

**Governmental Research Association  
2004 Annual Conference Agenda  
August 1 - 4, 2004  
Wyndham Hotel  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**SUNDAY, August 1**

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**4:00 - 6:00** Registration in the Hotel Lobby

**6:00 - 8:00** Reception

**After Dinner** INFORMAL EVENING DISCUSSIONS IN THE HOSPITALITY SUITE

**MONDAY, August 2**

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**7:00 - 8:00** Trustee's Meeting

**7:00 - 8:00** Continental Breakfast

**8:00 - 8:15** Welcoming Remarks  
(John Kennedy, Sam Marie Engle)

**8:30 - 10:15** SESSION #1 GRA Organizations Round Table Discussion  
(Eric Lupher)

*During this session each GRA organization will have an opportunity to discuss the past year's activities, upcoming activities, and organizational issues. Based on a form circulated prior to the conference, Ran Coble will lead a discussion on common organizational, fundraising, and research issues.*

**10:15 - 10:30** Break

**10:30 - 11:45** SESSION #2 Trends in Transportation Funding  
(Glen Tepke)

*During this session we will look at how state, regional and local governments are managing to finance investments in transportation infrastructure in this era of overextended capital budgets. How are tolls and other pricing strategies, public-private partnerships and innovative financing being used to fund maintenance and expansion of transportation systems?*

**11:45 - 12:45** LUNCH

**1:15 - 2:45** SESSION #3 Coping With Medicaid Costs  
(Stu Patterson)

*This session will include:*

- *A report on actions taken by the various states in the past year to cope with Medicaid costs. The Kaiser Foundation sponsors an ongoing review of what states are doing to cope with the ever increasing portion of their budgets being claimed by Medicaid. One of the authors of the report will speak.*
- *The Medicaid picture in a particular state - trying to get Georgia.*
- *A general picture of what Medicaid costs are doing to state budgets.*

**2:45 - 3:00** Break

**3:00 - 4:15** SESSION #4 Managing Employee Health Care Expense  
(Earl Ryan)

*New GASB standards on disclosure of retiree health benefit liabilities are certain to create a shockwave in public employee retirement policy. Dean Mead of GASB and other panelists will explain this looming issue.*

**After Dinner** INFORMAL EVENING DISCUSSIONS IN THE HOSPITALITY SUITE

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**TUESDAY, August 3**

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**7:30 - 8:15** Continental Breakfast

**8:15 - 9:15** SESSION #5 Public Education Funding  
(John Kennedy)

*Who pays, how much and for what? This session will focus on recent developments relating to the major components of school funding and operation, with emphasis on current and developing strategies for resolving the who, how and what questions.*

**9:15 - 10:30** SESSION #6 Emerging Issues in Higher Education  
(Ran Coble)

*A look at trends in financing of higher education, access to higher education and college-going rates, higher education as part of economic development, governance of public universities, and increased calls for accountability in higher education. Speakers will include Joe Marks, Southern Regional Education Board, a representative of the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education, and Ran Coble, Executive Director, N.C. Center for Public Policy Research.*

**10:30 - 10:45** Break

**10:45 - 12:15** SESSION #7 Enhancing Citizen Participation in Government  
(Steve Wray)

*This session will explore various strategies being employed to enhance citizen participation in local government.*

**AFTERNOON IS FREE**

**6:30 - 9:00** Awards Banquet

*The Annual Awards Banquet is a time set aside for recognition of outstanding research efforts by GRA agencies.*

**After Dinner** INFORMAL EVENING DISCUSSIONS IN THE HOSPITALITY SUITE

**WEDNESDAY, August 4**

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**7:30 - 8:30** Trustee's Meeting

**7:30 - 8:30** Continental Breakfast

**8:30 - 9:45** SESSION #8 Non-Profit Fundraising Strategies  
(Sam Engle)

*This session will feature discussion of alternative strategies for "balancing the budget" in nonprofit GRA agencies, calling on the expertise of successful agencies.*

**9:45 - 9:55** Break

**9:55 - 11:10** SESSION #9 Charting GRA's Future  
(Jeff Browne)

*This session will focus on membership development and strategic planning for GRA.*

**11:15 - 12:15** SESSION #10 Award Winners Discussion

*During this session, winners from the GRA publication awards competition will discuss their award-winning reports and related issues.*

**12:15 -** Lunch & Closing Remarks



# Conference Registration Form

YES, I plan to attend the 90th Annual GRA Conference.  
August 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta, Georgia.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title Fax Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
email address

1<sup>st</sup> Attendee from GRA Member @ \$200 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Each additional attendee  
from GRA Member # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$175 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-GRA Members # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$350 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## GRA Awards Dinner - August 3rd

One Awards Dinner ticket is included with each registration fee. Other guests are welcome to attend. The cost is \$60 per person.

# \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Awards Dinner tickets @\$60 ea.= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Final total** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make you check payable to GRA for the Final Total amount. Thanks for you participation and we hope you enjoy the conference.

The conference will be held at the Wyndham Atlanta. Rooms are being held for attendees at a cost of \$89.00 per night. You are responsible for your room registration. Call 404-688-8600 or go to [www.wyndham.com](http://www.wyndham.com) for reservations. You must mention you are with GRA for the \$89.00 rate. Registration deadline for this rate is July 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Please enclose your check made payable to **GRA**, and send it along with this registration form to:*

**PARCA**  
**Attn: GRA 2004**  
**Room 402 Samford Hall**  
**Samford University**  
**Birmingham, AL 35229**

### Additional Attendees included in this registration:

Name	Title