

# SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION



**VOLUME 54 NUMBER 1**  
**Gail Weston, Editor**

**October 2023**  
**Carol Huber, Labels**

## President's Message



# October

## Mark These Dates

Dear Members:

Fall is here and soon to be cooler weather. School has been back in session and hurricane Idalia has left its mark on our community. Hopefully all our members weathered this storm without incident. If you were negatively affected, please contact Jan or Pat. SPCREA has a program in place to help. Let's hope for a calm remainder of this hurricane season.

In a few weeks our meetings will resume. Information from our membership showed that changes were needed in order to bring our friends back to join us each month. So we are heading back to Big Apple Buffet, 1030 58<sup>th</sup> Street N. (Tyrone Gardens). Hopefully this will provide a more convenient location and we will see the return of many members. You have been greatly missed!

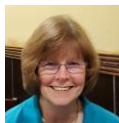
Our meeting format has also been tweaked in order to provide for more social time. Having time to talk with old friends and meet new people is what makes our organization engaging and our time together enjoyable. Therefore, much of the group's business will be conducted in committees and shared in the newsletters. This will also allow more time to interact with our speakers.

Paula Walker, Treasurer has done an outstanding job scheduling many informative and entertaining programs for the upcoming year. Please take a few minutes to review the offerings. If you have any additional suggestions that should be considered, please don't hesitate to contact Jan, Pat or Paula.

We would encourage you to take time this month to find the "light" in the little things that happen each day. Often we take these things for granted. A smile, a phone call from a good friend, an unexpected card in the mail or an act of kindness from a neighbor or stranger are the things that enrich our lives. It's wonderful to be the recipient, but even more fulfilling to bring a bit of joy to others.

We hope to see each of you on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am for our first meeting of the year. In the meantime, good health. Kind regards,

Pat Davey and Jan Wallis, Co-Presidents



## SPCREA MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS – 2023 – 2024

**See Full Calendar page 2 .**

**October 12<sup>th</sup>** - Chip Wells, St Petersburg Police Department Community Awareness Division, Frauds and Scams Seniors Should Avoid

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** - Todd Kennedy, Travel is Fun, Hop on the Bus

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas White Elephant, Maybe Make & Take, Trying to get school Singers

**Contact Paula Walker for Zoom information. Her email is [pmcwalker1@mac.com](mailto:pmcwalker1@mac.com) and her phone number is 727-321-1788**

**OUR MEETING DATES are the 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 11:00 AM.**

**SPCREA Board Meetings will follow the regular meeting.**

## **SPCREA Executive Board**

Pat Davey & Jan Wallis,  
Co-Presidents

[stingraydavey@gmail.com](mailto:stingraydavey@gmail.com)  
[retirededucator@mac.com](mailto:retirededucator@mac.com)

President-elect

TBA

Pamela Walker, Treasurer

[pmcwalker1@mac.com](mailto:pmcwalker1@mac.com)

Recording Secretary

TBA

Gloria Drouin, Corresponding  
Secretary [pjsdrouin@yahoo.com](mailto:pjsdrouin@yahoo.com)

Cheryl DiCicco, Past-President

[pdicicco@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:pdicicco@tampabay.rr.com)

## **MEETING PLACE CHANGE**

We are heading back to **Big Apple Buffet**, 1030 58th St N, Saint Petersburg, FL 33710. (Tyrone Gardens) We will convene at 11:00 am. There is a difference in procedure for purchasing your meal. If you want to eat you will pay the cashier for your buffet and drink (if you want a drink) before coming to the meeting room. Price of buffet is \$13.90. Drinks are extra. In this way there will be less distraction during the meeting with wait staff giving out bills. Hope to see you there!

In addition to our change of venue, the treasurer position is now being filled by Paula Walker. We do have two critical positions that need to be filled. One is president-elect and the other is recording secretary. Please, help us. Some of you have been long term members and some only a short while. These position are critical for our unit's smooth functioning. Please contact Cheryl DiCicco ([pdicicco@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:pdicicco@tampabay.rr.com)) if you want to be a part of a team focused on retired educator issues. We need you. Please feel free to contact Pat Davey or Jan Wallis also.

## **Programs --- 2023 – 2024**

**Thank you Paula Walker for arranging our 2023 – 2024 programs for the year.**

- Oct 12** Chip Wells, St Petersburg Police Department Community Awareness Division, Frauds and Scams Seniors Should Avoid
- Nov 9** Todd Kennedy, Travel is Fun, Hop on the Bus
- Dec 14** Christmas White Elephant, Maybe Make & Take, Trying to get school Singers
- Jan 11** Annie Lesso, Tips for Organizing Your Home
- Feb 8** Tiffany, Friends of Strays, How They Help Animals
- Mar 14** Jimmy, JB Effects, How To Save Your Digital Media ie Pictures, Videos, etc
- Apr 11** Emily Turnage & Clients, Creative Clay Programs
- May 9** Anita Marsanna, Veterans' Village, Programs They Offer

## **Board of Directors includes SPCREA Standing Committees**

Volunteer Services (Community Service & Literacy) – Cheryl Maggio  
Information Services Information – Nancy Wudtke  
Cultural Affairs – Phyllis Hand & Janice O'day  
Retirement Planning –  
Legislative – Wanda Dudley  
Nominations – Cheryl DiCicco  
Bylaws – Vicki Coleman  
Publicity – Cheryl DiCicco  
Newsletter – Gail Weston

Historian - Newsletters & Minutes – Gail Weston  
Thought for the Day – Gail Weston -sign-up  
Project Cheer – TBA  
Music – Jackie Thornton & Nadine Johnson  
Hospitality/decorations – Vicki Coleman  
FREF – Wanda Dudley  
Membership – Carol Huber

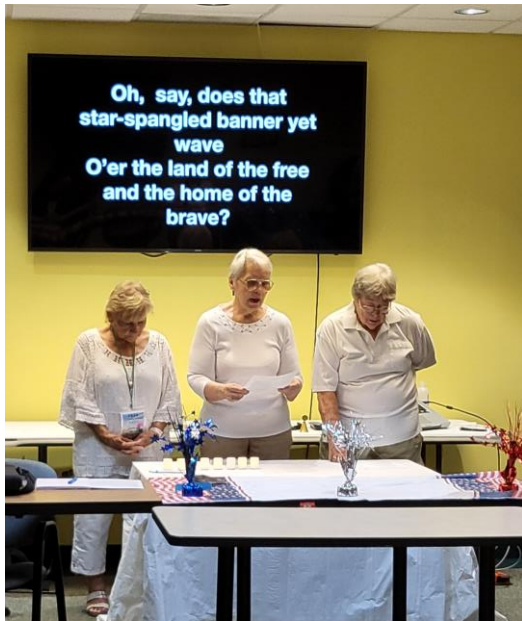
# PROJECT CHEER

We will be collecting school supplies for elementary schools. Requested items include Lysol wipes, one-inch white binders, dry erase markers, sharpies, small dry erase boards, clear shoebox sized bins with lids, Sticky-Tack/Poster Putty, crayons, regular markers, notebook paper, colored pencils, highlights, tape, and glue sticks just to name a few.



We are collecting drink tabs for the Ronald McDonald House at All Children's Hospital. We will have a donation jar at all meetings, so please save your tabs from drink cans, soup cans, tennis ball cans, or other sources. They will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House. They are sold and the funds are used to support children in need of care.

## SPCREA May 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

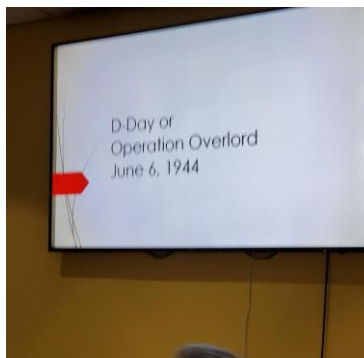
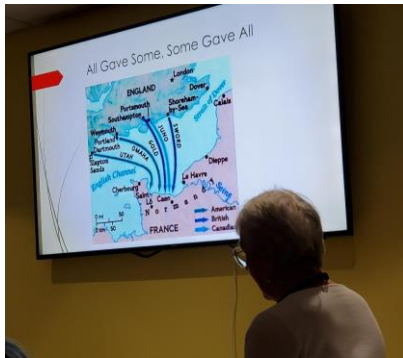


Memorial Service  
Jan Wallis, Paula Walker, Gail Weston



Gloria and Paul Drouin, Janice O'day, Vicki Coleman, Donna Fannin

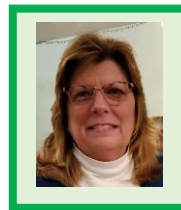
## Normandy Presentation and Discussion – Thank you Paula



Paula Walker presented an interesting and very moving account of her and her husband Don's trip to Normandy. Everyone enjoyed hearing about the adventure and learning about that awful time in World War II.



**COMMUNITY SERVICE – VOLUNTEER HOURS – Cheryl Maggio**  
**FREA Mission: To encourage community involvement**  
**through Volunteerism and Literacy Projects**  
**Have you submitted your hours yet?**



**SPCREA Volunteer Hours for:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hours volunteering for SPCREA** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hours volunteering with children** \_\_\_\_\_

**All other volunteer time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total volunteer hours** \_\_\_\_\_

Send your volunteer hours to Cheryl Maggio  
at [Camstar4u@icloud.com](mailto:Camstar4u@icloud.com) or  
Bring them to the meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP Update– Carol Huber**  
**It is time to renew your dues for 2023 – 2024 ✍**



If you are not sure if you have renewed your membership, please check with **Paula Walker** or **Carol Huber**.

**SPCREA** will send you a reminder to renew your dues, but the form is also in this **SPCREA** newsletter and on the attendance table at each meeting. Reminders may be sent via email to members receiving newsletters in that format.

**FREA** may send a reminder for your state dues, not local unit dues. If you mail a check to the state, you are current with **state dues only**, unless you include the \$10 extra for your local unit dues. If you send both state and local unit dues to **FREA**, we are unable to verify your local dues until the state sends the check to **Paula**. I encourage you to renew state & local through us to *simplify* matters.

**A better solution is to send your dues renewal to Paula directly.** Fill out the membership form in the newsletter or on the table at the meetings. You can also use the form to update your address, phone, or email. Give or send the form and money to Paula. Both state and local unit dues are only \$45. Paula will designate both local and state dues are paid, send that information to me, and send your state dues to FREA. I will then update your status to current.

**You might consider setting up on auto pay directly from your bank to Paula.** It's not difficult, and I have done it for several years. Using your bank's bill payer section, set up an annual payment to **Paula Walker** on a specific date. A check will then be sent to Paula for whatever amount you designate. You will still need to contact Paula or me with any updates (email, address, etc.) however. This is an easy way to pay your dues and stay current without wondering about your status.

If you have any questions or I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at 727-392-7269 or [SPCREAssoc@outlook.com](mailto:SPCREAssoc@outlook.com)

**Change of Address Form:** Have you moved or changed your phone number or email recently? Please let me know so I can update your information.

If you know of a member who is ill or has passed away, please let me know.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to **Carol Huber**, 9712 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33708 OR send to  
[SPCREAssoc@outlook.com](mailto:SPCREAssoc@outlook.com)



# A Big Thank you

Dear Pinellas County School Retired Educators,

On behalf of the families at East Ronald McDonald House, I want to thank you for your recent donation of pop tabs.

With your support, and that of other community members, RMH is able to provide a "home-away-from-home" and meet the needs of our families and children.

We are so grateful for your commitment and support of RMH!

Warmest Regards,  
Marilyn Reynolds

## Marilyn Reynolds

East House Manager, RMHC Tampa Bay | [RMHCTampaBay.org](http://RMHCTampaBay.org)  
ph: 727.767.7685  
| [mreynolds@rmhctampabay.org](mailto:mreynolds@rmhctampabay.org)



## Will You Help Your SPCREA?

Due to health and other issues, some members needed to step down. We now have several opportunities for you to volunteer!

\*Recording Secretary- take minutes at board meeting and email them to the board

\*Project Cheer- select a charity for each month, put a blurb in the newsletter and then deliver the items collected after the meeting. We have a list of monthly suggestions.

\*President Elect- Paula has already done the program planning so this would only involve a reminder to the speaker and an introduction at the meeting. The added bonus is you move up to President the following year!

\*Facebook administrator- post monthly reminders of meetings, share other information, approve new member requests



Please contact Jan Wallis, Pat Davey or Cheryl DiCicco if you are able to step up

## Conference Pictures



5<sup>th</sup> grade essay winner - female



5<sup>th</sup> grade essay winner - male



Horse of a Different Color

**SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS  
TREASURER REPORT**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE(CAB) as of 4/16/2023		\$2916.50
INCOME		
State dues	350.00	
Local dues (includes \$85 from FREA)	195.00	
FREF	30.00	
Legislative advocacy	24.00	
Transfer from savings	1000.00	
Membership for 2024-2025	45.00	
TOTAL INCOME: 4/16/2023 - 7/29/2023		\$1644.00
EXPENDITURES		
State dues	805.00	
FREF	60.00	
Legislative advocacy	50.00	
Newsletter/ printing	16.06	
Local Scholarship	1000.00	
Harland – new checks	25.47	
24-25 Membership to savings	45.00	
Refund to FREA for extra payment	10.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 4/16/2023 - 7/29/2023		\$2011.53
CHKNG ACCT BALANCE on 7/29/2023		\$2548.97
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE 4/16/2023		\$2687.06
Interest Earned	0.26	
Membership Renew 24-25	45.00	
Fundraising (May)	21.00	
To checking for local scholarship		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE on 7/29/2023		\$1753.32

Present funds for local scholarship: \$981.80

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Walker, Treasurer

I am now the new Treasurer. My address is on the application for membership. My email is [pmcwalker1@mac.com](mailto:pmcwalker1@mac.com) and my home phone is 727-321-1788. If you are renewing your membership, please put your name on an application form along with any changes such as email, phone, address. If you have money for me, please put it in an envelope along with your name, amount and what the money is for, ie, membership or reimbursement. If you are giving me a sales slip for reimbursement, please sign it and what you bought. I am looking forward to working with all of you. Paula Walker

## Cultural Affairs – Janice O'day & Phyllis Hand

We are in the planning stages for awesome cultural affairs events for next year. If you know of a cultural event you would like to attend with our members, please let Janice or Phyllis know.

Janice O'day – [mouse754@yahoo.com](mailto:mouse754@yahoo.com)

Phyllis Hand – [handnhand@gmail.com](mailto:handnhand@gmail.com)

### More Conference Pictures



Mullett Throwing



Mullett Throwing



Jan won this full of goodies!



New District Directors  
Emily Berry is District 6  
(3<sup>rd</sup> from left)



Some Attendees



What Luck!  
Paula won both of these baskets!

# Be A Kid Again!

October, the month that welcomes those cooler temperatures and introduces the start of the holiday season. So, start off this month (and our first meeting of the year) by coming to our October meeting celebrating your favorite cinema character. Whether you celebrate the longevity of Dracula or the anime of Pokémon, get those creative fun ideas stirring. See you on October 12 at the Big Apple Buffet

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Christina Williams who received SPCREA's scholarship last May. Christina indicated in her application that she knew at an early age she wanted to be a teacher and she has not waived from that decision. Christins stated on her application "I cannot wait to graduate and walk across the stage to receive my degree because it will show my family, and myself, that when I feel passionate and dedicated to something, I can accomplish anything."

We wish Christina the best in her new endeavor!

## Results of Survey – May 2023

13 returned (some items did not receive a response)

	Like	Neutral	Dislike
Location	6	3	4
Meeting Room	9	3	1
Food	5	5	--
Programs	9	2	--
Time	10	1	1
Day	12	--	1
Flow	12	--	1



Save the Date!

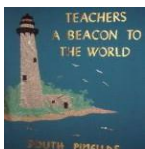
**Comments: Location:** Too far. Return to Big Apple Buffet. Look at Stavros

**Program Suggestions:** Sara Irn from Cambodia. Judith Overcast from Dali. Arron Fodlman. Rec. Centers Overview. New Information on Social Security

**Ideas for Cultural Affairs:** Tour of Vinoy or Don Cesar  
Have speakers from museums and then arrange tour.  
Tour to Sacred Lands

**Random Comments:** Just because. Committee doing great job! Love it!





# South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association

## Membership Application



2023 - 2024

Unified Dues: **\$45.00 Annually** – July 1 to June 30

<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership	<b>General Member (Circle One):</b> Retired School Teacher/School Administrator/Support Staff/Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of Membership	
FREA Benefits are fully available to ALL FREA members whether Regular or Associate.	<b>Associate Member</b> Any person supporting the mission of the Association may apply for associate membership. ( <i>Associate members may not vote as a delegate.</i> )
Circle One: Miss, Mrs., Ms., Mr., Dr., Other	Date:
Name:	Spouse's Name:
Mailing Address	Apt/Condo
	Telephone: ( ) home ( ) cell
City	State: ZIP County:
E-mail address:	Birthday: (Month/Day/Year (optional)):
School District Retired From:	Year Retired:
	Position Retired From:

SPCREA 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 is used in a non-partisan way.

Yes, I would like to support FREA's Legislative Advocacy: \$4.00  
Yes, I would also like to make a tax-deductible donation to *Florida Retired Educators Foundation*: \$5.00  
Unified Dues for July 1—June 30: \$45.00  
Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Have questions? **Contact Membership Chair Carol Huber at [SPCREAssoc@outlook.com](mailto:SPCREAssoc@outlook.com)**

**Please make checks payable to: SPCREA (South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association)**

**Mail to: Paula Walker**

**3600 15<sup>th</sup> Ave N**

**St Petersburg, FL 33713-5324**

SPCREA 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. That committee chair will contact you personally.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Volunteer Services</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Information Services</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Newsletter</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Hospitality/Sunshine</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Legislative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Photography (Historian)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Project Cheer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Name Tags</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Retirement Planning</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Phone Tree</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Membership</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Publicity/Social Media</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cultural Affairs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nominating</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Other ways you can help.</i>

**South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association**  
3600 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713-5324

**Hope to see you at our next meeting!**

**Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM**

**Big Apple Buffet**

**1030 58th St N, Saint Petersburg, FL 33710. (Tyrone Gardens)**

**Encourage your retired educator friends  
to join our group!**

**Bring a friend to our next meeting!**

**Want to know more? Visit the FREA website at [www.frea.org](http://www.frea.org)**



**Find us on  
Facebook**