



Brevard Federation of Teachers

Retired Chapter News

"Retired, Not Expired"

Volume 23, Number 7
May, 2019

The President's Missive

--Joan Taddie

It's hard to believe that I'm writing my final column of the year for our monthly newsletter! I just read Nancy Johnson's final report of the year for the FEA-R, describing all the wonderful speakers, field trips, fun events for our newly retired teachers that even included a performance of the Not Quite Right Improv troupe, luncheons with Broadway entertainment and an important midterm candidates forum, lots of political volunteering, supporting our BFT teachers at rallies and school board meetings, attending state and national conferences and training sessions, and volunteering in numerous community organizations too many to list!

None of these activities would have been possible without the tireless support of our fantastic Executive Board. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to Cecily Cain, Bettie Bailey, Anne Byrd, Debbie Sandstrom, Susan Vincent, Sheila Cootes, Lin Herz, Nancy Johnson, and Rita Hewett! I am so very grateful to all of you for supporting and encouraging me through my rookie year!

Thanks again to Lin Herz for scheduling Dr. Leesa Souto, Executive Director of the Marine Resources Council, to talk to our membership at our April meeting about our precious Indian River Lagoon and how we can help save it. Dr. Souto is a knowledgeable speaker who inspired all of us with her passion.

Thanks for your enthusiastic participation in all of our BFT-R 2018-2019 activities! I hope to see many of you at Kay's for our end of the year breakfast on Friday, May 3, at 9:30 am! Have a wonderful summer! See you in the Fall for another fabulous year of retirement activities and fellowship!



BREAKFAST--Fri., May 3, 2019—9:30 a.m.

**Kay's Bar-B-Que
1552 W. King St., Cocoa
(Breakfast is "Buy your own")**



Field trip pics!

Derek Gores Exhibition & Rossetter House





Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

Nothing “new” since April’s column, but we’re looking forward to getting some “newly retired” teachers to join us over the summer. Joan has some very interesting ideas for doing this. (Remember last year’s Not Quite Right Improv event? I don’t know how she’s going to top that one, but by the look in her eyes I’m pretty sure it will happen.)

Remember that we are going back to our “dues year” beginning in October. So that means that **everyone will owe their dues in October**. If possible, please don’t send me your dues checks before then.

Life membership will be \$400 next year (beginning in October). Now is the time to switch to life status if you are an annual member. Let me know if you would like to do this. (If you choose to switch from annual to life, you would not pay any other amount until October of 2020 since BFTR pays for your first year of “local” dues.)

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

Political News

--Patty Farley

We are now past the half way mark for the Florida legislature this year and several issues have evolved with education. Among them with Tallahassee’s emphasis on charter schools we see a bill to streamline the application process for approval of charter schools. Florida is one of only 17 states that still allow corporal punishment and a bill has been proposed to end corporal punishment of students in public schools.

The school safety packages SB7030 and HB7093 have been passing committees on party lines and should be up for floor votes very soon. The Guardian Program, arming teachers and having guns in classrooms, is opposed by the FEA and NEA and the AFL-CIO. Senators Janet Cruz, Annette Taddeo, and Linda Stewart have fought valiantly to defeat and to modify this bill, but it passed their committee anyway. In the House Appropriations committee Reps. Ben Diamond, Bobby DuBose, Nicholas Duran, Joseph Geller, Evan Jenne, Kionne McGhee, Carlos Smith, Richard Stark and Barbara Watson should also be commended for testifying and voting in opposition and many debated against the bill.

As a retiree, if you can attend the Working Families Lobby Corps, please inform BFT and do so. The Working Family Lobby Corps is part of the Florida AFL-CIO Political/Legislative program and includes the FEA. Individuals give up four-five weekdays during session and go to Tallahassee to lobby their legislature. This is usually Monday thru Thursday or Tuesday thru Friday. The Florida AFL-CIO meets with this group every day of your stay. They will have intense training sessions on the bills in question and tell you what is needed. They will give you guidance on how to meet with your legislators, what to say and how to respond. You will be present in important hearings and become the face of thousands who cannot be there because they are working. Because you will need to pay for your room and board during your stay, many share a room and look for inexpensive lodgings. You will however, find it to be one of the most rewarding trips of your life to support public education. Information can be found on the AFL-CIO website, but it is encouraged that you contact your local union before going. We need all the help we can get to save public education in Florida.

Innovative Grants

--Joan Taddie

I would like to congratulate the following BFT teachers who were selected as winners of an Innovative Grant of \$100 each: Heather Mason, Media Specialist from Jefferson Middle School, who will create an Engineering Space in the media center for students to use during lunch; Laura K. Martin, 6th Grade from Discovery Elementary School, who needs dictionaries, thesauruses, and atlases to help with word choice when writing; Dina Casabianca, teacher in the BLAST (Brevard Learners Achieving Successful Transition) Program from Eau Gallie High School, who needs funds for their service learning projects including ingredients for dog biscuit “sandwiches” for the animal shelter and material for handmade blankets for children seriously ill or traumatized; and Kelly Lett, VE K-3 from Turner Elementary, for supplies to raise chickens to help them learn about a chicken’s life cycle. Heather and Kelly received their checks from FEA-R and Dina and Laura received their checks from BFT-R.



Heather Mason



Kelly Lett & Joan Taddie



Volunteer Hours

--Susan Vincent

We sent in 760 hours for volunteering work from BFTR for April. Great work members! May will be the last time to get your hours in for this school year. Please be prepared to give them to me at the breakfast or you can email to me at snv1@cfl.rr.com.

Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

School is almost out, and we will be ending another year of our successful book program. Many of our youngest and most at-risk students had a great introduction to reading by choosing a book and reading companion of a stuffed animal or toy. I don’t know who enjoyed it more, the children or us!

We want to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who made our whole operation a success. If you donated books, stuffed animals, toys, plastic bags, cash, washing and fixing, matching and visiting schools, or a verbal “good job”, please come and share our success.

Thank You Party

Friday May 17

11:00 am at the BFT Office

Lunch, Drinks, Dessert Provided

Parking is limited, so if possible, car pool

Come join us and have a good time! One request...we are in need of books for children ages 3 to 7 years old. We have enough stuffed animals but books are our biggest need right now. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 14 to Rita Hewett at [\(321\) 720-3683](tel:3217203683) or email rmhewett@yahoo.com.



Rita Hewett was named Women of the Year at the National Congress of Black Women – Space Coast Chapter on March 23. Rita was honored for community service for her many volunteer endeavors, including the 3Rs: Read, Recycle, and Reward Program.

Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS**CALENDAR**

President: Joan Taddie, jtaddie@cfl.rr.com
Vice-President: Bettie Bailey, baileybettie@yahoo.com
Co-Secretaries: Anne Byrd 452-6837
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Treasurer: Susan Vincent, snv1@cfl.rr.com
Membership Chairman: Sheila Cootes 427-7808
Sunshine Coordinator: Eva Slaughter 724-0702
Program Coordinator: Lin Herz, lin2@cfl.rr.com
Newsletter Editor Nancy Johnson 725-3504

Friday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m.
Breakfast at Kay's Bar-B-Que
1552 W. King St., Cocoa

Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2018-2019 School year and receive membership benefits. Enclosed please find a check payable to BFT/R for:

New Member

_____ Annual dues \$76.00
 _____ Lifetime dues \$350.00
 (state and national)

Renewing Member

_____ Annual dues \$76.00 (For non-life members)
 _____ Lifetime dues \$350.00
 (state and national)
 _____ Local dues \$30 (For lifetime members only)
 (Must be paid each year)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

How do you choose to receive your newsletter: _____ Email _____ Postal mail

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.** (or just give it to her at one of our meetings)

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Retired Chapter
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