**BCREA****Newsletter**

November, 2024

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

website: <http://browardrea.org>

Number 320

## Monster Milton Causes Meeting Cancellation



We definitely dodged a bullet with both Hurricanes Helene and Milton. These photos show the damage they were capable of!

### *Hurricane Milton Cancels BCREA's First Legislative "Meet the Candidates"*

By Sue Colton

BCREA, a non-partisan organization, scheduled its first-ever MEET THE CANDIDATES for our October 10, 2024, meeting, but Hurricane Milton blew in, canceled schools and city operations, and disrupted our daily lives. Our hearts go out to all our Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) colleagues and their friends and family across the state who sustained damages from Hurricanes Milton and Helene. Our FREA Fall Leadership Symposiums were also canceled for the entire week. Thank you to those of the ten candidates for our five open Florida district

legislative positions we invited to speak at our first 2024-2025 meeting who agreed to attend, and the eight additional incumbents of our Broward Legislative Delegation who were looking forward to meeting and greeting you, our members. This is an important election year, so please VOTE on Tuesday, November 5th. The 2025 Florida Legislative Session convenes on March 4, 2025, and ends on May 2. We need additional members for our Legislative Committee! Please contact me at [scolton@bellsouth.net](mailto:scolton@bellsouth.net) to join.

### November 7th Meeting

**Time:** 12:00 pm

**Place:** Jim Ward

Community Center

**Address:** 301 NW 46th Ave,  
Plantation

**Program:** Bob Adkins

The Honor Flight



#### Bring to meeting:

Picnic food to share

Volunteer Hours

School Supplies

Kids' books for Literacy

Aluminum pull-tabs

Cell Phones & Eyeglasses



### **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. Plus, we'll learn about Honor Flight for veterans. 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

Thankfully, Hurricane Milton spared us, but the forecast was certainly ominous, and therefore our October meeting was cancelled. My heart goes out to those who weren't as fortunate as Broward. The success of BCREA is dependent on the many hard working members and committee chairpersons.

One of the many successful BCREA projects has been the Morris Scholarships. In its two years of operation, sixteen Broward school employees have received a financial boost as they pursue their further education. This achievement was due in large part to the diligent efforts of **Mary Ellen Fowler**, who passed in September.

In order to continue this worthwhile project, we need to identify a new chairperson to promote the scholarship and manage the application process. Please contact me to discuss details. Help BCREA continue this program and continue the legacy of **Jim and Evelyn Morris**.

School Supplies: Pens, pencils, markers, and notebooks are essential in classrooms but not all students (or teachers!) have enough of these learning necessities. BCREA has teamed up with **Tools for Schools** to help fill this gap. Please bring your essential school supplies to the November meeting to help students and teachers.

**T shirts** - Let's spread the word about BCREA by proudly wearing t-shirts with our logo at civic events, while volunteering in schools and in the community, etc. There will be a limited number of shirts available for purchase (\$25) at the November meeting, OR you can use the order form on page 6.

**Casting your vote** is absolutely critical this election year. We have an obligation to elect national, state, and local leaders. There are also several amendments on the ballot this year. For a non-partisan review of the Broward ballot, check out [vote411.org](http://vote411.org), which is sponsored by the League of Women voters. (On our website LINKS)

### Important dates:

Early voting: October 26-November 1

Mail-in ballots must be received in the elections office by 7pm on election day Tuesday, November 5.

Make your voice heard, Vote! **Anne**



## President' Elect's Corner

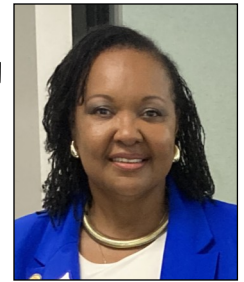
We have experienced a true tropical South Florida season with rain-storms, tornados and hurricanes. We hope that you or your family were not affected by the inclement weather. However, we regretfully had to cancel our first Meet the

Candidates symposium that was scheduled for our October 10th meeting due to the inclement weather. With that said, please review the candidates and their platform to make the wise decision when voting on November 5, 2024, if you have not pre-voted or sent in your mail-in ballot!

At our November 7, 2024, **Mr. Bob Atkins** will enlighten us of **THE HONOR FLIGHT**. I am excited to learn of this prestigious honor and hope that you will join us in welcoming him. Mr. Atkins also asks that if we know of any Veterans who would like to take a flight, please bring their information to the meeting. "It is truly a day that they will never forget!"

Hurricane Fun Fact: I was hired at 16 to work at K-MART, and my manager's name was **Helene**. She made a ceramic heart for me upon graduation, and I still have it.

Sincerely, *JoAnne*



## District 10 Director

**Sue Colton**

954-695-5065 [scolton@bellsouth.net](mailto:scolton@bellsouth.net)



### WANTED: MEMBERS OF THE 2025 CUPID CREW!

This Valentine's Day, the Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) is teaming up with Wish of a Lifetime from AARP to spread love and connection as part of the 11th annual Cupid Crew! We need YOU to help older Americans feel cherished and connected this holiday. No matter your age, we all thrive on connection—physically and emotionally. But did you know nearly one in four adults aged 65 and older is isolated? That's 50

million Americans who may not hear from anyone on Valentine's Day! In 2024, the BCREA Board of Directors piloted this heartwarming activity for our District 10, and now in 2025, we're taking it statewide with FREA! HOW CAN YOU HELP? Deliver Valentine's Day joy to Members who can't make it to meetings Shut-ins from your church or local community groups... JOIN US at our November meeting and discover how to spark joy and love, one heart at a time.

*Sue*



## Passages



Happy Birthday to our  
Birthday Club

(members over 85!)

**Martha Pipes 11/06**

**Mary Perfect 11/13**

**Dorothy Johnson 11/21**

**Arline Ziller 11/24**

**Betty Ouellette 11/27**

And turning 85...

**Doris Cotnoir 11/08**



Thinking of You

**Julia Penley**

**Diane Texter**

**Arline Ziller**

## Membership

Chair: LuAnn Comes

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



October, can be a spooooooky month, but Milton was beyond spooky. That storm could put fear in anyone! Hopefully, each of you and your families were able to stay safe during the storm. Since Milton prevented us from meeting in October, we will be grateful to meet in November, a month for giving thanks. While I am thankful for my family, my friends, my country, the armed forces that protect my country, and my opportunity to vote, I am also thankful for BCREA and FREA. Its members support education; support each other in enriching their lives and their community; and advocate for retiree benefits.

We began collecting dues earlier this year for 2024-2025. Most of you have already renewed your membership, but we are still waiting for some renewals. It is not too late to send in your dues of \$60. Remember, this gives you membership with BCREA and FREA along with a host of benefits. Please send me a check made out to BCREA or bring it to the November meeting. Feel free to call me or email me with questions about membership. If you know a recent retiree or someone who might like to join, send me their contact information so I can reach out.

I look forward to seeing each of you on Thursday, November 7!

*LuAnn*

## Information Services

Chair: Sallie Sherwood

954-629-3712

matildatwo@aol.com



Elections, hurricanes, world conflicts, personal loss have all impacted our mental health over the past few months. Several studies reveal a correlation between clutter and poor mental health issues. Clutter can cause people to lose focus on tasks, have trouble sleeping, reduce creativity, impact our relationships with others and possibly trigger depression. Here are suggested tips from the September 2024 AARP article written by **Nicole Pajer** which suggests ways to improve our mental health and reduce stress by decluttering our surroundings. While we don't need to be minimalists, we should give permission to discard duplicate items that we haven't used for years. Seasonal items that were not used the prior year will usually not be used the next year. Our favorite coffee cup with the broken handle can probably be tossed because it just sits on the shelf staring at you. The same with the comb that only has half of the teeth left, or gifted tchotchkes that we can't use, items that are stored in the top of closets, still in original wrappers from years ago can be sold or donated. (Many hurricane collection sites are available.)

Books that will not be read for a second time can be donated to libraries. Cut and save the article or recipe that you want to keep but discard or recycle the rest of the magazine.

Three "junk" drawers can be condensed into one small space. Plastic containers (give to Social Committee), old boxes from past purchases (shoe, phone, Amazon), reusable bags, or totes can all be recycled or thrown out. Don't keep that one sock, because the other one will never show up again!

Decluttering is a perfect time to walk around the house with a small trash bag and pick up junk mail, odds and ends, etc. BUT make sure that the trash bag makes it to the garbage and not laid on the kitchen table.

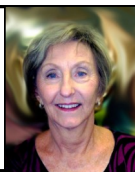
According to **Oprah Winfrey**, "Getting rid of clutter eliminates 40% of housework in the average home."

Declutter and donate - It's a Win-Win! Stay fit, stay sharp, and send positive thoughts to others. Welcome to all and welcome FALL 2024!

*Sallie*

## Community Service /Handbook

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



### Handbook/Directory

Change of plans: Due to the storm and our lack of an October meeting we will send the information for our new handbook/directory to the printer after our December meeting. The new handbook/directory will be distributed at our January meeting.

Copies of the 2023-24 book will be available in the meantime.

### Community Service

At our November meeting we will collect the school supplies for the **Broward Education Foundation's "Tools for Schools" Program**.

Items on their "wish list" include:

Composition books  
Lined 3-hole filler paper  
Washable markers  
Crayons (24 pack)  
Glue sticks,  
Pencils (#2 & mechanical)  
Folders  
Erasers &  
Note cards.

Our donations will go to their School Supply Center where ESE & art teachers, media specialists & teachers from Title I schools can "shop" for needed supplies.

Wishing you & your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

*Darcy*

### Fund Raising

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



Hi all. Hope everyone is doing well and had no damage from Hurricane Milton. We got very lucky.

Our annual FUN BINGO will be April 17 Come join us on Zoom. More info to follow.

We will be having some new

fundraisers in the coming year. If you have any ideas for fundraising let me know. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our November 7 th meeting.

*Barbara*



### Bev's Bytes...

"St. Anthony, St. Anthony!

Please come around!!

Bev's lost something precious

And it must be found!"



I've lost a piece of paper that has the information I need to put things on the website. For 15 - 20 years I have kept it in a folder over my computer. I used it when I put the October Newsletter on the site a month ago. I thought I'd returned it to the folder but when I went to use it again last week, it wasn't there. I've turned my computer room upside down and inside out searching. I've gone through every file I have - all to no avail! **Sallie Sherwood** (who introduced me to St. Anthony) came over and helped me look. Alas! No luck!

The best thing about the situation is that my computer room has never looked better. I've de-cluttered a lot and thrown out papers dating back to 1996! But until I find that paper, adding info to our website can't happen! And Voila!


No sooner had I written the above when a thought occurred to me. The last time I used it was when I added the October Newsletter.... Hmmmm. After I print a copy of the Newsletter, I put it in an album. Could it be possible that the paper might be with that Newsletter? I quickly looked in the album, and there it was! Right behind the Newsletter! Thank you St. Anthony! Now! if only I haven't messed up the program so badly trying to remember the info on the paper!

And that's the last byte for this time! *Bev*

### FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI

City of Sunrise Cultural Festival (Free Admission)  
Saturday, November 9, 2024 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

 City Park 6600 Sunset Strip, Sunrise 33313

Fruit Tree Give Away (Sunrise Residents Only - photo ID required as proof of residency): 

We will be giving away 350 fruit trees at this year's event. 

Trees will be given away on a first come, first serve basis starting at 5 p.m.

### BCREA Officers

#### President

Anne French  
954-579-1719

#### Secretary

Karen Avery  
954-806-1678

#### President-Elect

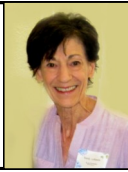
JoAnne Simmons  
954-804-0647

#### Treasurer

Carol Roland  
954-472-2389

## Literacy

Chair: Sandy Lefkowitz  
954-473-9480 slef12343@gmail.com



As the holidays approach, take time to reflect and give thanks. Think about passing along a favorite book that a child has outgrown. It can bring a smile to another child's face; opening their heart and mind to be lifelong readers! Take a leaf from our Tree-mendous Reading Tree and bring a smile to a child's—or adult's—face! Our goal is to develop a love for reading and what better way than to provide a special book, new or gently used. Books will be distributed to Kids in Distress, Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital, and the library at Memorial Manor. Book donations are always welcome and encouraged. Spread the word that our fifth grade essay contest is in full swing! The Literacy Committee is asking every BCREA

member to distribute information about the contest to at least one school so students have ample time to participate as the deadline is December 15th. 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 honor a loved one or mentor and win prizes! Do you enjoy seeing kids' faces light up from hearing a good story? See Sandy Lefkowitz to sign up for a time to read to a group at Kids in Distress. Monthly time slots are available! As always, thank you for your participation. *Sandy*



**Save the Date**  
Annual Scholarship Luncheon  
On  
February 6, 2025, at  
Tropical Acres Restaurant at  
11:30 am  
The theme will be  
"Tropical Days."  
Think  
South Florida  
Or  
Hawaiian  
Attire!  
More information will be in next  
month's Newsletter.

**Scarier than Halloween**

Scams targeting older adults are on the rise and include: Government Impersonator, Fake prize (Store items, sweepstakes, lottery), and Computer tech support. If you think that you have been the target of a scam, contact the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-372-8311 or the Federal Trade Commission at [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov),  
Or  
877-382-4357.

We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service  
every time

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PLACES

SunSentinel  
MEDIA GROUP

- DATED MATERIAL -  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

### BCREA T-Shirts Order Form

Royal blue  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve collared shirt with the BCREA logo on the right chest.

These shirts are flat knit 65/35 poly/cotton pique.

Cost: \$25.00 per shirt. Checks made payable to BCREA

Deadline: October 26, 2024

Delivery at November 7th meeting.

Questions, please call Anne French 954-579-1719.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_XS \_\_S \_\_M  
\_\_L \_\_XL \_\_XXL \_\_XXXL

Please make check payable to BCREA.

Mail check and order form

to:

Anne French

1017 NE 28 Drive

Wilton Manors, Fl. 33334



Did you know.....

that if you store canned  
beans upside down it makes it  
easier to get every bean out of  
the can after opening?

### 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