Brevard Federation of Teachers
Retired Chapter News
"Retired, Not Expired"

Volume 31, Number 3
Dec 2026

President's Message

~ Anne Marie Monteparo

Happy Holidays to everyone! There were only 7 Innovative Grant applications from Brevard County teachers. We selected 2 FEA-Retired winners who will receive their grant from FEA. The remaining 5 winners have been awarded $150 from our BFT/Retiree Chapter. This is one way your dues are put to good use. The winning teachers are very grateful for our support in these trying times. Here is a list of the winners:

2026 Innovative Grant Winners

FEA-Retired Grant Winners

Paige Good- Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary -Pre K VE Hands On Science materials
Lianne Preston – Sunrise Elementary- Art Supplies

BFT/R Winners

Michael Broud – Heritage HS- Parts for 21013 Ford Taurus
Kelly Lett – Palm Bay Elementary – Pre K VE – Hands On Alphabet Learning center
Kali Gleacher – DeLaura Middle School – Music- Sight Reading Books
Danielle Brower- Ralph Williams Elementary – First Grade – Hands on STEM Bins
Angela Messer – Media Specialist – Filament for 3D Printer

Congratulations to our Newly Elected School Board Members Kyle Savage and Michele McCormack. Also, congratulations to Dan McDow, FL House of Representative District 33 winner, who was a speaker at our October candidates meeting. The School Board also has a new interim Superintendent, Tara Harris. She was unanimously appointed to lead the district following the departure of Dr. Mark Rendell, who stepped down effective November 13, 2026, to take a role at Eastern Florida State College. Harris previously served as the district's assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. Looking forward to the good work that will come from these changes!

May the holiday season give you countless reasons to smile, relax, and feel grateful for the journey you're on. Hope to see you at Cafe Margaux for our Holiday Luncheon on December 3rd!



Next Meeting--Thur, Feb 4, 2027
1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge
11:30 Brown bag lunch
12:00 Business meeting
12:30 Speaker: Dr. Ben Brotemarkle
BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

In February we are fortunate to have Dr. Ben Brotemarkle be our speaker once again. Dr. Ben Brotemarkle is executive director of the Florida Historical Society, the oldest existing cultural organization in Florida. Ben serves as producer and host of "Florida Frontiers: The Weekly Radio Magazine of the Florida Historical Society" on NPR, and and the PBS series "Florida Frontiers. He has written five books on the history and culture of Florida.

Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

~ Rita Hewett

December 2026 BFTR Book News

We have finished our first semester of serving 887 students and have given out 1,774 books in the central area of Brevard County.

At one school the therapy dog enjoys watching children select their books. He walks around to encourage children to read. He selects his favorite book bag too.

Thanks to all of our volunteers and members who have donated items for our program.

Program Chair
Rita Hewett



Field Trips

~ Lin Herz

Our BFT/R group in Mount Dora:

Back: Kathi Harbaugh, Patsy Shearer
Front: Judith Doyle, Kathy Whitehead, Lin Herz, Nancy Rhodes, Louise Stroman, Linda Guiles



Holiday Luncheon 🎄

Our annual festive holiday luncheon will be held at Café Margaux in Cocoa Village on Thursday, December 3rd, at 11:30 AM.

The restaurant is giving us their entire menu to choose from. Each person will pay for his/her own lunch. The restaurant is including (non-alcoholic) drinks in the price of your meal.

Cafe Margaux is located at 220 Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Village. I suggest if you can, to car pool, as lunchtime parking is at a premium. There is a large parking lot between Stone and Oleander Street off Florida Avenue.
You must RSVP no later than Tuesday, December 1st, but *please RSVP by November 25th* if you are able. If you have any questions and to RSVP contact Lin Herz either text, phone, or email. If you email, please put Cafe Margaux in the subject line.

*if you would like to see the menu, or receive a map of the area, let me know
*If you would like to car pool, please let me know where you live

January Trip — Harry and Harriette Moore Museum and Park

On Wednesday, January 20th, we'll be visiting the Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Museum and Park in Mims.

Harry and Harriette Moore were Brevard County teachers who began fighting for civil rights in the 1930s. They worked tirelessly for equal rights for Black Floridians by investigating lynchings, challenging barriers to voter registration, and advocating for equal pay for Black teachers in public schools despite segregation.
On December 25, 1951, someone planted a bomb beneath their home, killing both Harry and Harriette. The person responsible has never been identified.

"The Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center stands as one of the nation's most powerful landmarks dedicated to the legacy of early civil rights pioneers and martyrs Harry and Harriette Moore.
Located on the original homesite of the Moores, the Center honors the enduring legacy and the sacrifices they made. Today, their story continues to inspire visitors from around the world."

Besides the museum, there is a recreation of the Moore's home.

Due to the Moore Center having a class visit in the morning, we'll have lunch first and visit the Moore Center at 1:30.

Please RSVP to Lin as soon as possible, but no later than January 6th.
Be sure to leave your phone, email and town - for carpooling

February Trip — Stetson Mansion

On Wednesday, February 24th, we'll be visiting the spectacular Stetson Mansion in DeLand for the guided "Historic Grand Tour."

This is an all-access tour of the mansion and beautiful grounds. View "magnificently embellished and appointed rooms, hallways, and niches of the mansion. Unlike the Christmas Tour, the Grand Tour includes the third floor where guests will see 3 designer decorated bedrooms, the Boardroom and the Stetson Memories Room."
Group discount tickets are $40.48 including tax. You have to pay online by January 31st.

We'll have lunch together and then take the 1:30 tour.

RSVP to Lin by text, phone or email with RSVP Stetson in the subject area.
I'll give you directions on how to pay for your ticket.

We will be car pooling to DeLand.

To RSVP or if you have any questions, contact Lin Herz by text, phone, or email.

If emailing, please put **RSVP** in the subject line.

Phone/Text: 321-960-8194 Email: lin32905@gmail.com

Harold Parten, who served BFT in many capacities including Vice President for over 20 years, passed away suddenly on November 20th. For anyone who would like to attend, his funeral will be on December 5th at 2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 110 East New Haven Avenue in Melbourne.

Phone Tree

—Lin Herz

Our BFT/R phone tree keeps us in touch with you, our members. If you are not receiving a monthly call from us, please contact me.
We need, and would love, more volunteers to help with calling. Each volunteer presently calls about 8 people, mainly leaving a message on answering machines. The more callers, the fewer calls each has to make. If you are interested in helping please contact me by phone 321-960-8194 or email: lin32905@gmail.com

Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Please write in your volunteer hours on the sign-in sheet at our next meeting or email them (temporarily) to Anne Marie. 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 email: **amonteparo@cfl.rr.com** Please put "volunteer hours" in the subject line.



Membership News

—Anne Marie Monteparo

We are in need of a new Membership Committee chairperson. Sheila Cootes has stepped down after many years of service. *Thank you Sheila!*

Duties are recruiting new members and retention of records. There is no money handling. Please consider volunteering for this necessary position. We need you!

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.

Dues are due in October

--$30 for life member
--$76 for non-life members

Make check payable to BFTR
Pay Anne Marie Monteparo at the Dec. luncheon or mail it to her using the form at the end of the newsletter

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) 591-3799 or e-mail (amonteparo@cfl.rr.com)

OFFICERS		CALENDAR
President:	*Anne Marie Monteparo amonteparo@cfl.rr.com*	
Vice-President:	*Nancy Rhodes nanr1871@gmail.com*	*Thur, Dec. 3 - BFT-R Holiday Luncheon*
Co-Secretaries:	*Linda Guiles lindag315@aol.com*	*Cafe Margaux*
	JayAnn Preston jayannpreston@yahoo.com	*220 Brevard Ave, Cocoa, FL 32922*
Treasurer:	*Susan Vincent snv1@cfl.rr.com*	
Membership Chair:	*VACANT - please volunteer*	
Sunshine Coordinator:	*Eva Slaughter 724-0702*	
Program Coordinator:	*Lin Herz lin32905@gmail.com*	
Phone tree:	*Lin Herz lin32905@gmail.com*	
Newsletter Editor:	*Dicque Walz dicque.walz@gmail.com*	*Next meeting - February 4, 2027*

Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2026-2027 school year and receive membership benefits. Enclosed please find a check payable to BFT/R for:

New Member	Renewing Member
____Annual dues $76.00.	____Annual dues $76.00 (For non-life members)
____Lifetime dues $400.00	____Local dues for Lifetime members **$30 each year**
(state and national)	____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
Anne Marie Monteparo, 1118 Wild Flower Dr, Melbourne 32940