



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

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Mar, 2025

## *President’s Message*

*--Anne Marie Monteparo*

There was a great turn out for our February meeting. We enjoyed playing Valentine Bingo during lunch. Congratulations to our winners. We will be playing a trivia game at our March Meeting, so come early to join the fun and win a gift card. The speaker, Dr. Ben Brotemarkle, Executive Director of the Florida Historical Society was very informative and shared so much information about the Windover Dig.



On February 19th Nancy Rhodes ran the process at the BFT office for the 2025 Election Nominations. The BFT members put their names on the ballot for FEA and NEA Delegates, District Directors and E Board officers. Nancy and I shared information about BFT Retired and asked the teachers to spread the word to the members who are retiring. I am in the process of sending E-Mails to teachers that retired this past year and extending an invitation to join and attend our meetings. Fingers crossed we will get some new members.

March signals the awakening of spring and brings a revitalizing energy that inspires us to appreciate every blooming flower and lengthening day! It’s a time for renewal, growth, and the anticipation of vibrant days ahead.

So much is happening so fast in our government and we need to take action! We need to advocate for our public schools and our teaching profession! We need to be activists! The Florida Legislature is in the final interim committee week and will be back in session in two weeks. One way you can help is to visit [FEAweb.org](http://FEAweb.org) to learn more about sessions and sign up for FEA Action Alerts. Then email or call your Senators and Congress Representatives. There is also an FEA Power Hour.



**Next Meeting--Thur, Mar. 6, 2025**

**1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge**

11:30 Brown bag lunch & Trivia

12:00 Business meeting

12:30 Speaker: Dr. Susan Kiley, Licensed Mental Health counselor

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

Our speaker for our March meeting is Dr. Sue Kiley, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Dr. Kiley served as the Director of Programs for the Women's Center of Brevard County for 20 years. She received her master's degree in counseling psychology in 1989 from Nova Southeastern University and her Ph.D. from Barry University. Sue will explore the topic of self-esteem: what does it mean and how do we obtain and maintain positive self-esteem, despite all the challenges we face in life. She will also teach several relaxation and visualization techniques.



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

The following are on the **2024-25 "Honor Roll"** (those members who have paid their 2024-25 dues since the last newsletter): **Linda Guiles, Marsha Millar, Paulette Paradiso, Jonathan Schuman, Eva Slaughter, Charles Stockton and Barbara Wilcox.**



Just a reminder: If you are a "Life" member, you still need to pay your "Local" dues of \$30. FEA will not recognize you as a member unless you join your "local," which is BFTR. There are 25 "members" who paid last year but have not paid this year. Please check your checkbook. If you don't see a check made to BFT/R, let me know and send me the check.

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 two or three (your choice) installments.

Membership questions? Just call or text (321) 427-7808 or e-mail ([scootes@earthlink.net](mailto:scootes@earthlink.net))

## FIELD TRIPS

--Lin Herz

On March 13<sup>th</sup> we'll be going to the Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS) in Daytona.

Tripadvisor says it's Central Florida's primary arts, science, and history museum. The Museum consists of a planetarium, art museum that has the largest collection of art from Florida art in the world, a permanent display of Cuban fine art and folk art, African folk art, etc. There's a visiting exhibit of John J. Audubon's "Birds of Florida." Another area has on display fancy railroad cars, including a private coach with all the comforts of home, and a train station. They also have the largest exhibition of Coca Cola memorabilia in the world. The planetarium has 3 shows during the day, one on dinosaurs, one called "The Sky Tonight, Live," and "Wings Over Water" showing the amazing lives of 3 types of water birds.

That's just touching the surface of what the museum has to offer. To find out more, check out:

<https://www.moas.org/>

<https://https://tinyurl.com/t6xr2f7d>

The price includes a group discount and includes a highlights tour:

with the planetarium is \$18, without the planetarium is \$15

Those who go will decide whether or not to see the planetarium.

Contact Lin Herz if you have any questions & to RSVP:

**321-960-8194 by text or phone or [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com)**

**RSVP to Lin by March 7**


## From FEA: Six Critical Priorities


**Strong public schools are the heartbeat of our communities.** From the joy and energy of an elementary school cafeteria at lunchtime, to the camaraderie of sharing a school bus ride, to Friday night football with the grandeur of a high school marching band - school is where childhood happens. Our public schools are where children's imaginations are sparked, where lifelong lessons are learned and where students gain the skills they need to thrive as they transition to adulthood. **Our public schools are the best places to inspire students' natural curiosity and their desire to learn.** When we work together, we can build the world-class education system that we dream of. By ensuring that resources are available, the Florida Legislature can demonstrate its commitment to providing every child with the education they deserve, regardless of race, income or ZIP code.

1. **Salary** and healthcare benefits for all educators must be competitive with the top ten states nationwide.
2. **Provide** qualified, experienced teachers the opportunity to earn long-term contracts.
3. **Protect** academic freedom for all our students and teachers in K-12, state colleges and universities.
4. **Enhance** the Florida Retirement system without burdening employees with additional costs.
5. **Prioritize** teacher-led assessments and learning over state-mandated standardized tests.
6. **Respect** the rights of people to make decisions locally.

## How You Can Take Action Today!

Visit the **FEA website** to learn more about session and sign up for **FEA Action Alert texts**.

 [Legislative Session Updates  
FEAweb.org/Session](http://FEAweb.org/Session)

 **FEA Action Alert Texts**  
Text "edactivist" to 22394

## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

Thank you BFTR for the lovely white daisy flowers, and gift card. Believe me I would rather have been with you than in the hospital with pneumonia. I am at home recovering. I miss everyone and can't wait to see you at the March meeting.

We had 2 school book drop-off deliveries in February:

Number of students served: 256

Number of books given out: 512.

Thank you to our book team for keeping the program going.

## 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.r.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.r.com). Please put "volunteer hours" in the subject line. Thanks for all that you do.





## Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

### OFFICERS

### CALENDAR

**President:** Anne Marie Monteparo  
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**Co-Vice-Presidents:** Nancy Rhodes [nanr1871@gmail.com](mailto:nanr1871@gmail.com)  
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**Thur, Mar. 6 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office**  
 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge  
 -11:30 Brown bag lunch & Trivia  
 -12:00 Business meeting  
 -12:30 Speaker: Dr. Susan Kiley,  
 Mental Health Counselor

**Next meeting - April 3, 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 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.