



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

Volume 14, Number 5  
March 2010

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## *The President's Column*

Well, February's meeting was certainly different. We got more than just a history lesson on the Tudor Dynasty from Dr. Koonce. She asked for volunteers to play all six of the Tudor queens (plus one silent Henry VIII) in a skit that she had written. This was, of course, a cold reading, but as the first queen opened her mouth – out came Katherine of Aragon and the rest followed suit. Bravo to the royal performances. Sheila, Fern and Carla might just have missed their callings.

Please remember to keep a close eye on our politicians, local, state and federal – they all deserve our most careful scrutiny. Noises are already coming from Tallahassee regarding the possibility of raiding the state retirement fund which is so much easier than closing the gaps in our tax structure. There is also talk about possibly cutting or even eliminating our HIS which has not been increased for some time; even though the cost of our health supplements certainly have. Read your AFT, FEA and NEA publications and check out their on-line sites. If you need help in connecting with those sites, Sheila can tell you how to do that. Please e-mail, call or write your politicians and, of those options, writing seems to be the most effective. Looking back at my notes from the FEA Retiree Executive Board meeting, regarding our discussion on what is effective, this sentence stood out: “WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET NOTICED? EIGHTY HANDWRITTEN LETTERS.” So when something catches your attention, get 79 of your closest friends moving.

We still need help in boosting membership. Any ideas? How do we gently remind people to pay their dues; even those who are life members sometimes forget. Do you know a retired BFT member we've somehow missed? I call people

who have been retired five, six, seven years to let them know what they are missing. School secretaries, guidance clerks or anyone who dealt with kids all day long, if they retired as members of 1010, would love our meetings. So, what recommendations can you come up with? How great was the idea to do life membership on the installment plan? Creative thinking caps on now.

Segueing into acts of creativity and the FEA/R \$100 grants to teachers who can use a small financial boost to try something innovative in their classrooms. I hope everyone read the article on page 17 in the AFT *American Teacher*, 2-10, about the ten grants we gave last year. It includes a great photo of our Brevard County winner, Darci Halloran. FEA/R divides the state into ten districts; we are District Six. This year we are giving two \$100 grants for each district to FEA members. Our BFT Retiree Executive Board had such a hard time selecting just two that the decision was made for us to award a third grant from our treasury. We are certain that our entire membership would concur. When the checks arrive from Tallahassee, we will make a presentation at the schools. I will have the winning applications with me at our next meeting so that you all may read them and see how innovative our teachers are.

So, once again we segue into how innovative and different our meetings are. This month our speaker, Susan Blakeslee, comes to us from Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, the largest of the four hospices in Brevard County. She has been a hospice field social worker, bereavement counselor, hospice consultant, community outreach and is currently a community liaison for Vistas. She has a long list of topics that she covers, but her topic for us will center on HUMOR – one of the best ways we have of dealing with stress. Something we call all make use of.

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## **Membership News**

We welcome **Paul Jones** to the rank of Life Member. Paul used the installment plan and thinks it's a good deal. No more "extra" \$36 for him; it will just be \$30 per year for local dues from now on. Congratulations!

We're very happy to have **Sue Westermeyer** as a new member. **Sue** was a first grade teacher at Quest Elementary School and lists reading and traveling as her interests. **WELCOME, SUE!**

Renewing members since February's newsletter are: **Kay Aiken, Cindy Donovan, Genetta McGree, Caroline McGuire, Jan McNutt, Barbara Mulligan, Virginia Smith and Juliette Yearty.** Welcome to our Honor Roll.



**Barbara Mulligan** is using the "installment plan" using her \$66 annual dues check to go toward her lifetime membership dues of \$300. Good deal, huh? It's not too late to use this year's dues to help pay for your lifetime membership. Call Sheila (452-3580) or e-mail her ([scootes@earthlink.net](mailto:scootes@earthlink.net)) if you're interested in doing this.

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## **BFT/R 2010 Election**

The Nominating Committee, not knowing that the bylaws prevent first year members from running for office, had to revise their nominations. After the revision, the following slate of officers is presented: President, Cecily Cain; Vice-President, Jim Fisher; Co-Secretary-Anne Byrd, Marjorie Misits, Carol Moss; Treasurer, Carla Stevenson. Convention Delegates: Cecily Cain, Sheila Cootes and Fern Patton. Nominations for officers and delegates may be made from the floor. If you are interested in becoming a delegate, let one of the members of the nominating committee know. Members in good standing must be present to vote.

*Nominating Committee: Fern Patton, Sheila Cootes, Marjorie Misits, Carol Moss*

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An advertisement for AFT+ Real Estate Services. It features a plus sign in a circle, the text "Buying a home can be scary. We can help.", and the website "www.aftplus.org". There is also a "SOLD" sign and a "REAL ESTATE FOR SALE" sign. The AFT+ logo is present, along with the text "A Union of Professionals" and "Member Benefits".

**+** Buying a home can be scary.  
We can help.

buy where it counts!  
[www.aftplus.org](http://www.aftplus.org)

**AFT+**  
A Union of Professionals  
Member Benefits

AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact AFT Financial Services at 800/238-1133, ext. 4493; send an e-mail to [disclosureinfo@aft.org](mailto:disclosureinfo@aft.org); or visit [www.aftplus.org/disclosure](http://www.aftplus.org/disclosure).

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### **March Meeting Madness**

**Thursday, March 4, 2010**

**BFT Office**

**Brown Bag Lunch, 11:30 a.m.**

**Meeting, 12:15 p.m.**

**Speaker, 1:00 p.m.**

**Susan Blakeslee, MA, LMHC**

**Community Liaison, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care**

**TOPIC: HUMOR**

**One of the BEST ways of dealing with stress – Tips and examples on how to deal with stressful situations.**



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### ***RICH***

The members who signed up to help with the FAIR testing will want to call the principal/teacher they will be working with to set up a schedule. The next testing is to be done March 15<sup>th</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup>. It would be great if more of you decided to help! Even one to two hours is helpful to the teacher. We are just offering to monitor the class while the teacher is testing one-on-one. Work it out with the teacher (the K-1 teachers are the ones who have to do one-on-one.). If you do not have a school or teacher in mind, call and we can easily find someone for you to help! Call Fern at 636-9250 or call the BFT office and she will get the message. Remember – Retirees In Classrooms Helping!

*Fern Patton*

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### **Mensa Invitational Winners**

**Intoxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

**Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

*More to come later.*

## *Announcements and Pronouncements*

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### **Help Wanted**

Interested in joining a committee? Interesting in starting a committee? Just let any Executive Board member know.

Need judges for speech tournament. Tournament will be held April 24<sup>th</sup>; judges to act in various categories. Volunteers will need to be registered with the school district. There will be a brief training session in the morning for the judges and as always, a fun day as students show off their speaking skills. Please contact Lisa M. Rehm, Secondary Language Arts Teacher, Brevard Public Schools, 633-1000, ext. 360.

### **Retirement Workshop**

On March 25 we will again run our special BFT Retirement Workshop. If you know any BFT teacher getting ready to retire, remind them that our workshop will be held at the BFT office at 4:30 and reservations must be made with Chris. (636-3323)

### **Grant Winners**

#### **FEA/R**

**Danielle Mascolo** – Mila Elementary School

**Cheryl Avila** - Viera High School

#### **BFT/R**

**Dina Casabianca** - Turner Elementary School

### **Books, Books, Books!**

Barbara Mulligan collected \$11.00 on the resale of books at February's meeting. Bring cash to buy and books to donate at March's meeting. The money goes into the Schevenell Scholarship Fund and you get to read.

### **Volunteer hours**

Please remember to turn in your volunteer hours to Caroline McGuire. She can be reached at 254-0615 or [chaleym@aol.com](mailto:chaleym@aol.com) if you miss turning them in at a meeting.

### **FEA Membership Cards**

**Paid Up Members** – Please be on the lookout for your new FEA Membership Card. The card entitles you to valuable discounts. They are being sent out during January and February of this year. If you have not received your card by now, please contact Sheila.

### **Wanted!!**

Silent auction items needed. Proceeds from the annual auction held in October at the FEA Convention are what sustain the 20 grants that FEA gives toward innovative programs. Last year's auction raised over \$1,000. Please bring any items that you deem worthy of sale to March or April's meeting. The second item which supports these grants comes from the sale of a \$2.00 raffle ticket that give you a chance at winning a \$300 lifetime membership. Tickets are available for sale at our meetings or you may call Cecily.

OFFICERS

CALENDAR

<i>President:</i>	<i>Cecily Cain 723-6463</i>	<u>Meeting</u>
<i>Vice-President:</i>	<i>Patsy Shearer 632-9036</i>	<i>March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Anne Byrd 452-6837</i>	<i>Brown bag lunch, 11:30 a.m.</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Jim Fisher 639-3762</i>	<i>Meeting, 12:15p.m.</i>
<i>Membership Chairman:</i>	<i>Sheila Cootes 452-3580</i>	<i>Program, 1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Sunshine Coordinator:</i>	<i>Eva Slaughter 724-0702</i>	<i>Susan Blakeslee, Speaker</i>
<i>Program Chairman:</i>	<i>Kay Aiken 777-4870 or 626-7172</i>	<i>(also bring books to donate and money to buy donated books)</i>

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**