

BCREA



Newsletter



December, 2022

Broward County Retired Educators' Association website: <https://browardrea.org>

Number 305

"We're Not There Yet - It's a Work in Progress!"



At the November meeting two special women - both of whom have been involved with education for their entire careers. BCREA member and former School Board member **Maureen Dinnan** opened the program with a Thought for the Day - "3 Things to Celebrate in November :"

1 - our democracy by voting

on November 8;
2 - our heroes on Veterans Day, November 11; and
3 - our Families on Thanksgiving.

The Speaker of the Day was Broward Schools Superintendent **Dr. Vickie Cartwright**. Besides being the first female superintendent in Broward, she has 26 years of experience in public education. She covered a multitude of things in the half hour she addressed the group. Some of the highlights were:

- ♦ We are all role models every single day. We never know how we're going to impact others.
- ♦ She felt that the teachers and staff in schools did not feel supported
- ♦ There needs to be consistency across the county.
- ♦ We can't allow kids to slip through the cracks.
- ♦ When schools are successful, students will be successful.
- ♦ We're working on reorganization - but we're

not there yet.

- ♦ For every negative, we need 3 positives.
- ♦ We're all human - we all have flaws,
- ♦ Treat people with respect.

To find out more about our new superintendent, just Google Dr. Vickie Cartwright!



December 1 Meeting

Time: 12:30 pm

Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

Program: Senior Choristers from Plantation Park
Nicole Greggs directing

Bring to meeting:

BYOL

(Bring your own lunch)

Aluminum pull-tabs

Cell Phones

Eyeglasses

School Supplies

December 15 : Board Meeting, 11:00 am

Bev Hoppe's home

December 18: Happy Hanukkah



December 25: Merry Christmas

December 26: Happy Kwanzaa



December 31 - Happy New Year

Robin Bartleman Speaks at District Symposium

Twenty BCREA members attended the FREA District 10 Symposium hosted by BCREA on October 19 at John Knox Village. Besides Rep. Bartleman, others who participated were George Ellis, Anne Fagan, Edwinna Williams, FREA President & Harriet Jenkins, FREA Pres Elect.



Save the Date

Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Thursday, February 2, 2023, 11:30 am

Tropical Acres Restaurant, 2500 Griffin Road

Tickets will be sold at the

December and January meetings or

Order them by mail with the coupon on Page 6.

President's Corner

At our November meeting, we welcomed the first female and current Broward County Public Schools Superintendent **Dr. Vickie L. Cartwright**. She shared the district vision, "Leading with Relationships, Grace, and Respect," and her guiding principle, "Students First." She also shared her personal story as a band student and teacher/band director; Director of Accountability, Research, and Assessment; Associate Superintendent of Exceptional Student Education in Orange County, Florida; and Superintendent in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Our members enjoyed her authenticity and relatability as she engaged with us in a Q & A. We also welcomed back BCREA member **Mau-reen Dinnen**, a School Board member from 2004-2012, who presented our "Thought for the Day." As we enter into the holiday season, let's reflect on what it means for all of us to "lead with grace" (**John Baldoni**, www.chieflearningofficer.com, October 8, 2019)

Generosity is the spirit of openness and sharing. When leaders give of themselves, others feel it. Generosity is generative. The more you give, the more others respond in kind.

Respect is the ability to assume the best intentions in others. Invite divergent views. Be inclusive. It is the willingness to show trust and expect it in return. **Action** is the power to mobilize. A leader's job is to pull people together for a common cause and to make things happen.

Compassion is the ability to care and love. You care about how people are doing at work and outside of it.

Energy is the drive that teams need to have to succeed. It falls to the leader to pull and push people forward to get the job done.

Grace is the glue that holds us together in pursuit of a common cause, our purpose for what we do, and "Our Why." *Sue*



From the President-Elect

This is the season of traditions for your family, friends and BCREA. One tradition for BCREA is having a student group entertain at our December Meeting. This year, the 'Senior Choristers' from **Plantation Park Elementary** will kick off the holiday season. Under the direction of **Nicole Greggs**, the youngsters will be singing their hearts out for us, while privately waiting for Santa!

Another tradition for FRS members is the annual legislative challenge to our pension and benefits! **Sue Colton**, BCREA Legislative Chair, will be reviewing what the Legislature will be targeting in the upcoming session. She also will be outlining how we can stop the attack! Before we listen to the children sing, there is another tradition, we all anticipate - Thanksgiving! Whether you are cooking the big bird (bless you!) or bringing a special casserole to a friend's house, the tradition of sharing with friends and family is incredibly special. This a perfect time to remember others and to be thankful.

One last tradition and a warning - Do not gobble till you wobble! Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanks for all you do for BCREA!

Anne



Have you lost a pair of glasses?



A pair of glasses (Foster Grant +2.50) was left behind at the **October 6th** meeting. If they are yours, please contact **LuAnn Comes** at **954-475-1510**. If not claimed, they will be donated at the December meeting.



Information Services

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



Over the next few weeks we will be celebrating various events with our family and friends. Many memories of previous family gatherings will be present as we officially begin the holiday season. Some memories will be of those loved ones who have given service to our country and are no longer present. At the close of our last meeting, we viewed a video of "The Armed Forces Medley," which honors the six services of the United States Armed Forces: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and as of 2020 the Space Force. One by one, members of our group stood as the anthem representing their veteran was sung. While Veterans Day is November 11, we have another chance to show our gratitude and respect for the heroes of our past. On December 17, Wreaths Across America will again honor the fallen of our country. What began in 1992 as wreath placement at Arlington Cemetery, now has over 3,500 participating sites. Nearby locations are Pompano Beach Cemetery (Federal Highway) and Forest Lawn (Copans Road). As the ceremony begins with the Color Guard "Presenting the Colors," we are encour-

aged to REMEMBER those who have given their life, HONOR those who have served and are serving and to TEACH our children the legacy of freedom. (The website has a downloadable free curriculum for grades K - 12.) The ceremony ends with the playing of "Taps" and participants are given wreaths to lay on the graves of the fallen. If you wish to participate, please visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org to sign up as a volunteer to actually lay wreaths on the veteran's graves or to donate the cost of a wreath (not mandatory). Whatever you celebrate, happy holidays to all. Stay fit, stay sharp, and send positive thoughts to others.

Sallie

Passages



Happy Birthday to our
Birthday Club
(members over 85!)
Barbara LeGette 12/12
Rita Sanderson 12/16
Jean Funk 12/18
Panchitta Chisholm 12/19
Lillian Hearn 12/20
Toni Merton 12/20
Rosetta Watkins 12/22
Doris Emmett 12/26



Lillian Small
Frances Smoot



In Memoriam
Gwen Thompson

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

Fund Raising

Chair: Barbara Lewis
954-562-1936 barbarabeth1@att.net



The Annual Scholarship Luncheon will be on February 2. Use the coupon on page 6 to order tickets. Our fun BINGO is scheduled for April 20 at 1:00. It will cost \$10 for 5 games. More info to come. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Barbara

We Need Items For the Fundraiser!

Don't forget to start saving NEW items for the big fundraiser at the February Scholarship Luncheon. Please do not clean out your closets and donate things you no longer want. Others probably won't want them either! Christmas or Hanukkah gifts you don't want would be good - but please leave them unopened! Are we being picky? YES! Donate only things you'd like to win! Ann French will collect them at the January meeting.

Social Committee

Chair: Marianne Scott
954-321-9174 mscott33317@yahoo.com



The most wonderful and hectic time of the year is upon us. Family time and traditions, holiday celebrations and lots of sweet treats are right around the corner. In anticipation of celebrating National Cookie Day on December 4, the board will provide holiday cookies for all members to enjoy at our meeting on December 1. Remember to bring your own lunch and then indulge in a cookie! Happy Holidays!

Marianne

Please share with all your "still working friends at the School Board"...

The Evelyn and Jim Morris Scholarship goes live January 23rd!!! This competitive grant is open to all School Board employees. Applications will be available on the BCREA website.

Community Service /Handbook

Chair: Darcia Drago
954-977-7247 dardra@att.net



Community Service

At our December meeting we will collect school supplies for the Broward Education Foundation's "Tools for Schools" Program. They need basic school supplies -

pens
pencils
markers
crayons
erasers
scissors



tape
filler paper
notebooks and
arts & crafts materials.



Our donations will go to their school supply center where ESE & Art teachers & teachers from Title I schools can "shop" at no cost for needed supplies.

Wishing you & your family a happy holiday!
BCREA won a ribbon at the Symposium for Volunteer Services.

Handbooks/Directories

The 2022-23 edition will be distributed at our December meeting & will be mailed to members who live out of the area.

Darcy



Membership...

Chair: Susan Lochrie
954-494-8204 or slochrie@bellsouth.net



BCREA WINS STATE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

BCREA membership is growing with new members! This year our Broward Unit won the FREA Award for the most new members in the state! As of November 3 we have 35



new members and a total of 262 members. Some of our former members haven't renewed for this year but we hope they will join again.

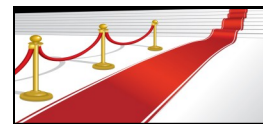
Those who cannot attend meetings can continue to support the goals of BCREA and FREA.

Please continue to invite your friends to join BCREA. Bring in three new

members in a year and receive a \$25. gift certificate. If you have ideas on how to reach out and attract new members please let me know. For Membership information contact me by phone or email and I will send it to your friends. You can also go to the BCREA website

<https://browardrea.org> Susan

Welcome New Members



Christine Campbell
Maria Miranda
Jorge Rigol
Pierrette Theriault

Richard Connell
John Messersmith
Deborah Ryan-DeGray
Leona Sturup



We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service
every time



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@brightstarcu



Cultural Affairs

Chair: Carol Roland
954-472-2389 carolrbeads@aol.com



Cultural Affairs Committee: Upcoming Activities. Contact me if interested in any activity. (All activities are open to friends and family.)

January 12. BRIGHTLINE day trip. Enjoy lunch and shopping in West Palm Beach. We will depart Ft. Lauderdale station at 10:20AM and return at 5:23 PM. \$34.00

**Absolute Deadline
December 1**

Jan 17 Theater: Tina (The Turner Musical). 8:00 PM. at Au Rene Theater. \$108.07

Jan. 22 Theater: The Full Monte. 2:00 PM at Lauderhill Performing Arts. \$45.

Feb. 19 Theater: 42nd Street 2:00 PM at Lauderhill Perf. Arts. \$45.

**Absolute Deadline
December 1**

March 16th
Fun 'n Frollic Day at the Park. More info to come. Send checks Payable to BCREA for Brightline or the theater to me or pay at the December meeting.

Carol



*Bev's
Bytes*



Can you recognize these 2 ladies? They changed their hair styles to at-

tend the Symposium. I had to ask their names!

LuAnn Comes reports there were 48 members and 3 guests at the November meeting.

The winners of the scholarship fundraiser (L-R) were \$20, **Cynthia Johnson**; and \$10 each, **Marianne Barr**, **Sallie Sherwood** & **Joyce Stokes**. Flowers were won by **Marianne Barr**, **Anne French** and **Liz Mann**. In front is **Thelma Lewis** who got a patriotic bag. **Josephine Walker** won **Darcy's** volunteer hours drawing.

If you look at "Passages" on page 3, you'll see an entry for



Literacy

Chair: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-473-9480 Slef123@bellsouth.net



ber to spread the joy of reading to the next generation. Bring

slightly used books or new children's books to the December meeting.

If you are busy with holiday decorating and buying gifts, take a break and donate to our NO-BAKE BAKE SALE, where you don't have to mix, bake or clean up the kitchen. Your donation will help purchase books for Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. You can send a check (\$5.00 minimum) to Marelise LeClerc, 615 N. 31 Rd. Hollywood, FL 33021 or you can drop money into the cake box at our BCREA meeting.

As Booker T. Washington said, "Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." The Literacy Committee wishes you all a happy, healthy holiday time.

Sandy

Gwen Thompson under "In Memoriam." This is a correction from last month I put in an incorrect last name. Gwen was a longtime member and a very special person - she deserved a correct entry!

And that's the last byte for December. Happy Holidays!

Bev

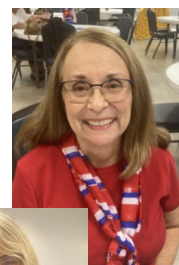
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- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Everyone was asked to wear red, white
and blue to celebrate Veterans' Day.
Here are the members who went all in!



Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @\$43.00 each

Extra Donation: _____

Entrée choices: **Prime Rib of Beef**
Broiled Salmon Filet

Name _____ Entrée Choice _____

Send a check made out to BCREA
Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope

to
Diane Texter
742 NW 69 Terrace
Margate, FL 33063

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