



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

Volume 26, Number 2  
Oct. 2021

## *The President's Missive*

--Joan Taddie

Teachers are known for displaying their favorite quotes throughout their classrooms. One of the quotes in my classroom was, “I’m not telling you it’s going to be easy. I’m telling you it’s going to be worth it!” (Arthur Williams)

This week, Covid-19 is officially America’s deadliest pandemic, as our fatalities surpass the estimated U.S. death toll of the 1918 flu pandemic. More than 675,000 people in the United States have died from Covid-19, according to Johns Hopkins University. One of the suggested safety precautions that the CDC listed back in April 2020 was to wear a mask when you were around other people.

As reported in the *Florida Today* (Tuesday, September 21, 2021), “The Centers for Disease Control still considers Brevard to have high community spread, according to its data tracker. That means the agency recommends everyone wear a mask in public settings, regardless of vaccination status.” Brevard Public Schools is one of 13 Florida counties that defied Governor DeSantis’ prohibition on mask mandates by a 3-2 vote of our Brevard School Board. At the September 21 Brevard School Board meeting, another vote was taken and passed 3-2 to maintain the mask mandate for another 30 days with a parental opt out only if the student has a medical condition that would make it impossible for them to wear a mask. Also, if students are 6 feet apart, they may remove their masks.

This is not easy for our students, their parents, our amazing teachers, our administrators, bus drivers and school staff. But “it’s going to be worth it!”

On a positive note, I would like to congratulate Rita Hewett and Fran Baer for not only finding a new home for the 3R Book Program at Eau Gallie High School, but for also being awarded a \$1,000 donation from the United Way to be used to buy the plastic bags needed for this program!

And we received more good news this month! I was thrilled to be notified that a grant that I wrote and submitted to the FEA for \$350 was awarded to the BFT-R to pay for the Gift Cards that are given, as incentive, to our brand new BFT-R members.

I would also like to thank Lee Sorensen, Arts Program Manager for the Brevard Achievement Center, for her inspiring and informative talk at our September General Membership Meeting. We are looking forward to working with Lee and the BAC when the Covid protocols are removed.



### **Next Meeting--Thur, Oct. 7, 2021 via ZOOM**

11:00 Business meeting

12:00 Guest Speaker: Keith Winsten, Executive Director of Brevard Zoo

Topic: Covid-19 protocols & what’s new at the zoo

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 Carol Robitschek as a new member.** Carol taught at Sea Park Elementary and Surfside Elementary. She lists reading, the Brevard Zoo, the Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club as her interests and says those interests vary and change "all the time." **WELCOME, Carol!**

The following are on the **2021-22 "Honor Roll"** (those members who have paid their 2021-22 dues since the last newsletter): **Marion Blocker, Marilyn Bollo, Theresa Brown, Carolyn Bruce, Bettye Jean Bryant, Gary Castner, Marcy Cipolletti, Joyce Craig, Cindy Donovan, Judith Doyle, Lonnie Jean Ford, Mona Layne Fulton, Rita Gynan, Kathryn Harbaugh, Bill Hausmann, Rita Hewett, Bonita Holland, Mary Hosken, Nancy Johnson, Deborah Keys, Judith Kinloch, Cora Knighton, Mary Krause, Rosalie Larruscain, Richard Ley, Skippy Lober, Marjorie Misits, Wendy Morrison, Barbara Morse, Craig Newman, Tina Newman, Margaret O'Connor, Paulette Paradiso, Jackie Parris, Barbara Peete, Ann Perrine, Lynne Renguso, Eileen Schaap, Beth Shaffer, Kathy Whitehead and Cynthia Woznicki.** Way to go, "Septemberites!"



Okay, "Octoberites," it's your turn! **It's time to PAY YOUR DUES.** I know, our "first" meeting is usually in October and I always ask members to pay their dues at that meeting or send me their check in the mail, but this year has been a tad different, right? Our October meeting will be another Zoom experience. Sooooo, you need to send me your check via postal mail. My address is on the membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

**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](mailto:scootes@earthlink.net))

## Programs

--Lin Herz

### Programs

Our speaker for October is Keith Winsten, the executive director of the Brevard Zoo. Mr. Winsten has led our zoo, which has an international reputation for wildlife care and preservation, since 2004. Mr. Winsten will talk to us about the Covid-19 protocols the Brevard Zoo is taking to keep the visitors of this precious resource safe. He will also talk about what makes this Zoo special, and what's new at the zoo.

Our November speaker will be Ann McCutchan, author of *The Life She Wished to Live*, a biography of author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings that came out this year, and 5 other books. Ann is a professional musician, author, professor, former editor, founding director of the University of Wyoming's creative writing program, and former editor of the American Literacy Review. She was commissioned to write the book on Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

Ann graduated from Titusville High School in 1969 and one of her books is *Where's the Moon, a Memoir of the Space Coast and the Florida Dream*. She currently lives in Wyoming.

For those who attend the November meeting, there will be a drawing for an autographed copy of *The Life She Wished to Live*. You can check out her website at <https://www.annmccutchan.com/>



## Florida Legislative News



The first official day of the 2022 legislative session is January 11. But over the coming months legislators will make their way to Tallahassee for a series of interim committee weeks. As always, education will be a hot button issue.

Interim Committee weeks in October are October 11-15 and October 18-22. All meetings are streamed live and on The Florida Channel where they are also available for on-demand viewing within 24 hours of the conclusion of the meeting. You can see the full calendar for the week's meetings on the FEA website at: <https://feaweb.org/issues-action/2022-legislative-session/>



### Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett



We are starting off the school year 21/22 with schools lined up to receive their books & stuffed toys. We started off with Westside Elementary School book drop off. The children were having a good time looking at their new books and animals:



Westside Elementary has a Facebook page about our 3R Book Program. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/205330823211996/posts/1188806724864396/?d=n>

We also dropped off books at: Sabal, Columbia, Riviera, Roy Allen and Croton Elementary. Wow! We have been busy! Palm Bay Elementary School called us to return with our books. We are so pleased when schools call us to return.

Fran Baer works hard keeping us scheduled with schools. Sheila Bollinger keeps us organized and Quality Assurance to make sure our job is done correctly. Cynthia Woznicki is our fastest book matcher. Carol Post always brings great books from the library sales. Carol Linton is our great bookmark keeper who also counts out our added books. Kathy Whitehead is our book cleaner and other job worker. Eileen Schaap and her friend Cynthia Ridoff come to match books. Marsha Millar is our great book and stuffed animal thrift store finder. Linda Guiles is one of our dedicated workers who comes often and helps make plenty of matches. Plus several other non-BFTR members are working with us. We couldn't serve children without them helping make our program a huge success.

Our book program has been awarded \$1000 from United Way! We will use this donation to purchase the plastic bags we use to hold each book & stuffed animal. Thank you, United Way!!

We are all packed up and ready to make our move to Eau Gallie High School's portable. We will have a new beginning working with their BLAST students (ESE students ages 18 to 22 years old) and our volunteers. We are looking forward to working together and serving our little ones.

## **Innovative Grants Available**

*--Nancy Johnson*

Do you know a BFT member who has a great idea for a project to enhance student learning, but needs money to fund it? FEA-Retired is funding two Innovative Grants of \$150 each & BFT-R Executive Board will be funding additional \$150 grants. The application form and a short summary of the proposal must be submitted to Nancy Johnson by October 31. The application is available on the BFT website at <https://www.bfteach.org/bftretirees>

## **Volunteer Hours**

*--Susan Vincent*

Thanks to you we had over 1000 hours last month. Please continue to send in your volunteer hours. Remember to send to [snv1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com). Please put volunteer hours in the subject line.

## **Phone Tree**

*--Lin Herz*

If you have not already done so please add your phone tree "captain" to your phone's "contacts" and BFT/Retired for the "company", if you have that in your phone.

If you have not heard from your BFT/R contact, we don't have your new or best phone number. Please text Lin Herz @ 321-960-8194 or email at [lin32905@gmail.com](mailto:lin32905@gmail.com) giving your name, and the best phone number for contacting you. Some of our members have gotten rid of their landlines, and we don't have a way to contact you.



## **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*

## **Brief But Spectacular**

*--Cecily Cain*

TO ALL OF YOU WHO TAUGHT ...do I have a recommendation for you!

1. Settle down for a few minutes.
2. Turn on computer. Watch "My Brief But Spectacular Take On Growing Old Revisited" by Flossie Lewis by clicking on this link: <https://mvotd.com/mobile/watch.php?vid=aed30706b>
3. Watch through to the end.
4. You can e-mail me if you loved it and got goosebumps.
5. If # 4 applies--send it out to friends.
6. If 4 and 5 do not apply you may email me and tell me I've led you astray. Cecily Cain at [ccain7@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ccain7@cfl.rr.com)



### **BFT-R has a Facebook page!**

If you're on Facebook, check it out:

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



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## Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

### OFFICERS

### CALENDAR

<b>President:</b>	Joan Taddie <a href="mailto:jtaddie@cfl.rr.com">jtaddie@cfl.rr.com</a>
<b>Co-Vice-Presidents:</b>	Bettie Bailey <a href="mailto:baileybettie@yahoo.com">baileybettie@yahoo.com</a> Nancy Johnson <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Susan Vincent <a href="mailto:snv1@cfl.rr.com">snv1@cfl.rr.com</a>
<b>Membership Chairman:</b>	Sheila Cootes 427-7808
<b>Sunshine Coordinator:</b>	Eva Slaughter 724-0702
<b>Program Coordinator:</b>	Lin Herz <a href="mailto:lin32905@gmail.com">lin32905@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Nancy Johnson <a href="mailto:nanjoh99@gmail.com">nanjoh99@gmail.com</a>

**Thur, Oct. 7 - BFT-R meeting--on ZOOM**  
**11:00 Business meeting**  
**12:00 Speaker: Keith Winsten**  
**Topic: Brevard Zoo**

**Next meeting - Nov. 4--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.**