



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

Volume 24, Number 2  
Nov. 2019

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*The President’s Missive*

*--Joan Taddie*

It’s hard to believe that we are about to celebrate Halloween, with Thanksgiving not far behind! BFTR’s first meeting of the new year was held at Niki’s Rainbow Restaurant in Satellite Beach, and we had a great turnout for our Annual Political Luncheon and recognition of our newly retired BFT teachers. Many thanks to Anthony Colucci and Vanessa Skipper for attending and giving all of us an update on the contract negotiations. Thanks also to Patty Farley for bringing us up to date regarding the educational legislation being considered in Tallahassee.

Our featured speakers were Shaun Ferguson, who is running for reelection to the Rockledge City Council Seat #2 and Jim Kennedy who will be running in 2020 for Congress representing Congressional District FL-8. Election Day is November 5. If you would like to be part of the phone banking for Dr. Ferguson, please contact me at [jtaddie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com). I will send you a short list of names and phone numbers and a brief script to contact Rockledge voters from the comfort of your home!

I would like to thank Melbourne Civic Theatre and Surfside Playhouse for their donation of theatre tickets for our scholarship raffle. These tickets are always popular prizes! And...the MCT sippy cups were a big hit! Thanks!

Our next general meeting will be Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the BFT office. Our featured speaker for that meeting will be Steven Heron, the Executive Artistic Director of the Titusville Playhouse and The Henegar Center. He will be speaking about the recent merger of both theatres and what’s in store for this exciting theatre season.

I would also like to recognize and thank Nancy Johnson for receiving the “Best Newsletter Award” at the annual FEA-Retired conference held in Orlando this month. Nancy has won this award numerous times, and we are so fortunate to have her on our Executive Board! Congratulations again Nancy!

Hope to see everyone at our November meeting!



**Next Meeting--Thurs., Nov. 7, 2019**

BFT Office, 1007 S Florida Ave. Rockledge, FL 32955

11:30 Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 Business Meeting

1:00 Guest Speaker: Steven Heron

Topic: Titusville Playhouse & The Henegar Center



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

We're very happy to welcome Jerry McCabe and Cynthia Novak as new members. Jerry taught 9<sup>th</sup> grade science and P.E. at Melbourne High School. He lists coaching soccer and sports as his interests. Cynthia taught art at Central Middle School. She is joining as a LIFE MEMBER using the installment method. **WELCOME: Jerry and Cynthia!**

The following are on the 2019-20 "Honor Roll" (those members who have paid their 2019-20 dues: **Fran Baer, Marion Blocker, Atlene Britt, Cecily Cain, Gary Castner, Sheila Cootes, Altamese Davis, Teri Delgado, Janet Eastman, Patricia Farley-Crutcher, Lonnie Jean Ford, Laynie Fulton, Ortha Gardner, Rita Gynan, Kathryn Harbaugh, Rita Hewett, Bonita Holland, Susan How, Barbara Humburg, Nancy Johnson, Deborah Keys, Mary Krause, Rosalie Larruscain, Carol Linton, Wendy Morrison, Barbara Morse, Craig Newman, Tina Newman, Margaret Nickolenko, Jacqueline Parris, Fern Patton, Barbara Peete, Ann Perrine, Jay Ann Preston, Beth Shaffer, Eva Slaughter, Carla Stevenson, Louise Stroman, Joan Taddie, Susan Vincent, Lance Wallace, Kathleen Whitehead and Cynthia Woznicki.** Marcy Cipolletti, Dr. Clara Gill and Dicque Walz are also on the 2019-20 "Honor Roll" because they joined as Life Members during the summer.



**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)).



## Legislative Report

--Patty Farley

### Get Ready for the Legislative Session

In the Florida Legislature the early committee weeks show that there will be a lot on interest in readiness testing of children for pre-kindergarten and you can bet there are corporations standing on the sidelines trying to sell testing programs for this purpose. There was an attempt to move this last session, but it did not reach the floor. Watch for issues of budget cuts, too. The Appropriations committees were given presentations that projected state tax collections dropping \$451.6 million for the current fiscal year, FY 2019-2020, budget and \$416.1 million for the FY 2020-2021 budget — for a two-year reduction of \$867.7 million. You can bet this legislature will not touch their corporate tax cuts, so let's all watch education budgets and our FRS retirement account and see if they try to make it up there.

The Guardian program came up for discussion in the very first committee meeting of the Education Committee and in response to questions as to who and where the guardians were located, information was given that 11 counties are participating in having teachers carry guns. The FEA counts seven counties that have indicated they will do so: Bay, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, Okeechobee, Putnam, and Suwannee.

We are saddened by the passing of Congressman Elijah Cummings. He was a great leader and his commitment to our country was unparalleled.

On July 24, 2019 Rep. Elijah Cummings said, "I'm begging the American people to pay attention to what is going on. Because if you want to have a democracy intact for your children and your children's children and generations yet unborn, we have got to guard this moment."

## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

Several of our BFTR members are members of the League of Women Voters Education Committee. In October our guest speaker was Matt Susin from the Brevard School Board. We told him about our 3R's Book Give Away Program. He was so impressed with our work to give children the gift of books that he stopped by Sabal Elementary School to see our group in action. You can see from the picture of the man in the blue shirt, just who is enjoying the event!



Matt Susin invited our group to speak to his Rotary Club so they might make a donation to our program.

We appreciate all of our volunteers who give us their time to help our program be a success. Thank you. If you would like to be a part of our busy group please contact Rita Hewett--rmhewett@ [yahoo.com](mailto:rmhewett@yahoo.com). We need your help.

## 2019 FEA Delegate Assembly

--Nancy Johnson

On October 17-19 the 2019 FEA Delegate Assembly was held in Orlando. The Delegate Assembly approved the 2019/20 budget, elected two new NEA Directors, and passed 14 new business items, including items related to the Fund Our Future Campaign, funding for Alternative Ed, defining the role of school counselors, and promoting the teaching profession.

The FEA-Retired Annual Meeting was held prior to the Delegate Assembly. We approved the budget and reelected Rhea McKinney as our Secretary. BFT-R received the award for "Best Newsletter for a large local". Volunteer hours for all FEA-Retired members totaled 61,585!

## Fund Our Future Bus Tour

<https://fundourfuturefl.org/>

Starting Oct. 21, Florida Education Association officers and staff will roll out on a statewide, five-week bus tour for public education. We will be on a campaign for our students, public schools and YOU. Please plan to come out and meet us at a stop.

Here's what you need to know:

- Florida began the 2019-2020 school year with more than 3,500 teacher vacancies. More than 300,000 students started the school year without a full-time, certified teacher in the classroom.
- Florida ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation in teacher pay — more than \$12,000 behind the national average.
- Florida ranks 43rd in the nation in per-student expenditures.
- Florida has nearly 50,000 education staff professionals who earn a wage below the national poverty level for a family of four.
- Florida spends half the national average on funding per full-time university student.

The stakes are very high. We are fighting for improved funding for public schools so that our students have the high quality support they need to succeed. We want an end to the high stakes testing of students, keep class sizes small and make sure every child has certified teacher in their classroom.

In coordination with local unions, the [Fund Our Future](#) bus tour will make about 50 stops at events and schools from Pensacola to the Florida Keys. The first stop will be on Oct. 21 in the Panhandle, and the tour comes to a close on Nov. 23 in Orlando.

When the bus stops near you, come on out! We truly look forward to seeing and speaking with as many public education supporters as possible.

**THE BUS IS COMING TO BREVARD!**

**Brevard Retiree and Community Breakfast**  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2019 • 9:30 AM**  
Brevard Federation of Teachers Office

**Come meet your FEA Officers & have a free breakfast!**

# 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> BettieBailey <a href="mailto:baileybettie@yahoo.com">baileybettie@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Anne Byrd 452-6837 Debbie Sandstrom 961-6033</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:lin2@cfl.rr.com">lin2@cfl.rr.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Nancy Johnson <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Nov. 7-Meeting-BFT office</b> 11:30 Brown bag lunch 12:15 Business meeting 1:00 Speaker--Steven Heron</p> <p><b>Nov. 12 - 9:30-Brevard Retiree &amp; Community Breakfast--BFT office</b></p> <p><b>Dec. 12-Holiday Luncheon at the Tides</b> More info in Dec. newsletter</p>
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### Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2019-2020 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 \_\_\_\_\_

How do you choose to receive your newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Postal mail

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.** (or just give it to her at one of our meetings)

**Brevard Federation of Teachers  
Retired Chapter  
1007 South Florida Avenue  
Rockledge, FL 32955**