

"Honor Your Past, Enrich Your Present, Ensure Your Future"

Roger Cuevas, current president of Miami-Dade Retired Educators and president-elect for the FREA made his 3rd appearance at a BCREA meeting on April 5. Speaking at warp-speed, he relayed an enormous amount of information, primarily about the FREA involvement in the state legislative process, particularly in the area of the Florida Retirement System this year. For more in-depth information go to <http://frea.org/legislativenewstools.html>



FREA was originally established in 1954 as the "Retired Teachers of Florida" as a section of the Florida Education Association (FEA). Several name



Cuevas (far right) with the 2015 FREA Legislative Committee

changes and affiliations later, in the fall of 1982 the FRTA changed its name to Florida Retired Educators' Association (FREA). According to Roger, the purpose of the FREA is 3-fold: To "Honor your past; Enrich your present; and Ensure your future." One of the areas which fulfill these aims is the Health Insurance subsidy initiated by Legislative Co-Chairman **Larry Carmichael** who met with then-Governor **Lawton Chiles**, who raised it from \$3 to \$5. There has been an effort by some in the state legislature to change the FRS, putting out the word that this is necessary to insure the stability of the system; however, in reality, Florida has one of America's healthiest retirement plans for government workers, which include educators. The state pension system is 87 percent funded with "accrued liability of

\$160 billion," with almost \$139 billion in assets. Due to a complicated scheme, the state "borrowed" billions of dollars from the very healthy retirement fund which is why it shows as "liability." Basically, the state owes the FRS that money. Changing the system will not help the state to repay this. If you haven't read the March FREA newsletter, go to

[http://frea.org/images/Web-site_March 2015 Bulletin_-.pdf](http://frea.org/images/Web-site_March_2015_Bulletin_-.pdf)

Both **Larry Carmichael** and Co-Chairman **Linda Edson** write about the recently-begun 2015 Legislative session. They emphasize, "Our Strength Is In Our Numbers...Renew or Join today!"



May 7 Meeting

Time: 11:45

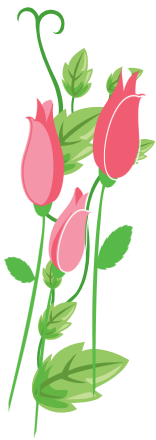
Place: Deicke Auditorium
5701 Cypress Road, Plantation
(1 block off Broward at Royal Palm)

Program: Scholarship & Literacy Awards
Installation of New Officers



Bring to meeting:

Dish to share
FREF Silent Auction Items
Service Hour Reports
Labels for education
Aluminum pull-tabs
Old eyeglasses & Cellphones
Blankies & Pillows
Children's books



President's Corner

My theme this year has been TOGETHER and TOGETHER we have accomplished much. Here is a review.

T - Theme: TOGETHER

I think it was a great theme to unite us in a common purpose - to increase our volunteer hours. We surely did that!

O - Organized - This group is very organized with each committee doing their part and filling in for others when needed.

G - Growth - Our Goal is always to grow in membership. Each one bring one!

E - Education - Our goal is to encourage young students and college-bound candidates. We have been very generous with our scholarship program.

T - TEN - We are proud to be District TEN, one of the largest in the state of Florida!

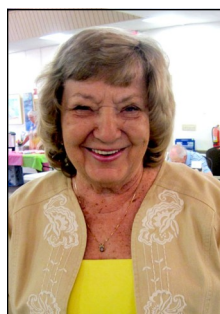
H - HAPPY BIRTHDAY! - We are about to begin a year-long celebration of our 50 years of History.

E - Entertainment - All of our programs have educated us in some ways, but some of our favorites are very entertaining.

R - Remember - We remember the past year with joy but are looking forward to a Relaxing summer!

I have enjoyed being President of this wonderful organization but have learned that no one can do this alone! Thank you for teaching me the meaning of TOGETHER!!!

Diane



President-Elect's Corner

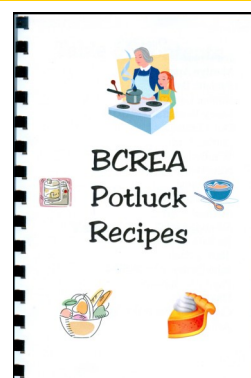
Roger Cuevas, president of Miami Dade Retired Educators and president-elect for the State of Florida Retired Educators was our speaker for April. He brings so much knowledge to the job. He was superintendent of Dade County Schools from 1995 to 2001. Before that he held 14 different jobs from teacher to principal. He made the strong point that as members of the Retired Educators we are important as voters. Our votes mean something. The legislators see us as a strong voting unit. The more members that we have the more we are heard in Tallahassee. He said that each one of us should reach one other person. Encourage people to join and take part in the important work that we do. An example of one of our pursuits is our volunteer hours and how important they are. The hours are shown to the legislators as how much the hours translate into money and what it means to the state.

Roger shared with us the very good news that House Speaker **Steve Chrisafulli** was shelving a proposed overhaul of FRS for the rest of the session. We have to keep vigilant and protect our retirement funds. As Roger said, we do this by increasing our

membership and keeping our members aware of how important they are as voters.

Join us for the May meeting as we honor our scholarship recipients and our Literacy Contest winner and install the 2015-2016 officers.

Echo



We Still Have Cookbooks!

There are still a few of our potluck cookbooks available. If you'd like to buy one (or more) they'll be available at the welcome table at the May meeting. Only \$4.00 each!



Membership

954-525-8503

slochrie@bellsouth.net

Chairman: Susan Lochrie



PLEASE PAY DUES FOR 2015 - 2016 NOW!

Dues are \$35 for State FREA Dues and \$15 for local BCREA dues, totaling \$50 per year. You will receive a membership card from the FREA and your name will be on the Broward County Retired Educators' mailing list and listed in the BCREA Directory. The Florida Retired Education Association is a statewide organization, which represents our interests and benefits as retirees to the state Legislature. Website: <http://frea.org>

Please invite your retired friends to come to the meetings or send me their names and I will send them membership information.

Anyone who brings in 3 NEW members this year will win a \$25 gift certificate.

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

Thinking of You



Eddie Fisher
Nancy Ruiz

Gayle Grossman
Arline Ziller



Passages



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

May

Al Giles 5/02

Lizzie Johnson 5/21

William Kaelin 5/24

Dorothy Foster 5/27

Polly Lenzen 5/27

June

Glenn Sanderson 6/03

Kathlyn Barno 6/14

Lillian Wilson 6/17

July

Milton Brantferger 7/1

Gloria Marshall 7/9

Erma Bell 7/12

Maude Storr 7/16

Pat Schroder 7/21

Felicia Tronconi 7/21

Shirley Paoli 7/22

Jean Childers 7/24

Lucille Folsom-Mason 7/24

August

Helen Mitchell 8/05

Ruth Edwards 8/07

Betty McNaull 8/07

Ruth Travers 8/08

Sylvia Milks 8/17

Ruth Van der Walt 8/20

Cora Ashley 8/23

Jane Leone 8/27

September

Evelyn Lewis 9/19

Mary Weber 9/24

Tom Drilling 9/27



In Memoriam

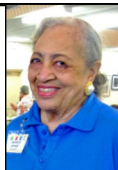
Joseph Vargo - 01/14
Edith Colden - 3/25/15

Health & I+PS

Chairman: Kathlyn Barno

954-581-4731

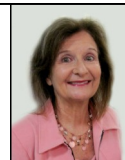
BB9214@aol.com



From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc

954-962-7343 Flsun1@comcast.net



We are approaching the lazy days of summer. It will be so easy to just lie around on the beach or in the backyard hammock with a tall glass of lemonade. That sounds very good, but boy what it can do to our bodies. All the hard work that we did this Spring getting into shape can easily go down the drain. Try not to let this happen. Here is a sample workout recommended by *Health To You* magazine to help keep you in shape.

*For a warm-up try walking, riding a stationary bicycle or climbing stairs for five or ten minutes.

*Pedal at medium speed for 30 seconds to maintain heart rate.

*Do chest presses with free weights for 15 to 20 reps in 30 seconds or do push-ups.

*Do leg presses on a weight machine or do standing squats 15-20 reps in 30 recommends.

*March briskly for 30 seconds. Maintain heart rate.

*Use a treadmill for 30 seconds with a setting on flat / or incline at a speed to maintain heart rate.

*You can do 15-20 AB crunches on the floor.

*Use a stair climber at medium speed to maintain heart rate.

*Lastly, squeeze a dumbbell between your ankles while raising and lowering your legs.

This should help keep you in shape, and you will be looking good when we see you in October. Have a wonderful summer.

Kathlyn



THANK YOU to the members who are sending in an additional \$5, \$10, \$20 or more for scholarships along with your 2015-2016 dues. So many of you have been doing that in the past few weeks, and it is most appreciated for our scholarship fund. Also, if you earmark a scholarship donation in memory or in honor of a named person for \$20. or more, I will send a card to the family (or the honoree) in your name. If that is the case, please send the address to which to send the card. Thank you to all members listed below for scholarship donations recently made:

Scholarship Donations

Donor

Norma Cosby
Doris Cotnoir
Doris Cotnoir
Florida Gilmartin
Bertilda Henderson
Juli Cole Patten
Mary Sefferly

In Memory Of

Joe Vargo
Kathy Gosnell
Joyce Laswell
William Gilmartin
Mildred Jones-Fuce
Carlos Flores
Carlos Flores

Undesignated Donations

Myken Brady	JoAnn Corder
Eleanor Gaston	Winifred Graham
Jean Gray	Sharyn Iba
Phyllis Kublin	Madeline Martin
Arline & Wayne McWhinney	
Toni Merton	Sylvia Milks
Joe Reddick	Patricia Schroeder
Sallie Sherwood	Rochelle Stunson
Mary Taylor	Lillian Wilson

The cost of the BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by:

Bright Star
CREDIT UNION

954-486-2728

Online at BSCU.org

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946

Anne French is celebrating! She's all sold out of the FREF Extravanza tickets! **Mel Wenig** missed the April meeting due to a bad cold - but she's recovered now! Good news about **Nancy Ruiz** who is now able to eat REAL food again! She's even hoping she may make it to the May meeting!! We also missed **Marelise LeClerc** at the April meeting! And here's the scoop on her: she's on an African safari!! Bad news! **Arline Ziller** had a bad fall this past weekend and broke her leg! Her timing couldn't

*Bev's
Bytes.....*



have been worse - she was supposed to leave on a trans-atlantic cruise on April 27! There were 59 at the meeting according to Hospitality Chairman **Martha Pipes**. Doing the drawing for the scholarship raffle, President **Diane Texter** checked her own tickets when no one responded to the number for \$20! Sure enough, she was the winner! Other winners of



the Scholarship Raffle (above) were **Dorothy Moore**, \$10; **Ana Maria Hayden**, \$10; **Sallie Sherwood** \$10; **Louise Costello** and **Michael Kogan** won the flower arrangements! As I took Michael's photo, he revealed, "I'm leaving for California tomorrow. Would you like these?" Would

I???? You betcha! Thanks, Michael! And thanks to **Carol Roland** for donating the flowers. OK - for those of you who didn't remember my Easter hat, you're right - I haven't worn it since 2012! Have a relaxing, enjoyable summer! And that's the last byte for this year! *Bev*

Social Committee

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



Seems as if everyone was welcoming the arrival of Spring at the April meeting. Many participants had on their festive spring colors and the raffle prizes where beautiful calla lilies and tulips. Even though our attendance numbers were lower than usual, the buffet table was filled with scrumptious delights and hopefully everyone was able to find something to please their pallet. I know that many of the food items were receiving rave reviews and that recipes were being exchanged. It is always nice to receive compliments on the dishes which we bring in to share. Also a reminder for everyone to please check the back table at your departure and pick up your containers or any surplus food remnants that you may have. We

cannot donate the remainder of the edibles, so it is important that you take home any of your leftovers. Perhaps you can distribute to your family, friends or neighbors. Please remember that the May meeting will be the Scholarship presentation luncheon. We will have higher attendance than usual due to the award winners and their family members. If you are able, please prepare a little extra food for this meeting. Let's make the last meeting of the year very special for the hard working award recipients. Thank you for making this a wonderful luncheon that all enjoy. If you are unable to attend the last meeting, have a beautiful and relaxing summer. *Sallie*

Community Service

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



Our unit reported just over 14,000 community service hours to FREA this year. This represents an increase of 3,075 hours over last year. Remember to keep track of your volunteer service over the summer and keep those hours coming in. Thanks to those of you who contributed supplies to the Florida Humane Society at our April meeting. The staff was most grateful. The YMCA is seeking tutors for its "YRead" Program. The

organization is looking for a commitment of 1-2 hours per week tutoring at either Plantation Elementary (M-F from 3-6 p.m.) or North Lauderdale Elementary (M-F from 2:30-5:30 p.m.) Contact mmapp@ymcabroward.org to sign up or for further information. Thanks for all that you have done this past year. Hope you have a great summer. See you in October!

Darcy

- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

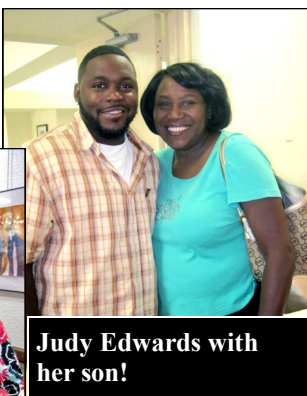


**Lots of supplies for the
Humane Society**

**Seen at the
April Meeting**



**Alyce Aspler looked festive
in bunny ears**



**Judy Edwards with
her son!**



**Social committee members
take a well-deserved bow!**



**Lots of good books in our
Literacy corner**

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

Literacy

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



A big thanks to everyone who has donated children's books this year. Our BCREA delegates will take some of the books to the FREA convention and add them to the Florida Literacy Book Collection which is in honor of Margaret Poppell. Throughout her career, she fought for literacy and was an inspiration to children. Other books will head to Broward Kids in Distress

and Florida Hispanic Unity Preschool. We are fortunate to be able to send our book is to a variety of organizations. I thank you for making a difference in so many children's lives. The Literacy Committee has worked hard this year and I want to add a huge thank you to all of them. **THANKS.**

Sandy