

January, 2018

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

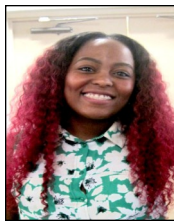
website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 266

Walker Elementary Chorus Nails Holiday Performance!



Rehearsing as everyone arrived at the December meeting, the Walker Elementary School Chorus under the direction of Laquasha Powell, was so quiet people didn't even realize they were there at



first. They completed the rehearsal and took their seats at the right of the auditorium and sat so quietly, again it was almost impossible

to believe there were 20 fourth and fifth grade students in the room. And then it was time for their performance. Wearing Santa hats, they launched into their program with a rousing rendition of "We Wish You

a Merry Christmas." They continued with songs about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the New Year. They did a fun clapping intro to a jazzed-up version of F-R-O-S-T-Y the Snowman! Bravo, Walker Chorus!

From Luncheon Chair Diane Texter **Save the Date**

Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Thursday, February 1, 2018, 11:30 am

Tropical Acres Restaurant, 2500 Griffin Road

Tickets are \$35 and will be sold at the

December and January meetings or

Order them by mail with the coupon on Page 5.

If you have new or "like new" items to donate for our scholarship fundraiser please bring them to the January meeting or 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 the Roaring Twenties, so gather up your beads, boas, feathers, & fringe! We will have a prize for the best dressed flapper. See you there for a fun day!

I will have my pink boa!

January 4 Meeting

Time: 11:45 am

Place: Deicke Auditorium

Address: 5701 Cypress Road
Plantation

(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

Program: : Neighborhood Action Team



Bring to meeting:

Potluck Dish to Share

School Supplies

Door Prize for Luncheon

Loose Change for Pot of Gold

Books for Elementary Students

Boxtops & Labels for Education

Aluminum pull-tabs

Coupons for our troops

Old cell phones & eyeglasses

\$\$ for February Luncheon ticket



President's Corner

As the new year approaches, I like to mentally review/assess what I have done during the current year. That way I can consider my weaknesses before making my new year resolutions.



This year I have discovered an important gap relating to BCREA. I started my President's column in October discussing a reason I believe it is important to be a member of BCREA and FREA and promised I would discuss other reasons later in the year. But hurricanes and other distractions blew the ideas out of my mind -- until now.

Did you know that FREA has agreements with various companies to provide services at reduced rates?

*Need a hearing aid or just a hearing analysis? You are entitled to both at local centers where you will receive reduced rates.

*Need insurance for your pet? FREA has agents offering reduced rates for that as well as for other forms of insurance such as cancer, dental, vision or auto.

*Are you hesitating to take an overseas trip because but are worried that you may need emergency medical assistance? FREA has an answer.

*Need assistance finding financial solutions for short or long term critical illness care? How about assistance annually to help you wade through the selection of the best Medicare health care provider that fits your unique situation -- at no cost?

*Need legal services, income or legacy planning? FREA has vetted and contracted with companies to help you with these and other issues.

Notice, that I have not named any specific companies. I am not trying to sell you anything except why it is beneficial to be a member of BCREA and FREA. I do, however, recommend that you check the FREA website: <http://FREA.org>. Then click on "New Benefits Available to Members" to see specifics on all opportunities available. And, if you are not a member, please join.

And may 2018 offer only good friendships, good fortune, and good health to all.

Carol

From the President-Elect.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's a standard greeting that we share with all whom we encounter after the December holidays are past. Nothing more needed to convey a spirit of goodwill to our fellow man. It brings the full spectrum of 365 days of Peace, Joy, Happiness, and Best Wishes into focus. It makes us look forward to the New Year with great anticipation, hoping for a better year than the one we are leaving behind.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to each of us may mean something quite different as we travel this path called life. Whatever it means, we should still be grateful that our lives have had a reasonable amount of satisfaction in serving our fellow man and remembering we are "our brother's keeper." We should be grateful that we have been kept safe by God's grace and mercy to be here for another year. Safety is always our number one priority if we are to enjoy those Happy New Year greetings throughout the year.

Our guests for January are members of the NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) from the City of Fort Lauderdale. This group responds to residents in the same manner as "our brother's keeper" in that they are the "extra eyes" needed to keep us safe from the various forms of human predation in our neighborhoods.



Happy New Year To All!

Lillian

Help Fill the Pot of Gold



Empty your purses, rob your piggy banks, clean out your pockets, and bring your spare coins to the January Meeting!

At the February Scholarship Luncheon, one lucky member will win a Pot of Gold. Last year **Diane Texter** won \$118! How big will this year's prize be? It depends on you and your coins!

Volunteer Services / Directories

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

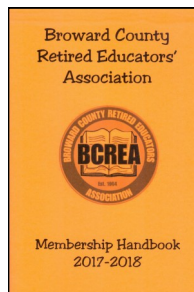


Volunteer Service
Happy New Year! Hope you all had a great holiday. At our January meeting we will collect school supplies for the Kids in Need Resource Center of the Broward Education Foundation. Their wish list includes pens, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, notebook paper, folders, index cards and arts and crafts supplies. These

items go to teachers in low-income schools. BCREA member **Mary Taylor** volunteers at the warehouse and says their supplies always run low by the end of the first semester.

Thanks for your donation of beef jerky last month for our troops overseas.

2017-2018 Membership Handbook/Directory



Handbooks will be available at all of our meetings including the February Scholarship Luncheon. Copies will be mailed to members who live out of the area and to those who are shut-ins and are unable to attend our meetings.

Darcy

Social Committee

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



A very Happy New Year to everyone. We ended the last meeting for 2017 on a "high note" while appreciating the wonderful holiday chorus, the friendship and of course the fabulous and festive food. Did you notice that we had to add an extra table to accommodate all of the goodies which you brought in to share? Thank you to everyone for remembering to take home your dishes and containers; however, we did have two items which were left behind.

One was an insulated blue/gray carry bag from California Innovations which contained a casserole. The other item was a small red-topped Rubbermaid container. Please claim these at the next meeting.

Along with our January meeting, there will be many events to celebrate during the month! There is National Trivia Day on the 4th, Houseplant Appreciation Day on the 10th, and of course Friday the 13th... Well, no worries

about Friday the 13th - it comes on a Saturday this year! Don't forget to make your list of New Year Resolutions (as "Water my houseplants" and "Think of trivia questions") and share them with the group when we "ring in" BCREA 2018.

If you are traveling, be safe and if you are not feeling well, we keep you in our thoughts.

Happy wishes and the best of all things in 2018 to you and your family. From your Social Committee,

Sallie

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Passages

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!



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

Nancy Sword 1/01
Beverly Merrill 1/03
Claudia Finlayson, 1/23
Norma Van Buskirk 1/23
Wilise Langford 1/25

Thinking of You

Myken Brady
Shirley Ernst
Arline Ziller

From the Treasurer

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



Happy Holidays to all! As we begin collecting for our Annual Luncheon in February, please consider including a few extra dollars for our scholarship fund. Several of you have given an extra \$15- making the check out for \$50. In the past, a significant number of members who are not able to attend have donated that \$35 check to the scholarship fund. It is truly a kind and meaningful gesture.

Our latest list of members who have made generous donations are:

Luellen Chambers LuAnn Comes
Janice Johnson Sylvia Milks
Glenn and Rita Sanderson
Joyce Stokes Michael Sutton
Gwen Thompson

Friendship

Chairman: Marsy Smith
954-962-6433 smithmarsy@aol.com



Happy New Year!

I want to welcome **Marianne Scott** to the Friendship Committee. I met her for the first time at our last meeting and she will be a great addition. We are still looking for members to serve as greeters at our upcoming meetings. If you are interested, please contact me via email or phone. You will also find the yellow greeter sign-up sheet on the check-in table. Hope to see you all at our first meeting of 2018.

Marsy



Twins Juanita C. Elmore and Juanetta Curinton



Julie Biancardi & Carol Roland

Information Services

Chairman: Kathlyn Barno
954-581-4731 BB9214@aol.com



Gone are the happy times of the winter holiday season, We've drunk the last toast to the New Year, Now we are into the winter season. Lucky for us we don't have the snow and ice to contend with but we do have are the long winter nights. Unless we are caught up in the tourist activities these can become quite stressful. Stress can lead to depression and that is not good. Researchers say that happiness is good for you. In their findings they raise the possibility that happiness may help prevent disease and help in healing. Researchers have found several ways to beat the "blues." Most important is to keep moving, Exercise releases substances in your brains that help you to feel good. Working out just three times

a week can reduce stress. Eat healthy. Instead of filling your diet with sweets try eating more fruit and grains. These produce serotonin that improves the mind. When you feel blue don't retreat into yourself. Involve yourself in activities that give you a sense of purpose and spend time with friends. Talking to a therapist can help you change negative thoughts and find new ways to solve problems. If you have extreme sadness don't hesitate to see your doctor. You may need medical treatment. Remember if winter is here, can spring be far behind? Keep looking up and have happy thoughts.

Kathlyn

BCREA Officers....

President

Carol Roland
954-472-2389

President-Elect

Lillian Small
954-288-9211

Secretary

Josephine Walker
954-742-2430

Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343

Welcome New Members



Cheryl Barrios



and

Luellen Chambers

The cost of BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by



Call (954)468-2728 or Online at BSCU.org

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946



Literacy

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



February 8! The deadline is coming. Be sure that fifth graders know that essays for the Margaret Poppell Fifth Grade Essay Contest must be turned in by February 8. The Literacy Committee is looking forward to reading this year's entries.

BCREA is collecting books for Pantry of Broward, a non-profit organization that provides food for grandparents raising grandchildren and foster children. Be sure to bring gently used and new books to our January meeting. At our spring meeting we will add bookplates to all the books that we have collected this year and add post-it notes to encourage youth to read, read, read.

A big thank you to everyone who brought children's books to the December meeting. Let's continue filling up the book box. *Sandy*

Bev's Bytes....

The Walker Chorus has to be the best-behaved group of twenty 9 - 11-year-olds I've ever encountered! Their director **Ms. Powell** is certainly doing something right - besides producing a good show! Hospitality Chair **Ilene Miller** reported a total of 60 in attendance. There was one difficulty - no one could find the nametags! This left a lot of us trying to remember names!!

Another glitch - we had no thought for the day to ponder: **Frances Smoot** forgot the meeting! **Myken Brady** missed the meeting because she broke her elbow and can't drive! New member **Suzanne Atkin** brought a prospective member with her - her one-year-old grandson **Creed**. She also brought a LOT of books - left from her classroom library!



Winners of the Scholarship



Fundraiser were: \$20 - **Amada Walker**; \$10 each - **Karen Avery**, **Echo Heyer** and **JoAnn Corder**. Flowers were

Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @ \$35.00 each
Extra Donation: _____

Entrée choices: Prime Rib of Beef
Chicken
Fish
Vegetarian

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

won by **Diane Texter** and **Diane Raymond**; and books were won by **Chris Hynes**. Membership Chairman **Susan Lochrie** presented a \$25 gift card from Macy's To **Karen Avery** for bringing in 3



new members - **Linda Gibson**, **Chris Hynes** and **Leonora Smoot** - in 2017.



Community Service Chairman **Darcy Drago's** drawing for turning in volunteer hours was won by **Diane Jarchow**!

And finally, **Becky Williams** entertained us with an impromptu rendition of "White Christmas." Thanks, Becky! And that's the last byte for January!!

Happy 2018
Bev

- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Rosetta Watkins
& Becky Williams

Seen at the
December
Meeting



Byron Langenfass &
Ilene Miller greet
Doris Cotnoir



No name tags is
bad for me!!

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
4346 Carambola Circle North
Coconut Creek, FL 33066

FREF Extravaganza

Tickets - Only \$10.00

Buy your yellow tickets now for a Chance to WIN:

\$500 Cash - 1st Prize

\$300 Cash - 2nd Prize

\$200 Cash - 3rd Prize

\$100 Cash Guaranteed Prize to a winner in District 10:
Dade, Broward or Palm Beach.

Donations are used to fund scholarships for future Florida teachers. Buy Tickets at the January - March meetings or fill out the form below and send with a check to:

Anne French
1017 NE 28 Drive
Wilton Manors, FL 33334

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

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____