



# BCREA Newsletter



March, 2009

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

Number 196

## Notter Touts School System, Praises Educators

Forget the criticism you may hear about the Broward County School System! According to **Broward School Superintendent James Notter**, who spoke at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon, not only is it getting passing marks, it's winning awards! When compared to other school districts with similar populations, Broward comes out ahead. Based on a study by the Broad (pronounced Bro' dee) Foundation which analyzed 100 of the largest school systems, Broward was one of the top 5 school districts in the country in academic achievement in closing gaps between white, African-



American and Hispanic students in 2008. At the present time, Broward's school population consists of students from 165 countries who speak 54 languages and of whom 50% are at or below the poverty level - and yet they attain! "As retired educators," Notter pro-

claimed, "BCREA members contributed to this achievement!" There are 36,500 employees in the school system. "We're about people," he continued. "Teachers are the backbone of the system, but custodians, cafeteria workers, and bus drivers really care about kids. 'Human capi-

tal' makes us great!" In discussing the future of education Mr. Notter discussed the necessity for technology in the classroom - it's needed for students to achieve the American dream! However, Florida currently is 50th in the nation in funding public education and our tax burden is 47th. He encouraged the audience to band together to change this. "We can't be at that level and fund quality education." He concluded with a challenge to volunteer in schools and to help the PTA Clothing Bank!

### 22 Attend Showtune

Pictured at right are some of the 22 members and friends who attended *Showtune* at the Stage Door Theater on Saturday, January 17.



### PTA Clothing Bank Needs Volunteers

The Ann Murray PTA Clothing Bank was established over 40 years ago to solve a major truancy problem. Some students were not in school because their parents were unable to provide suitable clothing. The clothing bank made it possible for children to attend school by providing them with clothing. Volunteers are needed to sort and shelve clothing and to wait on customers. Located at 1441 N. Federal Highway - just north of 17th Street, it's open Tuesday & Thursday 9 am - noon. Call **Renee Grutman** at 954-648-0366.

### March 5 Meeting



**Time:** 12:00

**Place:** Holiday Park Social Center  
1150 G. Harold Martin Drive  
Ft. Lauderdale  
(behind War Memorial Auditorium)

**Program:** Financial specialist

### Bring to meeting:

A dish to share  
Service Hours Reports  
Clothing for PTA Bank  
Campbells labels  
Aluminum pull-tabs  
General Mills labels  
Coupons for our troops  
Old eyeglasses & Cell phones

## President's Corner

WOW! MARCH... this year is flying by!!! Hopefully our economy will hold together and our lifestyles won't be changing too drastically.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of BCREA for their participation in our enjoyable Scholarship Luncheon. Whether you worked on a committee, or you shared a treasure for a door prize, or even got a sponsor to give a door prize, your help was greatly appreciated!!!!!! I would also like to thank Bright Star Credit Union. They gave four Visa Cards worth \$25.00 each and of course the lovely table decorations! It is great when things come together!

Future thoughts---- The Florida Retired Educator's Association, Inc. will be having its Assembly and Convention MAY 27th - 29th in St. Petersburg. We have been allocated three delegates. If anyone is interested in learning more about our state and our local organization please let me know.

Finally, what does March really mean? Income tax, Daylight Savings Time, Happy Saint Patrick's Day, and the first day of SPRING March 20th! I think after the last few cold days that I will go for SPRING... warm weather and flowers. And that is a positive thought!

*Linda*



## Community Service

954-977-7247

Chairman: Darcia Drago



I'm getting ready to compile our community service report for FREA so turn in all your unreported volunteer hours for March 2008 through February 2009 at our March meeting.

We will continue to collect

Labels for Education, aluminum pull tabs, eyeglasses, cell phones, pillow and blankie sets and manufacturers coupons through May. If you donate coupons, please cut them out.

*Darcy*

## Cultural Affairs

954-753-1258

Chairman: Michele Edwards



Thanks to those who attended "Showtune" on January 17th, making our BCREA cultural activity a success!!!! It was an enjoyable production at a casual venue. I think we'll be going back!

**HEAR, YE! HEAR, YE!**

We are seeking a volunteer, or partnership, to create our table display for the annual FREA assembly in St. Petersburg this May. You do not need to attend the assembly, unless you wish to do so. The display can be sent with an attending board member. It is not required that each chapter has a display, but having made such a positive impression for the

last few years, it seems a shame to go without. Many of the pieces are pre-constructed or already purchased and just need to be reworked for the new theme. You will receive a \$50 budget for supplies, help from **Bev Hoppe** on photos and computer layouts, the scrapbook from **Margaret Falconer**, and the banner from **Linda Horton**; you simply tie the pieces together!!! Call me at 954-753-1258 or 954-849-5512 or e-mail me at [dramama51@bellsouth.net](mailto:dramama51@bellsouth.net) to volunteer and/or ask for clarification.

*Michele*

## Literacy

954-584-8719

Chairman: Rosetta Watkins



### Fifth Grade Essay Contest

We had three schools to participate in the fifth grade essay contest this year with a total of 62 entries. The schools were Lakeside Elementary, Liberty Elementary and Riverland Elementary. The judges are in the process of reading them at this time.

### Book Donation

I am asking for donations of new books, appropriate for a fifth grader, to give to all participants of the essay contest. Each participant will receive a certificate and a book. Bev Hoppe gave us

our first book and we collected three at the Luncheon. Please bring a book to the March meeting. Phase two of this year's Literacy project is to collect used books to give to an after-school program for children in kindergarten thru fifth grade. We will collect these books thru May.

You may report your Literacy Volunteer hours to me via telephone (954-584-8719) or E-mail ([mamarowat@aol.com](mailto:mamarowat@aol.com)).

*Rosetta*



## Membership...

954-525-8503

slochrie@bellsouth.net

Chairman: Susan Lochrie



### Time to Pay your Dues for 2009-2010!

Beginning at the March meeting, dues for the 2009-2010 club year may be paid at meetings or mailed using the form below to note any changes to your personal information.

Annual dues are \$45.00. BCREA will forward the state dues of \$30.00 to FREA. You will receive a membership card from the FREA and your name will be on the Broward County Retired Educators Association mailing list and listed in the BCREA Directory.

I can send an FREA/BCREA information packet to friends who have retired; just send me their names and addresses.

Life members do not pay the FREA dues of \$30.00, but DO pay the \$15.00 annual dues to the local unit - BCREA.

The membership year extends from July 2009 through June 30, 2010.

**Reminder:** Members who have Pioneer Insurance Medi-Gap Supplemental Insurance must pay their dues by June 1, 2009.

### Broward County Retired Educators Association 2009 - 2010 Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SS #: XXX - XX- \_\_\_\_ (last 4 digits only) Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Date Retired: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired From: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$45.00 Donation for Scholarships: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **BCREA** and mail to: Mrs. Susan Lochrie  
PO Box 30533  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33303

## Passages



*Happy Birthday to our  
Birthday Club  
(members over 85!)*

**Lily Diekman 3/02**

**Don Fry 3/03**

**Ed Elder 3/05**

**Janet Knapp 3/06**

**Jane Pepper 3/11**

*And turning 85 on 3/20*

**Warren Cox**



*Thinking of You....  
Edgar & Marian Elder  
Jim & Evelyn Morris*

### BCREA Officers....

#### President

Linda Horton  
954-463-0192

#### Vice-President

Margarite Falconer  
954-524-2938

#### Secretary

Madeline Martin  
954-973-6509

#### Treasurer

Doris Emmett  
954-772-8681

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:



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*Serving Broward Educators Since 1946*



## FREA Tours for 2009-2010

Arline Ziller,  
FREA Travel Coordinator  
arlinez11@gmail.com

954-781-4445



**13-night Transatlantic Eastbound cruise** departing Fort Lauderdale April 12, 2009 for Ponta Delgado, Azores; Madeira, Portugal; Vigo, Spain; Southampton, England: includes such special amenities as ice skating shows, mini-golf course, pool deck and spas on this great ship. (There are now 33 people on this cruise—roommate for one is wanted. ). I am hosting this trip. Join us!

**Discover Sedona 7 days** tour begins in Scottsdale, AZ October 9, 2009, tour begins in Scottsdale, AZ and includes travels on the historic Grand Canyon Railway and the Verde Canyon Railroad through fantastic canyons and a trolley sightseeing tour to the famous Chapel of the Holy Cross.\*

**An Old Fashioned Christmas 5 days December 7, 2009**, featuring Pennsylvania Dutch and Brandywine Valley starting with an Amish feast and some unusual shopping in Amish Country, Brandywine Valley and a Pennsylvania German Christmastime.\*

**Exploring Britain and Ireland 15 days March 19, 2010** departing from Ft Lauderdale and other cities. Tour begins in London and continues through Ireland, Scotland and Wales includes several Ferry trips and ends in Stratford-Upon-Avon. An exciting trip. Insurance is available and suggested for most trips.

**Oberammergau Passion Play and the Imperial Cities 10 days July 15, 2010** featuring Prague, Vienna & Budapest which includes a Danube River cruise, palaces and Castles. Join your fearless leaders in this endeavor. Again a roommate is requested for a single person.\*

**Reasonable single rates are available.** Prices include air as needed. If you need a roommate, please let me know. Be sure to include your name, address & phone number when requesting information about any of the trips even in your E-mail. NOTE the change in my E-mail address: [arlinez11@gmail.com](mailto:arlinez11@gmail.com) or phone me at 954-781-4445. Keep in touch and have happy, healthy, safe and laughter filled 2009. Always, Arline Z

## Health & Blood Bank

954-581-4731

Chairman: Kathlyn Barno



Here is your last chance to join the blood bank program for this year (2009). We will not be collecting after this meeting so if you haven't signed up don't forget to do so at this meeting.

It is tax time. Have you done your taxes? It is important that you do so by April 15th or Uncle Sam will impose a healthy fine on you. In these times of economic downturn you don't need to give away money needlessly.

Here is some interesting information I ran across in the *John Hopkins Newsletter*. According to a trial done by the National Institute of Health in 2006, it was found that the use of Glucosamine/Chondroitin for the treatment of arthritis did not help. Many patients held out hope that a second trial would uncover some benefit: however the results of the second trial showed the same results. The report stated that Glucosamine/Chondroitin supplements contain compounds found in cartilage and are said to help repair and slow de-

terioration of the joints, but it is not known how the compounds are processed in the body and if they ever get to the cartilage.

Here are seven tips to stretch your dollar as provided by the Department of Elder Affairs:

1. Take charge of your finances. Do not let others intimidate you based on their claim of professional knowledge.
2. Take charge of your credit cards
3. Find cost-effective transportation. Look for senior focused transportation
4. Save on prescriptions. If you are feeling burdened by the high cost of prescription drugs, the department of Elder Affairs may be able to offer options.
5. Don't pay more than you have to. Look for discounts and use coupons.
6. Dust off your library card.. Public libraries offer hours and hours of enjoyable entertainment.
7. Get tax help. The federal government and some other places offer free help.

See you at the meeting.

*Kathlyn*

Thanks to the following businesses who donated prizes for our Scholarship Raffle:

Bonnet House  
Bright Star Credit Union  
Ft. Lauderdale Museum of History  
Kelley's Landing  
Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art  
The Olive Garden

Stranahan House  
Wal-Mart Vision Store 2963  
Broward Stage Door Theater  
Walgreen's  
AND...

Thanks to all our members who contributed their treasures to benefit the BCREA Scholarship Fund!

Bring this to our next meeting or mail it to:

**Darcia Drago**  
4346 Carambola Circle North  
Coconut Creek, FL 33066

### BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Month \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_\_\_\_

#### LITERACY VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Teaching Sunday School, reading to children/adults; tutoring; helping with testing programs, etc; Includes any activities to promote a more literate America. TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

#### WORKING WITH OUR YOUTH:

School, tutoring, mentoring, coaching etc. (Persons 25 years of age or younger. TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

#### OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS:

Church, civic, hospital / hospice, personal help to others (non-relatives), school, drug, ecology / environment.

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Overlapping categories should be reported in both places.

GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Necrology Service Saved by Joseph!

At the Luncheon, **Frances Smoot**, assisted by **Darcy Drago**, presented a short Necrology Service to remember

those members who died during the past year. They were **Dorothy Jane Golder, Merton Kennedy, Frank Koegel, Pauline McShane, Jerry Oglesby, Carolyn Payne and Robert**

**Rollins**. As Frances read each name, Darcy placed a white rose into a vase. She then attempted to light a candle using unresponsive matches! She'd almost given

up when **Judy Joseph** came to her aid with a lighter - and the service was saved!!



## Scholarship Donations

Donations were received from the following  
with unspecified memorial

Carol Call	Lucille Folsom-Mason
Myrtle Ford	Don and Lois Fry
Echo Heyer	Lizzie Johnson
Madeline Martin	Richard Perry
Pat & Don Roberts	Mae Bell Thurston
	Frances Welch

### Literacy Donation

Nancy Ruiz donated \$100 to use for the purchase of books for our literacy program.

Seventy-eight people bought tickets for the Annual Scholarship Luncheon on February 5, but not everyone was able to make it - some of them may have decided not to venture out on the coldest day in 6 years! Those who did were greeted by patriotic themed decorations in red, white and blue! I had the prime rib and it was just plain delicious! A total of \$338.00 was raised by the Scholarship Fund Raffle. Some of the people who won

were **Lee Henschel, Mary Southard, Barbara Schmid, Betty Deacon, Rosetta Watkins (right - she won 4 things!), Madeline Martin, Charlie**



*Bev's  
Bytes.....*



**Pipes, Myken Brady, Nancy Harvey, Linda Horton, Judy Joseph, Don Roberts, Don Fry, Toni Merton, Carol Call and Will Hoppe**. Arline Ziller actually won the prize she had donated, but someone swapped with her!! Centerpieces were once again provided by **Nancy Harvey and BrightStar Credit Union** - they were Teddy bears holding mugs of candy along with red white and blue balloons. Nancy was the first person on the scene and had most of the tables decorated by 10:45! Thanks, Nancy!! And that's the last byte for this month.



*Bev*





Scenes From  
the  
Luncheon



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