



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

Volume 30, Number 6  
Apr. 2026

## *President’s Message*

*--Anne Marie Monteparo*

Nancy Rhodes and I have enjoyed serving as your president and vice president for the past 2 years. Time flies when you’re having fun. And it certainly is FUN. We are willing to continue as your officers. Per the bylaws we must hold elections at the April meeting, so we will be taking nominations from the floor. If you are interested in running for any positions all you have to do is come to the meeting on April 2 and nominate yourself.

Remember to vote for the Delegate Assembly via Election Buddy. You should have received an email from FEA to vote for delegates for NEA-RA and NEA State Delegates. Check all folders. It may be in your junk mail. You will not see Nancy Rhodes name or mine on the ballot as we have been automatically elected to the FEA-DA in accordance with FEA-Retired bylaws (Article XI, C-2), “Should delegate nominations not exceed the allocated number of delegates those nominees will be elected by acclamation.” 28 Candidates submitted self-nomination forms by the deadline. So, we will be attending virtually in October. It should be interesting!

I want to thank FEA-Retired President, Sandy Rushlow for attending and speaking at our meeting in March. She enjoyed meeting all of you. If you have any questions for her you can contact her at [sandy.rushlow@floridaea.org](mailto:sandy.rushlow@floridaea.org)

We had a lovely visit to the Elliot Museum last month! Join us on our next adventure!





## Next Meeting--Thur, Apr. 2, 2026

1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge

11:30 Brown bag lunch

12:00 Business meeting

12:30 Speaker: Patty Farley

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

Patty Farley is our speaker for April. Patty is a retired Brevard County government teacher and BFT/R member. She monitors the legislative committee meetings in Tallahassee and speaks to Florida lawmakers regarding education, union, and women's issues. She will be reporting on the 2026 legislative session.

## Field Trips

--Lin Herz

On Wednesday, April 15, we'll be taking a 30-minute airboat ride through the grassy marsh of the St. John's River and Lake Poinsett at Lone Cabbage Fish Camp. The boat captain will slow down for us to view the wildlife and stop when needed to narrate. There are gators, bald eagles, cows, wading birds, and the possibility of viewing manatee, wild hogs and much more. The airboat ride allows you to take in a natural cypress swamp with breathtaking views. They give you headgear to wear so that it is not loud. The boats are Coast Guard approved. <http://www.twisterairboatrides.com/>

The cost is \$34 for the 30 minute boat ride, if you pay cash, otherwise \$36.

**RSVP by April 9th to Lin** by text or phone 321-960-8194, or if you have questions.

On March 12 we visited the outstanding Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, and had a delicious lunch at Boca in Winter Park. On the way to the Rollins Museum of Art, we passed this statue honoring Fred Rogers, a distinguished alumnus of the college.



*Pictured : back: Craig Newman, Tina Newman, Dicque Walz.  
Front: Louise Stroman, Lin Herz, Kathy Whitehead, Kathy Harbaugh, Nancy Rhodes*

## **Read, Recycle, and Reward Program**

*--Rita Hewett*

We did a school's Literacy Night event. Lots of reading activities went on. There was a mobile library van to help children get library cards and check out books & a Book Fair where parents could purchase books. We had our free books and stuffed animals. The older children read poetry. The school's cheerleaders did a routine to music. They had art activities and also had pizza and a drink. Teachers had parent conferences with parents who signed up for that evening. The Literacy Night Event was well attended. Everyone was excited and enjoyed the event. The principal was impressed with our books and invited us to come back and bring our books for their Pre-K & kindergarten Roundup in April. We said yes.

Our book team thanks the BFTR for financial support to purchase our book program supplies.

## **Volunteer Hours**

*--Susan Vincent*

Please write in your volunteer hours on the sign-in sheet at our next meeting or email them to me. 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](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com). Please put "volunteer hours" in the subject line.

## **Newsletter Help Needed**

*--Nancy Johnson*

I have been the editor of the BFTR Newsletter for 11 years, but due to family health issues, it's time for someone else to take over. If someone doesn't step up, you may not have a newsletter in the fall. You don't need to be a writer, since others write the articles. You need to know how to copy/paste and put the articles all together. Anne Marie & Sheila proofread it & then Sheila sends it out. Newsletters go out in October - May (except January). Interested? Contact Nancy Johnson at [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com)

## **MEMORIAL FOR PETE TADDIE**

Former BFTR President Joan Taddie's husband Pete passed away Feb. 15, 2025. There will be a "Celebration of Life" for Pete on Saturday, April 18 from 2:00-4:30 at the Crowne Plaza Melbourne-Oceanfront, 2605 N. Hwy A1A, Indialantic (the hotel with the pedestrian crossover above the highway). Appetizers and drinks will be provided.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in Pete's name can do so to the Children's Hunger Project, which sends home food in backpacks to Brevard school children every Friday so they have food for the weekend.

The Children's Hunger Project

26 Forrest Ave.

Cocoa, FL 32922

**PICKLES**



*Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News*

**OFFICERS**

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**CALENDAR**

**Thur., Apr. 2 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office**  
 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge  
 -11:30 Brown bag lunch  
 -12:00 Business meeting  
 -12:30 Speaker: Patty Farley

**Next meeting - May. 7, 2026**

**Membership Application**

I want to join BFT/R for the 2025-2026 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**