



# *Brevard Federation of Teachers*

## *Retired Chapter News*

### *“Retired, Not Expired”*

Volume 26, Number 8  
May, 2022

## *The President’s Missive*

*--Joan Taddie*

It was a wonderful day, despite the downpours, when our members met under the pavilion at the Spyglass Jack Mahon Park in Suntree for our first face-to-face meeting since the Spring of 2020. Although the weather was gloomy, it could not dampen the fun of meeting our dear friends and colleagues in person after all these years! We all brought our lunch and the BFT-R provided drinks and cupcakes. We spent the first part of the meeting enjoying our lunches and catching up with our buddies, some of whom we’ve only seen on a Zoom screen for the last few years! Thanks so much to Susan Vincent, a resident of Suntree, who arranged this meeting place for us at no charge!

For those who didn’t get to attend the meeting, please add to your calendar the date of our first meeting in the Fall. It will be October 6 at the BFT Office in Rockledge. October is traditionally when we hold our Political Luncheon. At this time, we anticipate that our members will bring their own lunches, and the BFT-R will provide desserts, some salads, and drinks. Political candidates endorsed by the BFT for the November election will have 5 minutes each to speak to us about their platforms. The time and additional information will be forthcoming in emails and in the September/October newsletter.

We would like to thank Anthony Colucci, President of the Brevard Federation of Teachers, for stopping by our meeting and speaking to us about all the important work being done by the BFT to help our teachers negotiate for better working conditions and a significant salary raise. He also asked for our help in promoting the November 8 referendum that will increase the millage rate on Brevard property owners. This additional revenue will be used to fund teacher raises, classroom technology, arts programs and more. Your executive board will keep you informed of opportunities to help pass this important referendum!

I will also be contacting all of you with information on how to assist with our September drive to recruit retiring teachers to join the BFT-R. I am looking into having another late afternoon meeting of newly retired teachers at the Funky Dog Improv in downtown Eau Gallie, along with a meal of heavy h’orderves, drinks, raffle prizes, and a BFT-R information and recruitment presentation followed by a performance by the amazingly talented improv performers of Funky Dog! Information on this event and how you can attend and/or help with the event will be emailed to you during the summer.

I want to end my last Missive of the 2021-2022 school year with thanks to our BFT-R Executive Board who has worked so hard to keep our organization running smoothly and efficiently throughout our years of Zoom meetings locally, state-wide, and nationally. I thank all of you for your faith in me and allowing me to be your President again for the 2022-2024 term. Have a wonderful and safe summer! I look forward to working with all of you again IN PERSON in September!



**Next Meeting--Thur, May 5, 2022**

**Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library**

(otherwise known as the Cocoa Library)

**12:00 Brown bag lunch**

The 3R book team will provide drinks & dessert

**If you plan to attend our meeting on May 5, please email Nancy Johnson at [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com) by Sunday, May 1.**



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

Just want to start my “news” by saying that it was SOOOOO great to be able to see, say “Hi,” hug, all the “good stuff” at our April meeting. Looks like we get to do that again in May when we meet at the Cocoa Public Library, Meeting Room #1.

**Sheila Bollinger** has joined the **2021-22 “Honor Roll”** (those members who have paid their 2021-22 dues since the last newsletter.



There are still nine “almost members” (last paid their dues in 2019 or 2020) who haven’t paid their 2021-2022 dues. We’re meeting in May but if you (an “almost member”) cannot make that meeting, just send me your check via postal mail. My address is on the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Remember to make the check payable to “BFTR.”

One more important fact: 2022-23 dues are due in October, so please do not send me your check until then. Our October general membership meeting will be October 6<sup>th</sup> at the BFT office—IN PERSON! Yay! So if you’re coming to that meeting, save a stamp and just hand me your check.

**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 two or three (your choice) installments.

**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))

It was so nice to meet in person for our April meeting!



BFT President Anthony Colucci joined us

## Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Thanks to all who gave me volunteer hours at the April meeting. Still collecting them. Please send hours to me at [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com). Please put volunteer hours in the subject line.



## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

Every time we move it takes a while to put things back where they belong. But then we reorganize tubs to make it better to see items and move tables around to fit more tubs. We have been very lucky to have some thrift stores save some of their books and animals for our program. They say it gives them more space to put out more new books. We have some wonderful new volunteers: Kay Tuttle, Dee Cummings, and Rosa Miller. Thank you, new team members.

Since August, 2021, members volunteering with the “Read, Recycle, and Reward” (3R) book program have visited 17 Title I schools and given 3,413 students in VPK, Kindergarten, 1st grade & ESE classes each a bag containing 2 donated books & a stuffed toy. That’s a total of 6,826 books!



Please bring any Little Golden Books to the May meeting to donate to the 3R book program.

## May Meeting

Our May meeting will take place on May 5th at 12:00 at Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library (otherwise known as the Cocoa Library). The address is 308 Forrest Ave, Cocoa. The parking lot is off Mulberry Street.



Enter the library at the main entrance and head down the hall to the left to Meeting Room #1 (Marie Holderman Room).

The meeting will be a brown bag lunch. Drinks & dessert will be provided by the 3R book team.

**Please note: This meeting is at 12:00. Please do NOT come early, as the room is not available to us until NOON.**







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## Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

### OFFICERS

### CALENDAR

**President:** Joan Taddie [jtaddie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com)  
**Vice-President:** Nancy Johnson [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com)  
**Co-Secretaries:** Linda Guiles [lindag315@aol.com](mailto:lindag315@aol.com)  
 JayAnn Preston [jayannpreston@yahoo.com](mailto:jayannpreston@yahoo.com)  
**Treasurer:** Susan Vincent [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com)  
**Membership Chair:** Sheila Cootes 427-7808  
**Sunshine Coordinator:** Eva Slaughter 724-0702  
**Program Coordinator:** Lin Herz [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Nancy Johnson [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com)

**Thur, May 5 - BFT-R meeting at  
 Cocoa Library  
 308 Forrest Ave, Cocoa  
 -12:00 Brown Bag Lunch  
 BFT-R will provide dessert & drinks  
 RSVP to [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com) by May 1**

**Next meeting: October 6**

### Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2021-2022 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.**