



Brevard Federation of Teachers

Retired Chapter News

“Retired, Not Expired”

Volume 27, Number 6
Apr. 2023

The President’s Missive

--Joan Taddie

The theme for the 2023 National Woman’s Month is “A Chorus of Voices,” which complements the National Women’s History Month theme, “Celebrating the Women Who Tell Our Stories.” President Biden, in proclaiming March 2023 as Women’s History Month, stated that “This month, as we continue our work to advance gender equity and equality, let us celebrate the contributions of women throughout our history and honor the stories that have too often gone untold...Let us strive to create a Nation where every woman and girl knows that her possibilities know no bounds in America.”

As President of the Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired, I have had the privilege of working with some of the strongest, most accomplished women I know. Often many of these women’s contributions have influenced the direction in which our world is headed.

I would like to recognize three women who continue to contribute to the fight for our rights as educators in Brevard County and in the state of Florida. Cecily Cain, past president of the BFT-Retired, was one of the teachers who walked out of Melbourne High School in the late ‘60’s to demand her right to join a teachers’ union. Patty Farley continues to be a constant presence in Tallahassee demanding rights for our teachers today. Vanessa Skipper, 1st Vice President of the Brevard Federation of Teachers, works tirelessly every day to secure the rights of our Brevard County teachers. Also, thank you, Vanessa, for your informative and sometimes shocking presentation last month to our members of what our Brevard teachers experience in our schools on a daily basis. Continue, Vanessa, to tell your story!

“A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey, but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey where she will become strong.” -Author Unknown



Next Meeting--Thur, Apr. 7, 2023

BFT Office

1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge

11:30 Brown bag lunch

12:00 Business meeting

1:00 Speaker: Journalist Britt Kennerly

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

April Speaker

--Lin Herz

Britt Kennerly is the education and breaking news editor at FLORIDA TODAY, where she’s worked twice – this time, since 2010. She has also worked at newspapers in Arizona, Indiana and Ohio. She has worked as a journalist, with the exception of a three-year stint in marketing at the University of Cincinnati, since 1989. She earned a degree in writing for media and communication as a young woman and with luck, at 67, she will finish the master’s degree in creative writing she started years ago.



Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

The following are on the **2022-23 “Honor Roll”** (those members who have paid their 2022-23 dues since the last newsletter): **Phyllis Day, Cindy Donovan and Carla Stevenson.**



Just a reminder: dues for 2023-24 are not due until October of this year. Please wait until then to send me your check.

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



Legislative Report

--Patty Farley

Legislative Session is Worse than Ever!

There are so many very bad bills this year it is hard to know what to list. Usually, the bills are assigned to at least 3 committees, but this year the really bad ones are only going to two committees and then to the floor for a quick vote. Most feel DeSantis is pushing everything through as quickly as possible so there is no time to inform the public and organize opposition to the bills.

There are many bad bills on different issues, but I will deal only with education here. Again this session is an attack on public education and teachers.

SB 256/ HB 1445--This is the union busting bill that will make it harder to join unions, require them to have 60% members and not allow paycheck deduction.

HB1/SB202--The universal voucher bill will take around \$4 billion from public schools.

I found this online and wanted to share it with you. Hope you will share it with someone:

School vouchers in a nutshell:

I really don't like city parks. I want to join a country club so my kid doesn't have to play with "those" kids and I want the city parks department to pay for my membership.

(Ridiculous, yes, but so are vouchers.)

HB999/ SB 266--This bill targets higher education in terms of subjects taught, tenure, and diversity equity and inclusion.

HB 1069, HB 1223 and SB 1320--will lead to more books being ripped out of school and classroom libraries. They contain a definition of pornography that is so vague it could easily lead to classics such as *Ulysses*, *Dracula*, *Gone with the Wind*, and even the Holy Bible from being available to students. There are bills to prevent students from having any discussions about menstruation and bills forbidding educators from using the preferred student pronouns.

HJR will make school board races partisan.

SB1110 will limit the term of school board members to two 4-year terms.

Please call your Senator and Representative and tell them to vote No on these bills.

You can find contact info for your state legislators at:

<https://www.votebrevard.gov/Voter-Information/Contact-Your-Elected-Officials/State-Legislators>

Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett



Our 8th year of serving children by providing them with great books is fast coming to the end of the school year. As of March we have served 9 schools:

- 1) Harbor City 132 students
- 2) Sabal 142 students
- 3) Saturn 270 students
- 4) Imperial Estates 221 students
- 5) Audubon 146 students
- 6) Capeview 146 students
- 7) Coquina 163 students
- 8) Sherwood 152 students
- 9) Christa McAufule 216 students

Total students served as of now is 1,550, not including our Christmas in the Park event. Plus, we are to give our books away at the Sidewalk Chalk Contest at the Liberty Bell Museum on April 15, 2023 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Come check us out at the event.

Thanks to our members who supported our mission by bringing books, stuffed animals, storage bags, money, and giving their time to help promote the love of reading.

Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

I want to thank everyone for giving me their volunteer hours at our March meeting. Please have your hours ready for the April meeting. Or you can send your hours to snv1@cfl.rr.com. Please put volunteer hours in the subject line.

May Meeting

Our May meeting will be a social gathering with no business meeting. It will either be a potluck luncheon at the BFT office or a restaurant breakfast, with BFTR picking up part of the tab. This will be discussed at the April 6 meeting.



FIELD TRIP!

Our group really enjoyed the March 23 field trip to Forever Florida with our guides Margaret Broussard, founder of Forever Florida & Dr. Tim Kosusko, Ecologist for NASA Ecological monitoring.





Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

CALENDAR

<p>President: Joan Taddie jtaddie@cfl.rr.com</p> <p>Vice-President: Nancy Johnson nanjoh99@gmail.com</p> <p>Co-Secretaries: Linda Guiles lindag315@aol.com JayAnn Preston jayannpreston@yahoo.com</p> <p>Treasurer: Susan Vincent snv1@cfl.rr.com</p> <p>Membership Chair: Sheila Cootes 427-7808</p> <p>Sunshine Coordinator: Eva Slaughter 724-0702</p> <p>Program Coordinator: Lin Herz lin32905@gmail.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Nancy Johnson nanjoh99@gmail.com</p>	<p>Thur, Apr. 6 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge -11:30 Brown bag lunch -12:00 Business meeting -1:00 Speaker-Britt Kennerly</p> <p>Next meeting - Thur, May 4</p>
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Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2022-2023 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.**