

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

JANUARY 2023

OFFICERS:

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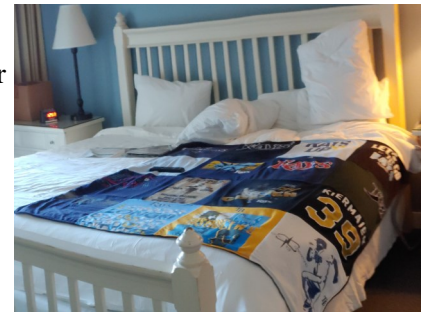
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COME JOIN US!

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.** 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.



We are raffling chances to win a gift certificate for you to create a T-shirt quilt from your own shirts! Proceeds go to scholarship for a local HS senior. Sample quilt above is shown actual size on a king-size bed. \$5.00 donation.

Schedule of Events:

- **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)**

JAN

Our opening thoughts were quotations from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We discussed our scholarship raffle. **Paula** passed around promotional flyers to post around the community and distributed ticket books for those who needed them.

Door prizes were won by **Sue, Rick, Larry, and Cheri.**

Cora provided our program which consisted of a variety of board games which we enjoyed playing.



L-GREA Activities

DEC

Our December meeting is basically a social meeting. After **Paula** distributed raffle tickets for our scholarship quilt raffle, we exchanged gifts and enjoyed snacks provided by members.

NOV

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



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!

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

L-GREA Activities cont.

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!

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!