

# The Publication Dedicated to Retired Florida Educators & School Personnel



# FREA BULLETIN

Volume 49, Issue 1

Spring 2022



**Anne M. Fagan**  
FREA Executive Director

What could be more fitting for FREA's theme this year than the joyful picture below? We may not have ballroom danced our way through COVID, but we have learned how to tap dance, by going virtual, hybrid, and all those other words that used to belong to the millennials.

Quiet strength. Our President, Nancy Hosie, has continued to lead FREA in the right direction, following the hard-to-fill footsteps of those who came before her; yet creating

some new dance steps of her own, to cope with the challenges she is facing. She is grace under pressure and FREA has not missed a beat. We are blessed to have had her as our leader. And we are doubly blessed to have such a rich slate of Nominees for our future. Want something done? Ask a busy person. Our Nominees certainly give truth to that saying. 2022 Convention? Lots of info inside.

## Dear Members

Less than two years ago, I wrote my first column for the FREA Bulletin as President of the Florida Retired Educators Association. I wrote from my "office" and addressed the precautions we were planning to deal with our meetings for the remainder of 2020.

Now, I compose my last Presidential column from the same office. I did not expect that I



**Nancy Hosie**  
FREA President

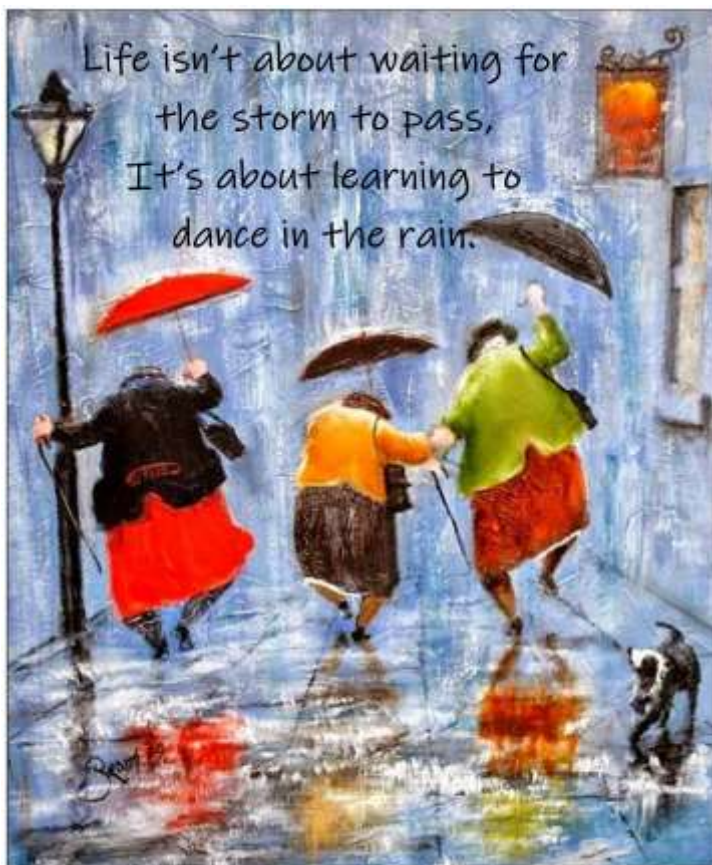


would preside over or attend so many more meetings from this chair, than from an in-person location. The FREA organization came together and met the challenges of conducting business safely. Members, unit leaders, FREA Board of Trustees, FREA Board of Directors, and our remarkable FREA office staff worked diligently to use a variety of virtual or hybrid programs. Thank you all for your dedicated creativity to make that happen.

One thing that I regret is that we were not able to arrange October Symposiums on a District level. There were excellent virtual programs offered, but I greatly missed the personal contact of visiting your units in your district.

There are innumerable people whom I want to thank for their support during my term as President. But I will use this space for a more personal thank you. In September, my husband Andrew was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. After a round of doctor appointments and testing, it was determined that immediate chemotherapy was the best course of treatment. FREA duties of Symposiums, Webinars, legislative visits, and such things took a back seat to the duties of caregiver. VP Elect Edwinna Williams, Executive Director Anne Fagan, and Membership/Accounts Diane Lynch never missed a beat. All that was needed was done and more. I cannot thank them enough. Also, thanks to those who have

Continued on page 2





Continued from page 1 Nancy Hosie

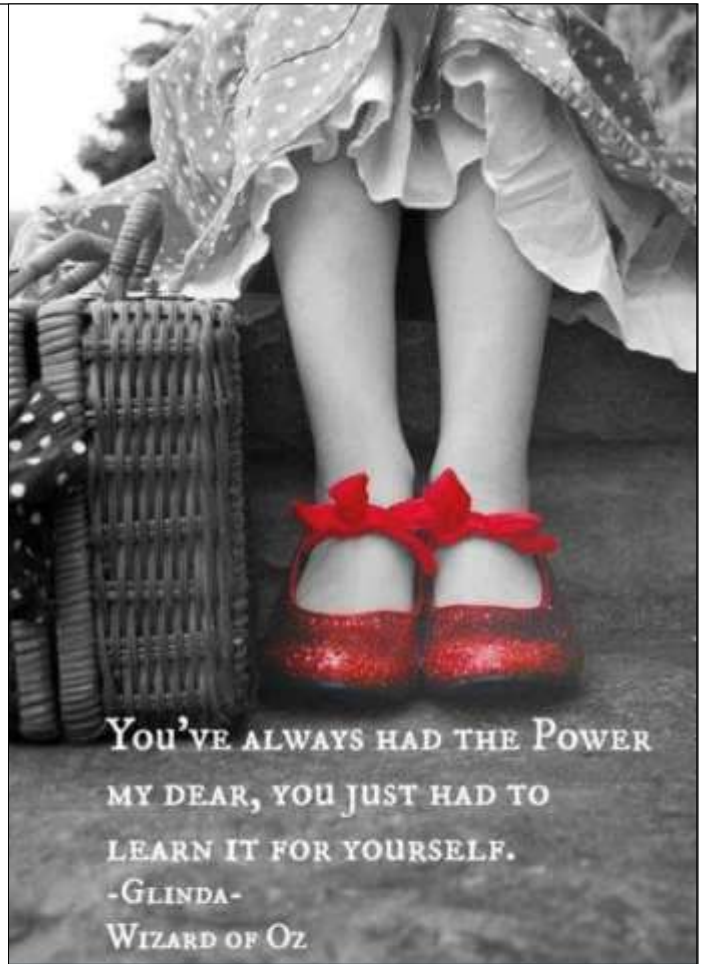
reached out with well wishes, prayers and happy thoughts. We are more than halfway through treatment with positive progress and some setbacks. We stay in our "bubble" but have had our celebrations, little and big, including our 47th anniversary. Knowing that the FREA team has my back is a blessing.

FREA will be meeting in Orlando in May for Convention 2022. We will celebrate being able to meet again, and with our Benefits Partner AMBA, celebrate an FREA milestone: FREA's 10,000<sup>th</sup> member. I encourage you to take advantage of the special hotel rate and extend your stay. Use an extra day or two to enhance your time in Orlando by visiting any of the many attractions available. Sea World is only a short walk out the back gate of the hotel property!

The Wizard of Oz story is our convention theme; this is a metaphor for the importance of working as a team. But please remember that this theme also shows the POWER of an individual. You have POWER to influence legislative issues that are important to you. You have the POWER to contribute to your communities through your volunteer activities. You have the POWER to promote the FREA mission.

Thank you, FREA members, for your support throughout the past two years. Thank you for your work for FREA. I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Nancy Hosie*



### **'National Take a Hike Day' Basket November 17**

#### **Rules:**

**Baskets must be self contained.**

No extra parts or pieces please. Remember, whoever wins them has to get them to their car.

**Minimum Value: \$50**

**Unit Name, "Day of" name and calendar date, and contents, must be readably displayed.**

## **Back by Popular Demand! There are lots of National "Day of..." Left!**

### **Celebrate Every Day "National Day Of..." Basket Contest for FREF 2022 Fundraising.**

You've seen the goofy 'National Day of' Holidays on the news.

- National Apple Pie Day
- National Dance Like a Chicken Day
- National Hot Dog Day
- National Twilight Zone Day
- National Buttermilk Biscuit Day, etc.
- National Chocolate Day.
- National Hole in My Bucket Day

Have your Unit pick your 'Day of' and make a basket for the FREF Fundraiser at Convention this year. Think of the bragging rights (and money), you will have by winning one of our 3 categories:

#### **Tastiest Basket**

#### **Quirkiest container**

#### **Best Combined 1 Day 'Days of' Basket.**

E.g. on May 13th it is National Crouton Day, National Apple Pie Day, and National Fruit Cocktail Day and...National Frog Jumping Day. Some days have 7 or 8 'Days of'. Use a minimum of 3 and have fun!

**List of 'National Day Of' is available on the website or from the Office.**

**(You can still do National Holidays: 4th of July, Thanksgiving, etc.)**



Karla Brogdon  
FREF Chair

### Can you use some extra cash? Of course you can.

You have a chance to win between  
\$100—\$600.

For just \$10, you earn two chances to  
**Win**

the following cash prizes:

\$500 1st Prize

\$300 2nd Prize

\$200 3rd Prize

**Plus \$100 Cash Prize to a winner in each FREA District**

**Between now and May 1st**, buy tickets through your local Units,

Or if you are a Member at Large, contact the FREA Office to  
purchase with your credit card.

**Tickets will not be sold at the Convention,**

**Deadline is May 1st, so don't delay, Get your tickets Now!**

Proceeds go to fund the Florida Retired Educators Foundation



## Your FREF Donations at Work 2022 FREF Scholarships and Practicing Educator Grant Winners

Name	District	FREA Unit
Bailey B.	1	Walton
Kylie L.	6	Pasco
Jose M.	6	Hernando
Cierra H.	7	Charlotte
Emily L.	7	Sarasota
Railynn B.	8	Lake
Flory-Anne E.	8	Orange
Adeline H.	8	Seminole
Kassie D.	9	Martin
Gabriella B.	10	Broward
Jermiah C.	10	Dade
Julesa V.	10	Palm Beach

**You did it!** Thank you to all our FREA Units for getting out the information regarding the M. E. Grein Practicing Educator Grants. This year I received fifteen {15} applications, the most ever. In addition, the projects were incredible, ranging from owl pellets to drones to welders. Projects that ranged from ancient art forms to cutting edge robotics and gaming. And...applications came in from all over the State.

How is the winner picked? I prepare the applications for the FREF Trustees, and at their March Meeting, the Trustees choose the winning applications. This meeting was on March 14. And the winners are...

**Christina L., from Hernando County**, who will be using the PE Grant "to purchase two stand-alone tetherless virtual reality (TVR) systems, several educational software applications to operate within the VR system, and 5 tablet stands for existing tablets being used with augmented reality cubes (Merge Cubes). These items will be used in special classes in media daily by 120-150 students, 700 students every 5 weeks. The TVR systems would run not only free educational applications such as "The Anne Frank House" and "Mission ISS (International Space Station)" but also purchased applications: "Ocean Rift", "Titans of Space" and "National Geographic Explorer" among others."

**Kristen F., from Citrus County**, explains her project: "In an effort to provide a variety of STEM experiences, I aim to create an extension to this lab called the Gaming Lab. The goal is to entice students to use the services the media center provides more frequently. The Nintendo LABO kits are STEM based projects that students can access using a Nintendo Switch. This way students feel as if they are playing a game, when in reality they are planning, creating, building, and coding projects. The primary goal of this project is to make students feel that learning can be fun."

We look forward to seeing the results of their grants!

Thank you again to all Units for all of your efforts.

Marie Grein



Marie Grein  
FREA Past President  
P.E. Grant Administrator



## Build a "They Continue to Care" Legacy

for your departed loved one.

When loved ones pass, family members may donate to FREF in their memory. (i.e. include in obituary, "In lieu of flowers, please donate to FREF".)

The loved ones legacy will live on in the Foundation.

**FREA = 10K+  
AND GROWING**

**TALLAHASSEE,  
CAN YOU HEAR  
US NOW?**

## There's Strength in Numbers...And Our Numbers Are Getting Much Stronger!

Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) has enjoyed astonishing successful growth during the past few years. From just under 7,000 members in July 2019, FREA membership is now over 10,000! Let your Florida legislators know they need to take notice: FREA is growing at a greater and faster rate than every other retired teacher/educator/school employee in the nation. They DO NOT want to mess with our pensions!

Membership recruitment is a never-ending project, but we would like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible success we're enjoying, thank all who have supported FREA over the years, and welcome all our new members.

As you know, every member we recruit strengthens our ability to safeguard the Florida Retirement System. Did you also know that every membership dollar that members contribute to FREA also enables us to expand our support of public education, better promote volunteer services to our communities, and produce more information and benefits to serve the needs of all Florida retired educators? It's true. FREA is stronger, and can do much more in service to our communities today, because of YOU!

### Creating A Successful Recruitment Strategy

Recycling membership recruitment tactics of the past will only get you the same old results. In July 2019 we chose to take a new direction and establish a partnership with Association Members Benefits Advisors (AMBA). AMBA works with over 70 active and retired educator and public employee associations across the country. In addition to providing benefit programs that help their partner associations' members save money, and further secure their retirements, AMBA works closely with the association leaders to help them strengthen their organizations and increase their local Unit Membership also.

Collaborating with our partners at Association Members Benefits Advisors (AMBA) and their marketing team at Vilocity Interactive, we're employing new ideas and experimenting with new tactics. Among the tactics, social media and email campaigns have been incredibly successful. Direct mail pieces have also achieved a new level of success, thanks to creatives that understand our audience and how to connect with them. So, in addition to our members, we want to thank AMBA for all they have been doing to help us grow.

We are planning to mark this special occasion, FREA membership crossing over the 10K mark, by identifying and honoring the individual who sent the dues payment making him or her our 10,000<sup>th</sup> member. Announcements on this will occur at their upcoming Unit event in April, and at our FREA Convention in May. Stay tuned and, again, thank you for your membership support!

### ***FREA SPRING 2022 Membership Moment***

Are you in the Loop? Can we find you? Staying connected to FREA and all they have to offer our members is vital to supporting the Mission of our organization.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**You can update your own contact information on the FREA website [www.frea.org](http://www.frea.org) to get started.** Click on the Members Only section and log on. You will need to have your Member # to use the Member Only section and only you (or the FREA office) can make changes. Your Unit Membership Chair will be able to share your # if you can't find it...it's on the Member Status Report she can request from [diane@frea.org](mailto:diane@frea.org). Or contact the office. A Current phone # and email address is especially important for those in Unit leadership positions.

**Any current report form you need is available on the Unit page of our website.** Please destroy any old forms you may have. Unit member passings should be reported directly to FREA [diane@frea.org](mailto:diane@frea.org) as soon as you become aware. The old blue forms are no longer in use.

**The Unit Meeting and Officer Contact Form should be updated by your Unit President** when your New Officers are installed. Please include an email for each leadership position. If a unit leader does not have email it would be helpful if you can provide an alternate unit email so that information will get to your units in a timely manner. Individual position changes should be sent to FREA [diane@frea.org](mailto:diane@frea.org) as they happen.



Jody Scruggs  
FREA Membership  
Chair



## Strength in numbers: There's a New Tool in the Legislative ToolKit

- Did you know there are over 225,000 education and school personnel retirees drawing a pension right now?
- Did you know that education retirees make up the largest percentage of the Florida Retirement System (FRS)?
- Did you know that FREA represents all of these people as we fight to keep the FRS Pension Fund strong?
- Did you know that when you walk into a legislators office you now have a tool that will allow you to say, "I am here representing (this many thousand) retired education employees in (this) County?"

Yes, that tool now exists and can be used by every FREA member or person who is interested in making a substantial impact when they contact their legislators. Imagine walking into your Legislator's office or sending an email, or calling and being able to say: "I am here advocating on behalf of 12,000 (or whatever the number is), of your constituents who are retired education employees, and I want you to know that the Florida Retirement System is one of the healthiest and best-funded pension funds in America. You need to leave it alone."

How do you find out your numbers? We can mail them to you, or you can go to [www.frea.org/legislative](http://www.frea.org/legislative) and click on the link to the FRS Retiree Numbers List document. You can download it, add up the numbers for your area, and go make a difference!

The best defense is good offense. Truer words were never spoken when dealing with the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Pension Fund and the Florida Legislature's never-ending attacks on it. We have talked in the past about how we need to get into our legislators ears and educate them on the fact that the pension fund is just fine, and they should LEAVE IT ALONE.

How do you do that? We have put together a wonderful resource page for you on the website. You can utilize these resources to call or visit your legislators and present them with facts and figures, not just emotion. Emotion is good while you are there, but having tangible evidence to email or leave behind, strengthens your argument. Below are just a few of the tools. More can be seen, downloaded and used, on the Legislative Page on the FREA website:

[www.frea.org/legislative-advocacy](http://www.frea.org/legislative-advocacy)



### District Director Nominee for District 4

Margaret Williams received her undergraduate degree in Voice Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music- Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore Maryland. She was a featured soloist with the Baltimore Symphony and the Orlando Symphony and Chorale as she was completing her Graduate degree in Music Education from the University of Central florida.

Margaret was an adjunct professor for Elementary Ed teachers while at UCF. After moving to Citrus County, Margaret taught Vocal Music for 23 years- 6 years at CRHS and 17 at LHS. During this time, Margaret held the position of District Chairperson for

the Florida Vocal Association where she was the choral clinician and judge for numerous competitions. The Lecantonettes were renowned in the state of Florida as well as the south eastern states. They performed for the Governor in the rotunda of the Florida Capitol building and received many first place and other honors.

Margaret has had numerous private voice and piano students. During her last 11 years at Lecanto, Margaret taught ESE English-Reading and was the Literacy Coach for LHS while teaching the Reading Endorsement-On-line FOR-PD course. She also was the Faculty Advisor for the LHS Kiwanis Educates Youth for 32 years. Margaret has been the Music Director at Crystal River United Methodist Church for 36 years.

Margaret has been president of the Citrus County Retired Educators for 4 years, and served as FREF Trustee for District 4 since 2017. She currently holds the honor of Florida District Key Club Zone M Administrator and is Lt Governor Elect for Kiwanis division 8. She is President elect of Epsilon Sigma Alpha- Alpha Gamma Chapter and Easter Seal Jr. Chairperson Elect. Margaret is the Mission Chair for the Gulf Central District of United Methodist Women, Margaret is currently the Education Chair for the Crystal River Woman's Club. She is married to her husband Gary for 51 years, and they have 4 children, 2 of whom are Citrus County Educators, Plus US Army Major stationed in Afghanistan, and one in Musical Theatre in Winter Park, Florida.

# FREA



## KEEPING AN EAGLE EYE ON YOUR PENSION

FREA State Co-Chairs  
Mr. Larry Carmichael  
Ms. Linda Edson

District 1  
Ms. Donna Harper  
Escambia CREA

District 2  
Ms. Linda Edson

District 3  
Ms. Leanne Karstedt

District 4  
Ms. Janet Hayes

District 5  
Ms. Melissa L.  
Borghorst

District 6  
Mr. Robert S.  
Stephens  
Ms. Valeria Stephens

**Your  
2022  
FREA  
Legislative  
Committee**



District 7  
Ms. Susan L. Darovec  
Mr. John Darovec

District 8  
Mr. Jay Joseph  
Ms. Lois Joseph

District 8  
Ms. Carrie Frye

District 9  
Ms. Felicia Bruce

District 10  
Mr. George Ellis

District 10  
Past FREA President  
Mr. Roger Cuevas

District 10  
Ms. Evelyn Odom

District 10  
Ms. Sue Colton

**AARP**  
Florida

**NRTA**  
AARP's Educator Community

**Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Legislative Team, without your donations these Legislative visits, voicing your concerns, would not be possible.**

On February 1 and 2 the FREA Legislative Leadership Team went to the Capitol in Tallahassee. During this time, almost all Senators and many Representatives were personally visited by our members. Our pension fund seemed to be safe from interference or change for this year, but we wanted to be pro-active and reinforce with our Legislators the value of our pensions. We also met with Lamar Taylor, the new director of the State Board of Administration. He was appointed, on Ash Williams' recommendation, by the Governor. It is hoped that he will be permanently assigned this position.

**Again, our pensions were safe for this year**, although there was talk about asking employees to put more money into the investment plan. If you follow the bills being voted on, you notice funding, teachers, subjects taught, school boards, and public education are being considered for change. As a result of these changes and the pandemic, many retirees are thankful they are no longer working, and many working teachers are leaving the profession. To help with the teacher shortage, a bill has been introduced allowing any person with an honorable discharge from military service to teach for 5



Linda Edson &  
Larry Carmichael  
FREA Legislative Co-Chairs







years. These people do not need to be certified teachers, nor do they need training in classroom management or subject area teaching.

It is important each person call their elected officials and let them know how you feel about public education and the decisions being made. November is a big election



year and an elected official's main goal is to be re-elected or to get their party elected. This puts you in the driver's seat. FREA is non-partisan, we advocate for our FREA Mission and our Legislative Priorities, not for a party or a candidate. **You have the responsibility to be an informed voter. Remember your vote counts!**



**Photo captions:** Photo on facing page:

The 2021-2022 Legislative Committee met with Representative Williams and took the opportunity for a group photo in the chamber of Representatives.

Top left: Strategy meeting on the top floor. Jay and Lois Joseph, Roger Cuevas, Joe Mathos, and George Ellis.

Top right: Edwinna Williams, Donna Harper, and Felicia Bruce met with Senator Doug Broxson.

Left: The Committee meets in their room in the Capitol to talk over how Day 1 went, and plan for Day 2.

Lower left: Still working even into the last evening. Led by Linda Edson, Edwinna Williams looks on as George Ellis illustrates, the new verbiage from the Legislative

Committee to be used in the upcoming year. Below: The Committee enjoys a well-deserved relaxing moment led by Roger Cuevas. Sue Colton, Edwinna,

Melissa Borghorst, Felicia Bruce, Susan Darovec and George Ellis.





Cecelia Solomon

## INFORMATION SERVICES – SAFETY

Cecelia Solomon, FREA Information Services Chair

This article continues the series on Safety. Protecting passwords and being prepared for an emergency were topics of previous articles. Today's subject is Safety at Home. This issue has been on my mind for months and, before I could write this, it was the focus of an FREA-AMBA webinar. I was thrilled to listen and now share what I learned.

We all are aware that falls at home are a huge problem, with rugs and

bathrooms being the main culprits. The Seniors Matter website lists five problem areas: Slips and falls, Fires, Electric shock, Medicines and accidental poisoning, and Improper lighting. (See <https://www.seniorsmatter.com/safety-issues-for-the-elderly/2491957/>) These areas and more were addressed in the webinar, which you can view at [www.frea.org](http://www.frea.org), along with the rest of the Manic Monday Webinar Series.

Bob Busch, a volunteer for AARP, presented *HomeFit*, a program based on a 36-page guide with tips and suggestions room-by-room. The guide has worksheets, videos, and an App – all for FREE.



<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/housing/info-2020/homefit-guide.html>

Many of you may have been told by doctors to install a bar in your bathtub. I doubt they meant the first photo (1), so...let's consider the use for which they were intended:

Bob recommended having the grab bars professionally installed (2), as the ones with the suction cups (3) do come loose. My husband and I use the suction cup grab handles, but do check them before each use. We



1



2



3

also keep one in son's home, for when we visit, and there is one in my travel bag. After hearing the HomeFit presentation, it is time to put installed shower bar on the home improvement list: New roof: check, dryer vent cleaned: check, installed shower bar – next.

I will say the suction grab handles have been very helpful getting in and out of bathtubs, but the installed ones will add another layer of feeling secure in our home.

Please consider sharing the *HomeFit* guide at a meeting and with family and friends. Safety first for all!





**Mrs. Harriett Jenkins**  
**President-Elect Nominee**

## FREA President-Elect Nominee

# *Harriett M. Jenkins*

Harriett Jenkins is recognized as a great woman of faith and service-giver to our community. She is a victorious example to all of God's people through her commitment and dedication to the upbuilding of God's Kingdom. She firmly believes; "What You Make Happen for Others, God Will Make Happen for You".

Mrs. Jenkins is a native Floridian, born in Jacksonville, Florida and raised in Fort Pierce, Florida. She came from humble beginnings and raised by Godly parents, the late Reverend Jessie Snelling and Mrs. Bernice Snelling. The golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", was modeled as the mantra of her household.

Harriett is an alumni of the Fort Pierce Central High School Class 1975 mighty Cobras. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Barry University, Miami, FL, in Business Administration and her Masters' Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

For over 32 years, Harriett Olivia Jenkins served the youth of St. Lucie County as a Teacher of Elementary Education, Consultative Specialist, Assistant Principal and School Principal. Throughout her career, Harriett Jenkins has been recognized as Teacher of the Year, St. Lucie County Teacher of the Year Zone Finalist, Ida Baker Distinguished Minority Educator of the Year, St. Lucie County Distinguished Minority of the Year Zone Finalist, and National Philanthropy Day Honoree. She serves in numerous capacities and leadership positions throughout the Treasure Coast School District, and Business Community.

Harriett Jenkins is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, holding numerous State and National certifications and was recently selected as a Zeta 100 honoree. Harriett has served her sorority in numerous capacities and roles including Chapter President, Financial Secretary, Centennial Chairperson and Zeta Amicae Auxiliary Chair.

Since retiring in 2010, Harriett has been an active member of (FREA) Florida Retired Educators Association, serving as Unit Volunteer Services Chair, District 9 Volunteer Services Chair and currently as FREA State Volunteer Services Chair and FREF District 9 Trustee. Harriett's local membership is with the (SLCREA) Saint Lucie County Retired Educators Association where she works and strives to make a continual difference in the lives of students, educators, and community. Harriett is grateful to have received the 2013 and 2021 Unit Volunteer of the Year awards from (IRCREA) Indian River County Retired Educators Association and SLCREA respectively and was acknowledged as the 2021 District 9 FREA Volunteer of the Year.

Living by example, Harriett is a Born-Again Christian and faithful member of Greater Mount Pleasant Primitive Baptist Church, Fort Pierce, FL. There she willingly serves as Adult Sunday School Teacher, Deaconess Board member, Matron Auxilliary member, Pastor's Aid Committee member, Inspirational Choir member and Voices of Praise member. She also serves as President of the East Florida District Primitive Baptist Association Choir, Women's Congress President, Education, Scholarship and Theme Committee Chair, and Oratorical Contest Director.

Harriett is the devoted wife of Deacon Elvin Glen Jenkins and blessed mother of five beautiful children: Tramayne, Tanisha, Elvin II, Robert and Portia; and seven gorgeous grandchildren: Tramayne II, Destiny, Serenity, Genesis, Darnal Jr., Bryce and Ryann.

Harriett Jenkins appreciates the unique opportunities to touch the lives of so many and looks forward to blazing new trails in upcoming years. Her beliefs are in the total word of God and that with God; all things are possible. She encourages others to expect a harvest when you put your trust in God because "blessed" are they who steadfastly do His will.

## Please Join Us!

Convention Registration Forms for General Attendees, Delegates, and Trustees/Board Members, are all available online on the FREA website:

[www.FREA.org/Convention](http://www.FREA.org/Convention) for download,

or you can use our secure Online Registration.

Don't use technology? Not to worry. Call the FREA Office and we will mail you your registration form complete with instructions and planning timeline.

[info@frea.org](mailto:info@frea.org) or 727-577-6400

# FREA Convention 2022

**"Coming together is a beginning,  
Staying together is progress,  
Working together is success."**

*Henry Ford*

**DoubleTree By Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld**  
**May 24-26**



# Which Character Will You Be?



## Convention 2022 is going to be a Wiz-bang of a good time!

On Tuesday Night we will be doing a Picnic Dinner and a Movie with a big screen showing of the Wizard of Oz, complete with checkered tablecloths, a picnic dinner, popcorn machines, and lots of bad-for-you candy.

On Wednesday night we all follow the Yellow Brick Road to Oz for a Kansas Down Home BBQ Buffet with over 20 food items, and complete with Wizard of oz Trivia Game, Costume Contest, Karaoke, and Dancing.

Costumes can be main characters, but who could forget the Lollipop Guild , Flying Monkeys, Lullaby League, or the Green Gate Guard? It's time to let your imaginations run wild!





DOUBLETREE  
BY HILTON™  
ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD®



# RESORT MAP



Restroom



ATM



Fitness  
Center



Hot  
Tub





All meetings will once again be held in the DoubleTree Conference Center.

Convention Attendees may request one of 3 types of guest rooms:

- Tower Room in the Tower Conference Center (Elevator Available)
- 1st Floor Garden Room (with patio)
- 2nd Floor Garden Room. (No Elevator)

No Guest Rooms will be in the Family Area. Evaluations from last year were given to the hotel, and those rooms will no longer be used by our group due to distance from meetings and excessive noise.. That is why the Tower rooms are now available.



Harriett Jenkins  
State Volunteer  
Services Chair  
Large (MAL).

## Frequently Asked Questions: Volunteer Services

**Volunteer Services News Alert!** What a wonderful time of the year to reflect and share Volunteer Services Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

*(VS denotes Volunteer Services.)*



### **What is the primary objective of Volunteer Services (VS)?**

To encourage volunteerism and the reporting of volunteer hours by all FREA unit members and Members at

assigned District VS Chair **by March 15<sup>th</sup>** who will send it on to the State VS Chair for data collection.

**What time frame are VS hours counted?** Your VS hours reflect hours served from January – December.

**If I volunteered less than twelve (12) months during the year, should I still record and submit those hours?**

Yes, ALL VS hours are valued and should be counted in your Total Unit hours.

**Is each reporting FREA member counted on the VS report?** Yes, each member who submits VS hours is counted and recorded on the Unit VS Report.

**Should the District Volunteer of the Year (VOY) Judging Criteria be used by the Local Unit as a guideline when completing the VOY nomination form and selecting their winner?** It is the discretion of the local unit and its VOY committee to create their selection method. The District VOY Judging Criteria Form is used by the District VOY Committee in determining the District VOY winner.

**Are all VS forms and information updated on our [www.frea.org](http://www.frea.org) website?** Yes, all online VS forms and information are current.

**What should be submitted to the District VS Chair by March 15<sup>th</sup>?** The Unit VS Report, Unit VOY Nomination form with attachments, and one 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest winning entry with Cover Page, student photo and updated home address should be sent to your District VS Chair.

**When should 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers and/or schools be contacted regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest?** Contact all school officials at the beginning of the school year to encourage their participation and solicit support.

**What is the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay topic?** Students must describe an experience or experiences with a grandparent (s) or grandparent figure (s).

**What prizes are awarded to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest winners?** The State Winner will be awarded \$150.00 and a poster of their winning essay. Second and third place winners also receive the poster, and receive \$100.00 and \$50.00, respectively.

**When must District VS Chairs reports be sent to the State VS Chair?** District VS Chairs must submit their reports to the State VS Chair by **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**Should the District VS Chair complete the VS District Chair Reporting Form when submitting all VS district reports?** Yes

**When is the VS District Chair Reporting form due to the State FREA VS Chair?** By **April 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **What is the primary objective of Volunteer Services (VS)?**

To encourage volunteerism and the reporting of volunteer hours by all FREA unit members and Members at

**How many FREA districts are in the state? There are 10 (ten) FREA districts in the state.** Each district and its local units are listed online at [www.frea.org](http://www.frea.org).

**What does REA mean on the Individual Member VS Hours Report form?** "REA" means Retired Educators Association.

**What if my area doesn't have a unit, or I don't belong to one?** You may submit your hours on the Unit VS Form found on the website. Just fill in and send to the Office. It will be counted in its own category as MAL.

**What services qualify for volunteer hours?** Any unpaid services to individuals, groups, or entire communities qualify for volunteer hours.

**What are some examples of services that qualify for volunteer hours?** Tutoring, judging at science fairs or spelling bees, hospital service, personal help to the disabled, church-related work, serving with: Retired Educators Associations, civic committees and boards, the board of a literacy council, mentoring to high at-risk youth, preparing training materials for a workshop or program, preparing for a scholarship fundraiser, reading to clients at a nursing home, these all qualify for volunteer hours.

**Does time spent caring for family members qualify as volunteer hours?** While time spent caring for family members is important, these activities are family obligations and would not qualify as volunteer hours.

### **How should I record my volunteer hours each month?**

First, follow the instructions of your local Unit VS Chair. Second, if you need the Individual Member VS Hours Report form and/or other volunteer services forms, they are located online at [www.frea.org](http://www.frea.org).

### **When should I submit my volunteer services hours to my local Unit VS Chair?**

VS hours should be submitted as per the requests of your local Unit VS Chair. Some preferences include the following: Submit your hours monthly, quarterly or at the end of the year. Most importantly, each FREA member should keep an updated ongoing record of their VS hours available to submit if asked.

**When are local unit VS reports due to District Volunteer Services Chairs?** All VS reports are due to your

**What is our motto? "To serve, not to be served"**



# WHY DO PEOPLE VOLUNTEER?

**18%**



volunteer for a cause  
that **relates to their family needs.**



**20%**

consider volunteering  
part of their life **philosophy.**

**21%**



volunteer to  
**help their community.**

**23%**

want to learn  
**new skills.**



**26%**

volunteer to  
**meet new friends.**

**28%**

have **spare time.**



**32%**

**believe in the cause**  
they are  
volunteering for.



The main reason?

**KINDNESS!**

**48%**

of volunteers do it  
because they want  
to help others.

## Why Do FREA Members Volunteer to be Officers, Board Members, and Trustees?

On page 5 and the two following pages, are 6 Nominees for varying offices inside FREA. These individuals are either running for a first term, or agreed to run for the next term. FREA By laws determine the length and how many terms the Board and Trustees serve. Our State Officers are chosen to serve by the President -Elect to be on their team. They serve for the length of the President's term.

Just like you, the Board and Trustees are volunteers. They do what they do for many reasons: To honor those who started this organization in 1954, and believe in the FREA Mission; to ensure that FREA continues its fight to keep the Florida Retirement System sound and thriving; to help the organization grow and move into the next chapter of its service to members. There are many reasons.

How difficult is it to be a Board or Trustee member? It's a little work, but then again, it is work they enjoy and find fulfilling, so to quote the old bromide "work at what you love and you will never work a day in your life" must be at play. They have the freedom to not volunteer and not be a Trustee or Board member. They give of themselves until they are ready to pass on the baton, or until their time is up. Can you be a Board member or Trustee? Absolutely. Speak with your unit officers, contact the Office. Let us know!

### FREA Executive Committee

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District 9 Nancy Hosie  
[nankwh@aol.com](mailto:nankwh@aol.com)

President-Elect  
District 1 Edwinna Williams  
[edwinnarae@gmail.com](mailto:edwinnarae@gmail.com)

State  
Director District 8 Kim Stutsman  
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District 7 Phyllis Omilak  
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Treasurer  
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Executive Committee Representative 6-10  
**Cathy Thompson**  
[cthompson13@cfl.rr.com](mailto:cthompson13@cfl.rr.com)



### Trustee Nominee for District 1

**Bonnie Justice** started her higher education goals in 1975 at the University of Western Florida, and then continued on to her Masters at the University of Florida until her children were born. 2 daughters: Lottie and Lorrie.

Her degree is in SLD K-12, and Elementary Ed 1-8 and she taught for 34 years in Several counties: Suwannee, Escambia, and Santa Rosa. (Ed Note: I do not know what the acronyms mean, so they are as written, presuming that FREA members will know because this is your vernacular. Please address all questions to Bonnie.) Her subjects were: SLD Resource, self-contained VE, and she was the :“North End Unit” for EH/VE with emphasis on Adjudicated

Felons and students with Emotional/Behavioral Issues. All academics. She retired as the Department Chair and ESE Teacher.

Bonnie is a member of Santa Rosa CREA, is very active in her Unit, and has served as: Secretary, Historian, and Social Chair. She assists with luncheon set-up and clean-up, food drives, judging the 5th Grade Essay Contest, Scholarship Auction, Plant Sale, and many other tasks. For FREA, she has been several times: the “3rd set of hands” that have been needed at Convention, plus being a reader for the Memorial Service, and serving as a Host upon the request of State VS Chair Harriett Jenkins.

In Bonnie’s words: “Because I did not feel worthy to be an educator, to stand among the ranks of those for whom I still hold the utmost respect, I became a geology major. I love the earth and its breathtaking splendor! Then, while on a glacier-hiking field trip in Canada, I had a stunning and unmistakable revelation to become a teacher. My desire was to work with the “underdogs” and I got my wish! I had an amazingly blessed career that enriched my life. I simply cannot imagine having done anything else!



### Trustee Nominee For District 3 (2nd Term)

**Carson Ealy, Jr.**, Retired from Gadsden County School District Quincy, Florida with 38.5 years of teaching experience in Mathematics, Physics and Reading.

Carson earned both his Bachelor of Science, and his Master of Science Degrees from Florida A&M University. He served as the Science Department Chair teaching Biology, Physics, and Reading – High School.

He was FREA District 3 Director and is the Gadsden CREA Treasurer, Chair of Volunteer Services and Information Services. Carson is nominee is for his 2nd Term as an FREF Trustee.

In 1996 and 1997, Carson was named the Gadsden County Teacher of the Year. He also worked as a Peer Reviewer-DOE, Florida League Teacher. NCATE/DOE Site Visiting Team for

Stetson University-DeLand, Florida, and Gadsden County Coordinator of FAMU – NASA MASTAP Project



### Trustee Nominee for District 4

**Sandra Doughman** started her education career once she finished raising her 2 children. For 20 years her subjects included: Elementary, ESE Inclusion, Middle School, District Reading Specialist, Intensive Reading and Language Arts: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th grades, ESE Inclusion, Drop Out Prevention: 4th Grade. When Sandra retired, she was teaching Intensive Reading and Language Arts for the 6th Grade.

Sandra is a very active member of the Citrus CREA Unit and has served as: President, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Chair, and Newsletter Chair. She recently organized a thrilling CCREA project, promoting the Margaret Poppell Literacy For Life Program. “Our CCREA unit came together (joining with our local Education Foundation and Library Friends)

and gathered books, sorted, labeled, and put the word out for teachers that books for their classroom libraries were available as well as teacher instructional materials.” She also spearheaded a Membership Drive at the local Alzheimer’s Walk plus other ideas in the works to promote membership.

In Sandra’s words: “For me, an unusual happening was after my youngest graduated high school, I didn’t handle “Empty Nest” very well. Although I was working in and had a strong background in business (formerly an owner), it just wasn’t satisfying and I was led to go into education. Having had my AA before marrying, I jumped into completing my Bachelor’s in Education, Master’s in Educational Leadership and National Board Certification. While doing the degrees, I traveled into a whole new realm of life: teaching!”





### Trustee Nominee for District 5

**Bettye D. Pittman** was born in Moultrie, Georgia to James Daniels and Mary Kitchens Daniels. She is the seventh child of twelve children, and the mother of 4 children: Valerie, Frederice, Christopher, and Synethra.

Bettye's education path began at the Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida, Bachelor of Science, and continued with the Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia, where she attained her MA in Science Education. In addition, Betty also holds, from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida, a Masters of Divinity degree, a Certification in Guidance, and an AS degree in Mortuary Science, among other. She retired from Paxon Middle School as the Guidance Department Chairperson.

Bettye's affiliation's are many. She is a member of: Duval CREA, FREA, EWC Alumni Association, Atlanta Alumni Association, Former member of Duval County Teachers Union, Treasurer of Northside Ministerial Alliance Inc., Pastor of St. Luke Holiness Church, President of Live Long and Like It Senior Citizens Club.

Bettye was employed by the Duval County Public School System for 35 years; 2 years at Nathan B. Forrest Sr. HS, and 28 years at Edward H. White Sr. HS. She also served at the Paxon Middle School as a Guidance chairperson for over 4 years and taught 3 semesters at the FSCJ Mortuary Science Program.

In Bettye's words: "Having come from a family of twelve children, I'm the first child to finish high school, college, and Graduate School. During my tenure as an educator, I was the first person of color to teach science (biology) at the N.B. Forrest Sr. HS. (presently named Westside SR HS.). Some of the most outstanding things in my life are being a Keynote Speaker at: the National Convention for Albany State University (several times), in both Florida and Georgia. I also served as the keynote speaker for the pinning ceremony for the Mortuary Science Cass at FSCJ in Jacksonville. Plus spoke at the Sisters of Charity Convention, House of God Saints in Christ (Banquet) and conducted many crusades and revivals within the United States.



### Trustee Nominee for District 9

**Harry B. Williams, Jr.** "To Serve Thee E'er Will Be Our Aim."

Mr. Harry Belafonte Williams has been a servant of Saint Lucie County for over 55 years. His Service covers the entire realm of Family, Faith, Fraternity, and Community. He has been married to his wife Bonita for over 44 years and they have two children and three grandchildren.

He retired from the profession of Education at Fort Pierce Central where he served as chairman of the Math department, team leader, selected as Teacher of the year three times, county zone finalist two times, News Tribune Coach of the year for Wrestling and Football, Treasure coast conference coach of the year, Youth group sponsors award, Omega man of the year three times, Saint Lucie county Distinguished Minority Educator

of the year and Saint Lucie county Teacher of the year.

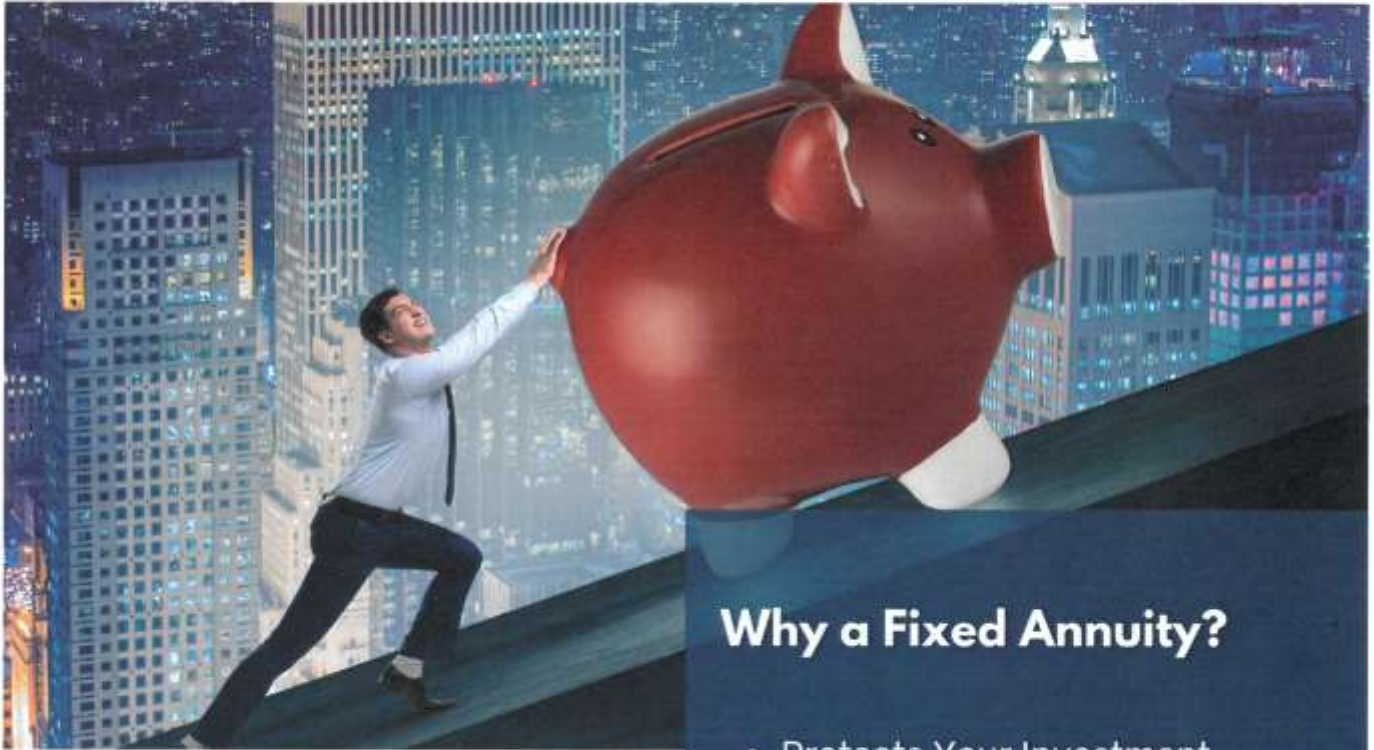
He served as a Eucharistic Minister and a Minister of welcome at Saint Lucie Catholic church and a member of the Knights of Columbus. It is his service to his community through his Fraternity that he enjoys the most. Serving as a sponsor for the Lamplighters youth group demands many hours of service. Adopt a road project, adopt a family project, feed the hungry, college tours, civil rights tours along with countless hours of Mentoring not only the young men in the youth group but countless students as well as adults in his community.

His energy level is tireless as he has served the Florida Statewide Organization of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity as State chairman for several committees.

When he takes a deep breath, he then goes to the park and coaches Little league baseball and continues to Mentor the youth of Saint Lucie county. He continues to enlighten the educational opportunities of students by serving as the President of Saint Lucie County Retired Educators Association. He is a member of the first graduating class of Fort Pierce Central High School. He graduated from Florida A&M University with a BS Degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation with Certifications in Math, Drivers Education and Naval ROTC and has been recognized as a 'Distinguished Alumni' in the category of "Community Service". He is a former Captain in the United States Marine Corp. Mr. Harry Belafonte Williams is a Golden Example of what Service is intended to be.



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# In Memory

November 6, 2021 ~ March 21, 2022

Contact First Name	Contact Last Name	Unit, or if None, Member at Large
Mildred	Brannon	Bay County REA
Barbara	Wilder	Broward CREA
Frances	Welch	Broward CREA
Laraine	Olliviere	Broward CREA
Barbara	Adams	Collier CREA
Nancy	Ashe	Duval CREA
Luvenia	Newman	Duval CREA
Ann	Philen	Escambia CREA
Barbara	Wenner	Escambia CREA
Barbara	Goggins	Escambia CREA
Carl	Madison	Escambia CREA
Leola	Smith	Escambia CREA
Mary Annette	Miller	Escambia CREA
Gwenda-Lee	Loy	Indian River REA
Doris	Cain	Lake CREA
Andrew	Treacy	Martin CREA
Winifred	Walton	Martin CREA
Audrey	Sorrells	Miami-Dade CREA
Benedict	Balser	Miami-Dade CREA
Ann	Crum	North Pinellas REA
Sharon	Turner	North Pinellas REA
Bettye	Dawson	Palm Beach CREA
Ruth	Lewis	Palm Beach CREA
Eleanor	Grudzinski	Pasco CREA
Jim	Myers	Polk REA Unit II
Mabelle	Myers	Polk REA Unit II
Ulysses	Johnson III	Polk REA Unit II
Helen	Lightner	St. Lucie CREA
Mary	Toler	St. Lucie CREA
Nancy	Satchwill	St. Lucie CREA
Bert	Du Bose	
Cornelia	Jones	
Gladys	Burnham	
Michelle J	De Souza	
Victoria	Bailey	
Wess	Bonner	

## Gone From My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore.  
 A ship, at my side,  
 spreads her white sails to the moving breeze  
 and starts for the blue ocean.  
 She is an object of beauty and strength.  
 I stand and watch her until, at length, she  
 hangs like a speck  
 of white cloud just where the sea and sky  
 come to mingle with each other.  
 Then, someone at my side says,  
 "There, she is gone."  
 Gone where?  
 Gone from my sight. That is all.  
 She is just as large in mast, hull and spar as she  
 was when she left my side.  
 And, she is just as able to bear her load of  
 living freight to her destined port.  
 Her diminished size is in me -  
 not in her.  
 And, just at the moment  
 when someone says,  
 "There, she is gone,  
 there are other eyes watching her coming,  
 and other voices ready to take up the glad  
 shout,  
 "Here she comes!"  
 And that is dying...

*By Henry Van Dyke*

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**There is strength in numbers, and FREA needs YOU to make our voices stronger together!**

**We are a Non-Partisan, Non-Political organization. We support those who support our Mission, and include all voices in our membership.**

[www.FREA.org/AboutUs](http://www.FREA.org/AboutUs)

**FLORIDA RETIRED  
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The editor has exercised the privilege of editing Bulletin material where space was limited or when similar information was received.

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## Last Thought

*What ever You must do today,  
Do it with the confidence of a four year old in a Batman cape*

