



email: npcra@gmail.com

North Pinellas County *Retired Educators Association* **NEWSLETTER**



PO Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758

Vol. 47, Issue 5

May/June 2022



An Old-Fashioned Country Fair NPCREA'S Yearly Fundraiser May 10, 2022, 11 am

Annually NPCREA members have a Country Fair to raise money. There are two parts to the fair:

\$10 tickets and \$1 tickets

\$10 tickets give an opportunity to select various prizes. See pg. 11 for a ticket form to be mailed in or brought to the meeting. You **DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT** to win:

Round of golf for 4 plus golf cart at CCC
2 Box seat tickets + parking to Rays Baseball
Red, White, and Blue Holiday Basket
Bansemer's "Book of the Southern Shore" signed
Cheesecake Factory Gift Card \$25
Harp's Pub & Grill Trinity Gift Card \$25
Outback Restaurant Gift Card \$20
Outback Restaurant Gift Card \$20
Happy Moments Gift Card \$20
Happy Moments Gift Card \$20
2 tickets to Florida Museum of Fine Arts (with \$20)
2 Bottles of Wine plus Gourmet Nuts
Cash \$20

\$10 tickets will be pulled randomly by our Treasurer. If you are at the meeting, **YOU** can choose your prize. If you aren't present, our president will choose for you.

In addition, if you would like to donate a prize (value of \$10 or more) for our Potluck Drawing, please bring the item to the May 10 luncheon. \$1 tickets sold at the meeting will give attendees an opportunity to win one or more of these donated prizes. In front of each prize will be a basket for the \$1 tickets. Tickets will be pulled and prizes awarded at the luncheon.

NPCREA is counting on you, our members and friends, to make this year's Country Fair a success.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 4, to NPCREA@gmail.com to reserve your lunch for \$14. Lunch will be a pork barbecue sandwich, potato salad, and baked beans or Par 3 Salad (tuna, chicken, and egg salad scoops). State your preference.

**NPCREA meets at
Clearwater Country Club
525 N. Betty Lane
Clearwater, FL 33755**

President's Corner:



Bob Stephens

As President-Elect, I am writing this column for Mary Lou Kelly, our president. It is because of health reasons that Mary Lou is resigning her position as president of NPCREA. Her shoes will be hard to fill, and I will try to continue the many programs that she has started.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your confidence in me to become the next President of NPCREA. I look forward to leading this unit for the next two years.

The final meeting of the year 2021-2022 will be Tuesday May 10. Information concerning this meeting can be found throughout this newsletter.

The FREA State Convention will be held at the Double Tree Hilton by Sea World in Orlando. I hope you have registered and will attend. The convention is going to be a "Wiz Bang" of a good time. Please see your *FREA Bulletin* for information.

Save the dates! Our Board of Directors is already scheduling events for the 2022-2023 school year. Our first program is a luncheon on August 1 at Capogna's Dugout Restaurant on Gulf to Bay Boulevard in Clearwater. NPCREA will again partner with the Pinellas Education Foundation's "Stuff the Bus" program for collecting school supplies.

On August 10 NPCREA members will enjoy "Breakfast at Tiffany's" while Pinellas County schools open to students. We will help the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center in Safety Harbor supply their members with school supplies. More information will follow.

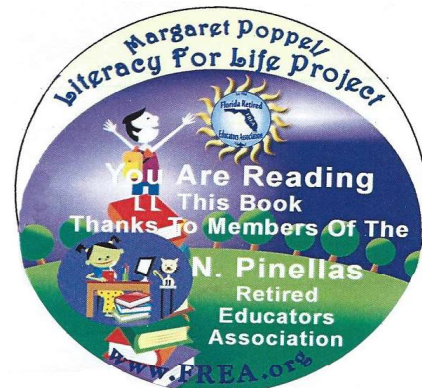
As you can see, there are many opportunities for you to get involved with NPCREA and its programs. I look forward to visiting with you at one, some, or all NPCREA activities.

Bob Stephens

Margaret Poppell Literacy For Life Program

by Maura Hedrich

In 1986 Margaret Poppell may have retired from teaching, but she never retired from improving the lives of others through her love of literacy. That tradition continues with the creation of the Margaret Poppell Literacy For Life Program. This ongoing program is designed to supply new or gently used science, fiction and nonfiction books for Grades K/5 in our area. Pat Dalton and Maura Hedrich have spearheaded the collection this year.



NPCREA members donate books at monthly luncheons/general meetings which are then placed in two "Little Free Libraries" in Clearwater, one located at Morningside Recreation Complex and the other at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. A bookplate is placed in each book, acknowledging NPCREA as contributor of the book.

Ethan Dalton, age 6, recently donated 150 children's books to the free Little Libraries. Grandson of Pat Dalton, Ethan donated 120 fiction and non-fiction books to the library at Morningside Recreation Center, and he gave 30 science and nature books to the little free library at Moccasin Lake Nature Park.



Please consider making a donation of new or gently used children's fiction, science, or nature books. Bring or send your books to the upcoming meetings.

Blackboard Notices



...PATRONS

Please consider purchasing a patron ad, which will help to defray the costs of printing and mailing the bi-monthly *NPCREA Newsletter* and our new member directories. Suggested donation is \$15; make check payable to NPCREA. Send to NPCREA, P.O. Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758-4248.

Current Patrons: Mary Blackmon
 Thomas Crook
 Pat Dalton
 Marie Grein
 Maura Hedrich
 Mary Lou Kelly
 Jane Lee
 Linda McGeehan
 Carole Pope
 Rick Pope
 Barbara Seiler
 Phyllis Walls
 Anne Yeager

...BOOKS NEEDED

Maura Hedrich and Pat Dalton collect books for two Little Free Libraries. They put stickers in every book indicating the book was donated by NPCREA and the Margaret Poppell Literacy for Life project. We are in need of GOOD FICTION and SCIENCE books for children from preschool through 8th grade.

Not only are we putting good books in the hands of our children but we are also advertising NPCREA. Please start filling some bags for us, and thank you for your help!

...UPCOMING DONATIONS

In May, please bring new or gently used items for our annual "Country Fair" sale. We also need gift cards and tickets to local events for our annual "Country Fair Super Drawing."

...BRIDGE-A-RAMA

We play contract bridge at the Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Blvd. in Dunedin, on the second and fourth Wednesdays. On Wed, June 22, we will begin our new six-month rotation.

Currently we have 20 bridge players. We are always in need of substitute players. For more information, call Phyllis Walls at 727.418.7025 or email: wallsphyllis@gmail.com

...PASCO INVITATION

Pasco County REA invites NPCREA members to join them on Monday, June 20, at Fox Hollow Country Club at 11 am when we will meet with teacher, Beth Hess, to hear about her exciting new programs for future teachers.

We'll also meet our 5th grade essay winner and hear her essay; hopefully, our scholarship winner from Pasco County can also join us. Pasco REA meetings are free; if you care to stay for lunch, everyone orders from menus in the Grille at their own expense. Email Jane Lee at wlee315695@aol.com for more details and directions.

At Our March 8 Luncheon

There were 24 members and guests present at the March luncheon meeting. All seemed to enjoy the chair yoga exercises led by Brenda Lee Lehman.



Yoga instructor Brenda Lehman

Cecilia Solomon, District 6 Volunteer Coordinator, showed an Information Tree drawn by her husband. She noted that it shows FREA and FREF, with their many units and districts and connectivity.



Mr. and Mrs. Solomon



Decked out in green derbies and St. Patrick's Day colors, our attendees were practicing yoga

Officers for 2022-24 were nominated and accepted by vote. President Bob Stephens, Vice President Sharon Ozburn, Treasurer Marie Grein, Recording Secretary and Historian Mary Blackmon, Corresponding Secretary Nancy Stoner.



Pat Dalton (pictured above) thanked the wonderful members who donated baby diapers for Kimberly House. Rick Pope volunteered to deliver the diapers.

NPCREA District 6 sent a \$10 memorial to FREF in memory of member, Ann Crum. Others sent a memorial separately.

Marie Grein, Bob and Val Stephens and Rick and Carole Pope attended Ann's memorial service at Holloway Funeral Home, Oldsmar.

At the April 12 Meeting:



Our president-elect, Bob Stephens, led the meeting as our president, Mary Lou Kelly, was not able to attend. Twenty-six members and guests were present. Eldon Weaver, our Volunteer Services chairperson, was also absent, so members were asked to hold their volunteer hour reporting for next month.

Members and guests enjoyed a luncheon of pork tenderloin, potatoes, green beans, roll, salad, and ice cream sundae. Leigh Ann Beauchamp and Gay Gentry won Share the Wealth. Seven attendees won door prizes.

Bob Stephens encouraged everyone to register and attend the May 24-26 FREA Convention in Orlando. He reported 14 teachers in training throughout the state are receiving FREF scholarships through our money-raising efforts. Two teachers, one from Citrus County REA and one from Hernando County REA, received M. E. Grein Practicing Educator Grants this year.

New unit officers will take office in May. Bob Stephens said he needs a President-Elect, who will have two years to prepare for the job of president.

Maura Hedrich gave the Thought for the Day about Earth Day. She introduced Bryan Beckman, Committee Chairman of the Suncoast Sierra Club. He spoke for 30 minutes about recent

conservation efforts by the local Sierra Club. He described the advantages of electric vehicles, solar electric generation, and heat pump water heaters. Primarily, he spoke in favor of using renewable energy sources rather than fossil fuels. He also answered questions from members and guests about renewable energy sources.



Bryan Beckman of Suncoast Sierra Club receives a certificate and a mug from Maura Hedrich of NPCREA



Members donated many towel sets for the Clearwater ARC Committee



Marie Grein, our Volunteer of the Year

Marie Grein Volunteer of the Year

Marie Grein, past president of NPCREA and of our state organization, FREA, has been selected as our Volunteer of the Year for 2021. Shown here in green derby, green hair, and green beads for our March meeting, she currently serves as our unit treasurer.

She has established a student scholarship bearing her name, which FREF awards to deserving high school seniors planning to become teachers. Involved in our education foundation, FREF, she established the two yearly Practicing Educator Grants that fund projects for in-service teachers in the state.

Of the 28 members of North Pinellas REA who reported 3,775 volunteer hours in 2021, worth \$107,738.89 to the state of Florida, Marie was our outstanding volunteer.

Change your lunch plans.

Change a child's life.

Lunch Pals Mentoring- It's easy, fun, and impactful!
Meet with your student in person, virtually, or both, at a school convenient to you.



Our ***students need you now —more than ever.*** You can be the difference in a child's life. Lunch Pals Mentoring is a great opportunity to give back, just 30 minutes a week.

Learn more and register for a [Lunch Pals Workshop](https://lunchpals.org) or scan the QR Code

Visit

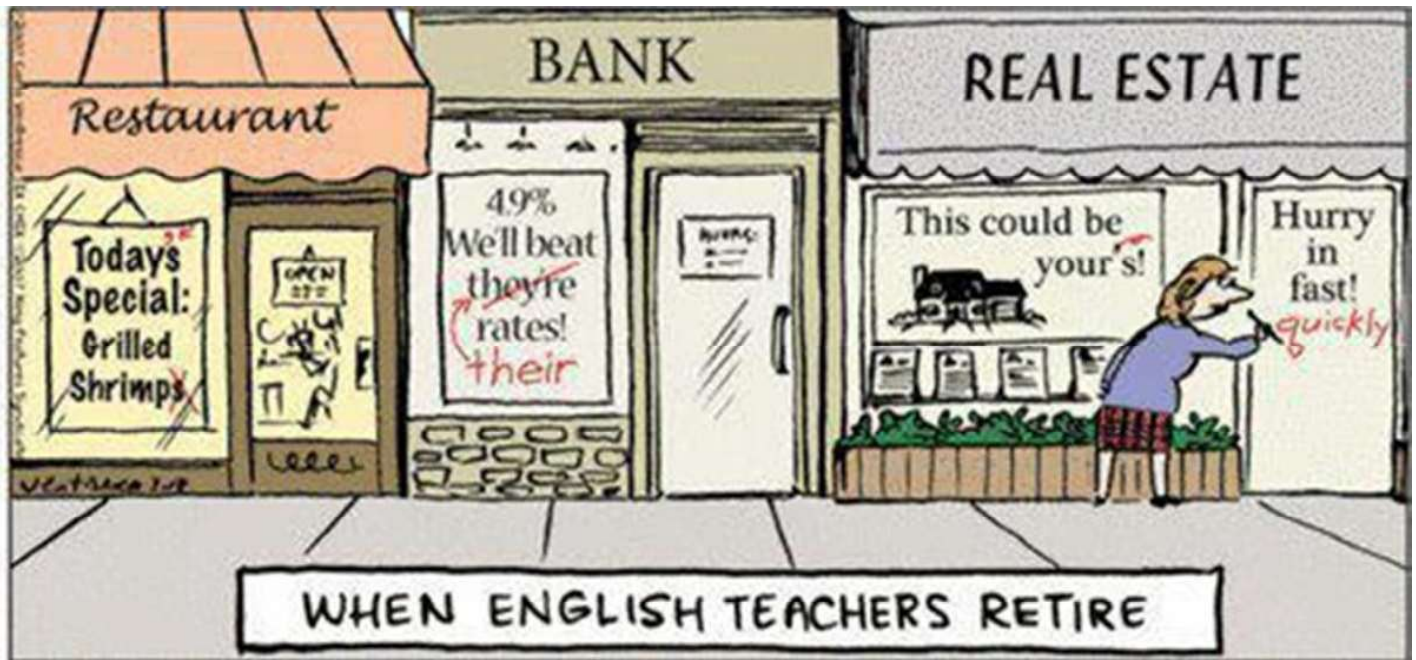
lunchpals.org



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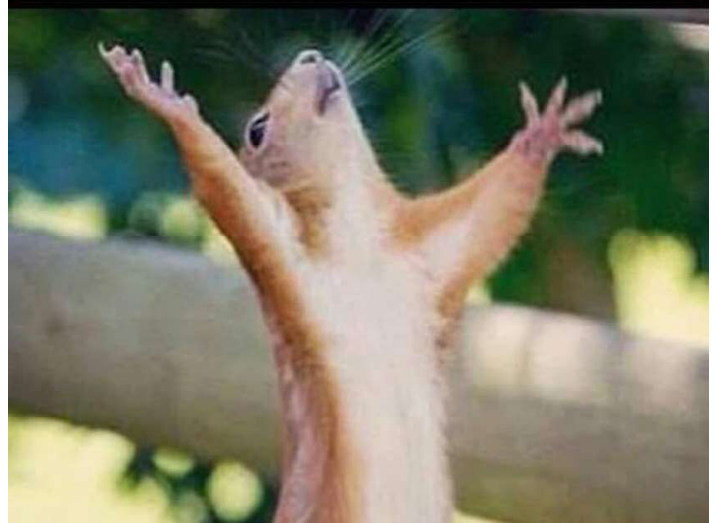


AHHH, THE JOYS OF RETIREMENT



"In appreciation for 25 years of service as a kindergarten teacher, we made you this gold watch from macaroni and glitter."

THAT FEELING YOU GET
WHEN SCHOOL IS STARTING
AND YOU ARE A
RETIRED TEACHER!



PLAN AHEAD

AUG. 1--NOT BACK TO PRE-PLANNING AT CAPOGNA'S IN CLEARWATER

AUG. 10--NOT BACK TO CLASSES AT TIFFANY'S IN PALM HARBOR

(DETAILS IN JULY/AUG NEWSLETTER)

Mayme Hodges Honored



Mayme Hodges (center) at the induction with members Marie Grein and Phyllis Walls

Our past president and longtime member of NPCREA, Mayme Weaver Hodges, was inducted into the trailblazers of the Clearwater Historical Society on Friday March 4.

Mayme was one of eight amazing women who are being honored and recognized for their contributions to the community of Clearwater. The Historical Society's Third Annual Women's History Month Exhibit opened on March 4 with nearly every honoree in attendance

The Society has created an exhibit which "honors women who have contributed to the greater good, recognizing their efforts and dedication in shaping our community." In 1992, Mayme became the first and only African American woman to serve on Clearwater's City Council.

You can learn more about her at the exhibit, which continues until May 31 at the Clearwater Historical Society, 610 S Ft Harrison Ave, Clearwater. Phone 727.754.8019 for more information and directions.

In Memoriam Coach Charles Shank



Longtime member of NPCREA, Coach Charles Shank, 93, passed away April 3, 2022, at his home on Clearwater Beach. Coach Shank taught many years at Clearwater Junior High and later Tarpon Springs High School. Charley was tall, slender and handsome and always dedicated to staying young and active. He is fondly remembered by many of his students and athletes as a caring and dedicated teacher and coach.

After serving two years in the Navy, Charley earned his bachelor's degree from Penn State University. Married to his high school sweetheart, they moved to Florida in the fifties. Charley is survived by his wife, Billie; two sons, Brand and Scott; a daughter, Melinda Juliano; 15 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

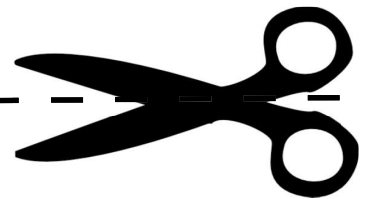
VOLUNTEERING



by Eldon Weaver

For much of my life I was too busy working and paying bills to be overly involved in volunteer work. Sure, I helped with the union charity drives and made sure my kids helped as well, but that was about it. Now that I have more free time, I truly enjoy my volunteer activities and the good people I have had the pleasure to meet and work with. When you do become involved, you begin to see how important volunteers are and how much good they do.

In the last week alone I have seen several news stories on the dire need for volunteers. There are 95,000 non-profits in Florida alone; and even huge organizations like Feeding America, locally Feeding Tampa Bay, are asking for help. This is partially due to growing numbers of food insecure families and people falling below the poverty line. Not all volunteer activities need to be of such an emergency nature. Locally, volunteers are needed in libraries, parks, animal shelters, cultural centers, retirement homes and adult education. Our local schools are always in need of mentors. Running errands for those that can't get out is a great way to help friends and neighbors. Log all your time and turn it in for our yearly totals. Volunteering is the very heartbeat of this country, and helping others is a language spoken around the world.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES REPORT

Name: _____ **Month(s):** _____

Youth

Adult

Retired Educators Assn.

Community/Clubs

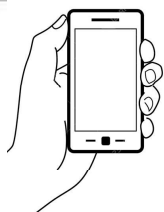
Hospital/Schools

Churches

Friends/Neighbors

All Others

TOTAL



Phone to Mr. Eldon Weaver at 954.895.1073

or email to **pegasus_fl@yahoo.com**

or cut out and bring to the meeting





North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association Membership Application



Unified Dues: \$50.00 Annually – July 1 to June 30

New Membership Renewal of Membership	General Member - Circle One: Retired School Teacher/School Administrator/School Transportation School Maintenance, School Cafeteria. 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	

NPCREA 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

Unified Dues for July 1–June 30: \$50.00

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Florida Retired Educators Foundation of \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: NPCREA (North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association)

Mail to: NPCREA, P.O. Box 4248 Clearwater, FL 33758-4248

Have questions? *Email: npcrea@gmail.com*

NPCREA 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 (Food)		Legislative		Photography (Historian)	
Sunshine		Name Tags		Retirement Planning	
Phone Tree		Membership		Publicity/Website	
Cultural Affairs		Nominating			



Country Fair 2022

During our May 10, 2022 Meeting

At the Clearwater Golf and Country Club

525 N. Betty Lane, Clearwater

A \$10.00 donation makes you eligible to win:

A round of golf for **4** at the Clearwater Country Club

2 Tickets and Parking Pass to one Tampa Bay Rays Baseball Game (Section 120 Box Seats) choose one game: July 13 vs. Boston Red Sox* July 16 vs. Baltimore Orioles * July 30 vs. Cleveland

2 Bottles of Wine (Olema Chardonnay and ED- Cabernet Sauvignon) + Gourmet Nuts

Red, White, and Blue Basket (includes-Flag, banner, Tote Bag, Cut out of USA, Scarf, Napkins, Plates and Cups).

Bansemers Book of the Southern Shore- signed (2003)

\$25 Gift Card to the Cheesecake Factory

\$25.00 Gift Certificate to Harp's of Trinity Irish Pub & Grill

\$20 Gift Certificate to Outback

\$20 Gift Card to Outback

\$20 Cash

1 of 2 – Happy Moments Gift Card*

Redeemable at Cheesecake Factory, Red Lobster, Buffalo Wild Wings and 3 department stores

2 Tickets to the Museum of Fine Arts plus **\$20 Cash**

- Please make checks payable to NPCREA (your cancelled check will be your receipt)
- You can mail your registration form and payment to NPCREA at P.O. Box 4248 Clearwater, FL 33758
 - You do not have to be present to win

Name: _____

Address: _____

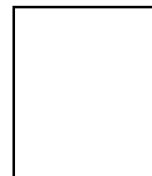
City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____)____-____ Email: _____

Cash: _____ Check #: _____ Received by: _____

North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association is a charitable organization as defined by IRS code 501(c)(4). State of Florida registration number is CH-45274. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free (800) 435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

**NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY
RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 4248
CLEARWATER, FL 33758-4248**



NPCREA OFFICERS FOR 2022-24

PRESIDENT	BOB STEPHENS
VICE-PRESIDENT	SHARON OZBUN
TREASURER	MARIE GREIN
RECORDING SECY.	MARY BLACKMON
CORRESPONDING SECY.	NANCY STONER
HISTORIAN	MARY BLACKMON
TECH SPECIALIST	MAURA HEDRICH

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NPCREA Newsletter is published six times each year by North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association, P.O. Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758. Newsletter staff: Editor, Mary Blackmon, 727-348-0771. Assembly and mailing: Marie Grein. Labels: FREA Office.