

PBCREA APRIL, 2024 BLAST

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From: Janet Ford (mvjsmom@aol.com)

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 02:03 PM EDT

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**PALM BEACH COUNTY**  
**RETIRED EDUCATORS**  
**ASSOCIATION**

**APRIL 2024 BLAST**



**APRIL LUNCHEON MEETING**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024**  
**11:15 AM**

**GOLDEN CORRAL BUFFET RESTAURANT**  
**10100 Fox Trail Road S**  
**Royal Palm Beach**

**\*\*SW Corner of Okeechobee Blvd. & SR 7\*\***  
**\*\*behind Ruby Tuesday\*\***

**Cost is approximately \$13 payable to the restaurant**

(Senior Citizens drinks are free)  
If you are not eating, you must pay for a drink.  
When you come through the line to pay, please follow directions to come directly to the meeting room.  
Do not gather lunch items yet.  
Wear your new **RED** name tag lanyard \*  
OR  
Make sure you get a **NAME TAG!**

**"LUNCH, CHAT and CHEW"**



**PROGRAM**



At our April meeting, PBCREA member *Brigitta McTigue* will show photos and video clips from her trip to Uganda and Rwanda last summer. Her adventures included chimpanzee tracking, a wildlife safari, and gorilla trekking. She and her husband visited the Genocide Museum in Kigali, Rwanda, along with the Hotel des Mille Collines, made famous in the movie "Hotel Rwanda". On the way to Uganda, they visited the Royal Museum for Central Africa outside Brussels, Belgium.

Brigitta loves adventure travel, and hopes to inspire others to step outside their comfort zones and embark on the journey of their dreams!



## UNIT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Thank you to all who posted the previous month's volunteer hours on their reporting sheet. Going forward, please indicate the completed prior month's numbers. We will be accurate that way. Remember to keep a record of May-September hours while we are away on summer break. Any questions, please call me (Nancy Gerace @ 561-616-0177 ). Thank you!

### **PBCREA Volunteer Nominee for 2023**



I am pleased and honored to nominate **Ms. Barbara Otto** as our Volunteer of the Year. Barbara has been an active member of our organization for 16 years and a part of FREA for 16 years. She works well with people and gets joy out of seeing others benefit from the volunteer hours she provides to the recipients. She extends her happiness and love of people to several organizations: St. Peter's United Methodist Church, CROS Ministries, Citizen's Emergency Response Team, helping people in need in various community involvements, and our PBCREA chapter. With her involvement in many areas of need, she maintains a balanced life to support her charitable lifestyle. Therefore, we are proud of her accomplishments through her volunteer hours—this honor she does well deserves.

Respectfully, Dr. Kenneth Long Volunteer Unit Chair

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### **♥♥PBCREA Top 10 Volunteers for 2023♥♥**

1. Black, Vivian
2. Evans, Josephine
3. Ford, Janet
4. Gilbert, Annette
5. Jackson, Flora

6. Otto, Barbara/VOY of 2023  
Ronald

7. Quinlan, Margaret

8. Scharnweber,

9. Young, Willie Jo

10. Zaremba, Karen

\*\*Awards will be presented to these individuals for their intricate and devoted voluntary services for 2023 at the APRIL Meeting.\*\*

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**BINGO WINNERS**

Thank you to all who participated in the Unit Scholarship BINGO games. Between donations and playing card sales, \$405 was added to our Unit Scholarship Fund. That total right now is \$12,170 with an **additional \$2500 recently donated by the Gold Coast Federal Credit Union! THANK YOU!**

WINNERS: BLUE -- Edith Seveny

ORANGE -- Margaret Quinlan

GREEN -- Olga Taliferro Lisa McRae

YELLOW -- Josephine Eaves Raye Johnson Deborah Fisher

PINK -- Hattie Robinson

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**Convention 2024**



This year we have a 2024 Convention Registration Booklet.

It contains worksheets, room schematics, and information on everything to do with Convention. We are challenging your math skills, hoping that you can use the formula supplied to complete the registration. If you have, but are not sure about your calculations, give the FREA Office a call; Diane or Anne will be happy to help.

If you would like to have a hard copy of the Registration Booklet mailed to you, please email [info@frea.org](mailto:info@frea.org).

FREA's 70th Anniversary Convention will be held May 14-16 at the Saddlebrook Resort. This is located northeast of Tampa in Wesley Chapel, Florida



[Go to FREA.org](http://FREA.org) to find the registration booklet



## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Friday afternoon, March 8, 2024, the Florida Legislative closed with the traditional "Sine Die" hanky drop of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate blocked the bill to restore the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to public employees'

pensions, which was cut in 2011. The House approved it unanimously, but the estimated \$2 billion cost proposal left the Senate with sticker shock. In the eleventh hour, the original bill sponsor, Senator Busetta Cabrera from Miami-Dade, brought back an amendment that passed both houses and takes effect on July 1, 2024, with the Governor's signature. All references to COLA were removed in that amendment, but what remained was the ability for a retiree who has met the definition of termination by law to be reemployed after one calendar month instead of one calendar year. In 2023, we increased our monthly medical supplement; in 2024, the reemployment period was reduced to a month from a year. So, in 2025, we will start our fight for COLA earlier with local visits to our Senators and collaboration with other groups like law enforcement and firefighters. Thank you for making your voices heard with your emails and calls.

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### **EXTRAVAGANZA TICKETS**

**FREF Scholarship Extravaganza Tickets - Only \$10.00 Buy your tickets now for 2 Chances to win:**

**First, you will be in the District drawing for a \$100 winner in Broward, Dade or Palm Beach.**

**Second, you will have a chance to win: \$500 Cash – 1st Prize \$300 Cash – 2nd Prize \$200 Cash - 3rd Prize**

**\*\*TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE APRIL MEETING\*\***

**All donations will be used to fund the general scholarship program as well as the operating expenses of the Foundation.**

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**FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI**

**LOCAL STUDENT TO RECEIVE \$1000 FREF STATE SCHOLARSHIP!**

Charlotte Riddle was awarded the FREF (State) scholarship and will graduate from Dwyer High School. She is scheduled to receive the ACE Certificate and Early Childhood Education Certificate. She has over 800 hours of volunteer work, is president of Florida's Future **Educators of America**, Team Captain for LaCrosse, is a member of the Honor Society, a member of Be The Change and a Sunday School teacher. She works at Jersey Mike's Subs. She has a 3.678 GPA and 4.48 HPA.

We have one applicant under review for the \$1000.00 PBCREA Scholarship for college-bound Education Majors. Winners will be awarded at the May 9, 2024, Scholarship Luncheon.

We will award our local PBCREA scholarship to Victoria Bill who will graduate from Dwyer High School with an Early Childhood Education Certificate. Victoria volunteered at an elementary school all while in middle school. She is a member of the Florida Future Educators of America. She is an intern at Little Panthers Preschool and an aftercare counselor at Beacon Cove.

**VALENTINE DONATIONS!**

**With your generous donations, 1200 Valentines were delivered - and appreciated  
- to the VA Hospital!**

**DUES -- DUES -- DUES**

If you are a member of FREA and PBCREA, please note that there will be an increase of \$10.00 for FREA dues. However, you may pay the usual \$45.00 before July 1, 2024, to avoid the \$10. 00 increase for your 2024-2025 dues.  
Send to Janet Ford -- 715 Beech Rd -- WPB FL 33409

**Attached are files for Volunteering to HELP our unit! PLEASE do  
what you can!  
SCROLL DOWN vvvvv**



### The FREA Mission

- To safeguard the strength of the Florida Retirement System
- To support public education in Florida
- To provide fellowship opportunities
- To encourage community involvement
- To be a source of information and materials







**Attached are files for Volunteering to HELP our unit! PLEASE do what you can!**



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