



# *Brevard Federation of Teachers*

## *Retired Chapter News*

### *“Retired, Not Expired”*

Volume 25, Number 3  
Dec. 2020

## *The President’s Missive*

*--Joan Taddie*

It’s hard to believe that Thanksgiving is here! My husband, Pete, bought our turkey yesterday, and it was only 7 pounds! I don’t remember ever cooking such a small turkey for Thanksgiving! Like many of you, our family will be physically separated, eating at our own kitchen tables. But our hearts will be connected as we give thanks for all our blessings during this challenging time!

Speaking of a challenging time, I want to congratulate all of you who were able to attend our first Zoom General Membership Meeting that was held on November 5. We had a few glitches getting everyone into the meeting, but our 11:00 am meeting came to order at 11:11 am! Outstanding!!! It was great seeing everyone who could attend! Lots of smiling faces and good conversation. We had a full agenda and ended the meeting at 12:08 pm! Again, outstanding! Our next Zoom General Meeting will be on February 4. The meeting will be from 11:00-Noon, and then we will have a speaker from Aging Matters from Noon-12:30 pm. If you need a practice meeting to iron out the kinks of the virtual world, email me at [jtaddie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com) and I’ll be glad to set up a time to help you get comfortable with this new world of communication!

Happy Thanksgiving! Stay safe! You Got This!

### **Jennifer Jenkins Sworn In As Brevard School Board Member District 3**

A wonderful thing happened at the Brevard School Board meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2020! Jennifer Jenkins, a Brevard County speech and language pathologist for six years, married to Sam Jenkins, a History teacher at Cocoa Beach Jr./Sr. High School, and the mother of four year old Olive, became a member of the Brevard County School Board representing District 3.

So many members of BFT and the BFT-R worked tirelessly to help Jennifer defeat the incumbent in District 3 for this seat. Thank you for your efforts, but most of all thank you for your VOTE!

Jennifer Jenkins made the decision to have a teacher, rather than a judge, administer the Oath of Office to her at her first School Board Meeting. She picked me! I cannot tell you how honored I felt standing at the podium representing every amazing Brevard County teacher currently in our schools, as well as every retired teacher who blazed the trail for those teachers who followed.

I was told that this was the first time a judge did not administer the Oath of Office to a School Board Member. So, history was made on November 17, 2020, as the President of the Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired swore in a member of the Brevard Federation of Teachers as our newest School Board Member!



We both brought a gift for each other to the ceremony. I gave her that pillow to lighten up the moment! She gave me a pencil ornament that she made into a “Rocket Pencil” by adding the silver wings on the bottom. She then wrote a thank you letter to me on the pencil.

## 2020 Innovative Grants

Every year, each FEA-R local receives \$200 from the State organization to fund two \$100 Innovative Grants to be awarded to BFT teachers who complete the grant application and are selected by the BFT-R grant committee that includes Nancy Johnson, who serves as the FEA-R District 6 Director, Joan Taddie and Cecily Cain. As usual, Nancy made the necessary changes to the application as soon as we received it at the beginning of the school year and sent it to the BFT office to include it in their next newsletter. We received completed applications right away, as many teachers needed teaching materials that would help them teach to a virtual classroom.

Shortly after the grant application was distributed, we were informed by the FEA-R that they were cancelling the Innovative Grants this year because they did not have the funding for them. The Innovative Grant fundraiser always occurs during the FEA Delegate Assembly, which had to be held virtually this year. Thus, no fundraisers, no grants!

This was unacceptable! Every year, the BFT-R Executive Board always voted to fund additional grants that we agreed were well-written and essential to help a teacher provide a necessary teaching tool to enhance the learning in their classroom. So, on August 25, at our FIRST Zoom Executive Board Meeting, we unanimously voted to fund all five \$100 grants that had been submitted by the deadline of October 31.

Because of COVID, Joan could not arrange a surprise classroom visit, along with the principal, to present the \$100 check and tell the class about the wonderful materials that would soon arrive in their classroom because their teacher cared so much about them! She did send a packet to each teacher with a copy of their grant, a letter describing why the committee selected them for the grant, and the CHECK! She also sent a packet to their principal for their personnel file, with a copy of their grant and a letter describing how the grant would be used in the classroom.

### **Here are our 2020 Innovative Grant Recipients:**

**TONYA BANDY**, 1<sup>ST</sup> Grade Hybrid Class, Anderson Elementary, Principal: Kimberly Harris

She will purchase a Nearpod subscription for her class. "Nearpod is an online platform that will allow (her) to present content digitally...Students with devices are able to interact with the whole group instruction and there is a Student-Paced component." Nearpod will "allow students to participate, practice, and show what they know." All her students "would be able to more readily engage" with her instruction.

**MICHAEL BROUD**, Automotive Repair Teacher, Heritage High School, Principal: John Harris

This grant will assist his advanced automotive repair students enhance their project vehicle's "old school fan clutch cooling fan system." They will be able to purchase and swap out "the old school clutch fan with an updated electric cooling fan system."

**CHRISTINE BELL**, TK-1 Class, Meadowlane Primary Elementary, Principal: Susie Schroeder

This grant will provide the materials needed to create individual tool kits for Math and Literacy instruction, such as letter tiles and foam dice. This will enable her to not only honor "the district's policy of no shared materials," but it showed that Ms. Bell understands how efficient and effective teaching enhances student learning.

**ASHLEY CONNER**, Kindergarten Class, Meadowlane Primary Elementary, Principal Susie Shroeder

Ms. Connor, after attending a professional development workshop this summer, reevaluated her current classroom library after learning "that young students can identify and connect with the central message of a story much easier when they see a character that looks like them in the story." This grant will help enrich her classroom library so that all her students will be able to identify with characters in the books they read in school.

**ANGELA YERKES**, 1<sup>ST</sup> Grade E-Learners, Quest Elementary, Principal, Christine Boyd

This grant will purchase dry erase boards with writing guide lines for her e-learners. This will help "make their writing more visible" to her, so that she can "give immediate and specific feedback" on their "letter formation and size."



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

Most of our members have paid their 2020-21 dues—THANK YOU!!! If you haven't sent in your check, please do so. Send your check made payable to BFTR to me:

Sheila Cootes, 3737 Sunward Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32953

**We're very happy to welcome Fred Kilgallin as a Life Member.** Fred taught German and English at Melbourne High School. **WELCOME, Fred!**

The following are on the 2020-21 "Honor Roll" (those members who have paid their 2020-21 dues since the last newsletter):

Fran Baer, Bettie Bailey, Donald Barlow, Marion Blocker, Marilyn Bollo, Atlene Britt, Theresa Brown, Cecily Cain, Sheila Cootes, Judith Doyle, Janet Eastman, Lonnie Jean Ford, Linda Guiles, Barbara Humburg, Christine Luecking, Jerry McCabe, Fern Patton, Marion Pickett, Carol Post, JayAnn Preston, Eva Slaughter, Louise Stroman, Geneva Swilley, Joan Taddie and Linda Wells.



I need to say a special "Thanks" to all of "you" who have sent me your dues check. I felt like I was "connecting" with you. That's a really good feeling at this time of "social distancing." The comments you shared with me, the cute cards, just "you"—great stuff!

**Life membership is \$400. Annual membership is \$76** (\$30 of that amount stays with BFTR). Annual members, consider changing to the "life" status. 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 two or three (your choice) installments.

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

There's  
always  
SOMETHING  
TO BE  
thankful  
FOR



## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett



Our Book Program needs lots of books for ages 3 to 7 years old. We also need these stuffed animals & toys: cows, chickens, goats, ducks, horses, mice, rabbits, cats, dogs, pigs, small black and brown bears, deer, owls, bats, eagles, turtles, frogs, butterflies, pirate items, fire trucks, trains. Clean out your children's (and grandchildren's) old books and toys. Ask your family, friends, clubs or organizations, & churches. Go to thrift stores or buy new. Our needs are great right now!

Please contact Rita Hewett for pick up at [rmhewett@yahoo.com](mailto:rmhewett@yahoo.com) or (321) 720-3683.

Thank you to our volunteer members and non-members who have helped since schools opened. Their dedicated service is well appreciated in making our program a success.

## Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Thanks for the volunteer hours you gave me in November. The total hours were 800. Way to go in a pandemic! Keep your hours and send them to me anytime at [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com) Remember to put volunteer hours in the subject line.

We have received dues from around 60 members. I know there are more to come. Don't forget to send them to Sheila Cootes. Thanks for all you do.

## Programs

--Lin Herz

We all need to take care of ourselves during the pandemic. One fun way to do that for South Brevardians : Twice a week "Yoga in the Park" (Front Street Park) under the beautiful trees, next to the Indian River Lagoon. The setting is restorative and the classes are fun.

If you're advanced there is Vinyasa Yoga at 8:45a.m. Beginners / gentle yoga is at 9:45 a.m.

Because classes are outside it's safe.

"Bring your own mat, if you don't have a mat, a beach towel or a sheet is fine. Feel free to bring your own props and a bottle of water. Stay at least 6 feet away from other participants."

People make a donation for the class. The class is taught by Jennifer Cleveland.

<https://innersightliving.wordpress.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/innersightliving/>

[innersightliving@gmail.com](mailto:innersightliving@gmail.com) (email to get on the mailing list, or ask questions. She'll let you know if class is canceled due to weather.)





## 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>Co-Vice-Presidents:</b> Bettie Bailey <a href="mailto:baileybettie@yahoo.com">baileybettie@yahoo.com</a> 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> Susan How <a href="mailto:sun515flower@msn.com">sun515flower@msn.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 Chairman:</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. Feb. 4 - BFT-R meeting--on ZOOM</b> 11:00-12:00 Meeting 12:00-12:30 Speaker--Aging Matters</p> <p><b>Next meeting - Mar.4--on ZOOM</b></p>
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### Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2020-2021 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)  
 \_\_\_\_ Lifetime dues \$400.00  
 (state and national)  
 \_\_\_\_ Local dues \$30 (For lifetime members only)  
 (Must be paid each 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.