

BCREA



Newsletter



December, 2021

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 297

November Meeting Honors Veterans, Welcomes Ellis

South Broward HS JROTC Honor Guard under the

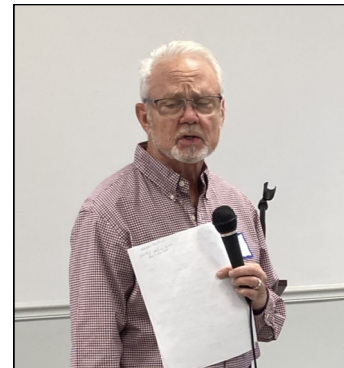


direction of Chief Eddie Eagle Spirit and led by Honor Guard Commander

Marissa Carrion opened the meeting with a formal Presentation of Colors. Frances Smoot then led



the assemblage in the pledge. To pay homage to all veterans, the Armed Forces Medley was played and everyone stood when the theme was played that represented a family member's branch of the service. After the Honor Guard's exit, for her "Thought for the Day," Frances read a history and explanation of Veterans' Day.



District 10 Director **George Ellis** was the speaker of the day. He discussed the FREA website and encouraged members to check it out. He emphasized the healthy state of the Florida Retirees' Pension Plan which always seems to be under attack by bills in the Legislature. Pinellas Senator **Jeff Brandes** is planning to sponsor another bill to do away with it. Another hot topic is redistricting. There is an ongoing concerted effort to change public education through privatization. These are the reasons FREA must be alert and involved.

Important Upcoming Dates!

December 2 Meeting

Time: 12:30 pm

Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

Program: John Knox Village Singers

December 10: Board Meeting, 11:00 am
Bev Hoppe's home

Bring to meeting:

BYOL

(Bring your own lunch)

Aluminum pull-tabs

Cell Phones

Eyeglasses

November 28 Happy Hanukkah



December 25: Merry Christmas



December 26: Happy Kwanzaa



Mardi Gras will be the theme of the February Luncheon! Grab your boas!

Save the Date

Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Thursday, February 3, 2022, 11:30 am

Tropical Acres Restaurant, 2500 Griffin Road

Tickets will be sold at the

December and January meetings or

Order them by mail with the coupon on Page 6.

President's Corner

"Believe"

Every one of us has a story that brings us peace and joy as we reflect on the upcoming holiday season.

Mine is The Polar Express, a heartwarming story about the power of belief that resonates across generations and cultures. As an

elementary school principal, each year our staff would recreate the story for a Polar Express Day at school. Children and adults alike would don their pajamas for the day and prepare for a magical adventure. Each would receive a ticket as they came ALL



ABOARD our school "train." Everyone would be served home-made "hot, hot, hot" chocolate with mini-

marsh-mallows in our imaginary dining car. They would dance with the feeling of fresh falling snow on their tongues, finally settling in for a read-to-me story from the beautiful picture book by author and illustrator **Chris Van Allsburg**. In our current world of disagreement and distraction, I urge each one of you to find comfort in a memory, your pajamas, a hot beverage, and a story of faith, wonder, and holiday spirit. "The bell still rings for me, as it does for all who truly believe."

Sue



From the
President-Elect -
Still Vacant!
Whooooo will it be?



FREF

Chairman: Anne French
954-579-1719 afrench@hotmail.com



Extravaganza Tickets - Only \$10.00

Broward County currently has four students receiving \$1,000 annual scholarships from the Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF). Please show your support for Future Educators by purchasing Extravaganza Tickets. You may buy them at the meeting or use the coupon below. BCREA member **Shirley Swartz** won \$200 last year.

FREF Extravaganza

Tickets - Only \$10.00

Buy your tickets now for TWO 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

All donations are tax deductible and will be used to fund the general scholarship program as well as the operating expenses of the Foundation.

Anne French
1017 NE 28 Drive
Wilton Manors, FL 33334

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

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

We Need Items For the Raffle!

Don't forget to start saving NEW items for the big fundraiser at the February Scholarship Luncheon. Please do not clean out your closets and donate things you no longer want. Others probably won't want them either! Christmas or Hanukkah gifts you don't want would be good - but please leave them unopened! Are we being picky? YES! Donate only things you'd like to win! Ann French will collect them at the January meeting.

Information Services

Chairman: Sallie Sherwood

954-629-3712

matildatwo@aol.com



Due to both the change of seasons and leaving Daylight Saving Time, there are several areas of concern which might need out attention. We do become a little more stressed at this time while trying to accomplish our holiday "to do list." Our physical surroundings becoming darker earlier and also those persistent scams permeate our mail boxes and phone! The more you have going on, the greater chances of your falling. As we become more distracted, we have a tendency to rush and become less in tune with our surroundings. Most falls are a combination of various things.

Darcy Drago has provided some suggestions, from her

doctor's office, which might help to increase our balance and keep us from falling. Find a good balance and exercise program to reduce muscle tightness (either out side of home or on your TV). Make sure to have your vision and hearing checked every year as they are a key to good balance and keeping you on your feet. Have your Doctor review your medications, as some side effects might increase your risk of falling. Add grab bars in key areas and always use handrails when traversing steps. Wear sturdy, non skid, rubber soled footwear and remove throw rugs. Traditionally this is the season of gifting and giving. There are web sites to help

determine if your charity of choice is the best organization to support: [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (select "Search for charities"), Charity Navigator, Guide Star or Charity Watch.

Please remember Veterans during this month and next. Wreaths Across America will be holding wreath laying events throughout our country on December 18, 2021. Our nearest locations will be at two sites in Pompano Beach. If you are able and wish to participate, please consult

wreathscrossamerica.org to donate or volunteer for the wreath laying ceremony.

Stay fit, stay sharp, and send positive thoughts to others. Whatever you celebrate, happy holidays to all!

Sallie

Passages



Happy Birthday to our Birthday Club

(members over 85!)

Barbara LeGette 12/12

Rita Sanderson 12/16

Jean Funk 12/18

Panchitta Chisholm 12/19

Lillian Hearn 12/20

Toni Merton 12/20

Rosetta Watkins 12/22

Doris Emmett 12/26



Marelise LeClerc

Lillian Small

Arline Ziller



In Memoriam

Betty McNaull 9/2/21

Fund Raising

Chairman: Barbara Lewis

954-562-1936 barbarabeth1@att.net



Here's the information about our upcoming Fun

Zoom BINGO on

January 20 at 1PM.

The cost is 5 games for \$10.00. You can order as many cards as you want. There will be prizes for the winners of each game. Please send your check made out to BCREA and a self-addressed/stamped envelope by January 7 to:

Marelise LeClerc

615 N 31 Road

Hollywood, FL 33021

You can also bring a check or cash to our next meeting and get your cards. So come play one and all to enjoy BINGO and raise money for our scholarships. If you have any questions call or email me.

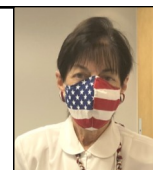
Barbara



Social Committee

Chairman: Marianne Scott

954-321-9174 mscott33317@yahoo.com



Happy holidays everyone! December always seems to fly by as we shop, decorate, wrap and bake. It's my favorite time of the year even with the stress of getting gifts purchased and shipped to 5 different states and England. As COVID remains with us, the BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) will continue at our meetings. Social committee will continue to supply drinks. The day of our meeting finds us celebrating Special Education Day. For

those of you who were Special Ed teachers, thank you for providing me with your expertise. Remember to think of those who perished on December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day and indulge on December 8 which is National Brownie Day! No matter which holiday you celebrate, take time for yourself during this busy month. **Marianne**



Community Service /Handbook

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



Community Service

Many thanks for your donation of school supplies last month to the Broward Education Foundation's "Tools for Schools" Program.

Did you know that any unpaid services to non-family individuals, groups, or entire communities qualify for volunteer hours? Virtual or non-virtual tutoring, phone tree calls, hospital service, personal help to the disabled or elderly, church-related work, civic committees, boards &



affiliate organizations, conservation & environmental protection, Zoom meetings, conference calls, or any service that improves the quality of life for individuals at any age level should be reported. Karen Uris won the volunteer hours drawing for November.



Handbooks/Directories

Hopefully the 2021-22 edition will be ready for distribution at our December meeting. As usual, copies will be mailed to out of area members & shut-ins. Hope you & your family have a happy holiday!

Darcy

Membership...

Chairman: Susan Lochrie
954-525-8503 or slochrie@bellsouth.net



Growing Our Membership

Our BCREA Unit thrives because of our generous and loyal members. Membership numbers are up this year to 260, even after a year of restrictions on in-person meetings. Many of our members never attend meetings in person, but continue to support the goals of the BCREA and FREA. Now that we are meeting again in-person, we have members who are coming or the first time in several years. Please invite your friends to join BCREA. Bring in three new members in a year and receive a \$25 gift certificate.

Encourage your friends to go on the

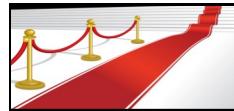
BCREA Website <http://browardrea.org>

and the

FREA website <https://frea.org>

If you would like to mail Membership information to someone, contact me by phone or email. Susan

Welcome New Members



Lillian Cruz-Collins,
Pam Gardella (pictured)
George Pinder



The cost of BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by



Call (954)468-2728 or Online at BSCU.org

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946



Cultural Affairs

Chairman: Carol Roland
954-472-2389 carolrbeads@aol.com



Are you interested in reading and discussing books? Join the BCREA Book Club. Based on the October surveys this club will begin meeting on Mondays and for the first year, read various types of works. An organizational meeting will be held on Light **Monday, November 22 at 1:00 - 2:00 PM** at my house. Refreshments will be served. We will develop guidelines for meeting and select our first book. If interested, RSVP me by Nov. 19th. No time to read a book a month? Or you want more to do? How about joining the BCREA Games Club? Survey says many people are interested and are

available to play on Tuesday afternoons. What kind of games, you ask? Whatever the group wants to play. If interested, join us for this organizational meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 23, also from 1:00-2:00, also at my home. Same "game plan"- light refreshments, develop guidelines, select next month's game to play and be sure to RSVP by Nov. 19th. Already stressed by Thanksgiving activities and can't make the organizational meeting? No problem - just e-mail or call me for an update on decisions made. Hope to see you at the organizational meetings.

Carol

BCREA members may be wearing masks to in-person meetings, but there are lots of activities planned - both in-person and Zoom which offers our distant members a chance to participate. If you read all the columns you'll find lots of things happening. **Sue Colton** is working on a way to do hybrid meetings so the distant members can attend in-person meetings via Zoom. We had a total of 41 members and one guest at the November meeting. We're back to doing our monthly scholarship fundraisers and there were lots of prizes this month. The winners (L-R) were \$20, **Josephine Walker**; and \$10 each, **Alyce Aspler & Karen Avery** and flowers were won by **Seolar Moncrief, Val Proffer & Lana Lysen**. Books



authored by **Sue Colton** were won by **Earthalene Perry** and

Literacy

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



Hope you are enjoying a good book or two. I just finished **Frederik Backman's** book "Britt-Marie Was Here" (the author of "A Man Called Ove"). The book presents more questions than answers. I'm still pondering the various personalities presented inside the pages of the book. It's only one book I have recently read. I encourage you to read for your own enjoyment and also read to a young child. Instill the love of books wherever you can.

BCREA has also started a reading challenge and we hope you will participate. This year we want to purchase new books and send them to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. Here's how easy it can be. Please count the number of books you have read and multiply it by \$1, \$2 or \$3, that could be your donation to our BCREA book fund. For example, I read 12 books in the last four months, I could multiply 12 by \$2 and

send a check for \$24 to be used to purchase children's books. Money should be sent directly to **Marelise LeClerc, 615 N 31 Rd, Hollywood, FL 33021**, with a note that it is for our children's book fund.** This is an exciting way to continue our BCREA community work.

**\$5.00 minimum amount for checks.

And don't forget the Fifth Grade Essay Contest. Contact schools near you and share the contest information. Any fifth grade student in Broward County (Public, Private or Home School) may enter the contest. Students should be encouraged to write about an experience with a grandparent (s) or a grandparent figure. That could be a neighbor, after school care worker, teacher, friend or anyone who has provided a positive and memorable experience. Information to distribute to fifth grade teachers and students will be available at our meetings. Forms may also be downloaded from our BCREA website.

Sandy



Gwen Lampkin.

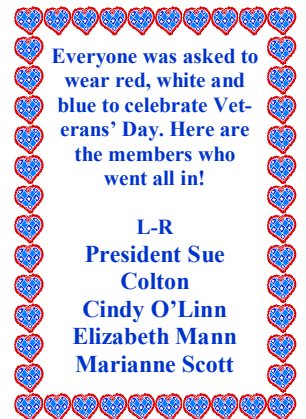
Diane Jarchow is excited because she's expecting a third grand-



child in the near future. Congrats, Diane. And that's the last byte for December. Happy Holidays! *Bea*



- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Everyone was asked to wear red, white and blue to celebrate Veterans' Day. Here are the members who went all in!

L-R
President Sue Colton
Cindy O'Linn
Elizabeth Mann
Marianne Scott

Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @\$37.00 each

Extra Donation: _____

Entrée choices: Prime Rib of Beef
Chicken
Fish

Name _____ Entrée Choice _____

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

to
Diane Texter
742 NW 69 Terrace
Margate, FL 33063

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 Dagoon Avenue
Coconut Creek, FL 33063