

Dr. Howard Hepburn: "Believe - Empower - Achieve - One Broward"



One year ago, on April 16, Dr. Howard Hepburn was appointed Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools. Dr. Hepburn grew up in Belle Glade, Florida. He attended the University of Central Florida on a scholarship, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Science Education and a Master's in Educational Leadership. He holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Florida Southern University.

His two decades of career experience include being a classroom teacher, coach, dean, assistant principal, and principal. He served as the Instructional Superintendent in the Glades Region and the South Region of Palm Beach County Schools. In 2023, he joined BCPS as the Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Under his instructional leadership, Broward regained its A-Rated District Status, which it had lost in 2011.

By Sue Colton

His passion is deeply rooted in fostering excellence, equity in education, and an environment that nurtures our students' talents, dreams, and aspirations. Closing achievement gaps, enhancing access to accelerated courses, and implementing innovative strategies will ensure every family's school choice is BCPS for their student's world-class education.

Since becoming Superintendent, Dr. Hepburn has served with me on the **Broward Education Foundation's** Board of Directors. I knew he was "the real deal" when, on January 22, 2025, at a School Board Meeting, he presented his \$10,000 bonus check for becoming an A-District as a gift to the Foundation for student scholarships!

to change the culture of our



Broward Esol Council members **Jean Anderson**, **Lana Lysen** and **Barbara Lewis** present a check for \$4322 to the BCREA student scholarship fund.

Receiving the Check for BCREA are **Anne French**, **Diane Jarchow** and **Shirley Schwartz**.

May 1 Meeting

Time: 12 noon

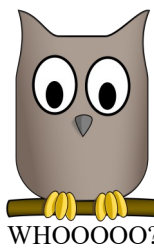
Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave,
Plantation

Program: Scholarship Awards -
Diane Jarchow
Installation of New Officers

May 11 - Mothers' Day

2025-2026 Election Results



L to R: President, **JoAnne Kitchen Simmons** President Elect, **Vacant** Secretary, **Karen Avery**; and Treasurer **Gwen Lampkin**.

President's Corner

The upcoming May meeting in many ways is the culmination of BCREA's goals:

- ♦ Promoting literacy with the fifth-grade essay winners
- ♦ Supporting future teachers with the BCREA scholarships
- ♦ Funding the educational goals of Broward County Public Schools



employees by awarding ten Morris scholarships.

Also at this meeting, new leaders for BCREA will be installed. As the new officers take their places, they will bring fresh ideas and challenge the organization to grow while still maintaining the group's mission and camaraderie. As past-president, I look forward to being an advisor and a resource to our new president, **JoAnne Kitchen Simmons**, as she navigates this new role. She will do a great job.

As I write my last *Newsletter* article as president, I want to express my appreciation for the support, trust, and kindness that members have given me. The past two years have been a whirlwind of activities, challenges, and successes. Thank you.

I want to particularly thank our hardworking Board members. They are the leaders that coordinate all the essential behind-the-scenes operations of our organization: membership, finances, minutes, Newsletter, friendship, telephone outreach, and, of course, arranging our delicious lunches. In addition, Board members keep us abreast of legislative issues, community happenings, and safety alerts. This tireless group of leaders is also responsible for our amazing projects - book club, Cupid Crew, Bingo, distributing children's books, community collections, awarding scholarships, and many more activities. They are my superheroes - But you don't wear capes!

You are the best! *Anne*

Sue, con't

We will need to visit our Broward Legislative Delegation at home in July. By then, we must have data to support our proposal and ask for an actuarial study.

tay tuned for more info, and follow the BCREA page on Facebook.

Thanks, **SUE**

From the President-Elect

Greetings BCREA members and friends.

We have had a busy 2024-25 school year and I'm excited to share that our May meeting will showcase many scholarship recipients, from 5th grade to college. We will also have our Swearing in of Officers (me included). I look forward to seeing you.

The BCREA members were especially excited to have our very own Superintendent of Schools, **Dr. Howard Hepburn** at our April meeting to share current events, as well as projections in the school district. We applaud his leadership.

Members, thank you for your support in getting to our meetings, and doing so in a timely manner. I encourage you to consider joining one of our many dedicated committees. You'll have fun and an opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise with us. Sincerely,

Dr. JAKS *JoAnne*



Legislative /District 10 Director

Chair: Sue Colton

954-695-5065 scolton@bellsouth.net



First, I want to personally thank **Dr. Howard Hepburn**, Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, for coming to speak at our April 3rd meeting. **Jennifer Kerkhof**, his Executive Assistant, and **James Knapp**, CEO of Broward Education Foundation, accompanied him. Next, my report from Tallahassee: 1. The leadership at the Capitol seems friendlier than in the past. The Speaker of the House and Senate President are doing things differently; they are ONLY dealing with bills that concern the budget. 2. Our small but mighty group of ten spoke with over 60 aides and legislators! They were very interested in our concerns, especially reinstating the COLA and the fact that we had a workable solution for the current problem. We suggest not going retro back to 2011 because it is too expensive. (Billions!) Our solution is to start NOW with a lower percentage COLA each year. Several aides/legislators suggested how we can get a bill written for next year. We felt the time was right for them to listen to our suggestions. We will need EVERYONE to help get this written into a bill. 3. Now what?

Membership

Chair: LuAnn Comes

954-954-475-1510 lacomes987@aol.com



Is it really Spring? Is it April already? Are we really looking at the May meeting? If you are like me, these days seem to fly. What I intended to do yesterday is waiting until tomorrow. Ahhhh! However, my hope is that you don't let today fly by without sending in your dues. Thank you to the many members who have already sent in their membership dues! Dues are \$60 and a check should be made out to BCREA and sent to me. Remember that pays for your state dues of \$45 and local dues of \$15. Today, you still have time send in your check! We appreciate your continued membership and thank you for your support. We know your support of BCREA membership can also be seen in your scholarship donations, volunteer work, meeting attendance, committee work, and everlasting support of BCREA goals. Thank you!

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: _____

Dues: \$60.00 Donation for Scholarships: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to BCREA and mail to

LuAnn Comes, BCREA Membership

107 NW 107 Terrace, Plantation, FL 33324

Passages



*Happy Birthday to our
Birthday Club*

(members over 85!)

May

Mary Hiers 5/07

Darlene Utry 5/26

Norma Cosby 5/28

Philippe Perru 5/30

June

Pauline Green 6/01

July

Milton Brantferger 7/01

Arline McWhinny 7/04

Echo Heyer 7/10

Erma Bell 7/12

And turning 100 on 7/16

Maude Storr

August

Susan Lochrie 8/28

And turning 85 on 8/28

Billy (BJ) Van Arsdall

September

Nancy Howell 9/01

Allegra Murphy 9/06

Eleanor Gaston 9/15

Annie Rawls 9/22

Mary Morris 9/25

Bobbie David 9/28

And turning 85 on 9/04

Elizabeth (Betty) Sheridan



Thinking of You

Bobby David

Darcy Drago

Madeline Martin

Arline Ziller

*We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service
every time*



SunSentinel
MEDIA GROUP

Community Service/Handbooks

Chair: Darcia Drago
954-977-7247 954-552-3479
dardra@att.net



On behalf of the cats and dogs and one cockatiel, thank you for your generous donation to the Florida Humane Society.

The staff was grateful for all the supplies we provided. Thanks also to **Suzanne Atkin** for dropping everything off.

Alas, we only reported 8,503 volunteer hours this year to FREA. This is a decrease of 10,400 from last year. I



know we have many unreported hours and can do better next year. Please keep track of your hours during our Summer break and report them at our Oct. meeting. Remember

that anything you do for people other than relatives counts. If you have any questions, please ask. Hope you have an enjoyable Summer. See you in the Fall.

Darcy

Information Services

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



This was a whirlwind year for BCREA. Our first meeting was cancelled by Hurricane Milton, we had to relocate twice to unfamiliar meeting places due to renovations, yet we were able to enjoy festive holiday tunes from Plantation Park Chorus, listen attentively to author Doctor Feiss, given assurances by our Superintendent Dr. Hepburn, honored loved ones of our Nation with Bill Johnson of Honor Flights. We had pink flamingos dancing on tables and Cupid's flowers to distribute. Yes, it certainly was a year of motion and quick thinking restructuring of plans.

After reflecting on some of this year's events we need to now focus on the coming months and what they might bring. Soon every television station will be discussing "Hurricane Preparedness" and advising about how to prepare for the storms BUT we also need to know what to do with approaching thunderstorms and tornadoes. Please follow the Boy Scout Motto and "Be Prepared." Caution: you must be aware and ready well in advance of hearing a Tornado Warning. Once heard, there is no time to prepare, just to act. Following are highlights

from several helpful sites: unplug computers and electronic household appliances; do not use corded phones or docking stations; avoid plumbing, including sinks and faucets; do not lie on concrete floors or lean on concrete walls; cordless phones and cell phones are ok; create safe interior room, away from windows and doors, get under something, cover head and neck, close interior doors, do not crack windows, pack emergency kit in advance, know where to evacu-

ate in advance, prepare safe room area, have communication plan.

Be safe everyone. Stay fit, stay sharp and send positive thoughts to others.

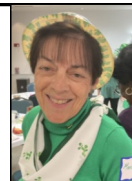
<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/ho-to-prepare-for-emergencies>

<https://wini.com/articles/how-to-prepare-your-home-for-summer-storm-season/>

<https://Weather.gov> > <https://www.ready.govknow>

Social Committee

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



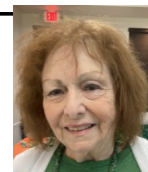
There As the 2024-2025 BCREA year nears the end, we will be honoring the 5th Grade essay winners as well as Morris scholarship and BCREA scholarship winners at our final meeting. That means many extra people will be enjoying our delicious luncheon buffet. If possible, please bring a slightly larger portion of your dish to this meeting. If anyone is planning on ordering a platter of sandwiches, please text me

(954) 683-4996. Last year several members brought platters and unfortunately it turned out to be more than we needed. One platter was never used. Seats may be limited so be sure to arrive before 12:00. The Social Committee appreciates all members being prompt so we can have the buffet set up and be able to enjoy the meeting. See you for our last meeting on May 1.

Marianne

Fundraising

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



Hi Everyone.
It was great being back at Jim Ward.
> Our **Super Zoom Bingo** is April 17 at 1:00. Anne will be sending the Zoom info out on Sunday, April 14.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 17.
> Wishing you a Happy Pass-over and a Happy Easter.
> Hope to see everyone at our May meeting

Thanks, *Barbara*

Literacy

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



Let's take time to celebrate BCREA. It's time to take a bow and look over the things that we have accomplished this year. First a big thank you to everyone who has contributed children's books. Gently used children's books will be donated to Kids in Distress and new books will go to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. Rest assured that the books will be in the hands of children of all ages. Second, thanks to the BCREA members who participated in Reading to Kids this year and have volunteered to read to the four-year olds at Kids in Distress. This program has been well received and all the BCREA readers have enjoyed the experience and found the kids delightful. **Alyce Aspler, Karen Avery** (and husband), **Ellen Emery, Marianne Barr, Barbara Lewis, Barbara Bohuny, and Dr. Carole D'Ausillio** deserve a special thank you for taking time to read to the children. It is also time to recognize our fifth grade Margaret Poppell Essay winners. They will receive their winning award certificates and gift cards at our May 1st meet-

ing. Our first-place winner is **Naomi Malacscu** from Fox Trail Elementary. Other winners were **Jaxson Gonzalez** from Harbordale Elementary, **Sasha Ulmer** for Harbordale Elementary, **Naom Kiperwas** from Fox Trail Elementary and **Thakvikha Masuram** from Westchester Elementary. We congratulate all of these fifth graders. As Literacy Committee Co-Chairpersons, **Cindy O'Linn** and I are already looking forward to next year when we continue our amazing projects. We look forward to seeing the faces of 4-year-olds who listen to a book read and to watching other children hold on to their very own book. We look forward to hearing the voices of proud parents and hard-working teachers as they learn that their fifth grader has written a winning essay. Most of all we look forward to working with a wonderful committee and all BCREA members. We invite you to become part of the BCREA Literacy committee next year. Stay safe, stay healthy, and enjoy the summer.

Sandy and Cindy

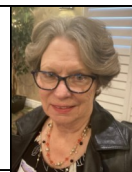
Ready.gov: Plan Ahead for Disasters

Sallie



From the (missing) Treasurer

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



Carol has been in North Carolina still trying to complete repairs from the last hurricane. **LuAnn Comes** organized the donation information and sent it in! Good Luck, Carol and Thanks, LuAnn!

Bea

Scholarship Donations

Donor

Milton Brantferger
LuAnn Comes
Bertilda Henderson
Cindy O'Linn
James Etta Warner

In Memory Of

Anne Clark
Mary Ellen Fowler
husband Luther Henderson
Mary Ellen Fowler
Peggy Evans, Ann Naves,
Brenda Snipes, Walter Snipes

Undesignated Donations

Susan Barber	Emma Black	Myrtle Ford
Ann Graves	Phyllis Kublin	Susan Lochrie
Ruth Marsh	Ronald Mayhew	Arline McWhinney
Elizabeth Ouellette	Marvalyn Rhett	
Joni Schachere	Marianne Scott	
Betty Sheridan	Jannes Strauch	
Shirley Swartz	Mary Taylor	Peggy Tingle-
Grace Tyson	Bruce Voelkel	

Carol

FREF

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



My HEARTFELT GRATITUDE to all members who helped our Broward BCREA FREF Extravaganza Raffle ticket effort. It would not have happened without your generous hearts. Thank you and sincere wishes for good luck to all of you.

Shirley

Friendship

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



I am looking forward to seeing you at our May meeting, but as you know it will be our last until October. Over our break, we want to continue to remember all our members. If you know of a member who would appreciate a card because they are dealing with an illness or a death in the family, or to simply say we are thinking of them, please email me. I will send an appropriate card on behalf of BCREA.

Marsy

- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

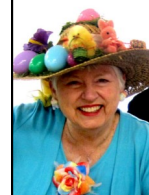
From the FREA online Newsletter by Anne Fagan!

May all your April Birthday's bring,
Peace and Joy like a gentle Spring...
And may each April coming be,
Laden with Prosperity.



We had 52 members and 4
guests at the April meeting.
Winners in the April **Scholarship Fundraiser** were Below, L-R: **LuAnn Comes**, \$20; **Joyce Stokes**, \$10 ;
and **Darlene Pillsbury**, \$10;

*Ben's
Bytes.....*



At the right,
Betty Hicks
and **Karen**
Avery won the
flowers do-
nated by
Sallie Sher-
wood, At the
left, **Missy**



Belsito, filling in for **Darcy Drago**,
gives **Jean Andersen** the prize for Volunteer Hours.

With this issue of the **BCREA Newsletter** I have completed
20 years of *Newsletters* - which means I haven't missed a
meeting in 20 years! Anyone want to take over this job?

And that's the last byte for this year!



Ben