



email: npcrea@gmail.com

North Pinellas County *Retired Educators Association* NEWSLETTER



PO Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758

Vol. 49, Issue 3

January/February 2024



On Tuesday, January 9, we will celebrate the new year by wearing our new year sparkles.

Please bring school supplies for second semester of Stuff the Bus. Needy students will be wanting pens and pencils, notebook paper, construction paper, crayons and notebooks again as they start new classes.

Did you receive a recent gift that maybe wasn't a good fit for you, but you didn't return it? Then the January "regifting" at the luncheon is the perfect place to bring it! Feel free to bring more than one item. Someone at the luncheon will make a monetary bid on an item and take it home. It's always great fun to shop.

We'll have a short presentation by Association Member Benefits Advisors. An FREA affiliate, AMBA has protected educators and public employees with insurance and benefits for more than 30 years. They will give a short presentation about their services and how they can best help you.

We gather at Clearwater Country Club at 11am; our luncheon will be lasagna, salad, garlic stick, and an ice cream sundae. You can select the Clearwater Country Club salad as an alternate meal. The luncheon price is \$18, including tax and tip. Please RSVP to npcrea@gmail.com by January 6 if you plan to attend.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, we'll gather at Clearwater Country Club at 11 am and celebrate the love and friendship represented by St. Valentine's Day. Please wear any shade of red or pink and bring in diapers for Babycycle Diaper Bank. If you prefer you can make a small contribution to Helping Babies Breathe.



Our speaker will be Charlotte Israel of Helping Babies Breathe, telling us about the remarkable accomplishments of this 10-year old organization.

Our luncheon will include chicken cordon bleu, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and an ice cream sundae for dessert. If you prefer, you can select the Clearwater Country Club salad as an alternate meal. The luncheon price is \$18, including tax and tip. Please RSVP to npcrea@gmail.com by February 9 if you plan to attend.

**NPCREA gathers on
Tuesday, January 9
Tuesday, February 13
11:00 am
at Clearwater Country Club
525 N. Betty Lane
Clearwater, FL 33755**

Super Volunteer



Eldon Weaver

Petersburg.

Eldon Weaver, NPCREA member and District 6 Volunteer Services Coordinator, volunteers with Oldsmar Cares all year long.

Eldon helps two days per week, collecting and cooking food for the homeless every Monday night and delivering and serving it at Williams Park in downtown St.

At Oldsmar Care headquarters, he unloads trucks of donated food from Walmart, Publix, Feeding

Tampa Bay, and other surplus food suppliers. He cooks food at home from whatever is donated, including vegetarian food for those who require it, takes the food, donuts, and sweets to Williams Park every Monday night all year round.

On his other volunteer day he unloads trucks for Oldsmar Cares and shelves items in their food pantry and clothing store and toy shop. This year, Oldsmar Cares collected almost 1000 toys for the Oldsmar Toy Drive.

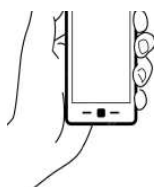
Founded in 1997, Oldsmar Cares is a 100% volunteer run 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Oldsmar and the surrounding zip codes of 34695, 33635, and 34684. Oldsmar Cares provides financial assistance, food, health screenings, and clothing to those in need in the area.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES REPORT

Name: _____ Month(s): _____

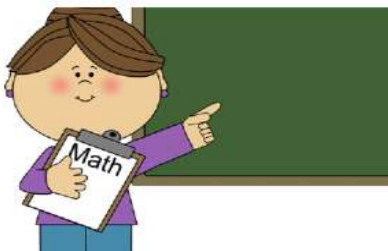
	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Adult</u>
<i>Retired Educators Assn.</i>	_____	_____
<i>Community/Clubs</i>	_____	_____
<i>Hospital/Schools</i>	_____	_____
<i>Churches</i>	_____	_____
<i>Friends/Neighbors</i>	_____	_____
<i>All Others</i>	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	_____



Phone to Mr. Eldon Weaver at 954.895.1073
 or email to pegasus_fl@yahoo.com
 or cut out and bring to the meeting



Blackboard Notices



...UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 9, 11 am

Happy New Year! (Wear your New Year sparkles). Bring school supplies for 2nd semester. Also bring unwanted Christmas gifts for our Regifting Silent Auction. AMBA will give a short presentation of insurance coverages available to members of FREA. Lunch: Lasagna, salad, garlic stick, ice cream sundae.

Tuesday, February 13, 11 am

Happy Valentines Day! (Wear red or pink). Bring diapers for Babycycle Diaper Bank, or donate to Helping Babies Breathe. Lunch: Chicken cordon bleu, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls, ice cream sundae.

Tuesday, March 12, 11 am

Bringing Back the Decades! (Pick a decade from 1930s to 2020s to represent. See if others can guess your decade.) Bring a Spring candy basket to give to people in assisted living for Easter. We'll have a Powerpoint presentation of the last 90 years and celebrate our birthday guests. Lunch: corned beef and cabbage, ice cream and cake for our happy birthday 90s and older group.

Tuesday, April 9, 11 am

Spring Bonnet Parade! A prize will be given for the best spring bonnet. Lunch: Par 3 Salad, soup, rolls, and cookies for dessert.

...PATRONS WANTED

Many members who, for various reasons, are unable to attend meetings, take an office, or join a committee, may consider becoming a PATRON of NPCREA. The \$15 PATRON donation helps to defray the cost of printing newsletter, directories, and flyers. Anyone wishing to become a PATRON should send a check to NPCREA at P.O.Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758.

Patrons for 2023-24 school year are:

Maura Hedrich
Phyllis Walls
Carole Pope
Linda McGeehan
Kali Crum
Rick Pope
Barbara Seiler
Herb Johnson
Margaret DeMeza
Jamie Foster,
Richard Werly III
Ceraolo-O'Donnell family

...BRIDGE-A-RAMA

Bridge-a-Rama has moved to Clearwater Family Restaurant on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 9 am. Bridge players wanted. Call Phyllis Walls, 727.418.7025, for details.



Patriotic Essays Committee

By Marie Grein

Each year the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) sponsors a nationwide essay contest, “The Patriot’s Pen.” This contest enables students to express their views on an annual patriotic theme, which this year was, “How are you inspired by America?”

A committee composed of retired educator members of NPCREA read 43 essays and designated first, second and third place winners. Following that, the committee was asked to judge the winning essays throughout the district. They read 11 outstanding essays and designated the winning essay, which would be sent to state.

After reading the essays committee members were reminded there is HOPE for the future of the USA.



Committee members: (left-right) Cheryl Good, Mary Lou Kelly, Phyllis Walls, and Marie Grein

CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS:

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, Linda McGeehan gave the Thought for the day about the great patriotism



shown by our American veterans. She included quotes by Arther Ashe, Woodrow Wilson, and Ronald Reagan.

Sharon Ozbun, our vice-president, introduced Judy Silverstein Gray, Coast Guard veteran and author of

Unwavering, a non-fiction book about the struggle of wives of American forces missing in action in the Vietnam War. She spoke ardently about the plight of military wives whose husbands were held captive in North Vietnam and Cambodia. Many of these wives became anti-war activists and advocates for racial and gender parity. Copies of the book were on sale for \$28, signed by the author.



Bob Stephens asked for a volunteer to train to be treasurer starting in May 2023. Marie Grein gave the Treasurer's Report, showing a balance of \$7133.56 in our checking account, with \$2000 encumbered for scholarships, leaving available for use, \$5133.56.

The next Board meeting is on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 9:30 am at Clearwater Country Club. Patrons are needed to sponsor our bi-monthly newsletters and bi-yearly member directories.

We have 17 members who are 90 or older. Our celebration of 90-year-olds is planned for March 2024.

We collected a large table of gifts for the veterans at the Bay Pines VA Hospital.



Sharon Ozbun spoke about Bell Ringing on December 14 at the Publix at Belcher and Gulf to Bay. She also told us of NPCREA t-shirts and polo shirts available for sale. An order sheet was available.

Eight attendees won door prizes, and two lucky attendees won cash in Share the Wealth.



At our Holiday Celebration

The Thought for the Day given by Linda McGeehan was about the importance of having friends and remembering friends at Christmas.

Rick Pope read a letter from Bay Pines VA Hospital thanking us for our donations collected at the November meeting to gift to the veterans in their hospital.

Bob introduced three new members, and Marie Grein read the Treasurer’s Report, showing income for November of \$617, expenses of \$575.12, and unencumbered balance available for use of \$5,275.44.

Bob visited our oldest member, Peg Glode, on her 108th birthday. She reads our monthly *Newsletter* and knows who we are if our pictures are in reports of our activities.



Bob reminded everyone who volunteered to “Ring the Bell” on Thursday, Dec. 14, at Publix, Gulf to Bay and Belcher.

Rick Pope reported 15 Newsletter patrons thus far for 2024. He encouraged all of us to donate to our disposal/petty cash fund.

Sharon Ozbun displayed NPCREA t-shirts and polo shirts that can be ordered for \$20 each plus tax.

Phyllis Walls announced that Bridge-a-Rama is moving to Clearwater Family Restaurant starting Wed., Dec. 13.

FREF is completing the end of the 5th Grade Essay Contest. Marie Grein will lead a delegation to visit Pinellas high schools, soliciting applications for FREF 4 years scholarships and also our own NPCREA one-year scholarship of \$500.

Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, January 2, at CCC, 9:30 am. Our next general meeting is Tuesday, January 9, at CCC, 11 am.

Attendees had a great deal of fun opening gifts, trading gifts, and stealing gifts in the Naughty Elf gift exchange. Led by Chief Elf, Sharon Ozbun, dressed like Will Ferrell in the famous Christmas movie and musical comedy, “*ELF*,” Sharon called the numbers and refereed the hilarity as our participants opened, traded, and stole gifts from one another.



Wine and chocolate were the most popular gifts and changed hands repeatedly. Some naughty elves tried to hide their gifts so they couldn’t be stolen, but that gambit did not work well. Participants sniffed out the wine and chocolate from under tables and chairs and carried them away, only to have them restolen by another naughty elf.

Tuesday, December 12

Nineteen Attendees brought gifts for the Naughty Elf Gift Exchange. Winners choose items from the table or stole gifts



Bellringers on Thursday, December 14, at Publix on Gulf to Bay and Belcher





North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association Membership Application



Unified Dues: \$50.00 Annually – July 1 to June 30		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of Membership	General Member - Circle One: Retired School Teacher/School Administrator/School Transportation School Maintenance, School Cafeteria. Other:	
FREA Benefits are fully available to ALL FREA members be they Regular or Associate.	Associate Member Associate: Any person supporting the mission of the Association may apply for associate membership. (Associate members may not vote as a delegate.)	
Circle One: Miss, Mrs., Ms., Mr., Dr., Other		Date:
Your Name:		Spouse's Name
Mailing Address	Apt./Condo	Telephone—Cell phone preferred ()
City	State	Zip County
E-mail address:		Your Month/Day/of Birth:
School District Retired From:	Year Retired	Position Retired From
<p>NPCREA and FREA are your advocates regarding your pension and the future of education in the State of Florida. Would you like to support our efforts on behalf of all present and future Retired Educators, and other beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System like First Responders, etc.? This money will be used in a non-partisan way.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes, I would like to support FREA's Legislative Advocacy: \$ 4.00 Unified Dues for July 1—June 30: \$50.00</p> <p>Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Florida Retired Educators Foundation of \$5.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total Enclosed \$ _____</p>		
<p>Please make checks payable to: NPCREA (North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association)</p> <p>Mail to: NPCREA, P.O. Box 4248 Clearwater, FL 33758-4248</p>		

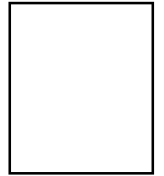
Have questions? Contact NPCREA: NPCREA@gmail.com

NPCREA has many active committees. All of our committees welcome new people, ideas and /or suggestions. The work of the committees listed below is explained at our meetings.

Please indicate your interest in one or more of them by checking the line by the committee. The chair will contact you personally.

Volunteer Services	Information Services	Newsletter
Hospitality	Legislative	Photography (Historian)
Sunshine	Name Tags	Retirement Planning
Phone Tree	Membership	Publicity/Website
Cultural Affairs	Nominating	Thought for the Day

**NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY
RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 4248
CLEARWATER, FL 33758-4248**



NPCREA LEADERS FOR 2023-24

PRESIDENT	BOB STEPHENS
VICE-PRESIDENT	SHARON OZBUN
TREASURER	MARIE GREIN
RECORDING SECRETARY	MARY BLACKMON
CORRES. SECRETARY	MARCIA LORK
INFORMATION SPECIALIST	MAURA HEDRICH
MEMBERSHIP	CHERYL GOOD
PATRONAGE	RICK POPE
VOLUNTEER SERVICES	ELDON WEAVER
HISTORIAN/NEWSLETTER	MARY BLACKMON

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