



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

Volume 29, Number 6  
Apr, 2025

## *President’s Message*

*--Anne Marie Monteparo*

Last year at this time Nancy Rhodes, Jonathan Schumann and I stepped up to the challenge of serving as your officers. We had big shoes to fill and hope that we did not disappoint you. Thank you for your friendship and kindness. I know I have enjoyed spending time with everyone at the meetings and on field trips. The BFTR Board members have been very helpful and patient. Looking forward to another successful year! Nancy Rhodes and Jonathan will be running the April meeting as I will be entertaining my Grandson. See you all at the Pot Luck in May!

Tallahassee update:

With two weeks gone by of the nine-week legislative session, things are starting to heat up in Tallahassee. We are seeing continued progress on important issues such as multiyear contracts. At the same time, legislators continue to prioritize corporate charter schools. Our mission over the final seven weeks of session is to continue pushing a pro-public education agenda while fighting against attempts to undermine and defund our public schools.



**Next Meeting--Thur, Apr. 3, 2025**

**1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge**

11:30 Brown bag lunch & Bingo

12:00 Business meeting

12:30 Speaker: Jennifer Cleveland

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

Our speaker for April is Jennifer Cleveland. Jennifer had been a personal trainer and paramedic until she became legally blind in 2009, and had to redefine her life on every level. She is now a yoga teacher, Reiki 2 practitioner, certified Thai yoga message educator and therapist, and certified international instructor and ambassador of the Thai Yoga and Healing Arts institute of Bangkok, Thailand

She and her standard poodle guide dog, Gabriel, are very active in the community providing awareness for the visually impaired and spiritual support and inspiration for people who are disabled. She serves on the Board of Space Coast Area Transit for their paratransit.

Jennifer has shared her inspiring journey of resilience and transformation at events Dining in the Dark and as a keynote speaker at NASA.

## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

We have just finished our 10th year of serving Brevard's youngest students. This school year we served most of the central and northern area Title 1 Public elementary schools. We served 14 schools.

We have served:

523 VPK children

831 kindergarten students

802 1st graders

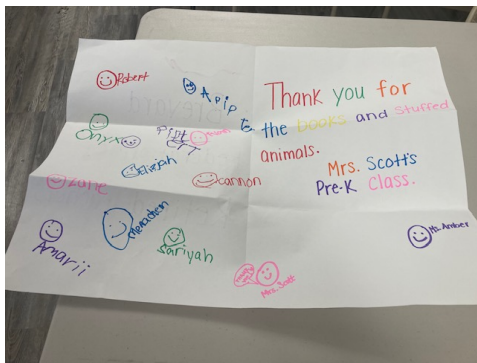
128 ESE primary students.

Total number of children served: 2,284.

Total number of books given out this school year: 4,568.

Wow! What an accomplishment of our goal to give children books and have a love of reading. Thank you BFTR members for your donations of money to purchase books, stuffed animals, and supplies. Thanks to our sewing ladies who continue to supply our students with creative handmade bookmarks, and tissue holders. They also hand made adult shoulder bags for the teachers. We continue to collect new and gently used books for ages 3 to 7 years old and other supplies. You can drop them off at the BFT office in Rockledge or call Rita Hewett to arrange for pick up. (321) 720-3683. If you would like to join us next school year please contact me. We have a job for everyone.

Thank you notes from students for the 3R Book Program:



### Emma Jewel School

This is one of the reasons we give books. Children also got to pick a dog shape bookmark. Just look at the many happy 1st graders' faces with their selection of books and stuffed animal.



## Field Trip

--Lin Herz

**Our April field trip is on Thursday, April 10 to our award winning Brevard Zoo.** The fee for seniors is \$27.95 if you pay ahead of time online, \$29.95 if you pay in person. There is an additional fee if you want to feed the giraffes, lorikeets, or cockatiels.

You may not bring in any food or straws. They do have a restaurant, a pizza place, and an ice cream place.

There are wheelchair and electric scooters you can rent. See <https://brevardzoo.org/accessibility> We will meet at the zoo at **10:00 April 10. RSVP to Lin by phone or text by April 6** & let her know if you need a ride.

For more information check out <https://brevardzoo.org/visit> or contact Lin by text of phone 321-960-1-8194.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> we visited the Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS) in Daytona. The Museum had everything from actual antique railroad passenger cars, to a planetarium, Florida animal skeletons and fossils. There was a wing of beautiful paintings of Florida and a visiting John James Audubon exhibit of Florida birds. We saw antique cars and a huge Coca Cola exhibit. Name it, and they had it in the Coke exhibit including a specially designed Coke can that astronauts used on the Space Shuttle. We also saw gorgeous antique racecars, a Teddy Bear and quilt collection, etc. The antique furniture exhibit was beautiful. Everyone enjoyed the museum so much; we all said we'd go back when they put up new exhibits. We saw so much that we didn't have time to see the second floor of the museum.



## Elections

The elections for FEA and NEA Retired Delegates Assembly are underway. Election Buddy sent the ballots out via email on March 10th. Please consider voting for BFTR members Nancy Rhodes, Nancy Johnson, and Anne Marie Monteparo.

**Absolute deadline for submitting your ballot is March 28, 2025 at midnight.**

## Volunteer Hours

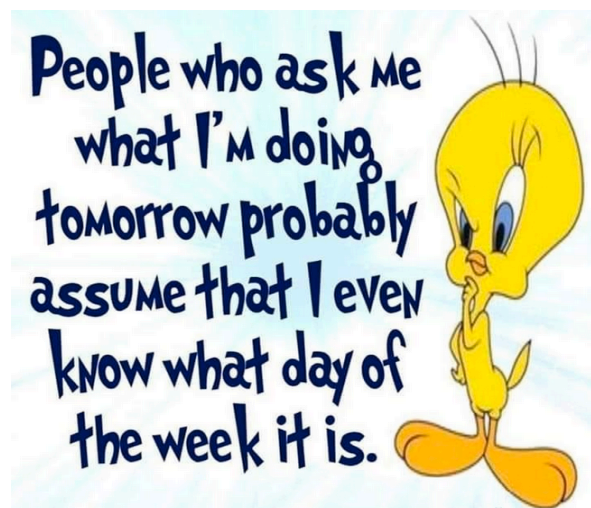
--Susan Vincent

We need your volunteer hours. Please send them to my email [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com). Or come to the next meeting and sign in with them. Thanks for all you do.

## NEWSLETTER HELP WANTED

--Nancy Johnson

After 10 years of being the editor of the BFTR Newsletter, it's time to pass the torch. You don't need to be a writer, since others write the articles. You need to know how to copy/paste and put the articles all together. Anne Marie & Sheila proofread it & then Sheila sends it out. Newsletters go out in October - May (except January). Interested? Contact Nancy Johnson at [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com)





## 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 321-427-7808</p> <p><b>Sunshine Coordinator:</b> Eva Slaughter 321-724-0702</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, Apr. 3 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office</b> 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge -11:30 Brown bag lunch &amp; Bingo -12:00 Business meeting -12:30 Speaker: Jennifer Cleveland</p> <p><b>Next meeting - May 1, 2025</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.**