



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

Volume 25, Number 5  
Mar. 2021

## The President’s Missive

--Joan Taddie

**Perseverance**, NASA’s \$2.7 billion robotic rover, made an amazing soft landing on Mars into the Jezero Crater, right on time at 3:55 pm EST on February 18, to renew the search for extinct life on the red planet. Congratulations to the rover team at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California for a perfect landing!

**Perseverance** is defined as “a continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failures, or opposition. Many of our members are demonstrating perseverance daily as they attempt to get an appointment for their Covid-19 vaccinations. I know how difficult it is to navigate the available sites. I was lucky and got my husband, Pete, an appointment at the Publix down the street from us on my third try. But it took me eight frustrating mornings to finally get my appointment, and we had to drive to St. Augustine to a Publix there while trying to avoid a tornado, for my first shot. We will drive there once again for my second shot on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Perseverance! If you need some help getting an appointment, or you need transportation to your appointment, check the article below.

**Perseverance** is something all theatres must have to continue to present excellent theatrical seasons that will impress and delight their audiences. Selling tickets pays the bills and keeps the actors and staff working. Covid-19 closed the theatres in Brevard County, and when they were allowed to open again, protocols had to be in place to insure the audiences that they would be safe attending productions.

At our February General Membership Meeting, Dominic Del Brocco, Executive & Artistic Director of The Henegar in downtown Melbourne, attended our meeting and gave an interesting and informative presentation about the strict Covid protocols in practice for The Henegar staff, the actors, the volunteers, and the audience members. He also described some of the differences you will experience attending a production in the Central Florida area versus what you will experience in the theatres in Brevard County. The Henegar’s present offering is the musical, *Once On This Island*, and runs until **March 7**. Tickets can be purchased by calling: **321-723-8698**.

**Perseverance**, dedication, and courage over many years has finally produced the long-awaited Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Legacy & Brevard Public Schools’ Proclamation Ceremony to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy and contributions of Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore to Brevard schools and their service to our community and state. The ceremonial event will include the reading of a proclamation that signifies a new partnership in educating students on the Moores through a legacy curriculum, which will include a field trip every year to the Moore Cultural Complex for every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in the Brevard Public School System. I will have the honor of representing the members of the BFT-R as I stand with the Board of the BFT at the Cultural Complex on February 24, 2021 from 5:30-6:30 pm. **Perseverance!**



### Next Meeting--Thurs., Mar. 4, 2021 via ZOOM

11:00 Business Meeting

12:00 Guest Speaker: Nancy Johnson

Topic: Places to Take a Walk

You will be receiving an email that will give you the information you need to attend including our meeting ID#. Text or call Joan at 321-266-6006 if you need any help, or a practice session to figure out how to be admitted into the meeting. The meeting room will be open at 10:30 if you would like to get into the meeting earlier.



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

**We're very happy to welcome Lynne Renguso as a new member.** Lynne taught Fourth Grade at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School. She lists gardening and reading as her interests. **WELCOME, Lynne!**

The following are on the 2020-21 "Honor Roll" (those members who have paid their 2020-21 dues since the last newsletter):



**Kathryn Harbaugh, Skippy Lober and Cam Matthews.**

**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. Note: The \$400 goes to FEA and NEA.

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



## 2021 Florida Legislative Session Update

--Patty Farley

The Florida Legislative Session starts on March 2 this year. Knowing that during the committee weeks preceding the formal start of the session is when the bills are actually introduced and begin the process of hearings, I have been following numerous Education Bills that are detrimental for educators. I interviewed FEA President Andrew Spar about these bills on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Senate Bill 78: This bill is a union busting bill that puts employers in charge of dues authorization.

Senate Bill 48: Expands the amount of money that private schools will be taking from the education budget with a massive expansion of vouchers.

Senate Bill 264: A bill regulating what university professors can teach.

Senate Bill 220: University Presidents will not be chosen in the sunshine, giving politicians a chance to award their friends with a high paying position.

Senate Bill 84: Eliminates the pension option for employees in the Florida Retirement System on July 1, 2022. Instead, all employees will be placed in the investment plan, thus depleting the FRS system!

One of the really bad bills being pushed this year is HB1, which prevents individuals from protesting. There are many parts of this bill that are unconstitutional, racist and hold-over elements from southern Reconstruction. I traveled to Tallahassee to speak against this Bill and FEA leader Rich Templin also spoke against this bill, but it is advancing.

I strongly urge all of you to sign up for the action alerts from FEA on the website and make as many calls as possible. The very future of our Unions and our Retirement Pension is at stake this year. We need your voice.

<https://feaweb.org/news/2021-legislative-session/>

## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

Our books have gone global! My husband Jessie has a friend who is a photographer for the Zora Neil Hurston Festival in Eatonville. The festival's committee had a tour of West African countries. His friend visited Gambia and befriended a local man there name Malik. Later my husband and his friend started to help Malik with his vegetable farm. Malik did not have the proper tools to cultivate the land. Jessie was sending a box of tools for him. There was extra room in the box. I knew Malik had 2 children and a girl they are raising. So, I put in 1 of our books and 3 stuffed animals. Their country's language is English. Malik sent a picture back showing his children with our book items. As you can see from their faces, they loved their gifts. He said the children never had a gift like that before. He said the neighbor children all loved their gifts too.



*Ramayoulie Baye 8, Pa Sajuka Jahatch 7, Modou Jahatch 8.  
Gambia West Africa children holding our BFTR books and  
stuffed animals.*

Sheila Bollinger's friend was teaching English in Tonga, a small island in the South Pacific. Their country's language is Tongan, not English. Sheila sent several books. She picked books with multicultural content that children would be interested in and have universal themes like children playing, school, animals, families, and food.

We also give books to English language learners here. Some of our books are bilingual written in both English and Spanish. Families can keep their native language and enjoy the love of reading, too.

*(continued in next column)*

I would like to thank all of our BFTR volunteers who have worked so hard every week since the pandemic. Many of us had the luck of getting our Covid vaccination. Thank you team for your dedication to our program: Sheila Bollinger, Cynthia Woznicki, Carol Post, Linda Guiles, Carol Linton, Marsha Millar and Fran Baer. We also want to thank Elizabeth Schreiber, School Supply Zone Manager for asking our team to help sort donated books. In turn we got the chance to pick many books for our program.

## Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Send your volunteer hours to me anytime at [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com) Remember to put volunteer hours in the subject line. Thanks for all you do.

## Need Help Getting a Covid-19 Vaccination Appointment?

If you would like one of the BFT-R members to go on a site to get you an appointment, email Joan Taddie at: [jtaddie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com) or call or text her at 321-266-6006.

If you need someone to pick you up and bring you to the vaccination site, one of the BFT-R members will be happy to do that for you as well.





© Brian Crane.

## *Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News*

### OFFICERS

### CALENDAR

**President:** Joan Taddie [jtaddie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com)  
**Co-Vice-Presidents:** Bettie Bailey [baileybettie@yahoo.com](mailto:baileybettie@yahoo.com)  
 Nancy Johnson [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com)  
**Co-Secretaries:** Linda Guiles [lindag315@aol.com](mailto:lindag315@aol.com)  
 Susan How [sun515flower@msn.com](mailto:sun515flower@msn.com)  
**Treasurer:** Susan Vincent [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com)  
**Membership Chairman:** 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. Mar. 4 - BFT-R meeting--on ZOOM**  
 11:00-12:00 Meeting  
 12:00-12:30 Speaker--Nancy Johnson  
 on Places to Take a Walk

**Next meeting - Apr.1--on ZOOM**

### Membership Application

**I want to join BFT/R for the 2020-2021 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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.**