

FREA DISTRICT 5

SPRING 2017

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ON THE RISE

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FREA CMA
POSSIBLE
AWARDS

see page 2



WELCOME TO THE CMA'S !



Director
Dotti Williams

Being able to participate in the exciting and coveted *CMA program* certainly can be a memorable occasion. 'Hob Nobbing' with celebrity folk and sharing experiences with each other allows us

to see each other as very normal people. "What?" you say. "Did you really meet the big Country Music stars?" you ask. "Were you really at the Country Music Awards show?" you say incredulously. No, silly, I mean the *Country Merit Awards* at the FREA State Convention in Altamonte Springs !

Well, it is a big deal - - - there will be awards. And celebrities ['famous' people] will attend - - - the FREA officers and staff folk. And a 'country farm-type' theme. So, come on - - - get with it ! Let's have some fun fellowship

'Hob Nobbing' with each other! It would be an awesome thing for *FREA District 5* to have a *record attendance* at this function. The convention site is easy to get to, not extremely far away, and my goodness, the 'theme' kind of dictates very casual attire and a fun time for sure!

NO EXCUSES! Register for our state convention now if you have not done so.

There will be much to learn, to do for fun, to share, to eat, and many friends to visit.

This convention just won't be as fun without YOU !

Dotti Williams



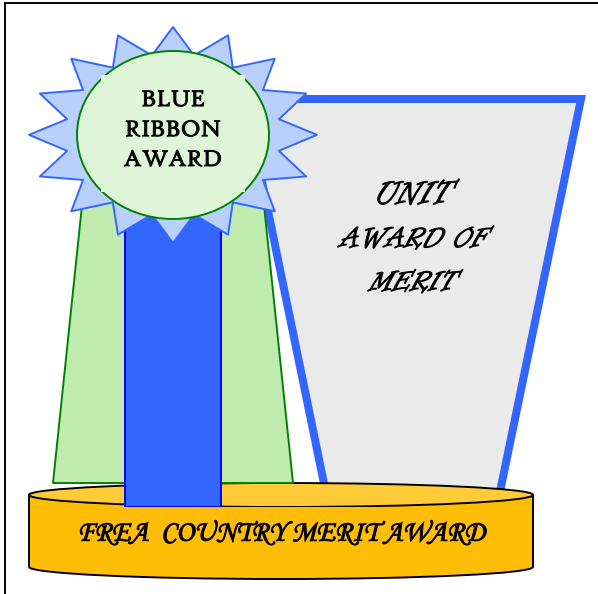
Florida RealEstate Educators Association

FREA Convention 2017 Watch Us Grow!

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

see Convention details –
page 4

Who will be the BIG WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S CMA'S ?!?



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

UNIT VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

UNIT MERIT AWARD

UNIT MEMBERSHIP AWARD

FREA MERIT RECOGNITION

Fifth Grade ESSAY WINNER

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD

MARGARET POPPELL BOOK PROJECT

MEMBERSHIP GRANT RECIPIENT

PRACTICING EDUCATOR RECIPIENT

DISTRICT 5 UNITS WILL SURELY BE TOPS IN FREA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS !

NOTE: 'Country Merit Award' is fictional coined for this newsletter; awards listed however are real 😊

URGENT LEGISLATIVE NEWS !

All FREA District 5 members should be thoughtful and attentive to any news you receive regarding our FRS Pension funding. Our **FREA Legislative ‘watchdogs’ Linda Edson and Larry Carmichael** once again have given notification that the Florida House and Senate still is trying to change things. Recent bills up for adoption again include trying to set the investment plan instead of the pension plan as the ‘default’ selection for new employees. This will be very detrimental to the financial health of our current FRS funds and actually may cost the government millions of dollars in the long run.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Send a message by phone, email, letter, etc. to your Representatives and Senator – let them know simply there should be no changes made to the current FRS system – period !



DUES BLUES ?

Our Unit Dues help to literally finance our organization, locally and statewide. **THANK YOU to all Unit Treasurers for your diligent efforts to collect dues from your members.** As we all know, dues for each year should be paid by the June 30 deadline, but even so, to help reduce state office costs, collecting dues before that time is so helpful.

FREA ENDORSED FLORIDA RETIREMENT ADVISORS READY TO SERVE

District 5 Units are again encouraged to use the FRA folks to assist members in many retirement financial issues. **Bonnie Rende, Executive Assistant with Haitham Aboul-Hosn**, is eager to meet with you and share lots of information regarding insurance plans, investment education, and much more. The FRA group can lead short workshop sessions about Medicare, Long-Term care insurance, Legacy Planning, Investment methods, Retirement Income, and Annuities.

Contact Bonnie at bonnie@thefragroup.com or 914-400-4042. Check out their web site too – www.TheFRAGroup.com.



YA'LL COME !!

NO KIDDING ! The **FREA State Convention** promises to offer a real ‘rootin’ tootin’ time’ for everyone! Seeing old friends from around the state will be one of the important reasons for attending 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.

Fill out your registration today and mail it in before April 14. Forms are included in the recent FREA BULLETIN or can be accessed on the website, www.frea.org.

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

MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

Oh My! Dinner and a Murder ?!

Yes, it will be an evening of crazy fun but delicious food. Participants will help solve the crime at Mafia Don Lou Zar’s ‘juice joint’. The attendees shall all be in 1920’s era attire, specifically using colors of black, white, gold and silver.

Now this will be very entertaining in many ways, so plan to be there for the Wednesday Mystery Dinner Theatre, May 24.

FREA COUNTY FAIR

Make sure your Unit members have purchased their Extravaganza tickets for a great chance to **WIN HARD CASH**. Members attending the Convention will enjoy the many opportunities for fun support of our scholarship fundraising event.

** The ‘**COUNTY FAIR**’ will include Fair Booth areas full of handmade crafts and gifts, homemade jams and jellies, and luscious baked goodies.

** The ‘**DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS**’ will again offer a wide variety of unique things to submit tickets for drawing chances.

** And what fun is the ‘**RING TOSS GAME**’ at the fair? This time, you pay \$5 for 3 throws of rings to ‘capture’ a bottle. You then win the bottle(s) you ring – bottles of alcoholic drinks like wine or non-alcoholic drinks like soft drinks, sparkling juices, etc.

** Unit ‘**WATCH US GROW ART PROJECTS**’ made from those unique cardboard carrier containers will be displayed to highlight members and activities.

FREA HOE-DOWN BAR-B-Q!



The Convention ‘banquet’ will be a relaxed, very casual Barbeque Dinner with square-dancing entertainment and a

■ sing-a-long with ‘Rogelio’s Rockin’ Jug Band’ .

■ Members are encouraged to dress ‘country’ – denim, plaid, elegant or light-hearted fun. Another great reason to attend this year’s FREA State Convention !

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So the City Slicker was visiting the Country Bumpkin. Sitting on the front porch observing the many unique forms of wildlife typical of the open country habitat, City Slicker asks Country Bumpkin “What do you call mosquitoes in your country?”

Country Bumpkin answers, “We don’t call them – they just come on in the back door.”



FREA MISSION STATEMENT

- To promote the well-being of retired educators and school personnel by being a strong advocate for them and safeguarding the strength of the Florida Retirement System
- To foster good fellowship, by being welcoming to all, while growing our membership and thereby increasing our strength
- To encourage community involvement through volunteerism and literacy projects
- To disseminate information and materials to members to enhance their retirement lives
- To support quality education in the State of Florida

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

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