



BCREA Newsletter



February, 2025

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

<https://browardrea.org>

Number 323

Members Create Cards for Cupid



February 6 Meeting

Time: 11:30

Place: Tropical Acres Restaurant

Address: 2500 Griffin Road

Just west of I-95

Program: : Surprise!

Theme - A Tropical Day at Tropical Acres



February is
Black History
Month

Bring to meeting:

- Luncheon Ticket
- Loose Change for Pot of Gold
- A new or gently used book for a child in hospital
- Wear Beachy Attire

From Luncheon Chair Diane Texter
Reminder!!!!

Annual Scholarship Luncheon
Thursday, February 6, 2024, 11:30 am
Tropical Acres Restaurant,
2500 Griffin Road 954-761-1744
Tickets are \$50

Order them by mail with the coupon on Page 5.
DEADLINE is January 31

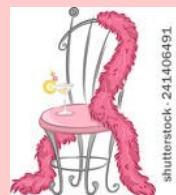
If you have new or "like new" items to donate for our scholarship fundraiser please call me at 954-972-8032.

We are asking each member to bring a new or gently-used children's book to the Luncheon.

Our theme this year is "A Tropical Day at Tropical Acres" See you there for a fun day!

I will have my pink boa!

Diane



President's Corner

BCREA's 2025 started off with challenges. Both the date and location of our January meeting needed to change because renovations at the Jim Ward Center were not completed, AND we had a dose of cold weather (BURRR). But we had about 40 members at the meeting, and everyone had a good time chatting with the people at their table while decorating Valentine cards for the Cupid Crew project.



The annual scholarship luncheon is BCREA's next big project. **Diane Texter** and her committee are busy planning the luncheon for **Thursday, February 6, at 11:30 AM**. The deadline to buy tickets is **January 31**. See the order form on page 5.

"Tropical Days at Tropical Acres" is this year's theme. I foresee tops with palm trees, aloha shirts, and muumuus with pink hibiscus flowers. Feather boas are always welcome, but no bikinis are allowed.



A favorite feature of the event is the gift baskets, which net about \$1,000 for scholarships. The baskets will be assembled at my house on **Sunday, February 2, at 1 PM**. If you'd like to help with the baskets, which I call Controlled Chaos, please let

me know.

This will be the last year that I coordinate the gift baskets. A new chair needs to step forward and/or BCREA needs to devise a different way to organize the gift baskets. So, put on your thinking caps, as the baskets are very profitable and lots of fun!

See you at the luncheon!

Anne

BCREA Officers....

President

Anne French

954-579-1719

President-Elect

JoAnne Kitchen Simmons

954-804-0647

Secretary

Karen Avery

954-806-1678

Treasurer

Carol Roland

054-472-2389

From the President Elect

Cupid (Sue Colton) and her crew got over 150 valentines cards done in record time during our January meeting. What a great time of professional learning it was to behold. My heart warms with the incredible team work at our January 9, 2025 meeting.



The Jim & Evelyn Morris Scholarship team worked tirelessly to make certain that all current Broward County personnel are privy to the availability of funds made accessible to continue their education or careers.

Scholarship information is available at our website (browardrea.org); search for the Scholarship column on the left and tab down for the Jim & Evelyn Morris Scholarship. Deadline is March 30, 2025.

On January 13, the executive board will travel to Okeechobee for the annual FREF Southern Symposium. I'm excited, as I am on the program leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then, in February we will all gather at Tropical Acres for our annual scholarship luncheon. I do hope to see you there.

Sincerely, *JoAnne*

From District Director Sue Colton

Step 1 of AARP Cupid Crew 2025 was a sensational success at our January BCREA meeting. Get a bunch of retired educators together, give them a project, and watch them go to town! We eagerly embellished 200 Valentine's Day cards with hearts, messages, and our logo. STEP 2 will occur on February 13th at the Riverland Branch Library, 2710 W Davie Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312. BCREA has a room reserved from 12:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. where we will unwrap 200 live roses, wrap them with tissue and ribbon, and attach our decorated cards for delivery. If you plan on picking up and delivering roses, please email me at scolton@bellsouth.net for detailed directions. You may begin to deliver your roses as soon as you have them. We have identified a list of our members and addresses who cannot attend meetings due to health or transportation and those who have recently lost a loved one. ALSO: You may also deliver to cherished friends or family members



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Information Services

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



Bev's Bytes...



The winners of the scholarship fundraiser were

\$20 - **Anne French**. Two \$10 bills were won by **Ellen Emery** who

donated one back to the pot. \$10 was also



won by **Linda Gerson**



and **Wilma Taylor** (Below)



Flowers were won by **Val Proffer, Josephine Walker, Alyce Aspler and Dorothy Moore**.



A box of chocolates was won by **Marcia Coffey** (far left)

Welcome to February of 2025 which happens to be "National Self Check Month." This is a great reminder to check in on our emotional and mental health and our overall well-being. February is the month where we reset ourselves, focus on improving our mental and physical health and all about sharing love! "Don't cry over spilled milk." (Feb 11) suggests that there's no point to being upset over something that has already happened and cannot be changed. Move forward and "Make A Friend Day" (Feb 11), show your love on both Valentine's Day (Feb 14) and National Pet Day (Feb 20) and the entire month is dedicated to National Love Your Library Month.

In this age of available technology, we have the ability to read anytime or anywhere audio books, e-books, magazines, best-sellers, etc. just by using our library card and opening an app to view any library. Two highly rated apps are:

<https://www.hoopladigital.com> ;
or
<https://apps.apple.com/app/libby-the-library-app>.

While we are sharing all this love and not crying over "spilt" milk, let's give ourselves a little love and comfort. There are several or-

ganizations who have developed lists of Senior discounts that may be beneficial to our needs: <https://www.aarp.org> (offering savings and discounts on dining, travel, health and wellness products, and entertainment), <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com> (variety of deals including items from pizza to movie tickets), <https://seniorliving.org> (discounts from retail and restaurants to travel and leisure activities), <https://broward-county.momcollective.com> (giving resources and events in Broward for seniors). Always check first to ensure that the offer is still available and that you are eligible for the discount. If you know of any free or discounted activities, please let us know. Don't just save your good deeds for **National Random Acts of Kindness Day (Feb 17)**, let's practice this one EVERYDAY! Stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others.

Sallie



Passages



Happy Birthday to our Birthday Club (members over 85!) **Julia Penley 2/24**



Thinking of You... **Darcy Drago Diane Texter Arline Ziller**



In Memoriam **Mary Perfect 9/17/24 Martha Pipes 9/19/24**



Welcome to new member **Clarissa Coddington**



And that's the last byte for February! *Happy Valentine's Day!* *Bev*

Literacy

Chair: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-557-5817 slef1234@gmail.com



It was Dr. Seuss who wrote in his book "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!": "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." That could become our BCREA literacy motto. The more books we give, the more children can read. The more children read, the more they succeed. Please follow the theme of our February luncheon and bring along a new book with a "tropical theme". Think beach, water, sun, sea life and fun. Here are some fa-

vorites: Hello Ocean, Where the Ocean Meets the Sand, Flotsam, Deep in the Ocean. And there are so many more! Don't forget you can bring a book to the March meeting as well. It's never too late to give a child a book. You can also bring an adult book to the March meeting. Memorial Manor has been very appreciative of the books we have added to their library. Remember when you go the extra mile, it's not because you missed the exit on I595. It's because you are the special person you are!

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other organizations you may belong to. YOU, our **BCREA Cupid Crew**, will then go forth to spread joy and love to those human hearts who need it.

Sue



Fund Raising

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



Hi Everyone, It was great seeing you all at the January meeting.

Our **Super Zoom Bingo** is April 17 at 1:00 on Zoom. Please! BCREA needs your help. The money from Bingo goes to buy new books for children at Joe DiMaggio Hospital. Even if you don't play Bingo buy Bingo cards and give them to someone else. We always have a lot of fun. The more people that play, the more fun we have. Bingo cards are \$10.00 for 5 games. I will have Bingo cards at the March and April Meetings. Also you can send your money to:

Carol Roland
9721 SW 14 Place
Davie, FL 33324

Hope to see you at our fantastic luncheon at Tropical Acres on February 6.

Barbara

Volunteer Services/ Handbooks

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



Volunteer Services

Last call for 2024 service hours! I hope reporting them was one of your New Year's resolutions. I am closing out the books for 2024 & our report is due to FREA in the near future so e-mail me any unreported hours (dardra@att.net). Remember that any assistance that you provide to non-relatives count as does any

type of community service. Be sure to include your preparation & travel time.

Handbook/Directories

Copies will be mailed out to shut-ins & members who live outside of the tri-county area. Copies will also be available at all of our regular meetings.

Darcy

We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service every time



SunSentinel
MEDIA GROUP

From the Treasurer

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



FREF

Chair: Shirley Swartz
954-536-3401 Shirley.swartz@gmail.com



Happy Valentines Day to all my BCREA sweethearts: Huge THANK YOU to all members who have already purchased FREF EXTRAVAGANZA ticket(s). Remember you have two chances to win with each ticket. Tickets will be on sale at our Tropical Affair luncheon. Please remember your ten dollars or checkbook. Also, be sure to bring extra cash for our Amazing Basket Fundraiser. Thank you for your generous hearts on behalf of students' scholarships.

Shirley

FREF Scholarship Extravaganza

Tickets - Only \$10.00

Buy your tickets now for 2 Chances to win:

First, you will be in the District drawing for a \$100 winner in Broward, Dade or Palm Beach.

Second, you will have a chance to win:

\$500 Cash - 1st Prize

\$300 Cash - 2nd Prize

\$200 Cash - 3rd Prize

Fill out the form below and send with a check to:

Shirley Swartz
1921 SW 52 Terrace
Plantation, FL 33317

Make your check payable to FREF (Florida Retired Educators Foundation).

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

All donations will be used to fund the general scholarship program as well as the operating expenses of the Foundation.



If you have not already done so, don't forget to mail in your check for the BCREA Scholarship Luncheon with the form below to **Diane Texter**.

If you're close to the deadline, you may also send your check directly to me no later than January 20th.

Tickets are \$50.00 and no tickets will be sold at the door.

LuAnn Comes and I will begin collecting dues for 2024-25 starting in March.

Thanks to the following people who sent in donations to BCREA recently:

Undesignated

Jean Anderson Marianne Barr Missy Belsito
Sue Colton Sue Lochrie Grace Tyson
Amada Walker

Carol

Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @\$50.00 each

Extra Donation: _____

Entrée choices: ___ Prime Rib ___ Salmon
Name _____

Send a check made out to BCREA
Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope
to
Diane Texter
742 NW 69 Terrace
Margate, FL 33063
Deadline - January 24
954-972-8032

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
PERMIT NO. 409

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

*Happy
Volunteers*

The annual Holiday Board Luncheon was held at the home of Shirley Swartz on December 12 with 15 attending.



BCREA VOLUNTEER REPORTING FORM

Name _____
(Please Print)

Month _____, 20__

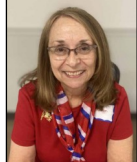
Volunteer hours working with adults _____
(persons who are non-family members;
this also includes literacy hours)

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 Dahoon Avenue
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

Membership

Chairman: LuAnn Comes
954-475-1510 lacomess987@aol.com



Happy New Year! I hope that each of you had a delightful holiday season! The holidays are always a great way to reconnect with family and friends. As the new year begins, I hope you will continue to connect with your friends at BCREA. The friendships developed and maintained through BCREA are one of the best reasons to be a member. If you are able to come to a meeting, the food is always delicious, too!

If you know someone who would like more information, please share our website (browardrea.org) or give them my email address and phone number so I can reach out to them.

I wish you a happy and healthy 2025! Hoping to see you at the February luncheon.

LuAnn