

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

OFFICERS:

President—Rick Reed

VP & Sunshine—Betsy Scott

Secretary—Sue Reed

Scholarship—Paula Marczynski

Volunteer Services—Karen Philman

Legislative Representative—Alphonso Johnson

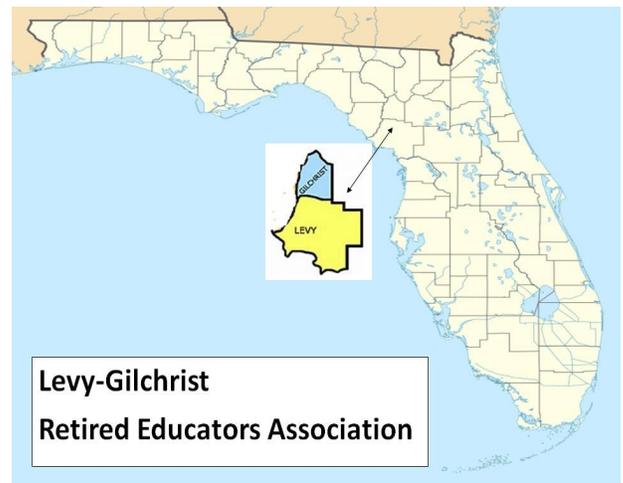
COME JOIN US!

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

We meet the 3rd Monday September thru May at 10:30 a.m. at The Gathering Table restaurant in Chiefland.

We welcome all retired school personnel living in our area.

The Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association



Schedule of Events

- March 19—HOMESTEADING (Elliot), Sue Reed hostess
- April 16—GILCHRIST COUNTY SUPERINTENDANT (Robert Rankin) and DNA TESTING FOR GENEALOGY (Paula), Betsy Scott hostess
- May 21—SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, Karen Philman hostess

Scholarship Program

The Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF) awards scholarships to graduating seniors who wish to become teachers.

Applications are submitted to the local Scholarship Chairs, and then forwarded on to FREF for evaluation. Winners are selected in March with funding that begins in time for the fall term of college. This scholarship pays \$4,000 over a four-year period, \$1,000 per year.

Money is given to the student, not sent to the institution. For each year recipients use the scholarship, they are required to teach one year in the State of Florida or repay the money at 5% per annum.

The Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association (LGREA) awards a \$500 scholarship to the student who is selected to represent our unit at the state level.

The money is given to the student once proof of class registration is received in the fall.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT SARAH LOURCEY OF CHIEFLAND MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL IS THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT!

L-GREA Activities

SEPTEMBER

Our program in September was presented by Karen Philman's guest, Char Leasor, a teacher of crafts using Fun Stampers Journey products. She brought supplies and helped each member create two cards to keep or send. She was knowledgeable, helpful, and so enthusiastic! It was a great time.

Hostess Betsy Scott provided goodies from Bath and Body Works for door prizes. Winners were Char Leasor, Larry Bachle, Betsy Scott, and Karen Philman.

After the meeting was adjourned, most members stayed to enjoy the restaurant's delicious buffet.



From left, Karen Philman, Char Leasor and Betty Ramey shown with cards they made at the Retired Educators meeting.

OCTOBER

Rick Reed gave a report on the Leadership Workshop in Ocala and shared the awards our unit won.

Because last month's program was so well received, hostess Sue Reed invited Char Leasor back for a Fun Stampers Journey project for Christmas cards.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Four members attended the leadership workshop in Ocala in October.—Rick and Sue Reed, Karen Philman, and Paula Marczynski. It was very beneficial, we learned a lot, and we brought back materials to share.

NOVEMBER

We welcomed back two members, one who had been ill for a while and the other who is caring for her mother — Mary Jo Mansfield and Nancy Hank. Glad to have them able to attend again!

Paula Marczynski gave an update on the scholarship program and noted that the postmark deadline for submitting applications will be January 5th. Once all applications are received, the committee will meet to determine times and dates to interview applicants.

Paula also distributed materials on the new L_GREA newsletter which is attached to the FREA website. Rick and Sue Reed have created a Facebook page for the organization, and have submitted articles to the Gilchrist and Chiefland newspapers. With all these actions, we are working to improve our social media presence and hope to bring awareness to our organization. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Our meeting was presented by Mr. Jeff Edison, Levy County School Superintendant and Mr. Chris Cowart, School Board Chair. It was a very informative presentation!

DECEMBER

In lieu of a program in December, we used it as a white elephant gift exchange. Members had great fun "stealing" prizes back and forth!

L-GREA Activities cont.

JANUARY

Michael Kovaks, FREA Financial Planner, was supposed to be our presenter. Unfortunately the winter storms up north grounded his plane and he was unable to attend. We hope he will be able to make it to a future meeting.

Thanks to Alphonso Johnson for giving us a report on the Martin Luther King Day celebration in Williston. He also filled us in with information on legislative action. We are committed to keeping the FRS solvent, advocating the continued 3% annual increase, and support making available affordable, quality healthcare and planning for long term financial security.

Hostess Sue Reed provided goodie bags which were won by Harriet Bachle and Paula Marczynski.

FEBRUARY

We got an update on the various activities that our unit sponsors. Alphonso Johnson gave an update on legislative proceedings and how they impact us. Paula Marczynski provided handouts on our website and how to access it and also announced our scholarship winner... Sarah Lourcey of Chiefland Middle High School. Karen Philman split the books we donated for the **Margaret Poppell Literacy For Life Project** between Bell and Trenton Elementary Schools. Future donations will go to the Levy County elementary schools.

Our special program this month was Black History Month. Alphonso Johnson presented thought-provoking quotes from a wide range of African Americans, both past and present.

Our hosts, Larry and Harriet Bachle, provided several nice door prizes won by Alphonso Johnson, Rick and Sue Reed, Paula Marczynski, and Jim and Pat Elliot.



Volunteer Activities

The Florida Retired Educator Association (FREA) Volunteer Services Committee encourages FREA members to continue their public service by providing and encouraging opportunities to serve their local communities as retired educators.

Local Units are encouraged to participate in FREA statewide projects like The Margaret Poppell Project for Literacy, but Units are also encouraged to create your own service projects and to ask members to track volunteer hours they complete on an individual basis.

By tracking volunteer hours, you can ensure that volunteer programs are helping to achieve the objectives of FREA. Karen Philman is our local chair; all volunteer hours should be turned in to her.