

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

November 2020

OFFICERS:

President, Scholarship, & Website—Paula Marczynski

VP — Rick Reed

Secretary —Karen Philman

Treasurer — Larry Bachle

Volunteer Services—Harriet Bachle

Legislative Representative—Alphonso Johnson

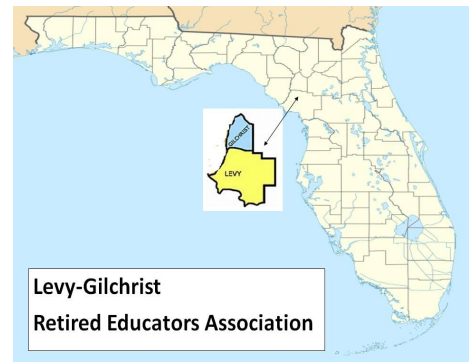
Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord

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.**

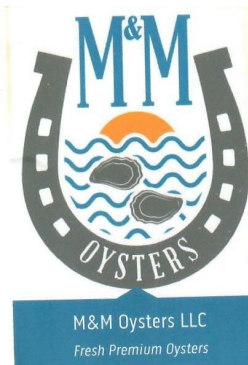


Schedule of Events:

- **DECEMBER 21 —CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE**
- **JANUARY 18 — TBD, Harriet Bachle, hostess**
- **FEBRUARY 15 — BLACK HISTORY MONTH (Alphonso Johnson, presenter), Cora Lord, hostess**
- **MARCH 15 — SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (Paula Marczynski, presenter), Alphonso Johnson, host**
- **APRIL 19 — Roses, Rick Reed, host**
- **MAY 17 — School Updates (Levy & Gilchrist-County Superintendents), Karen Philman, hostess**
- **JUNE & JULY — NO MEETINGS**

NOVEMBER

Following our usual procedures of devotion, pledge, and singing of *God Bless America*, minutes, treasurer's report, and committee reports, we had a very interesting presentation by **Bill Martin** and **Cody May** about their oyster farming business — M & M Oysters. Aquaculture is



big business in Florida. They talked about their business, how they got started, what it takes to maintain their crop, how they are impacted by weather, and how restaurant closings due to Covid-19 affected them.



Door prizes were won by **Cody, Betsy, Sue, Paula, Alphonso, Bill,**

Larry, Rick, Nancy, and Karen.

Afterwards, we enjoyed the buffet at The Gathering Table.

L-GREA Activities

OCTOBER

After the opening procedures, **Paula** shared a report from the Fall Symposium ZOOM meetings. We discussed how we could incorporate the information to increase our membership and improve interest in meetings. Later

Paula gave a presentation on the six proposed amendments to the Florida constitutions and how voting YES or NO would impact us. There was feedback from the group on different scenarios. It was very informative and helpful. Door prizes were won by **Karen, Betsy, Larry, Paula, and Cora.**



SEPTEMBER

This was our first meeting back since March due to the COVID-19 crisis. It was good to see everyone and catch up on what had happened during our time apart as we practiced social distancing.

Paula presented the information on the upcoming FREA Central Fall ZOOM Symposium. Members were polled on who wanted/needed to attend which meeting; these names will be submitted to the state office.

We worked on our organizational plans for the year. There are a few openings to schedule presenters. We discussed several possibilities. Several people volunteered to follow up with contacting people.

Door prizes (chocolate from Angell & Phelps Chocolate Factory in Daytona Beach) were won by **Harriet, Alphonso, Cora, and Betsy.**

Rick shared some beautiful, fragrant roses he grew.



MARCH—AUGUST

There were no meetings due to the Covid-19 virus plus our usual summer break.

L-GREA Activities cont.

FEBRUARY

We had a very informative meeting this month. **Paula** reported **Mikayla Armstrong** is our new local scholarship winner from CMHS. **Rick** and **Sue** went with Paula to interview Mikayla. The results from her interview were submitted to the FREF office for consideration for the state scholarship. Mikayla will attend next month's meeting with her school counselor.

We received our \$75 Unit Grant funds from the state and we used it to purchase a banner and information cards to post around the community and to distribute to new retirees. Thank you **FREA** for making this possible!



Alphonso made a presentation for **Black History Month** and per requests in the past, he made it on HIS life. He has truly led an interesting and spectacular life and we are proud to have him as a member of our unit!



JANUARY

Several items of interest were dealt with at this meeting. **Rick** brought an updated version of our unit by-laws. After some discussion, we approved the changes and he will submit this to the state.

Paula mentioned the unit grant offered by the state for public relations and suggested we apply for it in order to purchase a unit banner and cards to distribute to potential members. She will submit the grant and follow through on getting the items.

The program for the meeting was a presentation by **Paula** on how to navigate the FREA website. It included highlights of the different drop downs and gave specifics on how to login to the members only section.

Door prizes were won by **Rick, Paula, Karen, Teresa, and Cora**.