

BCREA Newsletter



April, 2023

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

<http://browardrea.org>

Number 309

8 Remembered at Memorial Service

Each year BCREA takes time to remember the members who have passed away in the previous year. This year 8 members were honored at the March

meeting. **Pauline Green** and her daughter **Avis** attended and brought a photo of Robert Green to share.

Darcy Drago read a poem called "In Memoriam" and then read the names of the honorees and told a bit about each. They were

*Jean Childers
Warren Cox
Mary Deering
Robert Green
Wayne McWhinney
Gweneth Thompson
Frances Welch
Katie Ivory Williams*

In Loving Memory



BCREA Memorial Service

March 2, 2023

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Plant this shamrock and flowers will bloom as a symbol of life remembered.

Meet-up Meets Expectations of Fun

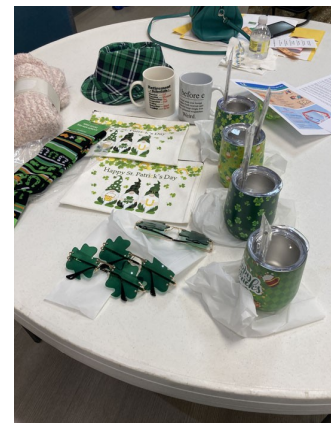
Member Meet-up was a great way to get to know a little more about our fellow members. You may already have known that **Sue Colton** is on Facebook weekly. Most impressive fact may be that



Barbara Legette (left) has visited 5 continents. **Sue Redfern** is an

avid Panthers fan - so obviously she speaks it fluently. Lillian small is left-handed as are a few others. **Suzanne Atkins** is in a fitness group and **Val Proffer** volunteers in a school. There were 24 squares on the game card - for those who filled them all, or got the most there were a variety of prizes from which to choose! But the best prize of all was the fun everyone had!

aids fan - so much so that she attends most of their away games! **Brenda Roberts** plays the clarinet; **Marianne Barr** can change a tire! **Darlene Pillsbury** lived on a farm as did several others. **Karen Avery** was born in Broward County. **Ana Maria Hayden**



April 6 Meeting

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

Program: : Barbara Epes,

Area Agency on Aging

Fun & Frolic - March 16, 1-3 PM, Heritage Park



Easter 4/09



Passover: 4/05- 4/13

Bring to meeting:

Picnic Potluck item
Volunteer Hours
Aluminum pull-tabs
Old eyeglasses & Cell phones

Susan Lochrie , 2023 Volunteer of the Year

By Darcy Drago



Susan Lochrie has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to BCREA, working tirelessly for years to ensure that our membership remains strong. In addition to serving as our Membership Chair Susan is a FAB! committee member and screening team advisor. FAB! Funding Arts Broward, Inc is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and encouraging the performance of the arts in Broward County. Members are a group of volunteers who donate funds for grants to visual arts, music, dance and theater non-profit organizations throughout the County. For many years Susan also served as a docent at **Bonnet House** and Gardens before being side-lined with hip surgery. We wish her well in district competition.

President's Corner

Thank you to all who joined us for our March meeting, which included our Annual Memorial Service and Membership Meet-Up. We were honored to have the family of one of our memorialized members with us for this solemn but celebratory occasion. The membership activity got us all up and eager to learn more about each other; thanks to **Susan Lochrie** and **Anne French** for leading this. Our second potluck picnic-style lunch put the proverbial "icing on the cake" for an overall fun and informative meeting!

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is excited to partner with our Broward County Retired Educators Association (BCREA) to Volunteer to Tutor Students at all levels in BCPS schools. Please watch for a separate email from me this week, which will include a short survey and links for you to register as a volunteer and receive security clearance to assist our students and support our teachers at a school near you! **Dr. Marilyn Doyle**, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, the Regional Superintendents, and the entire BCPS Teaching and Learning Team recognize and value our knowledge and expertise.

Finally, the **2023 Florida Legislative Session** begins on Tuesday, March 7, in Tallahassee. Please see my Legislative Column for information on Senate and House Bills to follow and how to contact your local Senators and Representatives. I will also post weekly on our BCREA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1529026950460880> and send email blasts to inform you of legislative issues that affect our Florida Retirement System and Public Education funding and accountability. **YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

Sue



From Carol Roland

Don't forget the Cultural Affairs final activity for this year is Fun 'n Frolic Day on Thursday, March 16th 1-3 at Plantation Heritage Park, 1100 S. Fig Tree Lane, Plantation. For more information, Call Carol Roland - **954-472-2389**. Our committee hopes you have enjoyed the activities this year. Let us know if there is an activity that you would like to see scheduled for next year.

President-Elect's Corner

What a lively meeting! Learning a little bit about other members was fun! Who knew BCREA'S Secretary was a southpaw or that so many members were world travelers, having visited at least 5 continents?

In April, our speaker will be **Barbara Epes** from the **Aging and Disability Resource Center** - better known as **Area Agency on Aging**. Her presentation will highlight the many programs and services available to us in Broward County. In addition, she will feature opportunities for Seniors to help other Seniors.

The Florida Legislature will be in session through May 5, 2023. There are several bills being proposed that will impact public education in our state. At the next meeting, members will receive a packet listing the proposed legislation and our local legislators contact information. It is critical that each of us write or email our support or opposition to these measures. Remember - Senators and Representatives listen to their constituents. We have power. Now is the time to strongly express our opinions to protect education and our pensions.

Anne



Legislative

Chair: Sue Colton

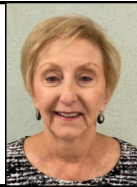
954-695-5065 scolton@bellsouth.net



The 2023 Florida Legislative Session begins on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Go to www.frea.org, and on the home page, click on the picture of the Eagle. This is your one-stop-shop for everything FREA Legislative. Scroll to the bottom and find the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives boxes. Click on each to "Find your State Legislators" by your address and voting district. You can also sort by county and type in "Broward." Click on the Tracker tab to save, set up an account, and receive updates. Each legislator has a page with their contact information and the committees they serve on. The Education Bills to watch now are HB 1 and companion SB 202, which provide universal vouchers for all children with no limitations under the guise of "School Choice." There was also an article in Sunday's Sun-Sentinel, "School Vouchers for All." You can also find updates on our BCREA Facebook page. Stay tuned...

Community Service

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



There are many happy employees, cats & dogs at the Florida Humane Society due to our generous donation. My car was filled to the brim and we unloaded four flatbed cart loads of



much needed pet supplies at the shelter. They are currently gearing up for "kitten season" this Spring. I am working on our volunteer services report for FREA and will report how we did in 2022 in our next newsletter. *Darcy*

Literacy

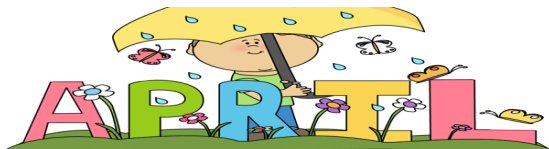
Chair: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-473-9480 Slef123@bellsouth.net



The Literacy Committee spent Presidents' Day reading fifth grade essays. It was encouraging to see that Broward students are good writers, and it was especially heartwarming to see how much they love and respect their grandparents. Perhaps it tugged at our heartstrings because many of us are grandparents. Choosing winning essays from students at **Sheridan Park, North Fork, Watkins and Harbordale Elementary Schools** was a difficult task. We congratu-

late our three winners:
Isabella Garcia
from Harbordale
Mrs. Rothenburg's class
June Falcone
from Harbordale
Mrs. Kurth's class
and

Antonio Ciotti
from Harbordale
Mrs. Kurth's class
BCREA will celebrate with them at our May meeting where we look forward to hearing the first place essay read aloud. *Sandy*



Information Services

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



Spring returns with lightened spirits, rejuvenated attitude and weather more conducive to outside activities (before the summer heat is upon us). Time to shake off the cobwebs, increase cognitive function and take to the outdoors to enjoy a fresh start. Some beneficial activities include taking leisurely strolls, going to the park, visiting farmer markets or enjoying outside restaurants. <https://fortlauderdaleonthcheap.com>. Bonnet House has wonderful tours, activities and classes including March 26, "Forest Bathing"... relax among the hammock trees, listen to the sounds of nature and enjoy the sites. You can also have a brunch on the veranda (requiring registration and fee). On April 15, you can join the "Colored Pencil and Drawing" workshop. <https://www.bonnethouse.org>. Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center has a buddy program or "take a dog to lunch." Volunteers come to the shelter, sign out a shelter dog for a few hours, helping them to decompress from kennel living. You can take them to a dog friendly park or restaurant or go for leisurely

walks (bonus: you get some exercise while doing good deeds and paying it forward). April is National Poetry Month. A proclamation was issued by President Clinton in 1996 to celebrate the poets of the past along with the writers of today. You can rediscover your favorite poet of the past, one of my favorite poems was "Dreams" by **Langston Hughes**. Revisit your favorite author or get your creative juices flowing and write your own poetry (remember the days of alliteration and pentameter). Broward County library system and Alvin Sherman library both offer writing classes throughout the year. Celebrate Diversity Month takes place in April every year. It was initiated in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity of the world around us. By appreciating our similarities and differences, the month aims to get people to foster a deeper understanding of others. Stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others.

Sallie



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every time

BSCU.org

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Follow us on Social Media

@brightstarcu

Membership

954-494-8204

slochrie@bellsouth.net

Chair: Susan Lochrie



2023-2024 FREA & BCREA Membership Dues

Dues for this membership year start in March, 2023. It's a good idea to pay early, if possible before June 30, 2023. If you send your dues now and use the membership application in the *Newsletter*, you save BCREA the cost of mailing a reminder to you. By paying \$50 to BCREA you have only one check and one mailing. Your State FREA Dues of \$35 will be sent to FREA by our Treasurer. The remaining \$15 is for the BCREA Unit expenses. If you receive a reminder from FREA to pay dues, remember to add the local dues of \$15 to the payment in the appropriate space.

Please give me a call or email with your questions about local and state dues.

Susan

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!)*

Mary Bedard 4/02
Lillian Johnston 4/3
Eleanor Majerus 4/23



*Thinking of You....
Arline Ziller*



Welcome New Members



Charlene Hogan



Teresita Pollinger



Hospitality Chairman **LuAnn Comes** reported 50 members and 2 guests at the March meeting. Winners in the **Scholarship Fundraiser** were Below, L-R: **Lenora Smoot**, \$20; **Edith Gooden-Thompson**, \$10 and another \$10! and **Robin Newman**, \$10.



Bev's Bytes...



Sondra Goldberg, Pam Gardella, Mary Cangemi and Marianne Barr won the flowers - donated, as always, by **Carol Roland**.

Right, **Anne French** was this month's winner of **Darcy's Community Services** drawing and **Sue Colton** was last month's winner. Some of you may recall that **Virginia Slater** missed the Scholarship Luncheon at Tropical Acres last month because she was in the hospital. I phoned her to see if she had recovered and, happily, she has. Somehow she had contracted a bad case of food poisoning and spent 6 days at Westside Regional. And that's the last byte for April.



Happy Passover! Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

Bev

Fund Raising

Chair: **Barbara Lewis**

954-562-1936 barbarabeth1@att.net



Our next great fundraiser is ZOOM BINGO on April 20 at 1:00. The cards are \$10 for 5 games. There will be prizes for each game. Jean Anderson will be collecting money at the April meeting. Also, you

can send a check and self-addressed envelope to:
Marelise LeClerc
615 N 31 Road
Hollywood, Fla 33021
Hope to see you at BINGO. You'll have a great time and maybe win some prizes.

Barbara

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)

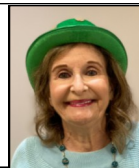
Volunteer hours working with youth _____
(Persons 25 years of age or younger;
This also includes literacy hours)

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

Darcia Drago
2505 Dahoon Avenue
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

From the Treasurer

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



We have begun collecting dues for the 2023-2023 year. Already 49 people have paid dues. Those members have collectively donated \$915.

Just a reminder- and a plea- to add a little something to your dues. Every little bit helps! We are proud of our scholarship recipients and wouldn't be able to award so many without your help.

The following members are applauded and thanked so much for their donations:

DONOR

Emma Black

Pauline Green

IN MEMORY OF:

Eddie P. DeGraffenreidt &
Royette Tunnage
Coach Robert Green &
Ulysses Jackson

UNSPECIFIED DONATIONS:

Susan Barber	John DeGregory	Myrtle Ford
Pam Gardella	Joan Gavin	Ann Graves
Adelia Jones	Phyllis Kublin	Susan Lochrie
Linda Marable	Ruth Marsh	Ronald Mayhew
Arline McWhinney	Carol Roland	Sallie Sherwood
Mary Taylor	Diane Texter	Pierrette Theriault
Bruce Voelkel	Charles Webster	

- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Social Committee

Chair: Marianne Scott

954-321-9174 mscott33317@yahoo.com



WOW! Did we get a great jump on celebrating Earth Day which is coming up on April 22. The recycling bin was almost overflowing. Great job everyone! Now that we are back to our "picnic"

Pot Luck luncheon, many of our members enjoy bringing home some of the delicious fare

from the buffet table. If any of you have reusable containers at home, it would be greatly appreciated if you could bring them in to share with the membership as the Social Committee does not purchase contain-

ers for this purpose. Thank you for helping us out.

There are several National Food holidays coming up in April. In case any of you need an idea for our next Pot Luck, April brings us Na-

tional Coffeecake Day, Empanada Day, Cheeseball Day, Pigs in a Blanket Day and Oatmeal Cookie Day to name a few. We're all looking forward to another

delicious lunch on April 6th. May good luck be with you wherever you go, and your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow.

Marianne



L to R: President, **Anne French**; President-Elect, **Whooooo**; Secretary, **Karen Avery**; and Treasurer **Marelise LeClerc**. Voting will take place at the April meeting.



LAST CHANCE!!

FREF Extravaganza 2023

Remember! 2 Chances to Win!

Tickets are a \$10.00 Contribution

Drawing will be at the Convention May 26, 2022. Prizes are

1st Prize	\$500 Cash
2nd Prize	\$300 Cash
3rd Prize	\$200 Cash
10 District prizes	\$100 cash each

District prizes will be drawn from tickets sold in each district

Donations are used to fund scholarships for future Florida teachers. Last chance! Buy tickets at the April meeting or fill out the form below and send with a check to:

Shirley Swartz

1911 SW 52 Terrace

Plantation, FL 33317

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

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ **email** _____