

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

AUGUST 2022

OFFICERS:

President & Website—Paula Marczynski

VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed

Secretary — Karen Philman

Treasurer — Larry Bachle

Volunteer Services—Harriet Bachle

Legislative Representative—Cheri Brodner

Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord

COME JOIN US!

Levy and Gilchrist counties are located in rural north central Florida. The Suwannee River forms the western boundary of both.

We meet on the **3rd Monday** September thru May at **10:30 a.m. at The Trenton Library in Trenton. (note change of venue). We welcome all retired school personnel living in our area, no matter where you worked.**

The Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association is a unit of the state-wide **Florida Retired Educators Association**. Association (FREA) organization.



For the first time we had a table at the Gilchrist and Levy school personnel Opening Days. It was a great opportunity to meet with them, make them aware of our collaborative programs, and to invite them to join us either now as associate members, and/or later as retirees.

Schedule of Events:

- **SEP 19** — Chiefland Playhouse representative (Karen Philman contact)
- **OCT DISTRICT MEETING** — TBD
- **OCT 17** — Baking presentation, Rick Reed
- **NOV 21** — Legislative speakers
- **DEC 19** — Christmas Gift Exchange
- **JAN 16** — (Cora Lord)
- **FEB 20** — **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**, Alphonso Johnson
- **MAR 20** — **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**, Rick Reed
- **APR 17** — **COUNTY SCHOOL UPDATES**
- **MAY 15** — **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
- **MAY 16-18** — **FREA STATE CONVENTION**

AUG

Our August meeting was held at the **Trenton Library** due to loss of access to the Gathering Table. We determined to make the library our permanent meeting site for now.

Since this was our organizational meeting for the fiscal year, we set up a schedule of programs and activities for the year (see Schedule of Events on bottom left of first page).

Since it was so successful last year, we decided to have another quilt raffle this year for our local scholarship fund. Dates have not been determined at this time.

Paula and Rick gave reports on our Opening Day activities for Gilchrist and Levy counties.



L-GREA Activities

APR

We finalized preparations for attendance at the May FREA convention. **Alphonso** will be our delegate and **Paula** will be the alternate. **Karen** provided the basket and some items for the FREF fund raiser; other members will bring items to our next meeting.

We held the drawing for the Scholarship T-shirt Quilt raffle. Members turned in their final ticket entries and money. Excitement mounted as we conducted the drawing on Facebook Live! Congratulations to **Angie McKenzie** who won the gift certificate!

Condolences to **Rick** on the death of his dad.

MAR

After our opening procedures, we had an update from **Rick** on the scholarship applications. The state deadline was missed, but we had a couple of applicants that were considered for our local scholarship. **Paula** had copies of the web page for anyone who needed it. **Alphonso** shared a handout on the legislative issues.

We talked about the scholarship raffle and members turned in the tickets they had sold and the money. Rick stated he was ready for the FB Live next month.

We discussed the convention and reminded everyone to bring in their contributions to **Karen** for the FREF basket. Alphonso was selected as convention delegate and Paula is the alternate.

Rick introduced our 2022 local scholarship winner, **Jordan Douglas** from Trenton High School. Jordan was our guest, along with her parents. She talked about her interests...where she intends to go to school, subject area she plans to teach, etc. She is an impressive young lady and wish her well in her future teaching career!

FEB

We had a very packed agenda this month! First of all we welcomed new member **David K. Rick** and **Sue** reported that due in part to COVID and personnel issues at schools, word was not getting out about our scholarship for prospective teachers. We brainstormed ways to better inform the schools and students. These measures will be put in place.

In the legislative report, **Alphonso** emphasized the importance of writing to our state representatives and expressing our deep disapproval of a toll road through our rural counties. It would destroy farms and farmland, which are major assets to Florida's economy. It would also negatively impact sensitive environmental areas and wildlife.

Paula distributed tickets for our Scholarship T-shirt Quilt Raffle gift certificate and shared promotional materials. We discussed creating a "Day of..." basket for the FREF at the state conference. **Karen** will take on the responsibility for organizing it; members will bring items to the next meeting.



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L-GREA Activities cont.



Alphonso gave a presentation on Dr. Martin Luther King and showed photos of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta where MLK grew up and later was the minister. Alphonso also shared that Williston honored him as an amazing citizen. Congratulations Alphonso!

JAN

Paula was presented with an opportunity for a fundraiser for our local scholarship fund. [Project Repeat](#)—a company that creates beautiful quilts using people's own t-shirts—offered us a gift certificate to raffle off as a thank you to their customers over the past ten years. Tickets have been ordered. As soon as they arrive, we will distribute them to members. If you know of anyone who would be interested in purchasing a ticket, please contact members listed at the top of the page. We will draw a winner at our April meeting via **Facebook Live**.



Lorrie Lee from the Gilchrist Public Library presented an interesting program on the library and what it has to offer our citizens.

Door prize winners were **Betsy, Larry, Paula, Lorrie, Rick, Karen, Alphonso,** and **Nancy.**

NOV

Our program this month was Christmas Card crafts.

DEC

This was our social event of the year. Everyone brought a gift for the White Elephant exchange and it was fun waiting to see who would finally end up with which gifts after members selected from all opened gifts (or an unopened one) during their turn.

We wish **Harriet** good wishes as she deals with health issues.

OCT

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

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

