



Brevard Federation of Teachers

Retired Chapter News

“Retired, Not Expired”

Volume 29, Number 7
May, 2025

President’s Message

--Anne Marie Monteparo

First, my thoughts are with the students, staff and faculty of Florida State University as well as all of those who have loved ones that work at or attend FSU. It’s so sad that these school shootings continue.

On a lighter note, summer is upon us. The end of another school year! Oh yeah I forgot, as retired teachers every day is summer vacation! Summer has always been my favorite season. That is one reason I love living in Florida. But I must admit that Florida summers are a lot hotter than at the Jersey Shore. So, stay cool!

Join BFT at the annual Teacher Appreciation Day Party on Friday, May 9, from 5-9, at Rising Tide Tap & Table in Port Canaveral. This party is open to dues-paying members of BFT and BFT Retired. Members of BFT may bring one guest. Get your ticket here: <https://bit.ly/2025BFTParty>

2025 Legislative Session

The end of the seventh week of the legislative session brings with it the end of almost all committee meetings as well. As a result, many of the committees that met this week had marathon meetings to get bills in the correct posture to be heard on the House and Senate floor.

Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Pensacola) removed the provisions from his charter school bill, SB 140, that would have forced school districts to turn over property to charter school corporations if that property were deemed to be surplus by the State Board of Education. However, the bill still allows public schools to be “converted” to charter schools without the consent of the teachers and staff who work at the school, the school district, or the community at large. This was the last committee stop for SB 140. Its House companion, HB 123 has also passed each of its committees. So, this bill is well on its way to becoming law.

This week in a ceremony that was closed to the public, Gov. DeSantis signed HB 549 into law. This law requires instructional materials and library media center collections adopted after July 1, 2025 to use the term “Gulf of America.” The signing of this law is a reminder that even after the legislative session ends, our advocacy must continue. The next Social Studies textbook adoption process will begin in June 2026. This will be a big test of how the FLDOE expects textbook publishers to comply with this law.



Next Meeting--Thur, May 1, 2025

1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge

11:30 Pot Luck Luncheon

What you bring is what we eat!

No meeting, no speaker, just a friendly get-together



You are invited!

BFT-R end of the year social gathering.

We may be retired, but we still love an end of the school year party.



Potluck Luncheon

Thursday, May 1, 2025

11:30 AM until.....

BFT office, Rockledge



BFT-R will provide: Beverages, ice, plates, cups, napkins, eating utensils.

Please bring a dish to share, such as a main dish, casserole, potato salad, mac & cheese, veggies, baked beans, wings, fruit, tossed salad, cheeses, desserts..... These are just suggestions. "What you bring is what we eat." Items may be homemade or purchased.

There will not be a regular meeting or speaker. We will all share our plans for the summer or a little something about ourselves and our hobbies.

RSVP is not needed, but you may contact Rita Gynan with any questions fgynan@cfl.rr.com or 321-728-2946.

Field Trips

--Lin Herz

This summer we're trying something new at the suggestion of some members. We'll be having lunch and a movie and possibly lunch and a matinee at one of the area community theaters a few times during the months when BFT/R does not meet. Let me know if you'd be interested, and as you hear about movies in our area, let me know which ones you'd like to see.

Contact me by text or phone as your email might get lost in the gazillions of political emails I receive right now. 321-960-8194.

On April 10th a group of our BFT/R members went to the Brevard Zoo, Anne Marie Monteparo, Nancy Rhodes, Lin Herz, Kathy Harbaugh, Dicque Walz, Tina Newman. We had a fabulous time!



If you have suggestions for future trips or speakers please share them with Lin: 321-960-8194 (text or call) or email: lin32905@gmail.com.

Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

After completing our 10th year delivering books and stuffed animals to children, we are looking forward to the next school year. Next year we will be in the south area schools and are planning to go back inside the schools to deliver our books and help children develop a love of reading.

If you want to donate gently used or new books or small stuffed animals, please call Rita Hewett (321)720-3683. We collect all year.



Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

We need your volunteer hours. Please send them to my email snv1@cfl.rr.com. Or come to the next meeting and sign in with them. Please keep track of your volunteer hours in the summer! Thanks for all you do.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED (and starting to get desperate!)

--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

I PROMISE I WILL HELP YOU!!

The New 60



Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

CALENDAR

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**Thur, May 1 - BFT-R meeting at
BFT Office
1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge
-11:30 Potluck Luncheon**

Next meeting - Oct. 2, 2025

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 1st 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.**