

# BCREA Newsletter



October, 2023

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

<http://browardrea.org>

Number 311

## 9 Scholarships Awarded to College Students; 6 to Teachers

Pictured l-r are **Samantha Forsyth** who will be a sophomore at UCF; **Andrea Bruno**, a sophomore at Nova SE; **Hailey Cutherell**, a UCF sophomore and **Melissa Joseph** a sophomore at FAU.

**Jordan Bouwens**, a senior at FSU; **Emily Brennan**, sophomore at FSU; **Hailey Carpenter**, a junior at FI Southern; **Keyaira Henderson**, a senior at FSU; and **Sulianne Mera**, a junior at FIU were unable to attend.

**Andrea Bruno** was the recipient of the BrightStar 4-year scholarship!



(On the left) Winning the Evelyn and Jim Morris Scholarships for continuing education are (? - no nametag), Valene Kalloo, Kerry-Anne Brown, Luis Medina, and Nate Delevoe. Not pictured is either Jennifer Diveironica or Yolanda Smith



### Isabella Garcia Wins 1st Place in Literacy

It was a clean sweep for Harbordale Elementary in the Margaret Poppell fifth grade essay competition. **Isabella Garcia** from Mrs. Rothenburg's class was the first place winner. Winning Honorable Mentions were **June Falcone** and **Antonio Ciotti** both from Mrs. Kurth's class. Isabella read her

winning essay at the May meeting. Congratulations to all three.



### October 5 Meeting

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Jim Ward Community Ctr

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave

Plantation

Program: Plantation Fire Department  
Fire Safety



### Bring to meeting:

"Tools for Schools"

Picnic food to Share

Your Summer Volunteer hours

Used eyeglasses & Cell Phones

Aluminum pull-tabs

New or gently used kids' books

A New Member



## President's Corner

Welcome back to a new, exciting, and informative year with BCREA!



I hope you are ready for fun, friendships (old and new), and the best picnic food in South Florida. After a long, sweltering summer, I am also looking forward to cooler temperatures and no hurricanes.

I am honored—and a little overwhelmed—to be your president, but we have a hardworking board that has met, and plans are in the works for speakers and activities.

At our first meeting on Thursday, October 5, the **Plantation Fire Department** will present tips for fire safety in the home. This topic is very timely as the number of fire deaths among seniors has increased by 36% in the last 10 years, an alarming trend.

Last May, **Sue Colton, Marsy Smith, and I** represented Broward at the annual Florida Retired Educator Association Convention which was held in Panama City Beach.

Among the activities were interesting and inspiring speakers as well as training for unit officers. Sue conducted a moving memorial service for those members who passed away during 2022-2023.

There was a western-themed dinner complete with a costume contest. We all donned our hats and jeans and even had a stick hobby horse! (at lower right)

I have found that you will get more out of BCREA the more you are involved. So, dust off - or strengthen - the leadership skills you used while working and join one of our committees. Let me know which committee piques your interest—or step up to be an officer! - we really need a president-elect!

Remember to reach out to your educator buddies and bring them to a meeting to check us out. I bet they will join!

I am looking forward to welcoming you at NOON at the Jim Ward Center on October 5.



**Anne**

## Legislative

Chair: Sue Colton

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



Did you notice an increase in your retirement check on July 31, 2023? Due to the passage of CS/SB7024, signed into law on July 1, 2023, the Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) was increased from a maximum of \$150 to \$225 per month based on 30 years of service. In addition, this bill extends the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) from 5-8 years for all classes and from 8-10 years for K-12 personnel. The (DROP) rate was also increased from 1.3% to 4%.

\*SB 239 was passed in the Senate to reinstate the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) from 2011 forward, but it died in the House, so the bill DID NOT pass. The reinstatement of COLA, removed in 2011 by the Legislature, will be one of FREA's priorities in the January 2024 Legislative Session. Let's bring back (COLA) in 2024! Please email me at [scolton@bellsouth.net](mailto:scolton@bellsouth.net) for more information on the next Broward Delegation Workshop and Public Hearing on October 4, 2023, and click below for the local Legislative Directory.



<https://www.broward.org/Legislative/Documents/LDDirectory.pdf>

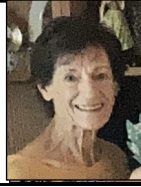


*Sue*



## Literacy

Chair: Sandy Lefkowitz  
954-473-9480 slef12343@gmail.com



"We are the world, we are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day." We may not be the children but we make a difference to the children in this world. You may remember these lyrics from the USA for Africa song. The words seem so appropriate as we begin the 2023-2024 BCREA year together. The song and concert were an amazing collaboration of artists from Harry Belafonte to Michael Jackson to Lionel Richie. Remembering how everyone came together reminds me of how BCREA members have come together in the past. Let's continue to unite for today's youth. Please help our Literacy

Committee bring a bright world to the students in Broward County. How can you help? It's easy.

1. You can join the literacy committee and share your ideas.
2. You can encourage fifth graders to write about their grandparents or a grandparent figure" and enter the Maragaret Poppell Essay Contest.
3. You can donate new children's books (or money) for Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.
4. You can donate gently used children's books to be delivered to a worthy organization.
5. You can volunteer to read one time during the year to pre-school youngsters at Kids in Distress.

## Membership

Chair: Susan Lochrie  
954-494-8204 slochrie@bellsouth.net



Do you remember why you joined BCREA? Was it through a contact from a friend or a letter after you retired? A personal connection is the best way to attract new members to join BCREA. Please invite your retired friends to one of our meeting or take a newsletter to them. With our website address they can read of our activities online. BCREA: [www.browardrea.org](http://www.browardrea.org)  
The FREA website is good to share also so they may learn about the benefits available to them. Florida Retirement Association: [frea.org](http://frea.org)  
We have received a list of all those who have retired

this year from the Broward County School District. We sent letters to them asking them to join. We also sent letters to those who retired last year; after a year of being retired they may be more interested.  
We want to connect with retirees who are interested in our goals;  
1. Supporting retirement benefits  
2. Developing friendships with those of similar experiences  
3. Giving scholarships for future teachers  
4. making a difference through volunteer service  
Welcome, new members!  
*Susan*

We've had a busy summer, with many members providing scholarship donations with their dues. Member contributions are always used for scholarships. This summer, we supported 9 students with \$1,000 each. All 9 students are continuing furture educators. We eagerly follow their progress.

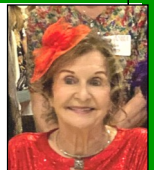
In addition, we supported 6 employees in the Broward School System with \$1,500 scholarships through the generosity of **Evelyn and Jim Morris**.

Kudos and many thanks to the following members who have shown much kindness in their recent contributions:

| Member              | In Memory of                  |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Myken Brady         | Evelyn and Jim Morris         |                 |
| Sue Colton          | Margaret Green                |                 |
| Linda Gibson        | Kathlyn Barno & Mattie Benson |                 |
| Sally Macak         | Audrey Boate                  |                 |
| Julia Penley        | Nancy Ruiz                    |                 |
| Undesignated Donors |                               |                 |
| Ellen Adler         | Joseph Anselme                | Alyce Aspler    |
| Gwen Batie          | Alice Bell                    | Julie Biancardi |

## From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc  
954-962-7343 Flsun1@comcast.net

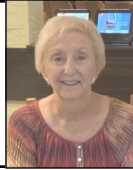


|                     |                   |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Patricia Bopp       | Leslie Brown      | Charleen Burrows |
| Carol Call          | Linda Combs       | Joann Corder     |
| Doris Cotnoir       | Ellen Emery       | Bob Frazier      |
| Jean Funk           | Kathleen Ginestra | Edith G-Thompson |
| Marjorie Gregg      | Jacqueline Hall   | Luther Henderson |
| Gloria Jackson      | Marva Jenkins     | Janice Johnson   |
| Sandra Lefkowitz    | Rosemary McGarry  | Eva McLeod       |
| Jacqueline Molyneux | Seolar Moncrief   | Dorothy Moore    |
| Cynthia O'Linn      | Philippe Perru    | Judith Pine      |
| Linday Pomeroy      | Allyn Pond        | Edward Reardon   |
| Susan Redfern       | Marvalyn Rhett    | Patricia Roberts |
| Maria Rodriquez     | Joan Schachere    | Melissa Schultz  |
| Betty Sheridan      | Nelson Small      | Jannes Strauch   |
| Peggy Tingle        | James Etta Warner | William Wolfolk  |
|                     | Hal Wulff         |                  |



## Community Service

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



Welcome to new & returning members!  
Please help a child in need by donating school supplies at our October meeting. Your donation will go to the Broward Education Foundation's "Tools for Schools" program & will help students & teachers get what they need to have a successful school year. Suggested items: composition books, filler paper, pencils, erasers, index cards, crayons, folders, glue sticks & other basic school supplies. Please turn in your unreported volunteer hours at our first meeting. Remember to include travel & prep time. If you provided any type of service to non-

family members this counts as volunteer service. We will collect aluminum pull tabs for a local clinic, used cell phones for Women in Distress & used eyeglasses for the Lion's Club at all our meetings. We will also do two other group projects (TBA) this year. **Membership Handbook/Directory** Our 2022-23 edition will be available for pickup at our Oct. & Nov. meetings. The 2023-24 edition will go to the printer after our November meeting so please let me know if there are any changes to your listing before then. *Darcy*

## FREF

Chair: Shirley Swartz  
954-792-4820 shirley.swartz@gmail.com

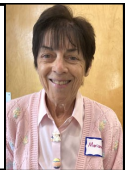


FREF Scholarship Committee And any other members: Please see me after the meeting in October if you are interested in helping to reach out to our Broward high school Florida Future Educators of America sponsors. We need to get

the word out to high school seniors about our scholarships. There is a college fair in October at the convention center where I am hoping we will be allowed to speak with interested students. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting.

## Social Committee

Chair: Marianne Scott  
954-321-9174 mscott33317@yahoo.com

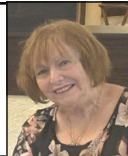


Wow! It doesn't seem possible that 4 months have gone by since our last BCREA meeting. Yet, here we are ready to get back into the swing of things. As we are still holding our meetings at Jim Ward Community Center, and do not have the facilities to keep food warm, our Pot Luck luncheon will continue to be "picnic" style foods. For those of you that are new to BCREA, that would mean food such as appetizers, salads, sandwiches, finger foods, fried chicken and of course dessert. It will not be necessary to bring serving utensils. So-

cial Committee will provide those as well as water, soda and coffee. If you would prefer to bring your own lunch, you are welcome to do so. Social Committee will also keep the recycling bin going. As a reminder, the bin is for bottles and cans only. We had great success with this project last year. The bin was overflowing at our May meeting! Start looking through your cookbooks and recipe files for that delicious "picnic" style food you will be sharing with your fellow BCREA members. See you all on October 5.

## Fund Raising

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



Hope everyone's summer was full of happy things, traveling, being with family, and just relaxing. We have some great things planned including

our luncheon, and of course Bingo. Stay tuned for more info. See you in October.

*Barbara*

If you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email only and not a printed copy, please let Bev Hoppe know.



# Passages



Happy Birthday to our  
Birthday Club  
(members over 85!)

- Phillis Kublin 10/08
- Theodora Williams 10/09
- Donald Conkel 10/10
- Carolyn Stern 10/12
- Ann Graves 10/12
- Areathea Reddick 10/22
- Irene LaBelle 10/24
- Jean Shiskin 10/28
- And turning 85...
- Charles Hofman 10/05

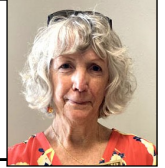


Thinking of you....  
Susan Lochrie  
Val Proffer  
James Etta Warner  
Arline Ziller

Committee met this summer to update our Bylaws. The Board will now review the changes with a presentation to all members in October. Change become necessary ... for example, the infusion of technology ... and we, as a group, embrace these changes!!! The Evelyn and Jim Morris Memorial Scholarship will be open for applications in January. As last year, five \$1000 scholarships will be available to School Board employees looking to enhance their education. The committee will begin presentations in September at an Oakridge ES faculty meeting! Please help "sell" our scholarship as the monies are available. Talk to your contacts and friends; contact me for more information or to schedule a presentation. Have a great year!!

# Information Services

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



Welcome to our returning and new members. The purpose of the Information Service and PSA article is to share items of interest to our organization. If you have any news or ideas relevant to our group and would like to share, please contact **Lillian Small, Josephine Walker** or myself. The month of October is not only for participating in pumpkin carving contests and indulging in candy corn, on December 14, 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons. We are fortunate to have older

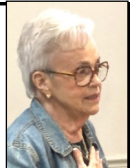
people around us as family members and friends. Perhaps this month we could take a few moments to chat with an older person, volunteer to assist neighbors or become an advocate for the elderly. While engaging with some of your older family members in conversation, you might want to consider recording some of their recollections about family history. October just happens to be Family History Month. You could work on your family tree while having discussions with your family or even reconnecting with a "lost" relative. (The Genealogical Society of Broward County has their

monthly Sunday meetings at Nova, Alvin Sherman Library.) Perhaps some of our relatives were teachers and this may be the reason why we entered this profession. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 5, which is designated World Teacher's Day. Part of our BCREA Mission statement is to provide scholarships for future teachers but we also provide classroom materials, mentoring, tutoring, book reading, writing contests, etc. Let us continue to help classroom educators to teach. Stay fit, stay sharp, and send positive thoughts to others. *Sallie*

Welcome back everyone. Just a few bits of information....The Bylaws

## ByLaws

Chair: Mary Ellen Fowler  
954-925-6911 [mefdania@hotmail.com](mailto:mefdania@hotmail.com)



*MaryEllen*

We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service  
every time

TOP  
WORK  
PLACES

SunSentinel  
MEDIA GROUP

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

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

*Bev's Bytes.....*

Hospitality Chair **LuAnn Comes** reported 47 members in attendance at the May meeting and 28 guests.

**Sue Redfern** took a once-in-a-lifetime



trip this summer. Guess where she and her family went! **Suzanne Atkin** went to so many places I couldn't even keep up!

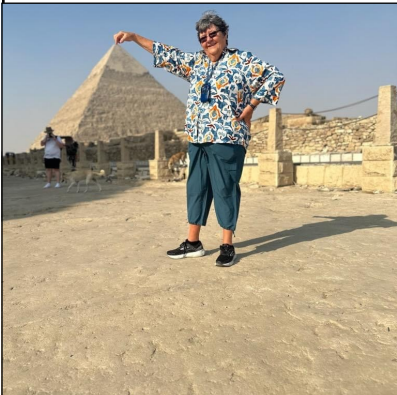
As for me, I fought bedbugs all summer and played Wordle every day!

Winners of the

Scholarship drawing at the May meeting were \$20, **Marianne Barr**; \$10 each, **Brenda Roberts** and **Cindy O'Linn** and **Diane Texter**

who won 2 gift cards. Pictured above right were those attending the **Cultural Affairs Book Club** with **David Pareda**, author of *The Wall*. David had such a good time with the group, he plans to dedicate his next book to us! Thanks, David!

And that's the last byte for October. *Bev*



**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 Ave.  
 Coconut Creek, FL 33063