



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

Volume 30, Number 7
May 2026

President’s Message

--Anne Marie Monteparo

I am honored to serve as your president again for the next two years. Thank you to Nancy Rhodes, Linda Guiles, and Susan Vincent for your continued dedication to continue to serve as officers of BFTR. The executive board will remain the same except for Dicque Walz will be taking over as head of our Newsletter. Thank you Dicque for stepping up to help and thank you to Nancy Johnson who has done an excellent job for many years. We also need someone to take over as Membership Chair. Please consider helping us. We are truly fun to work with. Sheila Cootes will be available to help with the transition.

We have received a heartfelt thank you from one of our recipients of the Innovative Grants. Michele McCormack, who will be our speaker this month. She sent some pictures of her Deaf and Hard of Hearing students and the books she purchased with her Grant money.

Meadowlane Primary News
18h · 🌐

We're sending a HUGE thank you to the BFT Retired Teachers! ❤️📖

Thanks to their generous grant, Mrs. McCormack, our Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, was able to add an amazing collection of new books to our library. These stories highlight characters who are deaf and hard of hearing—some wear hearing aids, some use cochlear implants, and others communicate through sign language.

This inclusive addition to our shelves is truly something special, and we couldn't be more excited to share it with our Mustangs! 🐎🌟





Next Meeting--Thur, May 7, 2026

1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge

11:30 Potluck Luncheon

Speaker: Michelle McCormack, School Board candidate

BFT-R will provide drinks & paper products

Our speaker for May is Michele McCormack, who is a candidate for Brevard School Board District 5, Michele is also a BFT member, former BFT executive board member, and former political coordinator for BFT. She is a teacher and advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Michele will give a short talk on why she is running for School Board and what her priorities will be. As you may know, school board members who are employed by Brevard Schools have to resign to be seated on the board.

We normally do not have a speaker for our May meeting, however the actual election will be held in August. Due to the fact the board is non-partisan, the August election is THE election.

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 7, 2026

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. 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.



Political News



-Patty Farley

The Florida Legislature: Gets worse each year!

It's hard to think that the Florida Legislature can get worse than previous years, but they keep out doing their past performances. They constitutionally have one job to do—pass a budget for the state of Florida in session.

They met promising to work on affordability, insurance rates, property insurance, and some of the general mess from their work last year.

No budget—not even close. NO help on affordability, property or home insurance either.

What they did was to attack unions—particularly teachers, with more rules, regulations and viciousness than last time. They passed their own version of a Save Act, which aims to cut back on voting rights. They are meeting to do redistricting in a special session. They passed legislation to protect a mining company from lawsuits over radioactive contamination and passed a billionaire-backed bill that could force condo owners to pay higher prices for property insurance. They named roads after Donald Trump and Charlie Kirk and an airport after Trump.

Some of the good things they did were not to pass the really bad proposed legislation.....

- That would have done away with property taxes (which would have done away with local services),
- That would give a \$100,000 bounty for reporting someone who had an abortion.
- Declare a fetus a person.

Watch for the special sessions being called by DeSantis.

Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

Our 11th year closes with **2,418 children served and 4,836 books given out**. I thank all volunteers who helped our program thrive another year. We are so grateful for members who have helped support us financially and with other items for our book program. This completes our south area schools this year.

Donations will still be accepted during the summer by contacting Rita Hewett (321) 720-3683 or drop off at the BFT Rockledge office. (321) 636-3323. Please tell the office your donated items are for the BFTR Book Program. If you would like to join our team please contact me.

Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

Please write in your volunteer hours on the sign-in sheet at our next meeting or email them to me. Remember to keep track & email them to me over the summer! 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.rr.com. Please put "volunteer hours" in the subject line.

Newsletter Editor

--Nancy Johnson

This will be my last issue as editor of the BFTR newsletter. When I agreed to take this job over from Cecily (& her daughter), I didn't expect to be doing it for 11 years! In the fall, the new editor will be Dicque Walz. THANK YOU SO MUCH, DICQUE! I know you will do a great job.



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Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

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CALENDAR

Thur , May 7- Potluck luncheon at BFT Office
 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge
 -11:30 Potluck Luncheon

Next meeting - Oct. 1, 2026

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

___ 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.