

BCREA Newsletter



November, 2019

Broward County Retired Educators' Association website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 280

Kerry Ann Brown, Guardian ad Litem, Redux!

If the speaker at the October meeting looks familiar, that's because this was her second visit to try to recruit volunteers for the **Broward Guardian ad Litem (GAL)** program. "All children we serve are victims of abuse in their homes - and NOT kids who have been in trouble," says **Kerry Ann Brown** who became a GAL after her last child went to college. She first became an advocate for twins who were born to a drug-addicted mother. Happily that mother got clean and they are now doing well. She passed out photos of some of the children in the program and had members read their stories to

the group. Kayla, Amber and Andrew, Ryan, Trey, Ethan and John - all had touching stories and are among the lucky ones who have an advocate. There are still over 2600 kids in Broward County who need one. Maybe, you? To find out more about the program, call 954-813-6214 or go to <https://galbroward17.org/> or to <https://guardianadlitem.org/>



If this isn't something you feel you could do, perhaps you'd like to help by joining "Voices," a fundraising group for the kids.

"Voices for Children of Broward County" works to ensure that every abused, neglected, and abandoned child in Broward County has a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem and that financial resources are available for each child's accompanying health, educational, and social needs. Go to <https://voicesbroward.org/> for more info. Or call 954-367-9185.

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November 7th Meeting

Time: 11:45 AM

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

Program: Rick Bowes, FREA Group Benefits
Plus A Salute to Veterans

Bring to meeting:

Potluck Dish to Share
Individual packets of beef and turkey jerky for our troops
Kids' books for Literacy
Box tops & labels for education
Aluminum pull-tabs
Cell Phones & Eyeglasses
Coupons \$0.50 and above

Wear Red, White & Blue At November's Meeting

In honor of Veterans Day, part of November's meeting will be dedicated to recognizing the contributions our veterans have made to keep our country safe. Did you or some of your family serve in the Armed Forces? Please join us as we salute all current and former members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. And remember to wear your red, white and blue for this patriotic salute.

President's Corner

GIVING THANKS FOR THE LESSONS WE SHARE

In life, we use different lessons on a daily basis, never giving a thought as to when, where, or from whom they might have come. We use them because they are convenient, they make sense, and they work. Each of us can relate to an example, whether simple or complex, of masterfully using a great lesson. Most are stated in just a few words such as this one:

THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

What a powerful lesson is this!

Retirees in Broward County number well over 300 each year. Many were designing their retirement within the first five years of their employment and thinking of how to get the most enjoyment when that day arrived. Still relatively healthy and mobile, given that most have reached their mid-sixties, retirees participate in a variety of activities in their communities and churches. They travel, volunteer, and stay physically and socially active. So what is my point? I was waiting for this question.

You are who we are looking for in BCREA!

Perhaps you were here with us once upon a time but somehow let a few missed meetings derail your best intentions. It happens to many and before too long it becomes AWOL or MIA. This is an easy fix and a simple reinvestment to make.

You are who we are looking for in BCREA.

Each year our unit strives to exceed the works we have done in prior years with committed efforts of strengthening our service impact in Broward County. Yes, we can do a bit of boasting when we look back on all that we do. Yet we know we cannot rest on these laurels as long as we know someone leaving academia has not connected with us, and someone who left us has not returned. BCREA wants to corral some of the energies you have saved for your retirement. We want to cultivate a collegial atmosphere and work together for the betterment of our communities in Broward County. Staying involved with our schools is one way we can help insure a bright future for our youth and a better enjoyment of our Golden Years. Numbers do matter! Strength does come! We welcome you into the fold.

Lillian



FREF

Chairman, Anne French
954-561-1719 Annefrench10@gmail.com



Marie Grein Practicing Educator Grant

Do you know a current teacher that has a project that would make a difference to the students?

The Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF) provides \$1,000.00 grants yearly to practicing teachers who have a dream for their classrooms that they want to turn into reality. Applicants are required to describe the project and the impact it will have on their students. In addition, winners must provide a follow up letter describing the project results and indicate how the money was used.

The application is available at

<https://www.frea.org/practicing-educator-grant>

The completed application must be submitted by February 15. Judging by the FREF Trustees will occur on March 31.

The check will be issued by the end of July for the upcoming academic school year. Mail submission to:

FREF - Grant

Florida Retired Educators Foundation

8950 9th St N #105

St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Social Committee

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



What a bountiful table for the first meeting of our BCREA year. Certainly everyone found some type of nourishment that appealed to their taste buds. Thank you to everyone who brought in some delicious morsels to share. Welcome to all the new attendees and also our familiar returning faces. The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the first "Plastic bottle recycle" initiative. We were able to salvage 47 plastic bottles which will be able to be made into furniture, shirts, carpets, etc. According to my 7-year-old neighbor, it takes 63 bottles

to make a sweater. So as a group we collected enough bottles to make a sleeveless sweater! Thank you to everyone who brought in some gently used containers, they were reused again for the food items which were left at the end of the luncheon. Please keep in mind that while Deicke does have warming ovens for our use, these ovens will not significantly raise the temperature of the food. The next meeting is November 7th which happens to be Hug a Bear Day. Please save one of your hugs for November 11 and remember to thank and hug a veteran for their service.

Sallie

Passages



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

Helen King 11/07
Martha Pipes 11/06
Runette Williams 11/06
Mary Perfect 11/13
Mary 'Betty' Weber 11/17
Mary Dunavent 11/20
Dorothy Johnson 11/21



Thinking of You
Kahlyn Barno
Penny Becker
Louise Costello
Marelise LeClerc
Pat Schroeder
Sallie Sherwood
Arline Ziller



In Memoriam



Ruth Travers 9/16/19

Membership...

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



FREA MEMBERSHIP CARDS SENT BY E-MAIL

FREA membership cards were sent by email, starting this year. If you have an email address your card was sent to you and you can print it out. If you don't have an email it will be sent by US Mail. (This takes longer to process.)

If you have not received a printed card, or missed the email please call FREA at 727-577-6400 to request another.

We have twenty-five new members. Some have recently retired but several retired a few years ago. Please encourage your friends to join by inviting them to come with you to meetings.

Congratulations to all of you who have sent in your BCREA/FREA dues of \$50. for 2019-20. Please remember to pay before the end of October so that you will be listed in the 2019-20 Directory.



Welcome New Members



Dickenson, Angela	Eruchala, Charlie
Jonas, Coral	Smith-Walker, Dezzie
Woods, Mary	Colton, Susan
Dyken, Joy	Johnson, Cora
Lettman, Sue	Levy, Judy
Petti, Regina G.	Rapps, Joan
Tatts, Francine	

BCREA is the local unit of the Florida Retired Educators Association. If you have recently received a reminder from BCREA or FREA to pay your dues and you know that you have paid, please call or email me and I will check. . A membership form can be downloaded from the website <http://browardrea.org> Please call me if you need a membership form and information about BCREA. Susan



New members who attended the October meeting: L-R: Cora Johnson, Judy Levy, Sue Lettman, Charlie Eruchala, Sue Colton, Cynthia Contract, Joy Dyken, and Joan Rapps



Community Service /Directory

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



Handbook/Directory

The 2019-20 handbook/directory will go to press immediately following our Nov. meeting. Please report any listing changes now. Committee chairs also need to give me an updated list of their committee members by the Nov. meeting date. Books will be distributed at the Dec. meeting and will be available at all regular meetings. Copies will be mailed to members who are "shut-ins" and to those who live out-of-county.

Community Service

At our November meeting we

will collect individually wrapped beef & turkey jerky for our service men and women overseas. Our donation will be shipped to our troops by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157 in Margate.

It is important to report your volunteer hours each month. When our totals are sent in at the end of the year to FREA they use this information when they lobby our State legislators, emphasizing the value and importance of our service to our local communities. *Darcy*

Information Services

Chairman: OPEN Kathlyn has retired after many years as Chairman. New Chairman needed!



Repeat of a previous Article:

Have you gotten your flu shot yet? If not, see your doctor as cold and flu season is upon us.

The holidays are here and along with our winter visitors and tourists come the winter unsavory characters who are up to no good. At this time of the year we are approached for numerous donations for charity. We should be very careful in responding to requests for donations.

All requests may not be legitimate. Before giving to any charity, we need to be sure that it is a "charity." Charitynavigator.org and Guidestar.org are two web sites where you can find much information about thousands of charities. Know where your money is going and for what purpose. Have a great Thanksgiving and great shopping afterwards.

Kathlyn

Happy Thanksgiving

Bea's Bytes... There were 76 in attendance at the October meeting. Both **Penny Becker** and **Marelise LeClerc** will be having surgery in the next month. Though you'd never have known since she was her usual busy self, **Sallie Sherwood** had back surgery 2 weeks before the meeting. And **Kathlyn Barno** also had some surgery during the summer. Many of you may not have known former member **Ruth Travers** since health problems prevented her attendance in recent years, She was a very active member and a state officer in the past. She passed in September.



Suzanne Atkin has volunteered to be our new Telephone Committee Chairman. If you could help out by making a few calls monthly, let her know - 954-849-2221. Winners of the Scholarship Fundraiser were **Marsy Smith**, \$20; and \$10 each: **Missy Belsito** and **Dorothy Howard**. Flowers were won by new member **Sue Lettman**, **James Etta Warner!** and **Nancy Howell**.



And that's the last byte for November!

Bea

BCREA Officers...

President
Lillian Small
954-288-9211
President-Elect
Needed

Secretary
Karen Avery
954-806-1678
Treasurer
Marelise LeClerc
954-962-7343

Literacy

Chairman: Sandy Lefkowitz
954-557-5817 Slef123@bellsouth.net



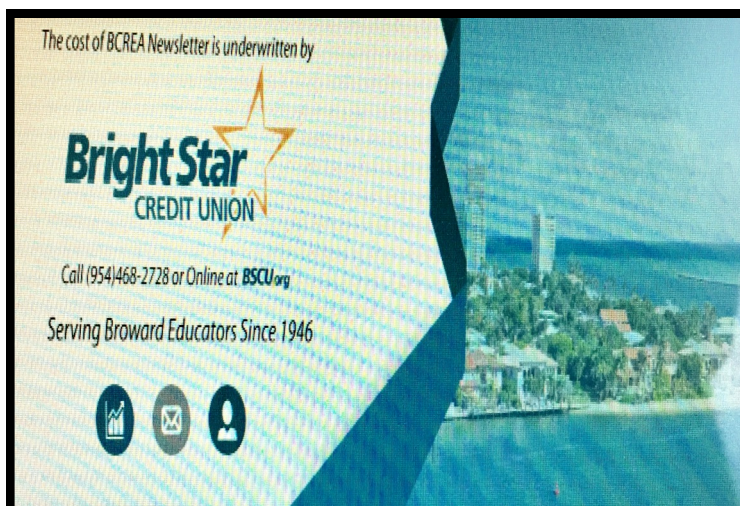
Spread the word that our 5th grade essay contest is in full swing. The Literacy Committee is asking each and every BCREA member to make a commitment and distribute information about the fifth grade essay contest to at least one school. Share information with fifth grade teachers early in the year so students have ample time to participate. Information is always available at our meetings and on our website. Any fifth grader in Broward County can write an essay about their grandparent or a grandparent figure and enter the **Margaret Poppell Literacy Contest**. So let's get involved and encourage fifth graders to write more than text messages!

Also we'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who donated children's books at our last meeting. Our goal is to develop a love for reading and what better way than to provide children with their very own book. Please bring new or



gently used books to our meetings. Here's an idea. As the winter holidays approach, we often stop and take time to reflect and give thanks. Many of our relatives are able to provide books for their children and thankfully, their children are readers. As the children grow and outgrow their books, ask you relatives to please pass the books along. A secondhand book can bring a smile to some child's face, heart, and mind.

Sandy



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)

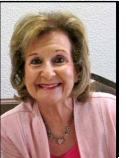
Volunteer hours working with youth _____
(Persons 25 years of age or younger;
This also includes literacy hours)

Bring this to our next meeting, e-mail it to me at dardra@att.net or mail it to me at:

Darcia Drago
2505 Dagoon Ave.
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

From the Treasurer

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



It's holiday time with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hanukkah right around the corner. The happiest of holidays to all.

I'm sorry I was not able to attend the October meeting and will again miss the November meeting. However, with all the assistance and support, I am still able to keep up with my duties as treasurer. At the October meeting, \$184.00 was collected for the Scholarship Fundraiser, after all the giveaways! That is fantastic! A big THANKS to all those who bought tickets!

Kudos to the following members who have contributed to our Scholarship Fund in the last few weeks.

Marvalyn Davis	Angela Dickenson
Charlie Eruchalu	Carol Fischer
Marva Jenkins	Sheryl (Jane) Keyes

Marelise

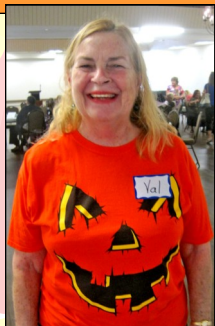
**- DATED MATERIAL -
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

Scenes from the October Meeting



76 hungry members and friends line up for lunch!

**Betty Ouellette and Val Proffer
wore their seasonal attire!**



**Kathlyn Barno
had some surgery and needed
assistance with
her mobility!**



**LuAnn and Karen
welcomed
everyone.**



**The Social Committee hopes they can find
some additional hands to help with lunch!**

Please think about lending your
"helping hands"
to the Social Committee this year.

Let anyone on the Social
Committee team know if you can
offer your assistance on a
monthly basis to help organize
the buffet table prior to the
meeting.

Thank You !