

NEWS AND VIEWS

FELLOWSHIP SERVICE SUPPORT

March 16, 2023

Our next meeting will be March 16, 2023 at First Baptist Church Dallas. It will begin at 10:30 am.

Please bring a breakfast dish to share at our March meeting.

The March meeting is our Memorial Meeting.

President's Message:

Dear Friends,

I am continually impressed with the kindness and generosity of our members. Our humanitarian projects have impacted our community in so many ways. The school we "adopted" this year-Allgood Elementary-had students blessed with school supplies, holiday gift cards, and a fresh start to the new year with hygiene supplies.

Our Scholarship fund and collections for March of Dimes continue to grow. They will be of such benefit to the recipients.

We have continued to support Paulding Helping Hands. Your President Elect, Susan Lester, has been actively involved with this stellar organization for a number of years, and when you read her article I'm sure you'll be impressed with the very real needs being met with our contributions. Right now the pantry is running very low, so our focus for collections at our March meeting will be to replenish their stores.

Things to Remember:

For our March 16th meeting please bring items or money to donate to Paulding Helping Hands.

Some items needed at this time include:

Canned Vegetables,
Canned Meats,
Chunky Soups,
Peanut Butter, Jelly,
Oatmeal, and Pasta
Sauce. If you would like to volunteer

please called
770-443-1230

Speaking of our March meeting, please be aware that the day and date have been changed to **Thursday, March 16th at 10:30 am**. Our wonderful facility at First Baptist Church of Dallas has informed us that Tuesdays will no longer be available for our organization to meet. They graciously offered us the use of their fellowship hall on Thursdays. Because the PREA by-laws stated our meetings are to be held on the second Tuesday of September, November, January and March, I proposed to the Executive Committee we change our meeting date to the **second Thursday** of said months. Votes were cast, and the proposal was accepted. The meeting dates for next year are now posted on our web page.

This meeting is also a Memorial Meeting to honor our dearly departed members. We lost Vikki Garmon this year, and her family will join us to remember this dedicated educator, family member and citizen.

This will be our traditional Brunch meeting, so just about any food you'd like to bring to share will be delightful. We will also hear a few (new) words from AMBA, who have been very instrumental in helping us meet our membership goals. And WE DID IT!!! Our 7% goal has been met. Hooray! Toot your horns!

One more feature has been added to the web page. I am very committed to communicating to PREA members important information from GREA and the Georgia State Legislature as they pertain to our retirement benefits. There is now a new tab that says "More." If you hover over that tab you will find "GREA/Legislative Information." This includes an article "How to email Your Legislator" and a listing of all the members of the Retirement Committees for the current legislative session. If I get notification from GREA that our voices need to be heard I will re-direct you to this page. We must remain vigilant in protecting our benefits.

Finally, you have been so generous in giving to our Humanitarian causes this year, yet still I'm asking you to give of your most precious commodity...your time. Please consider doing one task for PREA each year. It may be that you could be a host for one of our meetings. Maybe you are the kind of person who could research fun activities for our members to enjoy together. The Retirement Celebration for newly retired Paulding educators is right around the corner and Beth may need some help. The school visits have been going great so far, but we haven't visited every school. These are fun to do with a friend. You might possibly be moved to help Margaret with next year's Memorial meeting. Many hands make light work, but also make the work fun. So, jump on in, the water's fine! I challenge you to find or make your niche in our wonderful organization.

I am so proud of all the good works PREA has done this year, and I'll be sure to toot our horn at the convention in May. Remember, it's because of YOU we are a Unit of Distinction.

I dearly hope to see you at our meeting this month, Thursday, March 16th.

Laura Weiss



Paulding Helping Hands

Our Community Outreach for March is to support Paulding Helping Hands. **They are currently located at 228 West Spring Street Dallas, GA. Their phone number is 770-443-1230.** Helping Hands is a Non-Profit Organization founded in 1987 by five local churches (Dallas 1st Baptist, Dallas 1st UMC, New Canaan Baptist, New Hope Baptist, and Poplar Springs Baptist) who formed a partnership to battle the effects of poverty and hunger. From these humble beginnings they have grown into a multi-faceted agency assisting Paulding County residents of low-income with their basic needs. Helping Hands of Paulding County GA is a vital coalition of churches, businesses, civic groups, and caring individuals representing community partnership at its very best.

Today Helping Hands includes a Food Pantry, Clothing Center, Financial Assistance Services, and Spiritual Encouragement Services. Helping Hands needs supporters, which include businesses, schools, churches, organizations, and concerned citizens to help with food drives, clothing donations, monetary donations, and volunteer support. If you can help in any of these ways please let them know. Any help they receive will be greatly appreciated.

Some items needed in the food pantry at this time include: canned vegetables, canned meats, chunky soups, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, and pasta sauce.

Helping Hands is working to foster a caring atmosphere for anyone experiencing temporary or emergency struggles due to a crisis situation. The Executive Director of Paulding Helping Hands is Reva Burks. PREA is proud to help and support them as they work to fulfill God's plan by assisting neighbors in need.



Fellowship
Service
Support



Photos from our January meeting include Fellowship and refreshments, donations for local Elementary Schools, and a visit from our Area 15 director, Liz Bouis.



Our January meeting included a special performance from members of Hiram High School Chorus. They were led by one of our former scholarship recipients, Ashley Peeler.



2022 -2023 Paulding Retired Educators Membership Form

PREA President: Laura Weiss pot2bz4u@bellsouth.net cell: 404-316-7164

Send this application with Dues and/or Donations to our treasurer:

Sandra Parson 123 Legends Way Hiram, GA 30141

New Retirees: Join GREA and get the first year of PREA membership free. Please return this form with no money so that we have your information for our newsletter list.

Current Members: Please send your dues to our treasurer or pay at the next meeting.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

\$ _____ \$10 for Yearly PREA Dues (Free for New Retirees the first year)

\$ _____ Donation to the Scholarship Fund

I would like my donation to the Scholarship Fund to be in honor or in memory of

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ (Make check payable to PREA.)

<small>LAST NAME</small>	<small>FIRST NAME</small>	<small>MIDDLE INITIAL</small>
_____ _____		
<small>Address</small>		
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Zip</small>
_____ _____	_____	_____
<small>EMAIL</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL
<input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATIC DUES DEDUCTION (A.B.D.) <small>SSA or TRS Retirement # is required.</small> My signature below authorizes TRS to deduct \$2.00/month from my TRS pension payment. This authorization will remain in effect until I choose to terminate it by notice to Georgia Retired Educators Association.		<input type="checkbox"/> \$27 ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> \$360 LIFE Send check with this card to the address below. Make check payable to GREA. Local Unit/County Paulding
Signature _____ Date _____ <small>Signature</small> <small>Date</small>		FOR OFFICE USE ONLY <hr/> CONTROL # _____ <hr/> DATE _____

GREA MEMBERSHIP FORM
 Fellowship — Service — Support
 Return this portion to:
 Georgia Retired Educators Association
 P.O. Box 1379 • Foley Branch, GA 30542
 Website: garetreduceducators.org