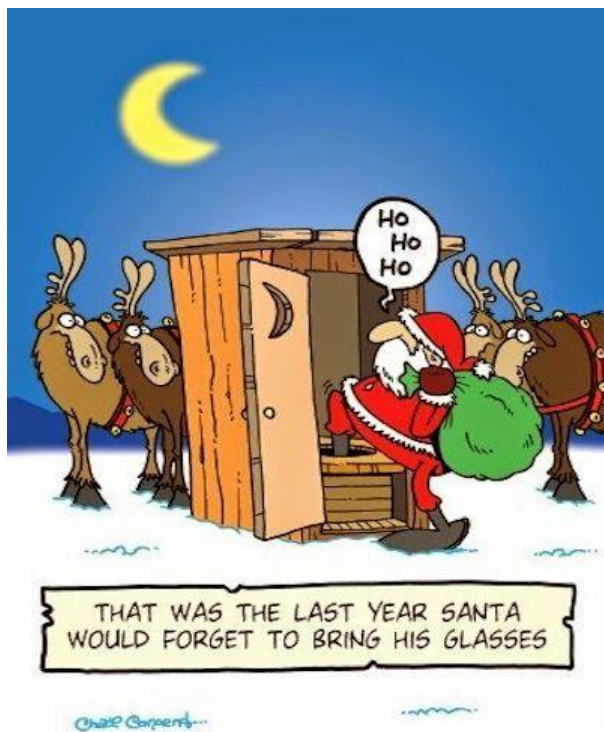




# Brevard Federation of Teachers Retired Chapter News "Retired, Not Expired"

Volume 28, Number 3  
Dec, 2023

## Happy Holidays



**Next Meeting--Thur, Feb. 1, 2024**

**1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge**

11:30 Brown bag lunch

12:00 Business meeting

12:30 Speaker: Dr. Ben Brotemarkle, Florida Historical Society

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

Our speaker in February will be Dr. Ben Brotemarkle, executive director of the Florida Historical Society. Ben serves as the producer and host of "Florida Frontiers: The Weekly Radio Magazine of the Florida Historical Society" and the public television series "Florida Frontiers."



## Membership News

--Sheila Cootes



The following are on the **2023-24 “Honor Roll”** (those members who have paid their 2023-24 dues since the last newsletter): **Atlene Britt, Janet Eastman, Patricia Farley-Crutcher, Mary Kenney, Deborah Keys, Rosalie Larruscain, Margaret Nickolenko, Paulette Paradiso, Xymena Partelow, Fern Patton, Ann Perrine, Carol Post, Patsy Shearer, Carla Stevenson, Charles Stockton and Judith Wilkie.**

**DUES ARE DUE for the 2023-24 membership year.** Our February meeting will be February 1 so if you’re attending the meeting, you can just give me your check. If you can’t make the meeting, send me your check via postal mail. My address is on the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Remember to make the check payable to “BFTR.” Reminder: even if you are a “life” member, you still owe local dues of \$30.

**Life membership is \$400.** 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 installments.

**Annual membership is \$76** (\$30 of that amount stays with BFTR). Annual members, consider changing to the “life” status.

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

## Field Trips

--Lin Herz

On **Wednesday, February 21st** we’ll tour the “Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition”-located on International Drive. They have more than 300 artifacts, costumed actors, and full-scale room recreations. **If we have 10 people or more who RSVP by January 17th we can take a private guided tour.** The tour lasts about 1 3/4 hours, and you can also walk around after the tour at your leisure. If we have fewer than 10 we can just walk around the exhibition. On your own it takes anywhere from 45 minutes to 3 hours. We’ll be car-pooling over. The guided tour is \$19 if we have 10 or more people. If we walk around on our own it’s \$18.95. <https://titanicorlando.com/>

On **Wednesday, March 20th** we’ll be taking the “Scenic Boat Tour” through the pristine chain lakes of Winter Park. This is a narrated cruise through a lovely area. The lakes were connected by loggers in the 1800s. You learn about the history of the area, as well as what famous people lived in the houses. If we have 15-18 people we can have a boat just for our group. The cost is \$15 per person. We’ll be a block away from Park Avenue with an array of restaurants and shops. <https://www.scenicboattours.com/>  
**RSVP or if you have any questions contact Lin by text and she’ll call you back 321-960-8194 or email [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com).**

**WE WISH** *new year* **YOU A HAPPY**  
2024



## **Legislative Report**

*--Patty Farley-Crutcher*

The emphasis on this next election will be registering voters. Ask all your friends and family if they are registered to vote. Double check the voter rolls for location, and verify your signatures. If you were voting by mail in the past, you must sign up again for that option.

The national and state legislatures are proposing legislation that is injurious to working families.

Public Education is on the chopping block with extremist Republicans in the US House of Representatives. If they get their way, their spending bill will:

- Cut Title I funding by 80 percent, which could gut all programs for poor kids in America, including forcing a nationwide reduction of 220,000 teachers from classrooms serving low-income students;
- Eliminate programs for English language learners (Title III), supports for teachers (Title II-A), social and emotional learning grants, Promise Neighborhoods and magnet schools;
- Cut funding for community schools—schools that serve not just students but their families;
- Decimate funding for job training, cancer research, mental health initiatives, addressing the opioid crisis, eliminating HIV/AIDS, and more; and
- Cut programs to support maternal health, eliminating programs that provide contraception and health services.

Meanwhile in the Florida Legislature,

A bill filed in September by Florida Republican Linda Chaney, a member of the state House, would undo decades of child labor regulations by loosening restrictions on how late older teens in Florida can work. It would also prevent local governments from passing limitations stricter than the state's. Its filing complements a growing movement to roll back labor regulations established to protect the health and safety of children.

The Florida bill, if passed, would delete part of state law that says 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds can't work before 6:30 a.m. or after 11 p.m., or work for more than eight hours when school is scheduled the next day. The bill would also gut a part of state law that bars 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds from working more than 30 hours a week, or more than six days in a row, when school is in session. Jobs inside private homes, like babysitting, and jobs where minors are employed by their parents are already exempted under existing state law.

Representative Angie Nixon has proposed to bring back a state department of labor. HB 425 would, in effect, create and empower a state agency to crack down on employers that illegally withhold wages or tips from workers. Under Nixon's proposal, both the Department of Labor and the Attorney General would have the authority to bring civil actions against employers to enforce Florida's minimum wage. Additionally, individuals would maintain the right to file a civil suit.



©Brian Crane. All rights reserved.

## Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

### OFFICERS

### CALENDAR

**President:** Joan Taddie [jtaddie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com)  
**Vice-President:** Nancy Johnson [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com)  
**Co-Secretaries:** Linda Guiles [lindag315@aol.com](mailto:lindag315@aol.com)  
 JayAnn Preston [jayannpreston@yahoo.com](mailto:jayannpreston@yahoo.com)  
**Treasurer:** Susan Vincent [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com)  
**Membership Chair:** Sheila Cootes 427-7808  
**Sunshine Coordinator:** Eva Slaughter 724-0702  
**Program Coordinator:** Lin Herz [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Nancy Johnson [nanjoh99@gmail.com](mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com)

**Thur, Dec. 7 - 11:30 Holiday Luncheon at Tuscany Grill**  
  
**Thur, Feb. 1 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office**  
 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge  
 -11:30 Brown bag lunch  
 -12:00 Business meeting  
 -12:30 Speaker: Dr. Ben Brotemarkle

### Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2023-2024 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.**