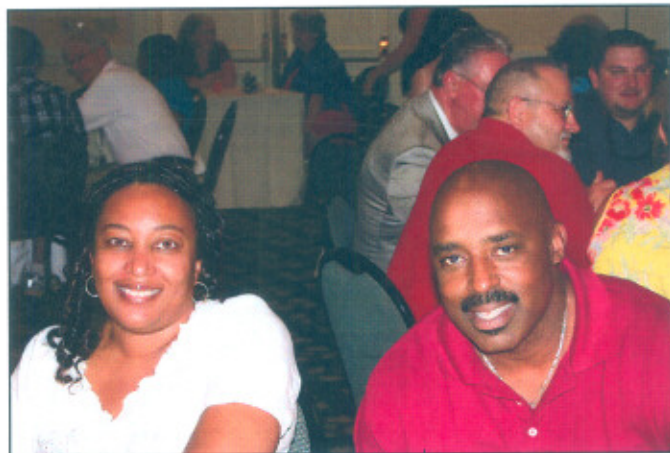


Middle & Bottom Right: Jason Williams & Ann Jones, 2011 Archives Committee Co-Chairs  
Stepping Up & Stepping Out Award (Sue Chapman Receiving Award for Ann Jones)





# *2011 GRA Annual Training Conference President's Reception & Stepping Up & Stepping Out Awards*



Patsy Morris, 2011 Treasurer  
Stepping Up & Stepping Out Award





# *2011 GRA Annual Training Conference President's Reception & Stepping Up & Stepping Out Awards*



Above: Cheryl Ussery, 2011 Advocacy & Leadership Stepping Up & Stepping Out

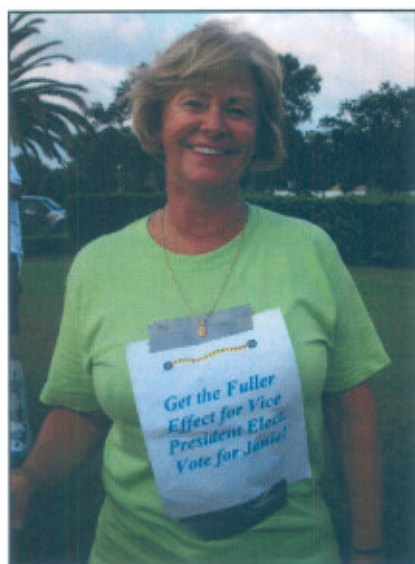


Right: Sara Godowns, 2011 Newsletter Stepping Up & Stepping Out Award





*2011 GRA Annual Training Conference Candidate Social & Networking*





*2011 GRA Annual Training Conference Candidate Social & Networking*





## 2011 GRA, GRCEA, ARTS, GAMRC & GARL Annual Awards



Left: Inger Neal presenting 2011 Counseling Achievement Award to Beverly Raznoff.

Right: Inger Neal presenting Personal Achievement Award Presented to Dwana Baker



Above: Jean Stewart receives the ARTS of GA 2011 Service Award. Presented by Kathy Shepard.

Right: Stacey Hayes (center) receives Special GRCEA Award for Leadership in 2010. Presented by Jason Williams and Dana Skelton Sanders.



Above: Myndi Hoffman (center) receives ARTS of GA 'Boss of the Year' Award. Presented by Donna Wright & Kathy Shepard.





# 2011 GRA, GRCEA, ARTS, GAMRC & GARL Annual Awards



Left: Ava Searce receives the 2011 GARL J. Ellies Moran Leadership Award; presented by Ed Leyseth.



Right: LaDetria King receives the 2011 Janice Black Spirit Award. Presented by Regina Watts & Ellen Longino



Left: Mr. Dan Warnege receives 2011 Issac Max Heller Employer of the Year Award—Habersham Medical Center.



Right: Regina Watts receives 2011 Professional Achievement Award.

Bottom Left: GRCEA members receive 2011 Division of the Year Award. Bottom Right: Celeste Harris receives the 2011 GAMRC Peggy Rosser Award, presented by Wm. Mitchell.





## 2011 GRA, GRCEA, ARTS, GAMRC & GARL Annual Awards & Closing Session



Left: Northeast Chapter Members receive the 2011 GRA Chapter of the Year Award.



Left: GDOL Commissioner, Mark Butler, addresses GRA Members as Guest Speaker @ Closing Session.

**STARS, Inc.**

**Receives the 2011 GRA Service Award**

**GRA extends a big THANK YOU**

**To Brandy & Era, for all Their Support.**

*(Picture Not Available)*

## 2011 GRA Election Results

2012 GRA President—Jennifer Howell

2012 GRA Vice President—Ed James

2012 GRA Vice President Elect—Janie Fuller

2012 GRA Secretary—Paige Tidwell

2012 GRA Treasurer— LaDetria King

2012 GRA Board Members @ Large

Myndi Hoffman

Angie Rhudy

Sara Godowns

Inger Neal