

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

OCTOBER 2022

OFFICERS:

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VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed
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Secretary — Karen Philman
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Volunteer Services—Harriet Bachle
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Legislative Representative—Cheri Brodeur

Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord
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Schedule of Events:

- NOV 21 — Legislative speakers (Cheri Brodeur)
- DEC 19 — Christmas Gift Exchange
- JAN 16 — Game Day (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 (Panama City Beach)

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.

OCT

Alphonso did our opening devotion/pledge/and leading in singing God Bless America. **Rick** and **Sue** updated us on scholarship activities — contacting schools and guidance counselors about the online application. Rick reported on medical issues with **Larry** and **Harriet**. He brought their committee/officer reports for the group. He also introduced his mother as his guest. **Paula** shared web page information with the group.

Cora, Karen, and Paula gave a report on the FREA District IV Officer Training Symposium in Crystal River.



Rick presented our program which included a video demonstrating how he makes his celebrated cinnamon rolls. It ended with samples to enjoy!

In lieu of door prizes, Rick and Sue treated us all to pizza. Delicious!



Cheri was the winner of our district FREF fundraiser raffle. Congratulations!

L-GREA Activities

SEP

We had an excellent presentation by representatives of the **Suwannee Valley Players** in Chiefland. Several members of the group — including students — shared information about the plays (both current and past performances) and how it impacted them and the community. This is quite a treasure in our community!

Larry reported that as the result of last year's quilt raffle we are in good shape this year with our budget. We decided to have another raffle this year. **Harriet** reminded everyone to continue keeping track of their volunteer hours. These are due at the end of the calendar year. Anyone needing forms should see her. **Sue** said she contacted 5th grade teachers in our counties about the student's essay and contacted guidance counselors about the senior scholarship. She will send reminders later in the year. **Paula** shared information about the District IV meeting in Crystal River. Members planning to attend are **Alphonso, Karen, Cora, and Paula**

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. 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



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 we wish her well in her future teaching career!



L-GREA Activities cont.

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.

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 Repat](#)—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.