



# Brevard Federation of Teachers

## Retired Chapter News

### “Retired, Not Expired”

Volume 31, Number 1  
Oct. 2026

## President's Message

*--Anne Marie Monteparo*

### President's Message

Welcome back to all our retired members. Hope you all enjoyed your summer. Looking forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings and catching up. We have some great speakers and field trips planned for this year.

A Special welcome to our new members: Anna Marie Pierpont, Rick Reece, and Erick Foreman. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Our First BFT-R meeting of the new school year will be held on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. **BFT-R will be providing lunch, drinks and dessert.** Our October meeting is traditionally our Political Luncheon, and we will have candidates running in the November election attending the meeting. They will speak to us about their platforms and answer questions you may have for them. As of today, 7 candidates have confirmed that they will be attending.

**Jennifer Jenkins – US House Representative Brevard County District 8**

**Judy Ngying – State Senator District 8**

**Daniel Lewis Cicirelli – State House Representative District 31**

**Daniel McDow – State House Representative District 33**

**Aldon Bookhart -County Commissioner District 1**

**Michelle Mc Cormack and Kyle Savage will be represented by BFT**

Make sure you are registered to vote by checking your voter registration and be an informed voter.

In May, Nancy Rhodes, Dicque Walz and I attended the BFT Teacher Appreciation Party at Rising Tide and raffled off four \$25 Visa gift cards to teachers. We also distributed BFT Retired flyers.

Our 2026 Shevenell Memorial Scholarship winners, Alyse Reyier and Rylee Baskett were each presented with a \$500 check and certificate. Alyse will be attending Florida Institute of Technology and majoring in Genetics and Marine Science. Rylee will be attending Florida State University and majoring in Civil Environmental Engineering.

Nancy Rhodes attended the Labor Day Union picnic in September at Wickham Park. Along with BFT she distributed books and stuffed animal Book Buddies to children of union members.

Dicque Walz, Nancy Rhodes and I will be attending the FEA Retired Annual Meeting on September 24th in Orlando. At this meeting elections will be held for FEA Retired President, Vice President and even numbered District Directors. Nancy and I will be virtually attending the FEA Delegate Assembly on October 24th.

It is with a sad heart that I bring you news of the passing of Fern Patton. She was one of our dearest and deeply loved members. She was a spunky nonagenarian who enjoyed participating regularly in our meetings and field trips. There will be a Celebration of Life on September 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Cocoa Elks Club, 315 Florida Ave, Cocoa FL. BFT-R will be making a donation in her name to Tunnel To Towers. This is a charity that she donated to every year.

*Celebrating*  
THE LIFE OF



**FERN PATTON**  
February 8, 1934 - August 14, 2026

Please join as we celebrate the life of Fern Patton and remember the love, laughter, and special moments she shared with all of us. She believed that life was better with FOOD, COFFEE, SOMETHING SWEET and wonderful people around her.

So in her honor we will gather together and do what she loved most, and share memories of a friend who will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Saturday, September 26, 2026  
2:00 TO 4:00 p.m.

Cocoa Elks Club  
315 Florida Ave, Cocoa, FL



Here is some information about Tunnel to Towers:

Since September 11, 2001 Tunnel to Towers provides the surviving families of fallen first responders and military members with mortgage free homes and specially adapted mortgage free smart homes for America's most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. Children of the foundations homes' recipients are offered full scholarships for undergraduate degrees and accredited trade school programs. They're also dedicated to eradicating Veteran homelessness

<https://t2t.org/>

Rest In Peace Fern. We will miss you!



**Next Meeting--Thur, Oct. 1, 2026**

**1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge**

**11:30: Lunch,** drinks, dessert & paper products will be provided by BFT-R

**12:00 Speakers: Political candidates**

*Dues are due in October*

*--\$30 for life member*

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

***Make check payable to BFTR***

***Pay Sheila Cootes at the Oct. meeting or mail it to her using the form on page 7.***

## **Upcoming Speakers and Field Trips**

*By Lin Herz*

On October 21st we'll discover more about the history of Orlando and Central Florida, including Brevard at the Orange County Regional History Center, a fascinating downtown museum housed inside the beautifully restored 1927 Orange County Courthouse. Across four floors of exhibits, visitors can explore 14,000 years of Central Florida history, from the region's earliest people and pioneer settlements to citrus, aviation, civil rights, tourism, and the arrival of the theme parks.

The museum has won national awards, and is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution. <https://www.thehistorycenter.org/> [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g34515-d144055-Reviews-The\\_Orange\\_County\\_Regional\\_History\\_Center-Orlando\\_Florida.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g34515-d144055-Reviews-The_Orange_County_Regional_History_Center-Orlando_Florida.html)

We'll car pool over to the museum. 64 East Central Blvd, Orlando 32801

**Admission is \$8. RSVP to Lin by October 2nd.** Those who RSVP by October 2nd will vote on where to eat. we'll set up car pools. There are two nearby restaurants. If you have any questions or to RSVP contact Lin by text or phone 321-960-8194.

In November we'll be visiting the adorable town of Mount Dora. First we'll take a boat tour through the Dora Canal, followed by lunch in the historic Lakeside Inn, and finally walk around this quaint town. (think like Cocoa Village but much more.)

On the boat we'll tour the ancient Cypress swamps in search of wildlife galore! The narrated tour starts in Mount Dora on Lake Dora and follows the shoreline all the way down to the Dora Canal. This Dora Canal Cruise is a relaxing way to experience a trip back in time!

Please RSVP by October 12th. Let me know which of these date(s) are best for you by email: ([lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com)) or text 321-960-8194. Please include your name, address, email, and phone.

Tuesday, November 10

Thursday, November 12,

Tuesday, November 17

Wednesday November 18th,

Thursday, November 19th

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Stetson Mansion in Deland (historic tour):

At the November meeting we'll discuss our February trip to the Stetson Mansion in Deland for the "Grand tour." Last year we took the Christmas decoration tour. We will see much more of the mansion on this tour. If you can't make the November meeting, email me for more information on the tour.

Trips for 2026-2027

October: Orange County Regional History Center.

November: Mount Dora (including boat ride through the Dora Canal)

December: Holiday luncheon at Cafe Margaux

January: Harry T and Harriet V. Moore Memorial and Cultural Center

February: Stetson Mansion in DeLand

March/April: Orlando Wetlands or St. Augustine (spending 1 night in the historic city) or Brevard Zoo. (We'll do one each month)

## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes



**We're very happy to welcome Anna Marie Pierpont, Richard Reece and Eric Forman as new members. Anna Marie** was a K-5 media specialist in Broward County. **Richard** taught in Dade and Broward Counties and lists photography, travel, gardening and reading as his interests. **Eric** taught fifth grade at Discovery Elementary. **WELCOME, Anna Marie, Richard and Eric!**

It still feels like summer BUT it's fall and your dues are due in October. Our first general membership meeting will be October 1 at the BFT office. If you are coming, save a stamp and just hand me your check (made payable to BFTR). 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.

**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))

## 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.

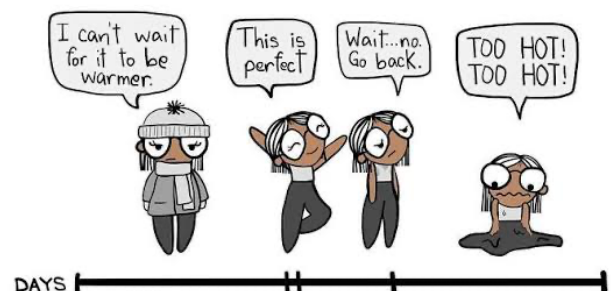
We need, and would love, more volunteers to help with calling. Each volunteer presently calls about 8 people, mainly leaving a message on answering machines. The more callers, the fewer calls each has to make. If you are interested in helping please contact Lin Herz by phone 321-960-8194 or email: [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com)

## 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.

## WEATHER



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# 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, Oct. 1 - BFT-R meeting at<br/>BFT Office<br/>1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge</b><br><br><b>11:30: Lunch, drinks, dessert &amp; paper<br/>products will be provided by BFT-R</b><br><br><b>12:00 Speakers: Political candidates</b><br><br><b>Next meeting - November 5, 2026</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.**