



Brevard Federation of Teachers

Retired Chapter News

“Retired, Not Expired”

Volume 26, Number 1
Sept, 2021

The President’s Missive

--Joan Taddie

The physicist Marie Curie said: “Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

It’s hard to believe that at our last General Membership Meeting in May we were discussing possible places for us to gather for our September meeting that were outside, so that we could still take some precautions due to the possibility that COVID-19 would be present, but under control. Fast-forward to today, and we are still meeting on Zoom, and dates for booster shots of Moderna and Pfizer are now in our calendars.

As you know, Beth Shaffer generously arranged for us to have our annual Holiday Luncheon at The Tides on December 16. We are hoping that the Delta variant will be tamed enough for us to gather there again, but the BFT-R Executive Board will make a decision at the end of November whether or not it is safe for all of us to attend. Please read the article about the luncheon in the newsletter to be aware of the protocols that The Tides have in their contract and how that will determine how many of us can attend.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at our next General Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 2, at 11:00 am on ZOOM. You will all receive a ZOOM invitation from me by August 30 with the Meeting ID#. That’s all you need, except your name and your email address. When you get to the meeting you will be put in a “waiting room” and I will let you in ASAP. I will be at the ZOOM meeting to let you in beginning at 10:30 am if you want to get to the meeting early.

Our speaker for our September meeting will be **Lee Sorensen**. Lee is a retired Brevard County Teacher, soon to be a member of the BFT-R, who is the Arts Program Manager of the Brevard Achievement Center. She will speak to us about all the wonderful programs that are sponsored by the BAC. It is an amazing organization and they have a beautiful facility.



Next Meeting--Thur, Sept. 2, 2021 via ZOOM

11:00 Business meeting

12:00 Guest Speaker: Lee Sorensen

Topic: Brevard Achievement Center

You will be receiving an email that will give you the information you need to attend including our meeting ID#. Text or call Joan at 321-266-6006 if you need any help, or a practice session to figure out how to be admitted into the meeting. The meeting room will be open at 10:30 if you would like to get into the meeting earlier.



Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

We're very happy to welcome **Kurt Kaufman, Jonathan Schuman** and **Jennifer Whiting** as new members. Jonathan taught bio/chemistry at Palm Bay High School. He lists education issues, teacher salary, local vs state control as his interests. He also has a Black Mouth Cur dog and loves to motorcycle. Jennifer was a Learning Design Coach at Pasco eSchool. She lists Exceptional Education equality as her interest. **WELCOME, Kurt, Jonathan and Jennifer!**

It's time to PAY YOUR DUES. Yay! (I know—I asked you to wait till October but that was because our first meeting was going to be in October. Now our “first” meeting of 2021-22 is in September.) Please send me your check, made payable to BFTR. (My address is at the bottom of the membership form on the last page of this newsletter.) If you're a “life” member, make the check out for \$30. If you're an “annual” member, make the check out for \$76. If you're an annual member, you could decide to become a “lifer.” (See next paragraph.)

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. Note: The \$400 goes to FEA and NEA.

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

Programs & Field Trips

--Lin Herz

Programs

In October we'll have Keith Winsten, Executive Director of the Brevard Zoo talk to us about the Covid-19 protocols the Zoo is undertaking to make this wonderful resource a safe place to visit. He'll also be talking about what's new at the Brevard Zoo.

In November we have author Ann McCutchan, who grew up in Brevard, speaking to us about author Majorie Kinnan Rawlings, who lived in Florida. Ann's new book, *The Way She Wished to Live* which is about Rawling, was published this year. Ms. McCutchan graduated from Titusville High School. To find out more about Ann check out her website: www.annmccutchan.com.

Field Trips

Due to the recent explosion of the Covid 19 Delta Variant in Brevard, we're postponing our field trips. Some of those we have planned are:

A trip to the Harry and Harriet Moore Museum, Park, and homestead in Mims. You may remember Sonya Mallard from the Moore Cultural Complex talking to us about these early civil rights leaders and martyrs. BFT and the Moore Complex are working together to insure teaching about these local heroes is incorporated into our curriculum.

A narrated eco-cruise with Good Natured River Tours into the Indian River Lagoon and Banana River. We'll see dolphins, manatee, wild birds, alligators, etc. while learning about Brevard's history.

A walk through McKee Botanical Gardens in Vero Beach

--Patty Farley

Florida voters in 2018 approved a constitutional amendment that requires Sessions in even-numbered years to start in January. Most Sessions in the past have started in March.

The members of the Legislature will be meeting in committees to start screening proposed legislation before the session actually convenes and these early meetings are referred to as "Committee Weeks." The first committee week starts Sept. 20.

With the 2022 Legislative Session starting in January, the House and Senate will hold six weeks of pre-session committee meetings.

The first week of meetings will be held Sept. 20 to Sept. 24. It will be followed by the weeks of Oct. 11 to Oct. 15; Oct. 18 to Oct. 22; Nov. 1 to Nov. 5; Nov. 15 to Nov. 19; and Nov. 29 to Dec. 3.

The Legislative Session will start Jan. 11.

Please be ready to respond when called upon to do so for some proposed legislation.



Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett



Another school year is upon us and another school year with Covid, which means another school year we cannot go inside schools to see the children's excited faces when they pick their book. We just deliver the books to the outside of the office and give them instructions on how best to distribute the books.

Our volunteers are resilient. We kept working during the summer preparing books for our young readers. We all love it. We had a Viera High School student and her mom come to volunteer. We even had some of our pre-virus volunteers come back to work with us. We were thrilled to see them.

This summer we got sad news: We have to move from Clearlake Education Center. The girl's locker room will be used for a shower room starting in October. We have to move by the end of September. We are disappointed to lose our perfect space. We are trying to match most of our books to stuffed animals so we can deliver them to the schools before we move. We have found new homes for our teacher items.

Then last week we got great news: We have a new home in a portable at Eau Gallie High! We are working on the paperwork so we can move in. We will be coordinating with Eau Gallie High's BLAST Program, which is designed to meet the specific needs of Exceptional Education Students between ages 18 and 22. It is a program for transition opportunities and post secondary goals of students who have earned but deferred their special diploma.

Recently Fran Baer, Sheila Bollinger and I had a Zoom meeting with Andrea Sasson from United Way. United Way is interested in our Book Program and will help either with bags or books. Details are being worked out.

We are so happy for the many donations of books and stuffed animals this summer. They go very fast. We need more books to match with the stuffed animals that we have. If you would like to donate books for ages 3 to 7 years old in good condition, please call or text me at (321) 720-3683. I will pick them up. We will be matching books with stuffed animals at Clearlake. If you would like to help, please call me.

This school year we will serve the south area Title 1 public elementary schools. Last school year we completed the north area schools. We served 3,877 children. We gave out more than 7,754 books. What a great year we had! We are looking forward to another great school year with your help.

Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

We are still collecting volunteer hours. I have to send our total number of hours for the year to FEA-Retired by September 17, so please add them up & send them in as soon as possible. Anything that you do for others without getting paid counts toward volunteer hours. Please send your volunteer hours to my email address, which is snv1@cfl.rr.com. Please put in the subject line: volunteer hours. Thanks for all you do.

Phone Tree

--Lin Herz

The BFT/R phone tree is one of our main ways of communicating with you. If you have not heard from a phone tree "captain" in August, we do not have your correct phone number, or best phone number. Please contact Lin Herz via email lin32905@gmail.com to share this information.

Many thanks to our phone tree captains: Carolyn Bruce, Cecily Cain, Patty Farley-Crutchter, Rita Gynan, Nancy Johnson, Tina Newman, Jay Ann Preston, Eileen Schaap, Louise Stroman, Susan Vincent, and Kathy Whitehead.

Congratulations to the winners of \$500 Fran Shevenell Memorial Scholarships (one funded by BFT-R):

- Maia Davis--Cocoa High
- Parker Fallesen--Satellite High
- Amaya Quintal--Merritt Island High
- Kassandra Wood--Satellite High



PAY YOUR DUES

Dues are due 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



Phone Tree

Members needed to Man/Woman the phone tree. Please contact Lin Herz via email lin32905@gmail.com to volunteer. It requires less than 30 minutes of time each month.

Book Program

--Needs books in good condition for ages 3-7 years old. Call or text Rita Hewett at (321)720-3683 & she'll pick them up.

--Needs volunteers to match books with stuffed animals. Call or text Rita Hewett at (321)720-3683.

Save the Date: Dec. 16, 2021



Our annual holiday luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 16 at The Tides. Due to Covid restrictions, the luncheon will be limited to 40 people. Members must be current in their dues by October 31, 2021 in order to attend. Guests will only be allowed if there are spaces available after members have made their reservations.

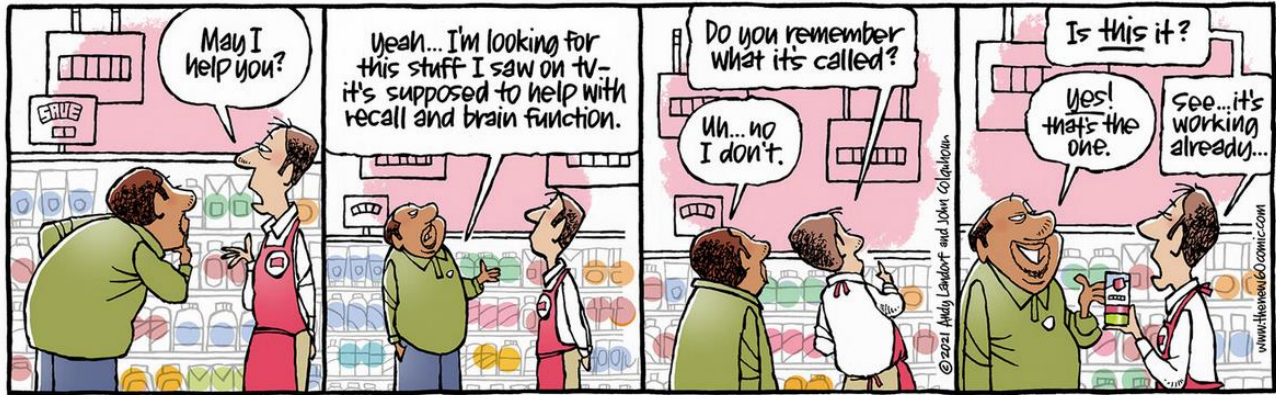
This will be a plated luncheon, not a buffet. Because of the stresses of the past year, BFT-R will be picking up part of the price of the luncheon. Members will be asked to pay \$20 each. The price range for meals is \$22.99 - \$26.99. BFT-R will pay the difference for the meal, plus tax, tip, & service charge.

To make your reservation, email Joan Taddie at jtaddie@cfl.rr.com If reservations exceed 40, a waiting list will be compiled.

BFT-R has a Facebook page!

If you're on Facebook, check it out:

<https://www.facebook.com/Brevard-Federation-of-Teachers-Retired-106921664807940>



Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

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CALENDAR

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Thur, Sept. 2 - BFT-R meeting--on ZOOM
 11:00 Business meeting
 12:00 Speaker: Lee Sorensen
 Topic: Brevard Achievement Center

Next meeting - Oct.7--on ZOOM

Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2021-2022 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 _____
 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.**