



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

Volume 24, Number 5
Mar. 2020

The President’s Missive

--Joan Taddie

It’s a good thing Leap Year is this year, because with everything that was on my calendar for February, I was glad we had an extra day to get everything done!

Those attending our February membership meeting were greeted by a beautifully decorated room, along with a Valentine inspired assortment of delicious treats, complete with a scrumptious, lovely sheet cake that we all enjoyed. Thank you Rita Hewett and your Valentine team for this wonderful surprise!

Thanks as well to Zach Marchetti, our delightful speaker from the Brevard Zoo. Mr. Marchetti’s knowledge of the animals and of the importance of the habitat renovations completed and those soon to be completed was fascinating! Our membership was so enthralled with his commentary that they stayed an extra 45 minutes to hear more amazing facts about the animals and the wonderful habitats created by the zoo designers that have made the Brevard Zoo one of the top zoos in the country. We are so fortunate to have this special place located in our county!

A special Valentine moment at our meeting was the recognition of our Staff Angel, Chris Higgins, for everything she does to help the BFT/R. We surprised Chris with candy, a paper bouquet of flowers, and a check for her to get something special for herself. We were not surprised when she announced she would use the check to do something special with her grandkids! Thank you, Chris! You are THE BEST!!!!

On February 15, Nancy Johnson, her husband Oli, and I joined members of the BFT on a bus to Lake Eola Park to attend the Central Florida “The Rally Continues”. We gathered together with our FEA leadership to celebrate our Florida Public Schools, our Florida Public School Teachers and all those who work beside them to make an excellent total educational experience for our students. We MUST continue to let our legislators know that we are a united force for our children’s future!



Next Meeting--Thurs., Mar. 5, 2020

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

11:30 Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 Business Meeting

1:00 Guest Speaker: Sonya Mallard

Topic: Moore Memorial Park & Museum



Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

We're very happy to welcome Margaret O'Connor as a new member. Margaret supported level K-2 at Lockmar Elementary School. Her interests: "Drinking and reading...the retired teachers' activities. LOL" **WELCOME, Margaret!**



The following are on the 2019-20 "Honor Roll" (those members who have paid their 2019-20 dues): **Linda Guiles.**

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).



Legislative Report

--Patty Farley

The Florida legislature is at it again with several very bad bills.

I urge you to follow the actions of the legislature by going online and viewing the weekly review produced by the AFL-CIO.

House Bill 1 is a direct attack on workers' right to organize and designed to bust unions. It is one of the most outrageous attacks on the working people of the state in years. The bill would severely damage the right to organize for our firefighters, police officers, teachers and all state workers.

If passed, House Bill 1 would give employers the power to decide the authorization process for employees and force union members to rejoin their union every three years or upon the authorization of a new contract. This means the union would have to chase down re-authorization forms from members who have no intention of leaving the union.

After the employer receives a signed dues authorization, deductions would not start until the employer goes on to "confirm with the employee, electronically or by other means, that he or she authorized the deduction of dues and uniform assessments." This puts the employer in charge of the dues authorization process for the first time in history. Our public sector workers will have an indeterminate period of confusion and fear as they wait for the employer to verify their membership. There is no time frame or penalty for employers in the bill.

Public sector workers understand their Right to Work. This language is intended to tip the scales against membership.

On Feb. 13, House Bill 1 passed the State Affairs Committee 12-7.

Some other very bad legislation--**House Bill 7037 and Senate Bill 1794**--deals with the right of citizens to put an amendment on the ballot. Florida's Citizen Initiatives give the people of the Sunshine State a direct voice in our government, adding legislation to the constitution that our State Legislature either cannot or will not approve. Last week, many advocates for democracy, including the Florida AFL-CIO, spoke out against this attack on our democracy. Senate Bill 1794 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 4-2 and will continue on to its final stop, the Senate Rules Committee before heading to the Senate floor.

Programs & Field Trips

--Lin Herz

Our speaker for our March meeting will be Sonya Mallard from the “Harry T. and Harriet V. Moore Memorial Park and Museum.” Harry and Harriet Moore were educators in Brevard. Harry was a pioneer in the civil rights movement nationally and in Brevard County. Sonya will be speaking about the Moores, their place in history, and conditions in Brevard County for African Americans at that time.

On March 25th we'll be going to the Moore Park and Museum. Touring the Moore complex takes about 2 hours. Admission is free. We'll be having lunch at La Cita Country Club at 11:30, before going to the Moore complex. La Cita is at 777 Country Club Dr. in Titusville. The restaurant is the building on the left as you enter the parking lot. RSVP by Wednesday, March 18 to Lin via email lin32905@gmail.com or by text 321-960-8194. If anyone from Central Brevard would like to car pool, we have someone who will meet at the BFT office to give you a ride. Call Lin for more information.

In April our speaker will be Susan Houts, marketing coordinator for “Aging Matters of Brevard.” Aging matters is the lead agency for senior services in Brevard. They provide nutrition (Meals on Wheels, Pets on Wheels, Seniors at Lunch and The Kitchen: Catering with a Conscience), home care, housing safety improvements, transportation (Senior TranServe and Vets Driving Vets), Caregiver Resources and Community Involvement Opportunities for our older Brevard County residents from Micco to Mims.

***REMINDER: For those of you who have RSVP'd for the boat ride in April, please bring \$22 cash or check made out to BFT/R to the March 5th BFT/R meeting or mail a check for \$22 made out to BFT/R to Lin Herz at 1012 Pineapple Avenue NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905 by MARCH 2nd.**



Want To Run For Office?

BFT/R Elections

--Cecily Cain

Remember it's our election time of year. All officers will be elected at our April meeting. The elected positions for BFT/R are:

President

Vice-President

Secretary (2)

Treasurer

The reason we try for 2 secretaries is that one always seems to be traveling, and we need minutes so that we remember what it was we did at both our exec board and our regular meetings.

If you spot a job that interests you and wish to place your name on the ballot, or if you have questions about what the job entails, contact nominating committee chair Cecily Cain by phone (321-723-6463) or email (ccain7@cfl.rr.com) by Monday, March 16.

Nominations may also be made from the floor and voting will take place at our April meeting.

A sample ballot will be in your April newsletter.

“Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.” – Sherry Anderson

Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

The school year is almost over, but the children still enjoy us coming to their school. They call us the "Purple Ladies" because of the purple T-shirts we wear to all the schools we visit.

It is so nice to hear stories about the children's experience with the books of their choice. One of my friends teaches TK1. She said one of her students brought a small plush brown rabbit to school with her. Her student said she got it from the Purple Ladies last year at another school. The next day another child brought her book and stuffed animal to school, too. She asked the teacher if she could read it to the class. My friend said she did a very good job reading her book.

I am glad our work helps bring the love of reading to children in Brevard County Title 1 Schools grades Kindergarten, VPK, 1st and Ex Ed Primary.

If you would like to join us going to schools or volunteer at our workshop at Clearlake Education Center, please let Rita Hewett know at rmhewett@yahoo.com or (321) 720-3683.

Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Please report your hours to me by email at snv1@cfl.rr.com Please put volunteer hours in the subject line. Remember you can report hours to community projects, churches, helping the sick, etc. Thanks for all you do.

Retirement is waking up in the morning with nothing to do and by bedtime having done only half of it.



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Photo Album

From our February meeting



HELP WANTED

The Read, Recycle and Reward Program needs help matching books & stuffed animals at Clearlake Education Center from 10:00-2:00 on Thursdays & Fridays. Help is also needed visiting schools. Contact Rita Hewett at rmhewett@yahoo.com or (321) 720-3683.



Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

CALENDAR

<p>President: Joan Taddie jtaddie@cfl.rr.com</p> <p>Vice-President: Bettie Bailey baileybettie@yahoo.com</p> <p>Co-Secretaries: Open</p> <p>Treasurer: Susan Vincent snv1@cfl.rr.com</p> <p>Membership Chairman: Sheila Cootes 427-7808</p> <p>Sunshine Coordinator: Eva Slaughter 724-0702</p> <p>Program Coordinator: Lin Herz lin32905@gmail.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Nancy Johnson nanjoh99@gmail.com</p>	<p>Mar. 5-Meeting-BFT office 11:30 Brown bag lunch 12:15 Business meeting 1:00 Speaker--Sonya Mallard from Moore Memorial Park & Museum</p> <p>April 2-Next meeting-BFT office</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)