



email: npcra@gmail.com

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



PO Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758

Vol. 48, Issue 5

May/June 2023



At our Tuesday, May 9, Country Fair, we'll have a picnic lunch of fried chicken, baked beans, and slaw, plus a dessert and cold drink. Please RSVP to npcra@gmail.com by May 3 if you are planning to attend. Bring \$18 in cash or check to cover the luncheon plus tax and tip.

Our main event will be our annual Country Fair Super Drawing for valuable prizes, including a round of golf for four at Clearwater Country Club, three box seat tickets and parking pass at a Rays baseball game, a massage at A Center for Massage, and many more valuable prizes of gift cards and services (see pg. 11 of this Newsletter for a \$10 ticket to win and a complete list of prizes to date). You do not have to be present to win; just send in your check and your filled-in ticket stub, and you'll be in the Country Fair Super Drawing.

We'll also have some \$1 tickets for our Silent Auction to raise money for our unit. Please bring items worth \$5-\$10 to add to our silent auction,

Plan to join the fun and win, win, win!

Upcoming Events

Looking ahead to summer, we'll have an FREA State Convention of retired educators at Panama City Beach from May 16-18. See pg. 7 of this Newsletter for additional information. You must pre-register with the forms at frea.org to join the fun at this Florida Country/Western Convention at the beautiful Bluegreen Resort on the beach at Panama City. Bring your best country or western outfits and plan to enjoy the music and dancing and contests and meals and entertainment at this yearly event.

Then, as the new school year starts in August, we'll have our yearly celebrations of retirement. On Wednesday, August 2, as teachers and staff members go back to school, we'll have a Not Back to Work Luncheon at Capogna's Restaurant in Clearwater. We'll enjoy Italian meals from the menu or the special lunch of Italian spaghetti, bread, salad, and beverage for a very special price. Please bring school supplies to donate to our annual Stuff the Bus campaign for students in need.

Eight days later on August 10, we'll gather at Tiffany's Restaurant in Palm Harbor for a Not Back to Classes Breakfast. Once again, bring school supplies to donate to Stuff the Bus for needy students. Enjoy some of the many specialty breakfast items on Tiffany's menu and celebrate the new school year with your fellow retirees.

**NPCREA gathers on
Tuesday, May 9
11:00 am
at Clearwater Country Club
525 N. Betty Lane
Clearwater, FL 33755**

From the President:



Bob Stephens

How do you want to be remembered?

You are living your life with purpose. You care for others, make a difference in their lives, and share your values with them. Your influence and values can be remembered for generations simply by leaving a gift in your will to either North Pinellas County Retired Educators Assn. (NPCREA) or Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) or both.

You can build a legacy for yourself or a loved one. When educators pass, family members may donate to NPCREA or FREA in memory of their loved ones. A suggestion, include in the obituary, "In lieu of flowers, please donate to NPCREA or FREA" (spell out the organization name). The educator's legacy will live on.

For taxpayers looking to maximize their tax savings through charitable giving, the IRS reminds you that giving money to a tax-exempt charity before December 31 can usually be deducted on that year's federal income tax return. Please consult your tax advisor or the IRS website for the latest information concerning charitable donations.

Consider the following:

- 1) Only taxpayers who itemize can claim deductions for charitable contributions (consult your tax advisor).
- 2) IRA owners age 70 1/2 or older can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible charity tax-free (consult your tax advisor).
- 3) Keep all records, statements, and receipts concerning donations.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES REPORT

Name: _____ Month(s): _____

Youth

Adult

Retired Educators Assn. _____

Community/Clubs _____

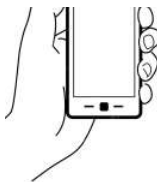
Hospital/Schools _____

Churches _____

Friends/Neighbors _____

All Others _____

TOTAL _____

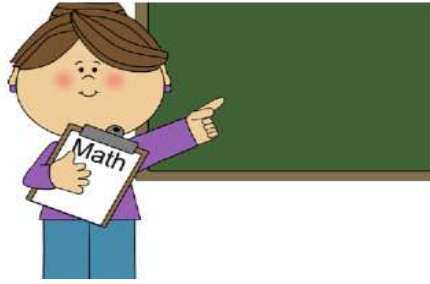


Phone to Mr. Eldon Weaver at 954.895.1073

or email to pegasus_fl@yahoo.com

or cut out and bring to the meeting





...PATRONS

Please consider purchasing a patron ad for the 2023-4 school year, 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. Our 2022-23 Patrons are:

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

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR DIRECTORIES:

Kali Crum
plunkool@gmail.com
4105 Lidenwood Dr.
Brandon, FL 33511

Gladys Nunamaker
blessed64girl@hotmail.com
4753 High Bluff Dr.
Largo, FL 33770
727.518.6551

Alice Tournier
3326 Brian Road N.
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Helen Wilcox
phone correction: 727.584.2825

...UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 9 ---COUNTRY FAIR

At Clearwater Country Club 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.

August 2, 11 am-1 pm Not Back to Work Lunch



Bring school supplies for Stuff the Bus. Enjoy great lunches from the menu or choose the Italian salad, spaghetti, and bread special at Capogna's Restaurant at 1653 Gulf to Bay Boulevard in Clearwater

August 10, 8-11 am - Not Back to School Breakfast



Bring school supplies for Stuff the Bus. Enjoy great breakfast items from the menu at TIFFANY'S RESTAURANT, 35000 U.S.19 in Palm Harbor. Catch up with the news from your fellow retired educators. Isn't it wonderful not to have to go back to classes?

Lobbying for Retired Educators

By Sharon Ozzbun

What a fabulous opportunity I was given March 28 and 29 in Tallahassee. I had the extreme pleasure of attending as a delegate to the Florida Legislature session as a representative for FREA District 6. As a former Civics teacher, this was something I had always told my students they should do, to become involved in government and let their voices be heard.

I was extremely fortunate to have the mentorship of Susan and John Darovec from District 9 in Manatee County. As we set up appointments with our legislators from Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Charlotte, and Sarasota counties, I was given a first-hand look at how the legislative process really works.



*John and Susan Darovec, FREA District 9
Senator Gruters and Sharon Ozbun, FREA District 6*

My first appointment was with Representative Yeager from Pasco County. I was pleasantly surprised to find that while I was talking to him about opportunities for moving high school students onto a fast track in education, his wife was actually a teacher at my former school. Making that connection with Representative Yeager made the rest of our 20 minute meeting a breeze.



Florida's State Capitol Buildings

While all of our ideas may not have made it into the legislative session, it seemed that throughout the day, whether we were speaking to representatives or their legislative aides, they were all actively listening, taking notes, and asking pertinent questions.

By the end of Tuesday afternoon, I had the opportunity to meet with nine different representatives from both parties. Almost every one of them was in some way connected to public education through their parents, their spouse, their siblings, or themselves.



*John and Susan Darovec, FREA District 9
Representative Buchanan and Sharon Ozbun,
FREA District 6*

On Tuesday evening, I had a wonderful dinner with my fellow delegates, and we discussed our successes and challenges from the day. While the weather turned stormy, it did little to dampen my spirits.



*John and Susan Darovec, FREA District 9
Senator Hooper and Sharon Ozbun, FREA District 6*

On Wednesday, I was able to meet with 10 additional representatives and senators from both sides of the aisle. While many of the issues we were discussing were not already on the legislative agenda, I did feel as though some of the things that we talked about sparked the interest of both representatives and senators, and may possibly become issues they work on in the future. One of the more intriguing ideas regarding teacher retention that seem to spark interest was hiring retired teachers as part-time mentors in schools so that full-time teachers could focus on their own classrooms, while retired teachers could focus on helping new teachers find their way through the maze of educational directives, lesson planning, data collection and classroom management.

A second idea that seem to gather some steam was the idea of new teacher academies at high schools. This is a program that is doing well in Pasco County, and many legislators seem to be interested in this program. I was more than happy to provide them with the names of River Ridge High School and Beth Hess. My hope is that they will contact her to find out what great things she is doing with our future educators. Several legislators asked me to send them data regarding how that program is working and how many students have gone into the educational programs at college and have come back with a degree.



*John and Susan Darovec, FREA District 9
with Representative Gregory*

This was an experience that I know I will never forget and I am very happy to have been involved in. I want to thank Bob Stephens for nudging me with only a “slight bit of arm twisting.” Guess what, Bob, I’ll be begging to come with you next year.



*John and Susan Darovec, FREA District 9
with Representative Botana*

At the March 14 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon:

Linda McGeehan gave the Thought for the Day about the importance of making and keeping friends.



Sharon Ozbun informed us about Home Safety, using the "AARP Home Fit Guide," which she distributed afterward. She used a PowerPoint presentation to quiz us on how many safe practices we have in our homes.



The winner, with the most points in the quiz, was Pat Dalton. Sharon awarded Pat a very small trophy cup as our 1st place safest home winner.

Since our Volunteer Services Chairman was absent from the meeting, our volunteer hours would not be collected that day. However, Bob urged us to cut the Volunteer Hours form from our Newsletters and record our volunteer hours for both March and April and turn in the forms in April.

Bob Stephens reported that the Board of Directors voted to contribute \$250 to sponsor a Bronze Carwise scholarship, to be presented in March.

Bob announced that two Practicing Educator Grants are being awarded by FREF this year, and Senior Scholarships are being awarded to four graduating seniors in the state of Florida. Also good news, 57 essays have been submitted for the Fifth Grade Essay contest this year.

He also asked for contributions to the NPCREA basket to be raffled off at the FREA Convention in May. The Convention theme is Florida Country/Western. He also reported that the District 6 Symposium will NOT be held in October this year.

Twelve members of District 6 units will be attending the FREA Convention in May, including five from NPCREA. Our members going are Bob and Val Stephens, Marie Grein, Sharon Ozbun, and Mary Blackmon. See information about the Convention on the following page.

Marie Grein distributed up-to-date 2023-24 member directories to members present at the meeting, saving postage. Several additions to the Directory are listed on p. 3 of this Newsletter; please add them to your new Member Directory.

Twelve lucky attendees won door prizes; two attendees won Share the Wealth. Nan Lanham won the Margaritaville Basket donated by Val Stephens.



Nan Lanham with her Margaritaville Basket

We collected several armloads of towels and washcloths for the ARC of Tampa Bay. Luncheon was delicious baked potato soup, corned beef and cabbage, and ice cream for dessert.

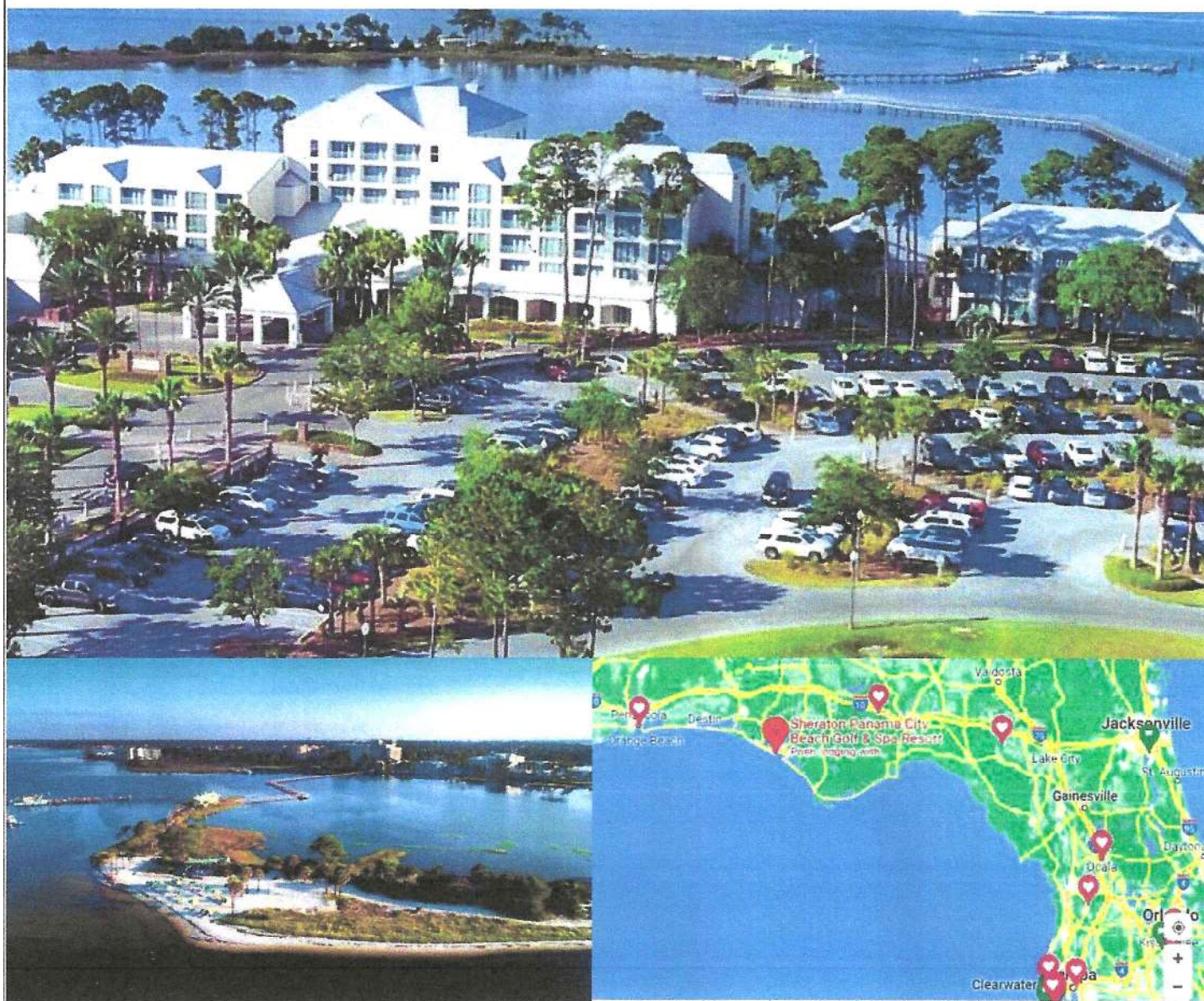
Save the Date! FREA Convention 2023 ~ May 16-18, 2023

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.



At the April 11 Spring Fling Luncheon:

Bob Stephens presided. He introduced Sharon Ozbun, our Vice President, who visited Tallahassee in late March to contact legislators on education and retired educators' issues. Sharon gave a short review of her contacts and talking points from her Tallahassee 3-day visit. Details and photos are on pp. 4-5 of this *Newsletter*.

Maura Hedrich gave the Thought for the Day about the need to do our best every day on every occasion.



Sharon Ozbun introduced our guest speaker, Anna Maria Fiallos, from the Pinellas County Consumer Protection Agency. Ms. Fiallos named and showed details of the most popular types of scams that attempt to get our money or our personal or financial details. She gave many precautions and methods of preventing the scammers from getting our money and personal information.

Bob Stephens told us about Wednesday Webinars and how to sign up at frea.org or phone Anne at the FREA Office. He reminded us that we are collecting items for our Country/Western Basket for the FREA Convention May 16-18 in Panama City Beach. So far, we have quite a few barbeque style items and a gift card to Cracker Barrel. He is also collecting gift cards and other valuable prizes for our \$10 Country Fair Drawing on May 9.

Bob announced the Not Back to Work Lunch at Capogna's Restaurant in Clearwater on August 2 and

Not Back to Classes Breakfast at Tiffany's Restaurant on August 10. He encouraged each of us to bring a retired friend to these meals and to invite them to join us as we begin the 2023-34 school year.

Our officers and Committee Chairpersons are vital to achieving our goals as a unit of retired educators seeking to improve our schools, preserve our pensions, and make positive improvements in our communities. At Bob's request, we each gave a short list of our responsibilities in NPCREA:



As president of NPCREA, Bob Stephens presides at meetings, organizes outside activities, collects items of value for the Country Fair Drawing and the NPCREA Basket for Convention, serves as FREF Chairperson for District 6, serves as lobbyist for the Legislative Committee, attends meetings of other FREA units in our District, and many other worthwhile activities he never mentioned.



Cheryl Good and Maura Hedrich are Membership Co-Chairmen. They find, invite, and inform prospective members of our unit. They also keep records of active members.

Maura Hedrich is also Information Services Chairman. She emails notices and maintains the npcrea@gmail.com account, arranges lunches at CCC, makes name tags, takes photos during meetings, collects book donations for the Margaret Poppell Literacy for Life Program.

Rick Pope and Carole Pope are Patronage Chairpersons—collecting donations for printing and postage for Newsletters and Member Directories.

Eldon Weaver is Volunteer Services Chairperson for NPCREA and for FREA District 6. He collects volunteer hours and prepares reports for FREA. This year he recorded 15,000 hours for District 6 worth over \$15 million. He announced that our Volunteer of the Year for 2022-23 is Sharon Ozbun.



Phyllis Walls makes items to sell at meetings, runs Bridge-A-Rama to earn money for our unit scholarships, and sells Share the Wealth tickets at meetings.

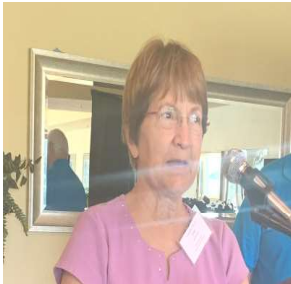
Mary Blackmon – takes photos and minutes at meetings, types and edits the bi-monthly Newsletter, formats, types, and binds the biannual Member Directories, types and formats the NPCREA trifolds, runs the computer and projector at meetings, types and prints the yearly touch cards, Country Fair tickets, and whatever else needs printing.



Sharon Ozbun—Legislative lobbyist for District 6, Vice President of NPCREA. Leads meetings as needed, arranges speakers and events for meetings, selects monthly donation items and recipients, fills in for the president whenever needed at Board and member meetings.



Marcia Lork – sends cards to members who are ill or bereaved.



Linda McGeehan—finds individuals to give the Thought for the Day at meetings.

Announced at the meeting: The January-April Bridge session has ended with these three winners taking home the top prizes:

Marie Grein—is our long-time treasurer, creates many of our reports to FREA, collects money, pays bills, prepares the budget, is FREF chairperson, sells Extravaganza tickets, collects and mails printed records, organizes people to prepare Convention packets, proofreads the Newsletter, oversees Practicing Educator Grant applications, is a member of Past Presidents' Council and has been our president many times in the past.



(left to right) Sandy Carr, 3rd place, Phyllis Walls, 2nd place, and Lois Newhall, 1st place



North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association Membership Application



Unified Dues: \$50.00 Annually – July 1 to June 30

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| New Membership Renewal of Membership | General Member - Circle One: Retired School Teacher/School Administrator/School Transportation School Maintenance, School Cafeteria. Other: | |
| FREA Benefits are fully available to ALL FREA members be they Regular or Associate. | Associate Member Associate: Any person supporting the mission of the Association may apply for associate membership. (Associate members may not vote as a delegate.) | |
| Circle One: Miss, Mrs., Ms., Mr., Dr., Other | Date: | |
| Your Name: | Spouse's Name | |
| Mailing Address | Apt./Condo | Telephone—Cell phone preferred () |
| City | State | Zip County |
| E-mail address: | Your Month/Day/of Birth: | |
| School District Retired From: | Year Retired | Position Retired From |

NPCREA and FREA are your advocates regarding your pension and the future of education in the State of Florida. Would you like to support our efforts on behalf of all present and future Retired Educators, and other beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System like First Responders, etc.? This money will be used in a non-partisan way.

Yes, I would like to support FREA's Legislative Advocacy: \$ 4.00

Unified Dues for July 1–June 30: \$50.00

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Florida Retired Educators Foundation of \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: NPCREA (North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association)

Mail to: NPCREA, P.O. Box 4248 Clearwater, FL 33758-4248

Have questions? *Email: npcrea@gmail.com*

NPCREA has many active committees. All of our committees welcome new people, ideas and /or suggestions. The work of the committees listed below is explained at our meetings.

Please indicate your interest in one or more of them by checking the line by the committee. The chair will contact you personally.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Volunteer Services | | Information Services | | Newsletter | |
| Hospitality (Food) | | Legislative | | Photography (Historian) | |
| Sunshine | | Name Tags | | Retirement Planning | |
| Phone Tree | | Membership | | Publicity/Website | |
| Cultural Affairs | | Nominating | | | |



NPCREA Country Fair 2023

at Tuesday, May 9, Luncheon

Clearwater Golf Club * 525 N. Betty Lane

A \$10 donation makes you eligible to win ONE of the following:

*A Round of Golf for 4 at the Clearwater Country Club (\$200 value)

*3 Tickets & Parking Pass to a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game (\$245 value)

*30 Minute massage @A Center for Massage (\$45 value)

*\$25 Gift Card to Harps of Trinity Irish Pub and Grille

*\$25 Gift Card to Clearwater Family Restaurant

*Adult Coloring Books plus 100 Crayola Colored Pencils (\$50 value)

*\$20 Cash

*\$25 Gift Card to Dunkin'

*\$25 Gift Card to Red Lobster

*\$25 Gift Card to Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza

*2 Bottles of Fine Wine + Gourmet Nuts

-
- Please make checks payable to NPCREA (your cancelled check will be your receipt)
 - Bring your check & completed form to the luncheon or mail both **NO LATER** than May 3 to NPCREA P.O. Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758
 - You do not need to be present to win!

Name: _____

Address: _____

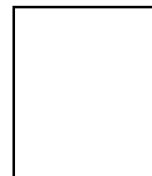
City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Cash: _____ Check #: _____ Received by: _____

North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association is a charitable organization as defined by IRS Code 501c(4). State of Florida registration number is CH-45274. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling (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 LEADERS FOR 2022-24

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| PRESIDENT | BOB STEPHENS |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | SHARON OZBUN |
| TREASURER | MARIE GREIN |
| RECORDING SECRETARY | MARY BLACKMON |
| CORRESPONDING SECRETARY | MARCIA LORK |
| TECH SPECIALIST | MAURA HEDRICH |
| IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT | MARY LOU KELLY |
| INFORMATION SERVICES | MAURA HEDRICH |
| MEMBERSHIP | CHERYL GOOD |
| VOLUNTEER SERVICES | ELDON WEAVER |
| PATRONAGE | RICK POPE |

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NPCREA Newsletter is published six times each year by North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association, P.O. Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758. Newsletter staff: Editor, Mary Blackmon, 727-348-0771. Assembly and mailing: Marie Grein. Labels: FREA Office.