

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

OCTOBER 2021

OFFICERS:

President & Website—Paula Marczynski

VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed

Secretary — Karen Philman

Treasurer — Larry Bachle

Volunteer Services—Harriet Bachle

Legislative Representative—Alphonso Johnson

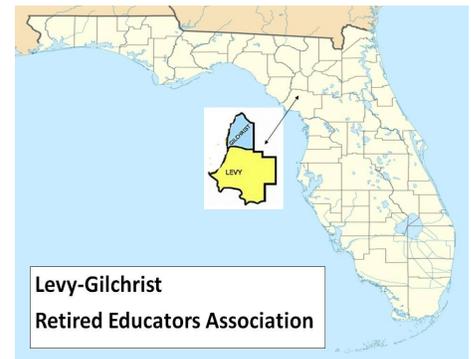
Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord

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:

- **NOV 15** — Christmas card crafts; Harriet Bachle hostess
- **DEC 20** — Christmas gift exchange
- **JAN 17** — Gilchrist County Library (Lorrie Lee); Cora Lord hostess
- **FEB 21** — Black History (Alphonso Johnson); Sue Reed hostess
- **MAR 21** — Scholarship Recipient (Rick Reed); Alphonso Johnson host
- **APR 18** — TBD (Rick Reed); Larry Bachle host
- **MAY 17** — TBD
- **MAY 23-26** — State FREA Convention
- **JUNE & JULY** — NO MEETINGS

OCT

Rick updated his plans for contacting school counselors about the college scholarship program. Members were reminded to keep records of volunteer activities and to turn in their totals at the end of the year. **Alphonso** reported on legislative updates and distributed information on the new legislative text alert feature for smart phones. **Karen** and **Paula** talked about the Fall Symposium zoom meeting and shared information presented there. Rick provided every attendee with a door prize — a choice of homemade cinnamon rolls or potted mums.

Our program was presented by **Chris Cowart** and **Dr. Jim Surrency**, the school superintendents of Levy and Gilchrist counties. They talked about the challenges and changes going on in their respective counties. It was a very informative session. Paula presented them with a notebook of materials highlighting FREA programs and contests of interest

and benefit to teachers and students, and membership applications for future retirees.



L-GREA Activities

SEP

We welcomed guest **Nancy Rowe**.

Paula shared information about the upcoming District IV Fall Symposium, which will be virtual again this year. Our designated dates are Oct 12 & 13, but we can attend the another districts's sessions if it's more convenient, but everyone needs to register. Officers will soon receive emails with more details. Some members asked if we could use the computers at the Bell Library for this. Paula will make arrangements.

Our program was presented by **Katie Zeile** and **LeAnne Hawk** of the *Guardian Ad Litem* for the 8th Judicial Circuit. It was very informative. We discussed ways we could help with resources.

Door prizes were won by **Alphonso, Cora, Harriet, Larry, and Nancy**.

AUGUST

This was our organizational meeting for the fiscal year. Several suggestions were made and members volunteered to contact the individuals involved. The changes will be updated and shown in the box on the first page.

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 cont.

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.**