Greetings from FCREA

Thanks to all our members who have participated in person or from afar this year. This year has been different for our organization; however, our members have still been busy!

We met through Zoom during the month of September and learned more about FCREA and GREA during that meeting! Then in October we met in person at Fayetteville First Methodist Church (our usual place). One of our own members, Ellen Mitchell, taught us through stations how to decorate a paper lantern which we took home with us.

We also got together and packaged trays of snacks for each school. GREA reimbursed us $100.00 toward that project, so we could let active teachers know that we are cheering them on through these difficult days of teaching!

In November, Lori Eagleson, shared with us ways to organize our “stuff” and how to clean out, donate, or sell our “stuff that we don’t need to hold onto forever.”

Because of Covid, we decided to forego the usual auction this year and just ask our members to make donations to the scholarship fund! We are well on our way to reaching the goal of our $1500.00 scholarship, and we also need about $1000.00 more in that fund. Out of the scholarship fund, we also support the Teacher of the Year (TOY) event, Education Foundation, and Teachers Retirement gifts. So, if you have not donated to this cause, please send a contribution to FCREA, P.O. Box 202, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214.

In December, Arbor Terrace in Peachtree City asked us to partner with them to help replenish the pantry at the I58 Mission that serves many people facing hard times in many of the counties around our area. The Arbor Terrace folks really appreciated our partnership, and they delivered to the I58 Mission. Thanks for all your kindness on that project!

Join us on January 14th for a zoom meeting! I will be sending you the link to log on to the zoom meeting next week. We covet your
participation. Many members have mailed in their dues. Just send in your dues (to the address above) to ensure that you keep getting this newsletter letting you know what we are doing and what’s important in the legislative session about to begin!

Adrine Green, our membership chair, has been busy recruiting members for our local unit and also GREA. Look for news from her in the newsletter and please join FCREA and GREA! The legislature is about to meet, and we have power in numbers!

Most of all, the 2020 year has probably taught us to be thankful for the many blessings we have each day, and the many friends we have – many through our years of service – teaching!

Happy New Year to you all! Let’s hope we can get this Covid under control so we can meet face to face again soon!

Tracie Fleming

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Information from GREA

You may have noticed extra money in your TRS check for January. There are 3 reasons for this according to TRS.

1. You always get a 1.5% COLA in January (and another one in July).
2. Your insurance premiums went down if you have standard UHC Medicare Advantage. Other insurance plans will affect your check differently.
3. The federal tax codes have changed for 2021.

Enjoy the money and be happy you’re are a retired educator in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Georgia Retired Educators Association

Thank you to our Teachers Retirement System of Georgia!!
Facebook

Have you been to the FCREA Facebook page lately? No? Well, be sure to check it out: We have our meeting dates posted there as well as other information we hope will be helpful. Sometimes there will be a little fun too! A new addition is Profile of a Member. To help us get to know each other a little more, we are profiling a member. Feel free to add a comment about how you know that member.

Several members have been profiled. Cathy Geis will contact members to answer a few questions and to request a picture.

Please feel free to go ahead and answer these questions and send them along with a picture to geisc@bellsouth.net.

Profile Questions

1. What positions have you held and where?
2. What do you enjoy the most about retirement?
3. Where was the last place you visited?
4. What are you reading now?
5. What is one thing most people don’t know about you?

Joshua Becker, a former minister, who now ministers by helping people minimize their lives. Though you may not be interested in minimizing your life, his suggestions for the New Year could help anyone make 2021 a better year – and don’t we all want that!

Joshua notes that we can control how we interact with the world around us. Here are Joshua’s 12 decisions we can all make as the new year begins.

1. Smile more
2. Complain less
3. Appreciate more
4. Connect more
5. Own less
6. Encourage more
7. Waste less
8. Thank more
9. Compete less
10. Understand more
11. Save more
12. Love more
## 2020-2021 FCREA Meetings

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10, 2020</td>
<td>FCREA Executive Board</td>
<td>Education Program Facts about GREA, FCREA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 8, 2020</td>
<td>Ellen Mitchell</td>
<td>Arts Education – Make and Take</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 12, 2020</td>
<td>Patty Brown, Professional Auctioneer and Real Estate Services</td>
<td>FCREA Annual Scholarship/Awards Auction</td>
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<td>Jan. 14, 2021</td>
<td>Brad Jones, AMBA</td>
<td>Available Benefits for Eligible GREA, FCREA Members Zoom Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 11, 2021</td>
<td>Fayette County Schools Technology Personnel</td>
<td>Latest and Greatest School Technology Presentation of Slate of Officers Meet at LEC Media D Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11, 2021</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Vote on Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8, 2021</td>
<td>Andrea Donilla, Vicki Davis. Area 10 Director</td>
<td>Memorial Ceremony Induction of Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14, 2021</td>
<td>Dr. Julie Turner, Assistant Superintendent, FCBOE</td>
<td>Fayette Co. School System Update Scholarship/Awards Luncheon</td>
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### Join Us: FCREA Monthly Meetings

We are meeting in January via ZOOM provided by Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). Our speaker is AMBA representative Brad Jones, who will discuss the benefits that are available for FCREA and GREA members through AMBA. In February, we will visit LEC Media D, and a Fayette County technology specialist will show us the technology our students are using in schools now. No doubt, we will be impressed. Later in the year, we will elect officers and, hopefully, have some sort of celebration for our scholarship recipient and award winners.
October: Adrine Green (10/2), Cynthia Smith (10/8), Jere Key (10/11), Sandra Watson (10/13), Pat Franklin (10/14), Gail Sparrow (10/14), Bobbie Chance (10/19), Lilli O'Donnell (10/22), Sharon Wright (10/25), Jackie Williams (10/27), Andrea Donila (10/29)

November: Maxine Patterson (11/9), George Hood (11/9), Athene Tenney (11/17), Marilyn Taylor (11/28), Jayn Collins (11/29)

December: Diane Lattimore (12/7), Susie Lusko (12/9), Nancy Wortman (12/21), Kristi Goss (12/25), Sandi McCallie (12/27)

January: Doe Evans (1/18), Marie Chance (1/30)

**FCREA GOALS for 2020-2021**

- Support the State President’s *Cheering for GREA* theme and humanitarian project, *Alzheimer’s Organization*.
- Increase FCREA membership by 10%
- Strive to meet the requirements to achieve the GREA Unit of Distinction.
- Collaborate with the Fayette County School System to support Schools, teachers, and students.
- Implement FCREA community projects by supporting the Fayette Samaritans and the Teacher Resource Center through donating and volunteering.
- Encourage members to wear FCREA shirts to meetings, community activities, and/or service projects to create our FCREA brand in the community.
- Increase member attendance and participation at monthly meetings.

**Why Join FCREA and GREA**

Chartered in 1958, GREA is the only organization working exclusively for the welfare of retired educators. GREA is your voice with the state legislature and the Teachers Retirement System (TRS).

Join GREA and support our lobbying efforts and enjoy the benefits of membership. Special rates on Dental, Vision, and Long-Term Health Care insurance, travel opportunities, and an outstanding Annual Convention are just a few.

Join FCREA to bring GREA’s initiatives closer to home. We enjoy each other, provide local programs, support lobbying efforts, support local nonprofits, support local students and teachers, and provide a scholarship and awards for a high school student and some middle school students. Membership information is on the next page.
Greetings to FCREA members! We are off to a great start as our 2020-21 year begins! We recruited 7 new FCREA members, and 12 new members have joined our state organization, GREA. Let’s continue this momentum as we strive to meet our unit and state goals. Membership goals for FCREA are: 1) to increase membership by 10%, and 2) to increase attendance and participation at monthly meetings. Help us achieve these goals by bringing a friend, coworker, or neighbor to our meetings or inviting them to join us when we meet. Members can visit and learn more about our local and state organizations through our website then share the information with potential members. You can also “like” our organization on Facebook. Membership applications for both FCREA and GREA can be obtained at our meetings or on the website.

We need you to join FCREA and GREA!! Dues for FCREA are $15 per year- and you must rejoin each year unless you join for life. GREA dues are $27 per year. You can save money if you join GREA through Automatic Dues Deduction (ADD) of $2 per month. The $2 is automatically deducted from your TRS check and renewed each year. You never miss that $2. FCREA can earn money from GREA when retirees pay through ADD. Now’s a good time to be ADD!!! Sign up using the link below!

https://www.fayettegaretirededucators.org/membership

Did You Know?

Some FCREA members volunteer each month to pack and wrap a mug with goodies and a certificate for the teacher at each school who receives the FCBOE ABOVE and BEYOND Customer Service Award. The principal selects the teacher, and about five teachers each month are honored at the monthly FCBOE meeting. FCREA is happy to help celebrate our active teachers.
Thank you to all who have donated to our Scholarship/Awards fund. Since we did not have our auction, member donations are needed. If you have not already donated, please consider donating to our Scholarship/Awards Fund. The money is used not only for the scholarship, but also for eight grade awards, small gifts for the recipients, and lunch for the parents, counselors, and teachers that are at the celebration. See the President’s Message to see other ways the money is used. Hopefully, we will be able to have the Scholarship/Awards celebration this year.

Our Teacher Retirement System (TRS) has suggested that you create an account in TRS if you don’t have one, so you can check that all of your information (especially names of beneficiaries) is correct. This site also provides good information about your finances with TRS. You can easily check this by going to www.trsga.com to create your account.

The legislative session has begun. Please be ready to write to our legislators should we need to defend our TRS pensions! Go to www.legis.ga.org to find the Representatives and Senator that represents your county and how you can contact them.

Information came out on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 from Piedmont Healthcare that Piedmont is preparing to vaccinate people 65 and older and more first responders beginning around January 11 subject to the availability of the vaccine. They will send out more information about booking an appointment once facilities are selected and they are ready to go!! The Health Department is probably on the same time schedule. Hooray!!!

Happy New Year 2021