

## Born in Broward, Dr. Peter Licata Comes Home



In order to fulfill his promise to speak to BCREA at the April meeting, new Broward Schools Superintendent **Dr. Peter Licata** had to drive from Orlando. Born in Broward, Dr. Licata grew up in

Pompano Beach where he attended McNab Elementary and Pompano HS. He has a BA in Business Administration from University of Miami, an MS in Educational Leadership

from Barry University and a PhD in Global Leadership from Lynn University. Licata spent almost 30 years as a teacher, principal, and administrator in the School District of Palm Beach County. He began his career in education as a teacher at John F. Kennedy MS and Olympic Heights HS, both in Boca. He was an assis-

tant principal at Eagles' Landing MS, and principal at Boca Raton MS and Olympic Heights Community HS. Palm Beach District officials described Licata as a "collector of people and a builder of relationships." **Debra Robinson**, a former Palm Beach County School Board member and the chair of the Coalition for Black Student Achievement said he's competitive and ambitious — in recent years, he's applied to at least 10 other superintendent searches.

Con't on page 4

### May 2 Meeting

**Time:** 12 noon

**Place:** Jim Ward Community Center

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

**Program:** Scholarship & Literacy Awards  
Installation of New Officers

**Sunday, April 21 6:00 Dinner-Theater**

**Thursday, April 25 - 1:00 ZOOM BINGO**

BINGO				
1	27	33	48	75
8	19	45	56	61
3	18	44	49	69
15	26	41	53	66
2	21	37	46	65

### Bring to meeting:

- Potluck Picnic (With a bit extra for our guests)
- Service Hour Reports
- Aluminum pull-tabs
- Old eyeglasses & Cellphones

### Sue Colton is District 10 Volunteer of the Year

by Darcy Drago



**Sue Colton's** "Principal's Passion" for supporting Broward County Public Schools' students and teachers continues in her

retirement. She serves on the Board of Directors for the **Broward Education Foundation** and Chairs the Innovative Teacher Program Committee that provides grants for teachers who develop innovative curricula, school supplies for students and teachers in Title I schools and awards scholarships for qualified high school seniors. She has served as President of BCREA, chairs our Legislative Committee and is a member of the FREA Legislative Team. She currently serves as **District 10 Director**. Sue also serves on the Education Foundation for the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce and mentors students in underserved communities. Sue has consistently demonstrated a remarkable commitment to improving the lives of others through her passion for education and community engagement. She has invested countless hours in supporting these endeavors. Well done, Sue!

## President's Corner

Dr. Peter Licata, Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, spoke at our meeting on April 4. He talked about his background and his roots in Broward County (including attending first grade at McNab Elementary).

He also talked about the importance of keeping alive the legacy of community leaders by keeping and maintaining schools and buildings named for them.

He emphasized the importance of early childhood education, saying that it is better to teach reading in Pre-K and Kindergarten than to play catch-up in middle school.

After the meeting, he posted photos and comments on his Twitter/X feed. "Had the honor to speak to our Broward County Retired Educators Association. My first words were, 'Thank you! You are the reason many of us can read this. So much success and experience in this room. I'm in awe!'"

He closed by saying that he wanted to come back.

We will definitely invite him back!

Our May 2 meeting will be the last time we gather before the summer. This will be a festive occasion. And we have a lot to celebrate!

We will recognize fifth-grade students who have authored outstanding essays about their grandparents and present scholarships to students wanting to be teachers.

The winners of the **Morris Scholarship** will also be announced. This is BCREA's latest scholarship, made possible through the bequest of **Jim and Evelyn Morris**, (right) and is open to any Broward School employee wanting to further their education.

As you make your summer plans, please be mindful of your safety, both in person and online.

Have a great summer, and we will be back at the Jim Ward Center on Thursday, October 3.



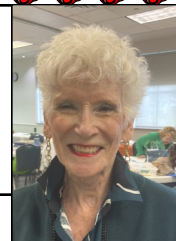
Anne

## Legislative

Chair: Sue Colton

District 10 Director

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



First, I want to thank **Gretchen Ellison**, President of **Miami-Dade CREA**, for hosting the Broward and Palm Beach Units at **The Palace** in Weston on May 3, 2024, for a combined District 10 meeting. The venue was not just exquisite but also reflected the care and thoughtfulness put into the event. The food was plentiful and delicious, the program was mindful and informative, and the company was truly the best! District 10 is the most powerful tri-county district of our state organization, the **Florida Retired Educators Association**. Together, our public school districts serve 750,060 students and employ 81,311 instructional and non-instructional personnel. Over 80,000 retirees are drawing FRS benefits in District 10. The more than 600,000 million dollars generated in those annual benefits support goods, services, and charities, allowing seniors to stay in their homes and contribute to our tri-county economic health. **AND WE VOTE!** Please join our Legislative Committee in 2024-2025 as we begin to visit the local offices of our legislators early in the year. BCREA and FREA WILL restore the Reinstatement of COLA in the 2025 Legislative Session!

Sue

## Community Service

Chairman: Darcia Drago

954-977-7247 [dardra@att.net](mailto:dardra@att.net)



Give yourselves a Pat on the back & a big round of applause! This past year we reported 18,903 volunteer hours to FREA. This represents an increase of 1,488 hours over last year & also surpasses Palm Beach's & Miami-Dade's totals. Thank you for reporting your hours & for

donating to our group projects throughout the year. Please keep track of your hours over our Summer break. A big "thank you" for your donation of pet supplies to the **Florida Humane Society**. Their staff was most grateful! Have a great summer. See you next Fall!

Darcia

# Membership

Chair: LuAnn Comes

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



BCREA members are awesome! Your participation in meetings, accomplishing committee work, volunteering, socializing in activities and developing friendships is evident throughout the year. Each month we have seen an increase of members enjoying our meetings. We were happy to see **Elaine Cronin** and **Donella Reddick**, two new members, at our meeting in April. Welcome! We realize some of our members cannot make it to meetings for a multitude of reasons, but your support of BCREA is evident in other ways. We appreciate your continued membership, your many scholarship donations and your everlasting support of BCREA goals. Thank you!

You still have time to pay your dues before the FREA increase. Dues are currently \$50. Dues cover July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Over the summer, FREA is increasing state dues by \$10 so any dues not paid now will soon be \$60. If you would like to avoid the rate increase, please be sure to bring your dues to the May meeting or mail them to LuAnn Comes, by June 1. One hundred five members have already paid their dues for next year! Let's see if we can have everyone paid by June 1! As always, if you know someone who is retired or may be retiring from the system this year, feel free to reach out and encourage their membership.

*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!)*

*May*

**Mary Hiers 5/4**

**Lizzie Johnson 5/21**

**Darlene Utry 5/26**

**Norma Cosby 5/28**

**Philippe Perru 5/30**

*June*

**Pauline Green 6/01**

*July*

**Milton Brantferger 7/1**

**Arline McWhinney 7/4**

**Echo Heyer 7/10**

**Erma Bell 7/12**

**Maude Storr 7/16**

**Marjorie Gregg 7/28**

*August*

**Susan Lochrie 8/28**

*September*

**Nancy Howell 9/01**

**Allegra Murphy 9/06**

**Eleanor Gaston 9/15**

**Annie Rawls 9/22**

**Mary Morris 9/25**

**Bobbie David 9/28**



*Thinking of You*

**Joan Gavin**

**Rosemary McGarry**

**Jackie Molyneux**

**Robin Newman**

**Jean Shiskin**

**Steven J Thor**

**James Etta Warner**

**Rosetta Watkins**

**Arline Ziller**



*In Memoriam*

**Ruth Hooper**

**Mozella Lennon**

## FREF

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



Thank you to all members who have purchased FREF EXTRAVAGAZA raffle tickets whether it was one ticket, two tickets or ten tickets; it all goes to a worthy cause- money to help educate more future educators. A big sincere thank

you to all who supported this effort. My heartfelt thank you!!!!

And hopefully, you'll be able to meet our FREF Scholarship recipient if he is able to attend our May meeting,

*Shirley*

## Information Services

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



Benjamin Franklin was given credit for saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." There are many other cautionary statements which resound the same message: "stitch in time...", "better safe than sorry," "don't put off today..." and the Boy Scout motto, "be Prepared!"

Whichever catchy phrase you choose, now is the time to plan ahead and prevent problems before they occur. We are all aware of the recent changes in our weather patterns and need to remember that Hurricane season is less than fifty days away! Now is the time for some forward planning. Please post some of the following emergency numbers on refrigerator or near phone.

**Broward County Chapter of the American Red Cross** - [www.redcross.org/fl/miami](http://www.redcross.org/fl/miami)  
**Broward County Emergency Management Agency** - [www.broward.org/emergency](http://www.broward.org/emergency)  
**State of Florida Division of Emergency Management** [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)  
**Florida Power and Light (FPL)** [www.fpl.com](http://www.fpl.com) 1-800-468-8243  
**TECO/People's Gas Company** [www.peoplesgas.com](http://www.peoplesgas.com) 1-877-832-6747

**FEMA Ready** - [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) (provides readiness activities)  
**Broward County Hurricane Hotline** 954-831-4000  
**Special Needs Registry** - **Broward County Human Services** 954-831-3902  
**Hearing-Impaired (TTY) Special Needs Registry** with

**Broward County Human Services** 954-831-3940  
If you are ordered to evacuate due to a hurricane, you must take your pets with you. Leaving them behind is considered abandonment and against the law. The following schools are currently designated as pet friendly shelters: **Everglades High School, Falcon Cove Middle School, Lyons Creek Middle School.** (Subject to change, please contact prior to storm.)

As we complete another successful BCREA season we want to thank everyone who participated in our various activities, those who attended the luncheons providing delectable edibles for the table, those who volunteered for committees, those who contributed donations for the variety of collections and scholarship funds, those who jumped in with helping hands at the set up and take down and those who just enjoyed the camaraderie of the meetings.

Wishing everyone a healthy, safe and happy summer...make time to reach out to others who are ill or alone and GET PREPARED NOW! Stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others.

*Lillian, Josephine, Sue & Sallie*

## Friendship

Chair: Marsy Smith  
954-962-6433 smithmarsy@aol.com



Although our May meeting will be our last until October, we want to continue to support our members over the summer months. If you hear of a member who would appreciate a card to express our sympathy, our get well wishes, or just to tell them we are thinking of her or

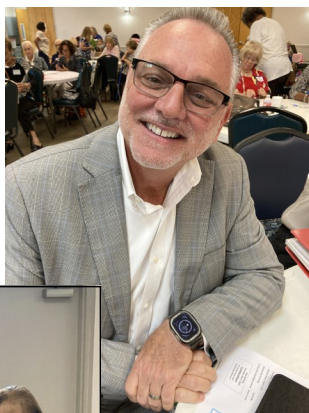
him, please let me know. I will be happy to send a card on behalf of BCREA. Just email me at Smithmarsy@aol.com.

I am looking forward to seeing all you at our May meeting and have a great summer!

*Marsy*

Cont' from page 1

"I think that people think of him as a politician. And I don't mean that in the negative sense. I mean that in terms of the shaking hands and kissing babies."



At the April meeting there were 54 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Winners of the Scholarship Fundraiser were **Wilma Taylor**, \$20; **Ellen Emery**,

\$10; and **LuAnn Comes**, \$10!

*Bea's Bytes.....*



up as the book's main character Elizabeth Zott and preparing

recipes from Dr. Zott's file. It was a great meeting



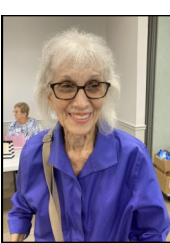
Three lucky winners received flowers - **Liz Ouellette**, **Josephine Walker** and **Val Proffer**.

and the food was delicious!



This month's volunteer hours winner was **Diane Texter**. \*\*\*\* **Cindy O'Linn**

hosted the BCREA Book Club meeting in March. The book was "**Lessons in Chemistry**" by **Bonnie Garmus**. **Cindy** surprised everyone by dressing



It was wonderful to see **Susan Lochrie** back after she missed several meetings.

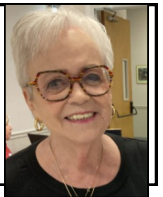
We really need a Vice president/President-elect for next year. Also, if anyone would like to take over the Newsletter, I think I'm ready to let it go!

And that's the last byte for this year! *Bea*

## Morris Scholarship

Chair: **Mary Ellen Fowler**

954-925-6911 [mefdania@hotmail.com](mailto:mefdania@hotmail.com)



Thank you...to everyone who helped notifying "the world" about the **Morris Scholarship**! This year, 43 applications were received, including educators at all levels, trades people, and apprentice program members. The committee is currently evaluating the applications and will award 10, \$1000 scholarships at our May meeting. Our goal is to continue to distribute these scholarships till the funds are depleted or no one applies! And the cycle continues next year.  
*MEF*

## Social Committee

Chair: **Marianne Scott**

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



It doesn't seem possible that our last meeting of the year is upon us. The May meeting is always so special as we award scholarships to future teachers. We will also be honoring the winners of the 5th grade essay contest, the Morris scholarship and the FREF scholarship. With all these winners and their guests attending, it means many, many extra people will be enjoying our luncheon buffet. The Social Committee asks that you make a larger portion of whatever food you choose to bring. Please remember that because of our inability to keep

food warm, the Board decided last year that we would serve ONLY "Picnic Style" food. That means fried chicken, salads, fruit and FINGER FOODS. If you plan to bring a dessert, we ask that for this meeting, you bring cookies, mini muffins, brownies and cupcakes ONLY. With so many extra people, pies and cakes will be too difficult to serve and will slow down what is sure to be a long line at the buffet table. Thank you for your cooperation. See you on May 2

*Marianne*



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 PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**2024-2025 Officers Elected**

At the April meeting, the following officers were elected for 2024-2025



club year: **L to R** - BCREA president will be **Anne French**; **Karen Avery** will be the secretary and **Carol Roland** will serve as treasurer. They will be installed at the May meeting. The position of president-elect is still open.

*From the Treasurer*  
 Carol Roland  
 954-472-2389 Carolrbeads@aol.com



**Scholarship Donations**

**In Memory Of**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Milton Brantferger | Tasso Sharp   |
| Pauline Green      | Robert Green, Freeman Jackson, Ulysses Jackson                        |
| Gloria Jackson     | Ulysses Jackson   |
| Julia Penley       | Nancy Ruiz  |
| James Etta Warner  | Camille Barnett, Peggy Evans, Brenda Snipes, Carmen Luquis, Anne Robb |

**Undesignated**

- |                   |                  |                     |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Cheryl Baker-Hill | Susan Barber     | Roseann Belsito     |
| Julie Biancardi   | Carol Call       | Diana Carter        |
| Sue Colton        | Maureen Dinnen   | Myrtle Ford         |
| Ellen Greenberg   | Marjorie Gregg   | Jerilyn Habenicht   |
| Dorothy Howard    | Nancy Howell     | Sharyn Iba          |
| Diane Jarchow     | Phyllis Kublin   | Susan Lochrie       |
| Eva McLeod        | Arline McWhinney | Ruth Marsh          |
| Ronald Mayhew     | Cindy O'Linn     | Elizabeth Ouellette |
| Philippe Perru    | Joan Schachere   | Marianne Scott      |
| Betty Sheridan    | Sallie Sherwood  | Joyce Stokes        |
| Jannes Strauch    | Mary Taylor      | Steven Jay Thor     |
|                   | Susan Whiting    |                     |

**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](mailto:dardra@att.net)  
 or mail it to me at:  
**Darcia Drago**  
 2505 Dagoon Avenue  
 Coconut Creek, FL 33063