

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

AUGUST, 2023

OFFICERS:

President — Cheri Brodeur
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Secretary — Sue Reed
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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 getting the word out at the Opening Session for school personnel in Gilchrist County.

Schedule of Events:

- AUG 21 — PLANNING MEETING
- SEP 18 — ESSENTIAL OILS (LOIS BACHLE)
- OCT 16 — IDENTITY THEFT
- NOV 20 — FOSTER CARE SYSTEM
- DEC 18 — CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE
- JAN 15 — TBD
- FEB 19 — BLACK HISTORY MONTH (ALPHONSO JOHNSON)
- MAR 18 — SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (RICK REED)
- APR 15 — TBD
- MAY 14-16 — FREA CONVENTION
- MAY 20 — TBD

AUG

This was our planning meeting for the new fiscal year, along with the exchanging of officer materials. **Cheri** took over as president, **Sue** is our new secretary, **Paula** is our legislative & website rep, and **Karen** is VOY coordinator.



Paula, Karen, and Alphonso gave a report on the FREA convention in Panama City. Some personal highlights were recognition of Paula as District IV Volunteer of the Year and Alphonso winning one of the \$50 baskets!

Rick gave an update on our presence at the GCSO back to school meeting for personnel. Unfortunately we were unable to get with Levy, but **Sue** sent materials to be distributed to employees.

We welcomed new member Jerri Lunsford!

Afterwards we enjoyed Cherry Cheese Danish made by Rick.

L-GREA Activities

MAY

Alphonso provided the opening thoughts and led the pledge and God Bless America. **Cheri** gave an update on the legislative bills that passed that affected education and us as retirees.



We finalized plans for the state convention. Items were brought and added to the FREF basket from our unit.

Rick agreed to take our informational packets and pens to the district contact to be distributed to newly retired employees. Hopefully we will be able to acquire some new members through this.

Door prizes were won by Alphonso, Cora, Cheri, Paula, Sue, and Karen. In addition to these, Rick gave a rose from his garden to all of the women members to celebrate Mother's Day.

We held our election of officers for the next two years. Congratulations to the new officers! They are listed on the top left of the front page.

APR

We had a very eventful meeting this month!

Harriet announced that **Paula** will be recognized at the state convention as the District IV Volunteer of the Year! She presented Paula with flowers. In honor of **Cheri's** birthday, we sang Happy Birthday to her. Paula showed the engraved pens we purchased as PR items for our county's retired teachers; they give our name and meeting date/time/place.



We worked on finalizing plans for the state convention. This included selling Extravaganza tickets, getting donated items for our FREF basket, and verifying attendees. **Alphonso, Karen, & Paula** will represent L-GREA.

Rick videotaped our raffle drawing on our FB page. Harriet was our winner! Door prizes were won by **Larry, Sue, Alphonso, Paula, & Harriet**. **Cheri** gave a presentation on **Kirton's Adaption & Innovation** theory.

MAR



Rick and Sue introduced our \$500 scholarship winner, **Andrea Faircloth**, at our meeting. She is a senior at Trenton Middle High School and will also graduate with a dual enrollment A.A. degree. She intends to work with younger students. We wish her well in her future career in education!

FEB

Alphonso gave a presentation for Black History Month.

Larry shared a picture with last year's scholarship winner with the quilt she had made.



L-GREA Activities cont.

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.

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!

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



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!



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