



## Pinnacle

1310 W. Ridge Rd.  
P.O. Box 1720  
Gainesville, GA. 30503  
(770) 538-2626  
[www.gmrc.ga.gov](http://www.gmrc.ga.gov)  
Editor: Marissa Smith

## Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

### Executive Director's Report



- ◆ Thanks to everyone who joined us at the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Conference last week on St. Simons Island. While our numbers were down from the past years, we still had a good group. Many of these folks pay their own way to attend and represent the Regional Commission.
- ◆ We are saddened to report that former GMRDC Board Chairman, Dewey Tench, passed away on October 31<sup>st</sup>. He lived in **Habersham County** where he served on the County Board of Commissioners there. He was elected to four terms on the Board of Commission in **Habersham County**. He served on the GMRDC Board of Directors from 1987-2002 and was our Chairman from 1994-1996. He is well-known in **Habersham County**, and was known for starting the Sheriff's mounted posse in the early 1970's.

- ◆ Thanks to **Toccoa City** Manager Billy Morse and **Stephens County** Manager Phyllis Ayers for hosting our Fall City/County Managers meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Our November GMRC Board Meeting will be on November 19<sup>th</sup> due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Thanks to **Dawsonville** for hosting us at their City Hall.
- ◆ Our offices will be closed on Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Remember our Annual Meeting will be December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Dillard House Conference Center in **Dillard, GA**. Make your plans to help us celebrate a Blue Christmas. Sponsors are needed as Committee Chairman Leslie George has reminded us. Call Peggy Lovell 770-538-2607 for details. Ms. George would like for all Council members to agree to get one or more sponsors this year. Do your part.

### Employee Spotlight



Heather Feldman came to the GMRC in August 2001 as an Economic Development Representative, after working in Washington, DC for the late Senator Coverdell. While on Capitol Hill, Heather met her husband Tommy Feldman. Heather is a graduate from Georgia Southern.

Heather and Tommy have 2 boys Alex (7) and Andrew (4). When not at work Heather is watching the Braves or the Falcons, serving on the school PTA or attending her sons' ball games. When she gets a spare moment, she is reading crime fiction.

In January 2012, Heather was promoted to Economic Development Director where she still serves the GMRC Region.

### Annual Meeting

**Our GMRC Annual Meeting is quickly approaching! If you know of someone who would like to sponsor, or if you need tickets, please contact Peggy Lovell at 770-538-2607 or at [plovell@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:plovell@gmrc.ga.gov).**

**Deadline to purchase tickets is November 19<sup>th</sup>!**



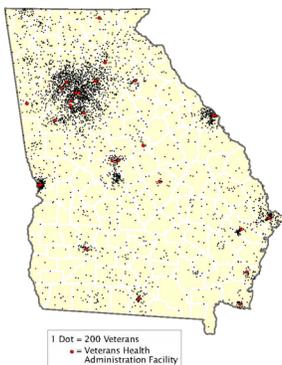
## Workforce Development

- ◆ Two students in the Regional Youth Detention Center GED program through the Workforce Development completed their GED.
- ◆ Three Workforce Development participants in the GED program in the community completed their GED.
- ◆ Youth Department Staff participated in the Reality Store at the **Banks County** High School for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- ◆ Youth Department Staff participated in the Lanier Career Academy Career Fair and Lanier Technical College Career Fair in **Hall County**.
- ◆ Youth Department Staff presented workshops in **Hall, Stephens, White** and **Union** Counties.
- ◆ The winner of the 2015 SQUARECROW Contest is Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Workforce Development! Congratulations to the winners and ALL the entries! Thank you to the staff and all of those who took the time to support our efforts.

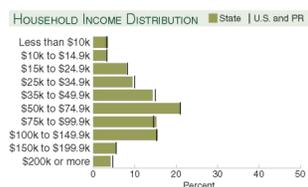
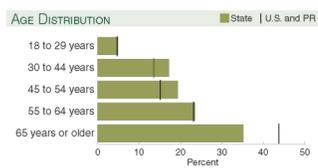
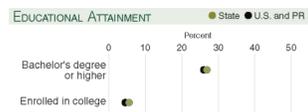
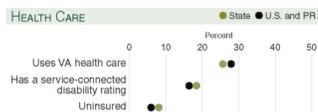
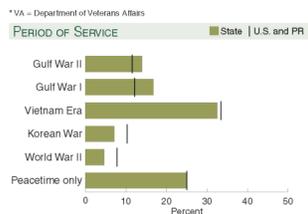


## Veteran Statistics

### Veteran Statistics Georgia



	Georgia	United States
<b>Veteran Population</b>	690,208	21,369,602
Percent female	10.2	7.3
Unemployment rate for veterans	7.6	5.3
Number of homeless veterans	1,443	49,865
Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$62,863	\$61,884
Number of VA* facilities	31	1,356
Number of veteran-owned businesses	97,398	2,540,706



## Career Coach

- ◆ We have already surpassed the overall number of persons assisted from last year by 21! Last year 1661 total persons came aboard the units and this year we are at 1682 as of the end of October.
- ◆ Currently we are assisting an average of 168 persons per month, an increase by 21.56% from 2014.
- ◆ The Career Coaches were invited to participate in the **Hartwell** Helps Expo at the Bell Family YMCA. The event was a collaboration effort designed to spread the word about the different non-profit and government services offered in **Hart County**. The weather was nasty, but the community was excited!
- ◆ A Resume Training Workshop was conducted for the several students at the Mountain Education Charter High School in **White County**. The session was a wonderful success. A second resume training session has been scheduled for March in 2016.

Category of Responses:	Month Total	Year Total
Total Job Searches	92	821
Total Job App	28	479
Total Resumes	48	608
Total Interviews	0	52
Total Interest Survey	13	281
Total Training Sessions	0	31
Total Testing	1	33
Total Typing Assessments	0	12
Total GMRC Info	75	715
Total Unemployment	0	0
Computer Trainings	0	0
Microsoft Office Classes	0	0

- ◆ **Total Responses for Month : 257**  
**Year Total: 3032**  
**Monthly Average: 303**

RESPONSES PER COUNTY	
Banks - 9	Lumpkin - 4
Dawson - 10	Rabun - 8
Forsyth - 31	Stephens - 39
Franklin - 13	Towns - 0
Habersham - 8	Union - 23
Hall - 64	White - 20
Hart - 21	Other - 7

## Economic Development

- ◆ The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will be accepting Recreational Trails Grants through December 18, 2015. GMRC staff is currently working on four applications.
- ◆ Thank you to Mitch Griggs and Erik Brinke for hosting and providing lunch for our Annual Economic Developer's Retreat on November 12<sup>th</sup> in **Union County**.
- ◆ CONGRATS to our 2016 CEDS Committee Officers who were selected at the 11/12/15 CEDS Meeting:  
Charlie Auvermann, Chairman  
Mitch Griggs, Vice-Chairman  
Tate O'Rourke, Secretary

## Finance

- ◆ The GMRC RLF Committee approved a loan for building acquisition in **Hart County**. Recently, we were able to close that loan. There are currently three other loans in the application phase.
- ◆ Open enrollment is complete for the 2016 year.
- ◆ The finance team enjoyed working with all the members from Rushton & Company for the 2015 audit to be presented in November.
- ◆ Phase II of the software install has begun. The team will be training on accounts receivable and special assets modules.

## Planning Services

- ◆ The **City of Hartwell** has adopted their *Comprehensive Plan update*
- ◆ The **City of Baldwin's** *Comprehensive Plan update* has been approved by the Department of Community Affairs.
- ◆ The GMRC is assisting the **City of Maysville** with plans to improve their *Main Street Gateway*, beginning with grant application for landscaping along SR 52/98.



## Information Services

- ◆ GMRC Staff had the pleasure of attending a presentation with Susan Miller, Georgia GIO, given by **Forsyth County's** GIS Department. They have been very progressive in implementing the Local Government Information Model and Parcel Fabric in the county. We were also provided a tour of the County's GIS Mobile Command Center.



- ◆ As part of a grant received by the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions, GMRC will be receiving HAZUS training in December and January. This training will introduce the major components of the workflow and supporting tools for completing flood, hurricane and tornado risk analysis for Georgia counties.
- ◆ During the recent GARC Conference, Faith Bryan and Quantum Spatial presented an update for the 2015 GMRC Aerial Photography/LiDAR Consortium Project to the attendees of the GIS Track. This is the largest project of its nature undertaken in the State of Georgia during 2015. For the latest status update, please visit our website [www.gmrc.ga.gov](http://www.gmrc.ga.gov) under GIS projects.

Happy  
Thanksgiving

## WD Success Story



When I first came to WIA, I was separated from my now former husband, and pregnant with our third child. I had an entry-level job in the banking industry, and would not be able to take a career-minded position until I had a college degree. However, I had always dreamed of becoming a nurse and it was time for me to make this dream come true.

The Nursing program at UNG is currently ranked in the top five in the state in the percentage of graduates who pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). I wanted to get a college degree but was having difficulty arranging financial aid. I was also facing child care and travel expenses, as well as costs for uniforms, books, and other supplies for my new degree program *in addition to* regular living expenses.

I was thrilled with the WIA program. The staff in my local office is friendly and knowledgeable, and they always deliver exceptional service. I can tell that they are dedicated to helping people in our community find the job training and skills needed to succeed. The program assisted with many of my expenses and helped me avoid the huge financial burden of student loans. My family and I are eternally grateful to my WIA case worker, for guiding me through the process and helping make this dream come true.

I am now a Registered Nurse and have a career with an award-winning hospital. I will be able to provide for my family without outside financial assistance and have a little extra to allow my children to have things, like vacations or music lessons, that I would never have had the time or money for in my old career. I have goals to pursue a Master's degree.

I encourage anyone that is considering college or vocational training to look into WIA. I always take the time to tell my story and share how WIA has helped me begin a career in a field I love and which has set me on a path for even more success down the road.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
November 19	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Executive Meeting GMRC Council Meeting	Dawsonville City Hall
November 26		GMRC Office Closed	Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27		GMRC Office Closed	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 4	4:45 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Annual Meeting Reception GMRC Annual Meeting	The Dillard House Conference Center
December 24		GMRC Office Closed	Christmas Holiday
December 25		GMRC Office Closed	Christmas Holiday
January 28	3:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	WD Board Meeting GMRC Executive Meeting GMRC Council Meeting	City of Toccoa/Stephens County City of Toccoa/Stephens County
February 25	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	GMRC Executive Meeting GMRC Council Meeting	Habersham County