



FREA BULLETIN

Volume 49, Issue 2
Summer 2022



Edwinna Williams
FREA President

Dear FREA and FREF Friends,
Our 2022 convention was well attended in Orlando. All, especially those dressed for the "Wizard of Oz" costume night, enjoyed fun times! A special thanks to those members contributing their time and talents to our convention including staff, officers, district directors, trustees, committee chairs, benefit vendors, volunteer greeters, and the many who assisted when called upon. We also appreciate our collaborative partners

AARP and NRTA.

Karla Brogdon and the FREF Trustees raised funds for our scholarships, grants, and emergency crisis fund with the beautiful unit baskets and Extravaganza tickets. You will want to read her article for the details involved in the FREF success. Through FREF we are able to give back to our profession and provide funding for the future teachers in our state. We appreciate your support for FREF..

Our Symposiums are right around the corner in October. On page 5 of this Bulletin are suggestions for "Symposium 2022..." please review the ideas presented. There will be Unit Officer Training and Member Recruitment/Legislative Advocacy Training. I look forward to visiting each district and enjoying your creative presentations and activities. After the virtual July Board Meeting, the District Directors and FREF will have a format for the Symposiums in order to set their agendas. The Convention Delegates approved our three legislative goals presented by Linda Edson and George Ellis, our Legislative Committee Co - chairs. Please reflect on our goals as you talk with candidates. The goals are as follows:

- Restore, enhance and protect retiree Earned Benefits from the Florida Retirement System, (FRS).
- Promote accountability in Florida Public School equitable funding and uniform standards for all educational facilities and organizations that receive state tax dollars.
- Advocate health and welfare issues for seniors that will ensure retirement with dignity; including, but not limited to, support for Social Security and Medicare Benefits, Health Insurance, Cost of Living Adjustment, and Affordable and Accessible Housing.

On a final note, this is a very busy electoral year, with many hot button issues to research and consider as an **informed voter**. It is important to know what a candidate and their respective political party

Continued on page 2

"To Serve, Not To Be Served" NRTA Celebrates 75 Years

As an FREA Member, you are a member of an organization with an amazing history. FREA is a proud member of the National Retired Teacher's Organization (NRTA). Seven years after Ethel Percy Andrus formed NRTA, FREA was formed. For 40 years we have worked together with 49 other state REA's to advocate for past, present, and future, education system retirees.



Anne M. Fagan
FREA Executive
Director

The link below takes you to the NRTA website and an incredible amount of helpful information on subjects ranging from pension advocacy to health updates, to volunteer opportunities and much more.

"NRTA is the seed that grew into AARP. Ethel Percy Andrus founded NRTA: AARP's Educator Community (then known as the National Retired Teachers Association) in 1947 to



address educators' economic challenges and health insurance needs in retirement.

NRTA is America's leading national organization representing the interests of more than 850,000 working and retired educators age 50+. We work with a network of state-based Retired Educators Associations (REAs) across the nation to collaborate and provide strategic support to protect educators' financial security and foster collaboration and volunteerism." (From the NRTA website.)

In September, FREA's President, President-Elect, Information Services Chair, and Executive Director will participate in the 75th Anniversary Celebration of NRTA being hosted in Washington DC. This is a two day event

Continued on page 2

Continued from Page 1 - Edwinna Williams

supports. Ask questions of your Local, State, and Congressional candidates, especially pertaining to their platform on our FRS pensions, Medicare, and Social Security benefits. In our State, there have been many changes in our voting and redistricting process based on the 2020 Census. Make sure you are registered to vote; know where your precinct (or ballot box) is located (many have changed); and if you are registered to vote by mail (VBM), make sure your signature is updated.

From the State of Florida: Use this link to find your precinct's location: [Voter Precinct Look-up.](#)

From AARPFL: Use this link to get the latest voting information in the State of Florida. <https://states.aarp.org/florida/election-voting-guide>

Remember, for many voters, polling places have changed, as well as Florida photo and signature ID requirements. If you have questions be sure to call your county Supervisor of Elections to obtain the right answers, as well as registration deadline dates.

Remember your **Vote is your Voice**. Let's encourage all of our members to have an **informed vote** in 2022.

Our new Board, pictured below, is excited to continue FREA's goals for a united and stronger FREA. Please join hands with us as we strive to recruit new members to enhance our retirement years. I truly value the friendships I have made while working with FREA members. "Fellowship" is a crucial health factor in our retirement years.

Enjoy your summer, your family, and your friends, and celebrate your Retirement Life!



Continued from Page 1 - Anne Fagan

covering a myriad of topics, and also will have workshops and programs designed to strengthen the State REAs. Subjects include Membership Recruitment and Retention, Caregiving, Voter Engagement and Effective Conflict Management in Leadership. We are looking forward to sharing the information and skills gained from this event at the Fall Symposiums in October.

I may not be retired as yet as I love what I do, and I am honored to be here. But I do know, from friends and family, that finding purpose is not easy once you do retire. As FREA members, you do not seem to have that problem. The years of service to your schools, your community, and to others, is in your blood. FREA members give: of their time, their treasure, their energy, and their skills. And you do not stop. Many of our members who have left us live on in the memories of those of us still here. We honor those who came before by continuing to build the legacy of Ethel Percy Andrus: "To Serve, Not to Be Served". Never lose sight of the past, and purposefully continue living fully in the present as you move into the future. Life is a gift, and finding your purpose is a gift, and sharing that gift is the best purpose of all.

"The purpose of your life is to discover your gift.

The work of life is to develop it.

The meaning of life is to give the gift away."

David Viscott

I hope to see you in the Fall at a Symposium coming to a town near you. (Calendar is in this Bulletin and on the [FREA website.](#))



Your 2022-2024 FREA/FREF Officers and Board Celebrating 75 Years of the Legacy of Ethel Percy Andrus "To Serve, Not to be Served."



2022-2024 FREA State Officers and Board are introduced by FREA President Edwinna Williams (at the podium President-Elect Harriett Jenkins is seated at table on stage) from left to right: Karla Brogdon, FREF Chair; Mary Madison, D5 Director; Vicki Coleman, D6 Director; Pat Watkins, D7 Director; Margaret Williams, D4 Director; Susan Darovec, By Laws/Parliamentarian; George Ellis, D10 Director/Legislative Co-Chair; Cecelia Solomon, Information Services Chair; Cathy Thompson, D8 Director; Gayle Hodges, Treasurer; Melanie Waite, Secretary; Anita Schmitt, State Director; Donna Harper, D1 Director; Jody Scruggs, Membership Chair; Diane Bassett, Volunteer Services Chair; Larry Carmichael, Legislative Emeritus; Linda Edson, D2 Director/Legislative Co-Chair.

FREA 2022 - Mission Accomplished

Greetings,

What a pleasure it is to welcome you to a new fiscal year! This year is especially significant as it is an honor for me to serve and commence my new role as FREA President-Elect.

In this season, I have “changed hats” and keenly see broader opportunities for each member of FREA. I am extremely blessed to work with a dedicated T.E.A.M. of executives led by our esteemed Madam President Edwinna Williams. Get Ready, Get Ready! This is going to be an amazing year seasoned with stellar achievements, on-going accomplishments, and new-found relationships within our local units, communities, districts, state, and across our nation. We solicit YOU to join hands with one another as we proclaim; **Together- Everyone- Achieves- More** and teamwork certainly makes the dream work! Each individual FREA member is a unique and viable part of our team, serving individually to collectively accomplish each goal.

As our phenomenal team moves forward, briefly **take a glimpse back** and **reflect** on the numerous FREA accomplishments and milestones reached this past year. (**Reflections** enable us to build our faith for what CAN be achieved because of hindsight if we believe it; thereby confirming the mantra, “You made it happen **then**, you CAN make it happen **now** *because hindsight is 20/20...*”) Let’s keep this trend moving full speed ahead, standing firm with love for each other, standing strong with our focus on each FREA goal, and standing confident with courage to meet our goals. Our FREA history speaks for itself and resounds loudly throughout the State of Florida on many elite levels and platforms. No matter the difficulties, obstacles, or barriers beyond our control, we maintained our focus to cross the finish line. Job well done FREA! Here are a few of those accomplishments that made us proud:



Harriett M. Jenkins
FREA President-Elect

Check Mark - Mission Accomplished

- ✓ FREA Convention 2022
- ✓ FREA Unit Members and Members-at-Large worked together to *Recruit, Retain and Reclaim!* Achieved Record-Setting Enrollment
- ✓ FREA Unit Meetings and Events (Hybrid, Virtually, or Face to Face)
- ✓ FREA Legislative Goals Met and In Progress
- ✓ FREA Unit Members - Election Service and Non-Partisan Political Updates
- ✓ FREA Unit Volunteers - Committed Community Service
- ✓ FREA Volunteers of the Year
- ✓ FREA Volunteer Services Reporting
- ✓ FREA 5th Grade Essay Contest Award Winning Submissions
- ✓ FREA Recruitment and Membership Strategies
- ✓ FREF Trustees and Benefits Presentations
- ✓ FREF Fundraising Events and Ongoing Donations
- ✓ FREF Scholarships and Grants
- ✓ FREA Information Accessibility
- ✓ FREA Unit Trainings and Workshops
- ✓ FREA Symposiums/Workshops
- ✓ FREA Year-Round Visibility in the Community
- ✓ FREA/FREF Teamwork works!

I encourage YOU to applaud yourselves for another successful year of greatness and most importantly, **strategically plan** for even greater in 2022-2023! **The BEST is yet to come**, just watch!

Harriett



FREA Welcomes New Leaders and FREA's 10,000th Member

Convention 2022 had many special and memorable moments. Pictured at left, we welcomed (l) Edwina Williams and (r) Harriett Jenkins who were sworn in as our new President, and President-Elect, by (far left) Past-President Esther Twitchell.



Understanding that it took 9,999 members to get to this point, we say thank you to all FREA members, and also celebrated our 10,000th member, courtesy of the Association of Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). Carol Mauro, of Palm Beach CREA was celebrated as FREA's 10,000th Member and received a check for 10 years of membership in FREA and also Palm Beach CREA, from AMBA. Pictured at right, from left to right: Richard Rowland, Alexander Williams, Carol Mauro, Franklin Hart and Jon Green.



District 1 Director Donna Harper, Escambia and Bay CREAs

Donna's advanced education began with attaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Wesleyan College, and then a Masters in Art Education and Communications from Columbus State University. She taught K-12 and Higher Education Visual Arts, Journalism, Multi-Media, Cinematography courses.

In Donna's words: "Wrote the first curriculum for Fabrics and Fibers course for the state of Florida. Created traveling art lessons for the homeless. Served on the team that created and implemented the first peer mentoring program. Member of Impact 100, Board Member of Achieve Escambia, member of Escambia Children's Trust, member of League of Women Voters, member of both Democratic Women of Santa Rosa County and Escambia County. President-elect Alpha Chapter / Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators. 2022-2024 Member of Olive Baptist Church. In my spare time, I love to read, knit, do needlework, paint, and create tablescapes. But most of all, I love spending time with family and friends. Retirement is definitely a different lifestyle, it's a life of new beginnings and opportunities everyday." She is married with two children and seven grandchildren. Donna also serves as the D1-5 Representative on the FREA Executive Committee, EREA Unit Membership Chair, and FREA District 1 Legislative Chair.

WE ARE HIRING!

VIRTUAL TUTORS

Littera Education is looking for remote tutors!

- 100% remote
- Flexible schedule
- Virtual whiteboard classroom
- \$17 per hour
- USA based students

Click this image or use link below to apply

<https://apply.workable.com/littera-education/>



FREA Executive Committee

President Edwina Williams
Escambia CREA
edwinnarae@gmail.com

President-Elect Harriett Jenkins
St. Lucie CREA
HarriettMJenkins@aol.com

State Director Anita Schmitt
Escambia CREA
anitaschmitt53@gmail.com

Secretary Melanie Waite
Santa Rosa CREA
melanie7896@gmail.com

Treasurer Gayle Hodges
Orange CREA
gayle.hodges1991@gmail.com

Executive Committee Rep. 1-5
Donna Harper
harper2paint@gmail.com

Executive Committee Rep. 6-10
Cathy Thompson
cthompson13@cfl.rr.com

Ex-Oficio

FREA Executive Director Anne Fagan
anne@frea.org



Karla Brogdon
FREF Chair

Thanks to our wonderful FREA members, our 2022 Convention was a huge success. Even though we were still dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic, FREF 's Extravaganza ticket sales brought in approximately \$9300. Baskets for the Dollars for Scholars program were so creative and generous, and they brought in approximately \$1900. Congratulations to all who won, but thanks to you all, FREF was the true Winner!



District Extravaganza Winners

\$100 District Winners	
District 1	Donna Harper—Escambia
District 2	Beth Hickey—Leon/Wakulla
District 3	Nancy Roberts—Suwannee/Lafayette
District 4	Karen Kunz—Citrus
District 5	Nancy Johnson—Nassau
District 6	Mary Frank—Hernando
District 7	Al Rozier—Charlotte
District 8	Gaylia Hammond—North Brevard
District 9	Louise Keefe—Okeechobee
District 10	Ellen Golden—Miami—Dade
\$200—Deborah Mock—St. Lucie (D9)	
\$300—Pam Schwartz—Escambia (D1)	
\$500—Edna Owens—Leon/Wakulla(D2)	



Best Combined 1 Day "Days of" Basket
Santa Rosa CREA

Basket Winners



Tastiest Basket
Bay CREA



Quirkiest Basket
South Pinellas REA



Bob Stephens
FREA Legislative Chair
District 6

Prepare to Vote in Florida

Contributed by Bob Stephens

Legislative Chair - District 6

This information printed from the [AARP Florida Website Election Voting Guide Information](#) page.

Key Dates

★ **Deadline to Register for Primaries**

Monday July 25

★ **Register by mail, in person at your county supervisor of elections or online through the state's portal (registertovoteflorida.gov)**

★ **Last Day to Request a Vote by Mail Ballot**

Saturday, August 13 (5pm local time)

★ **Florida now requires a drivers license number or the last 4 digits of a voters Social Security Number to request a absentee ballot.** The state has cut back on the use of drop boxes, instead of voters being able to drop off their ballots 24/7, boxes will now be monitored by election officials and can only be used during voting hours. Check with your county supervisor of elections for specific instructions.

★ **Early Voting**

Hours and dates vary by county, but must be offered from Saturday August 13 through Saturday August 20, 2022. Check with your county elections office for hours and locations. Bring a Florida drivers license, I.D. card or passport with you.

★ **Primary Day**

Tuesday, August 23.

Polls open 7am close 7pm local time

★ **RACES TO WATCH**

- ⇒ US Senate - one seat
- ⇒ US House - all 28 Seats
- ⇒ Florida Governor & Lieutenant Governor
- ⇒ Attorney General
- ⇒ State Senate - all 40 seats
- ⇒ State House - all 120 seats

Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) is a Non-Partisan, Non-Profit Association.

We advocate to support our Legislative Priorities, not candidates.



The Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization made up of educators, school personnel and citizens who care about public education and the protection of the retiree benefits that are earned through the Florida Retirement System.

FREA 2022-2023 Legislative Priorities

1. Restore, enhance and protect retiree Earned Benefits from the Florida Retirement System.
2. Promote accountability in Florida Public School equitable funding and uniform standards for all educational facilities and organizations that receive state tax dollars.
3. Advocate health and welfare issues for seniors that will ensure retirement with dignity (**empowering people to choose how they live as they age**); including, but not limited to, support for Social Security and Medicare Benefits, Health Insurance, Cost Of Living Adjustment, and Affordable and Accessible Housing.

FREA
8950 9th Street N. #105 ~ Saint Petersburg, FL 33702
www.frea.org ~ 727-577-6400 ~ info@frea.org





Have an FRS Pension? Congratulations! You're Avoiding the Stock Market Rollercoaster.

The Economy and My Earned FRS Retirement Benefits

George Ellis, FREA State Legislative Co-Chair



George Ellis
FREA State Legislative
Co-Chair

We have reached the halfway point in 2022, and if your savings account, 401K, 403B, IRA or Roth IRA isn't performing like you want, you can thank high inflation and the volatility of the stock market. If that's not bad enough, thanks to high inflation, the cost of the things we need to live seems to be going up monthly.

Most of the well-used methods to collect and save hard earned money is down between 7% to 25% so far this year, according to investment money managers. There are also many horror stories about seniors losing larger percentages in the crypto markets and those who have been duped into money losing scams.

But not all is doom and gloom, if you have an FRS Pension defined benefits plan for retirement. What you earned for monthly benefits has not changed at all, and those benefits will continue throughout your life. If you earned years toward retirement before 2011, you receive an annual Cost Of Living Adjustment too. Those earned benefits continue to come regularly and without the fear of lost income. Peace of mind in retirement is a beautiful thing, so thank yourself for making that happen.

Other retirees, those in the FRS Investment Plan (401(k)), are not able to say the same thing. They earned level benefits too, but the money may run out. These benefits are tied to a personal portfolio account that may go up and down with selected individual investments. Remember the money received monthly from an investment plan is really making a withdrawal from your fund account. Given time, the principal will continue to go down, unless the market provides significant gains to offset withdrawals.

All saving programs are good, but many citizens of all ages have not saved, started planning for their future, or for their retirement. Some choices for saving and for retirement are better than others. If you invested in the FRS Pension Fund, you made a good choice. In these stressful times, your Pension earned benefits are a prudent, safe and stable method to rely on.


Who knows what the economy will be like during the second half of 2022, but you can be assured that your decision to work and accumulate FRS Pension benefits was a very smart decision. Congratulations!





KEEPING AN EAGLE EYE ON YOUR PENSION

FREA State Co-Chairs Ms. Linda Edson Dr. George Ellis Legislative Emeritus Mr. Larry Carmichael	Your 2022 FREAA Legislative Committee	District 7 Ms. Susan L. Darovec Mr. John Darovec
District 1 Ms. Donna Harper Escambia CREA		District 8 Mr. Jay Joseph Ms. Lois Joseph
District 2 Ms. Linda Edson		District 8 Ms. Carrie Frye
District 3 Ms. Leanne Karstedt		District 9 Ms. Felicia Bruce
District 4 Ms. Janet Hayes		District 10 Mr. George Ellis
District 5 Ms. Melissa L. Borghorst		District 10 Past FREA President Mr. Roger Cuevas
District 6 Mr. Robert S. Stephens Ms. Valeria Stephens		District 10 Ms. Evelyn Odum
		District 10 Ms. Sue Colton






AARP's Educator Community



BENEFITS STILL FIT?

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from

FREA & AMBA:

- Dental & Vision Plans
- Long Term Care & Home Health Care Insurance
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- Cancer, Heart & Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurances
- Medicare Solutions
- Final Expenses Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance
- Annuity
- American Hearing Benefits (AHB)
- Hospital Stay Coverage
- Discounts on Travel, Dining & more

Learn More: **1-877-556-4582**

myambabenefits.info/frea

FREA - Florida Retired Educators Association





VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Diane Bassett

State Volunteer Services Chair

As many of you who attended the FREA convention in Orlando in May know, Harriett Jenkins has become our President-Elect. I will attempt to fill her exceptionally large shoes as the new State Volunteer Services Chair.

I retired from teaching in 2017, having taught in my native Broward County, Palm Beach



Diane Bassett
State Volunteer
Services Chair

County, and most recently, Sarasota. I spend most of my days doing what I love which includes volunteering (I usually have a tough time saying, "no"!)

I am here to help your district, unit, or individuals with all that is under the Volunteer Services umbrella, including the Fifth-grade Essay contest, recording volunteer hours, and Volunteer of the Year. You will see a few changes on the website including FAQs and forms that can be downloaded and filled in separately by Units and Districts. Please utilize the FREA website for all current unit and district Volunteer Services and Fifth-grade Essay information and forms.

This year, I would like to challenge you to "up" your hours! These are trying times for many families. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities in each of our communities, likewise in each of our schools. Our Information Services Chair, Cecelia, has some awesome ideas for personal note-writing to help boost your volunteer hours and to "make somebody's day." Please take a few minutes to read her column in the bulletin. Additionally, I personally would love to know the wonderful things that your units may be doing in terms of volunteering. You may email me at: LadyDi_1959@msn.com

I look forward to serving you all.

Diane

Last year our members' volunteered hours were worth over \$5.5 million to our State and Communities. Thank you to all who reported your hours, no matter how many or how few. EVERY hour counts!!



0001

Date May 25, 2022

Pay to the
order of

The State of Florida

\$ 5,559,270.93

Five Million five hundred fifty-nine Thousand two Hundred seventy dollars & 93/100 Dollars

Memo

Nancy Hosie

Harriett M. Jenkins

FREA President

Volunteer Services Chairman

0025015752132

524842501

0001



Cecelia Solomon
Info Services Chair

A Note About Notes

“Pen?”



Paper?



Stamps?



Start Encouraging!



Today’s column is a break from the subjects Information Services usually discusses, yet it is a topic that is relevant for every committee member at the local and state level. Let’s chat for a minute about the impact of personal contact and the (almost) lost art of note-writing – putting pen to paper. Yes, email is faster and does make contact easier. Yes, a text is even quicker. Both methods of communication have their place, and I use them daily. Then why bother to write and mail a note or card to someone? We bother because handwritten notes make people feel special.

There are many, many reasons for FREA members to write notes. Arouse an interest in an event, encourage attendance at a meeting, and boost spirits of someone that needs a boost are three of countless reasons to write a note. Personal story: I write notes to our grandchildren before the school year begins. I doubt that they remember my words, but they do remember that they got mail – a “big deal” to kids! It’s a “big deal” to adults too! As a local unit, you might send a hand-written thank-you note to a host, a guest speaker, or to show appreciation for someone’s effort. Some units have a “Sunshine” Committee to acknowledge notable events in their member’s lives, such as loss of loved ones, birthdays, hospitalizations, etc.



Where do you start? Fortunately, there’s a plethora of websites on handwritten notes. A good starting point is [Tons of Thanks](#). One of the articles on this site is [“3 Myths about Sending Handwritten Notes”](#), which is worth the read for some good tips. You may also want to read “Pen, Paper and Sympathy” by Steven Petrow, which was in the April 2021 *AARP Bulletin*. (Yes, it was in the clutter on my desk, and I am so glad it was!) In early June, the daily update from Axios led with the article [“Teachers on brink”](#). This sentence stood out:

“They [administrators] are also asking parents and other community members to send messages of support and cards of thanks.”

On June 23rd, the Axis newsletter had a follow-up article about teachers, [“What Stressed Teachers Want from Parents and Kids”](#)

“Just saying thanks is unusual but provides such a mental energy boost for us when we are exhausted down to our souls!” —Robin G., a high school English teacher in Springdale, Arkansas

These two Axios articles confirmed my belief that a column about writing a note was *important* and *needed*. A note is truly a “small thing” that can make a “big difference” in support of public education in Florida (which just happens to be the second bullet in the FREA Mission statement). I had another thought, “We can all write notes to encourage educators – and it is volunteer hours!” After checking with Diane Bassett, FREA’s new State Volunteer Services Chair, Diane agreed it can count - as long as the teacher isn’t a family member – and that she too is enthusiastic about this endeavor and shared some ideas:

- ✓ Make it a unit project: have teams adopt a school and send cards over the course of the school year.
- ✓ Members may want to encourage teachers at the school from which they retired.
 - ✓ Members could get together after a meeting and have craft time to create the note cards
 - ✓ Local units may opt to buy note cards and envelopes for this purpose
 - ✓ Local units may pay for the postage
 - ✓ Write to former students that have become teachers
 - ✓ Write to new teachers and encourage them during their first year
 - ✓ Use the note-writing to reach new members and missing members (a shout out to all Membership Committees).



The reasons to write a note can be infinite. The rewards can be invaluable!

FREA SUMMER 2022 Membership Moment

Grow Your Unit? FREA has Resources for You!

DID YOU KNOW?

FREA has available some outstanding Recruitment materials, including some that can be *Personalized* for your Unit.

Upon request, the Office can send you:

Posters with Unit Specific Meeting information and contact info.

Packets designed for New Retiree recruitment containing:

- Why Should You Become a Member of FREA?
- Why does FREA Need to Be Strong?
- FREA: Keeping an Eagle Eye on Your Pension
- What is FREF?
- Guide to Your FREA Benefits
- Unit Specific Membership Application Forms: (be sure your contact information on file w/FREA is current). Notify the office of any changes in Unit dues by Jan 1st to be included in FREA invoices accurately. *If you missed the date, let the office know as soon as possible so that they may make necessary changes.*



Jody Scruggs
FREA Membership Chair

The FREA website is also available as a source for items and ideas <https://www.frea.org/unit-forms-unit-contact-info/>. Check out the Unit websites and Face Book pages listed. *Note: If your unit has one posted, be sure your contact info, logo etc. is up to date.*

FREA is a wonderful resource for your unit as you make plans for your upcoming year. Please work with them and allow enough lead time to complete any Unit "individualized" materials you might request. Have a great year and remember to HAVE FUN!

....But Wait, There's More!

Looking for new ideas for speakers? AARP has a Speakers Bureau and the speakers are FREE! Here are just some of the subjects that they can inform your members about:

Florida AARP Speakers' Bureau ~ DIY Kits Available

This is a list of topics members of the Florida Speakers' Bureau offer for presentation in the community. Current health concerns limit presentations to virtual delivery, but if you can't use virtual (Zoom), you can order the materials and utilize Unit members' to present the materials. Contact the FREA Office to see about scheduling and materials.

- **Six Pillars of Brain Health** – Six tips to keep your brain sharp as you age.
- **Making Cents of Caregiving** – A practical guide focused on health, housing, and money management.
- **Prepare to Care** – Learn five steps to creating a caregiving plan and resources available.
- **Downsizing and Decluttering** – Gain an understanding why stuff is so important and learn steps to downsize and declutter.
- **Fraud Watch Basics** – Learn trends in scams and fraud in the con artist's play book. Review prevention and resources.
- **Government Imposter Scams** – Discover the major types of government imposter scams and how to combat these frauds.
- **Home Fit** – Making your home safe and livable for all. Take the home tour and make your place safe.
- **Jump Start your Job Search** – Tips for job seekers to use your skills in a new way. Learn to seek educational opportunities, networking, and resume writing.



Costume Contest: FREA Members Take a Trip Down the Yellow Brick Road

Talk about embracing a theme. Many of the attendees to the 2022 Convention joined in the spirit and dressed in costume. We had lions and witches and yellow brick roads. We had Dorothy's, we had Glinda's and Scarecrows and munchkins and Lullaby League. We had the Wizard and the Tin man, Auntie Em's and Uncle Henry's. We had Kansas City BBQ and music and dancing and we had fun!



Want to see 150+ more photos? They are in an album on the FREA Facebook Page. Want copies? Just copy and paste from FB into your computer.
[Click Here](#)



Teachers and Tutors Wanted!

Looking for meaningful part time work?

Look no further!

Score At The Top is seeking private school teachers and academic and test prep tutors for the 2022-2023 school year!

- Make your own flexible schedule
- Work available in Weston, Coral Springs, Boca Raton, Wellington, or Palm Beach Gardens
- Teachers with all subject expertise welcome
- Compensation starts at \$20/hour

Interested? Please call 954-510-0600 or email resume to CS@ScoreAtTheTop.com

Tutoring ~ Test Prep ~ Courses for Credit
Helping Students
Achieve Their Academic Goals
Hello@ScoreAtTheTop.com
 844-GET-1600 ~ ScoreAtTheTop.com

2022 Fall Symposiums					
Week 1	10/3/2022 to 10/7/2022				
October	3 Monday	4 Tuesday	5 Wednesday	6 Thursday	7 Friday
	District 4	District 5	District 3	District 2	District 1
Host Unit	Citrus	Duval? Awaiting confirmation	Madison	Leon/Wakulla	Bay County
Event location	LeCanto Venue TBD		Madison Public Library 378 College Loop Madison, FL 32340 850-973-6814	Temple Israel 2215 Mahan Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308 850-877-3517	Grace Presbyterian Church 1415 Airport Road Panama City 32405 850-769-4000
Week 2	10/17/2022 to 10/21/2022				
October	17 Monday	18 Tuesday	19 Wednesday	20 Thursday	21 Friday
	District 6	District 7	District 10	District 9	District 8
Host Unit	Hernando	Manatee	Broward	St. Lucie	Orange
Event Location	Silverthorn Country Club 4550 Golf Club Lane Spring Hill, FL 34609 352-799-4653	Bradenton Moose Lodge #1223 310 44th Ave E, Bradenton, FL 34203 941-201-6460	John Knox Village 651 SW 6th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060 954-783-4040	Family Church 115 NE Solida Dr, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983 561-650-7400	Church on the Drive 1914 Edgewater Dr, Orlando, FL 32804 407-843-0140

5th Grade Essay Contest Winners Join us at Convention



It was exciting for Convention attendees to have all three of the 5th Grade Essay Contest winners and their families make the trek to Convention. Pictured here with President Edwinna Williams were (l-r) the first, second, and third place winners. In addition to their cash prizes, they each also received a print of their essay designed for framing. In the background (l-r) are Outgoing Volunteer Services Chair Harriett Jenkins, Incoming Volunteer Services Chair Diane Bassett, and FREASecretary Phyllis Omilak.

FREA District Volunteers of the Year



District Volunteers of the Year for Districts 6,4, and 9

Volunteer Services State Chair, Harriett Jenkins presents Awards to the attending Volunteers of the Year. From left to right: District 6, Sharon Twyman; District 4, Margaret Williams; District 9, Laverne Proctor-Harrison



Green Screen Magic Ed Wainwright Does it Again

Last year, Ed magically took us to Arnold's Diner with his green screen. This year we travelled the Yellow Brick Road, courtesy



of Ed's Green Screen Photography. Because everyone wanted to be photographed in both groups and solo, the lines were long. So, seeing the need, I stepped in as one of our newest members Maria Montealegre, who worked with Ed handling the distribution of printed photos and making sure everyone was taken care of. Ed has already agreed to be in Panama City Beach for Convention next year, and Maria also said that she was looking forward to the event. Plans are underway for organizing this part of Convention so that lines are kept to a minimum and everyone enjoys their experience. A little hint to attendees for next year: Because of our theme this year, our colors were green and gold, for those who did not want to wear a costume.

Well...guess what? Green screen is called just that for a reason. The folks wearing green became disembodied (the Ozians were a real challenge), and the only thing that showed was the portion of their face and body not wearing green. And yes, the green face paint on one of the witches also created a challenge, as you can tell on the photo at right of our very own FREA Coven. Those red dots on the witch in the center are the poppies in the background. The white shining through on the other is the light burst behind her. Whoops. You live, you learn.



Picnic Dinner and A Cinematic Trip to Oz

Tuesday night attendees started their evening enjoying the pre-function Hospitality Hour sponsored by AMBA. They helped themselves to freshly popped popcorn while catching up with old friends and making new. After the picnic dinner, they relaxed at their tables and enjoyed watching the Wizard of Oz, shown on 2 big screens with theater sound. Everyone had a great time as they said the lines with the actors, laughed, gasped (Flying Monkeys are still scary), and cheered. Around the room were posters of hundreds of items of Wizard of Oz Trivia. What is the only color the Horse of a Different Color didn't turn in the movie? Answer:

Brown. They also enjoyed working on the Oz Trivia Quiz included with their registration. (Want the Quiz for a Unit Meeting? Just email the office and ask, telling us where to send and how many you need. Also available online on the Events/Convention page.)



Green Screen, How does it work? Steps 1, 2, 3.



Editor's note: So many names, so many faces, so much fun being had, Oh My! Forgive me for not doing captions this time around, as it is past time for this Bulletin to be published.

Thank you all for enjoying your trip to Oz, and for all that you do for FREA!



Florida Retirement Group

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

October 15 - December 7



**FACE TO FACE
SUPPORT FROM A
LICENSED FLORIDA
AGENT**



**ONE-ON-ONE
REVIEW OF
PRESCRIPTION DRUG
PLAN**



**MEDICARE
ADVANTAGE
ANALYSIS**

It is that time of year again! There could be changes happening to your plan that can affect your coverage.

Not sure where to start?

Help is available online, by phone, or in-person.

Call us at 1-800-595-8891

**FLORIDA RETIREMENT GROUP
IS AN APPROVED BENEFITS PROVIDER
FOR FREA MEMBERS.**



In Memory

March 21, 2022 ~ July 19, 2022

First Name	Last Name	Unit	First Name	Last Name	Unit
Gladys	Lamason	Alachua CREA	Nancy	Erwin	Manatee CREA
Ina	Morgan	Alachua CREA	Joseph	Gilpin Jr	Manatee CREA
Janet	Rou	Alachua CREA	Melinda	Luce	Manatee CREA
Willena	Borgquist	Bay County REA	Carolyn	Steele	Manatee CREA
Luther	Mc Donald	Bay County REA	Maye	Williams	Manatee CREA
Betty	Mc Naull	Broward CREA	Loretta	Stephens	Marion CREA
Frances	Welch	Broward CREA	Larry	Howell	Martin CREA
Virginia	Muth	Charlotte CREA	Robert	Mc Gee	Miami-Dade CREA
Charlotte	Whaley	Charlotte CREA	Johnny	Orr	Miami-Dade CREA
Roman	Schmidt	Columbia CREA	Vivienne	Roth	Miami-Dade CREA
Esther	Barton	Duval CREA	Dale	Gray	North Pinellas REA
Joanell	Blackwelder	Duval CREA	Carol	Egolf	Orange CREA
Dean	Blankenship	Duval CREA	Jeanette	Green	Orange CREA
William	Bosworth	Duval CREA	Sandra	Kelley	Orange CREA
Jennifer C	Butler	Duval CREA	Geneva	Mohrbacher	Orange CREA
Elizabeth	Downing	Duval CREA	Elwanda	Savage	Orange CREA
Stella	Gourneau	Duval CREA	Phyllis	Tacey	Orange CREA
Isabelle	Kelly	Duval CREA	Joanne	Utt	Orange CREA
Audrey	Kelly	Duval CREA	Dollyanna	Webster	Orange CREA
Myra	Pattishall	Duval CREA	Ruth	Kimberly	Osceola CREA
Robert	Porter	Duval CREA	Rosalind	Riser	Osceola CREA
Lee	Robertson	Duval CREA	Myrtle	Clayton	Palm Beach CREA
Irma	Sanders	Duval CREA	Doratheia	Mc Cutcheon	Polk REA Unit I
Emory	Sutton	Duval CREA	Edythe	Hunter	Polk REA Unit II
Zelda	Taylor	Duval CREA	Billy	Helms	Santa Rosa CREA
Camilla	Thompson	Duval CREA	John	Hegener	Sarasota REA
Annetta	Walker	Duval CREA	Elmira	Hall	Seminole CREA
James	Williams Jr	Duval CREA	Joyce	Wagner	Seminole CREA
Bernard	Wright Jr	Duval CREA	Gloria	Cann	South Pinellas CREA
Marie	Diamond	Escambia CREA	Alice	Delaney	South Pinellas CREA
Sueann	Donahue	Escambia CREA	Miriam	Griffin	South Pinellas CREA
Grace	Madison	Escambia CREA	Alva	Osburne	South Pinellas CREA
Willie Mae	Long - Cobb	Gadsden CREA	Mary	Wright	South Pinellas CREA
Charlotte	Price	Gadsden CREA	Hazel	St. John	Sumter CREA
Carol	Douglass	Highlands CREASP			Suwannee/Lafayette
Gloria	Gant	Leon/Wakulla REA	Sherwood	Boatright	REA
Willie	Gardner Jr	Leon/Wakulla REA	Fannie Mae	Johnson	West Jackson REA
Helen	Keaton	Leon/Wakulla REA			
Mary	Meeks	Leon/Wakulla REA			
Hilda	Skinner	Leon/Wakulla REA			
Johnnie	Taylor	Leon/Wakulla REA			

*A life is not
measured by the
number of
breaths we take,
but by the
moments that
take our breath
away.*

Maya Angelou

Members at Large

First Name Last Name

Janice	Amburgy
Miriam	Bilinkoff
Connie	Bingham
Elizabeth	Chudy
William	Cimino
Jacob	Cohen
Alan	Corscadden
Pauline	Davis
Carlton	Edwards
Shirley	Flynn
Perry	Havens
Evelyn	Hershbein
Ann	Huba
Doris	Kelly
Barbara	Lima
Wilma	Nefzger
Miles	Portman
Barbara	Shontz
Howard	Silverman
Edward	Simpkins
Henrietta	Smith
Marvin	White

Florida Retired Educators Association
8950 9th St. N #105
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #100
TAMPA, FL

All FREA Members, General or Associate, regardless of which state they come from, may utilize FREA Benefits.

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

**FLORIDA RETIRED
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

(727) 577-6400

www.FREA.org — info@frea.org

Submissions sent to:

info@frea.org

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

FREA State Office
info@frea.org

Executive
Director

Anne M Fagan

Bulletin Editor - anne@frea.org

Membership
Accounting
Specialist

Diane Lynch

diane@frea.org

A Hearty Thank You from the FREA Office to the 2022 Convention Packing Crew!



North and South Pinellas REA members stepped up again this year and helped with Convention prep. They packed candies, and chocolates, and programs, Oh My! And Slinkies, and pens, and chip clips, Oh My! And papers and schedules and key chains, Oh My! For 2-3 hours they sorted and stuffed and counted, making sure that no one missed out on any of the goodies. There was also the sticker placement for meals, and putting name tags in holders, which is quite the task. Thank you to, clockwise from left: Bob Stephens, NPREA; Anita Shoby and Gail Weston, SPREA; Marie Grein, Phyllis Walls, and Valeria Stephens, NPREA; Jan Wallis, SPREA.