

AMBA, Installation & Game Replace Singers

The **John Knox Singers** were scheduled for the December meeting of BCREA but had to cancel. Fortunately, **Alexander Williams**, District Manager for **AMBA** (Association Member Benefits Advisors) was available. AMBA is a benefits partner with Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA). He shared a menu of exclusive supplemental insurance opportunities with group rates for all

FREA members, other crucial insurance coverage such as emergency medical transportation, cancer/heart/stroke insurance, and more; and a wealth of discount offers through myAMBAdiscounts.com.



At long last, the BCREA slate of officers is complete - with the addition of **Anne French** as the president-elect. At the December meeting Past-president **Carol Roland** installed Anne and presented each of the officers with a rose. They are pictured above, left to right, President **Sue Colton**, President-elect **Anne French**; Secretary **Karen Avery**; and Treasurer **Marelise LeClerc**.

For holiday fun, **Darcy Drago** passed out "Name That Christmas Carol" which gave interesting Jeopardy-like hints to use in identifying the songs! Tables worked together to solve the puzzles. Great fun for a December Meeting.

From Luncheon Chair Anne French
Annual Scholarship Luncheon
Thursday, February 3, 2020, 11:30 am
Theme - Mardi Gras
Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road

Tickets are \$37 each with a choice of prime rib, fish, chicken, or a vegetation plate. Tickets will be sold at the January meeting or may be ordered by mail. See the form on page 5 in this Newsletter.

Since our theme is Mardi Gras, wouldn't a jazz combo be great, or another New Orleans themed performance? If you have any ideas or contacts, PLEASE let me know.

Fortunately, members donate many items for the prize baskets at the Luncheon. But putting the baskets together is an undertaking - I refer to it as **Controlled Chaos**, but enjoyable. We will be organizing baskets on

Sunday, January 30, 2022, 1:00 pm
at my house in Wilton Manors.

We will be following all COVID Protocols. If you would like to help, let me know and I will send directions.

Anne

January 6 Meeting

Time: 12:30 pm

Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

Program: : Kathy Whitt - Chair Yoga



Bring to meeting:

Bag Lunch if you want

Prizes for Luncheon -

Gift cards,

New items,

Baskets

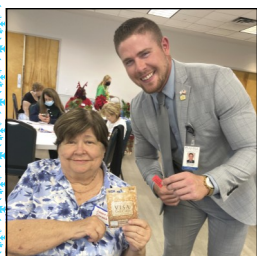
Loose Change for Pot of Gold

Aluminum pull-tabs

Old cell phones & eyeglasses

President's Corner

Thank you to **Alexander Williams** for flying in with his "sleigh full of gifts" for the first-ever, in-person, Florida local unit presentation for Broward County Retired Educators Association. We were so sad when the John Knox Villages Singers had to cancel their show with us for our December meeting, but in comes Alexander, who saved the day by flying from his home base in Birmingham, Alabama, and wowing the crowd! Additional surprise gifts included two gift cards for our monthly scholarship



fundraiser - won by

Carol Roland and **Jannes Strauch**. Plus, he made a contribution to our Annual Scholarship Luncheon in February! Next, Alexander became an official member of our



local BCREA Unit! WOW - Alexander ROCKS!! Finally, Darcy Drago guided us through a challenging Christmas Carol Table Game and distributed our 2021-2022 Membership Handbooks. and Carol Roland officially inducted **Anne French** as our new president-elect. Congratulations, Anne!

I hope everyone has a beautiful holiday season with family and friends and a Happy, Healthy NEW YEAR for 2022.

Join us on January 6 for Chair Yoga with **Kathy Whitt**, Community Wellness Specialist, Holy Cross Health.

Sue



President Elect's Corner

I am excited to fill the role as President-Elect for BCREA. I look forward to working with all members to make the Unit meetings interesting, and informative - while we have some fun.

But this cannot happen without your suggestions. What would you like to have as a BCREA Program?

*Have you attended a get together or meeting with an interesting program?

*Have you heard about a local author who would be a good presenter?

*Are you involved in a local organization that BCREA needs to learn about?

*Do YOU have a hobby, expertise, or interest that you would like to share?

Contact me by email - annefrench10@gmail.com or by calling 954-579-1719.

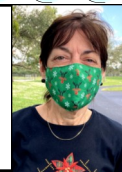
Anne



Social Committee

Chairman: **Marianne Scott**

954-321-9174 msscott33317@yahoo.com



Welcome to 2022! It's that time of year when we make promises to ourselves to do things like exercise more, lose weight or do things for the community in which we live. With that in mind, the Social Committee is going to help our community by starting to recycle again. The bin will be by the beverage table. As we return to this, there are a few things to remember. 1) Please put only EMPTY water bottles or soda cans in the bin. 2) Do not leave the cap on the water bottle when dropping

in the recycle bin. 3) Please do not use the recycling bin for coffee stirrers or sugar packets. There is a container by the coffee pot for those discards. 4) Remove the pop top from your soda can to pass on to Darcy. I'm hoping that this, like many resolutions, will not be short lived. Thank you for our cooperation.

As we begin this new year, take several minutes for yourself on January 8 and celebrate National Bubble Bath Day while listening to (con't on right above)

We Need Items For the Raffle!

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!

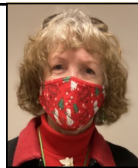
Grade Essay Contest dead line, February 15. Be sure to get the information to schools and encourage fifth graders to write an essay about a grandparent or grandparent figure. Forms and more information are on the BCREA website.

→ Social Committee, con't

Elvis. It's his birthday! If you have small grandchildren read them some stories from A.A. Milne on January 18 which is Winnie the Pooh Day. Don't forget to bring your lunch on January 6. Happy New Year! *Marianne*

Information Services

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

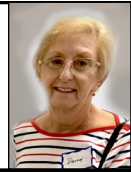


Not the usual article from your Information Services team however, one of the more important ones to include at this time of the year. Reflecting on this group's activities, it is worth mentioning what a wonderful, supportive and giving assembly we are and continue to be. There are so many ways that we give to our community with the scholarship fund, donations to various charities, book donations and collections for so many groups. All are so important, yet the most valued is how we work together and support one another.

As many of us are setting up the room prior to the monthly meeting, there are always individuals who come up and ask how they can help. Members bring in donations of greeting cards for the Friendship Committee, frequently paper goods and other supplies are donated to the Social Committee, ideas are shared with the Information Services Committee, penny, nickels, dimes, and quarters are offered up, raffle tickets are purchased, community service hours are performed, and at the last meeting, donated Mardi Gras decorations for the Scholar-

Volunteer Services / Directories

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



Volunteer Service

At our January meeting we will collect nonperishable food for the **Pantry of Broward, Inc.** The Pantry serves seniors in need living on low, fixed incomes & grandparents raising their grandchildren throughout Broward County. One of the services that the Pantry provides is delivering monthly 55 pound nutritional food packages to close to 600 clients. They are a valuable resource in our community, assisting clients with applying for affordable housing & assisting grandparents with applying for legal custody of

their grandchildren. They also provide individual



unique assistance as needed.

Leonora Smoot was the winner of the Volunteer

Hours prize.

Membership Handbook/Directory

Copies will be sent out to shut-ins & members living out of the area after the holidays.

Wishing you all a happy & healthy New Year!

Darcy

ship luncheon arrived! Often times, words of encouragement, notes of sympathy and shared good news are exchanged. We are a positive, caring and supportive assembly and we show our concern for one another. No matter what you celebrate this season, enjoy the moments with your family and friends and continue to care about one another and the world around us. Thank you for being so giving and staying a member of this wonderful group of generous people. Stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to each other.

Hello, 2022!

Wishing everyone a beautiful and joyful New Year!

Sallie

Passages



Happy Birthday to our
Birthday Club
(members over 85!)
Beverly Merrill 1/03
Norma Van Buskirk 1/23



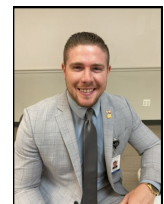
Thinking of You
Diane Texter
Arline Ziller



In Memoriam
Diane Raymond
11/14/21



Welcome New Member
Alexander Williams



Membership...

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



A good reason to join BCREA is to maintain friendships and make new friends. Remember to ask your friends to come to a meeting. I can send membership information to someone when you call or email their address to me.

Encourage your friends to go to the BCREA website and read about our Mission, History and Activities.

Alexander Williams, the AMBA Benefits Advisor for South Florida, outlined the advantages of membership at our December meeting - and then became a member himself!

Dues for the upcoming 2022-2023 year will be collected starting in February 2022. Information and a form will be in the February Newsletter.

Susan

Cultural Affairs

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



Several activities are being planned for members and their guests:

Are you interested in seeing the musical, **Sister Act** at the **Lauderhill Performing Arts Center** on Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 pm? The cost will be \$55.00 or less depending on the number of people who attend. If interested, e-mail me by January 1 to reserve seats. You may pay at the January meeting. To get the best seats, tickets need to be ordered by January 10th. Tickets are non refundable.

The **BCREA Book Club** is holding their first meeting on January 6 and membership is filled to capacity. if you did not already sign up but are interested in becoming part of it, e-mail Carol for more details.

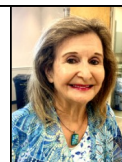
We are also planning a "Fun N Frolic" outdoor activity tentatively scheduled for a Plantation area park on Thursday, March 10th from 1:00-3:00. A variety of games will be set up for you to enjoy the outdoors with your BCREA friends. More details will be presented at the January meeting. Additional activities are being planned such as a "field trip" to Top Golf in Miami Gardens or taking Brightline train to West Palm Beach for lunch. For more information, e-mail me.

Carol

We will be having our ZOOM BINGO on April 28 at 1:00. Please note the date change. More Info later.

From the Treasurer

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



Even though this is our January Newsletter, as I write this, we are in the December holidays. In this giving season, I constantly reflect on how generous our members are. I am delighted to share with all of you a sizable donation BCREA has received from one of our members who has passed away. **Evelyn Morris**, a long time member of BCREA, has bequeathed to our group over \$52,000. We are in the process of establishing how the money for scholarships will be used in her name. We plan on giving teachers who are presently in the Broward system money to pursue an advanced degree. The \$52,00 will be kept separate from the scholarships we confer upon students studying to be teachers. I will keep you informed as to how the generous gift is bestowed upon teachers.

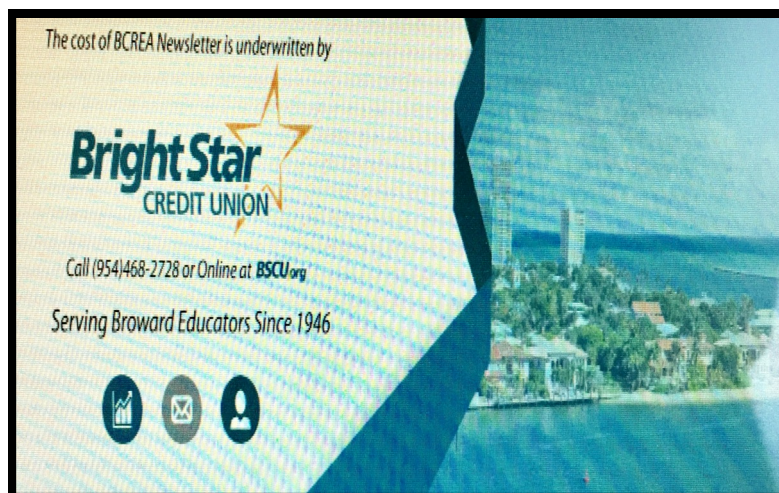
Kudos to the following members who have recently donated to our Scholarship Fund:

Member	In Memory Of
Sally Macek	Diane Raymond
Bobby David, Priscilla Peck,	Diane Raymond
Marian Resch, Peggy Schultz,	Diane Raymond
Jannes Strauch	Diane Raymond

Undesignated Donations

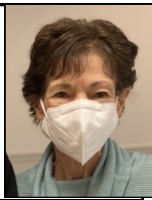
Judy Joseph Elizabeth Mann Ronald Mayhew
Richard Perry Sallie Sherwood
Alexander Williams (our guest speaker, District Director of AMBA and our newest member)

Marelise



Literacy

Chairman: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-557-5817 Sle123@bellsouth.net



Do you recognize MPLLP? It stands for Margaret Poppell's Literacy for Life Project. One goal of MPLLP is to encourage literacy by getting books in the hands of youngsters. BCREA is a strong supporter and you can easily participate in this valuable program. BCREA Book Fund is moving toward reaching our goal of \$500 to buy new books for Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital. We are more

than halfway there. Let's encourage our grand-kids to read and get them involved. See how many books they can read over winter break. What child doesn't love a challenge? Multiply every book they read by \$2, \$3 or \$4 and send the donation to our BCREA Book Fund supporting MPLLP. Please send checks to Marelise LeClerc. Minimum of \$5. One reminder -- only one month left before our Fifth
Con't on page 3 - Literacy

As I'm writing this, I just learned that **Diane Texter's** husband **Ray** has passed. Our sympathy to Diane and her family. The printed Newsletters for the December meeting finally arrived today - 4 days



after the meeting! Not sure what caused the delay! Thanks to **President Sue** for the delicious cupcakes at the meeting - ones for Hanukkah and ones for Christmas!

I've been missing our 2018-19 digital scrapbook for a couple of meetings and although I've announced it no one has returned it - so I'm thinking whoever has it has missed these meetings or simply doesn't remember they have it. Please have a look around your house and see if you can locate it. This is what it looks like! →



The winners of the Scholarship Fund-raiser this month were: L to R \$20 - **Mary Cangemi**; \$10 each - **Anne French** and **Suzanne Atkin**.



Books written by Sue Colton were won by **Sally Macek** and **Barbara Lewis**. (far left)

Flowers were won by (l-r) **Val Proffer**, **Peggy Schultz**, **Paula Talese**, **Linda Gibson** and **Ellen Emery**.

And that's the last byte for January.

Happy 20 22

Bev

Scholarship Luncheon Ticket Order Form

Number of tickets: _____ @ \$37.00 each

Extra Donation: _____

Entrée choices: _____ Prime rib _____ Chicken
_____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian

Name _____

Send a check made out to BCREA

Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope

to

Anne French

1017 NE 28 Drive

Wilton Manors, FL. 33334

Deadline - January 20

Bev's Bytes



- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Holiday Attire at the Meeting

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

FREF Extravaganza 22 Tickets - Only \$10.00

Buy your tickets now for 2 Chances to WIN:

1st - \$100 Cash Guaranteed Prize to a winner in District 10: Dade,
Broward or Palm Beach. PLUS

2nd - \$500 Cash – 1st Prize

\$300 Cash – 2nd Prize

\$200 Cash - 3rd Prize

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 _____

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