

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

May 2021

OFFICERS:

President & Website—Paula Marczynski

VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed

Secretary — Karen Philman

Treasurer — Larry Bachle

Volunteer Services—Harriet Bachle

Legislative Representative—Alphonso Johnson

Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord

Schedule of Events:

- **MAY 17 — Election of Officers - Karen Philman, hostess**
- **MAY 25-27 — State Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld**
- **JUNE & JULY — NO MEETINGS**

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.**

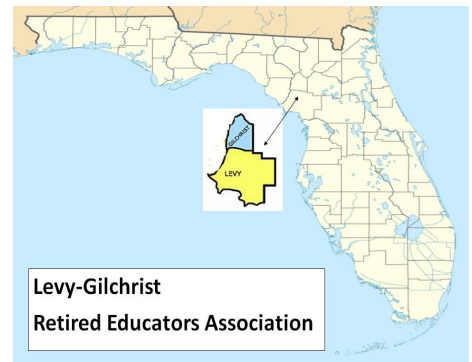
MAY

Following our opening procedures, we had committee reports. **Harriet** reminded us to continue keeping track of our volunteer hours. **Alphonso** gave an update on the legislative session and how it impacted our retirement.

Karen and Paula gave an update on the FREF gift basket they are working on; Cora will bake cookies to include before they leave for the convention.

Election of Officers: all officers agreed to continue in their same positions for the next two years. The only change was to switch the Scholarship chair to the Vice President.

After the meeting, we enjoyed the buffet at The Gathering Table.



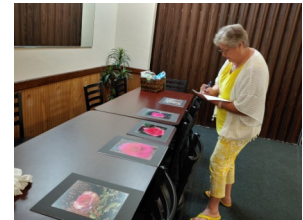
L-GREA Activities

APRIL

We discussed the upcoming FREA convention. **Paula** is the delegate and **Karen** is the alternate. We will create a basket for the FREF scholarship fund based on the “National Day(s) of ...” We chose celebrations on Oct 1st; several members came up with suggestions of things to include.



Rick presented a program on judging roses and submitting them for competition. He provided a variety of roses to use for a sample judging session by members. Afterwards, the roses were used as door prizes won by **Karen, Larry, Harriet, Cora, Paula, and Alphonso.**



MARCH

Harriet announced that our unit reported 1784 volunteer hours with 9 members submitting forms. Quite an accomplishment!

Alphonso shared information about a free program called Uniper — available through Elder Options — that connects directly to your TV and allows you to see, hear, and talk as if on a computer.

We usually have our scholarship winner as our guest in March, but since we did not have an applicant this year, **Paula** gave a presentation for Women’s History. It was based on her trip to the Historic Triangle of Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown with her grandchildren. There was a special exhibit on women in colonial Jamestown, and Paula included some personal family history connection with the area.



TENACITY: Women in Jamestown and Early Virginia

FEBRUARY

Larry reminded everyone of the FREF Scholarship Extravaganza.

Alphonso gave a nice presentation on Black History.

Door prizes were won by **Larry, Sue, Paula, Alphonso, Betsy C, Rick, Karen, and Harriet.**

JANUARY

We welcomed guest **Betsy Clark** to our meeting.

Since applications now go directly to the state, we are waiting to hear whether or not we have any scholarship applications this year. Members were notified about the FREF Extravaganza fund raiser and encouraged to purchase them.

Harriet collected volunteer forms for 2020 and distributed new ones for 2021. **Cora** gave a sunshine & shadows update. Paula provided a save-the-date handout for the state convention

Our program, which dealt with DNA and how to understand cM connections between relatives, was provided by **Sue and Paula.**

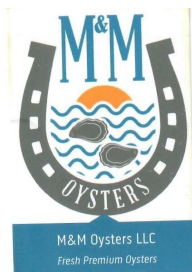
L-GREA Activities cont.

DECEMBER

Due to members' previous engagements, the December meeting was cancelled.

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.

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.

