



# Brevard Federation of Teachers

## Retired Chapter News

### "Retired, Not Expired"

Volume 31, Number 2  
Nov 2026

## President's Message

~ Anne Marie Monteparo

Happy Fall! 🍁 November 3rd is Election Day! 🗳️ Remember to vote!

Union members are making decisions on the 2026 ballot that will affect our students, our schools and our communities. **Say yes to funding public education** by renewing the mileage. This ensures we can retain great employees and recruit new educators to our schools. **Vote no on amendment 3.** Amendment 3 would cut funding for essential services our communities rely on like parks, libraries, and mosquito control. **Say yes to pro-public education candidates.** BFT has endorsed Kyle Savage, School Board District 2 and Michele McCormack, School Board District 5.

We had great local candidate speakers attend our October meeting. Members that attended learned about their platforms and asked some great questions. Consider voting for candidates that spoke at our October meeting: Jennifer Jenkins -US House FL District 8, Judy Ngying- FL Senate District 8, Daniel McDowell -FL House of Representatives District 33, Daniel Cicirelli-FL House of Representatives District 31, Alton Bookhardt- Brevard County Commissioners District 1.



**Next Meeting--Thur, Nov. 5, 2026**

**1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge**

11:30 Brown bag lunch

12:00 Business meeting

12:30 Speaker: John Torres, the engagement editor and longtime columnist for Florida Today

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

Our speaker for November is John Torres, the engagement editor and longtime columnist for Florida Today. This past April he walked the Camino de Santiago (200 miles) from Portugal to Spain with his son and daughter-in-law. He wrote several columns from Europe and wrapped it up with a big Sunday column when he returned. John will speak to us about that experience, and show us a 6-minute video. He will also address the changing times in the newspaper industry and where the newspaper is right now. He'll also open it up for your questions.

## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

~ Rita Hewett

Our 12th year is starting off with a bang. During the summer we cleaned and organized our room to accommodate our many books and book buddies. We added more shelving units to store our many items. We matched many book bags so we would be ready for our schools.

One item is always on our top supply needed. If you would like to donate 2 gallon size baggies that would be our biggest request. We put 2 books, a book buddy or a small toy and a parent letter in these 2 gallon size baggies. We appreciate all of your help and support.

We have visited Endeavor, Andersen, Fairglen, Mila and Emma Jewel Elementary School so far.



**Fairglen Eleme...** 15 hours ago

**Follow**

**Our students had so much fun reading to their buddies and building a love for literacy. We truly appreciate your generous support and continued partnership! 📖💙**

Here is why we give books out. This picture and response tells the reason. 😊📖🧸

Total students - 1,428

Total books given out - 2,856.

## Field Trips

~ Lin Herz

### Holiday Luncheon

Our annual festive holiday luncheon will be held at Café Margaux in Cocoa Village on Thursday, December 3rd, at 11:30 AM.

The restaurant is giving us most of their lunch menu to choose from! If you'd like something that is on their lunch menu but not our menu, they'll prepare that for you. Everyone will pay for their own meal. Just for us, non-alcoholic drinks are included in the price of the meal.

Café Margaux is located at 220 Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Village. I suggest carpooling if you can, since parking is at a premium in Cocoa Village at lunchtime. There is a large public parking lot between Stone and Oleander Streets, accessible from Florida Avenue. The room we're using has a capacity of 22. If we go above 22 people, there is an adjacent room for "overflow."

Please RSVP by November 25th if possible. The final deadline is Tuesday, December 1st.

If emailing, please put RSVP Café Margaux in the subject line.

Please include your name and phone number when responding..

We also can send you a copy of the menu.

### January Trip — Harry and Harriette Moore Museum and Park

On Wednesday, January 20th, we'll be visiting the Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Museum and Park in Mims.

Harry and Harriette Moore were Brevard County teachers who began fighting for civil rights in the 1930s. They worked tirelessly for equal rights for Black Floridians by investigating lynchings, challenging barriers to voter registration, and advocating for equal pay for Black teachers in the segregated public schools.

On December 25, 1951, someone planted a bomb beneath their home, killing both Harry and Harriette. The person responsible has never been identified.

"The Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center stands as one of the nation's most powerful landmarks dedicated to the legacy of early civil rights pioneers and martyrs Harry and Harriette Moore.

Located on the original homesite of the Moores, the Center honors the enduring legacy and the sacrifices they made. Today, their story continues to inspire visitors from around the world."

We'll visit a re-creation of the Moores' home and explore exhibits featuring their personal artifacts, photographs, NAACP documents, and newspaper clippings from the period. Interactive displays include interviews that bring this history to life, reminding us that the struggle for civil rights took place not only in famous marches and speeches, but also in communities like Mims, right here in Brevard County.

Due to the Moore Center having a class visit in the morning, we'll have lunch first and visit the Moore Center at 1:30.

Please RSVP to Lin as soon as possible, but no later than January 7th.

## February Trip — Stetson Mansion

On Wednesday, February 24th, we'll be visiting the spectacular Stetson Mansion in DeLand for the guided "Historic Grand Tour."

This is an all-access tour of the first luxurious mansion in Florida, and its beautiful grounds. We'll see "magnificently embellished and appointed rooms, hallways, and niches of the mansion. Unlike the Christmas Tour, the Grand Tour includes the third floor where guests will see 3 designer decorated bedrooms, the Boardroom and the Stetson Memories Room." Every room has a different unusual intricate pattern of the wooden floors. (There are 16 steps between each floor.) The home is one of the first in the world to be designed and built to have "Edison electricity."

Tickets are \$40.48, including tax. The Stetson Mansion requires payment in advance.

We'll be carpooling to DeLand and having lunch together before the 1:30 tour.

Please include your name, phone, email, and town when you RSVP to Lin.

Please RSVP and submit payment to the Mansion no later than January 31.

We'll send out notice in early November when the Stetson Mansion starts selling tickets for the Historic Tour. You'll pay for those tickets online.

🔗🔗🔗🔗 **To RSVP or if you have any questions, contact Lin Herz by text, phone, or email.** 🔗🔗🔗🔗

If emailing, please put **RSVP** in the subject line.

Phone/Text: 321-960-8194

Email: [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com)

### Phone Tree

—*Lin Hertz*

Our BFT/R phone tree keeps us in touch with you, our members. If you are not receiving a monthly call from us, please contact me.

We need, and would love, more volunteers to help with calling. Each volunteer presently calls about 8 people, mainly leaving a message on answering machines. The more callers, the fewer calls each has to make. If you are interested in helping please contact me by phone 321-960-8194 or email: [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com)

### Volunteer Hours

--*Susan Vincent*

Please write in your volunteer hours on the sign-in sheet at our next meeting or email them to me. You don't have to volunteer at schools for your hours to count. You can also count your travel time. You can send them to my email: [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com). Please put "volunteer hours" in the subject line.



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

BFTR members renewing in October 2026 - thank you!

|                   |                     |                      |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Barlow, Donald    | Harbaugh, Kathryn   | Morrison, Wendy      | Slaughter, Eva      |
| Blocker, Marion   | Herz, Lin           | Morse, Barbara       | Stroman, Louise     |
| Britt, Atlene     | Hewett, Rita        | Newman, Craig        | Swilley, Geneva     |
| Bryant, Bettye    | Holland, Bonita     | Newman, Tina         | Walz, Dicque        |
| Cain, Cecily      | Hosken, Mary        | Nickolenko, Margaret | White, Sally        |
| Doyle, Judith     | Johnson, Nancy      | Novak, Cindi         | Whitehead, Kathleen |
| Ford, Lonnie Jean | Kaufman, Kurt       | Perrine, Ann         | Whiting, Jennifer   |
| Forman, Eric      | Keys, Deborah       | Ramos, Paula         | Woznicki, Cynthia   |
| Fulton, Laynie    | Larruscain, Rosalie | Rhodes, Nancy        |                     |
| Holland, Bonita   | McCabe, Gerald      | Sartore, Diane       |                     |
| Hausman, Bill     | Monteparo, Anne M   | Shearer, Patsy       |                     |

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.

### *Dues are due in October*

*--\$30 for life member  
--\$76 for non-life members*

***Make check payable to BFTR***

***Pay Sheila Cootes at the Nov. meeting or mail it to her using the form at the end of the newsletter***

**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))



# Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

## OFFICERS

## CALENDAR

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>            | <b>Anne Marie Monteparo</b><br><a href="mailto:amonteparo@cfl.rr.com">amonteparo@cfl.rr.com</a>                                                                            | <b>Thur, Nov. 5 - BFT-R meeting at<br/>BFT Office<br/>1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge</b><br><br><b>11:30: Brown bag lunch<br/>12:00: Business meeting<br/>12:30: Speaker: John Torres</b><br><br><b>Holiday Luncheon - December 3</b><br><br><b>Next meeting - February 4, 2027</b> |
| <b>Vice-President:</b>       | <b>Nancy Rhodes</b> <a href="mailto:nanr1871@gmail.com">nanr1871@gmail.com</a>                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Co-Secretaries:</b>       | <b>Linda Guiles</b> <a href="mailto:lindag315@aol.com">lindag315@aol.com</a><br><b>JayAnn Preston</b> <a href="mailto:jayannpreston@yahoo.com">jayannpreston@yahoo.com</a> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | <b>Susan Vincent</b> <a href="mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com">snv1@cfl.rr.com</a>                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Membership Chair:</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:lin32905@gmail.com">lin32905@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Phone tree:</b>           | <b>Lin Herz</b> <a href="mailto:lin32905@gmail.com">lin32905@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Newsletter Editor:</b>    | <b>Dicque Walz</b> <a href="mailto:dicque.walz@gmail.com">dicque.walz@gmail.com</a>                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## Membership Application

**I want to join BFT/R for the 2026-2027 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.**