



# The Informer

## Summer 2010 Conference a Big Success Despite Record Heat

### 2010/2011 Officers

**President-**

Beth Shafer

Houston County S/O

**Immediate Past Pres.-**

Nealie McCormick

Pelham P.D.

**President Elect-**

Melinda Allen

Gwinnett County S/O

**First Vice President-**

Gary Dover

Bartow County S/O

**Second Vice President-**

Frank Sosebee

Dawson County S/O

**Third Vice President-**

Steve Coker

Fayette County S/O

**Treasurer-**

Evette McKenzie

Gwinnett County SO



(President Beth Shafer being sworn in by her father)

### A word from the President

From the desk of the President.... Doesn't that just sound official? Just got back from the Annual Training Conference in Columbus. I would like to thank the board members as well as the Sheriffs and Chiefs who continue to support our organization by allowing everyone to attend. I realize that it is difficult to let people go to attend a conference of such length and cost, but I think in the long run we all benefit. This conference was really special for me on several levels. First, having my family there to share in the "coronation" (as it is known around our-house) was wonderful. It is indeed an honor to have the confidences placed in me to head up the organization. In addition, it is the second time my father has been able to "swear" at me or maybe with me is a more appropriate term. It is because of my parents' involvement in organizations and their volunteer spirit that I am the person I am today. I have to thank them for that and for being very supportive of me in this non-traditional job.

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I also have to thank two other people who have always been in the wings keeping me grounded, my husband, Dave (who is no longer an urban legend) and my daughter, Caitlin (always in attendance and helping at the conferences). It was wonderful having them there. Thanks to Sheriff Talton, Chief Rape, and Maj. Holt for allowing me to take time away from the office to assist other agencies and participate in Georgia Jail activities. Now that my official acceptance speech is complete let's move on to the future of the Association. In what direction do you see us moving? Here are some thoughts - more training sessions throughout the year to assist smaller departments in the professional development of their personnel. A pool of certified instructors who have the support of their departments to head out and help sister departments move forward. Lending assistance to the Georgia Sheriff's Association with Jail Training. As I said in my brief comments at the banquet, I would like to see mentoring programs and programs to groom new officers. We learn from all leaders we come in contact with, so let's try to set the bar high and be the "good example" to the personnel we work with. The entire board is available via email to provide you with assistance. Each region has a representative and they will be making every effort to get in contact with departments in their areas. Let us grow together and let the board know if there is a topic you would like to see in the classroom during the next training session. We are a board and serve the needs of each and every one of you, so let your voice be heard. As my Dad used to say, "I can't fix it if I don't know it's broken." Let me know what you think is "broken".

Beth Shafer GJA President

# Election Results

The election results were revealed at the business lunch in Columbus on June 30th. Once you reach the office of Third Vice President you automatically go up one level each year until you reach the office of President. Steve Coker was elected to the office of Third Vice President. Regional Representatives are elected for a two year term. The following contains a list of Regional board members and appointed members for 2010/2011:

Region one rep:	Derek Cochran - Bartow County S/O Brent Upshaw - Bartow County S/O *	<u>Appointed Staff</u> Cheryl Newberry- Secretary Gary Lancaster- Parliamentarian Jessie Whitworth - Chaplain Janice VanKirk -Historian David Duvall - Sergeant At Arms Gary Dover -Editor Melinda Allen - Web Master
Region two rep:	Tom Wilson- Forsyth County S/O (Vacant)	
Region three rep:	Christie Webb - Harris County S/O Charles Shafer - Muscogee County S/O*	
Region four rep:	Audrey Stokes- Washington County S/O* Dixie Barbour -Chatham County S/O	
Region five rep:	Frank Woods - Gwinnett County S/O* Jerry Harrison -Gwinnett County S/O	* Denotes newly elected for years 10/11.
At large rep:	Bill Hallsworth - Ga. Sheriff's Association * Don Pinkard -Gwinnet County S/O	

## Columbus Georgia makes excellent venue for GJA 2010 summer Conference

The Historic Iron Works in Columbus, where the 2010 Conference was held had to one of the most beautiful buildings the conference has ever been held in. Despite record temperatures in the mid to upper nineties the conference was a success.

The board of directors had some worries that the attendance might be off this year due to bad economic times but the numbers held. There were one hundred and ten members and thirty guest registered on the Friday before the start of the conference.

The conference kicked off with the Family and Friends cookout, which was well received. The large room where the cookout was held was gorgeous and spacious enough for games to be held after the meal. The games included washer toss and volley ball.

On Tuesday July 29th the vendor show was held in the largest area that it has been held in many years. There was plenty of room to move about and look at exhibits. Some of the vendors voiced concerns that it looked like the attendance was down but it was because the room was so large.

On Tuesday afternoon, the annual golf tournament was held at Bull Creek golf course. It was a grueling and hot day but all the teams had a good time playing and networking.

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When the tournament was over one of our own took the top spot.

A combined team of Melinda Allen, Junior Grumbein, Kevin Grumbein and Frank Sosebee won first place.

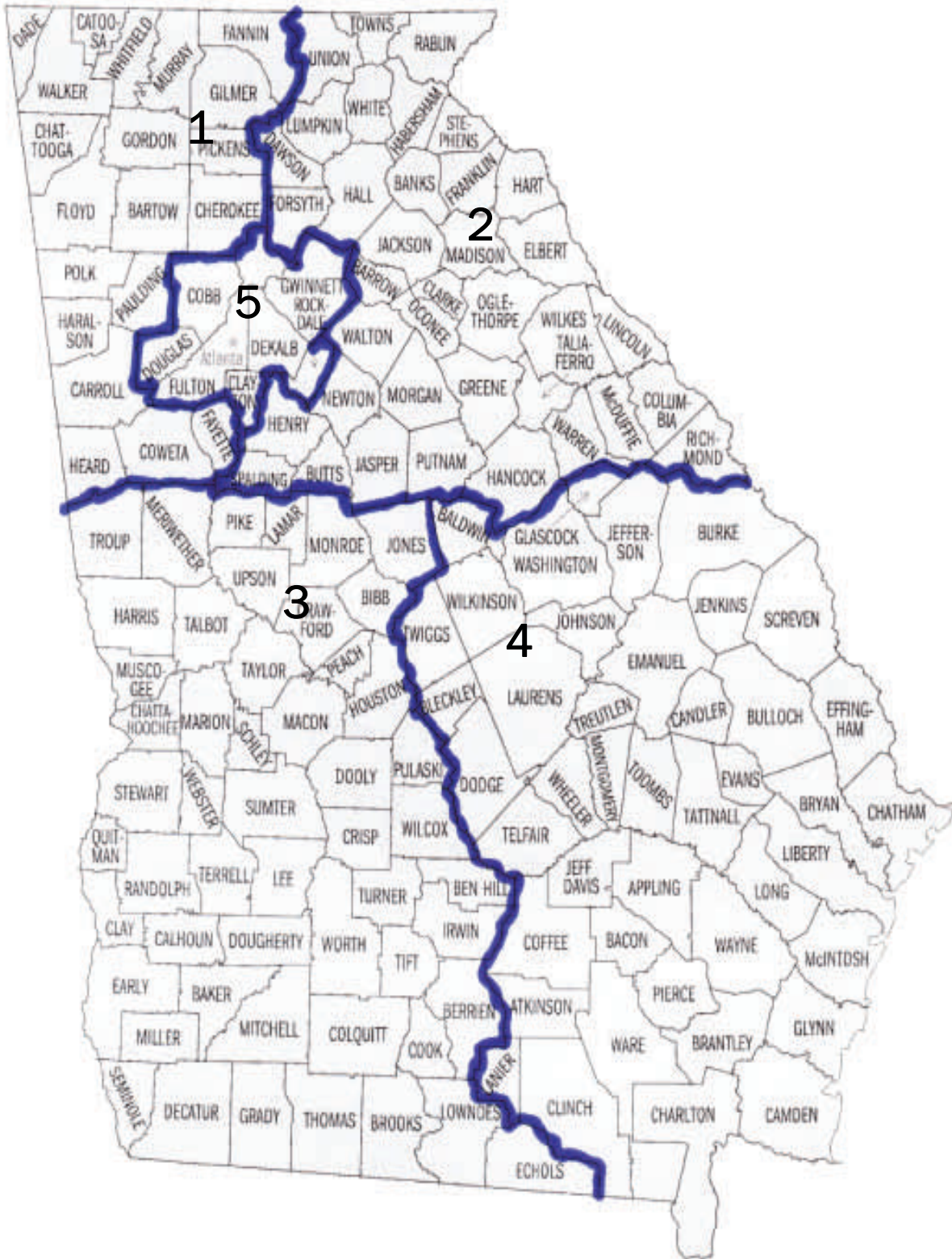
Second place went to a combined team from Pond and Company that included Charles Shafer from Muscogee County.

The third place winners was a combined team that included players from Peter Brown Construction and Derek Cochran and Gary Dover.

This year's prayer luncheon also went well with the message being brought by Junior Grumbein. There were many flowers representing our fallen comrades placed upon a cross during the service. It was a somber time to remember all those that were lost in the last year.

The conference concluded with the awards banquet that was held on Thursday July 1st. It was a nice affair with awards going out to many deserving public servants. (For a complete listing of all the reward recipients see page 5)

The illustration below explains the different GJA regions within the state and shows the counties which each representative is responsible for.





## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a member. Enclosed is my annual GJA payment of \$15.00. Memberships are renewable June 1st of each year.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name / Who introduced you to GJA? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

GJA  
P O Box 492553  
Lawrenceville, GA 30049

# GJA Historian Honored at County Commission Meeting

July 28th, 2010

Captain Janice VanKirk from Decatur County Sheriff's Office was recognized at her county's commission meeting recently for being awarded the Supervisor of the Year Award from the Georgia Jail association. The GJA President ( Beth Shafer) was on hand to assist Sheriff Wiley Griffin in honoring Captain VanKirk. Janice is currently the Historian for the Georgia Jail Association. Congratulations Janice! Keep up the good work.



Other award winners at the GJA Awards banquet were:



Professional Service Award, Brent Boutwell



Meritorious Service Award, Liz Hallsworth

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## Promotions from around the state

Scott Gresham promoted to Lieutenant-	Gwinnett County
Adrien Smith promoted to Lieutenant-	Gwinnett County
Wilda Mensinger promoted to Corporal-	Gwinnett County
Samuel Richardson promoted to Corporal-	Gwinnett County
Aaron Whiting promoted to Corporal-	Gwinnett County
Felix Cosme promoted to Corporal-	Gwinnett County
Greg Brown promoted to Sergeant-	Bartow County
Capt. Janice VanKirk promoted to Jail Administrator -	Decatur County

## Retirements from around the state

Corporal Debbie Redd-	Gwinnett County
Capt. Cecil Whiteaker-	Gwinnett County
Corporal Bob Edwards-	Gwinnett County
Deputy Marc Wilkinson-	Gwinnett County
Deputy Mark Turner-	Gwinnett County
Deputy George Elie	Gwinnett County
Deputy Larry Ferguson	Bartow County

## Quotable Quotes

**America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.**

**Abraham Lincoln**



# CALL TO GJA MEMBERS TO UNITE!

In the very near future all the agencies in Georgia with a jail will be receiving letters from the Georgia Jail Association regarding regional meetings and training. The board of directors has put out a call for us to unite in order to increase membership and offer all counties in Georgia valuable training. It has become very apparent in the last two years that all counties may not be able to participate in the annual summer conference due to budget concerns.

We as a board have decided to reach out to those counties through our regional representatives and offer them help closer to home. We are currently organizing an effort to have a meeting in each region in the very near future with a representative from each county jail or city jail within that region. We are looking for Sheriff's and Jail Administrators to assist with this endeavor. We need the Sheriff's and Jail Administrators to agree to host these meetings and sponsor a meal if possible. (If you are interested in being a host contact Lt. Frank Sosebee at Dawson County S/O). If you work for an agency that does not have command staff that belongs to the GJA please mention this to them.

We are very much looking forward to getting the Jail Administrators from each region together in order to network and see what help the GJA could provide them in the future.

## Awards Photos 2010



The President's Award, Melinda Allen



Jail Administrator of the Year Award,



Community Service Award, Don Pinkard



Training Officer of the Year Award  
Cecil Whiteaker



Officer of the Year Award, Daryl Foster



Detention Supervisor of the Year Award,  
Janice VanKirk

## GOOD BYE JUNIOR GRUMBEIN

The space below was always saved for my old friend Junior. The GJA Chaplain. Junior announced to the Board that he would be retiring from Kennesaw P.D. early next year and that he would also be retiring from the GJA board at the conclusion of the 2010 conference. His announcement was met with surprise but we all envy him. Junior has been a strong force within our association for many years and he will be missed greatly. He was the first person in the association to take me in and make me feel welcome. I congratulate you Junior on your retirement and wish you the best on your road to continued ministry.

Chaplain's Corner

### Welcome Jessie Whitworth

This is the usual spot for the GJA Chaplain to offer some words of encouragement to our members. However we have a new GJA Chaplain and this space is going to be used to welcome him this quarter.

Lets all welcome Jessie Whitworth to the GJA Chaplains position. Jessie works at Habersham County Sheriff's Office. He is very eager to assist the GJA and it's membership. If you know Jessie or see him let him know we are glad to have him! If you need to reach him, he may be reached at 706-839-7055 or he can be e-mailed at [jwhitworth@habershamga.com](mailto:jwhitworth@habershamga.com)

*Please do not forget, if you have any information to put into the newsletter contact me at [garydover@bartow.org](mailto:garydover@bartow.org) or by phone at 678-721-3051 . We really need your input to help with the newsletter. You may include current events, promotions, training opportunities or any other appropriate material. Thank you, your Editor  
Gary Dover.*

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