Association Pages

We Believe in the Promise of Public Schools for All.

The Georgia Association of Educators Celebrates 40 Years

The GAE Spring Representative Assembly
April 16-18
College Park, Georgia

Forty years ago, two great education advocacy groups—one historically white, the othe other historically black—joined together with a single purpose: to ensure that every child in Georgia had access to a quality public education.

The members of the Georgia Teachers & Education Association (GT&EA) and the Georgia Education Association (GEA) were truly courageous as they worked together to move past old divides and to embrace a new vision for what public schools in Georgia could be.

On May 9, 1970, the first joint Representative Assembly was held in Macon, Georgia. GAE was born.

Today, that shared vision of the members for GT&EA and GEA still guides our work. On our 40th Anniversary, we celebrate our proud heritage and honor the determination, the vision, and the passion for public education that united educators in the belief in the promise of public schools for all.

Watch videos celebrating GAE's 40 years at www.gae.org.

"The past two years have seen unprecedented challenges for public education, our members, and our children. I am proud to say that GAE continues to stand strong to fight the many challenges presented before our membership. Each time, we have emerged as stronger advocates for Georgia's children and our members."

— Jeff Hubbard, GAE President

"In the face of adversity, our organization has remained strong because of the dedication of our leaders and members. GAE's success as an organization stands as a testament to what can be accomplished when we stand up and stand together on behalf of those principles that we hold dear."

— Chris Turner,
GAE Executive Director

GAE Honors 2010 Annie Hutchinson ESP of the Year Honored

GAE recently honored Lois Butler as the 2010 Annie Hutchinson ESP of the Year. A member of the Worth County Association of Educators, Lois Butler works diligently to communicate vital education and association news to her colleagues. Not only does she work to serve the members of GAE, but she reaches out to support all educators regardless of professional affiliation. Butler wholeheartedly lives by the creed: "Every child deserves a quality education." In her day-to-day interactions with her students, she goes beyond the call of duty to make certain her students are properly accommodated and upholds the law, regulations for students with special needs. Ms. Butler has repeatedly demonstrated that she is a true advocate dedicated to the enhancement of education.

This year, GAE honored Lois Butler as ESP of the Year at the Spring Representative Assembly Awards Banquet. As the GAE ESP of the Year, Lois Butler will serve as GAE's nominee for the NEA ESP of the Year Award.

With 3.2 million members, the National Education Association is the largest employee organization in the country. Today, nearly half a million ESPs are members of NEA—making NEA the largest organization of school support employees in the world.

The NEA Representative Assembly approved a special annual honor, the NEA Education Support Professionals Award, to further emphasize the contributions of Education Support Professionals to their schools and communities. This national award recognizes

2010 Honoree Lois Butler stands with last year's ESP of the Year, James Ojeda

an individual who shows outstanding accomplishments in professional practice; advocacy and association involvement; community engagement; personal achievement; and enhancement of the ESP image.

2010 GAE Spring Representative Assembly Election Results

GAE Board of Directors' Elections

GAE President	Calvine Rollins
GAE Vice President	Sid Chapman
GAE Secretary-Treasurer	Charlotte Booker
GAE Administrator At-Large	Christine Pugh
GAE ESP Director At-Large	Melba James
GAE NEA Director Minority Post	Doris Glover
GAE NEA Alternate Director Minority Post	Willett Pearson Walker

* New officers take office on July 5, 2010, during the NEA RA.

GAE Honors the 2009-2010 Leading Locals

Largest Numerical Increase in Membership
Henry County Association of Educators
Richmond County Association of Educators
Paulding County Association of Educators
Valdosta City Association of Educators

Largest Percentage Increase in Total Membership
Valdosta City Association of Educators
Ware County Association of Educators
Haralson County Association of Educators
Clay County GAE Unit

Highest Percentage of Potential Membership
Clay County GAE Unit
Richmond County Association of Educators
Polk County Association of Educators
Clayton County Education Association

From left to right: Dr. Merchuria Chase Williams (2002-2006); Ralph Noble (2000-2002); Grady Yancey, Jr. (1996-1998); Carolyn Lee Hart (1992-1994); Debbie Simonds (1990-1992); Luvenia Jackson (1988-1990); Cheryl Sarvis (1986-1987); Charlie A. Hicks (1985-1986); Dr. Nevin Jones (1972-1973); and Dr. Robert Threatt (1970-1971)

At the 40th Anniversary Spring Representative Assembly, RA delegates had the opportunity to honor the past presidents of the Georgia Association of Educators. Present at the GAE RA, were 10 past presidents—including Dr. Robert Threatt (1970–1971) who served as GAE's very first president after the merger of GT&EA and GEA.

GAE also recognized the leadership of members who have diligently served on the GAE Board of Directors.
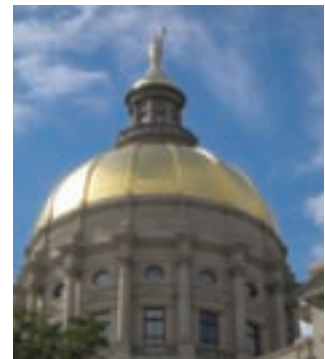

From left to right: GAE President Jeff Hubbard; Connie Black (District Two); Sandra Thompson (Higher Education); Martha Hinson (ESP); Luvenia Jackson (Administrator At-Large); Jana Forrester (District Three); Debbie Gunter GAE Secretary-Treasurer; Willett Waller (District Four); Charlotte Booker (District Two); Rosetta Coyne (District Three); Leslie Crum (District One); and GAE Vice President Calvine Rollins

Click here to watch videos from the GAE's Historic 40th Anniversary Spring RA.

40 Years of GAE

Advocacy at the Capitol

Members in Motion

GAE Locals in Action