



Brevard Federation of Teachers

Retired Chapter News

"Retired, Not Expired"

Volume 24, Number 4
Feb. 2020

The President's Missive

--Joan Taddie

Happy New Year everyone! 2020 has roared into our lives and challenges all of us to make important decisions that will affect not only the future of education here in Florida, but also the future of our national political system and the future of the health of our environment on a global scale! The call has gone out to everyone to step up and actively participate in the abundance of social and political arenas that are striving to bring about the survival of our nation and of our planet. I am so proud of our BFTR members and their commitment to be an active part of the many important issues facing all of us today!

Just this month alone, we had three major marches to bring attention to significant concerns facing our citizens: Take on Tallahassee: A Rally for Public Education, The Women's March 2020, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Walk. Thank you to the many BFTR members who participated in one or more of these marches. You make a difference and provide an example for our citizens, including our precious children!

A special thanks to Beth Shaffer for once again reserving a room at The Tides at PAFB for our Annual Holiday Luncheon. Also, thanks to Mark Nelson whose beautiful voice added a special Broadway touch to the afternoon affair. Additionally, our Fran Shevenall Scholarship fund benefited from the enthusiastic sale of our raffle tickets. The prizes in the raffle included tickets to productions at the Titusville Playhouse and Surfside Playhouse. Our thanks to Executive Directors, Steven Heron and Bryan Bergeron, for their generous donations!

And in closing...The BFTR membership and our Executive Board would like to send our thanks, our love, and our good wishes to Vickie Dyer, a member of the small but mighty staff at the BFT office, who has retired after 30+ years of devotion to the success of our Union! Vickie had numerous responsibilities including finance, scheduling, school visits, contract issues, mentoring new BFTR presidents, and keeping the office supplied and running alongside our other Staff Angel, Chris Higgins! We wish Vickie a wonderful retirement, full of fun and adventure! We will miss you!

Next Meeting--Thurs., Feb. 6, 2020



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

11:30 Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 Business Meeting

1:00 Guest Speaker: Zach Marchetti

Topic: Brevard Zoo



Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

The following are on the **2019-20 "Honor Roll"** (those members who have paid their 2019-20 dues since the last newsletter: **Marilyn Bollo, Judith Kinlock, Barbara Kirker, Skippy Lober, Carol Post and Dan Scheuerer.**



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 2020 Florida Legislative Session opened with Teachers having a rally to fund education at the Capitol. While that was going on outside, a committee inside moved \$462.6 million from educational programs to teacher salaries. This still does not equal the \$600 million Governor DeSantis called for in his plan.

Here is a list of current proposed bills that the Florida Education Association is watching, supports, and opposes.

Bills We Support

- HB 643 — Creates a remedy to ensure inclusion of prekindergarten teachers in the definition of Instructional Personnel
- HB 819/SB 1320 — Requires a university to waive the cost of fees for certain Graduate Assistants
- SJR 1364 — Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, limits DOE's ability to interfere in collective bargaining between the local union and school boards to set wages, hours, and terms & conditions for school employees
- SR 964 — Recognizes the hard work of Educational Staff Professionals through a resolution
- SB 486 — Repeals the Best & Brightest bonuses for both teachers and principals
- HB 929 — Requires parents to provide written consent for students to participate in district-required local assessments and statewide assessments such as the FSA
- HB 1359 — Provides the opportunity for annual contract teachers to receive a multi-year contract

Bills We Oppose

- HB 1/SB 804 — Requires union members to rejoin their union every year
- HJR 157/ SJR 1216 — Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide school board term limits
- SB 360 — Limits local decision making in regard to spending
- HB 613 — Requires each college and university to annually survey students on intellectual freedom and diversity on campus and requires the Board of Governors and State Board of Education to annually publish a report of findings with the intent of limiting academic freedom
- SB 1400 — Adopts the Governor's minimum base salary requirement for teachers to \$47,500, and expands the Florida Tax Credit voucher eligibility from 185% to 300% of the federal poverty level
- HB 6001 — Repeal the ban on campus carry for Florida's colleges and universities allowing guns on campus

TAKE ON TALLAHASSEE RALLY

--Joan Taddie

On January 13th, 7 buses with BFT and BFTR teachers, civic leaders, parents (some with their children), and concerned citizens left Brevard County at 6:30am and traveled to Tallahassee to participate in a record-breaking march and rally at the Old Capitol Building. Our goal was to deliver a powerful message to our governor and our state legislators (who would be back in session on January 14th) that Florida's public schools are at a crisis point and funding needs to be provided by Tallahassee to Fund Florida's Future, our public school students.

"Florida ranks consistently among the bottom 10 states in both per-student spending and pay for our teachers and education staff professionals. Florida earned an 'F' for school spending in Education Week's most recent National Report Card."

More than 15,000 people marched (up hill) from the Tucker Civic Center (after a welcoming rally in the arena) to the old Capitol Building to listen to an impressive and inspiring group of speakers, including Reverend Al Sharpton, AFT President Randi Weingarten, NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, Jesse Sharkey, Chicago Teachers Union President, and so many others.

This rally was an enormous undertaking, and kudos to Fedrick Ingram, President of FEA and his officers and staff for a well-organized plan that worked! Thanks also to BFT President, Anthony Colucci, his officers, and Chris Higgins, our BFT office manager, for putting all the details together to make the trip from Brevard flawless. As Captain of Eau Gallie Bus#2, I was given coolers with iced drinks and sandwiches for lunch, as well as snacks to munch on, first aid supplies, lots of informational paperwork, and a network to use on our phones to get updated information, or to get assistance if we needed it. Everyone got a light weight BFT backpack with snacks and water to wear while they were walking. When we got back on our bus after the rally there were boxed dinners waiting for us for the ride home. While we were in Tallahassee there was ALWAYS water available for everyone, even on the sides of the road as we marched and lots of water available at the rally.

The buses were beautiful and comfortable with WIFI and outlets for all our technical cords. They even had nice bathrooms. We did make one rest stop going and coming back to get out and stretch our legs, buy some additional snacks or drinks, and use the restrooms. We had great drivers and we got home around 10:30pm.

I had 23 on my bus. We all had less on the buses than we had planned for, because about 100 people who reserved a spot did not show up. The BFTR members riding on the bus with my husband Pete and I were Nancy Johnson and her husband Oli, Ortha Gardner and her husband Errol, and Tina Newman. We also had BFT teachers, supportive community members, and Stacey and Sanjay Patel from the Brevard County Democratic Party. I loved my bus! Rusty and "Chris" were great drivers and very helpful, everybody was always on time when we had to leave a location, and they were all enthusiastic participants in my "Fact or Fib" trivia game that rewarded winners with fabulous prizes!!!! Thanks to everyone who marched! You made a difference!



Programs & Field Trips

--Lin Herz

Our February speaker is Zach Marchetti from the Brevard Zoo. We'll learn about great improvements at the zoo, making your visit more comfortable and enjoyable. In addition, we'll hear about other new areas and changes at the zoo, and why our zoo is such a great place for the animals and visitors.

On February 27th we'll be taking a "field trip" to the zoo. We'll meet outside at the zoo entrance at 11:30. We'll be having lunch inside the zoo at Nourish 321, a new outdoor restaurant. Nourish 321 has hearty sandwiches, wholesome salads, burgers, as well as vegan and vegetarian options.

If we have at least 15 people attending, admission is \$19.95 for seniors. Otherwise it's \$22.95.

Please contact Lin Herz by **February 20th** if you are interested in attending our zoo trip. Email lin32905@gmail.com or text 321-960-8194

At our March meeting our speaker will be Sonya Mallard from the "Harry T. and Harriet V. Moore Memorial Park and Museum." Harry and Harriet were civil rights leaders 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.

We're planning a "field trip" on March 25th to the Moore Park and Museum. Touring the Moore complex takes about 2 hours. Admission is free. We'll be having lunch at Shiloh's on the water in Titusville, at 11:30, before going to the Moore complex.

On April 22nd we'll be taking a field trip to Winter Park for the delightful "Scenic Boat Trip" through the pristine Winter Park chain of lakes. These lakes were connected by loggers long ago. The boat tour offers an hour long guided cruise through three of the lakes and two man made canals on the Winter Park chain. You'll see beautiful trees and lush plants, opulent homes built on the water, and often observe many birds and other wildlife. You'll even pass by the house where THE Mr. Rogers lived, and you'll see why he said, "It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood."

Due to the boat tours being so busy in the winter and spring months, we need to book it as soon as possible. We'll discuss the field trips at our February meeting. We'll need to all be parked and ready to board a little before the time of the tour. We are looking into hiring a shuttle service to take us over. The boat cruise is giving us a discounted group rate of \$12.

The address of the boat cruise is 312 East Morse Blvd, Winter Park. It's right behind Park Avenue in Winter Park.

Due to the fact that the boat cruise boats fill up, and expecting a good turn out, we need people to commit by February 12th in order to check on the size of a shuttle we'll need, and to book the cruise. **If you are interested in attending please contact Lin by February 12. lin32905@gmail.com or text 321-960-8194.**

RSVP for Field Trips

Email lin32905@gmail.com or text 321-960-8194

Winter Park Boat Tour--Apr.22

RSVP By Feb. 12



Brevard Zoo--Feb. 27

RSVP By Feb. 20



Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

Can you believe this is the second month into 2020? We are going into the second semester of school. We still have lots of work to do.

Thanks to Terry Delgado, who introduced me to Kathleen Roath Algera. Kathleen is part of the MOLINA FOUNDATION. They donate books to libraries and schools to help children build their own private library at home. We got lots of books. Thank you, Terry and Kathleen. Their books will help children develop their own private library and have a love of reading.



Thanks to Marsha Millar, who has great connections to donors. Her connection donated small toys to our book program. Thank you, Marsha.

Thanks also to our other donors of books, stuffed animals, toys and storage bags.

Thanks to our regular volunteers who donate their time to volunteer with us. We are so grateful for your dedicated service to help our students. Please keep up the good work.

If you would like to be a part of our busy group please contact Rita Hewett at rmhewett@yahoo.com. We need your help.

Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

It's time for volunteer hours again. You should have sent me your hours up to December 2019, but just in case you didn't, I'm still taking them. So let's look at January 2020 and start adding them up for this year. Remember if you went to Tallahassee on Jan. 13 count the hours for the whole day not just in Tally! You can email me your hours at snv1@cfl.rr.com. Please put in the subject line "volunteer hours". Thanks!

FEA-R Innovative Grant Winners

--Joan Taddie

I recently had the honor of meeting the two winners of the FEA-R Innovative Grants. I visited Kennedy Middle School to present a \$100 check to Guidance Services Professional **Terrence Haus** who requested a grant to purchase items for the school's "Panther Pantry", which supplies food, clothing, school supplies, and hygiene products to students in need.



Terrence Haus & Principal Sherry Tomlinson

I also visited **Krista Hemmer** at Southwest Middle School to present her with a \$100 check. She plans to purchase four portable light boxes to help her Studio Art students engage more deeply in their art classes and to cultivate a setting where students feel more confident to have open visual communication.



Krista Hemmer, Principal Ron Shaw & students

Congratulations to these Brevard teachers!

FEA Delegate Assembly Nominations

If you would like to be a delegate to the FEA Delegate Assembly Oct. 8-10 at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, contact Nancy Johnson at nanjoh99@gmail.com for a nomination form.

Nomination deadline is Feb. 15. FEA-Retired is entitled to elect 32 delegates. BFT-R pays for your hotel room. The Delegate Assembly is both fun & informative.

Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

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Newsletter Editor	<i>Nancy Johnson nanjoh99@gmail.com</i>

CALENDAR

Feb. 6-Meeting-BFT office 11:30 Brown bag lunch 12:15 Business meeting 1:00 Speaker--Zach Marchetti from Brevard Zoo
Feb.10-RSVP deadline for 2/27 Zoo Trip
Feb.20-RSVP deadline for 4/22 Boat Tour
March 5-Next meeting-BFT office

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)

**Brevard Federation of Teachers
Retired Chapter
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