

President's Corner

Expect glamour, comedy, prizes, and fun at our **Hooray for Hollywood** scholarship luncheon. This event will be held on Thursday, February 1, starting at 11:30 at **Tropical Acres Restaurant**.

The ticket deadline is January 20. See the order form in this newsletter. Also, there will be paparazzi! One of the highlights of this annual event are the gift baskets that you can win. A variety of amazing treasures donated by members will be featured. There are gift cards, keepsakes, beauty items, as well as handy gadgets. (If you have more items to donate for the baskets, give me a buzz to arrange for pickup.) Remember, the funds raised help pay for a future teacher's scholarship.



Assembling the myriad of gifts into display baskets is a fun team effort. Affectionately called Controlled Chaos, our creative crew will meet at my house on Sunday, January 28, starting at 1 PM. My address is in the directory. Call to RSVP or if you need directions. Let me know if you can join the crew, so I know how many brownies to bake!



Mark your calendar: The annual FREA conference is May 14-16, 2024. This year we are meeting at the **Saddlebrook Resort**, which is northeast of Tampa. Since this is a drivable distance, BCREA members can carpool. It would be great to have BCREA well represented. Check out frea.org for more details and photos of the resort.

Anne

BCREA Officers....

President

Anne French

954-579-1719

President-Elect

Vacant

Secretary

Karen Avery

954-806-1678

Treasurer

Carol Roland

054-472-2389



Membership

Chairman: LuAnn Comes
954-475-1510 lacomeres987@aol.com



BCREA is strong with a membership of 266 members. Fifty-three members and two guests attended the meeting on January 4th. New members are welcomed throughout the year. This year we welcomed 22 new members so far. Thank you to all who brought in new members, shared newsletters or invited a potential member to a meeting. Kudos to **Pinkie Graham**, a new member in November, who brought **Beverly Chisholm**, a Date County retired educator, to the

January meeting. Beverly also joined! Thank you to **Marcia Coffey**, a new member, who at her first meeting in January, gladly jumped in to welcome members at the sign-in desk! We will begin to collect dues for next year beginning in March. More information will be listed in the next newsletter. Hope this new year brings each of you good health and much happiness. I look forward to seeing you at the February Luncheon!

LuAnn

Welcome New Members



L- Beverly Chisholm
R- Marcia Coffey



Morris Scholarship

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



The Morris Scholarship opens January 20 and is due March 02. All information is contained on the form on the website. Call Mary Ellen Fowler, 954-925-6911 with any questions.

Please encourage employees of the school board...be they teachers, aides, bus drivers, etc...to apply. Ten, one-thousand-dollar scholarships are available.

MEF

Information Services

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



Ah, the month of February and it is all about love. Emoji Love of everyone important to us, anything that has significance to us, any item that brings us some sense of happiness.

There are many activities that we can accomplish this month to benefit ourselves as well as others. February 6 is **Pay a Compliment Day** (write a note to a business or person telling them how great they are). February 7 is **Send a Card to a Friend Day** (especially those who are not feeling well). February 14 is **Valentine's Day** (which did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until the 14th century). February 11 is **National Don't Cry over Spilled Milk Day** (forgive yourself and others and move on). February 17 is **Commit a Random Act of Kindness Day** (let someone skip in line or give a compliment). February 20 is **National Love your Pet Day** (we all need a hug sometime). During this month, we should be focused on positive and upbeat ways to love family, friends, neighbors, communities and ourselves. In a *Psychology Today* article from April of 2023, Sean Grover suggests that we make a list of all the things we find beautiful and that make us happy. If we are happy we can share the love and make others happy.

February is **National Library Lovers Month**. The **Helen B. Hoffman Library** in Plantation has moved back to its original location on Fig Tree Lane. They will also have their used book sale on February 16 and 17. Many of our local libraries are looking for volunteers (another way to share our love). **National Heart Health Month** is also occurring in February. At our BCREA February 2023 meeting, we participated with our instructor **Kathy Whitt** doing Chair Yoga activities. Are we still practicing? The National Institute on Aging suggests that we give our hearts a Valentine's Day gift with dance lessons, gardening, bike riding or any activity to increase strength and agility.

For more info visit <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/exercise-and-physical-activity/fun-ways-older-adults>

Sallie



Bev's Bytes... I had a nice chat with **Susan Lochrie** who is now in rehab at Holy Cross Hospital. She sounded like her old self - which means she is almost well. I had a nice note from Past-President Madeline Martin who lives in Vermont - I've included it on page 6. The winners of the scholarship fundraiser were



\$20 - **Earthalene Perry**.

Two \$10 bills were won by **Nancy Howell**



who also won one of the flowers!



Passages



Happy Birthday to our Birthday Club (members over 85!)
Eleanor Meyer 2/22
Rosemary McGarry 2/23



Thinking of You...
Barbara Bohuny
Susan Lochrie
Arline Ziller

A box of chocolates was won by **Barbara Lewis**



who also won the Volunteer Hours prize:

Flowers were also won by **Val Proffer, Suzanne Atkin, and Wilma Taylor**.

And that's the last byte for February! *Happy Valentine's Day!*

Bev

Literacy

Chair: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-557-5817 slef1234@gmail.com



This February is just around the corner. Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day are just ahead.



1.



Groundhog Day. Don't step out and then flee underground. Step out and visit a school. Share information about the 5th Grade Essay Contest. Remind them that the deadline is Feb. 13.



2.

Valentine's Day. With love in our hearts, share a book with a child. Read to them. Also bring a new book to the luncheon or the March meeting. These books will go to children in the hospital.

Remember when you go the extra mile, it's not because you missed the exit on I95. It's because you are the special person you are!

Smile and read on.

Sandy

(con't from page 1) brought Paisley IX who is the puppy-in-training and is a year old. Neither dog even barked once during their time at the meeting. Each dog demonstrated some of the skills they've learned. Gage picked up things Nicole dropped - by obeying certain key words which he has learned. Paisley's job was to turn off the light switch. Dogs start out in California and at 8 weeks of age are taken all over the USA where they will be with their trainers for 18 months. At the end of their training there is a ceremony in which the trainer hands the leash to the new owner! Volunteers are always needed - to be "puppy sitters" when trainers have places to go. If you are interested, you can contact **Willy Estaban** at 954-683-5793.

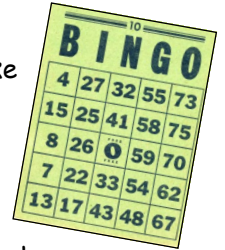


Fund Raising

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



Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. As we begin the new year, I'd like to remind you of our upcoming annual fundraising event, ZOOM SUPER BINGO on April 25. More info to follow. Hope to see you all there.



Also remember our luncheon February 1 at Tropical Acres. Happy Valentine's Day.

Barbara

Volunteer Services/Handbooks

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



Many thanks for your generous donation of supplies to the Forgotten Soldiers Outreach "We Care" Program. We will combine our efforts with Margate's American Legion Auxiliary for this project.

Last call for 2023 volunteer hours! Remember that any assistance you provide to non-relatives, participating in community service activities,

etc. counts. Include prep & travel time.

>> **Handbook/Directories** have been mailed out to members who live outside of the tri-county area. Please check your listing & report any errors as we have had several glitches with this edition.

Darcia

FYI - You may have noticed that Katelyn and Melody Martin along with Katelyn's dog Dario were replaced - unfortunately Katelyn was diagnosed with Covid! Many thanks to Jenny and Nicole for filling in and doing a wonderful presentation.

On Facebook, search for **Paisley IX**, who has her own page, and read the account of the meeting.

We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service every time



SunSentinel MEDIA GROUP

From the Treasurer

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



FREF

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



I want to thank our members who have purchased an FREF Extravaganza ticket for the 2024 drawing. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember it is two chances to win when you purchase one ticket. I was a lucky winner one year!!! These tickets will be on sale until April 20th. Fingers crossed that we will receive some applications for our FREF scholarship
Shirley



If you have not already done so, don't forget to mail in your check for the BCREA Scholarship Luncheon with the form below to **Diane Texter**.

If you're close to the deadline, you may also send your check directly to me no later than January 20th.

Tickets are \$50.00 and no tickets will be sold at the door.

LuAnn Comes and I will begin collecting dues for 2024-25 starting in March.

Thanks to the following people who sent in donations to BCREA recently

Undesignated

Alyce Aspler Charlotte & John Perry Klimas,
Cindy O'Linn, Diane Jarchow,
Diane Texter

Carol



Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @\$50.00 each

Extra Donation: _____

Entrée choices: ___ Prime Rib ___ Salmon

Name _____

Send a check made out to BCREA
Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope

to
Diane Texter
742 NW 69 Terrace
Margate, FL 33063
Deadline - January 24
954-972-8032

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.



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



The annual Holiday Board Luncheon was held at the home of Shirley Swartz on December 17 with 13 attending.

BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM

Name _____
(Please Print)

Month _____, 20____

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
or mail it to me at:

Darcia Drago
2505 Dahoon Avenue
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

Hi Bev- Happy New Year! I enjoy your newsletters - I make a copy and I share it with Vermont Retired Teachers' newsletter writer here.
I attended- Chittenden County local meeting in November in Shelboure Vt - it was well-attended (70), had a musical program, simple luncheon & business meeting - second one I have attended since relocation.
I continue to pay dues -\$ 25.00 per year and turn in my volunteer hours for (2) states for the record! Trust that is acceptable?
We need all one can do to keep State "newbie legal / voted elected officials" from raiding Pensions state systems - any teacher pension, any state - education & democracy are our responsibility as citizens of America !Enjoy 2024!
Madeline Martin