

BCREA Newsletter



October, 2020

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

<http://browardrea.org>

Number 287

Ready! Get Set! Zoom!

By Lillian Small

You've probably heard about Zoom. To get started and hopefully comfortable with what will become the "new norm" for meetings, BCREA President and Board will host a **ZOOM MEET AND GREET.**

You are invited to join us for a visit to **The Land of ZAP: Zoom App Technology.** First: You will need a Zoom App for your PC, Apple, or Android devices. Get it from your

App Store and be ready. This day is for YOU. The good thing is that members who live anywhere in the world can participate!!



To join the meeting for our "Meet and Greet," please note the information provided here. Information for the October General Meeting is also provided.

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION PLEASE SAVE

BCREA Zoom Meet & Greet
Time: Sep 24, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

To Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2917699881?pwd=TURYUzhRR2g3bFZQSDZPV3VQc1J1dz09>

Meeting ID: 291 769 9881
Passcode: BCREA2020

BCREA Zoom October 1 Meeting
12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

To Join Zoom Meeting - go to
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2917699881?pwd=TURYUzhRR2g3bFZQSDZPV3VQc1J1dz09>

Meeting ID: 291 769 9881
Passcode: BCREA2020

BCREA Gives Nine 2020 Scholarships

2020 High School Graduates - 1st year winners

Jordan Bouwens, South Plantation HS going to FSU



Hailey Carpenter, Douglas HS - going to Florida Southern

Priscilla Davila, Pembroke Pines Charter HS going to FAU (no photo)



Keyaira Henderson, Dillard HS going to FSU



Esther Natal, Nova Southeastern, 2nd year

And all 3rd year recipients - l-r

Jacquelyn Burgess, UF,
Brianna Hanks, Stetson,
Amanda Aguilera, FAU,
Korrin Sheahan, FSU



October 1 Meeting
Time: 12 noon
Place: Wherever You Are!
Address: Zoom
Program: Jayne Chapman, Office of Constituent Services

Bring to meeting:
 Deicke is still closed!
 A New Member!




President's Corner

Welcome Back BCREA!

We're here and ready to start our 57th year. Our situation is both usual and unusual. It is usual for us to begin our club year in October, but quite unusual to do so in this manner. Virtual has become the order of the day. No meeting face-to-face, no food or fellowship, and no idea how long this will last. Just different!

Although we have not seen each other since March, we were able to communicate with you via the *Newsletter* for April and May. Additionally, each of you was thought about more often than you could imagine during this pandemic, hoping that you were following the dictates of the CDC to stay safe at home, wear masks, wash hands frequently, and practice social distancing.

It is again my honor to serve as your president as we embark upon this club year 2020-2021. My unusual situation last year was that I served you without the benefit of a president-elect and of necessity, assumed the responsibilities to turn an AWKWARD situation into an AWESOME year.

This year we welcome **Sue Colton** as the president-elect. We are also grateful for the return of our secretary **Karen Avery** and treasurer **Marelise LeClerc**, and all committee chairpersons who are Board members. **Sallie Sherwood** will chair the committee for Information Services.

To be sure, we are off and running to navigate through these uncharted waters.

We invite you to join us on Zoom for our monthly meetings. Zoom will become the "new norm" for us to stay close so that we don't fall short of our goals. Some things might change to fit our unique circumstances, but nothing will happen to alter our Mission. Our way forward will be - Just different!



Lillian

President Elect's Corner

I am honored and grateful to serve as your BCREA president-elect for the 2020-2021 school year. Speaking of school, that has taken on a whole new meaning since the COVID-19 pandemic set in last March. Students and teachers have had to adjust to the new virtual learning platform, and as retired educators, we can appreciate the drastic change and adjustment to this "new normal." Educators are challenged to recreate the joy of building relationships with students, the excitement of the first day of school, and even the smell of new crayons, textbooks, and the anticipation of a new beginning. Social-distancing, masks, and 20-second handwashing have become our latest vocabulary. Parents and grandparents juggle work, childcare, and school from home. But we are resilient, hopeful, and remain optimistic about reimagining education and the classroom to continue to engage our students in meaningful learning.

I know we, individually and as an organization, will persevere as life-long educators and embrace our new virtual BCREA meetings on the first Thursday of each month. We are here for each other to learn the new Zoom meeting platform, listen and support each other during these stressful times, and to enjoy each other's company and sense of community as we continue to serve.

During October's meeting, we will hear from the delightful and informative **Jayne Chapman**, from the Office of Constituent Services for **Congressman Ted Deutch**. Jayne and her non-partisan presentation come highly recommended by **Darcy Drago** and will give us the latest information on Medicare rights, financial fraud, the yellow-dot program, and a variety of senior services available to us as retirees. I can't wait to "see" all of you online on October 1 at noon!



Sue



Did you know? BCREA has a Facebook page! And it's been there since 2017 - thanks to Karen Avery! If you're already a member of Facebook, all you have to do is search for BCREA - you'll recognize it by the big red apple icon - and ask to join. Karen will check you out and approve you ASAP!

From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343 Flsun1@comcast.net



Who would have thought as we approach October, we would still be in our homes, not able to have meetings to enjoy each other's company. Therefore, it is with so much gratitude that we thank all of you who have not only paid your dues, but have continued to generously give to our scholarship fund.

With the uncertainty of colleges and universities being opened, I am quite surprised that we have been able to grant 6 scholarships thus far this fall. Since we have allocated the money, we will adjust our policy and give additional scholarships for the winter term if recipients are not able to attend in the fall.

Kudos to so many of you who have given extra money for scholarships along with the renewal of your dues. The following 39 generous members donated, over the summer, a total of \$1,465. THANK YOU!

Donor

Roseanne Belsito
Rosa Parra
Juli Patten
Julia Penley

In Memory of

John Lyzott & Don Roberts
Nancy Ruiz
Natalie Kelly
Nancy Ruiz

Undesignated Donations

Alice Aspler	Suzanne Atkin	Gwen Batie
Linda Combs	JoAnn Corder	Louise Costello
Bobbie Lou David	John DeGregory	Myrtle Ford
Jean Funk	Edith Gooden-Thompson	
Jerilyn Habenicht	Jacqueline Hall	
Nina Hansen	Luther & Bertilda Henderson	
Dorothy Howard	Eileen Kimmich	Irene Labelle
Sally Macak	Madeline Martin	Rosemary McGarry-
Carol Merz	Judy Pine	Martha Pipes
Carol Pratt	Nina Panuzzo	Linda Pomeroy
Marvalyn Rhett	Jannes Strauch	Shelley Stunson
Bruce Voelkel	James Etta Warner	
Katie Williams	Joseph & Judy Zelinski	

By-Laws changes, con't

now presented to the Association for approval at the October 1 meeting. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. These changes will then be sent to the FREA state chair ASAP.
Mary Ellen

Membership

Chairman: Susan Lochrie
954-525-8503 slochrie@bellsouth.net



REMEMBER YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN BCREA

You may have recently received a letter in the U. S. Mail reminding you to pay your 2020-2021 BCREA dues. Although these are unusual times we hope you will consider renewing your membership. Your financial support is critical for our local organization. Our local organization supports our Scholarship Program, our Newsletter and

our Membership Handbook and Directory.

If you pay your dues by October 15 you will be listed in the 2020-2021 Membership Directory. Please email or call me with any questions about the dues.

If you pay dues directly to Florida Retired Educators Association, we ask that you include \$15.00 for local dues.

Susan

By-Laws

Chairman: Mary Ellen Fowler
954-925-6911 mefdania@hotmail.com



As chair of the By-Laws committee, I have reviewed our By-Laws to comply with state updates.

By-Laws Changes:

Currently: Article III - Members

SECTION 5- Life Members

As of July 1, 2007 there is no life membership. All current life members will still be active.

Proposed: No change needed - meets state requirement to eliminate life memberships.

Article XII - Amendments

Currently: This Constitution and By-laws may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Association by a vote of 51% of the total members in attendance.

Proposed: This Constitution and By-laws may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Association by a vote of 66.3% of the total members in attendance.

This is a requirement by the state and is standard in Roberts Rule.

These changes were approved by the Executive Board at its Planning Meeting, September 3, 2020 and are

Legislative

Chairman: Carol Roland

954-472-2389 CAROLRBEADS@aol.com



A primary responsibility of all citizens is to participate in the electoral process. Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties (and probably the rest of Florida) have made it so easy to vote, we have no excuse not to vote! Below are the ways you can vote in Broward. (If you live in another county or state, check your Supervisor of Elections' website as information may vary slightly). **Vote By Mail** - If in early summer, you didn't complete the Vote By Mail Application it is not too late to do so. You may do this by applying online at <http://browardsoe.org>. up until October 24, however you may have difficulties returning your ballot on time to be counted if you wait that long. If you

have already applied, your ballot will automatically be sent to you 40 to 33 days prior to Election Day. **Your Vote By Mail ballot MUST be received no later than 7:00 PM November 3.** Return your Vote By Mail Ballot as soon as possible. You may:

- 1 - Mail it** in the USPS pre-paid envelope, or send it via UPS or FedEx at your expense; or
- 2 - Drop it off** personally in the Drop Box at the entrance of the Supervisor of Elections Offices: 1501 NW 40th Ave, Lauderdale or 115 S. Andrews Ave, Ft. Lauderdale; or
- 3 - Drop it off** at any Early Voting Site. Which ever way you choose, never allow anyone other than a family member or trusted family friend to assist you in voting. You can easily

track whether your ballot was sent, received or counted by going to the SOE website and clicking on **Check My Status**.

Early Voting - This is an effective way to avoid crowded voting precincts. You may vote at any of the 22 early voting locations throughout the county. For specific locations, check the website, <http://browardsoe.org>. Early voting hours are 7 AM to 7 PM from Oct. 19, to Nov.1. You are encouraged to vote as soon as possible and early in the day to avoid crowds.

Election Day Voting -- Your Voter Registration card should list your precinct # and location, but check the website to verify your site. **Voting hours are 7 AM to 7 PM, Nov. 3.** Crowds are expected, so vote as early in the day as possible and be prepared for long lines. You may want to take water and snacks with you. Finally, remember, no matter how you vote, you must present a current and valid picture identification with a signature, but if you forget to take it to your polling place, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. For more information, check the Supervisor of Elections website <http://browardsoe.org>. Carol

Community Service

Chairman: Darcia Drago

954-977-7247 dardra@att.net



Hope you are all successfully weathering the Corona virus storm. Due to the pandemic we are putting our group community service projects on hold until we can determine a safe meeting schedule. If you have accrued any community service hours since our last meeting in

April, please e-mail them to me at dardra@att.net or snail mail them to me at **2505 Dagoon Ave. Coconut Creek 33063.** In the meantime, stay healthy and safe. Hope to see you when the restrictions have been lifted AND at our Zoom meeting.
Darcy

Passages



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

Phyllis Kublin 10/08
Theodora Williams 10/09
Donald Conkel 10/10
Dolores Thomas 10/16
Carolyn Stern 10/21
Areathea Reddick 10/22
Frances Welch 10/23
Irene LaBelle 10/24

Thinking of you....



Karen Avery
Louise Costello
Nancy Hauth
Leonore Henschel
Diane Jarchow

In Memoriam



Kathlyn Barno
Anita Bullock
Geneva Yokel



Welcome New Members

Rosemary Rawls
Charles Webster

At the time this is being written, we are still unsure how our year will unfold but we are here to share information and encourage one another.

During this extended time with the COVID-19 protocols we should not let our guard down. There are activities for both mind and body that we can be doing to help relieve our stress and maintain a healthy life style. Stay off that couch and keep moving! Just don't keep heading in the direction of the refrigerator! Follow your regular pre-COVID schedule for wake up and sleep. If you cannot get out and go shopping for exercise, you can walk around the inside of your

It's wonderful to talk to you even though I can't do it in person. Nothing would be better than to have our usual meeting and our wonderful buffet. Let me summarize our events from last spring and let you know what happened after we halted meetings. Our fifth grade essay winners were contacted and were looking forward to the May awards meeting. Unfortunately the fifth grade essay winners were not able to be recognized at a spring meeting. All fifth grade participants who wrote essays were issued participation certificates. Our Reading to Kids Program was in full swing at Kids in Distress. Our

Information Services

Chairman: Sallie Sherwood
954-629-3712 matildatwo@aol.com



home! Keep an eye on the clock and move, shake, stretch, march in place, do something, anything for a several minutes each hour. We also need to keep our mind in tip top shape. Recently, a *Reader's Digest* article shared the story of a woman who had decided to write a thank-you letter once a day for 365 days. Not only was she completing a good deed for the day, but she was setting personal goals and keeping her mind engaged by trying to recall all the

times that she had received a kind gesture from another. She wrote to friends, family, store clerks and companies. The author states that an outcome of this personal challenge was an increased positive mood and staying connected with the world as she began hearing back from those who were recipients of her notes. We do not want to feel isolated during this time. While cleaning the closets and finding those long lost photographs select one of your favorites. Send it off

to a company like Shutterfly, Walgreens, etc., where they will turn it into a jigsaw puzzle and send it to whomever you like. A great way to keep in touch with family and friends and they in turn, will be able to keep busy in a fun and challenging manner. October 1, 2020, which will be our first Zoom Thursday meeting, is International Coffee Day AND National Homemade Cookie Day. Enjoy!

Keep your eyes on the unsettled stormy south Florida sky and keep stock of your hurricane supplies. Until we see each other again, please don't become lax with your safety precautions! And send positive thoughts to others.

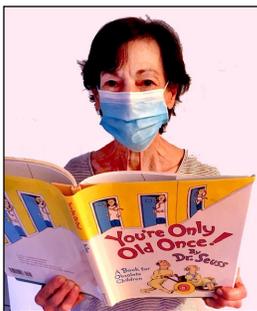
Sallie

Literacy

Chairman: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-473-9480 slef12343@gmail.com



BCREA volunteers were reading to the preschoolers twice a month. They were welcomed with open arms and smiles from the kids. The program was stopped



in March because of Covid-19. We had boxes of donated children's books but had to cancel the meeting that was scheduled to add bookplates. I was able to add bookplates to the books that were stored at my house before they

were donated. In August, 2020 The Pantry of Broward accepted the book donations and distributed the books along with school supplies to grandparents and foster parents. What will happen in the coming year? I am sure we all would like an answer to that question. Let's stay positive, stay healthy, and stay in touch. Meanwhile, read a book, enjoy and relax.

Sandy

The cost of BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by

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**- DATED MATERIAL -
 PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

Bev's Bytes.....

Past-President **Kathlyn Barno** died on July 18. At the March meeting she had been presented with an award honoring



her 32 years of continuous service to BCREA. She will be missed!
Nancy Hauth's husband **Kenneth** died in April;
Karen Avery's brother **Vincent**



died in August; We send our condolences to the families of them all.

On a happier note. **Darcy Drago** taught deep water aerobics during the summer.
 One of 3 life members left in BCREA, **Betty Brown McNaul** turned 100 on August 8!
 Congrats to **Marvalyn Davis** who is a new bride! She's now **Marvalyn Rhett**.

The BCREA Board has held 2 Zoom meetings recently and they were quite successful - here's what they looked like - above, right. We even had 2 surprise participants!

One really great bonus about Zoom meetings is that our members who live in other counties or states will be able to join us! These include **JoAnn Corder, Julia Penley, Madeline Martin, Nina Hansen, Gloria Jackson, Irene LaBelle, Eleanor Meyer** and many more!



And that's the last byte for October.

Bev



BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM

Name _____
 (Please Print)

Month _____, 20____

Volunteer hours working with adults _____
 (persons who are non-family members;
this also includes literacy hours)

Volunteer hours working with youth _____
 (Persons 25 years of age or younger;
This also includes literacy hours)

Bring this to our next meeting, e-mail it to me at dardra@att.net or mail it to me at:

Darcia Drago
 2505 Dagoon Avenue
 Coconut Creek, FL 33063