

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

FEBRUARY 2024

OFFICERS:

President — Cheri Brodeur
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VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed
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Secretary — Sue Reed
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Treasurer — Larry Bachle
lawrencebachle@gmail.com

Volunteer Services— Karen Philman
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Legislative Representative & Website —
Paula Marczynski marczy52@gmail.com

Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord
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Schedule of Events:

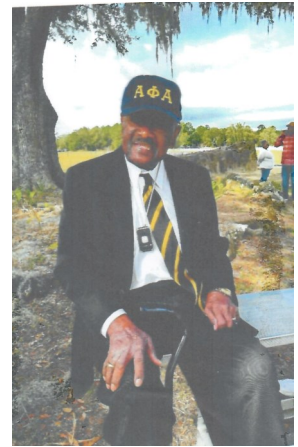
- MAR 18 — SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (RICK REED)
- APR 15 — TBD
- MAY 14-16 — FREA CONVENTION
- MAY 20 — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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.



Alphonso Johnson was honored as Grand Marshal of the Williston MLK parade.

FEB

Cheri called the meeting to order and **Alphonso** provided the opening devotions. Minutes and Treasurer's report were given by **Sue** and **Larry**, respectively. Committee reports were presented by **Rick, Paula, Karen, and Cora.** **Larry** gave an update on **Harriet's** improvement.

For our program for Black History Month, Alphonso shared photos and newspaper clippings about his experience as Grand Marshal for the Williston Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. We are so proud for him!

L-GREA Activities

JAN

Cheri called the meeting to order and **Sue** provided the devotion. **Alphonso** was unable to make the meeting due to serving as Grand Marshal in the Williston MLK Parade.

A presentation was made to the group by **Michelle Walker-Crawford** about her new tutoring service starting Wed, Jan 17th called The Learning Curve.

Larry gave the treasurer's report and collected funds for Extravaganza tickets. He also reminded us that organization dues need to be paid. Volunteer hours were turned in to **Karen**. **Rick** and **Sue** gave an update on our scholarship applications and **Paula** gave a legislative report. **Cora** passed around a birthday card for **Harriet** that we all signed.

Paula made a presentation on the Excel program she created which is based on the FREA Volunteer Services form but is catered to an individual's specific areas of volunteerism and tallies numbers as they are entered. It makes it much easier to keep track of one's hours. Door prizes this month were camellia blossoms from **Paula's** home. Everyone received some.

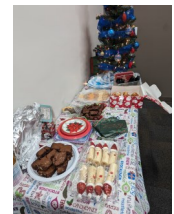


DEC



We had a very informative presentation on Identity Theft and ways we can keep ourselves safe online. Sheriff Schultz and several of his deputies gave a presentation on Identity Theft.

Following the program, we had goodies prepared by members and a gift exchange.



OCT

Cheri called the meeting to order and **Alphonso** provided opening thoughts and led the pledge and singing of God Bless America. Committee reports were presented by **Rick, Sue, Paula, and Karen**.

We had a special guest from Levy County schools teacher association...**Kim Hudson**. She talked about issues facing current teachers and how the state voucher program has negatively impacted public education.

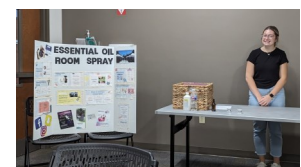
Cheri gave a very informative presentation on tips and concerns when traveling overseas. She offered travel books for those who were interested.

SEP

Cheri called the meeting to order and **Alphonso** provided opening thoughts and led the pledge and singing of God Bless America. Committee reports were presented by **Paula, Rick, Sue, and Karen**.

Paula and **Rick** discussed a spreadsheet she designed and shared with him for collecting and tallying volunteer hours. The program is setup for each person's specific needs.

Our program about essential oils was presented by **Lois Bachle**, the granddaughter of members **Harriet** and **Larry**. It was an excellent and informative message on how to create products and market strategies for her FFA Ornamental Horticulture project.



L-GREA Activities cont.

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 co-ordinator.



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.

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.



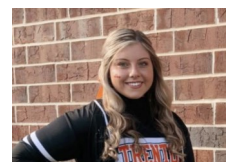
APR

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.