



GCREA Newsline

September 2021
Volume 9 Issue 1

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2021
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING
FRIDAY
SEPT. 17
10:00 a.m.**

**TPC Sugarloaf
Country Club
2595 Sugarloaf Club
Drive
Duluth, GA 30097**

**President:
Tina Duncan
President-elect:
Kimberly Rooker
Secretary:
Ellen Sumner
Treasurer:
Debra Ault-
Butenko**

**Fellowship
Support
Service**

From the President

Tina Duncan

Hello GCREA Members:

I hope you have taken some time this summer to enjoy your family. I know many of you were able to see your extended family for the first time in several months. Please be sure to share some of your photos to post on the website with Anne Gregory (abcrcvn@gmail.com). We love seeing pictures of our members, and their families. I might have overshared a few pictures from fun hikes with my girls this summer. As always please feel free to contact me with ideas, concerns, or to introduce yourself. Be sure to take some time and explore our website. It is up to date with our Goals, and Meeting Calendar.

The board has been working diligently behind the scenes this summer to plan for our meetings and outings. Did you know GCREA turns fifty during the 2022 year? This is definitely cause for celebration! We plan to celebrate at our February 18, 2022 meeting. Stay tuned for more details and ways you can contribute to this exciting event. We are thrilled to be back at TPC Sugarloaf for our monthly luncheon meetings. Meetings will start at 10:00 AM. You will need to have a picture ID to get through the security gate. It is a good idea to give yourself a few extra minutes to navigate through the subdivision. You will also need to RSVP if you plan to attend; Penny Clavijo sends an email reminder to RSVP. Currently our plan is to continue with the face-to-face meetings. If we must PIVOT at some point, we will be sure to post information on the website and send an email blast. If you are attending the meetings, we will ask for everyone to wear a mask when not eating or drinking. Please note, if you are not comfortable at this time attending a face-to-face meeting, we will have a zoom option for you to continue to participate. A zoom link will be sent via email prior to the meeting.

This summer I was able to attend a training with our Area 14 Director, Pat Lemming, and local unit Presidents. Dr. Henrietta Gray, GREA President, was also in attendance. Her theme for the state is: Empowered to Serve. She spoke about her commitment to continuing to create opportunities that lift GREA and strengthen our Fellowship, Support and especially Service. She encouraged all members to participate in local and state meetings wholeheartedly and actively, as well as to continue to recruit members.

As you know we have been a unit of distinction for the past few years. This is a huge undertaking with a unit of our size and a major component of this honor is to increase our membership in the state organization, GREA. I encourage you to talk with your friends and ask them to join. If you are not a member of GREA please consider joining; membership helps with protecting our pension funds and continuing to see our yearly cost of living increases. Membership information can be found at: <https://www.garetirededucators.org>, click on the membership page. Our membership pamphlet is available online and can be sent via email; consider reaching out to a friend and inviting them to join. Imagine the growth of our chapter if every member in our organization were to reach out to at least one new retiree.

Another area in which you can support is the local school. There is a big need for substitutes in the building and our schools would welcome the experience of our members with open arms. Let me know if you have any creative ways that we can continue to support our local schools during these extremely challenging times.

Finally, I want to say a big thank you to our Board and the continued work they do each day to support this organization. I also want to extend a personal welcome to our members who are new to GCREA this year. We want to make sure you are welcome and connect in fellowship, service, and support.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in September in person or via zoom.



Dr. Henrietta Gray
GREA President



Pat Lemming
Area 14 Director
With Dr. Gray

A Note from The Membership Desk!

Well Folks, the summer has come and almost gone! The school buses are running again, and Gwinnett Co. Schools are in full swing after a year and a half of Covid Chaos! My prayer is that they can stay the course and complete the year in a regular fashion! That is also my prayer for GCREA! We will kick off our new year in September with an in-person meeting at the Sugarloaf Country Club. If you have not attended a meeting there, rest assured it is a beautiful facility! Our room is spacious with big windows and a view of the golf course. The food is excellent, and the staff serves us in a very professional manner.

Tina Duncan, our president, and Kimberly Rooker, our president-elect, have planned wonderful and interesting programs to enlighten and entertain us. We have moved into the digital age with technology that allows us to meet in-person or virtually if the situation calls for it. As the world slowly returns to a more normal pace, we hope you will venture out and join us for the September GCREA meeting.

Our organization is too good to keep it a secret, so PLEASE invite a retired teacher friend to come with you. Be sure to let Penny Clavijo, our communication chair, know you and your guest are attending. You can tell her when she sends out the reservation memo - which, in fact, is already out! We need all the eyes possible to be focused on our Legislature to make sure they respect our retirement funds and all the years we spent building that nest egg.

Let's start the new school year in high fashion, wearing PURPLE to support the Alzheimer's Walk which will be held in November. Many of us have been touched by this terrible disease, so this is our way of helping to conquer it forever!

Sooo, these are all the reasons why you should join us in September and be an active part of this next chapter in the GCREA book!

Blessings from your Membership Chair, Terrie Adkins



GCREA Executive Board met on August 20, 2021 at the TPC Sugarloaf Country Club in Duluth.



Gwinnett Walk 2End Alzheimer's Disease - GCREA Walk Team Contribution

Every dollar counts in the fight against Alzheimer's♥ Let's Fill This Jar.

Can we count on your support? Could donations go from \$1,440 to \$6,000?

Dear Members,

Our very first meeting in September will be a time to make sure your donation is in. Our meeting in September will be a good time to give because.....

The Walk Manager Anna Scott and The Program Manager Kim Franklin will be in attendance to accept your personal check (if you are at the luncheon) or your cash (with receipt). And you are always able 24/7 to give to the Gwinnett County Retired Educators Walk Team Online. 2021 Team Donations are currently standing at \$1,440. Half of that donation came from one individual member! ♥ Wow!

Let's have a BIG turnout for the Alzheimer's Association. Our giving has assisted many and it's time to secure the Cure. GCREA giving for the Virtual Walk in 2020 was \$5,447 and we can reach that plateau and exceed it if you will help and donate in September! ♥. Thank you to all members who have already given! ♥

GCREA Goals for 2021-22

- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA by providing opportunities for fellowship, service, and support and to increase our membership and attendance numbers within GCREA and GREA
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA with updates and current trends and issues of education, the teaching profession, and programs that impact members' well being
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA with insight and means to promote quality education in Gwinnett County, Georgia
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA in providing support through scholarships and mentoring to current and future educators to enhance their academic, social, and personal development to ensure their success as an educator
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members of GCREA in bettering our community through service projects and sharing of their gifts and talents
- Engage, Connect, and Involve members in the GREA Museum and Foundation activities, programs, and goals through our support and active engagement

Summer Memories 2021

GCREA members enjoyed spending time with loved ones this summer.



Tina Duncan and her girls



Anne Gregory and grandsons

Sharon Larkin and family on Sanibel Island



Emmett Mullins and Penny Clavijo kayaking



Kimberly Rooker



Terrie Adkins and grandchildren



Nita Killebrew and grandchildren



Gayle Adkinson and new fiancé

Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newslite will be published November 1, 2021
Deadline for articles is October 23, 2021
sharonlarkin1826@gmail.com

Gwinnett County Retired Educators Association
1826 Prospect View Drive
Lawrenceville GA 30043

Please invite your friends
to join us at our next
meeting!

