



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

Volume 25, Number 1  
Oct. 2020

## *The President’s Missive*

*--Joan Taddie*

It’s hard to believe that this is September 2020! How our lives have changed since COVID-19 made wearing masks, keeping a 6 foot social distancing space, using hand sanitizer regularly, and washing our hands whenever possible an everyday regiment to flatten the curve and help keep our family, our friends, our colleagues, and those we meet but don’t know safe from a deadly infection. Your executive board has attempted to check on all of you through the phone tree. If we missed you and/or you are in need of any help or even just a friendly call, please text, email, or phone me (my contact information is listed at the end of this newsletter).

Speaking of the newsletter, your executive board voted at our last meeting to email our newsletter to all of you from now on! Mailing to those who preferred that method of communication has become expensive and impossible to accomplish now that we cannot meet together at the BFT office to print and fold the newsletters, and then address and stamp the envelopes that are now required by the post office to mail them. If you have any concerns about receiving the newsletter by email, please contact Nancy Johnson. If your email address changes, please let Sheila Cootes know.

Speaking of the BFTR entering the age of communication technology, I am so proud to let all of you know that because the executive board could not meet due to COVID, I acquired a ZOOM account, and with Nancy Johnson’s fabulous and simple instruction sheet from “Senior Planet: Aging with Attitude,” we held our FIRST executive board meeting on August 25 **ON ZOOM!!!** Yes!!! Even Cecily Cain, with a little help from her daughter, got into the meeting!!!! It was GREAT!!!!!! I’m SO PROUD of the executive board!!!

Because of this successful ZOOM experience, the executive board voted to have the rest of our general meetings on ZOOM (our speakers would also be able to do their presentations at our ZOOM meetings) until it is safe for us to meet again at the BFT office. Look for the instructions about accessing our ZOOM meetings in an article dedicated to that in this newsletter.

Just a note about me... On February 18, I tripped and fell taking a hike and fractured my pelvis in three places. I did not have to have surgery, because the fractures were stable. The prognosis was that I would not be able to walk on my own until August. I lived on my reclining couch in my living room with a portable potty for almost two months, unable to stand or walk unless my sweet husband, Pete, lifted me to the potty and back. I started physical therapy in the middle of March, and by the end of May I was walking on my own without a cane! I survived mentally by attending ZOOM meetings with all my organizations since everyone was homebound like me!

### 2020/21 BFT-R Officers elected by acclamation

President--Joan Taddie

Co-Secretaries-Linda Guiles

Co-Vice-Presidents--Bettie Bailey

Susan How

Nancy Johnson

Treasurer-Susan Vincent



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

We're very happy to welcome **Richard Ley** as a new member, joining as a **Life Member**. Richard taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade technology at Cocoa High School. He lists fishing and camping as his interests. **WELCOME: Richard!**

**October? Everybody's dues are due!** (Except for Richard.) Please send me your check (Sheila Cootes, 3737 Sunward Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32953), made payable to BFTR.

**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](mailto:scootes@earthlink.net)).



### Important Voting Dates

**Thursday, October 1, 2020**

Mail Ballots sent for General Election

**Monday, October 5, 2020**

Voter Registration for General Election is closed



**Monday, October 19, 2020 – Saturday, October 31, 2020**

Early Voting Sites Open

Weekdays: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Voters have the option to return their mail ballot:**

- Through the United States Postal Service
- In person at any of the 4 Election Administrative Offices
- Any of Brevard's 10 Early Voting locations during the early voting time period
- **And new this year** – Secure drop boxes are located at all 4 Administrative Offices for voters who wish to return their voted mail ballot **AFTER HOURS**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

**ELECTION DAY!!!!** All Polls open from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

**All eligible voters in line at their polling places at 7:00 pm will be allowed to vote, regardless of the length of the line!!!!**

More information can be found at: <https://www.votebrevard.com/>

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### Biden-Harris Ticket Endorsed by the AFT, NEA, FEA, BFT, and BFT-R

There are many opportunities to help get out the vote (GOTV)!

Phone Banking, Writing Postcards, Canvassing, Sign Waving

Joan Taddie has information on how you can get involved.

Joan also can deliver a free Biden-Harris lawn sign to your front door!

Contact her at 321-266-6006

## Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

We have been blessed with four strangers who called me and wanted to donate their children's books and stuffed animals to our book program. They said their friend gave them our colorful card. We are lucky because the books and stuffed animals had been in their homes for years, well before the corona virus outbreak. Also, retired teachers Judy Jerez and Jackie Dean donated over 100 books and stuffed animals.

Since all schools were closed until August, including Clearlake Educational Resource Center where we store items and work, we had to store all new items at my house. Steven Baer, Fran Baer's son, again offered to pay for our storage unit. Hurray for Steven to come to our rescue again! It is now almost full of summer donations.

We donated over 100 books to the summer Lunch and Read Program. Parents called the BFT office to ask for books so their children did not fall behind in reading and comprehension. One school had a summer program for a small group of children who needed help in reading. Our program provided books and reading buddies for these children.

We have now been allowed back into Clearlake, with work sessions limited to 5 people at once. Unfortunately we will not be able to meet with the children at our Title 1 schools to give out the books & stuffed animals, but will be delivering them to the school offices to be distributed by school personnel.

Our team is ready to go back to matching books and continuing to bring joy and a love of reading. If you would like to volunteer at our workshop at Clearlake Education Center, please let Rita Hewett know at [rmhewett@yahoo.com](mailto:rmhewett@yahoo.com) or (321) 720-3683.

## Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Please report your hours to me by email at [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com) Please put volunteer hours in the subject line. Remember you can report hours to community projects, churches, helping the sick, etc. Thanks for all you do.

*Thank You!*

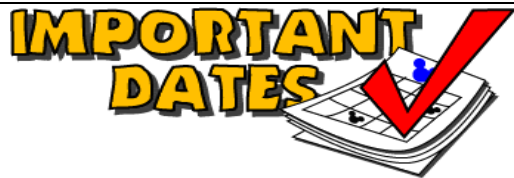
I am deeply grateful for the sympathy cards sent by individual members of the Brevard Federation of Teachers Retired, the BFTR Chapter, as well as the Brevard Federation of Teachers. Thank you for your prayers and condolences as a result of the sudden and untimely passing of my son, Charles Doyle Jr. in June.

Blessings,  
Judith Doyle

## Innovative Grants Available

--Nancy Johnson

Two Innovative Grants of \$100, funded by FEA-Retired from their silent auction at the FEA-Delegate Assembly, are usually awarded to educators for a project that will add to efficient and effective teaching and enhance student learning. Since 2020 is not a "usual" year & the Delegate Assembly will be virtual with no silent auction, FEA-Retired will not be funding any grants this year. BFT-R Executive Board has decided to fund the grants from our treasury. The application form for 2020-21 is now on the BFT website. The application form and summary of the proposal must be submitted to Nancy Johnson by October 31. Please pass the word to any BFT members!



### **Meeting Dates and Cancellations**

**Canceled!** Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – Political Luncheon

**Regular Meeting Date (ON ZOOM)-**  
Thurs, November 5<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am–Noon

**Canceled!** Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Luncheon at The Tides PAFB

**No meeting in January!**

**Regular Meeting Date (ON ZOOM)-**  
February 4<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Speaker: Aging Matters



## Zoom Practice Dates

**Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 am – Noon**

**Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Nancy Johnson will send you the simple instructions to enter a Zoom meeting. You DO NOT need a Zoom account to attend a Zoom meeting.

Choose one of the dates above and follow the instructions to enter one of the practice Zoom meetings. We will email you the ID # for each meeting as soon as the meetings are set up. You can try to enter the meeting any time within the hour listed. Once Joan lets you in the meeting and answers any of your questions, you can “Leave the Meeting”. Joan will have to let you in one at a time, so you may have to “wait in the waiting room” until she gets to you. If you have trouble getting into the waiting room, or you feel you have been waiting too long, call Joan at 321-266-6006 and she will help you enter the meeting. Leave a message if she does not answer the phone, as she may be on her phone helping someone else. She will get back to you ASAP. You can use your phone, iPad, or computer.

It’s really easy! Try it! If you want to practice entering both practice meetings, go for it!!!



## **PAY YOUR DUES**

***Dues are due in Oct. to Sheila Cootes***

***--\$30 for life member***

***--\$76 for non-life members***

***Make check payable to BFTR***

***Mail to:***

***Sheila Cootes***

***3737 Sunward Dr.***

***Merritt Island, FL 32953***

**If 2020 were a math problem...**

**If you're going down a river at 2 MPH and your canoe loses a wheel, how much pancake mix would you need to re-shingle your roof?**

## **Zoom Meeting**

Audio only

With video



Sunshine  
& CHALK





## Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

### OFFICERS

### CALENDAR

<p><b>President:</b> Joan Taddie <a href="mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com">jtaddie@cfl.rr.com</a></p> <p><b>Co-Vice-Presidents:</b> Bettie Bailey <a href="mailto:baileybettie@yahoo.com">baileybettie@yahoo.com</a> Nancy Johnson <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Linda Guiles <a href="mailto:lindag315@aol.com">lindag315@aol.com</a> Susan How <a href="mailto:sun515flower@msn.com">sun515flower@msn.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 Chairman:</b> Sheila Cootes 427-7808</p> <p><b>Sunshine Coordinator:</b> Eva Slaughter 724-0702</p> <p><b>Program Coordinator:</b> Lin Herz <a href="mailto:lin32905@gmail.com">lin32905@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Nancy Johnson <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Oct. 12-Zoom Practice Meeting 11:00-Noon</b> <b>Oct. 13-Zoom Practice Meeting 7:00-8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Nov. 5-next meeting--on ZOOM</b></p> <p style="background-color: yellow;"><b>Dues are due in Oct. to Sheila Cootes--\$30 for life members, \$76 for non-life members</b></p>
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### Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2020-2021 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.