



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

Volume 24, Number 1  
Oct. 2019

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*The President's Missive*

--Joan Taddie

Welcome back everyone! We've certainly had an interesting and hot summer! I want to thank all of you who have supported our Brevard teachers by waving signs, attending school board meetings, writing letters to the TODAY newspaper, and posting relevant information regarding BFT's fight for a fair wage and improved working conditions on your FaceBook pages. President Anthony Colucci, Vice President Vanessa Skipper, and the BFT negotiating team have just begun the next round of talks with the Brevard School Board! Please continue wearing Red 4 Ed!

Our first meeting of the year, our annual Political Luncheon, will be on Thursday, October 3. It will be held at Niki's Rainbow Restaurant on A1A in Satellite Beach, and will feature an All-You-Can-Eat delicious Greek-American buffet. Since 2019 is an "off election" year, you will be voting primarily for candidates running for municipal elections. We will have a number of these candidates speaking at the luncheon. We will also have a special guest, Jim Kennedy, who will be running for Congress in 2020 representing Brevard, which is part of Congressional District FL-8. I know you will enjoy this dynamic speaker! See you all soon!

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**BFTR Annual Political Luncheon  
Thursday, October 3, 2019  
11:30-1:30**

**Location:** Niki's Rainbow Restaurant

**Address:** Sea Park Shopping Plaza  
570 Hwy A1A  
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

**Menu:** All-You-Can-Eat Greek-American Buffet:

- Greek Salad Buffet
- Gyro meats including: Lamb and Beef
- Grilled Chicken
- Spinach Pie
- Pita Bread

**Price:** \$15 (BFTR will pay tax and tip!)

Pay at sign-in table with check to BFTR or cash

**Program:**

- Newly retired BFT teachers will be our guests and receive a free raffle ticket
- BFTR Members who bring a newly retired teacher will receive a complimentary lunch
- Raffle tickets available for theatre tickets
- Speakers include: Jim Kennedy, Candidate for the House FL-8 Congressional Seat and Candidates running in 2019 Municipal Elections

**RSVP: Deadline is Monday, September 30th**

Email, text, or call Joan Taddie: [jtaddie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com) 321-266-6006



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes



We're very happy to welcome **Marcy Cipolletti, Dr. Clara Gill and Dicque Walz** as new members, joining as **Life Members**. **Marcy** was the Media Specialist at Jackson Middle School. She lists reading, graphic design and genealogy as her interests. **Clara** taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science and Science Research at Madison Middle School. She is interested in supporting our current teachers politically and by creating connections between BPS and Brevard's expanding space industry. **Dicque** taught Art and Computer K-12 at Cocoa Beach Jr.-Sr. High School. She lists "social-volunteer" as her interests. **WELCOME: Marcy, Clara and Dicque!**

**October? Everybody's dues are due!** (Except for the three new members, above.) Please send me your check (3737 Sunward Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32953) or just hand it to me at the October meeting.

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

## Legislative Report

--Patty Farley

If possible you should attend the Brevard County Delegation meeting, which will be held Wednesday, September 25, 2019 from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the Canaveral Port Authority Commission Room, 445 Challenger Road, Cape Canaveral FL 32920.

All of the members of the Florida Legislature who represent Brevard County will be there to listen to their constituents and local concerns. This is an excellent time to show up to support your public schools.

For the past two decades the Legislature has graded teachers, education staff professionals and schools, as well as students. The Florida Education Association decided it's about time that legislators get a grade for their work as well.

Did you know that you can find the grade for every legislator on line at the FEA website and the list of bills used to determine the score for the legislators? The current scores are:

Debbie Mayfield "F"

Thad Altman "F"

Randy Fine "F"

Rene Plascencia "B-"

Tom Goodson "D+"

FEA is pushing a program called "Fund our Future" and is asking everyone to contact our legislators and tell them to please increase funding for our neighborhood public schools. Florida's per-pupil expenditures are almost \$3,000 below the national average. Florida's students deserve better—at a bare minimum they should be funded at least at the US average.

## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

Our 3R's Program (Read, Recycle, Reward) is starting again for the 2019/20 school year. During the 2018/19 school year, we visited 19 Title 1 schools to give a free book & stuffed toy to 3800 students in VPK, kindergarten, first grade, & Ex.Ed. primary classes. Each child selected a BookBag containing a story book, an informational book, and a corresponding animal or toy. A poem for parents about the importance of reading, and encouragement to recycle, was included.

We have been blessed with many donations and a new room at Clearlake Education Center. We want to get our books into the hands of our youngest students to enjoy and would like to go to two schools a month. Due to the anticipation of moving, we did not do book/stuffed toy matching this summer, so we are not as far along as we had hoped to be this time of year. We are playing catch up now and are in need of more matching help. You set your hours. We meet at:

Clearlake Education Center  
 1225 Clearlake Rd, Cocoa  
 Room: Girls' locker room in the back near the gym

If you would like to volunteer please call Rita Hewett at [\(321\) 720-3683](tel:3217203683).

--Nancy Johnson

The FEA-Retired Innovative Grant of \$100 is allocated to educators for a project that will add to efficient and effective teaching and enhance student learning. It is amazing what classroom teachers can do with \$100! The application form for 2019-20 is now on the BFT website. The application form and summary of the proposal must be submitted to Nancy Johnson by October 25. Please pass the word to any BFT members!

### Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Welcome back BFTR! Time to send in your volunteer hours for the summer. I know you all have been doing things that qualify for volunteer hours the past few months. Did you help at church, sing in the choir, work at a soup kitchen, help at summer school, etc? I know you just didn't sit around for the whole summer. Try to remember all those times you gave of yourself to help others. Put down your hours and give them to me at the October luncheon or send them to my email ([snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com)). See you in October at the luncheon.

### Innovative Grants Available



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## Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

CALENDAR

|                              |  |  |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>President:</b>            | <b>Joan Taddie</b> <a href="mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com">jtaddie@cfl.rr.com</a>          | <b>Oct. 3, 2018 –11:30- Political Luncheon at<br/>Niki’s Rainbow Restaurant<br/>570 Hwy. A1A, Satellite Beach</b><br><b>RSVP by Mon, 9/30 to Joan Taddie at:<br/><a href="mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com">jtaddie@cfl.rr.com</a> or 321-266-6006</b><br><b>Dues are due in Oct. to Sheila Cootes--\$30<br/>for life members, \$76 for non-life members</b><br><b>Nov. 7—Next meeting – BFT office</b> |
| <b>Vice-President:</b>       | <b>BettieBailey</b> <a href="mailto:baileybettie@yahoo.com">baileybettie@yahoo.com</a> |  |
| <b>Co-Secretaries:</b>       | <b>Anne Byrd</b> 452-6837<br><b>Debbie Sandstrom</b> 961-6033                          |  |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | <b>Susan Vincent</b> <a href="mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com">snv1@cfl.rr.com</a>              |  |
| <b>Membership Chairman:</b>  | <b>Sheila Cootes</b> 427-7808  |  |
| <b>Sunshine Coordinator:</b> | <b>Eva Slaughter</b> 724-0702  |  |
| <b>Program Coordinator:</b>  | <b>Lin Herz</b> <a href="mailto:lin2@cfl.rr.com">lin2@cfl.rr.com</a>                   |  |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b>     | <b>Nancy Johnson</b> <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a>        |  |

**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**