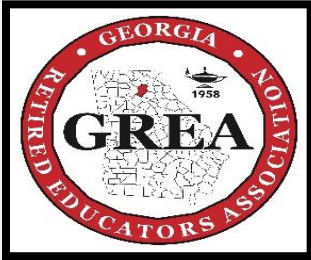


Newsletter of the Chatham Retired Educators Association



Upcoming Events

4/8/2024
CREA Meeting

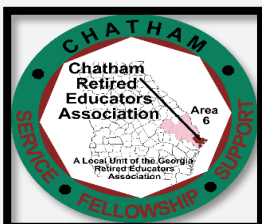
3/1-3/31/2024
Women's History Month



3/17/2024
St. Patrick's Day



3/20/2024
First Day of Spring



The CREA monthly meeting was called to order by President Carrie Howard. on March 11, 2024 at the Rebecca Padgett Event Center. After reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance" Mrs. Rosa Jackson shared an inspirational reading in honor of Women's History Month and the Invocation. Members born in March were recognized with "Happy Birthday" Greetings.

Guest Speaker Mrs. Kathy Mendelsohn shared information from the Georgia Attorney General's Office on "**How to Outsmart Scammers.**" She provided several examples of how people can be scammed by phone, emails, and social media websites. The second Guest Speaker, Ms. Lisa McKenzie, provided information about how the American Members Benefits Association (AMBA) can assist retirees in accessing benefits through their membership in GREA.

After Committee Reports, the following slate of CREA Officers for 2024-2025 were presented from the Nominating Committee:

President-Elect Dr. Gordon Baker
Secretary- Gail Moyer
Recording/Corresponding Secretary- Alvernia Jackson
Treasurer- Wilmotine Ellis
Assistant Treasurer- Mary Shank

The membership voted unanimously for the 2024-2025 CREA Officers. They will be installed at the April 8, 2024 meeting.

The **GREA Convention** will be held May 2-4, 2024 in Athens, GA. The registration form is included in the newsletter.

The April 8, 2024 CREA meeting will be held at Rebecca Padgett Event Center. Registration for the in-person meeting begins at 10:30 am. The meeting begins promptly at 11:00 am!!

Please continue to Recruit New Members to CREA!!!



"Chatham REA Leads the Way"

GREA President Goals:



- Stay in our lane.
- Totes to Tots - \$35,500,
- Membership - 35,500- just over 7% growth
- Fellowship - Get on the Bus - go somewhere together.
- Communication - Board/ website info.
- Leave the bus clean - be a good steward- great organization, great bus drivers, strong membership, solid finances, active local units.

**Humanitarian Project of
GREA President
Joe Boland**



CREA President Goals

- Contribute \$525 to Totes to Tots
- Membership recruitment of 7%
- Provide professional and social programs for retired educators.
- Purchase a plaque in the Georgia Retired Educators Museum.

CREA provides tabs to support the local Ronald McDonald



CREA provides school supplies for local students.



CREA supports the healthy development of children



Contact CREA
Website: www.chathamreaonline.com
Email: chathamrea21@gmail.com



**Mrs. Carrie Howard
CREA President
P.O. Box 15105
Savannah, GA 31416**

**Follow us on
Twitter!**

**@Chatham
Retired
Educators
Association**



**"Like" us on
Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/Chatham-Retired-Educators-Association-1627759420832957/>



Minutes, February 12, 2024

Call to Order & Welcome: President Elect Simmons called the meeting to order and welcomed us.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mrs. P. Simmons led "The Pledge of Allegiance".

Inspiration & Invocation: Mrs. R. Jackson led the invocation and inspiration.

Presentation & Approval of Minutes: Ms. Moyer presented the December 11, 2023, Minutes. The appropriate motions were made and the December Minutes were adopted.

Reading of Correspondence: Dr. E. Washington read thank you notes from the families of Mr. Charles McCoy, Deacon N. Thomas, Mr. Moses Taylor, and Mrs. Virginia Lewis for CREA's expressions of sympathy. Ms. Brenda Lewis also thanked us personally.

Financial Report: Mrs. Ellis gave the January Financial Report. She reported that the checkbook, ledger, and bank statement balanced at \$7040.08. The report was filed for audit.

January and February Birthday Celebration: Mrs. Copeland and Mrs. Caughman recognized those with January and February birthdays. The members sang Stevie Wonder's rendition of "Happy Birthday".

President's Report (Emailed): Mrs. Howard prepared for, held, and attended meetings; finalized the site for today's meeting and prepared the agenda; sent reminders to members; recruited new members; sent letters of invitation to newly retired educators whose emails were provided; mentored students at Groves High School and the STEM Academy; presented the Memorial reading during the MLK Memorial Worship Service; brought greetings at the MLK Gospel Fest; attended the Phi Delta Kappa 50th Anniversary celebration and gave membership invites; attended "Meet and Greet" for interested chartering members for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women; and participated in the Executive Board Meetings of National Council of Negro Women, Area IV Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Savannah Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Dr. M. L. King Observance Day Association, and The Baroness Club. Mrs. Howard reminded the committee chairs that they don't report unless they have something to add to their printed report.

Area Director: Dr. Cooper thanked us for touring White Bluff School in January. She informed us that Dr. Sloan had throat surgery and is recovering. She will attend the winter board meeting in March and will have more information for us. Dr. Cooper reminded us that the GREA Convention is May 6-8 in Athens, GA. She thanked Mrs. Platts for her hard work in recruiting GREA members. We need 53 by April 1. Last year, CREA was not a Unit of Distinction due to not meeting this goal. Dr. Cooper informed us that Greebriar needs teachers to work with pre-school children and infants. Substitutes are also needed.

Program: President Elect Simmons introduced our first speaker, Ms. Katee MacCauley, Educator of the GA Department of Public Health. Ms. MacCauley is the only health educator in the area. Since February is Heart Disease Awareness Month, she spoke to us about heart health. Heart disease is the number one killer in Chatham County.

Our second speaker was Mrs. Lorraine Bowers, president of Chatham Association of Educators. She wants CAE and CREA to collaborate. They need our help. She'll let us know when meetings will be held.

Membership, Local: Ms. A. Smith reported that the Membership Committee strives to increase membership in a multitude of ways. She reported we have approximately 101 local members, which includes 18 emeritus members. Ms. Smith thanked us for all we do to help.

Membership, State: Mrs. Dottie Platts reported 31 new GREA members. She recognized the Emeritus members. Please commit to recruit because we need 53 new GREA members. Mrs. Platts also explained the three ways to join GREA.

Necrology: Mr. Howard read the names of those who passed while the members observed a moment of silence. He discussed how the Necrology Committee shows respect to retired educators, district staff, and their families.

In Touch: Dr. Best reported that cards were sent to Dr. P. Thomas and Ms. O. Flournoy and follow-up phone calls were made. Please continue to pray for them. Let Dr. Best know of any members who are ill, recuperating, or hospitalized. Call 912-596-6602 or email mccord4621@comcast.net

Newsletter & Public Relations: Dr. B. Roberts reported she mailed and emailed the January CREA newsletters to members, updated the CREA Facebook page, sent the CREA newsletter for posting to GREA's Facebook page, sent an article to GREA's *Bulletin*, and took pictures during the January school tour.

Webmaster's Report: Dr. Baker thanked Dr. B. Roberts for the pictures on the web site, www.chathamreaonline.com. The web site has been updated with the February meeting information. To post on the web site, please send the information to President Howard for approval.

Silent Auction: Dr. Grant thanked her team made up of Dr. West and Mrs. P. Simmons. The committee collected 26 items for the auction and raised \$243. Dr. Grant thanked the members for their participation.

Scholarship: Mrs. Singleton thanked the members for their participation in raising money for the Scholarship Fund. We are raising money for next year's scholarships, which will be awarded on November 11, 2024. Today, we are raffling off a \$10 Walmart gift card. Tickets are \$1. We will continue to have chances to win prizes each month. If you signed up to bring door prizes, please do so. Mrs. Singleton announced she is stepping down as chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.

Rebecca Padgett Event Center: Mrs. Howard informed us that we are meeting here today for free and introduced Mrs. Boatright-McGhee, who told us about the Performing Arts Center and her grandmother's legacy. Mrs. Boatright-McGhee is glad to give back by allowing CREA to meet here for free.

State Museum: Mrs. D. Wilson stated that the GREM tour will be in May but only 18 signed up for the bus. We need 35-40 people. Flowery Branch is a 5-6 hour Drive and this is a one day trip.

Nominating Committee: Mrs. Howard asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee to obtain candidates for next years' officers. The President Elect automatically becomes President. The Nominating Committee's members are Ms. Flournoy, Mrs. Jinks, Dr. Thompson, Ms. A. Mitchell, and Mrs. R. Jackson.

Reminders and Announcements: Mrs. Howard recognized first-time attendees. She informed members about the hotels for the convention.

Invitation to PDK: Mrs. Shank explained the purpose, history, and how to join Phi Delta Kappa International. The local chapter is led by Shirley Spears.

Door Prizes: Door prizes were awarded. \$121 was raised today for the Scholarship Fund.

Adjournment: Mrs. Howard adjourned the meeting

Lunch

Attendance: 50

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Moyer, Secretary

moyerga13@comcast.net

"Chatham REA Leads the Way"



Chatham Retired Educators Association

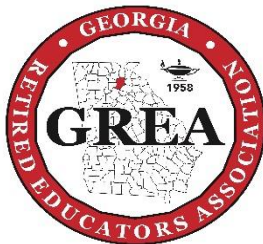
P.O. Box 15105

Savannah, Georgia 31416

Carrie R. Howard, President

President's Report for February

- Attended the 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration for Rev. Chester and Mrs. Wilmotine Ellis – both members and Past President and Treasurer of CREA
- Attended the presentation celebration of Eddie Lee Marsh as National President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
- Participated in Election Training for the upcoming Presidential Election
- Mentored students at Groves High School.
- Mentored students at the STEM academy.
- Recruited new members for GREA/CREA.
- Sent CREA reminders to members.
- Finalize the meeting place for the Retired Teachers meeting.
- Participated in Executive Board Meetings of National Council of Negro Women, Area IV Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Savannah Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Dr. M.L.King Observance Day Association, The Baroness Club,
- Prepared the March CREA unit meeting agenda.
- I sent a letter of invitation to newly retired educators whose emails were provided.



“Chatham REA Leads the Way”

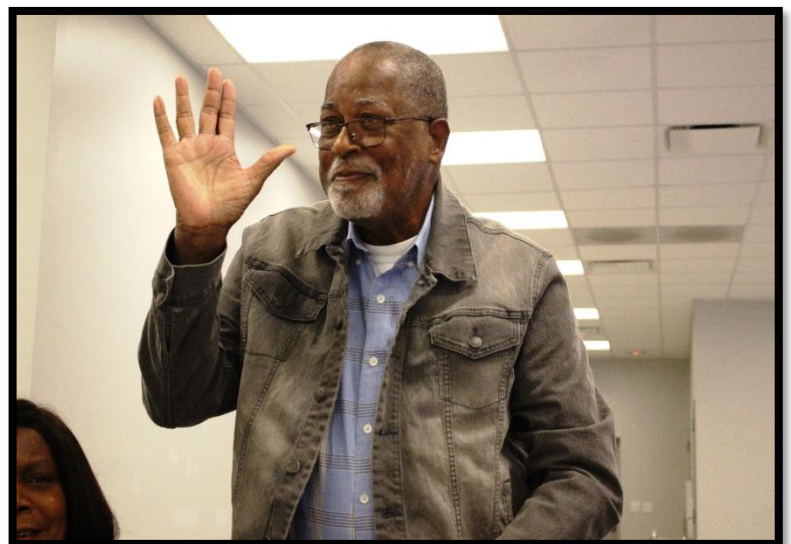


<i>Rashida Piankhi</i>	<i>3-4</i>
<i>Lessie Porter</i>	<i>3-7</i>
<i>Dorothy B. Wilson</i>	<i>3-15</i>
<i>Kathy Smith</i>	<i>3-15</i>
<i>Mary Griggs</i>	<i>3-31</i>

Welcome New Members!!



Deborah Moore



Dr. Thomas E. Williams

“Chatham REA Leads the Way”

CREA Necrology Report



Deloris Chisholm Cross	January 4, 2024	Retired Beach High
Captain John Hunter	February 5, 2024	Retired DeRenne Middle
Mr. John L. Wright	February 14, 2024	District Maintenance
Ms. Shawn Cottingham	February 20, 2024	Southwest Middle
Mr. Marcus Humphrey	February 28, 2024	Student-Gould Elem
Mrs. Sula A. Hall	February 16, 2024	Retired Teacher

Please observe the deadline of the end of each month for reporting deaths.

Mr. Arthur Howard – 912-663-6692

Mrs. Geneva Golden- ggolden22@comcast.net or 912-398-8570



REGISTRATION FORM
GREA 64th Annual Convention
The Classic Center, Athens, GA
May 7-9, 2024



Each individual registering must do a separate form!

Name (as you want it to appear on your badge) _____

Local Unit Name _____ Area _____

Office Held (if any) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Phone _____

Registration for the Convention*	\$55	Amt. \$ _____
Early Bird Registration before April 1st	\$50	Amt. \$ _____
Tuesday Banquet (May 7 th at 6:30 pm)**	\$50	Amt. \$ _____
Wednesday Awards Breakfast (May 8 th at 8:30 am)	\$45	Amt. \$ _____
Wednesday Night Banquet (May 8 th at 6:30 pm)**	\$50	Amt. \$ _____

** _____ I would like to order a vegetarian meal

** _____ I would like to order a vegan meal

** _____ I would like to order a gluten-free meal

Your check made out to GREA, should be for the total amount shown above. Please do not include any types of payments or donations in your registration check. No refunds or changes to meal choices can be made after **April 14, 2024**.

Reminder: Meal tickets must be bought BEFORE the convention, and they will not be sold at the convention. Everyone taking part in any convention activities including meals must register for the convention.

Mail to: **GREA Convention Registration**
P.O Box 1379
Flowery Branch, Ga. 30542

Deadline to register for the Convention is April 5, 2024.

Room Registration Information is available by a separate link.

“Chatham REA Leads the Way”

CREA Connection- A Newsletter of the Chatham Retired Educators Association
March Meeting Highlights



"Chatham REA Leads the Way"