

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

OCTOBER, 2023

OFFICERS:

President — Cheri Brodeur
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VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed
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Secretary — Sue Reed
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Treasurer — Larry Bachle
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Volunteer Services— Karen Philman
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Legislative Representative & Website —
Paula Marczynski marczy52@gmail.com

Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord
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Schedule of Events:

- NOV 20 — VOLUNTEER SERVICES HANDOUT (PAULA MARCZYNSKI)
- DEC 18 — CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE
- JAN 15 — TBD
- FEB 19 — BLACK HISTORY MONTH (ALPHONSO JOHNSON)
- MAR 18 — SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (RICK REED)
- APR 15 — TBD
- MAY 14-16 — FREA CONVENTION
- MAY 20 — TBD

COME JOIN US!

Levy and Gilchrist counties are located in rural north central Florida. The Suwannee River forms the western boundary of both.

We meet on the **3rd Monday** September thru May at **10:30 a.m.** at **The Trenton Library in Trenton.** We welcome all retired school personnel living in our area, no matter where you worked.

The Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association is a unit of the state-wide **Florida Retired Educators Association.** Association (FREA) organization.



OCT

Cheri called the meeting to order and **Alphonso** provided opening thoughts and led the pledge and singing of God Bless America. Committee reports were presented by **Rick, Sue, Paula, and Karen.**

We had a special guest from Levy County schools teacher association...**Kim Hudson.** She talked about issues facing current teachers and how the state voucher program has negatively impacted public education.

Cheri gave a very informative presentation on tips and concerns when traveling overseas. She offered travel books for those who were interested.

L-GREA Activities

SEP

Cheri called the meeting to order and **Alphonso** provided opening thoughts and led the pledge and singing of God Bless America. Committee reports were presented by **Paula, Rick, Sue,** and **Karen.**

Paula and Rick discussed a spreadsheet she designed and shared with him for collecting and tallying volunteer hours. The program is setup for each person's specific needs.

Our program about essential oils was presented by **Lois Bachle**, the granddaughter of members **Harriet** and **Larry**. It was an excellent and informative message on how to create products and market strategies for her FFA Ornamental Horticulture project.



AUG



This was our planning meeting for the new fiscal year, along with the exchanging of officer materials. **Cheri** took over as president, **Sue** is our new secretary, **Paula** is our legislative & website rep, and **Karen** is VOY coordinator.



Paula, Karen, and **Alphonso** gave a report on the FREA convention in Panama City. Some personal highlights were recognition of Paula as District IV Volunteer of the Year and Alphonso winning one of the \$50 baskets!

Rick gave an update on our presence at the GCSB back to school meeting for personnel. Unfortunately we were unable to get with Levy, but **Sue** sent materials to be distributed to employees.

We welcomed new member **Jerri Lunsford!**

Afterwards we enjoyed Cherry Cheese Danish made by Rick.

MAY

Alphonso provided the opening thoughts and led the pledge and God Bless America. **Cheri** gave an update on the legislative bills that passed that affected education and us as retirees.

We finalized plans for the state convention. Items were brought and added to the FREF basket from our unit.

Rick agreed to take our informational packets and pens to the district contact to be distributed to newly retired employees. Hopefully we will be able to acquire some new members through this.

Door prizes were won by Alphonso, Cora, Cheri, Paula, Sue, and Karen. In addition to these, Rick gave a rose from his garden to all of the women members to celebrate Mother's Day.

We held our election of officers for the next two years. Congratulations to the new officers! They are listed on the top left of the front page.

L-GREA Activities cont.

APR

We had a very eventful meeting this month!



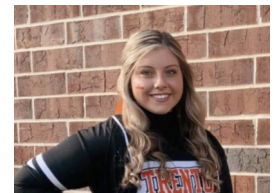
Harriet announced that **Paula** will be recognized at the state convention as the District IV Volunteer of the Year! She presented Paula with flowers. In honor of **Cheri's** birthday, we sang Happy Birthday to her. Paula showed the engraved pens we purchased as PR items for our county's retired teachers; they give our name and meeting date/time/place.

We worked on finalizing plans for the state convention. This included selling Extravaganza tickets, getting donated items for our FREF basket, and verifying attendees. **Alphonso, Karen, & Paula** will represent L-GREA.

Rick videotaped our raffle drawing on our FB page. Harriet was our winner! Door prizes were won by **Larry, Sue, Alphonso, Paula, & Harriet**. **Cheri** gave a presentation on **Kirton's Adaption & Innovation** theory.

MAR

Rick and Sue introduced our \$500 scholarship winner, **Andrea Faircloth**, at our meeting. She is a senior at Trenton Middle High School and will also graduate with a dual enrollment A.A. degree. She intends to work with younger students. We wish her well in her future career in education!



FEB



Alphonso gave a presentation for Black History Month.

Larry shared a picture with last year's scholarship winner with the quilt she had made.

JAN



Our opening thoughts were quotations from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We discussed our scholarship raffle. **Paula** passed around promotional flyers to post around the community and distributed ticket books for those who needed them.

Door prizes were won by **Sue, Rick, Larry, and Cheri**.

Cora provided our program which consisted of a variety of board games which we enjoyed playing.