

FREA DISTRICT 5

WINTER 2017

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ON THE RISE

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VOLUNTEER
SERVICES SPECIAL

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OUR CHANGING SEASONS



Director
Dotti Williams

Okay, so we have basically had our typical '3-day Florida Winter' a few weeks ago. Now we are beginning to plan Spring time activities. For some of us, that means preparing our flower or vegetable

gardens plots, or lining up golf dates, or talking to grandkids about their desired special spring outings with you.

For our friends still working hard in the classroom, this time of year means 'hunkering down' and feverishly reviewing state standards to be tested. While we are most assuredly happy not to have that specific responsibility, it would be good for many reasons to volunteer help with those teachers.

And with our FREA organization, this season means time to report volunteer efforts from the past year, reading those lovely stories submitted for the Fifth Grade Essay contest, and looking forward to our annual Convention in May.

So I send to each Unit encouragement and hope for even greater reporting of member volunteer services. Tasks and duties done for others without monetary compensation is truly the most worthy expression of love and community spirit. Individually, we are rewarded with such efforts on many levels of 'compensation'. Blessings to all – please do not hesitate to share your special successes with other Units.



Dotti Williams

Florida Retired Educators Association

FREA Convention 2017 Watch Us Grow!

May 24-26, 2017
In Orlando at the
 Hilton
ORLANDO/ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

some Convention details –
see page 4



TIME FOR YOUR VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO SHINE!

Sharing our personal resources – time, talent, treasure – with others is indeed the pinnacle purpose of our existence. Educators include people who are especially gifted with helping out in the community. Telling others about our service efforts is not easy, after all, because it is not done for such recognition. However, reporting our many such endeavors is useful to our organization in many ways. So, please heed the ‘reporting deadlines’ which are fast approaching.

All Volunteer Services reports and projects must be sent to **our District 5 Volunteer Services Chair by March 15, 2017. The District 5 Volunteer Services Chair is**

Stephanie Manwell
1601 Nectarine St. Apt. H3
Fernandina Beach, Fl 32034
904-310-6010 (h) 904-515-8714 (c) stephanie.manwell@comcast.net

SO WHAT IS NEEDED BY MARCH 15 :



The **VOLUNTEER SERVICES REPORT** from each member – your Unit Volunteer Services Chair should be collecting these reports now!



A **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** from your Unit should be identified by the Volunteer Services Committee now!



The **FIFTH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST WINNER** from your Unit should be determined now if your Unit participated in this project.



M. POPPELL BOOK

Has your Unit been collecting books to donate to a local school? This is a very intentional project named for this year’s *Margaret Poppell Literacy for Life* efforts. Each Unit should determine which local school or schools it wants to provide books for. Book collection can be done as a regular part of the

DONATION PROJECT

Unit’s monthly meeting, or there can be a specific ‘fun-drive’ in the community to help collect and donate books. **Note there is even a special area on our Volunteer Report form this time to identify your Unit’s book drive results.** Don’t miss out on this opportunity to serve!

THE ‘SEASON FOR REPORTING’ CONTINUES - - -

PRACTICING EDUCATOR GRANT

YES!! Let’s do offer some financial support to teachers ! This is a simple task – copy the Grant Application form from the FREA website, take it to the Principal of a local school, and get the completed information sent in by February 15, 2017. It’s worth \$1000!! You surely know someone who could use this . Send Grant Applications to:

FREF – GRANT
8950 9th Street N. Suite 105
St. Petersburg, Fl 33702-3047

UNIT REPORTS

Use the FREA website to download all needed forms and information to share with your Unit members. Some reporting forms have actually been revised since years before, so be sure to use only the latest ones.

The Annual Report on Unit Officers and Membership is due April 1, 2017. Unit Presidents should complete the necessary information and send to the state FREA office.

DUES DUE

Unit Treasurers should get member dues for next year sent to the state FREA office by April 1 if possible. The state office is naturally trying to reduce mailing and printing costs and hopes to decrease the number of ‘dues reminder’ letters typically distributed in late spring. Check the FREA website for details or contact the state FREA office for any questions.

FREF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE



Our District 5 FREF Trustee Carolynne Fooshee is very hopeful that we have some scholarship applications from our district. These are \$4000 college scholarships for high school seniors planning to become

teachers. An excellent way to help our young people add to the future of the education profession. Make sure your Unit has contacted local school counselors and get those applications in to Carolynne by the end of February. Applications can be downloaded from the FREA website.

FREA MEMBERSHIP GRANT DUE IN MARCH

Don’t forget to use the FREA Membership Grant available for all Units. This is a good source to finance some particular plan or strategy for the Units to increase membership. Note these funds are only to be used for member recruitment materials, public relations, help with special events, etc. Check the FREA website for complete details and the application form due by March 1, 2017, or contact State Treasurer Marie Grein, megrein@verizon.net.

YA'LL COME !!

This year's **FREA State Convention** promises to offer a real 'rootin' tootin' time' for everyone! Expect to have fun at the *County Fair* with such a variety of homemade crafts and goodies for sale. And the planned *Hootenanny* event will really wow ya'! Of course, seeing old friends from around the state will be one of the important things, but hey, let's get some newcomers to join us at this Convention. State President Roger Cuevas' *Watch Us Grow* theme is really supposed to be put into action. Lots more excitement to be shared with the special *Unit Art Project*, chances to win neat stuff and cash [got your *Extravaganza* ticket yet?], and so much more.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE ! May 24 – 26, 2017 ; Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs hotel

FREA Units—Create Your Own 'Watch Us Grow' Art For the 2017 FREA Convention ~ Win A Prize



Glue them—Stack them—Paint Them—Sticker them.

Each Unit will receive 4 of these containers to transform into a work of art demonstrating the activities and promotions they used for the 2016-17 Membership Year to help Grow Their Membership.

Use 1-4 containers, whatever works best. Do whatever you like to reflect your Unit's unique personality.

The only requirement is that you have your Unit Name and/or Logo somewhere on the piece, and that it involves the "Watch Us Grow" theme.

Each Unit's Art will be displayed at the 'FREF County Fair Midway' at the 2017 Convention

Prizes will be awarded!

FREF EXTRAVAGANZA TICKETS !

Each **Unit FREF Scholarship Chairperson** has the *EXTRAVAGANZA tickets* now for sale \$10 each. This money funds our state scholarships awarded each spring to students desiring to become teachers. This fund also is used to financially help fellow retired educators in need. So help out these worthy projects. You can also be a winner :

Prizes:

- \$100 for one winner from each District;
- 1st Prize- \$500
- 2nd Prize \$300
- 3rd Prize \$200

"WATCH US GROW"

The state FREA 'theme' of *Watch Us Grow* is centered around membership growth and retention. Contact the state office or the FREA website for many useful materials about the organization to share with your local community and new/potential members. FREA is moving to become more updated and relevant for today's newly retired/soon to be retired education employees.

DISTRICT 5 FALL MINI-CONFERENCE

The **District 5 Fall Mini-Conference** in Jacksonville last September was a fun success. A very SINCERE THANKI YOU to each Unit President, District Officers, and Committees for your untiring efforts to help make this event the success that it was. Everyone seemed to enjoy the variety of small-group sessions offered in addition to the Officer and Committee Training groups. The ‘apple-themed’ décor was fun and the personal ‘apple treat bags’ presented to each attendee helped add to member excitement.

Of course, it won't be long before planning must begin for the next Fall Mini-Conference. Any ideas and suggestions are always appreciated and welcomed to enhance the success of such an event. Hopefully even more of our district members can be enticed to attend!



NEW FREA INSURANCE CONNECTION

The recently re-vamped insurance representative supporters for FREA now form the **FLORIDA RETIREMENT ADVISORS** group. Cofounders **Rick Bowes** and **Michael Kovacs** along with **Haitham Aboujl-Hosn** now function together to help guide school system employees, retirees and families in financial well-being. They are independent advisors who can honestly help clients assess their needs in matters of tax and estate planning, healthcare insurance programs, asset protection and income strategies. Haitham Aboul-Hosn will be the specific contact for District 5 members and he is looking forward to meeting all members.

Invite the FRA guys to your Unit soon – you may be pleasantly surprised with this available avenue for financial planning and needs most pertinent to retirees.

Florida Retired Educators Association
 8950 9th St. N Suite 105
 St. Petersburg, FL 33702-3047

Phone 727-577-6400
 Email info@frea.org
 Web www.frea.org



FREA MISSION STATEMENT

- To promote the well-being of retired educators
- To encourage community service, and to support public education
- To disseminate information to members and the public, through publications, programs, and projects at the state and local levels

FREA FACTS

- A 10,000+ member organization that welcomes all retired professional educators as well as active educators and other school personnel
- The only professional organization in the state whose primary purpose is to represent retired educators
- Affiliated with the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) – AARP’s Educator Community
- FRE Foundation established to provide scholarships for future teachers, and to assist in financial crisis of educators

INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE

FLORIDA RETIREMENT ADVISORS

Haitham Aboul-Hosn, District 5 contact person
haitham@TheFRAGroup.com
 1-800-595-8891 ext.6

Rick Bowes RickBowes@TheFRAGroup.com
 Michael Kovacs MichaelKovacs@TheFRAGroup.com

Feel free to contact any of the FRA advisors for a free ‘second opinion’ on your current financial plan.