

GREA Executive Committee
April 30, 2012
54th Convention
Callaway Gardens
Mountain View Inn

Present: Kate Finch-GREA President, Mary Ann McDaniel-President-elect, Dorothy Wilson-Immediate Past President, Bill Chandler-Treasurer, Patricia Bassett-Recording Secretary, Joella McGill-GREA Governing Board representative, Bill Sloan-Executive Director

The meeting was called to order by President Finch at 2:28 pm with an invocation given by Mary Ann McDaniel.

The minutes had been sent by Secretary Bassett to all the members of the Executive Committee and any editorial corrections, as directed by the members, were made. Corrected copies were sent to members again this weekend. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Bill Chandler-Treasurer presented a financial report that included a one-month report for March 2012 and a nine-month report ending March 2012. The total revenues for March 2012 were \$72,106.01 and for the nine-month period were \$359,259.77. The operating expenses for the two periods were \$29,189.52 and \$488,204.94 respectively. This was a profit of \$42,916.49 for the month and a loss of \$128,945.17 for the nine-month period. The reason for the loss was the \$200,000.00 given to GEM. There are two CD's valued at \$346,407.71 and approximately \$131,000.00 in cash (petty cash) or in the bank for checking. A large percentage of this is the registration for the Convention at Callaway. The Convention expenses of approximately \$80,000.00 will be paid from this money. Mr. Chandler again stressed that GREA was in a good financial situation.

Dorothy Wilson and the Nominations and Elections Committee met March 19, 2012 to count ballots for Mary Browner and Keith Lee, the Area II Area Director candidates. Mr. Lee won the election, but both candidates were thanked for their participation. New board members included Keith Lee-Area II, Anne Miller-Area VI, Myrtice Johnson-Area VIII, Dr. Beverly Roberts-Area XII, Dr. Gary Cordle-Area XVI, and Becky Upchurch-Area XVIII. Donald Altman-Area IV, James Haymans-Area X and Dianne Lockwood-Area XIV are returning for their second two-year term. The President-elect is Rita Marable and the incoming President is Mary Ann McDaniel.

Bill Sloan, Membership reported 21,952 members as of Wednesday, April 25, 2012. Joy Smith has been sick and no printed report was available.

Bill Chandler and Dot Wilson-GEM Board reported that the GEM Board met this morning-April 30, 2012. Ms. Wilson reported that the land had been fully paid for

including the \$30,000 borrowed from GREA. Because of changes in federal regulations GEM is now a fully accepted 501 © 3 organization. Originally the designation was good for a five-year period and would have to be reapplied for at the end of the five years. The GEM Board set a possible deadline of September 1, 2012 for ground breaking. The Board will need to have \$50,000 in the bank to be ready for the ground breaking. After the building is ready for occupancy approximately \$25,000 will come from GREA as rent each year and the GEM Board will need to raise another \$25,000 per year. New ideas will need to be presented and emphasized yearly. One new idea presented was a GREA Cruise. All commissions from the cruise will be given to GEM. Dorothy Wilson had prepared information for the Governing Board related to the cruise.

Harry Werner-Convention reported that the bags were ready for packing. The Committee was waiting on two more Area Directors to arrive with their items for the bags. He then gave a brief report on the remaining days of the Convention. He commented on the speakers that would be special guests.

Dr. Sloan presented several items for consideration to the Executive Board. He reminded members to remind local units to ask for the GEICO quote since GEICO has agreed to give GREA \$18.00 for each quote. The \$18.00 will be split equally between GREA, GEM and the local unit. Dr. Sloan recommended buying a computer for the GREA secretary. After some discussion the Executive Committee agreed with the recommendation. Dr. Sloan then reported that Linda Bray had stated that she was not able to continue her job. He was asking for permission to eliminate her job and then realign the office work. If her job is eliminated, she should be able to apply for unemployment. He stated that June 30, 2012 would be her last day. The Executive Board granted him permission to move forward with the elimination of her job. Next was a long discussion on the realignment of local units as suggested by the long-range planning committee. The suggestions included moving Lee County from Area I and adding it to Area II, no changes for Area III, moving Jeff Davis from Area IV to Area V, moving Jenkins County from Area VI to Area XII, moving Laurens/Dublin from Area VII to Area XI, moving Taylor County from Area VIII to Area IX, no changes for Area X, moving Jefferson County from Area XII to Area XI, moving Rockdale County and Newton County from Area XIV to Area XIII, no changes for Area XV, moving Fannin County and Gilmer County from Area XVIII to Area XVI, and moving Stephens County from Area XVII to Area XVIII. Crisp County, Stewart County and Turner County in Area II, Echols in Area III, Pierce in Area IV, Pulaski and Montgomery in Area VII, Twiggs in Area VIII, Jasper, Jones, Putnam, Wilkerson in Area XI, Taliaferro in Area XII, and Elbert in Area XVII would be noted as inactive. These suggestions were to be presented to the GREA Board for consideration with a vote to be postponed until the September Board meetings. Dr. Sloan said that he wanted to let the local unit presidents know about the proposed changes before a final decision was made. No other business came before the Executive Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

GREA Governing Board First Session

May 2, 2012 Callaway Gardens

Present: Bill Chandler, Bobby Dennis, Annie Ingram, Beverly Roberts, Dot Wilson, Mary Ann McDaniel, Bill Sloan, Kate Finch, Jim Hite, Donald Altman, Katherine Crapps, Jessie Hunter, Joella McGill, Franklin Johnson, Vivian Teasley, Dianne Lockwood, Pattie Ireland, James Haymans, Mickey Wendel, Bonnie Gardner Guests- Gary Cordle, Sue Thornton, Rita Marable, Becky Upchurch, Ryan Greenfield.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by President Kate Finch. After one or two announcements the invocation-A Thousand Gifts- was given by Carol Irwin. Marilyn Werner reminded the Board that odd-numbered area directors would be bringing items for the bags to the next convention. She asked that these directors go ahead and sign up for the items they would bring. Gifts were presented to Governing Board members by President Kate, Marilyn Werner, and Patti Ireland.

The minutes had been sent by Secretary Bassett to all the members of the GREA Governing Board and any editorial corrections, as directed by the members, were made. Corrected copies were sent to members the weekend before the Convention started. The minutes were accepted as presented by email.

Bill Chandler-Treasurer presented a financial report that included a one-month report for March 2012 and a nine-month report ending March 2012. The total revenues for March 2012 were \$72,106.01 and for the nine-month period were \$359,259.77. The operating expenses for the two periods were \$29,189.52 and \$488,204.94 respectively. This was a profit of \$42,916.49 for the month and a loss of \$128,945.17 for the nine-month period. The reason for the loss was the \$200,000.00 given to GEM. There are two CD's valued at \$346,407.71. Mr. Chandler noted that the interest rate on the two CD's was only 1.49% (a large drop from the % that had been on the two) and that he was searching for a better rate, but security for the investment was more important than percentage rate. There is approximately \$131,000.00 in the bank for checking or in petty cash. A large percentage of this is the registration money for the Convention. The convention expenses of approximately \$80,000.00 will be paid from this money. Mr. Chandler again stressed that GREA was in a good financial situation.

Dorothy Wilson and the Nominations and Elections Committee met March 19, 2012 to count ballots for the position of Area II Director. There were two candidates for the position: Mrs. Mary Browner of Terrell County and Mr. Keith Lee of Sumter County. After all votes had been tabulated, the winner was Keith Lee, but both candidates were thanked for their participation. New board members included Keith Lee-Area II, Anne Miller-Area VI, Myrtice Johnson-Area VIII, Dr. Beverly Roberts-Area XII, Dr. Gary Cordle-Area XVI, and Becky Upchurch-Area XVIII. Donald Altman-Area IV, James Haymans-Area X and Dianne Lockwood-Area XIV are returning for their second two-year term. The president for 2012-13 will be Mary Ann McDaniel and the President-elect is Rita Marable.

Dot Wilson-GEM President and Bill Chandler-GEM Treasurer reported that Saturday, September 1, 2012 was the proposed day for groundbreaking for GEM. Mr. Chandler announced that total contributions of \$538,000.00 had been collected since the museum fund was started, but \$200,000 of that did come from GREA. Ms. Wilson had set a goal for herself of 50 bricks to sell. She said that she had gone over her goal by selling 73 bricks during her year as President of the GEM Board. Mr. Chandler said that he was looking at ranking the units by their contributions. He stated that six of the top eight units in donations were from South Georgia. There had been some concern that local units in the southern half of the state would not support the museum since it is to be located in the northern part of Georgia. GEM needs \$50,000.00 in the bank to be able to do the ground breaking in September. At the time of the Convention almost \$10,000 had been raised toward this amount. After the building is built, GREA will be paying about \$25,000 per year in rent and the GEM Board would have to raise another \$25,000.00 to cover the costs.

Dr. Sloan had information from Lucy Dunn as Credentials Committee chair for the area directors concerning the different doors and times that the directors would be collecting tickets at the different Convention meetings.

Rita Marable gave a short announcement about the Awards Luncheon. She said that she had the bags for each area director ready and that the procedure would be basically a repeat of the last Awards Luncheon.

Dr. Sloan reported that as of April 25, 2012 the membership total was 21,952. This was 48 less than the goal of 22,000 for the year.

Bonnie Gardner presented the report for the Long-range Planning Committee. The suggestions included moving Lee County from Area I and adding it to Area II, no changes for Area III, moving Jeff Davis from Area IV to Area V, moving Jenkins County from Area VI to Area XII, moving Laurens/Dublin from Area VII to Area XI, moving Taylor County from Area VIII to Area IX, no changes for Area X, moving Jefferson County from Area XII to Area XI, moving Rockdale County and Newton County from Area XIV to Area XIII, no changes for Area XV, moving Fannin County and Gilmer County from Area XVIII to Area XVI, and moving Stephens County from Area XVII to Area XVIII. Crisp County, Stewart County and Turner County in Area II, Echols in Area III, Pierce in Area IV, Pulaski and Montgomery in Area VII, Twiggs in Area VIII, Jasper, Jones, Putnam, Wilkerson in Area XI, Taliaferro in Area XII, and Elbert in Area XVII would be noted as inactive. These suggestions were to be presented to the GREA Board for consideration with a vote to be postponed until the September Board meetings. Dr. Sloan said that he wanted to let the local unit presidents know about the proposed changes before a final decision was made.

Service to Members, Sue Thornton-Chair, Annie Ingram, Liz Totty,
Franklin Johnson, Myrtice Johnson

The Services to Members committee has met via telephone to consider a proposal from

the management of the Biltmore Estate in Ashville, NC. The estate consists of 8,000 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains and offers visits to America's largest home, extensive gardens and grounds, a working winery and a farm village.

If GREA agrees to participate in the proposed Discount Admission Ticket On-line Program, we will have no obligations, financial or otherwise. The benefit to us will be that we will be able order admission tickets on-line at significant discounts.

In 2012, full price daily admission to the estate ranges from \$39.00-\$69.00 per adult; the special rates offered to GREA members are as follows:

<u>2012 Day Visit</u>	<u>Adult (age 17 & older)</u>	<u>Youth (ages 10-16)</u>
Jan 3-March 31, 2012	\$27.00	Free
April 1-Dec. 31	\$42.00/\$49.00	\$21.00/\$24.50
	Sun.-Fri./Sat	Sun.-Fri./Sat

The Biltmore management would create a customized landing page on www.biltmore.com exclusively for GREA members so that we would be able to buy admission tickets on-line directly from Biltmore Estate at the reduce rate. Special promotions would be offered to GREA members on-line at various times throughout the year. Tickets could be purchased on-line for a single daytime visit on any day of the year; there would be no blackout days.

The Services to Members Committee unanimously recommends that GREA participate in this program. As chairperson of the GREA Services to Members Committee, I move that his recommendation be accepted. Jessie Hunter seconded and the recommendation passed.

Dr. Sloan talked to the GREA Governing Board about terminating the position that Linda Bray currently holds. He recommended that she be paid a month's salary as a going-away gift. A motion was made by Bonnie Gardner to eliminate the position of Assistant to the Executive Director as of June 30, 2012. There was a second by Patti Ireland. Motion passed. Carol Irwin made a motion to give severance pay of one month with a second by Joella McGill. Motion passed.

Mary Ann McDaniel, president-elect said that she had enjoyed visiting units and especially enjoyed the cluster meetings. She announced that John and Becky Upchurch would be Convention Chairs for the 2013 Convention. She also announced that the September Governing Board would be held at the Evergreen Marriott at Stone Mountain. The dates of the September meeting are the 24th, 25th, 26th. The Convention dates are May 7, 8, 9, 2013.

Dr. Sloan commended President Kate for the over and above call of duty that she had done this year. He shared some funny stories from the year and thanked her for her time given to GREA.

President Kate's report

The Year That Was!

It's almost over--the experience of a lifetime! I have enjoyed my year as president of GREA---the visits to local units; the Executive Board meetings; the various committee meetings; the trip to Austin with AMBA; the laughs; the sheer delight at how generous

Retired Educators are in their donations to the Food Banks; and the zeal you showed in recruiting new members!

In May of 2011, I issued the challenge to GREA members to become a "Growing Force." Yes, we are! In August 2011 at the Area Meetings I asked you to "tell the story of GREA" and to just "show up" and you have done both! In November 2011, the state celebrated Georgia Retired Educators' Day, and the state was made aware that we are here--alive and well! In February 2012, we made our final payment on the land for the Museum Building. Yes, we did!

We loved seeing our beautiful state: the cotton fields, the peanut crops, the pecan groves, the peach orchards, the mountains, and the coastal regions. We attended 9 of the best Area Meetings ever held; several Cluster Meetings, a Gala Scholarship Fundraiser, and 49 unit meetings. We had a ball!

Thank you very much!

Special thanks to the following:

Bill Sloan who always supported me

The Governing Board for outstanding team-work

Dot Wilson, past president, for her support

Patricia Bassett for keeping the records of our meetings

The GREA State Office for immeasurable help when I called

Harry and Marilyn Werner and the state Convention Committee for a super job

Mary Ann McDaniel for her passion for building an Educator's Museum

Area Directors who kept the ball rolling AND formed new units

Local units who invited and received me warmly, carrying out the "Growing Force" theme

Families of the Governing Board who became my very good friends

GREA past State Presidents who set such good examples for all of us

Everyone who said, "Yes" when I asked for help

And my husband and family who assisted in my journey and helped me along the way in my love for Georgia Retired Educators

Bill Sloan had a few announcements. Patti Ireland was concerned about the size of the room for displaying the scrapbooks.

Kate Finch recognized Ryan Greenfield with AMBA. Both she and Dr. Sloan thanked him for all that AMBA does and has done for GREA. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

GREA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

May 3, 2012
Callaway Gardens

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm by President McDaniel. The invocation was given by Rita Marable. The following new Board Members were welcomed by the President---President-elect Rita Marable, new area directors Keith Lee, Anne Miller, Myrtice Johnson, Dr. Gary Cordle, and Becky Upchurch with returning area directors Catherine Crapps, Carol Irwin, Donald Altman, Mickey Wendel, James Haymans, Annie Ingram, Dr. Beverly Roberts, Patti Ireland, Diane Lockwood, Jesse Hunter, Vivian Teasley and officers Kate Finch, Bill Chandler, Patricia Bassett, and Executive Director Dr. Bill Sloan.

After the new name tags and State Pins were given out, the first order of business was the election of a GREA Governing Board representative to the GREA Executive Committee. There were three area directors (Carol Irwin, June Bradfield, Patti Ireland) returning for their fourth year on the Governing Board who were eligible for election. Carol Irwin was elected to be the Governing Board representative.

There were a few other items of business that President McDaniel went over. 1) The September Board Meeting will be September 25, 26, 27, 2012 at Evergreen Marriott at Stone Mountain, GA. 2) There was a handout for the August Area Meetings. The list included the dates, the area director in charge of the meeting and most of the sites for the meetings. 3) The new area directors were urged to become familiar with the Area Director Handbooks. 4) Returning area directors were urged to help the new directors when and as possible. 5) President McDaniel stated that she was working on the committee assignments. She and Dr. Sloan stressed that all area directors would be assigned to a committee, and all committees would have an area director as a member. This would facilitate reports from the committee to the Governing Board. 6) Dr. Sloan stressed that committees should meet as necessary but to be cognizant of travel expenses. At the present time travel is reimbursed at 50 cents per mile. 7) The plans for making changes to the areas were presented to the area directors. The rationale for the changes was given, but it was explained that no changes would be made until all involved had time to consider all the ramifications of the changes. The vote was postponed until the September Board meeting.

The final order of business was the renewal of the contract for the executive director. Dr. Sloan was asked to leave the room for the time of the discussion. Members of the Board were given an opportunity to make comments and discuss the renewal. There was a motion by Annie Ingram with a second by Catherine Crapps to renew Dr. Sloan's contract for another year. The motion carried with no dissenting votes. After welcoming Dr. Sloan back into the meeting, he was given permission by the Governing Board to go forward in writing a job description and hiring of new office personnel.

There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 pm.