

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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TRS RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

Southwest Georgia RESA will host TRS Retirement meetings again this year at the Camilla office (570 Martin Luther King, Jr. Road). The sessions are as follows:

Mid-Career Workshop/Presentation

Tuesday, June 8, from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in Room 702

Pre-Retirement Workshop/Presentation

Tuesday, June 8, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in Room 702

Individual Pre-Retirement Counseling Sessions

Wednesday, June 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Registration Instructions:

1. Visit www.trsga.com
2. Click on Workshops and Counseling at the top center of the homepage.
3. "How Do I Sign Up?" will direct registrants to the Account Login button.
4. Either log in to your existing account OR sign up for a new one (see the green box to the left).
5. Click on Register for Workshop/Counseling.
6. Select the event and fill out the information.
7. You will receive an automatic email confirmation once your registration goes through.
8. Please contact the TRS Call Center at 800-352-0650 if you are having difficulty registering for an event.



April Dates:

Thursday, April 1, 2010

9:30 RESA BOC Meeting

10:00 SW GA SSA Meeting

Speaker: Mr. Herb Garrett
GSBA Executive Director

April 5-9, 2010

Spring Holiday—OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, April 8, 2010

State Board of Education Meeting

2011 Georgia Teacher of the Year Finalist

State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox announced the finalists for **2011 Georgia Teacher of the Year** on February 22nd. One of the ten finalists, chosen from a pool of 148 applicants, is from our neighbor county of Lee. Ms. Coni Grebel teaches language arts at Lee County High School. *Congratulations, Ms. Grebel, for be named in the top ten finalists. Southwest Georgia is rooting for you to be named finalist for FY11!*

MEDIA CONSORTIUM DAY 2 SCHEDULED

The second day for the **Media Consortium** has been scheduled for **April 22, 2010**. This session will be held at the **Bainbridge High School Media Center Lab** located on **Highway 84 East, One Bearcat Lane, Bainbridge**, from **9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** Dr. Aaron Powell is the new coordinator of Georgia on My Line (GOML) course offered at Valdosta State University and the presenter for this session. The focus of this cooperative workshop is open-source or freely available desktop and web-based software that have applications for education. The group will join forces through the help of networking technologies to share and examine such applications in a hands-on, interactive fashion. Some likely candidates include PortableApps and its suite of applications, Diigo Educator Accounts, a Ning Network and various Google applications. Be sure to bring a minimum of 1 GB jump drive to this workshop. Please register by completing a pre-registration form and submitting it to Helen Smith. Fax number is 229-336-2888.



Area teachers enjoy learning a new activity during last month's Music Consortium, sponsored by SW GA RESA.

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GaPSC Steps Towards Paperless Certification

Did you know that beginning in January, 2010, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) no longer prints, mails certificates and correspondence to educators and that these documents will be issued electronically? According to PSC, this route of communication will provide a faster and more convenient benefit to Georgia educators. Also, going paperless will result in a significant savings on paper, printing, envelopes and postage.

Simply logon to <www.gapsc.com>, from the home page click on "MyPSC Account." All certified Georgia educators must create an individual account before viewing or applying for certification. Professional Standards Commission recommends using a reliable email address, since all correspondence will be via email. You must have your certification ID number to create and log in to your account. Your six-digit certification is your GaPSC Account Number. This number is printed on your certificate and on correspondence from GaPSC. Please keep this number handy.

A VISION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

The GSBA (Georgia School Boards Association) and the GSSA (Georgia School Superintendents Association) have entered into a partnership for the purpose of creating a new vision for public education in the State of Georgia. Local boards of education and superintendents, through this partnership, have an opportunity to engage stakeholders in the important work of creating a vision for the future of public education in our State that will focus on the intellectual development of all students; that will prepare them to be contributing members to the democratic society; that will embrace world-class standards; that will develop 21st Century skills; that will gain the support of State and local policy makers; and that will be enthusiastically supported by the citizens of our State.

The first official meeting of the Design Team was in June, 2009. The Design Team has developed a proposed framework for the project, stated their vision for and value of the project, established meeting dates for the Planning Team, approved presenters, and discussed stakeholder engagement in the project.

One of the most important objectives and one of the greatest challenges of the Vision Project is to ensure meaningful engagement by citizens across the state as the planning team crafts a vision for public education in Georgia. One of the strategies to encourage participation in the initiative is to conduct a series of meetings in selected locations across the state. These sessions will help to ensure that citizens are aware of the Vision Project and will provide them an opportunity to engage in a meaningful conversation about their vision for public education in our state. In addition, they will learn how they may communicate with the planning team through the project's public web site as the project progresses. Finally, the sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to understand the relevance of the project for their communities and their schools.

There are two meetings scheduled for our area during the month of April.

Information copied from www.visionforpubliced.org

Location	Date	Time	Address
Lowndes County High School	April 22	6:30 p.m.	1606 Norman Drive, Valdosta
Lee County High School Ninth Grade Campus	May 10	6:30 p.m.	370 Leslie Highway, Leesburg

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

April 22	9:00-3:00	Media Consortium/DAY2	Bainbridge High School Media Ctr. Lab
May 1	10:00	Transportation Directors Meeting	SW GA RESA, Room 702, Camilla
June 1/2	9:00-3:00	Discipline Strategies/Jordan Walker	Frank McCoy, Jr. Educational Center, Pelham
June 7/8	9:00-3:00	Math 3 Statistics Content Training	Frank McCoy, Jr. Educational Center, Pelham
June 8/9	9:00-3:00	Science Consortium	Location to be Determined
June 9/10	9:00-3:00	Math 3 Statistics Unit Writing	SW GA RESA, Room 704, Camilla
June 14/15		TAPP Mentor Training	Frank McCoy, Jr. Educational Center, Pelham