

# GVATA News & Views

Bi-Annual Newsletter of Georgia / Spring 2017

## GVATA Executive Board

Greg Waits  
President

Hannah Elrick  
President-Elect

Stacey Beacham  
Past-President

Nelson McCracken  
Area 1 Director

Constance Reid  
Area 2 Director

Justin Bennett  
Area 3 Director

Pete Bennett  
Area 4 Director

Audrey Davis  
Area 5 Director

Richard Gill  
Area 6 Director

Kedriane Harris  
GACTE VP

Todd Dobson  
PRC Chairman

Melissa Riley  
Exec. Secretary

John 'Chip' Bridges  
Advisor

## *A Message from the President*



As we begin to wrap up another year, I look back and feel so blessed. We (as Ag Teachers) have been so blessed to be able to touch so many lives. A lot of the time, without even knowing how big of an impact we

had. I received on the biggest honors I have ever received professionally the other day. One of my former officers selected me as her “CAES AG HERO”. She wrote the following, “My Ag Hero, Greg Waits, taught me the importance of the agriculture industry and gave me the passion to be a part of it. It is because of him and my involvement in FFA that I have pursued a degree in Agriculture and Applied Economics her at the University of Georgia and will work with farmers’ financial obligations in my future. He truly exemplifies a hero and works hard to develop each and every one of his students” –Haley Vickery, Ag

Hill Council President. If you do or don’t know me I am not bragging. To be honest, I was speechless when I read this. I just see this as part of what we do as Ag teachers. We connect with kids more than any other teacher in the building. All of you know this because who does the Principal come to when he needs students to go above and beyond. I am just sharing with you one example of you do on a daily basis. Keep up the hard work and know that you are more than appreciated by your students weather they express it or not.

### GVATA Mission Statement

The mission of the GVATA is to provide agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership,

## Area 2 Update



### The Importance of Collaboration

By: Constance Reid

Area 2 Director

“If you are the smartest person in the room, then you are in the wrong room.”

As educators, we should be the smartest person in our classroom. To remain that way, we must enter into rooms where we are challenged, pushed beyond our comfort zone.

GVATA Summer Conference is a great place to do just that. While we all love the sights and sounds of Savannah and the chance to reconnect with friends, don't overlook the important learning that goes on during our breakout sessions. Use the time to listen to your colleagues share ideas that were successful for their programs – and what needed better planning. Hear from industry professionals on how you can prepare your students to be successful in the workforce. Summer Conference is more than a “check mark” on your POW – it is a chance to prepare yourself and your students for success in the classroom.

My time as a GVATA Area Director has been an eye opening experience. We are blessed in our state to have a strong support system in our state legislature due to our PRC. Our teachers excel both in their own professional ventures and in building excellence in their students. Georgia Agricultural Education truly is the envy of the rest of the nation. I encourage you to take an active role in GVATA and make your dues work for you. Attend NAAE National or Region Convention, apply for an NAAE Award or

## Area 4 Update

### Guarding Concrete

By Pete Bennett

Area IV Director

My dad used the quote “The easiest way is not always the best way.” How many times have we done things the same way over and over again because it was already done and we didn't have to make any changes? We are all too familiar with the phrase “We've always done it like this.” Well, I recently read a story about a military commander that took over at a new post and witnessed several soldiers standing guard over a patch of concrete. The new commander asked the soldiers on guard what they were guarding, and they replied that they had been ordered to guard this concrete pad by the previous commander and were just following those orders. The new commander, curious about the significance of the concrete slab began to dig through archival documents from previous commanders and found reference to the original commander's orders to guard the concrete to prevent animals from walking across it at night before it had had

time to cure. Shortly thereafter the original commander was re-assigned and the second post commander simply let the order to guard the concrete slab stand because he didn't want to undo anything the original commander had ordered. And so it went on for years and years, commander after commander, until the newest commander asked the simple question “Why are these soldiers guarding this slab of concrete in the middle of nowhere!?” Take a minute to look around. How many things are we doing now that were put in place by previous teachers/administrators/Boards at different times and under different situations than we find ourselves in today? I'm sure each of us can look to a few things and ask “Why are we still guarding this piece of concrete?”

As we wind down another year and start looking toward a new one, I hope

that each of us will challenge ourselves to look at “how we've always done things” and make sure that we are still doing things that are relevant and necessary in our current situation. Remember, “the easy way is not always the best way.” Seek to constantly improve yourself, your chapter, your school and your community by looking at what we are doing and making sure we are doing our



## Area 6 Update

By: Richard Gill  
Area 6 Director

Maybe fifteen years ago, while attending GVATA Mid-Winter conference, I asked a fellow Ag teacher, “Why do we have to meet twice each year? Can’t we receive all of this information by mail?” The ensuing response dealt with items like camaraderie and strengths in numbers. It was pointed out to me that there are way more first grade teachers in Georgia, but there are no First Grade Teachers Organizations. Because of our limited numbers and the proximity placed on us during GVATA Conferences, CDE events and other FFA related activities, strong bonds are developed between us. With Agricultural Education as our common goal, we have made great strides as an organization during my tenure of teaching.

It took me twenty-seven years before I decided to throw my hat in the GVATA leadership arena and run for the AREA VI Representative position. I have learned a lot in the past nine months, but like with salvation, I have learned that waiting causes regrets of wasted time.

I was at Jekyll Island when our Standards were developed. They were developed as a checklist for what a good Ag teacher should be doing. I was falling short. When the Standards became an evaluative tool (POW/Evaluation), I felt like I had broken my own switch for reprimand. I have come to realize that with the goal of being 100%, I have become a much better teacher. With every Ag teacher in Georgia being evaluated by the same document, we all have become better teachers. GVATA is the envy of the NAAE.

I was, also, around when our PRC started. I cannot remember if I was a bachelor or married at the time, or what my minimum contribution was, but I do remember having to make installments. I have come to realize that is the best money I spend each year. Transferring our strength of unity in the GVATA into the General Assembly is definitely worth our minimum contribution level. I cannot drive to Atlanta and spend one night for \$150.00, let alone, make any political headway.

Here is the encouraging part that I was supposed to include. I encourage all of the Ag teachers in Georgia to be members of the GVATA, make the average minimum (\$150) contribution to PRC and to take an active part in the leadership of our organization much longer before retirement than I did.



## President Elect Remarks



Hannah Elrick

As I sit here rocking my newborn to sleep, I can't help but reflect on this whirlwind of a school year that we have all had. Some of you may have started the year off at a new school, while others of you may have started your 30<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at a school you've been at for years. Either way, I hope you have enjoyed your school year thus far and have built lasting relationships with your students.

This school year has faced multiple obstacles for many of us. Those of us in the southeast faced Hurricane Matthew, while our fruit producers are currently enduring the cold snap that has been detrimental to their crop this season. We have had to face various seasons of change, and I hope that we will all recover and can cope with anything life throws at us.

I hope that your school year finishes on a positive note. Whether you've had many successes or failures this school year, I want you to try to find the silver lining. We are lifelong learners and it is always important to see everything as a learning experience. If you don't get that opportunity that you were hoping for, know that there is a reason and chances are good that there is something bigger and better for you in the days ahead.

Don't give up on yourself. If you're feeling down, call up your friend you haven't talked to in a few days (or weeks – we all understand the struggle of this job) and let them remind you of why you matter and why your kids need you, no matter if you are still their teacher or just a positive influence in their life. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to ask! I look forward to seeing you all at State Convention in April!

---

# GACTE Update



**Kedrione Harris**  
**GACTE Vice President**

Celebrating Smith-Hughes 100 years- We will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Smith Hughes Act throughout 2017. At the GACTE Summer Conference plans are under way to highlight Georgia's role in the development of vocational/CTAE education through the years. FFA has put together a great video that we hope everyone will take a moment to view: <https://pulse.ffa.org/index.php/2016/10/19/career-and-technical-education-celebration-100-years-of-the-smith-hughes-act/>

**LEAD CTAE-** GACTE has been very involved with this initiative which is helping to support the next generation of CTAE teacher leaders in our state. The class of 20 was announced back in October and is currently half way through the program which finishes in July. If you are interested in applying for the 2017-2018 Class please contact Lynne Wilson with CTAERN or Matthew Gambill ([mhgambill@bellsouth.net](mailto:mhgambill@bellsouth.net))

Economic Development Partnership- GACTE along with GaDOE and the Georgia Economic Developers Association will be rolling out this new initiative in July 2017. This will be for school systems to apply for and is structured similar to the STEM Certification that has been very popular in recent years. The goal of this initiative is to encourage schools to engage with their local business partners and integrate with the economic development efforts in their communities.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **70th Annual GACTE Summer Conference**

**“70 Years of Educating Georgia's Workforce”**

**July 9-12, 2017**

**Cobb Galleria Centre/Renaissance Waverly Hotel**

**[www.gacte.org](http://www.gacte.org)**

### **ACTE Region II Conference**

**September 29 - October 1, 2017**

**Jekyll Island, Georgia**

**[www.acteonline.org/regionii\\_events/#.WK-4TfkrLIU](http://www.acteonline.org/regionii_events/#.WK-4TfkrLIU)**

### **ACTE CareerTech Vision**

**December 6-9, 2017**

**Nashville, Tennessee**

**<http://www.careertechvision.com/>**

# GVATA Summer Conference

## Tentative Schedule

July 9-12,  
2017  
Savannah,  
GA

### Sunday, July 9th

3:00-5:00 GVATA Board Meeting

5:00-7:00 Registration

### Monday, July 10th

8:30-10:30 Registration

8:30-11:00 Vendor Visitation

11:00-2:00 Awards Luncheon/Opening Session

2:00-3:30 Vendor Visitation

2:30—3:30 Audit Committee Meeting &  
Facilitator Meeting

3:30-4:30 Agriculture Education Team Report

4:30 –5:30 GVATA Business Session

### Tuesday, July 11th

9:00-9:55 Breakout 1

10:00-10:55 Breakout 2

11:00-11:55 Breakout 3

12:00-1:30 Lunch on your own

1:30-2:25 Breakout 4

2:00-4:00 GVATA Board Meeting

2:30—3:25 Breakout 5

3:30—4:25 Breakout 6

### Wednesday, July 12th

8:00-9:15 GVATA Closing Session / Breakfast

\*\*Region Meetings to immediately follow closing ses-  
sion

# GVATA Summer Leadership Conference July 9– 12, 2017



## Savannah Marriott Riverfront

Hotel room rates are subject to state and local taxes of 13% along with \$1.00 City Occupancy fee and \$5.00 State Recovery Fee. Fees are not exempt by law in effect at the time of check-in.

### PARKING

Single Occupancy	\$164
Double Occupancy	\$164
Additional Person	\$20 each

The Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel offers Self-Parking for guests and attendees at the discounted rate of \$12 daily per vehicle, currently \$21 daily.

### METHOD OF RESERVATIONS – INDIVIDUAL CALL-IN

Individuals will call the Hotel at [912-233-7722](tel:912-233-7722) or [800-285-0398](tel:800-285-0398) to make reservations., ask or GVATA Room Block



# GVATA Award Information

Below are the Teachers of Teachers, Thirty Minute Club, and Years of Service information. If any of these apply to you, please complete the information using this [link](#).

## Teacher of Teachers Award

Bronze Award 1-2 Former Students    Silver Award 3-4 Former Students    Gold Award 5-8 Former Students

**YOU MAY RECEIVE EACH TYPE CERTIFICATE ONLY ONCE.**

THE FOLLOWING AGRICULTURE TEACHERS ARE MY FORMER STUDENTS AND HAVE TAUGHT AGRICULTURE EDUCATION AT LEAST ONE YEAR.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

## Thirty Minute Club Award

PLEASE LIST ALL ARTICLES AND /OR PROGRAMS THAT YOU HAVE PREPARED TO PUBLICIZE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR.

PUBLICATION OR RADIO/T.V. STATION	#ARTICLES/PROGRAMS
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

## Years of Service Completed

YRS. OF Service Completed at the end of the 2014-2015 School Term

5 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 30 \_\_\_\_\_ 35 \_\_\_\_\_ 40 \_\_\_\_\_

# GVATA First Year Teacher's Scholarship Application

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(H) Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(c) Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility:** The GVATA First Year Teacher's Scholarship may be awarded based on the following requirements.

Completed course work from either Fort Valley State University or the University of Georgia

Has received a degree/certification in Agricultural Education

Entering their first year of employment as an Agriculture Educator/Young Farmer Teacher.

**Requirements:** Write a two page essay describing why you decided to enter the Agriculture Education profession. In addition, attach the following documents to this cover page:

Essay

Professional Resume

Reference Letter from Agriculture Education Professor or Georgia Educator

**Judging:** Up to four scholarships in the amount of \$500 will be awarded to scholarship applicants.

The GVATA Executive Committee or a committee appointed by the Executive Committee will select scholarship recipients

Scholarships will be awarded at the 2017 GVATA Summer Conference

All scholarships should be postmarked by July 1, 2017

Mail scholarships to :

Melissa Riley, GVATA Executive Secretary  
1005 State University Drive, FVSU Box 4060  
Fort Valley, GA 31030



# 2017 - 2018 GVATA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL SYSTEM \_\_\_\_\_ AG. ED. REGION \_\_\_\_\_ AREA \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(S) PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ (S) EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(H) PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (C) PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS COMPLETED: \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE ONE: **NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

GVATA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$75.00 / Non-member \$150	_____
GVATA/NAAE PROFESSIONAL DUES	\$100.00	_____
GVATA PRC	<b>\$150, \$200, OR \$250</b>	_____
GEORGIA FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DUES	\$15.00	_____
ACTE/GACTE DUES	\$115.00	_____
NAAE LEGISLATIVE FUND	\$10.00	_____
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MAGAZINE / ONLINE ONLY	\$10.00	_____
GVATA MEMORIAL / FLOWER FUND	\$3.00	_____
THE COUNCIL	\$2.00	_____
FVSU ALUMNI DUES	\$50.00	_____
FFA FOUNDATION	Donation	_____
NAAE Ag Educators' Relief Fund	Donation	_____
GVATA First Year Teacher Scholarship Fund	\$10 / Donation	_____
Georgia ADVANCE Ag Institute	Donation	_____
<b><u>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE WITH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</u></b>		_____
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO <b>GVATA</b>		

REVISED April 2017 CASH OR CK# \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Melissa Riley – 1005 State University Drive, FVSU Box 4060 – Fort Valley, GA 31030

# GVATA PRESIDENT ELECT APPLICATION

The person who is elected GVATA President Elect should make a three year commitment of service – President Elect, President, and Past President. The main purpose of this application is to inform you of the duties of the person serving in these offices. These duties are listed on page two of this application. Please review the duties before completing the application. If you would like an electronic form of this application sent to you, email [gvata.sec@gmail.com](mailto:gvata.sec@gmail.com) and request one.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

(H) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (C) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been a GVATA member from 2012 till 2017? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\*If No, you do not meet the eligibility requirements for President Elect as stated in Article V, Section 2 of the GVATA Constitution.

Have you held any GVATA Offices? \_\_\_\_\_

Note: A brief summary of the above information for each candidate may be distributed at the GVATA Annual Business Meeting prior to the election.

Applicant's Statement: I have reviewed the duties of the GVATA President Elect, President, and Past President. If elected, I am willing to commit the time and effort necessary to effectively perform the duties of the offices.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Administrator's Statement: I have reviewed the application of \_\_\_\_\_ and will support him/her if elected to serve.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Completed Applications to:**

**Deadline: July 1, 2017**

Melissa Riley, GVATA Executive Secretary  
1005 State University Drive, FVSU Box 4060  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

# **DUTIES OF GVATA PRESIDENT ELECT, PRESIDENT, PAST PRESIDENT 2017-2020**

## **President Elect 2017-2018 Responsibilities**

- Serve as Chairman of the Summer Conference Planning Committee.
- Serve as Chairman of the Mid Winter Conference Planning Committee.
- Serve as Legislative Liaison between GVATA and NAAE.
- Make any necessary visits to the State Capital during the Legislative Session.
- Participate in the following meetings and functions:
  - Attend GVATA Executive Committee Meeting following the 2014 Annual Business Meeting.
  - Attend ACTE/NAAE National Convention.
  - Attend GVATA Mid Winter Conference at the FFA-FCCLA Center.
  - Attend GVATA Executive Committee Meetings.
  - Attend 2016 NAAE Region V Leadership Conference to be held in June.
  - Attend 2016 GVATA Summer Conference.
  - Attend and called meetings of the GVATA Executive Committee.

## **President 2018-2019**

- Serve as Chief Executive Officer of GVATA, Inc.
- Preside and /or participate in the activities and functions listed for President Elect.
- Attend the Agricultural Education Day at the Capital in February.

## **Past President 2019-2020**

- Serve as consultant for the GVATA Executive Committee.
- Serve as chairperson of the 2018 GVATA Nomination Committee.
- Participate in the meetings and functions listed above in the duties for the President Elect except the ACTE/NAAE National Convention and Regional V Leadership Conference.

# 2017 NAAE Awards

Applications will be judged April 22, 2017. If you are interested in applying, please click on the links below for the application information. All applications must be submitted to your Area Director prior to the day of judging. **Please do not attempt to upload your application to NAAE!**

Each winner will be recognized at Summer Conference.

## NAAE Outstanding Teacher Award

This program distinguishes NAAE members who are at the pinnacle of their profession — those who are conducting the highest quality agricultural education programs. The award recognizes leadership in civic, community, agriculture/agribusiness and professional activities. Outstanding agricultural educators are innovators and catalysts for student success in agricultural education. Individuals may receive the regional award only once; previous regional winners are not eligible to apply.

## NAAE Outstanding Young Member Award

As a means of encouraging young teachers to remain in the profession and to encourage and recognize participation in professional activities, the NAAE Outstanding Young Member Award program is sponsored by John Deere as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. NAAE members who are in their third, fourth or fifth year of teaching at the time they apply are eligible for this award. (When the awards are presented at the subsequent NAAE convention, the award recipients will be in their fourth, fifth, or sixth year of teaching.) Individuals may receive the regional award only once; previous regional winners are not eligible to apply.

## NAAE Outstanding Secondary/Middle School Program Award

A goal of NAAE is to promote outstanding programs in agricultural education and effectively communicate success stories. The Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Ag Ed Program Award promulgates that goal. Agricultural education programs in middle schools and secondary schools are eligible to participate in this recognition program. Previous regional winners may reapply for this award every five years if they choose (that is, programs that won the regional award in 2016 may reapply in 2021).

## NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program Award

The Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Ag Ed Program award recognizes exemplary 2-year postsecondary institutions and full time young farmer and adult agricultural education programs. Qualifying young farmer and/or adult ag ed program staff must devote at least 50 percent of their teaching time to this level of instruction. Previous regional winners may reapply for this award every five years if they choose (that is, programs that won the regional award in 2016 may reapply in 2021).

# 2017 NAAE Awards

Applications will be judged April 22, 2017. If you are interested in applying, please click on the links below for the application information. All applications must be submitted to your Area Director prior to the day of judging. **Please do not attempt to upload your application to NAAE!**

Each winner will be recognized at Summer Conference.

## NAAE "Teachers Turn the Key" Scholarship

Agricultural education is continually faced with a shortage of qualified teachers. Unless those who have been trained enter and remain in the profession for a period of several years, the shortage of qualified teachers will prevail. As a means of encouraging young teachers to remain in the profession and to encourage and recognize participation in professional activities, NAAE offers the Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship.

NAAE members who are in their second, third or fourth year of teaching at the time they apply are eligible for this award. (When the awards are presented at the subsequent NAAE convention, the scholarship recipients will be in their third, fourth or fifth year of teaching.) Applicants must be a member of NAAE during the year of application (2016-2017) and be a member of NAAE at the time of the convention at which they receive the scholarship (2017-2018). All state winners must agree to attend the entire NAAE convention.

## NAAE Ideas Unlimited Award

The Ideas Unlimited contest is designed to give members an opportunity to exchange classroom, SAE, leadership, and other teaching ideas. The idea may be original or borrowed. Each application should specify how the idea was used by the applicant and how the idea could help others in their teaching.