

A note from the President's pen...

Dear GRA Members,

I hope this letter finds you really enjoying the cool weather. I don't know about you, but I think it certainly is refreshing after all of the hot days we had this summer. There is nothing like a good fall day to get your heart beating and open your eyes as the crisp air blows a gentle breeze across your face. As I look around, I see the some of the leaves starting to turn. The flower beds of my neighborhood are changing from summer flowers like salvia and marigolds to various colors of pansies, winter cabbage and lavender.

With another year just around the corner, I would like to take this time to talk to you about your plans for records and information management training. As always, Georgia Records Association will offer RIM training at our spring conference in May 2012. Our certificate program will also be in full swing at that conference. Additionally, we plan to offer two workshops in FY 2012.

Have you seen the bulletin announcing our workshop to be held on November 2, 2011 at the Mansour Center in Marietta? The price is only \$45 for members and \$75 for non-members. This price includes your breakfast and lunch. The speaker is Randy Kahn, ESQ and if you have never heard him speak you certainly need to plan on being there. I have had the privilege to hear him speak and he is awesome. He is a wealth of knowledge on RIM and the laws that govern it. I have never been disappointed when I attended a presentation done by him.

I also wanted to let you know that we have selected a completely different venue this year for our conference. We are going to the Lanier Charter Career Academy in Gainesville. The GRA board was invited to hold our board meeting there and tour the facility. We accepted the invitation and were very impressed. LCCA trains students studying to become chefs by allowing them to work with professional chefs to learn the trade. There are also students working with teachers in the design and embroidery/printing businesses, some in retail operations and other who are into hotel and conference management. They have a high tech facility that includes video conferencing and a computer lab. Some of the big businesses of Georgia, including Dell, regularly schedule their meetings and conferences there.

LCCA students prepared and served our lunch and it was as professional as you would expect in a fine restaurant. The food was very good. We were so impressed that we decided to have our next GRA conference there. Not only will we have a great conference but we will be giving back to the community as well. We are also planning a dinner cruise on Lake Lanier on a chartered boat that will be reserved exclusively for GRA conference attendees and their guests.

We know that this conference will be one that the membership will be talking about for years to come. We are looking forward to spending time with each of you again and enjoying a new way to bring in the Spring of 2012.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend both events. It just won't be the same without you.

All the best,

Linda Johnson, President

Georgia Records Association