



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

Volume 29, Number 1  
Oct, 2024

## *President’s Message*

*--Anne Marie Monteparo*

Welcome back to all our retired members. A special thank you to Nancy Rhodes and Jonathan Schuman for stepping up to serve as Vice Presidents this year, and to Nancy Johnson for helping me this summer by being available to answer my endless questions. Also thank you to all the executive board members for all you do to make this a successful year.

Our first BFT-R meeting of the new school year will be at the BFT office on Thursday, October 3rd. Our October meeting is traditionally our Political Luncheon, and we will have candidates attending the meeting who will talk to all of us about why they are running for office and answer any questions you may have for them. As of today, ten candidates have confirmed that they will be attending this luncheon.

**Be an informed voter!**

Matt Susin - School Board District 4

Ava Taylor-School Board District 4

Sandy Kennedy – US House Representative Brevard County District 8

Vance Ahrens- FL State Senate District 19

Joanne Terry – FL House Representative District 31

Juan Hinojosa- FL House Representative District 32

Vernon Anderson- FL House Representative District 33

Bryan Bobbitt - County Commissioner District 1

Yvonne Minus – County Commissioner District 3

Vinnie Taranto – County Commissioner District 5



**Next Meeting--Thur, Oct. 3, 2024**

**1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge**

11:30 Brown bag lunch

12:00 Speakers: Political candidates

(No business meeting)

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

It still feels like summer BUT it's fall and your dues are due in October. Our first general membership meeting will be October 3 at the BFT office. We will have our usual "brown bag" lunch at 11:30. 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))

## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

At the end of the last school year, our program had a very limited supply of books and our workroom needed some tender loving care. So, we spent our summer months getting prepared for the coming school year. We reorganized many tubs of stuffed animals, repacked supply tubs, cleaned tables, and steam mopped the floor. Hopefully, all our hard work will help our program run more smoothly in the year ahead.

Our pleas for more books are being answered in several ways. Newly retired teachers are helping to fill our book crates up. One teacher gave us about 600 great books already organized into themes and in colorful small tubs we could keep. Another teacher gave us a large quantity of character books. After speaking to the Friends of the Satellite Beach Library group about our book program, they decided to help us by giving us leftover books from their book sales. We have received many fabulous books for young readers from this group. In addition, we still collect books from lots of area thrift stores. They know about our program's mission and save books for our use.

Bringing in so many books meant a lot of work to prepare them for young hands. First, we need to vet the books by separating approved ones from non-approved ones. The non-approved books do not go to waste. They are given away at community events. Next, we check for appropriate content for our young age group. Then we clean the books, do any needed repairs, and finally sort them into grade level crates.

This school year we are focusing on the central area of Brevard County. Thus far, we have served 2 schools by giving them each 420 books for their Pre-K, kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and VE classes. Many thanks to our BFTR members who help by providing books and stuffed animals. These supplies are always needed and greatly appreciated. Our program is fortunate to partner with ladies who love to sew for children. They recently made sponge material bookmarks for 1<sup>st</sup> graders and individual tissue holders using kid-friendly material (and supplied the tissue) for kindergarteners.

We are always looking for new volunteers. Please consider joining our hardworking group. Contact Rita Hewett at (321) 720-3683 for further information.

## Field Trips

--Lin Herz

On November 12th we'll be touring the historic Pritchard House in downtown Titusville at 11:00. The Queen Anne style home has been restored almost exactly as it was in 1891, when it was built by Captain James Pritchard. The tour (upstairs and downstairs) is a little over an hour.

The house is furnished with antique furniture and accessories. Collections of linens, glassware, housewares, paintings, vintage women's and children's clothing and accessories, vintage toys and many artifacts collected on the property are displayed.

The Pritchard House is on the U.S. Register of Historic Places. After our tour of the house, the group will decide if we want to tour the beautiful gardens, and then go to lunch.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pritchard\\_House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pritchard_House)

The cost of the tour is \$10. **Please send your checks, made out to BFT/Retired to Anne Marie Monteparo by November 7th, or bring it to our meeting on November 7th.** If you bring it to the meeting, please put it in an envelope with your name and cell phone number.

Anne Marie Monteparo  
1118 Wild Flower Dr.  
Melbourne, FL 32940

For more information contact Lin: 321-960-8194, [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com)



## Medicare Benefits for Retired School District Employees!

The Florida School Retiree Benefits Consortium (FSRBC) is an extension of your District's benefit offerings for 65 and older. Medicare-eligible retirees, from participating School Districts, are eligible to enroll in high quality, comprehensive, and competitive Medicare Medical as well as Dental and Vision plans. We know there is a lot to consider when it comes to your healthcare benefits in retirement, and we're here to help!

**The Florida School Retiree Benefits Consortium** was established on June 15, 2012, to provide employer-sponsored benefits for Retirees and Dependents eligible for Medicare. The initial RFP for Health Plans was released on March 21, 2014. As of August 2022, there are 16,000 retirees participating in the FSRBC.

**2025 Annual enrollment is October 28-November 15, 2024**

<https://myfsrbc.com/>

**For questions about your account, coverage, enrollment, or payment preference please contact the Customer Service Center:**

**1-833-686-0983 (TTY 711) Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm ET**

To view Medicare plan information, rates, enroll or make a payment please visit the [Enrollment Portal](#).

For specific questions about current coverage or to setup an individual Medicare consultation please reach out to Shannon Shepherd from FSRBC, by emailing [benefits@myfsrbc.com](mailto:benefits@myfsrbc.com).



**ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5!!**

You can register to vote, check your voter status, look up early voting sites or request a mail ballot at the Supervisor of Elections website <https://www.votebrevard.gov/>

Voter Registration closes: October 7

Last day to request a Mail Ballot to be sent: October 24 by 5:00 p.m.

Early voting: October 21 - November 2

Polls are open November 5 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**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.



Congratulations to the winner of the BFT-R \$500 Fran Shevenell Memorial Scholarship: Marsdon Maggio from Palm Bay High School. Marsdon plans to attend Florida State University and major in Nursing. Her mother is a teacher & her father is a first responder.

***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 5.*

**Phone Tree**

*--Rita Gynan*

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. It will be great to get back together with our fellow retired teachers soon. I would like to request that some of you volunteer to be a part of our BFT-R Phone Tree. BFT-R sees our phone trees as a valuable resource for keeping in touch with our members. We can not only give members information about upcoming meetings and events, but also stay connected to those who are not able to attend meetings.

The phone tree only takes a small amount of your time each month. With enough volunteers each caller only needs to get in touch with 7-8 other members. After the newsletter is published, I email the callers with a short bullet list of information to share with members. A contact list is also included. Of course, you are free to chat with the people you call, making this a good way to get to know some of our group.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a caller, please call Rita Gynan at 321-728-2946 or email me at [fgynan@cfl.rr.com](mailto:fgynan@cfl.rr.com).

**FEA-Retired Annual Meeting & FEA-Delegate Assembly**

On September 19 President Anne Marie Monteparo, Vice-President Nancy Rhodes & Delegate Nancy Johnson attended the FEA-Retired Annual Meeting in Orlando. BFTR won awards for "Excellence in Communications" and "Outstanding Volunteer Service". Nancy Rhodes was elected as the new District Director.

On September 20-21 they were delegates to the FEA-Delegate Assembly.





## Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

### OFFICERS

### CALENDAR

<p><b>President:</b> Anne Marie Monteparo <a href="mailto:amonteparo@cfl.rr.com">amonteparo@cfl.rr.com</a></p> <p><b>Co-Vice-Presidents:</b> Nancy Rhodes <a href="mailto:nanr1871@gmail.com">nanr1871@gmail.com</a> Jonathan Schuman 321-213-7808</p> <p><b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Linda Guiles <a href="mailto:lindag315@aol.com">lindag315@aol.com</a> JayAnn Preston <a href="mailto:jayannpreston@yahoo.com">jayannpreston@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Susan Vincent <a href="mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com">snv1@cfl.rr.com</a></p> <p><b>Membership Chair:</b> Sheila Cootes 427-7808</p> <p><b>Sunshine Coordinator:</b> Eva Slaughter 724-0702</p> <p><b>Program Coordinator:</b> Lin Herz <a href="mailto:lin32905@gmail.com">lin32905@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Phone tree:</b> Rita Gynan <a href="mailto:fgynan@cfl.rr.com">fgynan@cfl.rr.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Nancy Johnson <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Thur, Oct. 3 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office</b> 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge -11:30 Brown bag lunch -12:00 Speakers: Political candidates -(no business meeting)</p> <p><b>Next meeting - November 7, 2024</b></p>
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### Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2024-2025 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.**