

SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION



VOLUME 52 NUMBER 6
Gail Weston, Editor

February 2022
Paula Walker, Labels



President's Message



Mark These Dates

Greetings SPCREA Members, Supporters, & New Retirees

Well, January's meeting was a surprise to all of us. Due to a COVID issue at the American Legion, we had to quickly change to a zoom meeting. Thanks to Wanda Dudley and Paula Walker who made it happen! Our speaker from AARP was very helpful and I look forward to getting those packets to hand out to our membership. You can never be too prepared.

We plan to meet again at the American Legion for our February meeting on the 10th. Hopefully that works out for us! Our co-President Elects have designed a great lineup this year for us. The program for February will feature Joni Kerr presenting "The Art of International Teaching."

We will gladly take your school supplies from last month and our charity for the month of February will be Happy Workers Day Care. Preschool books and supplies are always greatly appreciated.

I received a call from Katie Sistar yesterday. She had a bad fall over the holidays and has some challenges ahead as she recovers. Because of that, she has resigned as our Corresponding Secretary. We appreciate her serving our chapter as our former Recording Secretary and then Corresponding Secretary. We wish her well in her recovery!

It is time to be looking forward to our new election of officers for the coming 2 years. If you are interested in any position, as an officer (we don't have life terms/sentences), committee chairperson/co-chairperson or committee member, please let Vicki Coleman or one of the officers know. We hope that some new faces will step up!

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Cheryl



SPCREA MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS – 2021 – 2022

See Full Calendar page 2

February 10th – The Art of International Teaching – Joni Kerr
Board Meeting will follow the regular meeting

Contact Paula Walker for Zoom information. Her email is pmcwalker1@mac.com and her phone number is 727-321-1788

OUR MEETING DATES are normally the 2nd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 11:00 AM.
SPCREA Board Meetings – Will follow the regular meeting.

SPCREA Executive Board

Cheryl DiCicco, President
pdicicco@tampabay.rr.com

Pat Davey & Jan Wallis,
Presidents-elect
stingraydavey@gmail.com
retirededucator@mac.com

Jim Moore, Treasurer
moore4688@aol.com

Anita Shoby, Recording Secretary
anitashoby@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary – TBA

Vicki Coleman, Past Pres. & Nom.
vickicoleman49@gmail.com

Paula Walker, Membership
pmcwalker1@mac.com

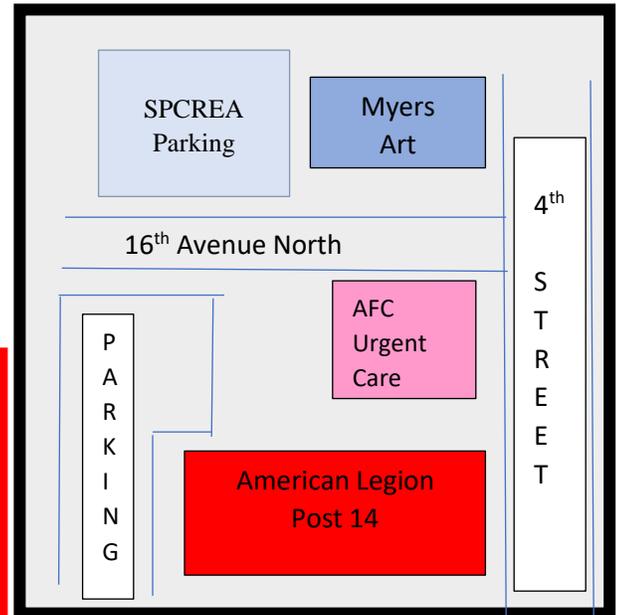
AMERICAN LEGION LUNCHES

Cuban Sandwich, Chicken Caesar Salad, Turkey Sandwich, no more hot dogs

Meals will cost less

Drinks are \$1.00 & you pay the server

Project Cheer for January included a donation of school supplies. Items needed are – back packs, pencils, pens, markers, small rulers, glue sticks, erasers, crayons, notebook paper, highlighters, and colored pencils, Cash and checks will also be appreciated. Bring your January donations to the February meeting. Donations for the month of February will be Happy Workers Day Care. Preschool books and supplies are always greatly appreciated.



President Elect Report – Pat Davey & Jan Wallis Program Planning 2021 - 2022

Celebrate the Art of Living Well this year with our planned programs!

This has been a transitional year with once again dealing with the Covid virus and its various variants. We are hopeful that the American Legion staff is well and we can proceed with our February 10 meeting at the American Legion. If not, then our presenter, Joni Kerr, will join us via ZOOM. Whatever the venue, please join us at the February 10th meeting.

Thursday, February 10 American Legion Post 14 1520 4th Street N, St. Pete

The Art of International Teaching

Enjoy Joni Kerr's presentation as she shares her experiences teaching abroad. (See under pictures)

Thursday, March 10 American Legion Post 14 1520 4th Street N, St. Pete

The Art of Self Actualization

Interested SPCREA members will share their passions in a show and tell format with our membership. Remember how much fun you had with your students when it was show and tell time? Well, now is the time to duplicate that fun feeling. Share your passions and accomplishments in a variety of formats. Brenda Schulz will open our program by introducing her book and sharing her journey in its birth. The floor is then open to any members who have an accomplishment to share, whether it is a hobby, a second career, or special event or project. If you have items you wish only to display (we know there are cross stitchers, photographers, clay artists) you can display your wares for members to see at their leisure.

Thursday, April 14 American Legion Post 14 1520 4th Street N, St. Pete

The Art of Critter Cultivation

Suzy Wilburn, ambassador, outreach, and recruitment from Southeastern Guide Dogs, will present an overview of the amazing dogs and people that provide such a valuable service and resource to visually impaired folks.

Thursday, May 12 American Legion Post 14 1520 4th Street N, St. Pete

This meeting will feature a salute to our veterans as well as the installation of officers for 2022-2024.

Meetings will combine convening at a designated location and/or logging on for a virtual meeting with ZOOM. To receive a Zoom link, please contact Paula Walker at 727-656-2843 or pmcwalker1@mac.com.

PROJECT CHEER -- Kathy Drouin

We will again be **collecting school supplies** for our students to replenish supplies used 1st Semester. These were for January. February is designated for Happy Workers Daycare.



We are collecting drink tabs for the Ronald McDonald House at All Children's Hospital. We will have a donation jar at all meetings, so please save your tabs from drink cans, soup cans, tennis ball cans, or other sources. They will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House. They are sold and the funds are used to support children in need of care.



COMMUNITY SERVICE – VOLUNTEER HOURS – Pat Davey

FREA Mission: To encourage community involvement

through Volunteerism and Literacy Projects

Have you submitted your hours yet?

SPCREA Volunteer Hours for:

Name: _____

Hours volunteering for SPCREA _____

Hours volunteering with children _____

All other volunteer time _____

Total volunteer hours _____

Send your volunteer hours to
Pat Davey at

stingraydavey@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP – Paula Walker

Even though we are starting to have meetings inside, I am going to try to have our future meetings on Zoom also. If you would like to attend the meetings, please email me at pmcwalker1@mac.com or call me at 727-656-2843 before the meeting and I will email you instructions plus the link to the meeting. Please type Zoom in the subject box so I will be sure to find your email.

Dues are now due for the 2022 – 2023 FREA/SPCREA Year:

I am sending out reminders to members who have not renewed their dues yet. Please let me know if you are not planning on renewing for 22-23. A copy of the membership form is in the newsletter. Please send your membership to Jim Moore at the address on the form. He will apply dues to your membership and then forward the form to me. I will change your status in the database. You may contact me via email at pmcwalker1@mac.com or by phone at 727-321-1788. Thank you for your assistance, Paula Walker, Membership

Change of Address Form: Have you moved lately or changed your phone number or email? If so, please let us know so we can send newsletters, information, and the directory.

If you know of a member who is ill or has passed, please contact Paula.

(727-321-1788)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Mail to Paula Walker, 3600 15th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713 OR send to

pmcwalker1@mac.com

For Your Information: SPCREA Committees

Membership – Paula Walker

Volunteer Services (Community Service & Literacy) – Pat Davey

Information Services Information, Protective Services, & Health Care - Marcia Lork

Retirement Planning – Jan Wallis

Legislative – Wanda Dudley

Nominations – Vicki Coleman

Bylaws – Vicki Coleman

Benefits Committee (Insurance)

Cultural Affairs – Phyllis Hand

Newsletter – Gail Weston

Publicity

Historian- Newsletters & Minutes

Thought for the Day – sign-up

Project Cheer – Kathy Drouin

Music – Jackie Thornton & Nadine Johnson

Hospitality/decorations – Gloria Drouin

FREF – Wanda Dudley

Sunshine

Thoughts on the Art of Organization

Bob Busch provided members in attendance at the January meeting food for thought in organizing affairs for themselves or others. In keeping with the first of the year tradition of evaluating and keeping stock on how one is doing, a recent email from FREA provides an article from AARP titled “13 Things to Throw Away Right Now” Hopefully this summary will inspire you to monitor those closets, cabinets and any storage that we now use.

The article emphasized these items and areas to inspire us to minimize, organize and delete:

1: **Anything that doesn't add value:** Why you might want to downsize is highly individual. As Fields Millburn explains: “Understanding the why behind simplifying gives us the leverage we need to begin to let go and helps us understand what is excess.”

2: **Just-In-Case Items:** Those things that we keep for later on needs that as we look back never get used. Probably the only exception would be to keep your first aid kit handy in case of an emergency.

3: **Photos and paper:** If you have a trove of duplicate photos or just bad ones, coupons or mailers, bills and statements you can get on line, old newspapers and magazines and things you have ripped out of magazines. (I am guilty of having a box of magazines and recipes that I brought down from Illinois in 1998!!! Decided this is the year they get tossed. That beef wellington for two is probably not going to be needed. I can now google it.)

4: **Actual trash:** Just empty those trash cans, throw away that junk mail collecting on your counter and shred those documents you keep piling up to shred one day.

5: **Damaged items:** Yes, it is easy to hang on to things broken or damaged with good intentions. All that Tupperware that has all those missing lids need to be chucked.

6: **Extras/duplicates:** Things in this category, all those extra cups, handbags, sunglasses, spoons, wire whisks, etc. You can think of many more.

7: **Stuff you never use:** We have all had many years to collect items in this category. If you don't use something and it has been around for longer than you want to remember, good to pass it on. This includes books we have read.

8: **An abandoned hobby (or one you never started):** Materials we have that sit quietly in drawers and boxes that we have put away never to touch again. Great to contribute to schools, senior centers, or to another person who is active in that hobby.

9: **Items from a past phase:** No pet anymore, but the bowls and leashes are still here. Clothes worn during your past career but does not fit with your current life style.

10: **Anything expired:** Food, medications, make up. A great project to do every year.

11: **Things that bring up bad memories:** If an item doesn't make you feel good, best to get rid of it.

12: **Clothes that don't fit:** We all have plans to get back into that smaller size. A great way to organize your closet and donate items to others who can use them.

13: **Digital clutter:** Overhaul your email and texts. Unsubscribe from sites no longer of interest. Clean out your inbox.

Make this new year a cleaner, leaner one by letting go of stuff that crowds out the good stuff in our lives. Share your success in future newsletters. Your success may spur others to succeed also. Jan Wallis

Nomination Time – We Need Help/Input

The holidays are behind us and it is time to focus on filling vacant positions on the SPCREA (South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association) Board for 2022 - 2024. This means the Presidential gavel will be turned over to the very capable Jan Wallis and Pat Davey. I am sure that all will agree that Cheryl DiCicco and company have done a masterful job of leading our group over these last two turbulent years. For that we are grateful.

Now it is time for someone to rise up and volunteer to step into the shoes of Jan and Pat as President-elect. You can do it by yourself, or you can share the responsibility with someone else. I know we have people in our organization who are willing to perform the duties of President-elect. I know we have people in our organization who would enjoy the opportunity to generate programs for the monthly meetings (with lots of support and suggestions from others, trust me, that's true) and preside if the President is unable to attend a meeting.

We also need a volunteer for the Corresponding Secretary position. When advised, this individual will send thank you cards, condolence cards, etc. to SPCREA members. This may be a way for you to support our group in the comfort of your own home.

Please take a moment, look inside yourself, can you make a commitment to either of these positions? "Seize that day and do something your future self will thank you for." Notify Vicki Coleman or any other Board member (email addresses listed in this Newsletter) if you think you would enjoy the opportunity to serve our group.

SPCREA January 13th Zoom Meeting



Top Row – Paula Walker, Jan Wallis, Cheryl DiCicco, Wanda Dudley
Second Row Gail Weston, Brenda Schulz
Third Row – Pat Davey, Jackie Thornton, Vicki Coleman, Marilyn Pena
Bottom Row – Jim Moore, Bob Busch, Phyllis Hand

More Pictures

Jackie Thornton was honored at the January Beta Omega meeting for her 40 years of membership and service. She is a dedicated and valued member in whatever organizations she serves. Her membership with SPCREA is 25 years. Her recent contribution to both organizations is her music. Thank you, Jackie, for providing the members with the musical interludes that sets the tone for our meetings.



Thank you, Bob Busch for your informative presentation on The Art of Organization



Joni Kerr will relate her experiences as an international teacher and share some of her adventures in the various countries in which she has taught. As Joni shares her experiences with different cultures and customs, we will learn what it means to be a citizen of the world and teach a classroom full of multinational students.

By sharing her international experiences, she hopes to show how connected the people of the world are and in turn, hopes to encourage others to travel and possibly work in other countries in order to experience different cultures themselves firsthand.

**SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
TREASURER REPORT**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE as of 11/30/2021		\$2545.30
INCOME		
State dues	35.00	
Local dues	50.00	
Uncategorized	119.00	
Meeting on 12/9/21	222.00	
TOTAL INCOME: 11/30/2021 – 12/31/2021		\$426.00
EXPENDITURES		
Newsletter(printing)	15.75	
Meeting on 12/9/21	230.00	
State dues	175.00	
FREF	10.00	
Legislative advocacy	8.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 11/30/2021 – 12/31/2021		\$438.75
CHKNG ACCT BALANCE on 12/31/2021		\$2532.55
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE 11/30/2021		\$2072.69
Interest Earned	.06	
50/50 on 12/9/2021	70.00	
Silent auction on 12/9/21	208.00	
SVNGS ACCT BALANCE on 12/31/2021		\$2350.75

Present funds for local scholarship: \$1618.98
Respectfully submitted,
Jim Moore, Treasurer

If you have money for Jim Moore, Treasurer, please put it in an envelope or attach a note to it so he knows who it is from and what it is for.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS – Phyllis Hand

Technology for Seniors ?

The event that never materialized is something I'm hoping to coordinate for the new year.

Gratefully, Phyllis
(727) 328-1410 or (727) 295-8475
handnhand90@gmail.com

Free CoVid home test kits

This is the link for the at home test, if you are interested. Just click on the site address and then fill in the form and submit it.

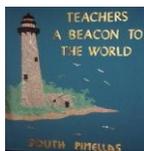
<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Shown below is the application for SPCREA. Please complete the entire application.

All information is **CONFIDENTIAL**

THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS **JULY 1ST THROUGH JUNE 30TH**

PLEASE CHECK THE LABEL ON YOUR NEWSLETTER WHICH INDICATES YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS



South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association Membership Application

2022 - 2023



Unified Dues: \$45.00 Annually – July 1 to June 30		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of Membership	General Member - Circle One: Retired School Teacher/School Administrator/Support Staff/Other:	
FREA Benefits are fully available to ALL FREA members be they Regular or Associate.	Associate Member Associate: Any person supporting the mission of the Association may apply for associate membership. (Associate members may not vote as a delegate.)	
Circle One: Miss, Mrs., Ms., Mr., Dr., Other	Date:	
Your Name:	Spouse's Name	
Mailing Address	Apt./Condo	Telephone—Cell phone preferred ()
City	State	Zip County
E-mail address:	Your Month/Day/of Birth:	
School District Retired From:	Year Retired	Position Retired From

SPCREA and FREA are your advocates regarding your pension and the future of education in the State of Florida. Would you like to support our efforts on behalf of all present and future Retired Educators, and other beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System like First Responders, etc.? This money will be used in a non-partisan way.

Yes, I would like to support FREA's Legislative Advocacy: \$ 4.00

Yes, I would also like to make a tax-deductible donation to Florida Retired Educators Foundation: \$ 5.00

Unified Dues for July 1—June 30: **\$45.00**

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **SPCREA (South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association)**
Mail to James Moore 4688 8th Ave N St Petersburg, FL 33713-6115

Have questions? [Contact Membership Chair Paula Walker at pmcwalker1@mac.com](mailto:pmcwalker1@mac.com)

SPCREA has many active committees. All of our committees welcome new people, ideas and /or suggestions.

The work of the committees listed below is explained at our meetings.

Please indicate your interest in one or more of them by checking the line by the committee. The chair will contact you personally.

Volunteer Services		Information Services		Newsletter	
Hospitality/Sunshine		Legislative		Photography (Historian)	
Project Cheer		Name Tags		Retirement Planning	
Phone Tree		Membership		Publicity/Social Media	
Cultural Affairs		Nominating			

South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association
4688 8th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713-6115

Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Thursday, February 10th

11:00 AM

American Legion Post 14

1520 4th Street North

Encourage your retired educator friends

to join our group!

Bring a friend to our next meeting!

Want to know more? Visit the FREA website at www.frea.org



**Find us on
Facebook**