



BCREA Happy Halloween Newsletter



October, 2024

Broward County Retired Educators' Association

<http://browardrea.org>

Number 319

Nine BCREA , 4 Morris Scholarships Awarded + 3 Literacy Awards

BCREA Scholarship Chairman Diane Jarchow, Morris Scholarship Chair, Mary Ellen Fowler and Literacy Chair Sandy Lefkowitz were proud to present the recipients of this year's awards.



BCREA 2024 Scholarship winners l - r: Sulianne Mera, Hailey Cutherell, Samantha Forsyth, Andrea Bruno, Lauren Caggiano and Steven Wilde. Recipients who could not attend were Emily Brennan, Melissa Joseph and Jacey Brauner.



After a slow start last year, there were 43 entries for the **Jim and Evelyn Morris Scholarship** this year. Pictured l-r are the winners who attended the presentation - **Kerry Ann Brown, Nathaniel Delevoe, William Bobinski and Roselyn Clarke**. The Morris scholarship is for continuing education for people in education.

Winners of the Margaret Poppell Literacy Contest were **Michael Sano**, 2nd place; **Lorenzo Rosario Monti**, 1st place and **Liana Kachman**, 3rd place, Lorenzo read his winning essay to the group.



October 10 Meeting

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Jim Ward Community Center

Address: 301 NW 46th Ave, Plantation

Program: Meet the Candidates



Bring to meeting:

- Potluck Dish to Share
- Your Volunteer hours
- Used eyeglasses & Cell Phones
- Aluminum pull-tabs
- New or gently used kids' books

President's Corner

Mark your calendars: BCREA will start this year on October 10th promptly at noon. This is a week later due to Rosh Hashanah, which will be celebrated October 2-October 4, 2024. In November, the meeting will be back to our regular schedule-the first Thursday in November-the 7th. I want to welcome you to a new year of friendship, special projects, interesting speakers, more recognition for BCREA, and of course, good food! The diligent BCREA board met in August to discuss plans for an action-packed year. Committee chairs have highlighted exciting plans in this newsletter.

In May 2024, the Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) celebrated its 70th anniversary! BCREA members **Diane Texter**, **Marsy Smith**, **Sue Colton**, and I drove to the Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel for the annual convention. Along with lots of fun, we got updates on FREA legislative priorities, assurance of the security of FRS retirement funds, and learned about new membership benefits.

One thing we noticed at the convention was that many members were wearing shirts promoting their units. This is a great way to spread the word about our organization. In marketing terms, this is how to build our brand and increase membership.

Members will soon be able to proudly wear t-shirts with our logo at civic events, while volunteering in schools and in the community, etc. The shirts are royal blue with $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves and with collars. They are 65/35 poly/cotton pique and will have the BCREA logo printed on them. There will be a limited number of shirts available for purchase (\$25) at the October meeting OR you can complete the enclosed

order form on page 6 for your shirt. Looking forward to seeing you on October 10th. *Anne*



President Elect's Corner

It's an exciting time of the year and I am glad to be part of this great organization, BCREA. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President-elect. The Board has been working over the summer to make sure that we continue to provide resources that add to our seniority. We are equally excited about our legislative candidates coming to our October meeting. We hope they share their agenda for re-election or as a incumbent.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to assisting in any way possible.

Sincerely, *JoAnne*



Legislative

Chair: **Sue Colton**
District 10 Director
954-695-5065 scolton@bellsouth.net



First, I want to thank **Gretchen Ellison**, President of **Miami-Dade CREA**, for hosting the Broward and Palm Beach Units at **The Palace** in Weston on May 3, 2024, for a combined District 10 meeting. The venue was not just exquisite but also reflected the care and thoughtfulness put into the event. The food was plentiful and delicious, the program was mindful and informative, and the company was truly the best! District 10 is the most powerful tri-county district of our state organization, the **Florida Retired Educators Association**. Together, our public school districts serve 750,060 students and employ 81,311 instructional and non-instructional personnel. Over 80,000 retirees are drawing FRS benefits in District 10. The more than 600,000 million dollars generated in those annual benefits support goods, services, and charities, allowing seniors to stay in their homes and contribute to our tri-county economic health. AND WE VOTE! Please join our Legislative Committee in 2024-2025 as we begin to visit the local offices of our legislators early in the year. BCREA and FREA WILL restore the Reinstatement of COLA in the 2025 Legislative Session!

Sue

From the Treasurer

Carol Roland

954-472-2389 CAROLRBEADS@aol.com



I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of 24-25. Just a reminder that FREA dues have increased this year. If you have already paid your dues, you were not affected by this increase. But future FREA dues will be \$45.00. BCREA is not increasing our local dues (\$15.) this year so the total amount will now be \$60.

Last year your generosity provided funding for 9 students and 10 employees to be awarded scholarships ranging from \$2000 to \$1500. On the behalf of the recipients, thank you. Donating the scholarships funds is easy: just mail me your donation - payable to BCREA, (specifying it is for scholarship) or you may give me a check or cash at our next meeting.

Members who donated to BCREA since May

Gwen Batie	Emma Black	Bobbi Lou David
Joan Gavin	Willie Hatcher	Marva Jenkins
Bonnie Kinghorn	Carol Merz	Judith Pine
Susan Redfern	Marvalyn Rhett	Grace Tyson
	Amada Walker	

Social Committee

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



Welcome back to another year of camaraderie, delicious food and interesting meetings. The Social Committee is in need of take home containers. We were completely cleaned out at the May meeting. If you have any at home, the committee, as well as your fellow members, would appreciate it if you could bring them to the meeting. Please remember we have no access to a warmer at Jim Ward so we will continue to do a picnic food style Pot Luck luncheon. For any new members, that means items such as fried chicken, fruit or veggie trays, appetizers, finger sandwiches and of course dessert. Looking forward to seeing everyone on October 10.

Marianne



Membership

Chair: LuAnn Comes

954-954-475-1510 lacommes987@aol.com



B.C.R.E.A.??? F.R.E.A.? What does it do? Why should I be a member? The reasons are numerous! We develop friendships, advocate for retirement benefits, award scholarships to future and current educators, provide informative speakers, offer insurance and financial possibilities through AMBA, and suggest fun events. We support the community through activities such as collecting books, reading to children, supporting our troops and collecting items for pets. Whew! There is really just too much to list. Truly, there is something for everyone! I wonder if new retirees realize the benefits of joining our group. Per-

haps you could help. Do you know someone who has recently retired or retired a couple of years ago? A personal connection is always best, so please reach out to others about joining BCREA. The benefits and activities are numerous and make a difference for both our members and our community.

Thank you to all who have already renewed your membership. If you have not sent in your dues, the current rate is \$60. Make the check out to BCREA and send to LuAnn Comes or bring it to the October meeting. I look forward to seeing each of you on October 10!

LuAnn

Friendship

Chair: Marsy Smith

954-962-6433 smithmarsy@aol.com



I hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to a new BCREA year! We have members who are unable to attend our meetings, and even members who do attend, may appreciate knowing we are thinking of them at challenging times. If you know of someone who would appreciate a card, please let me know. I can send Get Well, Thinking of You, or Sympathy Cards.

We always send Birthday Cards to members who are 85+ years of age. This year at our meetings. Sallie Sherwood and I will continue to pass around the Pot of Gold at each meeting. It is way for you to get rid of that spare change that makes your purse so heavy! The Pot of Gold is a special prize you can win at our annual luncheon in May.

Marsy



Members who attended the FREA Convention in May were Anne French, Sue Colton, Marsy Smith, and Diane Texter.

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



Welcome to new & returning members! Please help a child in need by donating school supplies at our October meeting. Your donation will go to the **Broward Education Foundation's "Tools for Schools"** program & will help students & teachers get what they need to have a successful school year. Suggested items: **composition books, filler paper, pencils, erasers, index cards, crayons, folders, glue sticks & other basic school supplies.** Please turn in your unreported volunteer hours at our first meeting. Remember to include travel & prep time. If you provided any type of service

to non-family members this counts as volunteer service. We will collect aluminum pull tabs for a local clinic, used cell phones for Women in Distress & used eyeglasses for the Lion's Club at all our meetings. We will also do two other group projects (TBA) this year. **Membership Handbook/Directory** Our 2023-24 edition will be available for pickup at our Oct. & Nov. meetings. The 2024-25 edition will go to the printer after our November meeting so please let me know if there are any changes to your listing before then.

Darcy

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



NOW HIRING. POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Join a fantastic committee. Come on board! The Literacy Committee is waiting for you. Contact me (954-557-5817) or come up to me at the next meeting and smile. We would love to have you join us. Be involved in BCREA by bringing one new or gently used children's book to every meeting. Over the past years we have distributed 200+ books. There will be a **TREEMENDOUS READING TREE** waiting for you at the meeting. Just pick a leaf and choose a book donation to bring to the November meeting. Also spread the word that our 5th grade essay contest will be in full swing. Make a commitment to share the fifth-grade essay contest with 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 a grandparent or a grandparent figure and enter the Margaret Pop-pell Literacy Contest. A new initiative for this year will be helping Memorial Manor build a library for their residents. Memorial Manor is a nursing home/assisted living facility in Pembroke Pines. The books we collect will be added to their bookshelves. So, all those books that you finished reading over the summer...bring them to a meeting and pass on your favorites.

Sandy

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



Hi BCREA, I am looking for a couple more members for my FREF committee so we can do more outreach to high school BRACE advisors and FFEA, Future Florida Educators Association club advisors to spread the word about our Florida Retired Educators Foundation Scholarship for high school seniors who want to become

teachers. We only had one applicant last year, but he was a **WINNER** of the state scholarship. If you have some time and are interested in this effort, please let me know. I would welcome your assistance and ideas. All my info is in the Handbook.

Shirley

Passages



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

- Charles Hofman 10/05
- Phyllis Kublin 10/08
- Theodora Williams 10/09
- Donald Conkel 10/10
- Ann Graves 10/12
- Carolyn Stern 10/12
- Areathea Reddick 10/22
- Irene LaBelle 10/24
- Willie Lou Hatcher 10/27
- Jean Shisken 10/28



Thinking of you...
Chris Campbell
Diane Jarchow
Arline Ziller



In Memoriam

- Jackie Hall 8/25/24
- Mary Ellen Fowler
8/30/24
- Linda Horton 8/11/24

Information Services

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



Soon we will experience a Harvest Moon which represents gratitude, abundance and transformation. Hopefully, we can all be grateful for lower temperatures, changes from high humidity into more temperate air and plenty of holidays during the next several months. Still we do not want to let our guard down during Hurricane Season which runs through November 30th. It is very important to keep emergency numbers on your refrigerator or near your phone. (Check the May 2024 Newsletter for a comprehensive list.) Two addi-

tional informative sources: <https://brward.org/Hurricane/Documentations> and FloridaDisaster.org offers printouts and steps to MAKE a plan for children, pets and seniors, BUILD a disaster supply kit checklist and KNOW if your home is in an evacuation area. In 1990, The United Nations adopted October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons. With that in mind, some of us might want to investigate The ElderCare Locator - elder-care.acl.gov. (a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) This links older

Americans and their caregivers in need of assistance with trustworthy state and local agencies as well as community-based organizations serving older adults. The purpose of the BCREA Information Service and PSA article is to share items of interest to our organization. If you have any news or ideas relevant to our group and would like to share, please contact **Lillian Small, Josephine Walker, Susan Meyer** or myself. Stay fit, stay sharp, and send positive thoughts to others. Welcome to all and welcome FALL 2024!

Sallie



3 Members Pass in August

Sadly, BCREA lost 3 members during the month of August. Pictured above are **Jackie Hall, Mary Ellen Fowler, and Linda Horton**. Jackie and Mary Ellen were active members. Past-president Linda Horton

had moved to Napa, CA to live with her daughter. Mary Ellen was currently chairing the Morris Scholarship Committee. Visitation for Mary Ellen will be on Tuesday, 9/24, from 4-7 pm at Boyd Panciera Funeral home, 6400 Hollywood Blvd, Noon Mass will be at Little Flower Catholic Church 1805 Pierce Street, Hollywood on 9/25. A memorial noon Mass will be held for Linda on Friday, September 13 at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, 2731 SW 11 Court, Ft. Lauderdale. Jackie's service was at Piney Bluff last week. Rest in Peace, Ladies.

We guarantee **BRIGHT** Service
every time



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**

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



<i>BCREA Officers....</i>	
President	Secretary
Anne French 954-579-1719	Karen Avery 954-806-1678
President-Elect	Treasurer
JoAnne Simmons 954-804-0647	Carol Roland 954-472-2389

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 Avenue
Coconut Creek, FL 33063