

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

December 2019

OFFICERS:

President, Scholarship, & Website—Paula Marczynski

VP — Rick Reed

Secretary —Karen Philman

Treasurer — Larry Bachle

Volunteer Services—Harriet Bachle

Legislative Representative—Alphonso Johnson

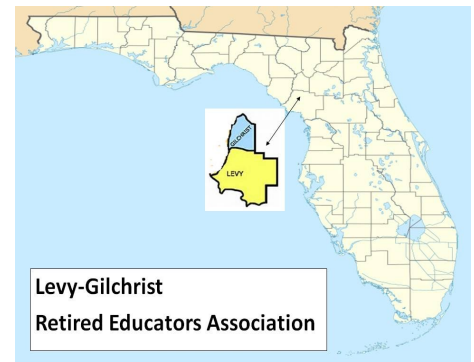
Sunshine & Shadows—Betsy Scott

COME JOIN US!

Levy and Gilchrist counties are located in rural north central Florida. The Suwannee River forms the western boundary of both.

We meet on the **3rd Monday** September thru May at **10:30 a.m.** at **The Gathering Table** restaurant in Chiefland. **We welcome all retired school personnel living in our area, no matter where you worked.**

The Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association is a unit of the state-wide **Florida Retired Educators Association.**



Schedule of Events:

- Dec 16 — CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE (WITH GUEST DISTRICT 4 REP ALONZO BRADDON, JR),
- Jan 20 — FREA WEBSITE TUTORIAL (PAULA MARCZYNSKI) Harriet Bachle, hostess
- Feb 17 — BLACK HISTORY MONTH (ALPHONSO JOHNSON), Alphonso Johnson, host
- Mar 16 — SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (PAULA MARCZYNSKI), Rick Reed, host
- Apr 20 — TBD, Sue Reed, hostess
- May 12-14 — STATE FREA CONFERENCE, Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach
- May 18 — ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REPORT ON STATE CONFERENCE
- JUNE & JULY — NO MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

Following the opening devotion, pledge, singing of God Bless America, and the minutes, **Larry** talked about moving our funds to a different location due to the monthly fees that are eating away at our balance. We found one that doesn't charge fees, so we voted to take the necessary steps to make the move.

Committee Reports: **Paula** reported that the all of the school guidance counselors and the two school superintendants had been emailed the information for the FREF Florida Future Teacher scholarship and our \$500 scholarship. Hopefully we will get applicants this year. She also brought some ideas for the unit grant, including a proposed banner to use to promote our group at events. After some discussion we decided to proceed with applying for the grant. **Harriet** reminded us that Volunteer Services forms are due at the next meeting.

Our program was presented by **Megan Hall**, Director of the Harmony Pregnancy & Resource Center in Chiefland. She talked about the program and resources available to the community and what type of donations they could use.

Door prizes were won by **Alphonso, Rick, Mary Jo, Karen, & Sue.**

L-GREA Activities

Scholarship for Future Florida Teachers

CHECKLIST FOR SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSION - **Once Application is started, it cannot be saved.**

Info needed to fill out application fully:

- Family Income
- Community Service Information
- Leadership Info
- 2 References with full contact info
- Completed Application - online only, button below, cannot be printed and handwritten
- Single page typed essay
- Recommendation Letters
- Official high school transcript with ACT or SAT scores circled. In the event the ACT/SAT scores are not printed on the transcript, a student applying for this scholarship must supply these scores. If the school needs to send transcripts to FREA directly, that is acceptable. Our address is below.
- Submit your application by January 20. All transcripts and supporting paperwork, not available to be uploaded with application, must reach the FREA Office by January 31.

Questions? info@frea.org or 727-577-6400

ALL above information must be received by the FREA Office before being submitted to local FREA Units for the next step, which is an in-person interview. <https://www.frea.org/scholarships/>

The Marie Grein Practicing Educator Grant

The Marie Grein Practicing Educator Grant was named after its creator, Marie Grein, who is the current Treasurer of FREA/FREF. Marie has also served as: FREA President 2008-2010, District Director, Convention Coordinator, Nominating Chair, and numerous offices in her unit, North Pinellas REA.

Do you know, or are you currently, a practicing educator in a Florida school? Do you have a project that you would love to do with your students, but cannot get the funding? The Marie Grein Practicing Educator Grant is here to help. Each year grants of \$1,000 are awarded to the winning educators who apply for the grant. Winners have done everything from buying a French horn, to starting a robotics club, to buying wobble chairs for autistic students, and more. Interested? Download the application and good luck!

<https://www.frea.org/practicing-educator-grant/>

OCTOBER

We discussed the Membership Unit grant offered by FREA and talked about ways we could implement it to benefit unit growth.

We welcomed guest **Teresa Ozment** to the meeting.

Our program for this month was by Gilchrist County School Superintendent **Robert Rankin**. He spoke on some of the changes that have taken place in our county schools and how current events have impacted them. We enjoyed the update and seeing him again.

Door prizes were won by **Larry, Sue, Teresa, Mary Jo, and Harriet**.

L-GREA Activities cont.

SEPTEMBER

Members were reminded to bring in new books for the **Margaret Poppell Literacy for Life Project**. Books can be turned in to **Karen Philman**, drive chairperson. **Paula** has updated the list of guidance counselors for the area high schools and will contact them about our scholarship opportunity for students interested in going into the field of education.

We discussed the upcoming District IV meeting in Ocala. **Alphonso**, **Karen**, and **Paula** plan to attend.

Our program this month was on school safety, focusing on the Guardian program and School Resource Officers. Gilchrist County Sheriff **Bobby Schultz** gave a very interesting presentation and we learned a lot about the program as well as other issues. Thank you for all you and your officers do for us!



Door Prizes were won by **Mary Jo** and **Alphonso**.

MAY

Betsy called the meeting to order in Rick's absence. **Alphonso** gave the Thought for the Day and led the Pledge and God Bless America. This was followed by the Minutes, Treasurer's, and committee reports.

Alphonso and **Paula** gave a report on the FREA State Convention (see highlights below).



FREA CONVENTION — DAYTONA BEACH

Alphonso and **Paula** attended the FREA state convention, held at the Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach. It was a very informative and entertaining experience as we "Let the Good Times Roll"! **Alphonso** was recognized at the Extravaganza for his long-time service and dedication to the organization and to AARP. So proud of him!



We brought a basket for the FREF fundraiser filled with goodies that represented items from both counties. It contained Kickin' Cowboy Barbeque Sauce (both mild and spicy) from Bell, and a variety of items from the Red, White, and Blues Farm in Williston (corn relish, onion relish, jelly, honey, blueberry pops, honey sticks, and a Farm Life t-shirt and decal).

Our Opening Speaker, **Lily Liu**, AARP Historian Emeritus talked about **Ethel Percy Andrus**, the founder of NRTA and AARP... "Ethel, One Woman Who Changed America". One of the highlights of the convention was the Rise and Shine Speaker Breakfast Buffet with **Ersula Knox-Odom** as **Mary McLeod Bethune**. It was an outstanding performance!

