



GVATA

GVATA News & Views

Bi-Annual Newsletter of Georgia Agriculture Educators
Fall 2019

GVATA

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President-Elect

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President's Message



Being President of the GVATA bears an awesome weight of responsibility. Nonetheless, I have complete confidence in the Board of Directors and Executive Secretary that you have elected to these positions. Being nearly half-way through my tenure as President, I feel completely comfortable with the abilities of this Board to accomplish anything and move this organization in a positive direction. Their energy, self-motivation, and collaborative efforts will keep GVATA the envy of the NAAE.

The GVATA Board has already met with all State Staff and PRC Committee Members to create a unified effort for the ensuing legislative year. They also held a post-conference meeting at Lake Lanier to begin planning for our 2020 Mid-Winter and Summer Conferences.

The GVATA Board held its regular board meeting in September to finalize plans already established for

our upcoming conferences. Members were eager to accept responsibilities in a division of labor to alleviate any one person from carrying the load. Possible amendments were discussed to make the GVATA Constitution and By-Laws current in its wording. Please read these change proposals in this document and be prepared to vote at Mid-Winter.

Mid-Winter will be held January 21-22 in Covington. The Board has discussed plans with State Staff to make the 2021 Mid-Winter Conference a one day meeting. With Georgia being the front runner in Elementary Agricultural Education, teachers from these twenty-six pilot programs are being invited to help create continuity in curriculum and camaraderie.

The 2020 Summer Conference will be held July 12-15 in Tifton. Expect a break from the norm. Schedules will be revised. A family night, with entertainment, is being planned. Innovative Breakouts will be included. We should have an inordinate amount of room to work with at a similar total cost as Lake Lanier. Hotel block information will be disclosed soon. Sam Gay, from Moultrie, will be catering the Awards Luncheon with his famous seafood bar. You do not want to miss this.

The recent National FFA Convention was one of the most productive for Georgia FFA in history. You are to be commended for your hard work and dedication. Rest assured that your professional organization is in good hands. The GVATA Board will be representing you at the NAAE National Convention in Anaheim, CA December 3-7. Both delegates and Award Winners are set to travel. We look forward to the second half of a busy, yet productive year.



Ruby McCracken
Area I Director

Area 1 Remarks

As I reflect on my past year as Area I GVATA Director, the one word that comes to mind over all others is GRATITUDE. I thank God for placing me in a profession that gives me the opportunity to impact the future or even the day of my students. The reason I wanted to serve as your representative was to have the opportunity to give something back. However, it is gratitude that I feel for all that I have gained during this time of service. I have made friendships across this and other states, listened to wisdom from past experiences, expanded my perspective of how to teach and found exciting resources. I have gained inspiration from the young, energetic and technology savvy new teachers that make teaching smarter, not harder. I see our universities and colleges producing great replacements for the future of our profession. I respect and appreciate my predecessors and mentors for the amazing forethought and foundation they laid in the GVATA. I have gained an understanding and appreciation for the purpose of GVATA and the importance of PRC representation. I encourage all members to contribute in full payment of PRC contributions. We are truly blessed in Georgia, and without continued representation, are in danger of falling into long lasting policies that could endanger our many benefits and funds. If you have not fully contributed, please do so by our Mid-Winter Conference. Our organization needs your full support.

I want to encourage each of you to, “Grow where you are planted.” Just like a seedling. I must first grow where I am planted, and at the right time, I will move into the next phase. But if I refuse to grow, then the alternative to growing is dying. Which one are you going to be? Are you growing as a teacher, parent, mentor, etc. GVATA and NAAE have a whole network of resources and willing teachers to help you, so don’t be afraid to ask.

Thank you to all my fellow ag teachers for allowing me to serve in this role. If there is anything I can do for you, please feel free to call me. This state committee is set on making positive impacts and changes where GVATA members have expressed a need. And yes, we do read all of the comments on the surveys. We appreciate your feedback. I am blessed to be a part of this hardworking and committed team.

Fellow GVATA members, I am grateful for this opportunity, but more importantly, I am grateful for all that you do every day, and night, and weekend, and holidays. We may not all have the same demands, but we all have a job that makes a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for giving of yourself to others. I am just grateful to be planted in a garden full of fruits and nuts like me. Keep up the great work!



Walt Parks
Area 3 Director

Mark Twain once wrote, “Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never work a day in your life.” I have to humbly disagree with Mr. Twain. I truly love my job, but as I am sure most of you will agree, being an agriculture teacher is hard work and we work hard every day. We often teach school all day, then when most other teachers go home, we leave school with a group of students to compete at a CDE or livestock show and then get home at 11:00 pm or later. Then we have to get up early in the morning, and do it all over again. Yet, though the work is hard, I truly love my job and there is no more rewarding career than being an ag teacher. So newer teachers,

know that the lives you impact are worth it, but there is a great deal of hard work ahead if you want to be a successful ag teacher

Another thing I have learned after 2 decades in this career is that being an agriculture teacher is not just a job, it is a lifestyle. You are an agriculture teacher 24/7 and 365. Furthermore, this lifestyle involves not just yourself, but your whole family. From the day I started teaching, my wife and later my children have been right there with me through it all. My wife and then 18 month old Lizzy went with me to my first national FFA convention. My wife helped cook at all of the Young Farmer meetings I oversaw in my early days and she, along with all three of my children, help prepare the food for FFA banquets to this day. So I would like to publicly thank my wife, Sheryl and my

children Lizzy, Ethan and Eli for being right there with me the whole way. There is no chance that I would be where I am today without the love, support, sacrifice and patience they have so selflessly given me over the years. So, during this time of year when we give thanks, take a moment to stop and sincerely thank your family for being there for you as you live the agriculture teacher life.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 3 representative. If I can ever be of assistance to you please reach out to me and I will be happy to help in any way I can. May God bless each of you this holiday season and each and every day of the year.

GVATA Summer Leadership Conference July 12– 15, 2020

The University of Georgia
Tifton Campus Conference
Center

15 RDC Road
Tifton, GA 31794

Hotel accommodation information will be sent out by email in January. A complete list of hotels and prices will be distributed at Mid-Winter Conference.



GVATA Mid-Winter Conference Business Items

Proposed Amendment Changes

This is the formal notice that the Executive Board is presenting a constitutional amendment at the upcoming conference.

At the last board meeting, a motion was made and approved to propose the following changes: If passed, this will modify the following sections of the Constitution and By-laws:

Constitution Article IV Section 2

Active memberships shall be confined to teachers engaged in teaching Agricultural Education in the public schools of Georgia and to the members of Supervisory Staff and the Teacher Training Staff of Agricultural Education in Georgia upon payment of GVATA and NAAE dues.

*This section would be modified to read: Active memberships shall be confined to teachers engaged in teaching Agricultural Education in the public *and private* schools of Georgia and to the members of Supervisory Staff and the Teacher Training Staff of Agricultural Education in Georgia upon payment of GVATA and NAAE dues.

Constitution Article IV Section 5

Student membership shall be limited to students who are in their final year of study at the University of Georgia or Fort Valley State University.

*This section would be modified to read: Student membership shall be limited to students who are in their final year of study at the University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University or *Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College*.

Constitution Article V Section 3

The Advisors of this Association shall be the Program Manager of Agricultural Education and the supervisory staff.

*This section would be modified to read: The Advisors of this Association shall be the Program Manager of Agricultural Education and the supervisory staff *of Agricultural Education*.

Constitution Article V Section 5

The President and President-Elect shall be elected to serve a one-year term

*This section would be modified to read: *The President-Elect shall be elected to serve for three years: first year as President-Elect, second year as President, and third year as Past-President.*

Proposed Amendment Changes (Con't)

Constitution Article VI Section 4

The President, President-Elect, three directors, and the Executive Secretary should represent the Association at the Region Leadership Conference of the National Association. Directors should attend the Region Leadership Conference during the first year in office. The President, President-Elect, three directors and the Executive Secretary should attend the annual convention of the NAAE. Directors should attend the NAAE Annual Convention during the second year in office. Should funds be available, the GVATA will extend additional delegate travel for up to the number of people to fill remaining voting delegate seats, per the decision of the current GVATA President. First priority will go to the three directors not currently in the attendance rotation. Second priority will go to the Past-President. Third priority will go to individual GVATA members. In the event that funds are not available to fund additional delegates, the GVATA President can use his/her discretion to supplement delegates from a pool of available award winners, individual attendees and other NAAE Region V members.

*This section would be modified to read: *The President, President-Elect, Area Directors, and the Executive Secretary shall represent the Association at the Region Leadership Conference of the National Association and the annual convention of the NAAE. The GVATA President shall use his/her discretion to supplement voting delegates from a pool of available GVATA or NAAE Region V members in attendance. Should funds be available, the GVATA will extend additional delegate travel for up to the number of people to fill remaining voting delegate seats, per the decision of the current GVATA President. First priority will go to the Past-President. In the event that funds are not available to fund additional delegates, the GVATA President can use his/her discretion to supplement delegates from a pool of available award winners, individual attendees and other NAAE Region V members.*

Proposed Increase In GVATA Membership Dues

Proposal –

Increase the GVATA membership dues from \$40 to \$60 per member for a total of \$120 for state and national combined dues.

Rational –

- ◆ As GVATA membership continues to grow, there is a need to increase the operational budget for our organization. Cost to operate the organization is on the rise. At the current level of projected expenditures, the GVATA budget surplus of \$8,700 will be absorbed within a year of operations. We currently collect about \$20,000 per year in membership dues and need about \$30,000 to keep a positive balance in the operational account.
- ◆ Cover the cost to send the GVATA delegation to the Region V NAAE Conference and to the National NAAE Convention. The Region V conference recently doubled the registration fee to attend from \$75 to \$150 per member. It is important that GVATA be represented at these conferences as a leading state in Agricultural Education.
- ◆ Increase number of student NAAE memberships for the Ag Ed student teachers. The number of student teachers continue to rise as the demand of agriculture teachers rise in Georgia and the surrounding states. GVATA paid for 50 student memberships for this fiscal year and their conference registration cost to attend Mid-Winter Conference.
- ◆ Boost our presence throughout the state by sponsoring activities and events related to Agricultural Education. Sponsorships may include FFA Alumni events, student NAAE membership recruitment events at the college and university level, increasing support for the FFA Foundation, and/or hosting Teach Ag Day events and activities in our state to recruit and promote Agricultural Education.



Mid-Winter Conference Agenda ***January 21-22, 2020***

Tuesday, January 21st

8:00 am – GVATA Executive Board Meeting
 10:00 am – First Year Teacher Meetings
North Region – Sheffer Dining Hall
Central Region – Upstairs Meeting room - Wilkinson Dining Hall
South Region – Terrace Room
 12:00 pm – Lunch – Wilkinson Dining Hall
Tuesday Meetings & Registration will take place in the England Leadership Center
 1:00 pm – Tactical Plan Committee Meetings
 2:00 pm – PRC Committee Meeting
 3:00 – 4:30 pm Registration
 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm – Opening Session & Hall of Fame
 7:15 pm – Ag Ed Hall of Fame Dinner

Mid-Winter Conference **Registration Fees:**

Conference Registration.....\$50.00
(Includes breakfast, lodging, basic linens)

Hall of Fame Dinner\$20.00
(Includes a steak, potato, salad, dessert, and beverage)

Non-Member Conference
Registration.....\$150.00
(Includes breakfast, lodging, basic linens)

Online Registration at gvata.org/conferences

Wednesday, January 22nd

7:15 am – Cooperating Teacher Meeting
 7:45 am – Breakfast – Wilkinson Dining Hall
 9:00 am – 10:00 am – Breakout Session 1
 10:00 am – 10:15 am – Break *(coffee & cinnamon roll in dining hall)*
 10:15 am – 11:15 am – Breakout Session 2
 11:30 am – 12:30 pm – Lunch – Wilkinson Dining Hall
 12:45 – 2:00pm – Business Session, England Leadership Center

Regional Meetings — Immediately Following Business Session

North Region.....Mobley Hall
 Central Region.....John Wilkinson Dining Hall
 South Region.....England Leadership Center



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