



email: npcrea@gmail.com

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



PO Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758

Vol. 48, Issue 4

March/April 2023



At our Tuesday, March 14, gathering, please wear some green to help us all observe the yearly celebration of Irish culture (and to keep the leprechauns from pinching you).

Our speaker will be our Vice President, Sharon Ozbun, who will present the "Safety Home Fit" information shared with FREA Convention-goers last May. She'll use the AARP Safety Home Fit Guide to help us all stay healthy, active, and uninjured as we age.

Please bring washcloths and towels for the The ARC of Tampa Bay. The ARC is headquartered at the Long Center in Clearwater and serves adults and children throughout Florida. Its mission is "to support and empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

We'll enjoy an Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage with potatoes and rolls, plus dessert and beverage. Please RSVP to npcrea@gmail.com by March 7 and bring \$18 in cash or check to cover the luncheon plus tax and tip.

Plan to join the fun playing Share the Wealth and possibly winning a door prize. Don't forget to bring towels and washcloths for The ARC of Tampa Bay.

**On
Tuesday,
April 11,**
we'll celebrate
Spring with colorful
clothing and hats.

We'll have
Anna Marie
Fiallos from the
Pinellas Consumer
Protection
Agency to warn
us of the latest scams and frauds that unscrupulous
people use to separate old folks from their money and
property.



We'll enjoy a springtime meal of ham with
pineapple and scalloped potatoes, salad, plus dessert
and beverage. Please RSVP to npcrea@gmail.com
by April 4, and bring cash or check for \$18 to cover
luncheon, tax, tip, and facility expenses.

As always, we'll have some door prizes and a
Share the Wealth drawing to benefit our members.

Please bring some inexpensive toiletries
to donate to a local senior care facility.

**NPCREA gathers on
Tuesday, March 14
Tuesday, April 11
11:00 am
at Clearwater Country Club
525 N. Betty Lane
Clearwater, FL 33755**

From the Vice President:



Sharon Ozbun

Everyone DOES Make a Difference:

The real questions is, what kind of difference will you make?

As a teen, I had often wondered if I would ever make a difference in this world. I felt as though to make a difference, I would need to be an important person, a celebrity, or a star. Even though many years have passed between my teen years and where I am today, I still hear young people pose that same question to themselves. Will I make a difference, will anyone recognize me for my worth? The answer is a loud and resounding yes!

Will there be parades in your honor, or throngs of people chasing you for an autograph? Probably not, but every one of us has an impact on someone else each and every day of our lives. The question to ask ourselves is whether it is a positive impact or a negative one.

I have a very close friend who had been in the military for over 20 years. He was a member of a special forces team that rescued military personnel overseas. When he finally retired, he had played a direct role in saving the lives of over 350 people. Imagine the impact he had on the families of those 350 men and women he rescued. Does everyone in America know his name? Does he make \$6 million a year? No. He does however have the unending gratitude of the families and people he rescued. They will never forget the gift they were given.

Every person, no matter what their age, position, or job, can have an effect on others. No matter what your age, you can begin to make a difference today. You can carry with you a positive attitude and a willingness to help.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES REPORT

Name: _____

Month(s): _____

Youth

Adult

Retired Educators Assn. _____

Community/Clubs _____

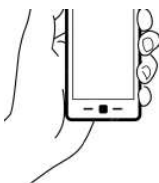
Hospital/Schools _____

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



WEAR YOUR GREEN!

St. Patrick's Day—observed the week of March 17—is packed with parades, good luck charms, and all things green. The event started as a religious holiday, but over time it's become a celebration of Irish culture.



St. Patrick might be the patron saint of [Ireland](#)—but he didn't always *live* in Ireland. Patrick was born in [Britain](#) in the fourth century. When he arrived in Ireland at age 16, he became interested in Christianity and started teaching others about the religion. He is said to have converted many of the country's residents to Christianity.

Though he was a real person, some of the traditions

associated with him and the holiday are actually myths. For instance, you'll often see the four-leaf clover on St. Patrick's Day. However, according to legend, Patrick used a *three-leaf* clover to teach about the Trinity.



GOING GREEN

The fact that Ireland is an island—as well as green with leafy trees and grassy hills—means that the nation is sometimes called the Emerald Isle. Green was introduced to St. Patrick's Day festivities in the 18th century when the shamrock became a national symbol.

TODAY'S TRADITIONS

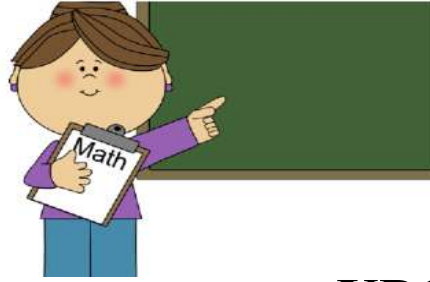
Leprechauns are one reason you're supposed to wear green on St. Patrick's Day—or risk getting pinched! The tradition is tied to folklore that says wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, which like to pinch anyone they can see. Some people also think wearing green will bring good luck, and others wear it to honor their Irish ancestry. No wonder green decorations can be seen all over—many rivers throughout the US are dyed green to honor the holiday.



Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional Irish-American meal and will be our luncheon main course on Tuesday, March 14.

If you prefer a salad, be sure to request one when you make your reservation at npcra@gmail.com. And find some green to wear so you don't get pinched by the leprechauns who hang out by the greens at Clearwater Country Club.

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 member directories. Suggested donation is \$15; make check payable to NPCREA. Send to NPCREA, P.O. Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758-4248.

2022-23 Patrons:

Mary Blackmon
Mike Ceraolo-O'Donnell
Rosemarie Ceraolo-O'Donnell
Margaret DeMeza
Gay Gentry
Marie Grein
Maura Hedrich
Mary Lou Kelly
Linda McGeehan
Carole Pope
Rick Pope
Barbara Seiler
Phyllis Walls

...UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 14 - ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

Wear something green and bring washcloths and towels for The ARC of Tampa Bay. Our VP, Sharon Ozbun, will give a "Safety Home Fit" presentation using the *AARP Guide* to help us all stay safe in 2023 and beyond.

APR. 11 - CELEBRATE SPRING!

Wear something floral or colorful to make the room bloom! Please bring toiletries to donate to a local senior care facility. Also bring items to promote our raffle basket for the FREA State Convention in May.

MAY 9 - COUNTRY FAIR

Wear your favorite "blue ribbon" country fair attire. Bring in "gently used items" for our yearly fundraising Silent Auction. Please solicit area business donations for our yearly Country Fair Ticket Raffle.



Hale Senior Activity Center, 330 Douglas Avenue
Dunedin, FL 34698 (727) 298-3299

The Jersey Boys--Oh, What a Night
Monday, March 20, 12:30-2:00 pm

From Stockholm to Broadway--The Journey of ABBA and Their Hits from Sweden to Broadway's "Mamma Mia"
Monday, April 17, 12:30-2:00 pm

by **Barbara Seiler**

Why not plan to attend "Broadway Musicals Explained" at the Hale Senior Center in Dunedin. Learn from Ellen Katz, a Broadway Edutainer, in one of her live presentations in costume. She teaches and entertains using musical clips, fascinating history, and enjoyable anecdotes. \$5--You must pre-register by Friday before the event. Refreshments are served.

At our January 10 Luncheon:

. Maura Hedrich gave the Thought for the Day, urging us to be outgoing and encouraging to others.

Sharon welcomed back Bob Stephens from his illness. Bob gave the FREF and Legislative Reports. He said we have NO applications for FREF Scholarships statewide and asked us to contact teachers and seniors to encourage applications. For the Legislative Report, he said District 6 needs a volunteer to go to Tallahassee in early March to urge Florida legislators to advance FREA's 2023 Legislative priorities.

Marie Grein gave the Treasurer's Report, noting that we sent a donation of \$234 to Cypress Lake High School in Ft. Myers, which was heavily damaged by Hurricane Ian.

Many attendees shopped the Silent Auction of Unwanted Christmas Gifts.



Sharon noted that Vicki Coleman, District 6 Director, had come by and joined us at the meeting. Vicki declined to stay for lunch but did shop at our Silent Auction.



Lunch was served: Italian salad and dressing, lasagna with garlic bread, Italian bread, beverage, and ice cream sundaes for dessert.

Sharon announced the winners of each item in the Silent Auction and thanked everyone for their participation. Maura Hedrich passed out the items; winners paid a total of \$208 to our treasury for their winning bids.



We collected a table full of children's new underwear and shoes for Clothes to Kids in Clearwater. Our donations included 120 pairs of socks, 66 pairs of underwear, and 7 pairs of shoes.



Sharon Ozburn passed out 2023 State Convention flyers. She asked us to save May 16-18 for a Country Western/Florida Style Convention at the Bluegreen Resort and Spa at Panama City Beach. See page 7 for more Convention information.

Six attendees won door prizes; two members won Share the Wealth.

At the February 14 Valentines Day Luncheon

Linda McGeehan gave the Thought for the Day about healthy relationships.

Sharon introduced retired teacher Nancy Guss, who shared with us her inspiration for writing children's books. She sold her books at cost and autographed them for us.



She also showed videos from her web page, www.livingwithgusto.com. She spoke about her inspiration for learning to play the bagpipes. She played "Everyday Heroes" on her bagpipes, celebrating the volunteers in all our communities. Dressed in a classic tartan and kilt uniform, she also played "Scotland Forever" on her bagpipes.



Nancy Guss

Cheryl Good told us that she has distributed 28 packets of information on the 5th Grade Essay Contest. The essay theme for 2023 is "A Happy Memory."

Bob Stephens gave the FREF Report, noting that Sharon Ozbun will be our Legislative Committee volunteer. Sharon will visit Tallahassee in March to lobby the Legislature on issues of concern for retired educators and for public education in Florida. The session begins March 7.

Preparatory to the 2023 FREA State Convention, we have sold most of the 22 FREF Extravaganza tickets that we were allocated to us. Bob Stephens also has Extravaganza tickets for sale; see page 9 for an Extravaganza ticket to purchase. You do not need to be present at the FREA Convention in order to win one or two of the prizes. All proceeds go to Florida Retired Educators Foundation to fund scholarships and charitable donations for retired educators.

We need donations for the Florida style Country/Western basket that our unit will donate for raffling at the State Convention in May. Please bring items or gift cards to the March or April meetings.

Luncheon was choice of two dinner salads, the Country Club Salad (grilled chicken with mixed greens, fresh fruit, and walnuts) or the Par Three Salad (scoops of chicken salad, tuna salad, and egg salad served on lettuce with fresh fruit) along with tomato bisque soup, rolls, and ice cream for dessert.

One lucky person won Share the Wealth, and ten lucky attendees won door prizes.



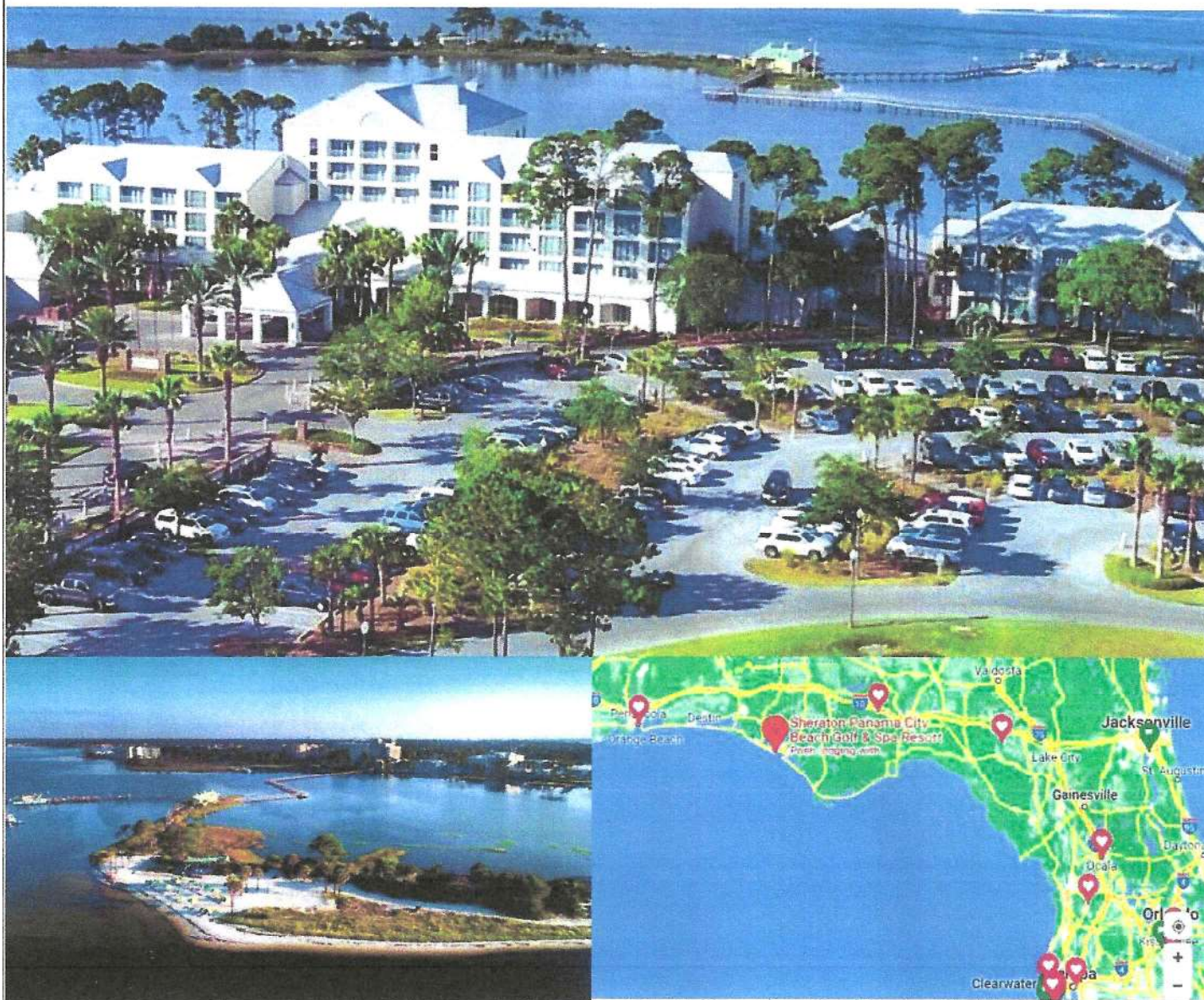
Save the Date! FREA Convention 2023 ~ May 16-18, 2023

Bluegreen's Bayside Resort and Spa at Panama City Beach

(Formerly the Sheraton Panama City Beach Golf and Spa Resort)

The 2023 Convention Committee is already putting things into place for a wonderfully entertaining, and educational Convention. Please make plans to join us, as for the first time since 1954, we hold our Convention in the beautiful Panhandle of Florida. President Edwinna Williams has chosen as her theme: "Country-Western Florida Style". Want to help? Contact the FREA Office and we will put you in touch with Anita Schmitt, FREA State Director and Convention Committee Chair. More pictures and the source for the latest up-to-date information is the FREA website. Check back often. www.frea.org/convention Please remember to substitute the new name for the old. All else to do with the venue remains the same.

PS: The price? An amazingly low rate of \$167.00 per night. This price is good also for 3 days before, and 3 days after, Convention.





FREA... ...Keeping an Eagle Eye on Your Pension!



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**



FREF Extravaganza 2023

Your \$10 donation gives you the opportunity to win one of these
4 prizes.

10 District Prizes \$100.00 Cash Each

1st Prize \$500.00 Cash

2nd Prize \$300.00 Cash

3rd Prize \$200.00 Cash

- District prizes will be drawn from the tickets sold in each district.
- Your cancelled check, or the top of this ticket, is receipt.
- Please make your check payable to **FREF**.
- You do not need to be present to win.

These donations are used to fund the general scholarship program as well as the operating expenses of the Foundation.

Send lower portion with \$10 to NPCREA, P.O. Box 4248,
Clearwater, FL 33758-4248.

----- Cut Here -----

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone () _____

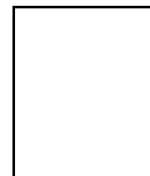
Email: _____

Unit **NPCREA**

District **6**

FREF is a charitable organization as defined by IRS under State of Florida registration number: SC00037. A copy of registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the (1-800-435-7352). 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.	MARCIA LORK
HISTORIAN	MARY BLACKMON
TECH SPECIALIST	MAURA HEDRICH

Email Address: npcrea@gmail.com

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