

FREA DISTRICT 5

WINTER 2018
Volume 2 Issue 3

on the rise



MEMBERSHIP CHECK

Well? Is your Unit progressing in efforts to retain/increase membership? Unit President's and Membership Chairs should take some time just to check where you are now.

Look at these specific points:

- How have Unit meetings been updated or 'refreshed' to be more inviting to members?
- Are preparations coming along for inviting 'soon-to-be' retirees to join a vital & active group?
- Is your Unit represented well in social media – facebook, web site, etc. ?
- What publicity strategies are you using to 'advertise' your Unit meetings and activities?
- Have you submitted a Membership Grant application?

Remember that we truly do best enjoy the comfort of having things in our lives be fairly static, with little change. But sometimes allowing no change can be detrimental to our health. That is also true with the health of an organization. Keep your Unit vital and relevant for members – don't feed the desire to 'keep things as they've always been'. Try something new and different!

WE ARE ALL TOGETHER

Members of FREA share a significant commonality – we are (mostly) **retired** professional educators. Joining FREA is entirely a **voluntary** personal decision. Agreeing to be part of the leadership team in FREA – from committee chairs and members to trustees to officers – is also a completely **voluntary** personal decision.

Additionally, the are chosen and membership. Actions the leadership teams the good of the

Let's focus on celebrating each other with positive encouragement . . .

membership as stated in its Mission Statement. These **volunteers** are performing as best as they can within their own constraints of time and resources which are provided with joy and passion for the organization.

'leadership teams' supported by the and decisions of organization's

These dedicated individuals thrive on member support. This support is in the form of agreement with policies, actions, and performance of the leaders. When such 'agreement' is lacking, there should be a positive and productive dialog between members and leaders to resolve the issue. If members cannot offer the necessary support, replacement leaders should be elected. Of course, this process is understood by everyone, but perhaps we could be reminded occasionally. Any member is eligible to be part of a leadership team. Members who choose not to do so are assumed to be satisfied and supportive of them.

Let's focus on celebrating each other with positive encouragement to strengthen our organization and resist negative interactions which can sour and reduce the mission success. We are all together to enjoy comforting fellowship, helpful educational information resources, and community security.

**PLEASE HELP!
LEADER POSITIONS OPEN -**

Our **District 5 Trustee Carolynne Foosee** has served more than two terms with dedicated love for FREF scholarships. She has indicated her desire to resign from this role and allow someone else to serve. Now it seems that she can no longer serve at all due to personal health issues. So PLEASE HELP volunteer for this role or encourage someone else to do so. Contact either Carolynne or the **District 5 Director Dotti Williams** soon as possible with suggestions.

ALSO NEEDED: District 5 has not had a **Legislative Committee Chair** for a while. This is a critical role for our members in that we need a local avenue of connection between relevant legislative issues and our membership. Again, PLEASE HELP volunteer for the Legislative Chair, or help find someone who will. Contact **District Director Dotti** with suggestions.

**FREA ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

MAY 22 – 25, 2018 ALTAMONTE
SPRINGS HILTON HOTEL

Registration for this ‘Celebration of Membership’ will be available soon! Don’t hesitate to join in for a great experience with friends through out the state. And Units – don’t forget to create your special ‘**One-of-a-kind**’ **Centerpiece** for Convention. Check the FREA web site for details.

NOTE THESE KEY ITEMS :

The following are due by March 15 to the **District Volunteer Services Chair Stephanie Manwell:**

- ** Unit Volunteer Services Report
- ** Unit Volunteer of the Year nominee
- ** Unit 5th Grade Essay Contest submission

Stephanie Manwell
1601 Nectarine St.
Apt. H3
Fernandina Beach, Fl 32034
stephanie.manwell@comcast.net

**SPECIAL
CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dr. Norma White, former District 5 Director, has been honored with part of a major Jacksonville roadway, 8th St., being designated as *Dr. Norma Ruth Soloman White Parkway!* This is to honor her many professional and civic contributions to the community.

And Welcome to our new FREA office personnel, **Diane Lynch**. Diane is replacing retired Libby Brut. We look forward to building a wonderful relationship with her as we benefit from her talent and skills.

DISTRICT 5 OFFICERS

DIRECTOR

Dotti Williams
claydotguy@windstream.net

SECRETARY

Sandra Thompson
scthomp60@aol.com

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Stephanie Manwell
stephanie.manwell@comcast.net

FREA STATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Roger Cuevas
rogerc236@aol.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Beverly Kelley
beverly.kelley@mchsi.com

TREASURER

Marie Grein megrein@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Michael Ferger
mferger@cfl.rr.com

STATE DIRECTOR

Carolyn Stephens
csstep@centurylink.net

FREA MISSION STATEMENT

- To safeguard the strength of the Florida Retirement System
- To support public education in Florida
- To provide fellowship opportunities
- To encourage community involvement
- To be a source of information and materials

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



FINANCIAL & HEALTH CARE PLANNING REPRESENTATIVES

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.