

BCREA Newsletter



March, 2012

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

Number 220

Retirees' COLA Safe for Another Year!

Are you aware that one of the better benefits within the Florida Retirement System has been the automatic 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) that FRS adds to your Pension checks each year? Over the course of a 24 year retirement, the

COLA would almost double your annual pension, which would hopefully allow your standard of living to keep up with rising prices and inflation. Last year there was a war in the Florida Legislature as some legislators tried to do away with the

COLA for people in the State Retirement System, according to District 10 Legislative Representative



informed and they in turn contacted their representatives and made their wishes known. South Florida counties of Dade, Broward and Palm Beach were instrumental in their success in keeping COLA. Because this year is an election year, "They're sleeping - because they want to be re-elected," stated Cuevas. The State Retirement System is one of the top 2 in the nation. Those of us who are already retired will be OK, but new hires will have the "investment plan." "We need to thank **Senator Jeremy Ring** and the other legislators for being kind to retired citizens," he continued. "And let them know we want to maintain our health care subsidy as well as COLA. And we want new hires to have a choice between the FRS and the new investment plan. Let's keep politics out of our investments."

Necrology Service Honors Eight

A vase, white roses and tealight candles adorned the table as **Frances Smoot and Darcy Drago**, presented a short Necrology Service to remember those members who passed away during the past year. They were **Ruby Hutson-Hutchinson, Elizabeth Johnson, Evelyn Johnston, Robert Lamby, Judith Signorini, Annie Williams, Guy Williams, Sr., and Arthur Wolfe**. As Frances

read each name, Darcy placed a white rose into a vase. Frances then asked for a moment of silent reflection to remember them.



Roger Cuevas who addressed the group at the February Scholarship Luncheon. Had it not been for **FREA's Larry Carmichael**, they might have succeeded. Carmichael has been involved with state issues since 1994 and knew what to do - he kept the members of FREA

March 1 Meeting

Time: 11:45 am

Place: Deicke Auditorium

Address: 5701 Cypress Road
Plantation

(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

Program: **Barbara Krantz**
Lighthouse of Broward

Business: **Election of Officers**



Bring to meeting:

A dish to share

Items for Humane Society
Service Hours Reports

New /Used books for 5th
graders + Literacy Hours

Blankies & Pillows

Campbells labels

Aluminum pull-tabs

General Mills labels

Coupons for our troops

Old eyeglasses & Cell phones



President's Corner

What a turnout! A grand total of 124 members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal and a great venue. Many thanks to the staff at Colony West, especially **Carol Courtney**, for making us welcome.



The prizes were spectacular and we thank you all for your generosity. **Marjuree Larin** and her helpers from **Bright Star Credit Union** once again shone brightly as our benefactor. Not only did they do the centerpiece decorations they gave us 4 gift cards for the raffle.

According to **Roger Cuevas** we are "safe" from the Legislature right now. However, as we all know there is no rest for the weary (and wary!) so we'll keep our eyes on 'em.

Bev Hoppe did a marvelous job with the programs and nametags as well as getting the registration table organized. **Darcy Drago** and **Frances Smoot** gave a moving Necrology Service honoring our departed members. Thanks to **Judy Joseph** and **Linda Horton** for their stellar performances as salesladies. They sold \$755.00 worth of raffle tickets! **Susan Lochrie** had the prize table looking so enticing that people really wanted some of those goodies. So many of you worked to make the event fun and profitable that I'm running out of room to thank you all. Our hats are off to you. We are on our way to having made enough for a couple of scholarships.

Once again, thanks to you all.

Love ya, *Margarite*

Vice-President's Corner

Last spring one of our members, **Ms. Shirley Ernst**, approached me and said there is a program in Broward County that needs to be presented to our group. She briefly explained that this group has helped her tremendously with her vision problems and she is confident that our members or their friends might someday benefit by using the **Lighthouse of Broward** services.



Our guest speaker for the March meeting will be **Ms. Barbara Krantz**. She has been with the Lighthouse of Broward the past eleven years and has lived in Broward for 38 years. Her role at the agency is that of Volunteer Coordinator-Development Officer. If you don't know anything about this nonprofit agency, its mission statement is: "To enhance the independence, productivity, and quality of life of children and adults who are blind or visually impaired." I was surprised to learn that they offer such a variety of services to the people in our community, especially senior citizens. They also have a volunteer program which sounds very interesting. We look forward to seeing all of our members at the meeting because this sounds like something we all might benefit from in the future.

Barbara

Community Service

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



Cultural Affairs

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



To all Theater Goers:
Don't Forget!



Billy Elliott
Thursday, March 8
8:00 PM
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
auRene Theatre

At our March meeting we will collect supplies for the **Florida Humane Society**, a "no kill" pet shelter.

They are in need of:
cat litter,
canned cat food (not in gravy),
canned Pedigree dog food,
pet toys,
paper towels,
13 gallon garbage bags
laundry soap,
liquid bleach,
latex gloves,

copy paper
and hand sanitizers.
(No dry pet food, please.)

Volunteer Hours
Last call for volunteer hours for the past year (March, 2011 - February, 2012). Please turn in any unreported hours at our March meeting so that these may be included in our annual report to FREA.

Darcy

Membership...

954-525-8503

slochrie@bellsouth.net

Chairman: Susan Lochrie



Time to Pay your Dues for 2012 - 2013!

Beginning at the March meeting, dues for the 2012 - 2013 club year may be paid at meetings or mailed using the form below to note any changes to your contact information.

The total annual state and local dues are \$45.00. **BCREA will forward the state dues of \$30.00 to FREA.** You will receive a membership card from the FREA and your name will be on the Broward County Retired Educators Association mailing list and listed in the BCREA Directory.

If you have friends who have retired, invite them to one of our meetings or send me their names and addresses and I will send a membership information packet.

Life members do not pay the FREA dues of \$30.00, but DO pay the \$15.00 annual dues to the local unit - BCREA.

Reminder: Members who have Pioneer Insurance Medi-Gap Supplemental Insurance must pay their dues by June 1, 2012.

Remember to check the BCREA website at <http://browardrea.org> and the FREA website at <http://frea.org>.

Broward County Retired Educators Association 2012 - 2013 Membership Application

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SS # : XXX - XX- _____ (last 4 digits only) Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Date Retired: _____ Retired From: _____

Position: _____

Dues: \$45.00 Donation for Scholarships: \$ _____ Total enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to **BCREA** and mail to: **Susan Lochrie**
PO Box 30533
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33303

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Passages

Happy Birthday

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

Lily Diekman 3/02
Grace Vaughn 3/2
Don Fry 3/03
Janet Knapp 3/06
Kathryn Pierce Gaus 3/18
Mary Jane Kirkley 3/19
Warren Cox 3/20
And turning 85:
Ethel Gerakas 03/20
Ken Hendricks 03/25



Thinking of You....
Ruth Travers



In Memoriam
Bruce Herndon 2/3/12



Welcome New Members
Stanley Siesel

BCREA Officers....

President

Margarite Falconer
954-524-2938

Vice-President

Barbara Morningstar
954-781-4356

Secretary

Josephine Walker
954-742-2430

Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343



FREA Tours for 2012

Arline Ziller,
FREA Travel Specialist
arlinez@juno.com

954-781-4445



WELCOME TO THE 2012 FREF Travel NEWSLETTER. Holland America's April 17, 2012 Ft. Lauderdale to Rotterdam, The Netherlands cruise is still available, but pricing would be on an individual basis and must be paid in full with the reservation. I will look into new Transatlantic cruises for 2013. There are Transatlantic cruises in November when the ships are returning from Europe. Phone or e-mail me if you are interested. There is a Viking Passage on the EURODAM August 29, 2012 departing from Amsterdam for 16 days with an extended night stay in Reykjavik.

Visit <http://collettevacations.com> for more info on the following:

PACIFIC NORTHWEST & CANADA DAYS June 8-15, 2012 plan ahead & see a beautiful & fun part of our country. Sign up now

PRAGUE TO PARIS 2012 Central European Experience 12 days August 2, 2012 for special speakers or September 20 Paris to Prague on AVALON'S LUMINARY. Reserve now and be one of the first 20 passengers...Avalon will find a roommate for you if you need one. Go to www.avalonwaterways.com Central European Experience for more information. JOIN ME on this amazing river cruise.

You can reach me 24/7 and the goal is to enjoy yourselves while supporting the scholarship fund. Always, *Arline Z*

FREF

Chairman: Frances Smoot

954-733-3385 francesmoot@hotmail.com



FREF Extravaganza 2012!!!!

The FREF Extravaganza tickets are here!!! Thanks to everyone who purchased one at the luncheon. Please remember to bring an extra \$10 or \$20 with you to purchase a ticket or two at our March meeting. This year's prizes are the best yet: **Grand Prize** - An iPad 2; **First Prize** - a 3-day Caribbean cruise for 2; **Second Prize** - a 32-inch HDTV; and **Third Prize** - a Visa gift card for \$100. The proceeds from this Extravaganza will go to the state scholarship fund. We currently have two students who are receiving funds from this scholarship account. We are very hopeful of having another winner this year.

Frances

Literacy

Chairman: Rosetta Watkins
954-584-8719 mamarowat@aol.com



Fifth Grade Essay Contest

We had only one school, Deerfield Beach Elementary, to participate in the fifth grade essay contest this year. The judges are in the process of reading them to choose a winner to present to the state. Hopefully our winner will be the State winner.

Literacy Hours

Please, Pretty Please report your literacy hours. Do not think that "I only did 25 hours a month" that it will not count, but if you multiply that by the 10 months that's

250 hours. Count all of your hours from April 2011 through February 2012.

Book Donations

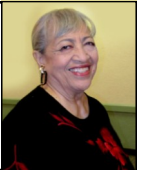
With the Essay Contest over the Literacy Committee is collecting new books to be given to contest participants. Please bring your donation to the April meeting. The presentations will be made at the May meeting.

Thank you.

Rosetta

Health & I+PS

Chairman: Kathlyn Barno
954-581-4731 BB9214@aol.com



Nowadays most of us are doing some sort of business on the Internet.

More and more it is becoming almost mandatory that we transact most of our essential business online. As we do, criminals are getting smarter and the chance of our records being compromised becomes more of a possibility each day. We are constantly being told to be vigilant of what is happening with our accounts. Hackers are able to steal your password and then get access to your accounts. *Consumer Reports* magazine advises not to use the same password for multiple accounts or use personal references in your

password.

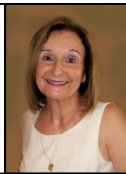
Don't keep a written record of your password in an insecure place. Make a strong password. It should have at least eight characters including an upper case and lower case letter and a speculum character. Don't use common words, names or facts from your life. Write down whole passwords if you must, but keep them under lock and key. When using a password site look for "https" in the site's address. (The "s" means "secure.") Keep the hackers away.

May you have a good online experience.

Kathlyn

From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc
Flsun1@comcast.net



Thank you to all who purchased tickets at the Annual Luncheon for the wonderful prizes supplied by members and local community organizations. We took in \$755 for our Scholarship Fund! WOW! We are grateful to **Marjuree Larin and Bright Star Credit Union** for their continued support.

If you weren't able to at-

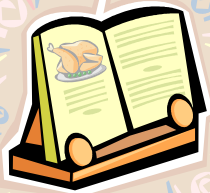
tend the luncheon and would like to support the Scholarship Fund, it's not too late. Any amount is appreciated - \$5, \$10, \$20 - it all adds up. If you are able, please send a check made out to BCREA (Memo: Scholarships) to: **Marelise LeClerc, BCREA Treasurer**
615 North 31 Road
Hollywood, FL 33021

Scholarship Donations

Donor	In Memory of
Darcy Drago	Joe Evancho
Helen Munnings	Guy Williams

Undesignated Donations

Marilyn Apau	Carol Call
Donald and Lois Fry	Echo Heyer
Jane Leone	Madeline Martin
Carol Roland	Nancy Ruiz



Remember to send your Potluck Recipes to **Bev Hoppe** - either by e-mail, USPS mail, call me and read it aloud or hand it to me at a meeting - like **Shirley Paoli** did at the Luncheon. Thanks, *Bev*

Bring this to our next meeting or mail it to:

Darcia Drago
4346 Carambola Circle North
Coconut Creek, FL 33066

BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM

Name _____
(Please Print)

Month _____, 201__

LITERACY VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Teaching Sunday School, reading to children/adults; tutoring; helping with testing programs, etc; Includes any activities to promote a more literate America. TOTAL _____

WORKING WITH OUR YOUTH:

School, tutoring, mentoring, coaching etc. (Persons 25 years of age or younger. TOTAL: _____)

OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS:

Church, civic, hospital / hospice, personal help to others (non-relatives), school, drug, ecology / environment.

TOTAL: _____

Overlapping categories should be reported in both places.

GRAND TOTAL: _____

2012 - 2013 Slate Announced

Nominating Committee Chairman **Linda Horton** has announced the slate for the upcoming Club year.

President	Vice-President
Margarite Falconer	Diane Texter
Secretary	Treasurer
Josephine Walker	Marelise LeClerc

Voting will take place at the March meeting. If anyone else is interested in running, contact Linda.

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:



954-486-2728 • Online at BSCU.org

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946

*Bev's
Bytes.....*



How does the old saying go? "It's an ill wind that blows no good"? We were all concerned when **Tropical Acres** told us they probably wouldn't be ready to re-open in time for our luncheon. But **Tropical Acres** went beyond the call of duty and made arrangements with **Colony West** so our luncheon could proceed as scheduled. And a fine luncheon it was! There were 124 who attended and 13 more who tried to make a reservation after the deadline and had to be turned away! **Colony West** was most accommodating and the food

was excellent - I had the beef and tasted my husband's salmon so I know they were both delicious. You can see from the decorations



that **Marjuree Larin** and her 2 helpers **Dana Saintfort** (l) and **Joyce Gaines** (r) did a great job - as usual. And this year 10 **BrightStar** people attended the luncheon. (Right)



Evelyn Morris brought **Wendy Scott** as her guest. Wendy, who was one of Evelyn's students at Stranahan, is now a retired educator herself and may join BCREA.

There were so many raffle prizes as well as all the centerpieces from the 13 tables that I couldn't count them. It seems there's always one person who "makes a haul." This year it was **Susan Lochrie** who walked away with 5 treasures! On a serious note, **Ruth Travers** was hospitalized last month but is at home recovering now. And that's the last byte for this month!

Bev



To see all the photos from the luncheon, visit our website at <http://browardrea.org>
Click on Photos on Shutterfly



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