



Brevard Federation of Teachers Retired Chapter News "Retired, Not Expired"

Volume 14, Number 1
October 2009

The President's Column

William Faulkner may have written "The Long Hot Summer", but we have lived it. I hate cold, but this has been a bit much. Hot, cold, without the slightest whisper so far of the dreaded "H" word, and that takes care of the weather report. Now on to the really important news.

DUE TO CONDITIONS NOT UNDER OUR CONTROL, THE OCTOBER MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED! The reasons for cancellation are as follows:

First, the BFT office has just been found to be harboring communities of mold in the ceiling and they must be evicted forthwith. Not the staff, just the mold, and this may be a long process. Second, we had planned on having for our first meeting speakers on both sides of the health care issue. We could only round up one. We had a line on a new Italian caterer; looked at the calendar; looked at the probability of finding a food friendly venue; looked at cancelling the one-sided discussion and finding a whole new speaker. After looking at all of these items, we decided someone was trying to tell us something, so we are falling back and regrouping.

On November 5th, come and meet our new Superintendent of School, Dr. Brian Binggeli. The meeting will be held at the School Board offices in Viera and lunch will be served. I'm sure you all will have lots of questions for him. It would be great

to have an even bigger attendance than last year's opening meeting, which we all agreed was a smash.

Kay Aiken has been working diligently to line up another year of superlative speakers and speaking of speakers, if you purchased Margaret Broussard's book last year, please know that she was very unhappy when she realized there was a mistake in the manuscript that no one caught. Please make her happy and go to page eight of "In the Great Depression", fifth paragraph, FDR took office March 4th, not January, and correct it.

We present for your perusal our 2009-2010 program calendar:

November 5th – School Board offices – Superintendent Brian Binggeli.

December 3rd – Lunch at the Tides – Carol Jose, author and food columnist for the Florida Today paper (when they still had a food column). The last time she joined us for lunch at the Tides, we could not stop laughing.

February 4th – Cocoa Library – we will again join the Friends of the Cocoa Library to sponsor a speaker from the Florida Humanities Council's Roads Scholars. This has been our public service project for over ten years, but funding to the Council has been deeply cut and hopefully they will come through for us with another outstanding presentation.

March 6th – BFT Office – Susan Blakeslee, Community Liaison Vitas. Her topic will not be about Hospice (if there is enough interest, we can ask her back at anytime), but about Using Humor to Reduce Stress. Ah stress, something we all know about.

April 1st (no joke) – BFT Office – Jim Angy, wild animal photographer. Margaret Broussard recommended him for his photographs and his wry sense of humor.



May – date and place still to be determined – breakfast to honor BFT new retirees as well as our paid members.



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Flea Market Report



A very successful flea market sponsored by the BFT retirees was held at the BFT office in August. Fran provided the Florida Today with a press release that ran on three different dates. BFT President, Janet Eastman, notified Building Reps and made an announcement at the General Membership meeting. Cecily Cain, BFT Retiree President thanked all retiring teachers who donated materials. If you know of anyone retiring, remind them to keep up in mind for next year's flea market. Eva Slaughton, who teaches at Endeavor Elementary, won the \$25 gift certificate donated by Valic and Lindy Higgins. The committee spent several days setting up and tearing down the room. Thanks to: Fran Baer and her grandchildren, Cecily Cain, Fern Patton, Patsy Shearer, Carla Stevens, Marge Misits and Judy Wilkie.

An advertisement for AFT+ pet insurance. The background is light gray with a white circle containing a small dog. The text reads: "Your benefits cover your family members too. Even if they have four legs." Below this is a plus sign and the text "buy where it counts! www.aftplus.org". To the right is a small photo of a white dog. Below the dog is the text "PET INSURANCE The Community Advantage" with "REGULAR 7-7-2013" in smaller text. A list of bullet points follows: "Your pets can have their own insurance.", "As low as \$12.95 a month.", and "Pick your veterinarian." At the bottom left is the AFT+ logo and the text "AFT+ Member Benefits". At the very bottom, in small text, it says "AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact BFT Financial Services at 800-778-1133, ext. 4693; send an e-mail to dclark@bft.org, or visit www.aftplus.org/dclark".

Membership Information

Active teachers may pre-pay their life membership and Janet Eastman, BFT President, thinks life membership is such a good deal that she is offering teachers the opportunity to pay the \$300 in installments. Our president, Cecily Cain, thought this was such a great idea that we, too, are offering our members the same deal. If you'd like to take advantage of the "installment" plan, contact Sheila Cootes and work out your own personal "deal". Remember, you will still need to pay \$30 for annual local dues, but that's much better than the \$66 amount non-life members pay annually. That \$66 amount usually increases every year, whereas the \$30 amount does not increase **AND** you don't have to pay it the first year. Such a deal!!!

Where does your money go? \$30 remains with BFT/R for expenses; \$36 (remember – that amount usually escalates) goes to Tallahassee. The \$300 goes to our state and national organizations. What do you get for your money? Many members have insurance through one of our national organizations and they require you be an active, dues-paying member of your local. There are many other perks that go along with membership including vacation deals, rental car specials, florists, plumbing specials and many other items. Our state and national organizations provide advocacy and are the watch-dogs for educational and retirement issues.

It is very important that YOU continue your membership with BFT/R. The number of delegates to state and national conferences depends on our total membership. Important issues are decided at these conferences that affect you. Of course the programs at our monthly meetings are also a big plus as well as the camaraderie we enjoy. The scholarships we provide are very important and we help not only locally but statewide. Most members pay their dues at the October meeting, but since we are postponing that meeting until November, please feel free to send your check to **Sheila Cootes at 3737 Sunward Drive, Merritt Island, FL 32953**. Each newsletter will list those members who have paid their dues since the last newsletter on the "Honor Roll".

Announcements and Pronouncements

New Members Roll Call

William Hausmann and Lance Wallace. Both men joined at the lifetime level which means they owe NO local dues this year (BFT/R picks up the first year's local dues when anyone becomes a life member) and will only pay \$30 each year after this one for local dues.

William lives in Cocoa Beach and taught science to seventh through twelfth graders at Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School.

Lance was a teacher tech and taught TV Production at Astronaut High School. He is now attending an Episcopal Seminary in Mashotah, Wisconsin. He will graduate in May 2010 and hopes to return to Central Florida after that.



2009-2010 Membership

Honor Roll

Sarah Becton
William Hausmann
Judith Moen
L. Margaret Nicklenco

Michael Norton
Barbara Perlmutter
Lance Wallace
Georgina Williams

In Memorium

The Executive Board would like to announce that contributions to the BFT's Fran Shevenall Scholarship Fund in honor of the following BFT members whom we have lost recently.

Gloria Bring
Judy Hall

Ed Lopez
Earl Wheeler

Volunteer Fair

A Volunteer Fair will be held on October 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center located at 308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922. Various organizations will be on hand with information on the volunteer opportunities available. Anyone interested in learning about the volunteer needs in Brevard County are invited to attend.

Road Trip?

Is anyone interested in the possibility of a road trip to Forever Florida? Does sliding across a zip line through the tree tops sound exciting? How about traveling by coach safari through palmettos and viewing Florida wildlife? Anyone up for a horseback ride? If so, contact Cecily Cain and we'll see about getting it organized.



Volunteer Hours

We are the only district that has not turned in volunteer hours to FEA. If you have volunteered since our last meeting in May until now, please get your hours to Caroline McGuire at 321-254-0615. She desperately needs to get the hours accounted and sent in. Volunteer hours are considered any hours that you contributed without receiving pay.

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

November 5, 2009

Retiree Meeting & Lunch

School Board

Room TBA

Viera, FL

11:30 a.m.

Dr. Brian Binggeli, Speaker

Reservations will be required.

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