

# BCREA

# Newsletter



November, 2022

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 304



## Decision 22 - Be Sure to Vote!



### Evelyn & Jim Morris Gift Committee Makes Decision

Due to the generosity of Evelyn & Jim Morris, \$53,000+ was left to BCREA in their will. A committee - MaryEllen Fowler, Chair; Ann French, Marelise LeClerc; Maria Tracy; Diane Jarchow; Barbara Lewis; Jean Anderson; Karen Avery; Sue Colton (guest member) was formed to devise usage for the monies. The committee proposed the expenditure of \$10,000 a year for 5 years to provide grants to School Board employees in order to further their education in the field of education and to fund projects for school sites. The grant area was approved by the BCREA Board while the project division will be revisited next year. Additional information is forthcoming concerning dates for applications.



According to its website, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local,



state, and national levels. At the present time, with

mid-term elections less than a month away, LWVBC speakers such as **Fern Goodhart**, who spoke to BCREA at this month's meeting, are focusing on

### Decision 2022 Everything you need to know to vote for the November elections.

Fern emphasized that there are 3 ways to vote:

- 1 - **Vote by Mail**
- 2 - **Early Voting and**
- 3 - **Election Day - November 8**

For more info, go to

[www.browardvotes.gov](http://www.browardvotes.gov)

Voting is not the only issue the LWVBC is involved in. They are also involved in affordable housing, criminal justice, education, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), environmental issues, gun safety, health care, legislative advocacy and national popular vote. In 2020, the League of Women Voters of Broward County had 340 members, and it continues to grow.

### November 3rd Meeting

**Time:** 12:30 (Doors open at 11:45)

**Place:** Jim Ward Community Center  
301 NW 46 Avenue, Plantation

**Program:** Dr. Vickie Cartwright,  
"Leading with Relationships,  
Grace, and Respect."

**11/06** Daylight Savings Time ends

**11/11** Veterans' Day

**11/24** Thanksgiving



### Bring to meeting:

Your own lunch

Your Volunteer hours

Used eyeglasses & Cell Phones

Aluminum pull-tabs

New or gently used kids' books

A New Member



District 10 Volunteer of the Year Val Proffer is presented her certificate by President Sue and Pres-Elect Anne.



## President's Corner

As we met at our first meeting on October 6, our Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) community was dealing with a devastating loss. A 17-year-old senior at Fort Lauderdale High School (FLHS) decided to take his own life by jumping from a third-floor balcony at the school. Please keep the FLHS and BCPS communities in your thoughts and prayers and be sure to reach out to family and friends, young and old, who may be going through a crisis or lonely situation. Dial 211 ([211-broward.org](https://www.broward.org)) or 988 ([988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org)) for immediate mental health crisis services.

Thank you to **Fern Goodhart, The League of Women Voters**, for her informative and timely "Decision 2022" presentation. Access [lwv.org](https://www.lwv.org) and [vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) for a wealth of information regarding voting rights, elections, and other issues. You may also access Fern's PowerPoint on our Broward County Retired Educators (BCREA) FaceBook page. On October 19, BCREA will host the District 10 (Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach) **Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) Fall Symposium** at John Knox Village in Pompano Beach. Representative **Robin Bartleman** will speak to our 2022-2023 FREA Legislative Priorities, and we will be joined by our FREA State and District 10 leaders. Please join us in welcoming Broward County Public Schools Superintendent **Dr. Vickie L. Cartwright** at our next meeting on November 3, 2022, at 12:30 pm. She will share the district's shared vision, defining the culture and putting "Students First." Until then, Be Kind, Be Thoughtful, Be Genuine, but most of all, Be Thankful.

Sue



## President-Elect's Corner

At our October meeting, Fern Goodhart from the League of Women Voters shared crucial information about voting requirements for the upcoming November election - November 8, 2022.

The following websites will tell you all you need to know about voting in the November election:

<https://www.browardvotes.gov> - The Broward Supervisor of Elections Site

<https://www.411votes.org> - One stop shop for election related information, sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

<https://www.lwvbroward.org> - The League of Women Voters site which has nonpartisan information about proposed amendments and the candidates.

After you cast and mail your ballot, you can track its status by going to <https://ballottrax.net>.

**Important - If you want to vote by mail, you MUST request a vote by mail ballot by 10/29/2022**

Remember to vote by mail, in person at early voting sites or on election day. It is critical and your responsibility.

Before you gather the candy for your neighborhood trick or treaters, please remember that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. One in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Make sure you take time to get a mammogram or encourage your friends to do the same.

In November, BCREA will host **Dr. Vickie Cartwright**, Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools. Dr. Cartwright took over the helm at Broward, the sixth largest school system in the country, in February 2022 and is the county's first female superintendent. She comes to Broward via Wisconsin and Orlando, Florida.

Her 2022-23 message for the district is "Leading with Relationships, Grace, and Respect."

BCREA traditionally honors veterans at our November meeting. So, we will wrap up the meeting with a salute to the armed forces. Remember to wear your patriotic red, white, and blue!

Anne



# Passages



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

Martha Pipes 11/06

Helen King 11/07

Mary Perfect 11/13

Mary 'Betty' Weber 11/17

Dorothy Johnson 11/21

And turning 85....

Arline Ziller 11/24



Thinking of You  
Robin Newman  
Arline Ziller



In Memoriam  
Jean Childers 6/20  
Gwen Thompson  
Wayne McWhinney 9/01

## 2022-2023 Officers

### President

Sue Colton

954-695-5065

### President-Elect

Anne French

954-579-1719

### Secretary

Karen Avery

954-806-1678

### Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc

954-962-7343

# Literacy

Chair: Sandy Lefkowitz

954-557-5817

Slef12343@gmail.com



## NEWS FLASH COMING TO BCREA

### A Bakeless Bake Sale

A bit of news we have today  
A Bakeless Bake Sale is on the way.  
These busy days who has time to bake  
Pies, cookies, or even a cake?

We've thought of a plan that's truly grand,  
And feel quite sure that you'll

understand

In an envelope please put the price  
Of a pie, or cake, or something nice.

Help us share some books that are brand  
new.

We'll buy and deliver them for you.  
No fuss or bother, it's easy for do  
Something special for kids and reading, too

Make checks payable to:  
**Broward County Retired Educators Asso-**  
**ciation (BCREA)** And mail to:

**Marelise LeClerc**  
**615 N. 31st Rd.**  
**Hollywood, FL 33021**

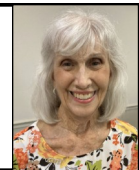
OR place your donation in the "CAKE BOX"  
found at the meeting!!  
Minimum \$5, please.

*Sandy*

## Membership...

Chair: Susan Lochrie

954-494-8204 or slochrie@bellsouth.net



Encourage your friends to join BCREA, which also includes membership in FREA. BCREA supports the FREA mission of safeguarding the strength of the Florida Retirement System with the Florida State Legislature. There is strength in numbers!

BCREA had 245 members by October 6., including 28 new members. We started collecting dues in March for 2022-2023. Most of you have renewed your membership.

We are still waiting for some renewals. Reminders with return envelopes were mailed in September. If you received a recent dues reminder, please send a check for your dues by October 31 or bring it to the November meeting so that your name will be included in the new BCREA Handbook (Directory).

Call or email me with questions about dues and membership.

I would like to send your friends information about BCREA if you send me their contact information.

### Welcome New Members

Linda Gerson



Bonnie Clemon, Jr



*Susan*



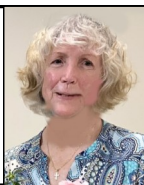
Happy  
Thanksgiving





## Information Services

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



Welcome back everyone! While many of us may have experienced some personal difficulties during the past two years, we might find it hard to accept that the holidays are right round the corner. During this time, we should find something to be thankful for and appreciate what we have been given.

**Oprah Winfrey** says, "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough."

A 2021 article from Harvard Health Publishing states that expressing thankfulness for the things we are given, can make us a happier person. If the stress of the upcoming season begins to weigh you down a little, try verbalizing the things for which you are thankful. While developing our "thankful list," we should also try to show our gratitude. Swiss Philosopher **Henri Frederic Amiel** explains the difference between thankful and gratitude. "Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude.

Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts."

During November, please thank our Veterans and their families for their service. One of the ways we can show our gratitude is by supporting the **Wreaths Across America** program.

This organization lays wreaths on veteran's graves at Arlington National Cemetery and 2,500 other locations. Find out how you can be thankful and show gratitude by visiting <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org>. Before giving to any organization during the holidays, check their rating at <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>.

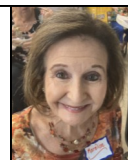
When next we meet, it will be National Sandwich Day - be thankful that we can share time, information and friendship with one another.

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

*Sallie*

## From the Treasurer

Marelise LeClerc  
954-962-7343 flsun1@comcast.net



Thank you to the following members for including a scholarship donation along with dues. *Marelise*

DONOR  
Linda Marable

IN MEMORY OF:  
Fran Welch and Jean Childers

UNDESIGNATED DONATIONS  
Calvin Lamar  
Patricia Roberts  
Michael Sutton  
Mark Thomas

Juli Patton  
Joni Schachere  
Dezzie Smith-Walker  
William Wolfolk

## Fund Raising

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



We're planning our 2 big fundraisers: our luncheon in February and BINGO in April. More info to follow,

*Barbara*



Leonora Smoot



Ellen Adler



Robin Newman

The cost of BCREA Newsletter is underwritten by

**Bright Star**  
CREDIT UNION

Call (954)468-2728 or Online at [BSCU.org](http://BSCU.org)

Serving Broward Educators Since 1946



## Community Service /Handbook

Chair: Darcia Drago

954-977-7247 dardra@att.net



### Why people volunteer:

(from NRTA)

To share skills.

To get to know a new community or neighborhood.

To help someone.

To do one's share.

To make new friends.

To demonstrate commitment to a cause or belief.

For fun!

To keep skills alive.

To donate one's professional skills.

To be challenged.

To assure progress.

To have an impact.

To be part of a team.

To learn something new.

To be an advocate.

For escape.

To be an agent of change.

To experiment with new ways of doing something.

To feel proud.

To satisfy one's curiosity.

To stay active.

To share knowledge and experiences.

To pay back or pay forward.

To improve one's health - both mental and physical.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please report your service hours. FREIA shares this information with legislators when it is time to address legislative issues.

Working together = success.

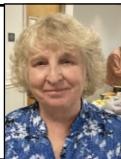
**Sallie Sherwood** won the Volunteer Award in October.

**Darcy**

## Friendship

Chair: Marsy Smith

954-962-6433 smithmarsy@aol.com



It was great to see all of you at the October meeting!

Please keep my email address (above) handy throughout the year and let me know when a card from BCREA might brighten a member's day.

In addition to birthday

cards for our members who are 85 or over, I also have both get-well and thinking-of-you cards I can send. We have members who are unable to attend our meetings, so please keep them in your thoughts as well.

**Marsy**

## Cultural Affairs

Chair: Carol Roland

954-472-2389 [CAROLRBEADS@aol.com](mailto:CAROLRBEADS@aol.com)



Upcoming Activities. Contact me if you're interested in any activity. (All activities are open to friends and family as well.)

**January 12.** BRIGHTLINE day trip. Enjoy lunch and shopping in West Palm Beach. We will depart Ft. Lauderdale station at 10:20 AM. and Return to Lauderdale at 4:23 PM. Estimated Cost \$20. Tickets must be purchased By November meeting.

**January-February** Theater Matinee Shows. More information to come. If you would like to see a specific show, let me know ASAP.

**March 16, 1:00-3:00PM.** Fun and Frolic Day is tentatively scheduled for Plantation Heritage Park. Stay Tuned for more information.

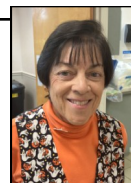
**April or May** Top Golf.

**Carol**

## Social Committee

Chair: Marianne Scott

954-321-9174 mscott33317@yahoo.com



Welcome to November! This month gets us thinking about gathering with friends and family to celebrate and be thankful for all that we have. Just as we gather for

Thanksgiving, BCREA will be gathering for our 2nd meeting of the year on November 3. The Social Committee will provide coffee, soda and water. As of this writing, the meeting with Jim Ward management has not taken place, so we will continue with Bring Your Own Lunch. Bring a

sandwich to munch on during the meeting as Nov. 3 is National Sandwich Day. Thank you to everyone who has been recycling. Please remember that the recycling bin is for soda cans & water bottles (minus the cap) ONLY. All other trash goes in the large can provided by the city. Get a head start on National Candy Day-Nov. 4, by bringing a piece or two to have for your dessert on the 3rd.

**Marianne**

# Vote! VOTE! V O T E!





## 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**

### *Bev's Bytes...*

**Suzanne Atkin's** Calling Committee is doing a fine job. I had a call from **Juanita Pringle Vaughn** last week to remind me of the meeting, The cool thing is she was calling from Georgia! With cell phones you can do this! **Karen Uris** is in NC visiting her new grandchild. And speaking of grandchildren, **Earthalene Perry** brought her 2-month-old grandson with her to the meeting! **Pat Roberts** wrote that **Ken and Tunde Robinson**, who both taught at Plantation HS, died last year. They were-



n't members of BCREA but she thought someone might know them and wanted to pass on the news. Back in April **Robin Newman** had heart surgery - and still made it to the May meeting! **Darcy Drago** missed the October meeting for a good reason - she was on a cruise! In her absence, **Diane Texter** filled in at the Community Service table and did the volunteer hours drawing. It was good to have Diane back in action after her recent illness. **Shirley Swartz** is our new FREF chairman, replacing **Anne French** who has held that post for several years.



**LuAnn Comes** reports that there were 51 at the October meeting. The winners of the Scholarship Fundraiser were

#### 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](mailto:dardra@att.net) or mail it to me at:

**Darcia Drago**  
2505 Dahoon Avenue  
Coconut Creek, FL 33063



(l-r )**Ellen Emery**, \$20; and \$10 each went to **Alyce Aspler**, **Earthalene Perry** (holding her grandson) and another win for **Alyce!** Flowers were won by **Sallie Sherwood**, **Carol Roland** and **Jean Anderson**.



It was great to see several members who hadn't attended a meeting recently - so happy to have them back. And that's the last byte for October.

*Bev*