



BCREA

Newsletter



March, 2022

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

<http://browardrea.org>

Number 300

JazzSLAM Makes the Good Times Roll

Sixty-six members and friends donned masks and Mardi Gras attire and braved the threat of the dreaded Covid to enjoy a delicious meal at Tropical Acres in Dania Beach on Thursday, February 3. An amazing total of 69 prize baskets awaited the red Scholarship Fundraiser tickets to be placed in the tiny gift bags attached to each one. There were several other prizes donated by BrightStar (2 \$100 gift cards won by **Betty Ouellette** and **Shirley Swartz**) and AMBA (an iPad Mini won by

Brenda Roberts) as well as the "Pot of Gold" to which members had been contributing loose change throughout the year - won by **Marsy Smith** which contained \$170.01. **Carol Roland** created 8 fresh flower arrangements adorned with ribbons, beads and masks in Mardi Gras colors for centerpieces. These were awarded to the person at each table selected as the one whose outfit best



matched the theme. Entertainment was provided by **JazzSLAM**, a trio from Gold Coast Jazz Society who also entertain at schools throughout Broward.

Mari Bell plays keyboard; **Larry Kendzora** plays clarinet, soprano sax and cornet; and **Senegal Apostelo** plays bass. Co-chairing the event were **Diane Texter** and **Anne French**. Matching programs and nametags were created



by **Bev Hoppe**. President **Sue Colton** who attended FREA days at the Florida Legislature had to fly from Tallahassee at 6 am to arrive back in Fort Lauderdale at 10:30 am - after a layover in Atlanta. But she made it!

Val Proffer is BCREA's VOY

By Darcy Drago

Val Proffer is BCREA's Volunteer of the Year. Despite the pandemic Val accrued over 1300 volunteer hours this year. Five years ago she and an associate member of her church established the Christ Church Visitation Team, visiting members who were home bound, in a permanent rehab or nursing facility or in the hospital. When Covid hit they changed their name to the Christ Church Care Team and focused on sending cards and making "check-in" phone calls. She is also one of the leaders of their Grief Sup-



port Group. In 2021 her church adopted an elementary school in a lower socioeconomic area. Val collects school supplies for them and

makes healthy snacks and drinks available for their Reading Incentive Program. She has also been involved in securing much need headsets to facilitate student learning. At our monthly BCREA meetings Val sells tickets for our scholarship fundraisers. She also volunteers for the Village People the BTU retiree group.

March 3 Meeting

Time: 12:30 pm

Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

Program: Legislative by Sue Colton

Memorial Service

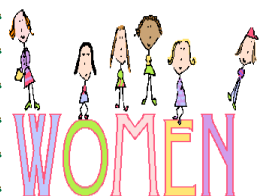
March 17 - St. Patrick's

Day

March is

Women's

History Month



Bring to meeting:

Service Hours Reports!!

BYOL

(Bring Your Own Lunch

Aluminum pull-tabs

Old eyeglasses

Old Cell phones

President's Corner

I would like to thank **Dustin Jacobs**, Vice-President of Marketing for Bright-Star Credit Union, for contributing two \$100 Visa gift cards to the special white ticket prize drawing as well as their annual check for \$2000 to offset the cost of our monthly newsletter. I would also



like to thank new member **Alexander Williams**, District Manager for AMBA for flying from Alabama to attend. Dressed in his finest Mardi Gras jacket and sparkle shoes, he awarded an iPad Mini to a lucky winner! We love our supporting organization partnerships! My third thank you goes to **Mari Bell** and the **JazzSLAM** Musicians from the Gold Coast Jazz Society for their awesome and authentic New Orleans jazz-style entertainment. Kudos to member **Amada Walker**, who secured them for us. Finally, I can't say enough about our luncheon committee who worked their Mardi Gras magic, co-chairs (**Diane Texter** and **Anne French**), centerpieces (**Carol Roland**), programs & nametags (**Bev Hoppe**), prize baskets, ticket sales (supporting cast). **Lillian Small**, who gave our Inspirational Thought for the Day, was so persuasive in her message she caused Carol Roland to go out and buy a new car!

May you continue to dream in PURPLE, (justice) GREEN, (faith), and GOLD, (power).

Legislative

Chair: Sue Colton

954-695-5065 scolton@bellsouth.net



I had the honor to represent BCREA in Tallahassee the week of January 31- February 3 for FREA's Legislative Days. Our 2022 State Co-Chairs, **Larry Carmichael** and **Linda Edson**, along with the FREA Legislative Committee from Districts 1-10, spent this whirlwind tour meeting legislators across the state regarding BCREA's Legislative Priorities. **Con't on page 5**

President-Elect's Corner

Wow! What a great Scholarship Luncheon. People had fun, won prizes and we raised enough money for at least one scholarship. This was a win, win and win!



About those prizes - there were more than 69 prize baskets donated by our members and friends. Putting together the baskets was controlled chaos but BCREA has a basket brigade extraordinaire. This crew included **Marsy Smith**, **Betty Ouellette**, **Doris Cotnoir**, **Shirley Swartz**, **LuAnn Comes**, **Carol Roland** and **Diane Texter**.

Members continued to work at the luncheon. **LuAnn Comes** and **Susan Lochrie** kept their wits and sold tickets worth more than \$1,100. **Carol Roland** out did herself by creating amazing Mardi Gras themed centerpieces.

At our March meeting on Thursday, March 3, we will be concentrating on legislative issues and honoring those members who have passed in the last year.

BCREA lost 10 members during 2021 - 2022: **Lillie Fye**, **Margaret Green**, **Mary Jo Kirkley**, **Betty McNaull**, **Helen Munnings**, **Laraine Olliviere**, **Diane Raymond**, **Glenn Sanderson**, **David Seigler** and **Barbara Wilder**. **Darcy Drago** and **Frances Smoot** will conduct the memorial service.

The Florida Legislature is currently in session. There are several bills on their agenda that will impact education and our pensions. Our voices need to be heard by our representatives. **Sue Colton**, who recently attended FREA Legislative Days in Tallahassee, will update us on these issues and how we can make sure our legislators hear from us.

Anne

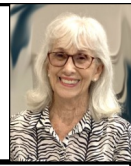
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Membership

954-525-8503

slochrie@bellsouth.net

Chair: Susan Lochrie



Time For Membership Dues - 2022-2023

Payments for Membership Dues start in March. We encourage you to pay early, before June 30, 2022, if possible. By paying dues of \$50. directly to BCREA you have only one check and mailing. Your State dues of \$35 will be sent to FREA by our Treasurer. The remaining \$15 is used for Broward Unit expenses. IMPORTANT SUGGESTION: You may receive a reminder from FREA to pay dues. If you choose to pay your dues directly to FREA, instead of to BCREA, please remember to add the local dues of \$15. to the payment in the appropriate space. We are reimbursed for the local dues by FREA. Please give me a call or email me with your questions about local and state dues. dues using the form below. Call or email me with questions!

Susan

BROWARD COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

_____ I would prefer to receive my *Newsletter* by email only

Date Retired _____ Retired From _____

Position _____

Dues:\$50.00; Donation for Scholarships: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to BCREA and mail to

Susan Lochrie, BCREA Membership

P.O. Box 30533, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33303

Passages

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to our
Birthday Club

(members 85 and over)

Nancy Adams 03/20

Warren Cox 03/20

Ethel Gerakas 03/20

Wayne McWhinney 03/24

Carol Merz 03/31



Thinking of You....

Susan Lochrie

Arline Ziller



In Memoriam

Barbara Wilder 1/29/22

Ben's

Bytes....

Membership

Chair **Susan**



Lochrie attended the luncheon, helped with the fundraiser, sent in her article for this Newsletter - and then fell and broke her hip. She was even texting from the hospital to be sure her article was correct! She had surgery on Monday and we're all sending her good wishes.

Thanks to **Sue Redfern** and **Betty Ouelette** who arranged programs on the tables and handed out name-tags. **Carol Roland** provided the floral centerpieces which con't on page 6

Information Services

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



Even though the 1st day of March is National Peanut Butter Day, March is also recognized as National Nutrition Month. Harvard Woman's Health newsletter suggests that there are two diets which might be beneficial in producing antiinflammatory benefits, the DASH diet and the Mediterranean diet. Not only may these two diets help to prevent arthritis but may help to manage heart disease and diabetes. While we focus on our nutrition, we can also increase our activity levels. For some of us, March also means that it is time for Spring Cleaning. Just a few quick tips and tricks for dusting off the furniture and cleaning the windows...make a schedule, de-clutter before you start, clean from top to bottom, donate unused clothing, clean dryer vent, sort and organize that junk drawer! For the gardeners in our group, now is also the time for taking some time for pampering, trimming and pruning the yard and flower beds. The daffodil is the plant of the month; however you can plant cucumbers, collards, peppers, petunias & marigolds. Also during March, we recognize that tax time is fast approaching. The Internal Revenue site has useful information and tax suggestions such as: guard your personal information, beware of scammers posing as a representative of the IRS, file early to impede tax refund thieves, etc. Use the <https://www.irs.gov> for questions regarding filing, assistance, and helpful taxpayer programs. Remember humans are the weakest link in cyber security. Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 AM, don't forget to Spring Forward. Stay fit, stay sharp, and send positive thoughts to others. *Sallie*

Volunteer Services / Directories

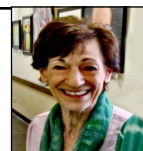
Chair: Darcia Drago
954-977-7247 dardra@att.net



Last call for volunteer hours for 2021. The report goes in to FREA this month. Congratulations to **Val Proffer**, BCREA's Volunteer of the Year. We wish her well in District competition. We don't have any group project this month but we will be collecting supplies for the Florida Humane Society at our April meeting. *Darcy*

Literacy

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



Literacy is so important. If you can't read or choose not to read, you don't know what is going on around you. BCREA is such a great opportunity to keep up with FREA and AARP news. Our March meeting will provide an opportunity to learn what is current in our Florida Legislature. Literacy is not only reading, but it includes writing. I encourage you to write a postcard or email your state representative and senator, letting them know about your views on education, schools, teachers and retirement. Let's be sure that our voices are heard! *Sandy*

Fund Raising

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



Here's the info about our fun upcoming **ZOOM BINGO** on **APRIL 28 at 1PM.**

The cost is 5 games for \$10.00. You can order as many cards as you want. There will be prizes for each game. Please send your check made out to BCREA and a self addressed/stamped envelope by April 17 to:

Marelise LeClerc
615 N 31 Road
Hollywood, Fla 33021

You can also bring a check or cash to our March and April meetings and get your cards. So come one and all to enjoy BINGO and raise money for our scholarships. If you have any questions call or email me. *Barbara*



From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343 FIsun1@comcast.net



The Annual Scholarship Luncheon brought in a whopping \$1,155 on the fundraiser items: more than enough for one scholarship! Everyone there couldn't stop raving about such a great time. The attendees' costumes gave new Orleans Mardi Gras stiff competition! We thank our sponsor,

Bright Star Credit Union, for gifting us a check for \$2,000, as well as 2 \$100 gift cards for the auction. This money supports our newsletter and directory. Our gratitude also to AMBA and **Alexander Williams** for a donation of an iPad Mini. A huge thank you to all who attended. YOU made it possible!

Marelise

Scholarship Donations

Donor	In Memory of
Diane Texter	Raymond Texter
Undesignated	
Susan Colton	Dorothy Howard
Jackie Molyneux	Cindy O'Linn
Joyce Stokes	

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

Social Committee

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



President Sue -Con't from page 2

I will give a full Legislative Report at our March 3 meeting. Please bring your laptops or iPads, and we will contact our legislators together at the meeting. In the meantime, be sure to access the eagle at www.frea.org - Legislative Advocacy - find and contact your State Senator by clicking on FLORIDA SENATE and find and contact your State Representative by clicking on FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. You can track individual bills by entering the bill# on the Senate and the House sites and clicking on the bright yellow sun icon to "track this bill."

Sue



Welcome March 2022, the month of Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day. Being of Irish heritage, the latter is extra important to me. As soon as Valentine's Day has past, my house becomes the Emerald Isle. In keeping with green being the color of the month, the Social Committee will continue our attempt to go green. PLEASE remember the recycling bin is for empty bottles (minus the cap) and cans ONLY! All other trash is to be deposited in the large trash can provided by the city. There is always a container by the coffee pot for your sugar and stirrer discards. They DO NOT go in

the recycling bin. The Social Committee provides beverages but if you want to eat during the meeting, you must BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch). While I will be celebrating March 17 with some traditional Irish food, don't forget to do some reading on March 2 which is Read Across America Day as well as Dr. Seuss' birthday.

"May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow

And may trouble avoid you wherever you go."

An Irish blessing!
Marianne

BCREA NEWSLETTER

Published 8 times a year, September – April by the
BROWARD COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
1040 SW 52 Avenue
Plantation, FL 33317

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

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

she herself created. According to **Anne French**, there were a total of 69 prizes. **Betty Ouellette**, **JamesEtta Warner** and **Jean Anderson** sold tickets for the fundraiser. **Marsy Smith** was the lucky winner of the Pot of Gold which held a grand total of \$170.01.

To see all the photos from the luncheon, visit

**our website at <http://browardrea.org>
Click on Photos on Shutterfly**

And that's the last byte for this time.

Bev

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

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 _____

Cultural Affairs

Chair: Carol Roland

954-472-2389

carolrbeads@aol.com



Last month I had to go to the N. C. Mountains to arrange for the sale of a house. I had scheduled time to interview real estate agents, to supervise the repairs and to purchase replacements needed before selling. I had scheduled an extremely busy week. Unfortunately, Mother Nature (and an accident our snow plower had) did not approve of my plans and I found myself snowed-/iced-in at our mountain home. Calling to cancel all of the appointments I was totally frustrated until a realtor said "Carol, relax and enjoy your snow day." Never having experienced a snow day, I thought they were like hurricane days where you rush, rush to get ready, then stare at the news for a day, and work like crazy to put everything back together. I pleasantly discovered that a snow day lets you be a kid again! What a wonderful idea. Why, you ask, am I rambling Like this? Because I realize we all need to experience a "Snow Day."

So come join us at BCREA's

FUN AND FROLIC DAY

Thursday, March 10, 1-3 PM,

Heritage Park, 1100 S Fig Tree Lane, Plantation.

Have fun, play games, and enjoy being a kid again.

Snacks will be served.

RSVP by March 9th: Carol Roland. carolrbeads@aol.com

or 954 472-2389.

Carol