2013-14 Officers

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Region l Director Keisha Ford-Jenrette, GADOE

kford@gadoe.org

Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Douglas, Fayette, Floyd, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Heard, Lamar, Monroe, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Spalding, Walker, and Whitfield counties

Region II Director

Kimberly Embry, Walton County Public Schools kembry@walton.k12.ga.us

Baldwin, Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Columbia, Dawson, DeKalb, Elbert, Fannin, Forsyth, Franklin, Glascock, Greene, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Hancock, Hart, Henry, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Madison, McDuffie, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Putnam, Rabun, Richmond, Rockdale, Stephens, Taliaferro, Towns, Union, Walton, Warren, Washington, White, and Wilkes counties

Region III Director

Tina Duckett, Troup County School System duckettt@troup.org

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Region IV Director Jennifer Steedley, Valdosta City Schools jsteedley@gocats.org

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Who We Are and What We Do

Chartered in 1973, the Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) is a professional organization for school communicators and school-community relations specialists. GSPRA is an affiliate of the National School Public Relations Association and has been designated a Blue Ribbon Chapter of NSPRA for the past 25 years. In 2010, GSPRA earned NSPRA's Mark of Distinction as an Exemplary Chapter. GSPRA members have also earned the prestigious Awards for Distinguished Service in both the single project and year-round project categories.

GSPRA is a vital medium for exchanging information and ideas and is a wellspring of professional growth for education communicators statewide. The guiding philosophy is that the organization is enriched by the addition of each new member. GSPRA offers many quality services and resources for its members including support and mentoring for new communications staffers; regional and statewide conferencing opportunities; and staff development resources for schools and communities.

Our Members

GSPRA's membership includes school system public relations professionals, school principals, central office administrators, school level communicators, public relations professionals from education associations, and superintendents. Why such a diverse membership? The answer lies in the association's recognition that establishing and maintaining effective relationships between a school or school system and its publics is not a one-person job. Every member of the administrative team of a school and school system bears some responsibility for relationship-building and/or communicating school policies and procedures.

Member Services

One of the greatest assets GSPRA offers its members is a statewide network of school communicators. Imagine the benefit of having advice and information at your fingertips on topics such as school finance campaigns, media relations, crisis communication, budget issues, community relations, publications, and more. GSPRA's vibrant online community gives members a venue for seeking and offering advice, resources, and samples on key issues.

GSPRA's electronic newsletter, *E-Vox*, provides members with regular updates from the association regarding chapter news, news from the Georgia Department of Education, and other items related to enhancing job performance and tracking the latest education trends.

On GSPRA's website (<u>www.gspra.org</u>), visitors will find information about the organization and its members, conferences and other learning opportunities, and more. GSPRAns with active membership status have access to members-only resources, including posted samples in the Resource Vault, the *E-Vox* archives, the member directory, job postings. GSPRA also has a presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Linked In. A hallmark of GSPRA is its annual professional development seminar, traditionally held in the fall. No other conference in Georgia offers public relations professionals and education leaders the opportunity to focus on public education issues and how to communicate them. During the year, webinars and regional events offer additional opportunities to network, learn, and share ideas with neighboring school systems.

GSPRA is proud, too, of offering numerous awards that recognize excellence in school public relations. GSPRA's annual Publications, Photography, and Electronic Media Contest honors the year's best work and gives participants valuable feedback from fellow practitioners. Awards programs coincide with the annual conference.

The administration of GSPRA is handled by the officers of the association, who are elected by the members annually. As a result, GSPRA is able to keep the cost of membership to just \$50 per year. GSPRA's membership year runs from one annual conference to the next and dues are included in the conference fee. Members unable to attend the conference can maintain their GSPRA membership by paying the \$50 membership fee. (*See details on paying membership fees to the right.*)

Join GSPRA online

GSPRA uses Yahoo Group to maintain an online community for its members. With a single email, registered GSPRAns broadcast requests and responses to every subscriber in the online group. Imagine having the advice of PR professionals statewide, all on standby waiting to help! New members receive information on how to take advantage of this great opportunity for instant communication.

Invest in yourself. Join GSPRA today.

If you are interested in joining the Georgia School Public Relations Association, please fill out this form and send it along with your dues payment to:

J.D. Hardin GSPRA Membership Services c/o Henry County Schools Communications/Community Relations 33 N. Zack Hinton Pkwy McDonough, GA 30252 *john.hardin@henry.k12.ga.us* Phone: 770-957-6601 x161 Fax: 770-914-6178

Name:	
Position:	
School/System/Organization:	
Mailing Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Phone Number:	
Fax:	
E-Mail:	

Dues: \$50 per year (*GSPRA's membership* year runs from fall conference to fall conference. Dues are bundled into conference registration or may be paid separately for those unable to attend