

SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 5
Gail Weston, Editor

February 2024
Carol Huber, Labels

President's Message



FEBRUARY

Mark These Dates

Happy February Members and Friends

Welcome to everyone! We had a great January meeting. Our speaker, Annie Lesso, inspired us to simplify our life through organization and decluttering. We welcomed three new members: Julie Bush, Ann Carroll and Barbara Cushing. We also sold a third of our FREF Extravaganza tickets and they will be available again for purchase at our meeting. February is the month we encourage you to renew your membership for 2024-2025. A membership form is found in this newsletter. This is also a great time to encourage new members to attend and join since they will start enjoying the benefits of membership which will last until June 30, 2025. Another reason to renew or join now — at our FREA May convention, the delegate assembly will consider an increase of \$10.00 to the FREA dues.

Speaking of the May 2024 FREA convention, save the dates May 14 - 16. Tropical Southern Days will be held at Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel. So, grab your tropical attire and pina colada and plan to enjoy a couple of days of fun, fellowship, festivities and enlightenment. Registration information should be available later this month.

A big shout out to Paula Walker who is our treasurer but still is wearing the president elect hat at times, Gail Weston who produced an excellent newsletter, Jackie Thornton who selects our music each month, and Vicki Coleman who stepped up as official photographer. Thank you too, Carol Huber, for signing in all attendees, designing a new membership brochure, and encouraging all to renew and to recruit new members.

Our February speaker, Tiffany from Friends of Strays, should provide an informative program. And who doesn't love learning about our furry critters? So, plan on joining us at the Big Apple Buffet on Thursday, February 8th. Looking forward to seeing y'all

Pat Davey and Jan Wallis, Co-Presidents



**SPCREA MEETING DATES
& PROGRAMS – 2023 – 2024**

See Full Calendar page 2 .

February 8th Tiffany, Friends of Strays. How they help animals.

March 14th – Jimmy, JB Effects. How to save your Digital Media ie Pictures, Videos, etc.

April 11th - Emily Turnage & Clients, Creative Clay Programs

May 9th – Anita Marsanna, Veterans' Village, Programs They Offer

Contact Paula Walker for Zoom information. Her email is pmcwalker1@mac.com and her phone number is 727-321-1788

OUR MEETING DATES are the 2nd 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
retirededucator@mac.com
TBA President-elect

Paula Walker, Treasurer
pmcwalker1@mac.com
TBA, Recording Secretary

Gloria Drouin , Corresponding Secretary pjsdroudin@yahoo.com
Cheryl DiCicco, Past-President
pdicicco@tampabay.rr.com

Thank you Paula Walker Program- 2023 - 2024

February 8th Tiffany, Friends of Strays. How they help animals.

March 14th – Jimmy, JB Effects. How to save your Digital Media ie Pictures, Videos, etc.

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Too often we focus on fixing the symptom of a problem rather than addressing the cause.

WHERE WE MEET

We are now meeting at the **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!

Board of Directors include: SPCREA Standing Committees

Volunteer Services (Community Service & Literacy) – Cheryl Maggio

Information Services Information, – Nancy Wudtke

Retirement Planning –

Legislative – Wanda Dudley

Nominations – Cheryl DiCicco

Bylaws – Vicki Coleman

Cultural Affairs – Phyllis Hand & Janice O'Day

Newsletter – Gail Weston

Publicity – Cheryl DiCicco

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

SPCREA January 11th Meeting Pictures



Speaker – Annie Lesso
Thank you for all the tips to get organized in the home!
Very helpful and much appreciated!



Jan Wallis leading the Pledge to the Flag!
Carol Huber pledging to the flag!



Pat Davey
Giving the Thought for the Day!

PROJECT CHEER

Greetings, We hope you are well!

Good day to you all. For the month of February, we will be collecting pet supplies to benefit the Friends of Strays of Pinellas. Please consider donating paper towels, cat and dog food, sheets, blankets, and kitty litter. Cash is always welcome. You may also go online to Friends of Strays and see their wish list. Stray animals need friends like us to give them a helping hand. Thank you. Also, thank you for your past donations.



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 January 11th Meeting



Bob & Ann Carroll
Ann has joined SPCREA
Welcome Ann



Pat with two new members
Barbara Cushing & Julie Bush
While Jan leads the meeting.
Welcome Barbara and Julie!



Welcome back Jane Lee
Jane's guests,
Jane Lynch & Sandy Van Dorp



Donated school supplies



Two views of the group!



MEMBERSHIP Update– Carol Huber



It is time to renew your dues for 2024 – 2025 ✍

We'd like to welcome new members **Barbara Cushing, Julie Bush, and Ann Carroll** to our group. It was great to see **Jane Lee** back as well. We welcomed guests **Jean Lynch** and **Sandy Van Dorp**, who we hope might join us, as well.

The SPCREA calendar year runs from July 1st to June 30th. FREA begins membership renewal in February for the upcoming year. If you are not sure if you are current (2024-2025), please check with **Paula Walker** or **Carol Huber**. Several have paid in advance and they are being updated to our current year.

SPCREA will send you a reminder to renew your dues via email to members receiving newsletters in that format. You may also receive a reminder from **FREA** regarding state dues (local dues are not included). *To save time and confusion, I suggest that you pay both state and local dues though SPCREA.*

Give/send your dues to Paula and updated personal information to Carol. Paula will designate that both state & local dues are paid, send that information to me, and remit state dues to FREA. Your status will then be updated to current. *Combined state and local dues are only \$45.*

You might consider setting up 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 (I use January 15th). Your bank will then generate a check that will be sent to Paula for the amount you designate. However, you will still need to contact Paula or me with any updates (email, address, etc.) **This is an easy way to pay your dues and stay current without wondering about your status.***

SPCREA currently boasts **54 current members** who are up-to-date for the **2024-25** year, and *67 members* who need renewal from 2023 – 2024. Please check with Paula or myself for your current status. Please encourage your friends, acquaintances, and colleagues to bring their membership up-to-date and join us at our meetings and outings. You never know when the opportunity will present itself. Paula & I were working at Panera last week, when a retired teacher overheard us and asked about our program. We hope to see her at our next meeting! Be sure to keep our new brochures handy for just such occasions!!

I'd like to encourage members to wear your name badge to meetings. Please let me know if you do not have one and I'll be sure to bring it to you at our next meeting. In order to help with this, I will be happy to hold your badges and bring them to each meeting. If you have any questions or I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at 727-403-0027 or at SPCREAssoc@outlook.com



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

If you know of a member who is ill or has passed away, we would like to honor them.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Phone # _____

Mail to **Carol Huber**, 9712 52nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

OR send to SPCREAssoc@outlook.com

**SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
TREASURER REPORT**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE(CAB) as of 12/27/2023		\$2732.50
INCOME		
FREA local 23-24	10.00	
State dues 24-25	70.00	
Local dues 24-25	20.00	
FREF 24-25	5.00	
TOTAL INCOME: 12/27/2023 – 1/22/24		\$105.00
EXPENDITURES		
Lunch for Speaker	13.90	
Brochure Printing	33.17	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 12/27/2023 – 1/22/24		\$47.07
CHKNG ACCT BALANCE on 11/21/2023		\$2790.43
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/27/2023		
Interest Earned	0.08	
Fundraising (January)	27.00	
Donation	5.00	
Total Income		133.08
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE on 1/22/2024		\$2039.77

Present funds for local scholarship: \$1195.80

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Walker, Treasurer

Starting in February, I will start collecting dues for the 2024-2025 membership year. Currently the dues are \$45 for state and local dues plus any optional donations. The membership year is from July 1st to June 30th. Please attach your dues to a membership form and be sure to include any changes to your address, email or phone number.

Thank you,
Paula Walker, Treasurer

If you have money for Paula Walker, Treasurer, please put it in an envelope or attach a note to it so she knows who it is from and what it is for.

If you have a receipt for reimbursement, please put it in an envelope with your name, item bought, and reason for purchase, Also, sign the receipt.



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WEBSITES FOR BOOKING A BREAK

Looking for your next vacation getaway? Consider booking a place to stay with one of these vacation rental sites suggested by *SmarterTravel.com*.

- 🏠 Sort through **Airbnb** properties with experienced Superhosts and verified Airbnb Plus listings.
- 🏠 **Getaway** offers minimalist retreats for those who want to go off-grid.
- 🏠 Consolidate rewards for vacation rentals and hotel stays on **Hotels.com**.
- 🏠 **HomeToGo** is a one-stop shop with listings from other websites included.
- 🏠 Easily filter properties and select from Premier Partners with **Vrbo**.
- 🏠 **Marriott Homes & Villas** offers the quality and support of a hotel chain and members can earn or redeem points.
- 🏠 **Agoda** will match competitors' rates for the same properties or credit you with the difference.



Don't forget -- Save the Date!

Managing Mental Health Through Joy and Satisfaction

Find Your Funny Bone
 Rediscover the Kid Inside You
 Treat Yourself
 Acknowledge the Positives Around You
 Express Your Joy

HELP PLEASE -- Positions still needing to be filled include: President-elect, Secretary, Project Cheer Chairperson.



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 or Bring them to the meeting.



South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association

Membership Application

2024 - 2025



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

<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of Membership	General Member (Circle One): Retired School Teacher/School Administrator/Support Staff/Other:
FREA Benefits are fully available to ALL FREA members whether Regular or Associate.	Associate Member 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**

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

Mail to: Paula Walker

3600 15th Avenue North

St Petersburg, FL 33713

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.

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

South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association
3600 15th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Thursday, February 8th

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

Or SPCREA's Facebook Page: Link follows!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1004834239656454/>



**Find us on
Facebook**