

# The Publication Dedicated to Retired Florida Educators & School Personnel



Volume 50, Issue 3  
Fall/Winter 2023

# FREA BULLETIN



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## THE ONLY CONSTANT IN LIFE IS CHANGE

HERACLITUS

2023: A year of changes for FREA. As the old saying goes, "If you are not changing, you are no longer alive". The same adage holds true for groups. For organizations to survive and thrive, they must change and grow and adapt with the times. What is changing inside FREA that affects our members?

**FREA Benefits are expanding:** AMBA has a full menu of benefits to help you stay healthy, feel protected, have fun, and save money. And now AMBA has added Educational Professional Liability Insurance. See Pages 6-7 in this issue, and the [Benefits page on the website](#). to

learn more about all the benefits we offer to our members.

**New President-Elect wanted for 2024-2026.** President Edwinna Williams, who has served us well since 2022, finishes her term in June of 2024. The FREA Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for our next President-Elect. Harriett Jenkins, our current President-Elect, steps in as FREA President next June. Could our next President-Elect be you? The [FREA Handbook on the website](#) has the details. Deadline December 15th.

**District Directors/Trustees position openings.** Not quite ready for President-Elect? We have positions open for several area District Directors: D1, 2, 4, 5, or 7; or Foundation Trustees: D6, 7, or 8. To see A Call for Nominations or the FREA Bylaws [Click Here](#). The [FREA Officers Handbook](#) has detailed duties for District Directors and Trustees.

**Do you remember July of 2012? If you do, and you were an FREA member at that time, then you remember our last FREA dues increase.** July 1, 2012 was the day our last FREA State dues increase took place. This year, the FREA Board voted to increase FREA dues, from \$35.00 to \$45.00 per year. At the 2024 Delegate Convention, FREA delegates will be asked to approve the FREA State dues increase, to take place as of July 1, 2024. For those members whose dues increase on their join anniversary, the increase is

after July 1, 2024, on your anniversary date. Please realize that this was not an easy decision, knowing the inflation struggles we are all living with. Inflation does not discriminate, and FREA's costs have risen too. The FREA Office still runs with only two paid personnel to administer to over 11,000 FREA members. Our all volunteer Board and Membership continue to work tirelessly for our members. We appreciate your support!



"What if we don't change at all ... and something magical just happens?"

### FREA Calendar

November 19	Florida Retired Educators Day
November 20-24	FREA Office closed for Thanksgiving
December 6	Wednesday Webinar: Holiday Discounts for FREA Members.
December 18-January 2	FREA Office closed for Holidays
January 22-25	FREA Legislative Days
January 30	FREA Board Meeting
January 20	FREF Scholarship App. Deadline

### FREA Executive Committee

President	Edwinna Williams Escambia CREA edwinnarae@gmail.com
President-Elect	Harriett Jenkins St. Lucie CREA HarriettMJenkins@aol.com
State Director	Anita Schmitt Escambia CREA anitaschmitt53@gmail.com
Secretary	Melanie Waite Santa Rosa CREA melanie7896@gmail.com
Treasurer	Gayle Hodges Orange CREA gayle.hodges1991@gmail.com
Executive Committee Rep. 1-5	Donna Harper harper2paint@gmail.com
Executive Committee Rep. 6-10	Pat Watkins patdanwat@msn.com
Ex-Officio	
FREA Executive Director	Anne Fagan anne@frea.org



Edwinna Williams  
FREA President

## A Letter From Your President

Our autumn in Florida is full of activities, customs, and holidays. Locally the weather cools, the humidity drops, and communities celebrate with festivals, sporting events, and homecoming activities.

Autumn is also the time of year our legislators are busy in their committee meetings, planning their bills to introduce in January, and holding legislative forums in their communities to meet their constituents. I hope you take time to attend and express your continued support for public education and the Florida Retired System (FRS) and our pensions. If you cannot attend, please send an email or a letter to your local legislator. Most, if not all of the 456,312 + FRS retirees reinvest their pensions into their local economies paying \$5.9 Billion back into the state. We have many more facts on our

FREA.org website and I encourage you to use these resources as your talking points. Look for the eagle "keeping an eye on our pensions". [www.frea.org/legislative](http://www.frea.org/legislative)

We have some leadership changes to share with our members. I am excited and pleased to announce Phyllis Omilak of Manatee CREA has stepped forward to assume the role of the State Volunteer Services Chair. Phyllis served FREA previously as the Board Secretary, and is a delightful person to work with, and to know. Phyllis fills the position our dear Diane Bassett held until she suddenly passed away. We will sorely miss Diane's smile and dedication to FREA.

Past FREA President Pam Schwartz has taken the leadership role of Nominations Chair. She will be working with her committee and is looking forward to securing leaders to fill positions to meet the challenges of FREA. It is an honor to give back to such a wonderful group of people whom have given so much to our communities and our state. Local units will be looking for leaders to fill new positions. I hope you will please step forward to meet the challenge and discover new and delightful experiences.

Remember the words of Tina Turner's song, "You are the Best! Better than all the rest!" Our educators and school personnel are the best; you invest in the future of our children. You really do change the world one child at a time.

Thank you for your time, commitment, and talents.

Edwinna Williams, President - Florida Retired Educators Association



## A Call for Nominations Join the FREA Leadership Team!

Click the image at right to contact us for the information.

American Education Week November 13-17 culminates on Sunday November 19, with the State of Florida's Retired Educators Day. [Proclamation here.](#)

Both were created to honor the dedication and hard work of educators and support personnel. Observance emphasizes the vital role of education in shaping the future by empowering and enriching students' lives. Collaboration among teachers, parents, and the community is important if students are to succeed as responsible citizens in a challenging world.

The Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA), affiliated with the [National Retired Teachers Association](#) (NRTA) has a proud history of supporting public education and all school personnel who have served...In this season of thankfulness, please remember those who established FREA and the Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF), working through the years both legislatively and in their communities, to overcome challenging obstacles. Be grateful to the many members who are serving now on the FREA Board of Directors, the FREF Board of Trustees, and the various Committees of the organization that *Honors Your Yesterdays, Enriches Your Present, & Secures Your Future...* Donating to the Florida Retired Educators Foundation honors a person for whom you remember and are thankful for. You can also show your gratitude by volunteering to serve in your local unit and/or in a FREA or FREF leadership role - see the Call for Nominations for candidates for the 2024 elections...

Celebrate Thanksgiving every day with gratitude for faith, freedom, family, and FREA friends!

Pam Schwartz - FREA Past President

AWESOME BOARD MEMBERS





## Year-Round Gift Giving

By: Harriett Jenkins, President-Elect

The proof of compassion is the desire to give at any time there is a need. Florida Retired Educators are proud to be among the greatest gift givers in the State; voluntarily providing ongoing gifts and services on many levels to whomever in need. Did you know that gift **giving** is a portrait of love and a persuasion of feelings?



Harriett Jenkins  
FREA President-Elect

If you want to make people  
really happy this year,  
be extraordinarily generous  
giving two things you have  
an unlimited amount of,  
and will cost you nothing.  
**Kindness and Gratitude**

Michael Josephson

Giving gifts is one of the five languages of love (Acts of service, Receiving gifts, Quality time, Words of affirmation, and Physical touch). Did you know that words can be a gift to someone? Did you know that kindness is a gift? Did you know abandoning false accusations is a gift? Consider **Thanksgiving**, Christmas **giving**, Birthday **giving** and "Just Because" **giving**.

Let us remember that when you give to someone, your gift creates gratitude, a quality that is always magnetic and is needed now around our world. Whatever the positive gift you choose to give, just do so knowing your efforts have made a difference today and will continue shaping countless lives tomorrow.



Phyllis Omilak  
Volunteer Services  
Chair

### Did You Know?

**FREA advocates for over 100,000 Florida Retirement System Education Retirees?**

### Did You Know?

**From 2013 to 2023, FREA member volunteers saved the State of Florida \$132,986,375.60**

**By working 6,649,319 reported volunteer hours  
(Average pay rate over 10 years @ \$20.00 per hour)**



Jody Scruggs  
FREA Membership  
Chair

		0001
Pay to the order of <u>The State of Florida</u>		Date <u>January 1, 2023</u>
<u>One Hundred-thirty-two million, One Hundred-eighty-six Thousand, Nine Hundred-seventy-five dollars &amp; 60/100</u>		<u>\$132,186,975.60</u>
Memo <u>6,649,319 Volunteer Hours 2013 to 2023</u>		<u>Florida Retired Educators Association</u>
:0025015752132: :524842501 0001		

As an FREA member you have continued your lifetime of service to community and caring for others. Congratulations to all FREA members for continuing to make a positive difference in the world around you. It is an honor to serve with you and for you as the Volunteer Services and Membership Chairs.

Phyllis and Jody



Linda Edson  
FREA State Legislative  
Co-Chair

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



George Ellis  
FREA State Legislative  
Co-Chair

### FREA Legislative Priorities

- FRS - Protecting and Enhancing Retiree Earned Benefits
- Ensuring Accountability and Equity for all schools taking state funds
- Health & Wellness for a Retirement with Dignity for Florida seniors

### Legislative Updates Fall 2023

By Linda Edson and George Ellis

**This year the Florida Legislative Session begins on January 9th.** However, many bills are formed during the Committee Weeks, November 6-17. The FREA State Legislative Committee will meet with their local legislators at their home offices in November and December, and we ask that you meet with yours also. How? Go to the FREA Legislative page scroll down and click on the links to [Find Your Senator](#), or [Find Your Representative](#).

Recently the FREA Legislative group had a Zoom meeting where we discussed the issues we would like to address this year. Handouts for all of these issues can be found on the FREA website under the Legislative heading. [www.frea.org/legislative](http://www.frea.org/legislative)

**Our legislative advocacy for you centers around protecting the FRS pension and reinstating the COLA, which will both help current retirees and in recruiting and retaining teachers.**

- 1. Re-instating Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).** This program ended in Florida during the 2011 Legislative session. This is supplemental income made to your pension to counteract the effects of inflation. If you retired after 2011, your COLA is calculated on the number of years you worked prior to July, 2011. People hired after July, 2011 do not receive a COLA. Last year it was suggested we re-instate COLA retroactive to 2011. This did not move forward because of the cost of implementation. We believe a COLA would encourage people to stay in teaching, thus retaining teachers.
- 2. Increase salaries for veteran teachers.** Currently the Governor has increased the salary of beginning teachers, but not veteran teachers. In many instances, new teachers are making salaries equal or close to teachers who have worked for many years. We plan on suggesting an across the board salary increase of \$500 for each year taught. This means a 20 year teacher would receive a salary increase of \$10,000. We know this is asking for big \$\$\$ but you need to start somewhere.
- 3. Reduce the time a teacher needs to sit out after they have ended DROP.** Currently a person who retired from FRS cannot work for a year. With our large teacher and substitute shortage, we need people to return to the classroom ASAP. We are suggesting to go back to the prior waiting period of 1 month for teachers.
- 4. We are asking the default be moved back to the pension plan. Several years ago the Legislature voted to change the FRS default into the investment plan.** This means if a new teacher does not request to be in the pension plan, they are automatically placed into the investment plan. It has been proven that retirees are better off with the pension plan and third party investors make more money if new hires are placed on the investment plan. If new people do not enter the pension plan, it will eventually effect the pensions of all State employees in the FRS, including first responders, administrative, and all education system employees. outstanding pensions.
- 5. Did you know that retired education system employees in Florida make up over 80% of the Florida Retirement System?** This gives you enormous legislative strength in Tallahassee, IF you choose to use it. In the coming months, we will ask you to write or call your legislators asking them to support our proposed changes if they become bills. FREA has over 11,000 members and we vote. Our past successes show that they will listen to us, especially if we *all* contact them!



Karla Brogdon  
FREF Chair

# Greetings From FREF



I hope this finds everyone healthy and safe. Once again, Florida is dealing with the aftermath of a hurricane. Unfortunately, we are also still dealing with COVID. I believe the majority of our units have resumed meeting in person. For those who are not meeting in-person, I encourage you to continue using ZOOM. I hope many of you participated in the ZOOM officer training sessions offered in August. If not, there will be other trainings throughout the year. I encourage everyone to check out the FREA Handbook on the FREA website. It is a valuable resource.

## FREF's 2023-2024 Scholarship Process

Presidents, please make sure that your current FREF Unit Chairs have received the updated scholarship information. All FREF Unit Chairs and their local high schools should currently have our 2023-2024 packet.

Please visit the FREA website and check out the Scholarship page. **It is expected that students with technology will complete the online version of the application.** This is the better method, given the fact the some recent mailings have caused students to miss deadlines. However, we have added a hard copy option for school personnel to access for students who do not have the technology. We want everyone to have access to our scholarship application, technology or not.

### Current Scholarship Criteria

- ◆ Seniors graduating from an accredited Florida high school (public or private)
- ◆ Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
- ◆ Minimum test scores –SAT - 1000 or ACT – 22
- ◆ **MUST** attend an accredited Florida college/university (public/private).
- ◆ **MUST** teach in Florida, following graduation. A copy of the OFFICIAL FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE must be sent to the State FREA Office. The scholarship requires recipients to teach in the State of Florida for one year for every year the scholarship was awarded. If not, they must repay any scholarship monies received. **Application, directions, and a list of required information can be found at:** [www.frea.org/scholarships](http://www.frea.org/scholarships)

## Extravaganza Tickets

As in past years, we will be selling extravaganza tickets to benefit the Foundation.



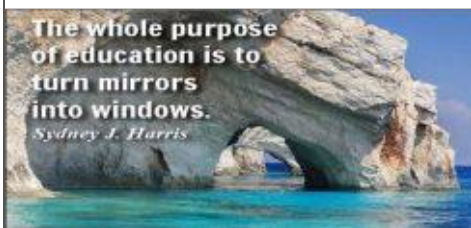
How units choose to meet, will dictate the process used to sell the tickets.

**Tickets will be mailed to unit presidents late November or early December.**

Any units meeting via ZOOM need to contact Karla Brogdon for specific guidelines.

brogdon1@msn.com

Phone—941-722-4692



## FREF Practicing Educator Grant Applications Now Being Accepted. Deadline February 15

Do you know, or are you currently, a practicing educator in a Florida school? Do you have a project that you would love to do with your students but cannot get the funding? The Practicing Educator Grants are here to help. Each year grants of \$1,000 each are awarded to the winning educators who

apply for the grant. Winners have done everything from buying a French horn, to starting a robotics club, to buying wobble chairs for autistic students, and more. Interested? <https://www.frea.org/practicing-educator-grant/>



**Build a  
"They Continue to Care"  
Legacy  
for your departed loved one.**

When loved ones pass, family members may donate to FREF in their memory. (i.e. include in obituary, "In lieu of flowers, please donate to FREF".) The loved ones legacy will live on in the Foundation.





## YOUR FREA MEMBERSHIP UNLOCKS DISCOUNTS & SAVINGS

FREA is working harder than ever to support its members and to provide new and innovative ways to enhance your membership. Part of this initiative is providing discounts and benefits to promote physical and financial health for members in Florida!

My top priority is serving member's needs and fostering the growth of FREA. As AMBA continues to support FREA through our partnership, I eagerly anticipate meeting more of our valued members.

If you have any questions about your benefits or would like AMBA to be part of your next event, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Lexie Mowery*



**Lexie Mowery**  
AVP of Operations for  
East Market

### Medicare Alphabet Soup Getting You Down?

**Contact me to help you with a benefits question, or to have Your Local AMBA Representative contact you. [Lexie.Mowery@amba.info](mailto:Lexie.Mowery@amba.info) or (561)722-1239**



St. Lucie CREA-No selfie here? From l-r: Harriett Jenkins, FREA President-Elect; Harry Belafonte Williams, St. Lucie President; Lexie-AMBA, Bonita Williams, D9 Director; Jeff Hesse-AMBA.



Palm Beach CREA - Is it a selfie when you are not in it? Jeff is there, but Lexie took the shot-then got cut.



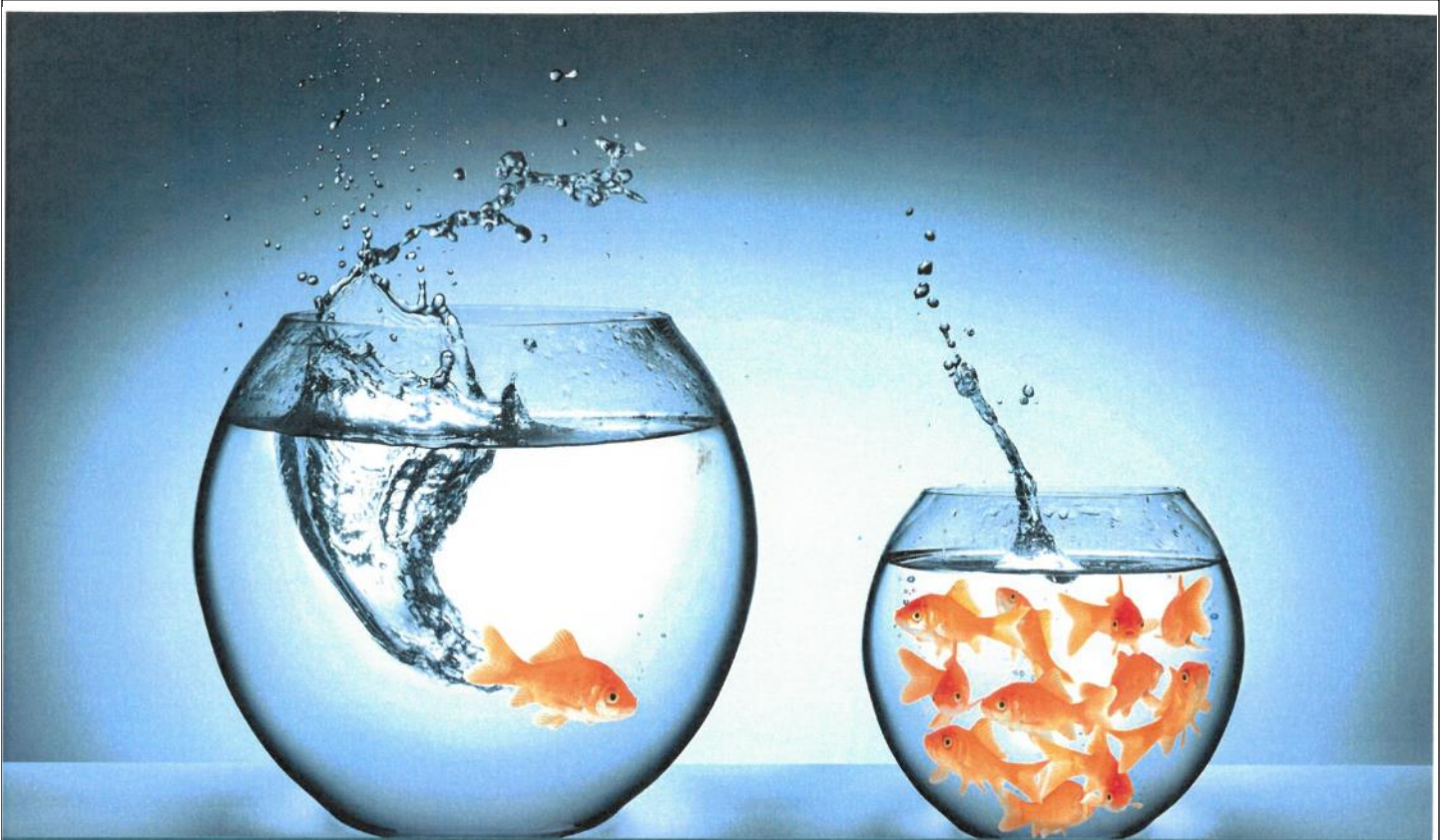
Pasco CREA, AMBA's Mike Cook, showing his selfies skills.



Escambia REA, AMBA Selfies King Chris Gluck (not his real title), takes a group shot.

North, South, East, and West, AMBA representatives enjoy sharing their knowledge, taking selfies with our members, and having fun with FREA Units from all around Florida. Other Units who invited AMBA, but not pictured were: Duval, Lake, Polk, Leon/Wakulla, Citrus, Nassau, Suwanee/Lafayette, and Hernando CREA's. We are looking forward to when we have Selfies from every FREA Unit! Will your Unit's selfie be in the next Bulletin?





# OUTGROWN YOUR BENEFITS?

## TIME TO EXPAND YOUR COVERAGE.

You can, with these benefits and discounts from FREA & AMBA:

- Dental & Vision Plans
- Long-Term Care
- Emergency Ground and Air Transportation Coverage
- Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurance
- Medicare Solutions
- Final Expenses Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance
- Tax-Deferred Asset Protection
- Hearing Benefits
- Hospital Stay Coverage
- Discounts on Travel, Dining & more
- Educators Professional Liability



[amba-review.com/FREA](http://amba-review.com/FREA)

Florida Retired Educators Association





**Cecelia Solomon**  
Info Services Chair

**"If the only prayer you said was Thank You, that would be enough."**

Meister Eckhart

November is the month we all take time to be THANKFUL. Need a framework? There are 30-day lists of ideas all over the Internet for adults, children, and families to help us accomplish this task.

I would like to add another task to take time for, and not just during the upcoming Holiday season. Let's be KIND - helpful, sympathetic, friendly, generous, and considerate.

Did you know that there are different categories for Kindness? The *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* lists four: kin kindness, or being kind to your family; mutualism, or being kind to members of your community; reciprocal altruism, or being kind to those you'll meet again; and competitive altruism: being kind to others when it enhances your happiness.

[Kindness.org](https://www.kindness.org) says kindness is a "Superpower". And [Kindnesseverything.com](https://www.kindnesseverything.com) simply says kindness is Love.

Take time today, tomorrow, every day, to be kind.

This list is just a SMALL sample of many websites for Thankfulness and Kindness.

[https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/what\\_types\\_of\\_kindness\\_will\\_make\\_you\\_happiest](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/what_types_of_kindness_will_make_you_happiest)  
<https://www.happierhuman.com/30-days-gratitude/> - <https://onethingalone.com/30-days-of-thanks/>  
<https://inspirekindness.com/blog/kindness-101> - <https://www.kindness.org/>

## ALL ABOUT UnitS!

### The Return of Convention Unit Displays

Before COVID, all Units would bring to Convention a display to show what great activities they had done, and events they had created. These displays were one of the highlights of our Convention. Everyone would gather around the displays, visit, and talk about their last year of Unit fun and activities. Some displays were quite complicated and deluxe. (One year we even had a working Lionel train set.)

**Our Convention Committee simplified the Unit display idea, and we are so looking forward to seeing your creations at Convention 2024!**

- ★ Every FREA Unit create a 36" X 48" foam display board decorated with your name, photos, graphics, and anything else that will adhere to the actual board itself. Don't be afraid to label, label, label!
- ★ To keep things simple, nothing goes ON the table but the display boards (larger Districts could have 2 tables).
- ★ The display boards will come to Convention and be displayed by District in the FREA/FREF Gathering Room.
- ★ Each District will have an 11x14 sign like the one at the right, to identify their display area and Units.
- ★ At the end of convention, units retrieve their display boards to use at their own meetings or when they attend events in their community.





**1954 ~ 2024**

**Please Join Us for Our  
70th Anniversary  
Celebration Convention!**

**May 14-16, 2024**



**5700 Saddlebrook Way**

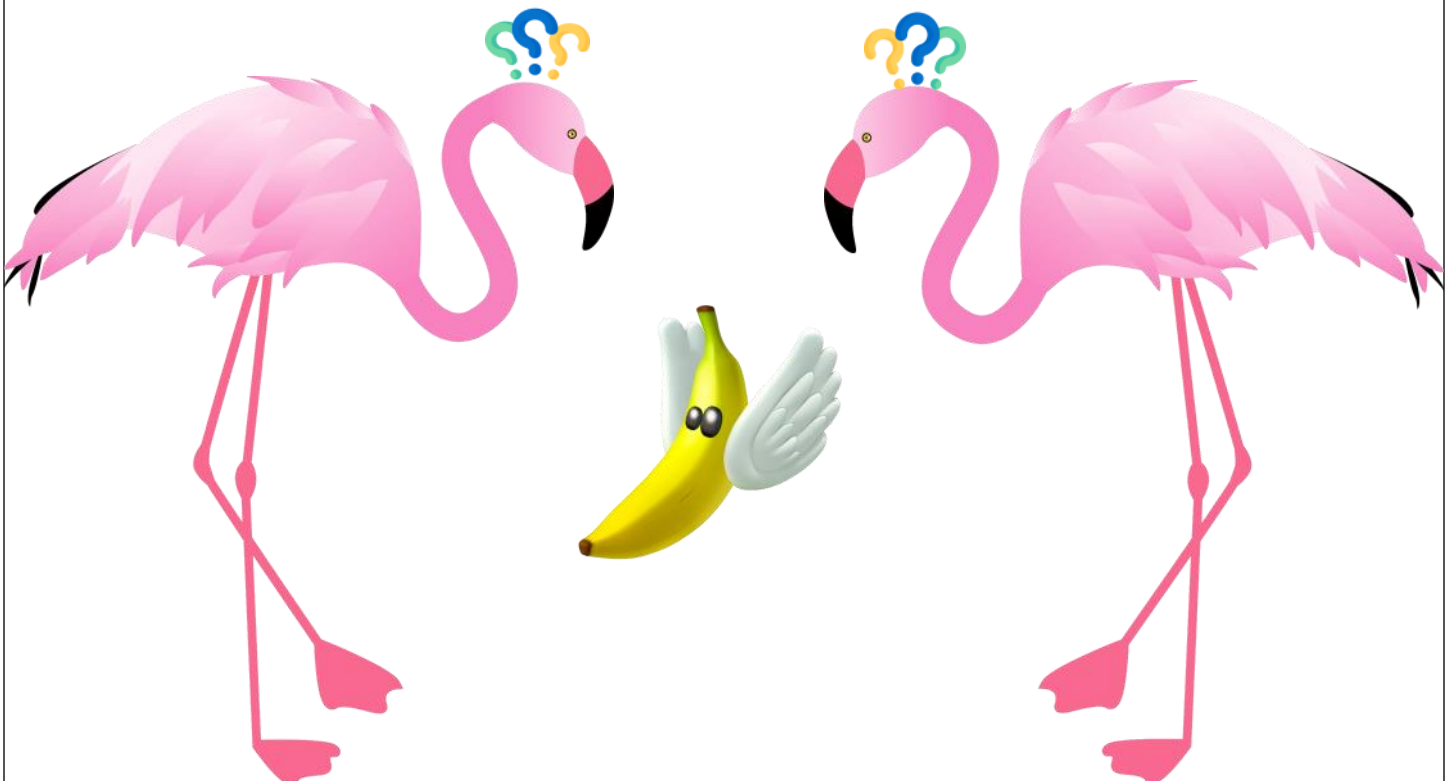
**Wesley Chapel, Florida 33543**

More information on our [website](#)  
registration info available in January 2024



## **What Will Happen at the 2024 Convention?**

**It's double-top-secret info, and we do have to do some of FREA's business, but the fun involves flamingoes flocking and bananas flying...**



## Anne Bullock

### FREA President 1996-1998

Lula Anne Bullock passed away Tuesday, August 8, 2023 in Jay, Florida. Funeral services were held August 15th in Pensacola. Anne was born on April 25, 1932 in Gilbertown, Alabama. Anne attended Livingston State Teachers College where she became passionately involved in education through philanthropy and her sorority. Anne's teaching career began at Toxey Elementary School when her husband Marlon Bullock was deployed to Korea. Both Anne and Marlon taught at Niceville High School for three years after Marlon returned from Korea and graduated from Livingston; then they moved to Pensacola.



Anne's teaching career continued in Escambia County: ten years at Hallmark Elementary and two years at Ensley Elementary. She became a visiting teacher, specializing in children with varying educational needs; a school social worker; and a surrogate parent for many students in the school system until her retirement in 1983 after 30 years of service.



2011 Convention at the Disney Hilton - FREF Chair Ellen James with former FREA President Anne Bullock and District 8 Director Michel Ferger

Throughout her career and well into her seventies, Anne was involved in countless organizations which became the highlight of her later years. She was instrumental in developing a supplemental plan for continued healthcare for retired educators and fought diligently for retired

educators' needs. Her dedication helped pave the path to one of her most honorable titles: President of the Florida Retired Educators Association in 1996-1998. Anne spoke memorably of her time serving as chairman, director, or president of the 90 and 9 Boys Ranch, Florida Retired Educators Foundation, Escambia Retired Educators Association (President 1988-90), Reading is Fundamental, Learn to Read, Council on Aging, AARP, and National Retired Teachers Association. She was recognized as Retired Educator Teacher of the Year (Escambia REA 1992) and was awarded for Outstanding Volunteer Service in Northwest Florida. Anne was so proud to be among a league of spirited educators and thrived in the camaraderie that came with her beloved career.

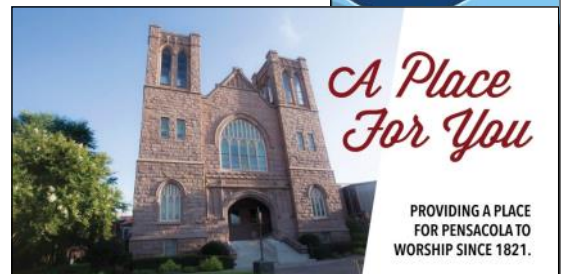
In addition to educational causes, Anne volunteered at her church home, First United Methodist Church in Pensacola. She assisted in preparing and serving Wednesday night supper and other meals there. When she moved to The Waterford at Carpenter's Creek, she organized activities and advocated for the residents there. She used her connections with city and county leaders to clean up a path along the nearby creek, so residents could exercise and enjoy the outdoors there.



Evelyn Nachman, Anne Bullock, Ruth Sneed, and Ed Stanford of Escambia REA enjoy getting together at the 2013 Fall Workshop.



Anne Bullock, Former FREA President and Anne Fagan, FREA Executive Director, appropriately styling their stripes at the 2019 Fall Workshop held in the former Pensacola Jail, now the Pensacola Museum of Art.





# In Memory

July 19, 2023 ~ November 1, 2023

Molly	Horton	Bay County REA
Sandra	Destival	Bay County REA
Warren	Cox	Broward CREA
Barbara	Roush	Clay CREA
Anne	Bullock	Escambia CREA
Mattie	Patterson	Gadsden CREA
Steve	Hall	Jefferson CREA
Willie	Tillman-Williams	Jefferson CREA
John Les	Johnson	Lake CREA
Alton	Farmer	Leon/Wakulla REA
Edyth	Maloy	Leon/Wakulla REA
Kathryn	Fields	Leon/Wakulla REA
Patricia	Rourke	Martin CREA
Mary	Miller	Miami-Dade CREA
Robert	Russell	North Brevard REA
Ellen	James	Orange CREA
Mavis	Sink	Orange CREA
Floria	Garbutt	Palm Beach CREA
Susan	Storms	Palm Beach CREA
Anne	Palow	Pasco CREA
Linda	Osborne	Pasco CREA
Celesta	Crosby	Polk REA Unit II
Myra	Helms	Santa Rosa CREA
Diane	Bassett	Sarasota REA
Bettie	Spratt	Seminole CREA
Leo	Rivera	South Brevard REA
Peggy	Boyatt	Sumter CREA
		Suwannee/ Lafayette REA
Dorris	Chauncey	Suwannee/ Lafayette REA
Steven	Gornoski	West Jackson REA
G Nick	Williams	West Volusia CREA
Denise	Thibodeau	

## Members @ Large

Shirley	Wolf	Boynton Beach
Yale	Horowitz	Boynton Beach
Frank	Caradonna	Delray Beach
Irving	Salzhauer	Delray Beach
Robert	Cox	Green Cove Springs
Jack	Singer	Lake Worth
Sylvia	Levine	Lake Worth
Patrisha	Lombardi	Palm Bay
Mariana	Griffith	St Petersburg

**Ellen James, FREF Chair** One of our long time members, Ellen James, passed away on August 28th at the age of 91. Ellen was very active in her Orange County Unit and also at the state level with FREA and FREF. She was a tireless and spirited fundraiser. Ellen is shown at right as she convinces FREA President Esther Twitchell (right) to purchase the crocheted blanket donated to FREF. Ellen also never tired of travelling around the British Isles with her fellow FREA friends former FREA Presidents Esther Twitchell and Marie Grein. The photo at right was taken in very northern Scotland.



Diane, from our Sarasota REA is shown (left) receiving her well earned District 7 Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2021 Convention with President Nancy Hosie (right).

## Diane Bassett, FREA State Volunteer Services

**Chair** - Diane departed this life on August 28, 2023. She was born on December 17, 1959 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Diane served for 2 years as FREA's State Volunteer Services Chair, and she will be very much missed by all of those who came to know her. Her giving heart and shining spirit live on inside us. Diane was a retired Marine Science teacher from Riverview High School. Diane is survived by her husband Mark Bassett, children -Erin & Daniel Lavarello, Tyler & Patrick Bassett and brothers Kenneth & Richard Maglocco. A Celebration of Life was held on October 07, 2023 at the Riverview Performing Arts Center, located at 1 Ram Way, Sarasota, FL. In lieu of flowers, charitable donations may be made in her name to the Venice Audubon Society and the American Cancer Society, or any favorite charity of choice.



Florida Retired Educators  
Association  
8950 9th St. N #105  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**All FREA Members, General or Associate, regardless of which state they come from, may utilize FREA Benefits.**

**There is strength in numbers, and FREA needs YOU to make our voices stronger together!**

**We are a Non-Partisan, Non-Political organization.**

**We support those who support our Mission, and include all voices in our membership.**

[www.FREA.org/AboutUs](http://www.FREA.org/AboutUs)

**FLORIDA RETIRED  
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

(727) 577-6400

[www.FREA.org](http://www.FREA.org) — [info@frea.org](mailto:info@frea.org)

Submissions sent to:  
[info@frea.org](mailto:info@frea.org)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editor has exercised the privilege of editing Bulletin material where space was limited or when similar information was received.

**FREA State Office  
[info@frea.org](mailto:info@frea.org)**

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Bulletin Editor - [anne@frea.org](mailto:anne@frea.org)

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Accounting Specialist Diane Lynch

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## The Final Word: Rockin' and Rollin' Through the Years

10 years ago, at the 2014 Gala Celebration of FREA's 60th Anniversary, our past FREA Presidents rocked out at the head table. Thousands of volunteer hours are represented in this picture. FREA is so grateful that we have amazing leaders like these, and those who have followed in their footsteps. Ed Etheridge, 2006-08; Mildred Dunlap, 2002-04; Anne Bullock, 1996-98; Marie Grein, 2008-10; Esther Twitchell, 2010-12. Out on the dance floor were Larry Carmichael, 2000-02, and Thelma Mosley, who was then the current 2012-2014 FREA President, and host of the 60th Anniversary Gala.

