



BCREA Newsletter



April, 2017

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

<http://browardrea.org>

Number 261

How To Call Your State or National Legislators

In President **Echo Heyer's** column in this issue, she tells about the new "List of Legislators" compiled by Legislative chairman **Nancy Adams** and her cohort **Kate Alexander**. You can find this on the BCREA website at <http://browardrea.org>. In her column on page 5, Nancy Adams mentions 2 bills which are coming before the State Legislature which opens on March 7. The purpose of having this list is to enable members and any other concerned people to make their opinions known to the legislators. In the current FREA

Bulletin, there is a longer version of "**Shy Person's Guide to Calling Representatives**." The following is an abbreviated version of that article.

Find your Sen/Reps' numbers. Find out who they are and locate their phone numbers in the "List of Legislators" compiled. 2. Call their local lines when possible. Write down the numbers or save them as contacts so you don't have to look them up every time. Know that you don't have to be persuasive. You are really just calling to put yourself on a tally that

will be passed along to your representative. You don't have to convince anyone and no one will try to argue with you. Just say your piece (as awkwardly as you want - they won't care!) and get off the phone.

Start with an introduction: such as, "Hi my name is _____ and I'm a constituent of Rep./Sen. calling about a concern I have."

Have a script. This is 100% the best way to keep you focused and calm. There are lots of good scripts you can use or you can write your own. Say what you are

comfortable saying. Remember, you are just calling to be counted.

Most of the time they will just tell you they will pass on your concern. Congratulations if they do this then you are done!

To see the full version of this article, by FREA Legislative co-chairs **Linda Edson** and **Larry Carmichael**, go to

http://www.frea.org/images/Spring_Bulletin_2017-Web_2.pdf

Slate for 2017-2018 Announced

Past-President and Nominating Committee Chairman **Diane Texter** announced the slate for the upcoming Club year:



L to R: President, **Carol Roland**; President-Elect, **Lillian Small**; Secretary, **Josephine Walker**; and Treasurer **Marelise LeClerc**. Voting will take place at the April meeting.

April 6 Meeting

Time: 11:45

Place: Deicke Auditorium

Address: 5701 Cypress Road
Plantation

(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

Program: Roger Cuevas, FREA President



Easter 4/16



Passover:
4/10 - 4/18



Bring to meeting:

Items for Humane Society

Dish to share

Labels for Education

Aluminum pull-tabs

Coupons for our troops

Old eyeglasses & Cell phones

Volunteer Hours

A New Member

Children's Books

Need Help With Taxes?

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in cooperation with the IRS. Call 888-227-7669 to find a location near you! (FYI - this is also the number to reach driver safety information that Sandy Lefkowitz teaches.)

President's Corner

Remember when you were on a trip with some kids and they kept asking, "Are we there yet?" Well, when I started as president of BCREA I hoped we would become more political. A special friend of mine always asks me about what we are doing to help the teachers in the schools. Are we helping the teachers?

Like the answer we used to give the kids.... "No, we aren't there but we are on our way."

There was an article in the newspaper where the legislators were asking, "Why don't we have enough teachers?" As Retired Educators we have a lot of answers to that question. You have something now that will help you contact your state and federal legislators and give them very good answers. It is the LIST OF LEGISLATORS compiled by **Nancy Adams** and **Kate Alexander** and it's on our website. The e-mail address is <http://browardrea.org>. Keep it in your computer, ready to use. If you don't have a computer give me a call and I will send you a copy.

Last year we gave out information on something being addressed in Tallahassee. I heard from some of our members that their table got together and contacted their legislators. It was then that I realized how effective we could be as a group. If you do write, call or e-mail a legislator please let me know. We are a very knowledgeable group about education.

Let's share that knowledge!

Echo



President-Elect's Corner

In April, we will be honored to have a presentation from FREA President Roger Cuevas. He will discuss important information about upcoming state legislation as well as the state of affairs of Florida Retired Educators' Association. Roger, former Superintendent of Miami-Dade Public Schools is sure to give us an informative and very enjoyable discussion. Because he always has so much information to share, be prepared - the meeting may run longer than usual.

Cultural Affairs

Vizcaya, the late James Deering's Miami winter residence will be our next activity. Scheduled for

Thursday, May 18,

we will meet at the Admission Entrance at 10:30 and tour the house and gardens until we drop or 4:30 when it closes. Of course we will find time to meet for lunch in the Vizcaya Cafe and Shop which offers an eclectic menu of salads and sandwiches. Prices range from \$10.00 - \$15.00.

Senior and group admission is \$12. Additionally, you can participate in group and self tours that are available beginning at \$5.00. Members and guests who are interested in attending should e-mail me - **Carol Roland** at carolrbeads@aol.com so that we can make reservations and arrange for carpooling.

Carol



Literacy

Chairman: Sandy Lefkowitz

954-473-9480 Slef123@bellsouth.net



Thanks to everyone for bringing books to the March meeting. I was overwhelmed! Who would have guessed that you filled the back of my SUV twice. Thanks for bringing reading material for seniors. Please continue to bring new and used children's books to our meetings. I'd love to fill up my SUV again!

We are reading fifth grade essays on March 13th. Look for our essay contest winner soon. These essays are always a treat to read. Today's youth can really write and they have exciting tales to share. Consider joining the literacy committee. Everyone is welcome.

Sandy

Social Committee

Chairman: Sallie Sherwood

954-629-3712 matildatwo@aol.com



March winds have arrived and with them came the festive March BCREA luncheon. To be sure, there was a lot of the "Wearing of the Green!" We will meet again in April and to help us prepare, here are some of the events which the month of April showers will bring.

Beginning with "April Fool's Day" and shared with "International Tatting Day" on the 1st, we move through the month to "Hug a Newsmen Day" (3rd), "Eggs Benedict Day" (16th), "National Garlic Day" (19th), "National Jelly Bean Day" (22nd), and "National Honesty Day" on the 30th. Our next BCREA

Friendship

Chairman: Julia Penley

561-465-2739

jjpen581@aol.com



Happy Spring everyone!! March is speeding along....soon we will be "springing forward" in time and celebrating April Fool's Day!! But I wanted to let those members who get our birthday cards from BCREA know how much they "make my day" at the meetings when they thank me for remembering them. Just hearing how much it meant to receive their cards makes me so happy that I was able to bring some smiles to their lives!! Also.....I hope all our members who have been ill or facing health problems are feeling better and soon will be back to good health! Stay Strong!!

Thank you again to all the members who donated to the scholarship fund in my dear

friend **Nancy Ruiz's** memory. Soon, scholarship applications will be arriving from high school seniors and I know Nancy will be so honored and happy when a deserving student receives a scholarship in her name.

Please continue to let me know of any member who is ill or having health problems or any member who has passed away or lost a family member. Getting cards out to them to let them or their families know they are in our thoughts and prayers is so important as members of our BCREA family. Also, our members who have reached that magical age of 85+ are deserving of our recognition with a birthday card. You have to admire and be grateful for those who are 85+ and continue to be a part of BCREA. My contact information is located at the top of this article and in the directory.

Julia



(con't from previous page) meeting just happens to coincide with "Caramel Popcorn Day" on April 6th. Hope to see you then. A very GREEN thank you to **Susan Lochrie** for her St. Patty's Day decorations and to **Bev Hoppe** who donated a large amount of flatware which will be used

at future luncheons. Also, thank you to those who were willing to take home some of the tasty treats which were left behind on the luncheon table to share family members and friends. As always, thank you to everyone who remembered to take home their leftover food and containers.

Sallie

Health & I+PS

Chairman: Kathlyn Barno

954-581-4731

BB9214@aol.com



Taxes done yet? If not, it is time to get moving. The witching hour is fast approaching. Start now to get all of your information together. Don't let the April 18th deadline pass you by.

One of the other chores that some of us do along with the spring clean-up schedules is to get physical check-ups. One of the most frequent complaints that patients have is that the doctor doesn't listen to them. If that is a problem for you here are a few recommended strategies to help you get the most of your visit to the doctor. Before you list your concerns begin with a pleasant greeting. After that get to the point. According to Medscape's 2015 "Physician Compensation Report" most doctor visits

last 13 to 16 minutes. Be forthright. That is the only way the doctor can help you. Rehearse before you go. Don't wait until the end of the visit to ask questions. Have a list of concerns and ask them within the first few minutes. When the doctor is on his way out of the door, he is thinking about the next patient. Last of all let the doctor know what you can afford to pay for prescriptions. Ask the doctor to prescribe an alternative drug for you if you can't afford the one he or she has prescribed.

After all of this, you are ready to come home, color Easter eggs, sit back and wait for the Easter bunny. Have a happy spring.



Kathlyn

Community Service

Chairman: Darcia Drago

954-977-7247

dardra@att.net



At our April meeting we will collect supplies for the Florida Humane Society, a no-kill shelter in Pompano Beach. They are in need of the following items:

- * canned Pedigree dog or puppy food
- * canned cat food (not in gravy)
- * clumping cat litter
- * paper towels

- * 13 gallon garbage bags
- * laundry detergent
- * Clorox liquid bleach
- * latex gloves
- * Fabuloso cleaner
- * copy paper

Many thanks for turning in your volunteer hours and participating in our group projects throughout the year.

Darcy

Membership

954-525-8503

slochrie@bellsouth.net

Chairman: Susan Lochrie



EARLY COLLECTION OF DUES FOR 2017 - 2018

We are asked to pay our membership dues by April 30 for 2017-18 by The Florida Retired Educators Association.

If you pay the combined dues of \$50.00 directly to BCREA you have only one mailing. State Dues are \$35.00 and Broward Unit Dues are \$15.00 FREA dues are mailed to FREA by our Treasurer.

The Florida Retired Educators' Association represents our interests as retirees to the state legislature and works to preserve our benefits.

Our Broward County unit sends Newsletters and plans the monthly meetings and luncheons. Scholarships are presented every year at the May meeting. Those who bring in 3 new members will win a \$25 Gift Certificate.

Please pay Your Dues for 2017-18 using the form below or at the monthly meeting.

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:\$50.00; Donation for Scholarships: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to **BCREA** and mail to
Susan Lochrie, BCREA Membership
P.O. Box 30533
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33303

Passages



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

Gwen Thompson 4/10



Thinking of You....
Shirley Ernst
Arline Ziller



Welcome New Members

Lana Lysen



Lenora Smoot



Hospitality Co-Chairman **Martha Pipes** reported 73 attendees at the March meeting. It was good to see some new faces in the group. FYI - New member **Lenora Smoot** is not related to **Frances Smoot**. I just

"assumed" she was! And you know what that means!! Good news from **Anne French**: she has already sold all the FREE Extravaganza tickets! Bad news for anyone who missed out!

Shirley Ernst is home from both the hospital and rehab and is recovering at home from her broken arm and dislocated shoulder, suffered in a fall on her morning walk in Heritage Park on February 1.



Winners in the

Scholarship Fundraiser were Above, L-R: **Lenora Smoot**, \$20; **Joyce Ferguson**, \$10; **LuAnn Comes**, \$10; and **Josephine Walker**, \$10.

At the right, **Mozella Lennon** and **Diane Texer** won the flowers; **Cynthia Johnson** won a piggy bank and **Ann Greaves** won a

Norman Rockwell book. And I won a nice plaque extolling grandmothers!

See all the photos on Shutterfly!

Happy Passover! Happy Easter! Happy Spring! *Bea*



Bea's Bytes.....

954-587-9275
HapiHopi@aol.com



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)

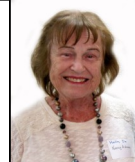
Volunteer hours working with youth _____
(Persons 25 years of age or younger;
This also includes literacy hours)

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

Darcia Drago
4346 Carambola Circle North
Coconut Creek, FL 33066

Legislative

Chairman: **Nancy Adams**
954-784-7128 NancyannBR@aol.com



The legislative session opens on March 7th with several bills pertaining to education. A bill is proposed to require all new teachers to enroll in a 401K, thus eventually closing out the Florida Retirement System to educators. Another bill would allow guns to be openly carried in classrooms up through university level (and airports).

And a 3rd bill would increase vouchers to charter schools, allowing more students to leave the public school system. Keep your eye on the progress of these bills and contact your legislators to let them know how you feel about these issues, and how you would like them to vote.

Nancy

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:



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Serving Broward Educators Since 1946

- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



From the Treasurer

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



As Thank you to BCREA members who have recently contributed to our Scholarship Fund. Several people have contributed as they pay their dues. To all of you who have not yet paid your dues, please consider including extra money for scholarships. As a reminder, you can contribute IN MEMORY OF or IN

HONOR OF a friend or relative close to you. The contribution does not need to be for a BCREA member. If you include the person's family address, I will send a card in your name if the donation is \$20. or more. We would like to recognize the following people for their recent benevolence:
 Marelise

Scholarship Donations

Donor	In Memory Of
Jean Anderson	Nancy Ruiz
Darcy Drago	Bev Williams
Lillie Fye	Johnny Bentley & Daisy Kennedy
Diane Jarchow	Gloria Marshal
Madeline Martin	Nancy Ruiz
Elisabeth Vargas	Nancy Ruiz

Undesignated Donations

Maureen Dinnen	Myrtle Ford	Eleanor Gaston
Winifred Graham	F. Ann Graves	Echo Heyer
Ruth Hooper	Dorothy Howard	Linda Marable
	Arline & Wayne McWhinney	Joseph Reddick
Sallie Sherwood	Mary Taylor	Amada Walker
	Edward Weaver	