



*Brevard Federation of Teachers
Retired Chapter News
“Retired, Not Expired”*

Volume 14, Number 3
December 2009

The President’s Column

With close to fifty in attendance, we almost topped the last year’s opening meeting. Obviously the Superintendent was a great draw. I opened the meeting with a short commentary regarding the misspelling and mispronunciation of names. People have been doing it to me all of my life (including my Canadian sister-in-law), so I fully appreciate the problem that Dr. Binggeli faces. It’s two Gs and one I. He countered with the tale of getting to play in the BIG GAME and his name was so badly mangled in the sports program that he was unable to keep it for posterity and no one would ever be able to identify him as the player. He went on from there to talk about a philosophy of education, expectations and concerns. His belief in a strong collaborative approach to education is every teacher’s dream. We had discussed with him our newly activated volunteer program to help lessen the load for classroom teachers, particularly those doing the FAIR testing. His comment, “That would be the greatest gift.” So we fervently hope that at a time when teachers are on overload and morale is at a very low point, the Superintendent will be able to breathe fresh air and new hope into the system.

It has always amazed me that – regardless of the climate; from Brevard’s population explosion due to the Cape in the 50’s, the recession and layoffs at the Cape in the 60’s, the incredible growth spurt (watch the traffic) and now we are looking at the 60’s all over again – we survive. I taught, watched my children and one of my grandsons navigate through our school system, and no matter what the highs and lows – our schools and our teachers always come out on top.

Luncheon at The Tides – Thursday, December 3rd, 2009
See Reservation Form Inside

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A Union of Professionals
AFT +
Member Benefits

Volunteer Update

We’ve got a start! Eight great members signed up when the plea went out to help our fellow active teachers. With cooperation between Janet Eastman, Joy Salamone and BFT/R, we are hoping to relieve some of the stress of the new FAIR test.

You do not have to be certified in Elementary Education to help! We’ll just monitor the remainder of the class while the K-2 teachers give a one-on-one test. Even **one hour** will help! I’m sure the teachers will be happy to have you any time. You **do not** have to get up and be there at 7:30 or 8:00 a.m.!!

We do want Joy to check with the principal to make sure they welcome us. So pick your school or we’ll pick one for you. (Gemini already sent out a **HELP!**) Sign up by calling Fern Patton at 636-9250 or call the BFT office and I’ll get the message. Let’s help our teachers in their time of need!

P.S. We are working on a deal for fingerprints if yours aren’t current.

FYI: **FAIR** stands for Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading.

Brevard Federation of Teachers - Retired Chapter News

Membership News



Sheila Cootes, Membership Chair

Our “newest new” members are **Lloyce Campbell, Deborah Grimes, Annie Jones, Carethea “Cam” Mathews, Alice Ramos and Susan Sanger**. Lloyce taught Social Studies at Merritt Island High. Deborah taught second grade at Apollo Elementary; likes exercising (jazzercise and walking), reading, traveling and her grandchildren. Annie taught all areas (Basic) at Andersen Elementary and enjoys crafts, singing and traveling. Cam taught fifth grade at Riviera Elementary and lists her interests as arts and crafts with children, reading and writing. Tropical Elementary was “home” to both Alice (who taught second grade) and Susan (who taught sixth). Alice says she’s too busy with her 18 year old to have any “interests”, while Susan enjoys traveling, cross stitch, walking on the beach and playing with her grandsons.

Twenty-three renewing members paid their 2009-10 dues since last month’s newsletter and so join our illustrious Honor Roll. Those members are **Judith Alexander, Fran Baer, Atlene Britt, Theresa Brown, Cecily Cain, Lonnie Ford, Patti Gates, Ellen Gayle, Kathryn Harbaugh, Janet Kennedy, Cora Knighton, Roland Martin, Genetta McGee, Wendy Morrison, Barbara Morse, Carol Moss, Barbara Peete, Joan Schreiber, Beth Shaffer, Patsy Shearer, Eva Slaughter, Carla Stevenson, Geneva Swilley and Betty Tsatiris**.



Two more members have decided to take advantage of the “installment plan” for paying the \$300 lifetime membership amount. BFT/R will pay their \$30 local dues this year. If you’re interested in this, call Sheila at 452-3580 and work out what is best for you. As one member said, “This makes a lot of sense.” Yea!

In last month’s Membership News, I wrote that Marion Baker had died, but that I had no details. Her daughter, Debbie Orr, sent me a copy of Marion’s obituary:

Marion Jean Black Baker died suddenly on Saturday, May 30, 2009. A graduate of Indiana University, she was an elementary teacher in Indiana, Minnesota and in Florida at University Park Elementary. Active in Girl Scouts for 15 years; volunteered at the King Center for Performing Arts for 13 years; and was treasurer for the condominium complex she resided in. She is survived by daughters, Debbie Baker Orr and Deanne Baker Schauer; son, David Baker; son-in-laws, Pat Orr and Jeff Schauer; three grandsons; one granddaughter; one sister, Isabelle Anderson.

She is at rest at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Griffith, Indiana. A Memorial was held in Minnesota. Condolences may be sent to 54278 Forest Blvd., Rush City, MN 55069.

“Thank you to all who were part of her life, you were very important to her.”

Announcements and Pronouncements

Help Wanted

Fern Patton's newly created volunteer committee is seeking a name with pizzazz. Some suggestions have been: HOT – Helping Our Teachers; BRIC – Brevard Retirees in the Classroom, and last, but not least, RAT – Retirees Aiding Teachers. None of these seem quite right – Suggestions, PLEASE!!!!

FEA/R Grant Money

FEA/R is awarding two \$100 grants. The grants will be allocated to a BFT member for a project that will add to efficient and effective teaching. If you know any BFT members who would be interested in applying for the grant, have them contact the BFT office.

Volunteer hours

Please remember to turn in your volunteer hours to Caroline McGuire. She can be reached at 254-0615 or chaleym@aol.com if you miss turning them in at a meeting. Latest figures on hours garnered for Brevard County – 550 hours (schools), 566 hours (other projects).

Exercising the brain opportunities – Senior Adventures in Learning – formerly the Shepherd's Center. Three centers: Palm Bay 723-2976; Melbourne 259-8886; Beachside 773-1815. Check their schedule for great courses for economical prices: <http://shepherdscenterofmelbourne.org/>

Grandparent Alert!!

Saving for a grandchild's college is a great way to reduce the burden of rapidly rising tuition and education costs. The most popular of the federal government created tax-advantaged vehicles are the 520 Plans and the Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA).

These college savings plans both work similar to Roth IRAs – contributions are non-deductible and grow tax free. Withdrawals are also tax-free for qualified higher education expenses. 529 Plans and Coverdell ESAs are viewed the same for financial aid purposes. They are considered the assets of the custodian (the person who opened the account), and withdrawals by the beneficiary are not considered taxable income when used for college expenses. Both plans can be transferred to another beneficiary without penalties or fees.

For side-by-side comparisons, try these sites:

<http://www.financialaidfinder.com/financial-aid/financial-aid-programs/coverdell-educational-savings-account/coverdell-529-college-plan-comparison/>

<http://cashmoneylife.com/2009/03/11/college-savings-plans-529-vs-coverdell-esa/>

If you'd like further information, contact Anne Byrd.

You can also consider the Florida Prepaid Tuition Program. Check it out on-line.

Need help with Medicare, Part D? For AFT, go to www.medicareinteractive.org/teachers

For local, check phone book for SHINE.

Brevard Federation of Teachers - Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

CALENDAR

President: Cecily Cain 723-6463
Vice-President: Patsy Shearer 632-9036
Secretary: Anne Byrd 452-6837
Treasurer: Jim Fisher 639-3762
Membership Chairman: Sheila Cootes 452-3580
Sunshine Coordinator: Eva Slaughter 724-0702
Program Chairman: Kay Aiken 777-4870 or
626-7172

December 3, 2009
Luncheon at The Tides
Patrick Air Force Base
11:30 a.m.
Reservations Required
See Insert!
Speaker: Carol Jose

No Meeting in January.

Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2009-10 school year and receive membership benefits. Enclosed please find a check payable to BFT/R for:

New Member

_____ Annual dues \$66.00
_____ Lifetime dues \$300.00
(Local, state and national)

Renewing Member

_____ Annual dues \$66.00 (For non-life members)
_____ Lifetime dues \$300
(Local, state and national)
_____ Local dues \$30 (For lifetime members only)
(Must be paid each year)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Receive newsletter by E-mail: Yes _____ No _____

Former School _____ Subject or Level _____

Interests _____

Signature _____

(Please complete this form and mail it and your check to Sheila Cootes, 3737 Sunward Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32953 or just give it to her at one of our meetings.)

Retired Teachers Chapter
Brevard Federation of Teachers
1007 South Florida Avenue
Rockledge, FL 32953

Luncheon at The Tides

Our annual luncheon at The Tides club, located off of A1A at Patrick Air Force Base, will be held on Thursday, December 3rd, 2009. This year our speaker will be Carol Jose, author and former food columnist for Florida Today. Those who had the pleasure of hearing her a few years back can attest to what a wonderful speaker she is. Her topic this year, on a more serious note, covers her book dealing with Vietnam POWs and MIAs, entitled "You Are Not Forgotten." The book, written in conjunction with Evie Grubb, tells how one woman can take on the entire U.S. Government.

Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the menu includes a choice of Beef Stroganoff over Pasta/vegetable of the day or Grilled Salmon/roasted potatoes and vegetable medley. Both come with tossed salad, rolls, coffee or tea, and dessert. Total cost for this marvelous repast is \$12.50 per person, tip included. Guests are welcome, but reservations **MUST** be made by **Monday, November 30th**. Please make checks out to: Kay Aiken and mail, along with your selection to:

Sheila Cootes
3737 Sunward Drive
Merritt Island, FL 32953
321-452-3580

If you have a dietary restriction, please notify Sheila.

_____ Beef Stroganoff

_____ Grilled Salmon

I will be attending the luncheon at The Tides on December 3rd, 2009. I have checked my choice of entrée and have enclosed my check for \$12.50 per person, made out to Kay Aiken.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Number of People Attending _____