

BCREA Newsletter



December, 2024

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 321

Honor Flight Takes Veterans on a Final Mission



HONOR FLIGHT

SOUTH FLORIDA

Presentations Manager - Founder

Mike Miskew

(954) 214-9020

mikemiskew@gmail.com

What Is Honor Flight?

Our speaker of the day was **Bill Johansen** Honor Flight South Florida is a 100% all-volunteer organization, dedicated solely to honoring all veterans in Broward, Dade, and Monroe counties. In the final chapters of their lives, it's a race against time to fly these veterans to Washington D.C. to visit and reflect at the memorials built in their honor. First priority for a trip is given to World War II veterans. Terminally ill veterans of any service period may be given the same priority as WWII veterans (physician statement required.)

The veteran's one-day mission to Washington D.C. includes round-trip airfare, deluxe bus transportation

throughout Washington with police escorts, meals, commemorative tee shirts, and other amenities needed to travel comfortably. Disabled veterans are also welcome; with advance arrangements, honor chairs and oxygen are available. Mike Miskew is one of the founders of Honor Flight South Florida. He served as a volunteer firefighter with the City of Plantation, retiring in 2008. Then in 2011, after 33 years of dedicated service with the City of Sunrise Fire Rescue Department, Mike retired from active service. Mike was introduced to Honor Flight by his brother Steve, with his first flight in May (cont on page 3)

December 5 Meeting

Time: 12:00 pm

Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

Program: Nicole Greggs and the Plantation Park Elementary Chorus



December 12: Board Meeting, 11:00 am
Shirley Swartz's home



Bring to meeting:

- Picnic Potluck
- Aluminum pull-tabs
- Cell Phones
- Eyeglasses
- New or gently used books

Save the Date

A Tropical Day at Tropical Acres
Break out your best beach outfit and let's meet for food, fun, and friendship.

Our annual Scholarship Luncheon will be
Thursday, February 6, 2025
at 11:30.

at Tropical Acres' Restaurant,
2500 Griffin Road, Ft. Lauderdale.

Tickets will be sold at our December and January meetings for \$50.00 each - choice of prime rib, fish(salmon) or vegetation -

OR through the mail.

Send a check, self-addressed envelope to me (address below,) and I will send you your ticket. See the form in this newsletter.

As you look through your wardrobe or the thrift store, remember, There's always room for a boa at Tropical Acres!!

Diane Texter.

742 NW 69th Terrace,
Margate, FL. 33063.

President's Corner

It was great to get together on November 7. Although it was a month late due to the hurricane scare, our members were out in their patriotic red, white, and blue. It was gratifying to see people catching up. One of the purposes of BCREA is to promote connections and socialization. That was certainly evident at the Jim Ward Center.

There were also a number of BCREA T-shirts around the room. It is not too late to order yours. Just complete the order form on page 6 of your November Newsletter. The price is only \$25.00. At the meeting, a sign-up sheet was distributed for people to volunteer to work on one or several committees. A lot of the work of BCREA is done behind the scenes by our committees. If you didn't attend the meeting and want to sign up for one of the committees listed in your directory, please contact me, and I will hook you up with the chair. We have room on these teams for YOU, and this is a great way to meet and get to know new people.

The annual BCREA directory is a vital reference for all of us. Please review your entry in last year's book. Check to make sure your address is current, as is your email address, and especially your phone number. If there are corrections, please let **Bev Hoppe**, **LuAnn Comes**, or **Darcy Drago** know. A new edition will go to the printer after our December meeting and will be distributed at our January 9 meeting.

Did you know that BCREA has a **FaceBook** page? Make sure you go to **Broward County Retired Educators** and join our group. There are photos from meetings, important information, and details about upcoming events. As we get ready for the busy holiday season, please remember to take time for yourself and choose only activities that bring you JOY!

Happy Holidays!

Anne

Happy Holidays



From the President-Elect

Greetings BCREA Family!
I cannot be prouder than I was on November 7, 2024. It brought me such pride to look among those present and see the vast amount of knowledge wisdom and talent that each one of you possesses. Our guest, **Mr. Bill Johansen** is a Senior Volunteer with **Honor Flight South Florida**. He shared anecdotal experiences regarding the mission of the Honor Flight, as well as reminding us to encourage other veterans of this gift. If you know of a veteran who has not yet been awarded a free flight, please go to info@honorflightsouthflorida.org to register. Members, we are planning great activities but we need you! Please become more engaged through participation in the many committees we have available. We are better together!

In preparation for our December 5 meeting, we have returning **Ms. Nicole Griggs** and the **Plantation Park Elementary** students. They will be performing songs for our Winter Holiday Pageant musical enjoyment.

See you soon, *Dr. JAKS*



District 10 Director / Legislative

Chair: Sue Colton

954-695-5065

scolton@bellsouth.net



Florida Retired Educators Day

Did You Know? The Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) advocates for over 100,000 Florida Retirement Education System Retirees. On

June 1, 1981, a proposal was passed into law that the 3rd Sunday in November would be recognized as Florida Retired Educators' Day. It was signed by Governor Bob Graham. This particular date

was chosen because it is the Sunday preceding National Education Week, which starts on the third Monday of November. This year, Governor Ron

DeSantis has proclaimed Sunday, November 17, 2024, as Florida Retired Educators' Day. FREA and BCREA recognize ALL FRS retirees as members:

teachers, paras, clerical, facilities, food service, security, and administrators. Let's celebrate ALL of us! *Sue*



Information Services

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



'Tis the season:

Of Giving: The Mental Health Foundation suggests that giving to others can lead to feelings of euphoria and tranquility, sometimes called a "helper's high." Check charitynavigator.org for your donations before giving to any organization. You can find four star charities that align with your passions and values. You can also consider gifting personal products to local nursing homes, dropping off Toys for Tots, etc.

Of Lights: Psychology Today reports "Holiday Decorating is Good for the soul. Festive lights might actually

lighten your heart." We are entering into a season of fewer daylight hours but also a time of increased festive lighting: Christmas lights, Menorah, Swedish Santa Lucia candle head wreaths, Mexican Day of the Dead candles for the deceased, clay lights for Daiwai in India protecting from spiritual darkness, Kwanzaa lighting candles on the Kinara, Brazilian Lemanja sand candles to have wishes come true, or the Mohawk Long Night Moon, etc.

Of Fun: Enjoy family celebrations and gatherings while making latkes, cookies,

tres leches cakes, malva pudding, or coconut macaroons. Reintroduce your family to the decadent desserts of their heritage.

Of Good Health: According to AARP author JoAnn Jenkins, "Listening to and making music hold significant potential to support our brain health." The Global Council on Brain Health suggests that listening to and making music creates a sense of well being, lessen stress, boosts the immune system along with other positive outcomes. Enjoy the sounds of the season.

No matter what you celebrate or where you are during this time, stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others.

Sallie

Passages



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

- Luther Henderson 12/07
- Barbara LeGette 12/12
- Jean Funk 12/18
- Lillian Hearn 12/20
- Rosetta Watkins 12/22
- Charleen Burrows 12/23
- Doris Emmett 12/26
- And turning 100...
- Panchitta Chisholm 12/19



Julia Penley
Arline Ziller

In Memoriam
Mary Perfect 9/17/24

From the Treasurer

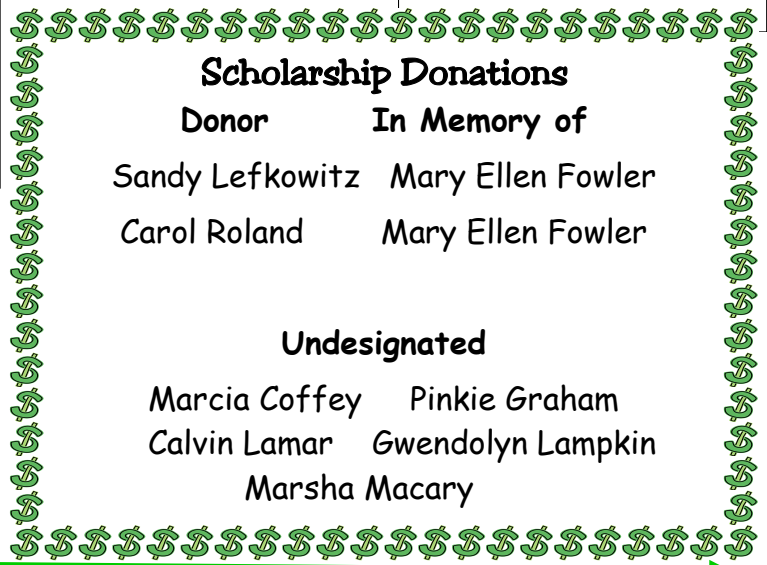
Carol Roland
954-472-2389 carolrbeads@aol.com



If you have not already paid your dues, please remember that FREAA has increased state dues. You can mail your check to me for \$60.00-payable to BCREA. If you already paid your dues, you can make make donations to

our scholarship fund by giving me a check or cash at our December meeting. Please, please, please, don't lose your charitable spirit as we enter this most charitable time of the year.

Carol



Scholarship Donations

Donor	In Memory of
Sandy Lefkowitz	Mary Ellen Fowler
Carol Roland	Mary Ellen Fowler

Undesignated

Marcia Coffey	Pinkie Graham
Calvin Lamar	Gwendolyn Lampkin
Marsha Macary	

(con't from page 1)

of 2013 with his first flight in May of 2013 with **Southeast Florida Honor Flight** based out of Stuart, Florida.

Living in Plantation, naturally, as the new Honor Flight South Florida chapter was formed in his hometown, Mike eagerly joined and has volunteered his services

helping organize flights not only behind the scenes, but has also been on flights as a Guardian and Staff Administrator.

Mike heads up the Presentations for Honor Flight South Florida. If you would like to have an Honor Flight South Florida Presentation at your organization's next civic/charity event, Mike is the person to contact at 914-214-9020.

Community Service /Handbook

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



Community Service

Our school supply drive was a huge success. Thank you for your generosity & special thanks to **Mary Taylor**, one of our members who volunteers at the "Tools for Schools" center, for delivering our donations.

Looks like our members were busy over the summer. We had over 2,000 community service hours reported at our November meeting. Please continue to turn in your hours at each of our meetings. Volunteers do make a difference!



Handbook/Directory

The copy for our 2025 edition will go to the printer after our Dec. meeting. Please send me any corrections to your listing ASAP. The new books will be distributed at our January meeting.

Darcy

Fund Raising

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



Hi Everyone.
Hope you enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. Our FUN BINGO is April 17. Come join us on Zoom. More info to follow.
If you have any ideas for more fun and exciting fundraisers, please let me know.
Looking forward to seeing you at our December 5 meeting.

Barbara

Membership...

Chair: LuAnn Comes
954-475-1510 or lacomes987@aol.com



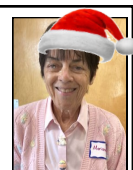
We thank all who have renewed their membership by now. While some members may have forgotten to renew, we hope they will join again very soon.

Since the benefits are numerous and BCREA / FREA goals are so worthwhile, some members unable to attend meetings continue to join and many even include donations to the scholarship fund. Newsletters, phone calls and emails keep all of us in touch with one another and make each day brighter. During this holiday season, as you see your recently retired school friends or neighbors, make a point to invite them to join. Share a previous Newsletter so your friend can see our enthusiasm and read about our happenings. If you need further information on membership, give me a call or send an email. I wish each of you a very healthy and happy holiday season!

LuAnn

Social Committee

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



It's hard to believe we are getting close to saying "Good -bye" to 2024. Where do the days go? It's time for gift shopping, putting up decorations and breaking out those favorite holiday recipes. Your fellow BCREA members can't wait to taste them at our December meeting. Thank you, thank you to the many members who brought in reusable containers to the November meeting. The Social Committee is most appreciative. So many bags of containers were brought in, I had a hard time finding places to store them at my home. So, for the present time, please DO NOT bring any containers to the next several meetings. I will let you know when we are running low again. I wish everyone a happy, healthy holiday season. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on December 5th and enjoying your holiday recipes.

Marianne

We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service
every time

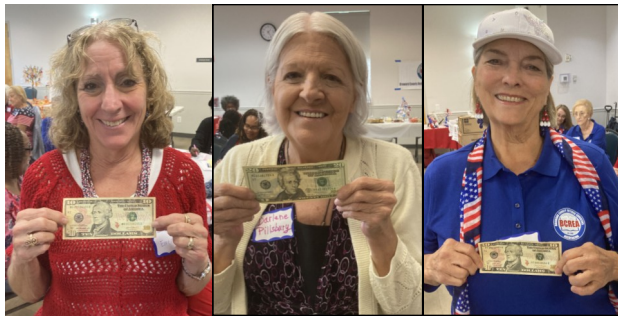


SunSentinel
MEDIA GROUP



Several of our members have been traveling or are planning to do so. **Sue Redfern** has been following her Panthers to most of their away games.

Shirley Swartz spent time in Italy. The winners of the scholarship drawing (L-R) were



\$20, **Ellen Emery**; and \$10 each, **Darlene Pillsbury** and **Suzanne Atkin**. Winners of the flowers and several



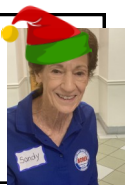
other donated items were (top picture) **Karen Uris**,



Sallie Sherwood, Marcia Coffey, LuAnn Comes and **Carol Roland**. (bottom picture) **Darlene Pillsbury, Suzanne Atkin, Sandy Lefkowitz** and **Jean Anderson**. And the winner of Darcy's Volunteer Award was **Dorothy**

Literacy

Chairman: **Sandy Lefkowitz**
954-557-5817 Slef12343@gmail.com



A big thank you to everyone who has donated children's books. Our book box is filling up with wonderful, exciting books. But there can never be too many books! Our goal is to develop a love for reading and what better way than to provide children with their very own book. We are collecting new and gently used



children's books. You can help by bringing at least one book to every meeting. Visit library book sales, garage sales, bookstores and go online to find books

for our book donations. And then simply bring the books to the next meeting.

A big thank you to everyone who has donated books for adults. After reading a book, pass it on. BCREA is collecting books for **Memorial Manor Nursing Home**. You can brighten someone's day. Don't forget the **Fifth Grade Essay Contest**. Let's encourage fifth graders to write more than text messages! **Margaret Poppell**, a long-time advocate for literacy, began a writing contest for fifth graders. Any Broward County fifth grader may enter the contest by submitting an essay of 500 words or less about an experience with a grandparent or grandparent figure. The essay deadline is approaching. Essays are due December 15th. If you would like more information, feel free to contact me at the above info.

Sandy



Moore! Many wore patriotic colors and **Alyce Aspler** wore the best hat! And that's the last byte for December - and 2024!

Bev



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- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



BCREA Convention Poster



Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @\$50.00 each
 Extra Donation: _____

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

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