

## AARP Shares Fraud Watch With BCREA

### Annual Memorial Service Honors 12

Each year BCREA takes time to remember the members who have passed away in the previous year. This year 12 members, including Past-President **Frances Smoot**, were honored at the March meeting.

- They were
- Claudia Finlayson*
  - Ruth Hooper*
  - Jaqueline Jackson*
  - Helen King*
  - Mozella Lennon*
  - Alice Mack*
  - Eleanor Meyer*
  - Lois Rhodes*
  - Rita Sanderson*
  - Patricia Schroeder*
  - Frances Smoot*
  - William Wolfolk*



**Darcy Drago** read a poem and then read the names of each person and told a few things about them followed by a moment of silence.



Pictured at left are the AARP volunteers who assisted AARP Associate State Director **Yvette Martinez** in her presentation of "Fraud Watch." at the March meeting. They

are L-R - **Mitch Margolies, Deborah Allen, Betsrida Peña** and **Douglas Noquera** behind Yvette. They did a slide presentation which included the many different types of fraud for which we must all be alert.

No matter where you live, fraud is never far away. Protect yourself and others by reporting a scam, or searching for existing scams near you: Social security, IRS, Medicare, US Postal service, Amazon, Fed Ex/ UPS and many more. To learn more about these, go to

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/about-fraud-watch-network/>

### Cultural Affairs Presents Dinner Theater

**HILARIOUS 3-ACT BROADWAY COMEDY PLAY AVAILABLE FOR DINNER & SHOW: \$55. Incl SUN, APRIL 21 - 6pm GALUPPI's - Pompano Information: 954-791-7555**

**DINNER & SHOW: \$55. Incl! 1104 N Fed Hwy, Pomp Bch CALL for Menu & Grp Rate!**  
**NEIL SIMON'S COMEDY HIT "LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS"**

The Cultural Affairs Committee is in need of a Chair. However, **Bev Hoppe** happened to find out about a dinner-theater presented by Standing Room Only Productions on Sunday, April 21. The dinner will be a buffet. For additional information, call **Cathy Rollins** at 954-791-7555. If you'd like to attend call **Bev** at 954-587-9275.

### April 4 Meeting

**Time:** 11:45

**Place:** Jim Ward

Community Center

**Address:** 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

**Program:** : Dr. Peter Licata, Broward County Superintendent of Schools

**Easter 3/31**



**Passover:**  
4/22 - 4/30



### Bring to meeting:

- Volunteer Hours
- Picnic Potluck to share
- Aluminum pull-tabs
- Old eyeglasses & Cell phones
- A New Member

## President's Corner

Cyber thieves are out to get us, but we can fight back.

That was the message presented by AARP's Fraud Fighters team at the March meeting. **Yvette Martinez**, Associate Director of **AARP Florida**, taught us several

ways to protect ourselves online and on the phone. She suggested not answering a call if you do not recognize the number (if the call is legit, they will leave a voicemail.) Also, set up alerts on your phone when your credit or debit card is used. Useful strategies to protect us in this increasingly connected world.

In April, BCREA will welcome **Dr. Peter Licata**, Superintendent of **Broward County Public Schools**, to our meeting. Following his presentation, "Every 1 Counts," he will also answer your questions.

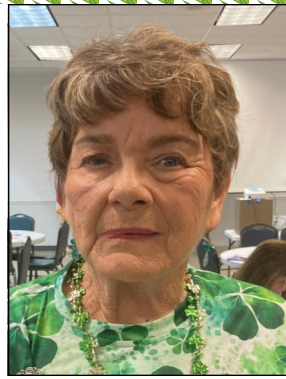
News Flash: The Broward County Retired Educators Association has more members than any other unit in the state! This is due to the hard work of our members to spread the word that BCREA is fun, informative, and fattening (we have really good cooks!). However, there is room for more members. BCREA is open to anyone who has retired from the field of education. They could have worked in Dade County, New York, or Maine, for example. Also, you do not have to have been a teacher to join. We have principals, secretaries, and other support personnel as members. All are welcome.

Time to Step Up: BCREA is looking for members who want to get more involved. The positions of President Elect and Cultural Affairs Committee Chair are vacant. Our group needs new leaders to maintain this membership momentum and operate effectively.

Contact **Sue Colton**, Nominations Chair, to learn about these positions.

FREA's 70th Anniversary Convention will be held May 14-16 at the **Saddlebrook Resort**.

This is located northeast of Tampa in Wesley Chapel, Florida. Check out the conference details at [FREA.org](http://FREA.org). If you are interested, please contact me so we can coordinate accommodations and transportation. The registration deadline is April 5, 2024.

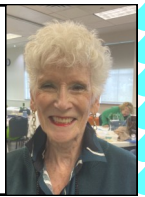


Anne

## Legislative

Chair: **Sue Colton**

954-695-5065 [scolton@bellsouth.net](mailto:scolton@bellsouth.net)



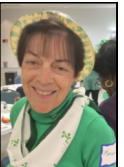
Friday afternoon, March 8, 2024, the Florida Legislative closed with the traditional "Sine Die" hanky drop of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate blocked the bill to restore the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to public employees' pensions, which was cut in 2011. The House approved it unanimously, but the estimated \$2 billion cost proposal left the Senate with sticker shock. In the eleventh hour, the original bill sponsor, Senator **Busetta Cabrera** from Miami-Dade, brought back an amendment that passed both houses and takes effect on July 1, 2024, with the Governor's signature. All references to COLA were removed in that amendment, but what remained was the ability for a retiree who has met the definition of termination by law to be reemployed after one calendar month instead of one calendar year. In 2023, we increased our monthly medical supplement; in 2024, the reemployment period was reduced to a month from a year. So, in 2025, we will start our fight for COLA earlier with local visits to our Senators and collaboration with other groups like law enforcement and firefighters. Thank you for making your voices heard with your emails and calls.

Sue

## Social Committee

Chair: **Marianne Scott**

954-321-9174 [msscott33317@yahoo.com](mailto:msscott33317@yahoo.com)



What a wonderful turnout there was at the March meeting! Thank you to the many members who brought in reusable containers.

You really helped replenish our supply. Thank you also, to all the members who recycled soda cans and water bottles..

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22. Let's see if we can get the recycling can full to overflowing at the April meeting so we can do our part to help the environment.

Marianne





## Community Service/Handbooks

Chairman: Darcia Drago  
954-977-7247 dardra@att.net



Our last group project of the year will be at our April meeting when we collect pet supplies for our furry friends at the Florida Humane Society, a "no-kill" shelter in Broward County. Any type of pet supplies are welcome but they are also in

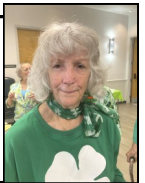
need of  
White copy paper,  
bottled water,  
Dawn dish soap,  
any brand of laundry soap,  
cat litter & dry cat food.



Darcy

## Information Services

Chair: Sallie Sherwood  
954-629-3712 matildatwo@aol.com



April happens to be **National Distracted Drivers Month**. Thousands of people are killed and hundreds of thousands more are seriously injured in distracted driving crashes each year. Nine people die every day in the United States from driving distracted and 11% of car accidents leading to fatalities are related to distracted driving. The **Florida Department of Transportation** states that there are three types of driving distractions: Cognitive, Visual and Physical with texting being the most dangerous because it involves all three of the above. According to **State Farm**, distracted driving includes any activity that diverts attention from driving including: texting or talking on a phone, eating and

drinking, talking to the people in the vehicle, changing the radio station, using a navigation system and grooming! **AAA** adds that loose gear and children or pets can add to distractions. **GEICO Insurance Company** adds to the list of suggestions to "pull off the road and rest" if you are feeling drowsy. As you begin making plans for summer travel, take the Distracted Driving Pledge from DMV.org: Take the Pledge ..." I will make our roads safer for everyone by avoiding all forms of distracted driving. I will speak up when others are distracted to protect myself and all other road users." National Safety Council says "... when you're behind the wheel, your only job is to drive!" Stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others. *Sallie*

## Fund Raising

Chair: Barbara Lewis  
954-562-1936 barbarabeth1@att.net



**SUPER ZOOM BINGO** is quickly approaching. Don't be left out. Get your BINGO cards now and enjoy a fun filled afternoon. On April 25, 2024 at 1:00pm we will be playing ZOOM BINGO!!! The cost is \$10.00 for 5 games.

**Shirley Swartz** will be collecting the money at the April meeting. You can also send a \$10 check and a stamped self-addressed envelope to Treasurer

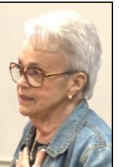
CAROL ROLAND  
9721 SW 14 PLACE  
DAVIE, FL 33324

She will send you back your cards. Please send her your money by April 15!! Prizes will be awarded to winners of each game. So come play our Super Zoom Bingo Enjoy the games and help us raise money for children's books for **Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital**. Looking forward to seeing you on ZOOM, April 25th. If you have any questions call me at 954 562 1936. Have a Happy Easter.

*Barara*

## Morris Scholarship

Chair: Mary Ellen Fowler  
954-925-6911 mefdania@hotmail.com



Just a reminder...the Morris Scholarship closes March 20...to date, 11 applications have been received! This amazing gift of \$50,000 was donated to BCREA following the deaths of **Jim & Evelyn Morris**. Seven employees of the Broward County School Board were "winners" last year...and this year there will be more. Please attend the May meeting to congratulate the recipients this year. *MEF*



Cupid's  
Crew at  
work

We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service  
every time

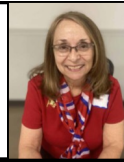


SunSentinel  
MEDIA GROUP

# Membership

Chair: LuAnn Comes

954-954-475-1510 lacomes987@aol.com



## 2024 - 2025 BCREA Membership Dues

Collection of membership dues for 2024-2025 has begun. Thank you to all members who have already sent in their dues! The current cost of dues is \$50 which covers \$35 for FREA and \$15 for BCREA. Dues cover July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 which is the same as the school's fiscal year. Membership provides many benefits. View the benefits at [www.frea.org](http://www.frea.org). Additionally, our newsletters show you what is happening in our local chapter. When you send your check to BCREA, we forward the FREA dues and retain the local BCREA dues. If you are coming to a meeting, you can pay there. If not, please send your application (shown below) and check to the address listed.

As of July 1, FREA is raising their dues by \$10, so dues will then be \$60! FREA will get \$45 and BCREA dues will remain at \$15. If you plan to avoid the dues increase, please submit your dues by June 1!

*LuAnn*

## BROWARD COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to receive my Newsletter by email only

Date Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Retired From \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Before July 1 - \$50.00 Donation for Scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_

After July 1 - \$60.00 Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to BCREA and mail to  
LuAnn Comes, BCREA Membership  
107 NW 107 Terrace, Plantation, FL 33324

# Passages



Happy Birthday to our  
Birthday Club

(members over 85!)

Mary Bedard 4/02

Lillian Johnston 4/03

Eleanor Majerus 4/23



Thinking of You....

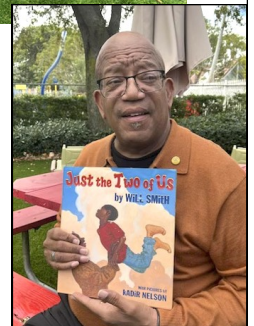
Louise Costello

Echo Heyer

Susan Lochrie

Arline Ziller

\*\*\*\*\*



**Karen Avery and  
her husband read  
to the Kids in  
Distress.**



## Literacy

Chairman: Sandy Lefkowitz  
954-473-9480 Slef123@bellsouth.net



Catch reading fever. Spring is here, the clocks have been turned ahead, the flowers are blooming, and books are readily available. It's easy to use library services to turn the pages, listen to an audio tale, or open your Kindle. Reading has always been associated with intelligence and knowledge.

As Groucho Marx said, "I find television very educational; every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book" Here are some words that can be added to your vocabulary and used to talk about your crazy love of books!

**librocubicularist** — A person who reads in bed.

**abibliophobia** — a fear of

running out of reading material  
**book-bosomed** — someone who carries a book at all times.

**bibliophagist** — a devourer of books.

**bibliotaph** — a reader who hoards her books and protects them from others.

**readultry** — the act of being unfaithful to one book by reading another simultaneously.

I'd like to thank everyone for donating children's books and extending the love of reading to children at **Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital** and **Kids in Distress**. Thank you for all you do to nurture the love of reading and encourage today's kids to enjoy books. **Sandy**

## From the Treasurer

Carol Roland  
954-472-2389 Carolrbeads@aol.com



It never ceases to amaze me how generous BCREA members are. Please pat yourself on the back for supporting future educators. This past month, the following members contributed to the Scholarship fund along with their dues:  
*Carol*

### Scholarship Donations

#### In Memory Of

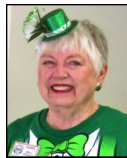
Gloria Jackson  
Julia Penley

Ulysses Jackson  
Nancy Ruiz

#### Undesignated

Cheryl Baker-Hill	Susan Barber	Roseann Belsito
Carol Call	Diane Carter	LuAnn Comes
Anne Graves	Ellen Greenberg	Marjorie Gregg
Jerilyn Habenicht	Phyllis Kublin	Madeline Martin
Arline McWhinney	Joni Schachere	Betty Sheridan
Sally Sherwood	Jannes Strauch	Mary Taylor
Bruce Voekel	Charles Webster	Susan Whiting

Winners in the March Scholarship Fundraiser were Below, L-R: **Ellen Emery**, \$20; **Darcy Drago**, \$10; **Jan Heinrich**, \$10; Darcy also won



*Bev's Bytes...*



"**Scam Proof**" a book donated by the AARP group. At the upper right, **Alyce Aspler**, **Josephine Walker**, **Karen Uris** and **Barbara Bohuny** won the flowers - donated, as always, by **Carol Roland**. **Jan Heinrich** was also the winner of the Community Services drawing. AARP's **Yvette Martinez** was a bit surprised when she asked the group, "How many of you have been the victim of a



scam?" Nearly every person there raised their hands. Luckily most of them also had realized what it was and didn't lose anything.

Just before Valentine's Day, 250 roses were delivered to **Sue Colton**! This was part of "**Cupid's Crew**." For the 11th year, Wish of a Lifetime of AARP delivered cards and roses to hundreds of thousands of older adults on February 14 through its Cupid's Crew network of volunteers. The annual tradition aims to help tackle the nation's loneliness epidemic, which threatens the health and well-being of millions of people in the U.S. Happy Passover! Happy Easter! Happy Spring!



*Bev*

NON PROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL  
 PERMIT NO. 409

**- DATED MATERIAL -  
 PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**FREF**

Chair: Shirley Swartz  
 954-536-3401 Shirley.swartz@gmail.com



The FREF Committee wants to reach out to all BCREA members near and far who have not yet purchased their FREF EXTRAVAGANZA Raffle ticket.

Please consider using the mail in form with your check so you can be a part of the drawing with two chances to win.

Please hurry we have an April 30th deadline when all returns are due into the state office. A HUGE Thank YOU to all who have already supported this effort.

*Shirley*



  
**Lillian and Swornia - wore their green**  


**FREF Scholarship Extravaganza**  
 Tickets - Only \$10.00

Buy your tickets now for 2 Chances to win:

First, you will be in the District drawing for a \$100 winner in Broward, Dade or Palm Beach.

Second, you will have a chance to win:

- \$500 Cash - 1st Prize
- \$300 Cash - 2nd Prize
- \$200 Cash - 3rd Prize

Fill out the form below and send with a check to:

Shirley Swartz  
 1921 SW 52 Terrace  
 Plantation, FL 33317

Make your check payable to FREF (Florida Retired Educators Foundation).

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

All donations will be used to fund the general scholarship program as well as the operating expenses of the Foundation.

**BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Print)

Month \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_

Volunteer hours working with adults \_\_\_\_\_  
 (persons who are non-family members;  
this also includes literacy hours)

Volunteer hours working with youth \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Persons 25 years of age or younger;  
This also includes literacy hours)

Bring this to our next meeting, e-mail it to me at [dardra@att.net](mailto:dardra@att.net)  
 or mail it to me at:

**Darcia Drago**  
 2505 Dagoon Avenue  
 Coconut Creek, FL 33063