



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

Volume 28, Number 2  
Nov, 2023

## The President’s Missive

--Joan Taddie

It is difficult to write this missive, knowing that this world, this country, and this planet are facing serious conflicts that can change our lives in so many ways. It can certainly be overwhelming, and it is easy to throw up our hands in anger, frustration, or disgust and abandon the fight.

But in the U.S.A. we have a precious date on our calendars. This year that date is November 7, Election Day! You will soon be sent a “sample ballot” to read and study and be part of the right of all our citizens to determine the direction that our Nation will choose to follow.

I want to thank all our members who attended last month’s BFT-R political luncheon. For those members who could not attend, our speakers were three candidates who are running for office in next year’s election. Many thanks to Daniel McDow, running for US House of Representatives – Florida District 8, Anthony Yantz, running for State Representative District 33, and Vinnie Taranto, who is running for Brevard County District 5 Commissioner. These candidates explained to our members why they have chosen to run and what they hope to accomplish for our citizens if they are elected. They all brought Candidate Petitions to be signed to help their campaign overcome the expense of being put on the ballot. Thank you to our members who took extra petitions, got them signed, and mailed them back to me. If you have any petitions signed, please bring them with you to our meeting and I will deliver them to the candidates.

I would like to end this missive with a quote from Octavia E. Butler: “Tolerance, like any aspect of peace, is forever a work in progress, never completed, and, if we’re as intelligent as we like to think we are, never abandoned.”



Rita Hewett with former student Vinnie Taranto



**Next Meeting--Thur, Nov. 2, 2023**

**1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge**

11:30 Brown bag lunch

12:00 Business meeting

12:30 Speaker: Patty Farley-Crutchter

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

Patty Farley-Crutchter will be our speaker for November. Patty is a retired Brevard County government teacher and BFT/R member. She monitors the legislative committee meetings in Tallahassee and speaks to Florida lawmakers regarding education, union, and women’s issues.

**She will give us the inside scoop on how the legislative process works in Florida.**



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

We're very happy to welcome **Paula Ramos**, **Nancy Rhodes**, and **Barbara Wilcox** as new members. **Paula** taught Language Arts (7 and 8) at Hoover Middle School. She lists reading and bicycling as her interests. **Nancy** taught Pre-K/ESE at Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School. She lists travel and reading as her interests. **Barbara** taught K at Tropical Elementary School and TK at Endeavour Elementary School. She lists reading, writing, travel, friends, kindness +kindness symbol as her interests. **WELCOME Paula, Nancy and Barbara!**



The following are on the **2023-24 "Honor Roll"** (those members who have paid their 2023-24 dues since the last newsletter): **Donald Barlow, Marilyn Bollo, Theresa Brown, Carolyn Bruce, Betye Jean Bryant, Cecily Cain, Gary Castner, Marcy Cipolletti, Maria Clifford, Sheila Cootes, Nancy Craft, Altamese Davis, Teresita Delgado, Judith Doyle, Lonnie Jean Ford, Clara Gill, Linda Guiles, Rita Gynan, Kathryn Harbaugh, Lin Herz, Rita Hewett, Bonita Holland, Susan How, Barbara Humburg, Nancy Johnson, Gerald Jones, Cora Knighton, Mary Krause, Richard Ley, Gerald McCabe, Barbara Morse, Wendy Morrison, Christine Newman, Craig Newman, Margaret O'Connor, Jackie Parris, Barbara Peete, Marion Pickett, Lynne Renguso, Daniel Scheuerer, Louise Stroman, Geneva Swilley, Joan Taddie, Susan Vincent, Lance Wallace, Linda Wells, Sally White, Kathleen Whitehead, Jennifer Whiting, Barbara Wilcox and Cynthia Woznicki.**

**DUES ARE DUE for the 2023-24 membership year.** Our November meeting will be Nov. 2, so if you're attending the meeting, you can just give me your check. If you can't make the meeting, send me your check via postal mail. My address is on the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Remember to make the check payable to "BFTR." Reminder: even if you are a "life" member, you still owe local dues of \$30.

**Life membership is \$400.** We (BFTR) will pay your local dues the year you become a "life member." **Save \$46 per year (plus the \$30 we "give" you for that first year's local dues).** We will be glad to accept the \$400 amount in installments.

**Annual membership is \$76** (\$30 of that amount stays with BFTR). Annual members, consider changing to the "life" status.

Membership questions? Just call or text (321) 427-7808 or e-mail ([scootes@earthlink.net](mailto:scootes@earthlink.net))



*New lifetime members Barbara Wilcox (left) & Nancy Rhodes (right) attended our 9/28 Open House & won gift cards!*

## **FEA-Retired Annual Meeting & FEA-Delegate Assembly**

*--Nancy Johnson*

The FEA-Retired Annual Meeting was held in Orlando on October 12. I was honored to accept two awards for BFT – R. The first was the “Excellence in Communication Award” and the second award was a “Certificate of Achievement” which “Recognized the Outstanding Volunteer Service, Average Per Member” which was 63.7 hours per BFT-R member. Members donated over 72,000 volunteer hours statewide! Thank you to all our members who give so much of their time to help so many in our Brevard community.

The FEA Delegate Assembly was held October 13-14, with 648 delegates attending. The Delegate Assembly approved the 2024/25 budget and passed 15 new business items, including items related to mental health crisis identification, defending teachers’ rights to choose appropriate instructional materials & methods, restoration of class size financial penalties, and equitable educator assignments.

### **Field Trips**

*--Lin Herz*

#### **November Field Trip**

On November 14, join us at historic Green Gables for a traditional “Afternoon Tea” and a tour. The tea includes finger sandwiches, mini quiche, scones, clotted cream, jam, cookies, and tea.

We will also have small group tours of the historic home on the Indian River Lagoon.

The cost of the tea and tour is \$25. The afternoon also includes a tour of the grounds and learning the history of when the “river” was the main mode of transportation, Seating is limited to 24-28 people.

**Please reserve by October 31st.** Contact Lin Herz via text 321-960-8194 or email [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com), to RSVP and if you have questions. She will call you back if you have questions.

To find out more about Green Gables: <https://greengables.org/history>

Please send a check made out to BFT/R to Joan before October 31. Or bring cash payment to the November 2nd BFT/R meeting. (Remember only the first 28 will be able to participate.)

Joan Taddie,

639 North Wildwood Lane

Melbourne Village, FL 32904

---

At our October meeting we voted on the two additional trips we’d take this year.

On **Wednesday, February 21st** we’ll tour the “Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition”-located on International Drive. They have more than 300 artifacts, costumed actors, and full-scale room recreations. If we have 10 people or more who RSVP by January 17th we can take a private guided tour. The tour lasts about 1 3/4 hours, and you can also walk around after the tour at your leisure. If we have fewer than 10 we can just walk around the exhibition. On your own it takes anywhere from 45 minutes to 3 hours.

We’ll be car-pooling over. More info in our next newsletter.

<https://titanicorlando.com/> The guided tour is \$19 if we have 10 or more people. If we walk around on our own it’s \$18.95.

On **Wednesday, March 20th** we’ll be taking the “Scenic Boat Tour” through the pristine chain lakes of Winter Park. This is a narrated cruise through a lovely area. The lakes were connected by loggers in the 1800s. You learn about the history of the area, as well as what famous people lived in the houses. If we have 15-18 people we can have a boat just for our group. The cost is \$15 per person. We’ll be a block away from Park Avenue with an array of restaurants and shops. <https://www.scenicboattours.com/>

RSVP or if you have any questions contact Lin by text and she’ll call you back 321 960 8194 or email [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com).

## **Our Traditional Holiday Luncheon**

This year our Holiday Luncheon will be at 11:30 on December 7 at the Tuscan Grill, a locally owned restaurant at the entrance to the Avenues in Viera. There will be a choice of 4 entrees, which will be served with house salad, Italian bread with pesto butter, soda or tea, and a cannoli for dessert:

**Salmon Acropolis** – “60 South” Salmon sautéed with artichokes, red peppers and sun-dried tomatoes, in lemon-white wine butter, served over fettuccine.

**Eggplant Rollatini** - Thin sliced battered eggplant stuffed with a garlic ricotta blend, baked and topped with mozzarella and served over spaghetti and marinara.

**Lasagna** - Pasta sheets layered with ground sirloin, ricotta and mozzarella cheeses and Italian herbs, baked in our homemade ragout and covered with melted mozzarella.

**Chicken Parmigiana** - Tender chicken breast breaded and baked in our homemade marinara with mozzarella cheese, served over spaghetti.

Cost is \$22 per person BFT/R will pay tax and gratuity. We are limited to 38 people. The first 38 to RSVP and send in their payment will have a spot. **We need at least 20 people in order to reserve the room & currently only have 6.**

**RSVP by Nov. 16** by text to Lin Herz 321-960-8104 or email [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com) to RSVP or ask any questions.

Send in your payment **check made out to BFT/R** to:

Joan Taddie

639 North Wildwood Lane

Melbourne Village, FL 32904

## **2023 Innovative Grant Winners**

This year a record number of applications were submitted for Innovative Grants. FEA-Retired funds two grants for \$150 each. The BFT-R Executive Board voted to fund ten additional grants for \$150 each.

### **Recipients of the FEA-Retired Innovative Grants are:**

**Jessica Davis, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, West Melbourne Elementary School for Science**

Jessica will use the funds to purchase a Breakout Edu kit for her classes. The kit combines hands-on learning with problem solving, like an Academic Escape Room in a box. Students are given clues to solve and must figure out the combinations to open their locks.

**Stephanie Moody, K-6 GSP teacher, Columbia Elementary**

The funds will be used to purchase supplies to encourage her students to be the designers of mousetrap cars and compete to see whose car can travel the furthest. The students will also build toothpick bridges, where they engineer their own construction to see whose bridge can hold the most weight.

### **Recipients of BFT-R Funded Innovative Grants are:**

**Nichole Ambrosino, Grades 3-5 Science & Engineering Teacher, Palm Bay Elementary**

**Tonya Bandy, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, South Lake Elementary**

**Michael Broud, Automotive Repair Teacher, Heritage High School**

**Jennifer Capayas, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Sabal Elementary**

**Elisabeth Hammock, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Teacher, Central Middle School**

**Jean Maccione, Pre-K ESE Teacher, Itinerant**

**Brittany Meeks, High School Science Teacher, Palm Bay Magnet High School**

**Tracy Smith, Science Teacher, Endeavour Elementary**

**Shelley Swearingen, Grades 7-8 Science Teacher, Space Coast Jr/Sr High School**

**Caitie Walters, Pre-K ESE Teacher, Mims Elementary**



## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett



We are glad to announce 2 of our new BFTR members joined our book program. Nancy Rhodes and Ann Marie Monteparo both from Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School. If you want to join our wonderful book team let me know. Our book program needs more books for ages 3 to 7 years old, 1 and 2 gallon size baggies. Please bring to our BFTR meeting. Thank you.

Rita Hewett

(321)720-3683

[rmhewett@yahoo.com](mailto:rmhewett@yahoo.com)

## Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Thank you to those who gave me hours at our last meeting. If you don't attend our meeting, please send me your volunteer hours. You don't have to volunteer at schools for your hours to count. You can send them to my email: [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com). Please put volunteer hours in the subject line.



## 2024 Legislative Session


Interim committee weeks have begun for the 2024 legislative session. These committee meetings often look quite a bit different from those during the regular session. While there will be some legislation that moves through committee during these interim weeks, much of the committee meetings will be filled with presentations and reports shared at the request of the committee chair.

Seeing what kind of presentations and reports the committee chair requests can give a good indication as to the policies the committee will focus on during the regular session. So, these committee meetings are every bit as important as those that take place during the regular session.

Finally, it's vital your [legislators hear from you](#) now. Now is the best time to let them know what priorities you want them to focus on when session formally begins in January.

## How You Can Take Action Today!

Visit the **FEA website** to learn more about session and sign up for **FEA Action Alert texts**.

 [Legislative Session Updates  
FEAweb.org/Session](https://FEAweb.org/Session)

 **FEA Action Alert Texts**  
Text "edactivist" to 22394



## *Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News*

### OFFICERS

### CALENDAR

<p><b>President:</b> Joan Taddie <a href="mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com">jtaddie@cfl.rr.com</a></p> <p><b>Vice-President:</b> Nancy Johnson <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Linda Guiles <a href="mailto:lindag315@aol.com">lindag315@aol.com</a> JayAnn Preston <a href="mailto:jayannpreston@yahoo.com">jayannpreston@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Susan Vincent <a href="mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com">snv1@cfl.rr.com</a></p> <p><b>Membership Chair:</b> Sheila Cootes 427-7808</p> <p><b>Sunshine Coordinator:</b> Eva Slaughter 724-0702</p> <p><b>Program Coordinator:</b> Lin Herz <a href="mailto:lin32905@gmail.com">lin32905@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Nancy Johnson <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Thur, Nov. 2 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office</b>  <b>1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge</b>  <b>-11:30 Brown bag lunch</b>  <b>-12:00 Business meeting</b>  <b>-12:30 Speaker: Patty Farley-Crutcher</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting - Feb. 1, 2024</b></p>
---	---

### Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2023-2024 school year and receive membership benefits. Enclosed please find a check payable to BFT/R for:

#### New Member

\_\_\_ Annual dues \$76.00  
 \_\_\_ Lifetime dues \$400.00  
 (state and national)

#### Renewing Member

\_\_\_ Annual dues \$76.00 (For non-life members)  
 \_\_\_ Local dues for Lifetime members **\$30 each year**  
 \_\_\_ Lifetime dues \$400 (BFTR pays local dues 1<sup>st</sup> year)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Former School \_\_\_\_\_ Subject /Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and mail it and your check to **Sheila Cootes, 3737 Sunward Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32953.**