

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

OFFICERS:

President—Rick Reed

VP & Sunshine—Betsy Scott

Secretary and Facebook—
Sue Reed

Scholarship and Website—
Paula Marczynski

Volunteer Services—Karen
Philman

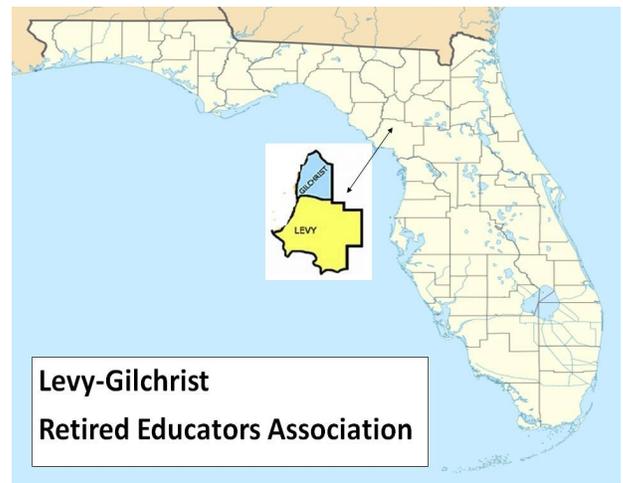
Legislative Representative—
Alphonso Johnson

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 on 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 is a unit of the state-wide Florida Retired Educators Association.



Schedule of Events:

- May 21—SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT—
Sarah Lourcey,. Karen Philman hostess
- SUMMER BREAK until our August 20th meeting

Scholarship Program

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT SARAH LOURCEY OF CHIEFLAND MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL IS THIS YEAR'S L-GREA RECIPIENT of \$500! SARAH IS ALSO THE WINNER OF THE STATE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE BUZZELL-WEBSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

Sarah Lourcey was presented the awards at the recent senior awards night at CMHS by scholarship chair Paula Marczynski.



L-GREA Activities

APRIL

Treasurer Larry Bachle reminded us of the upcoming state convention, that he still has a few scholarship foundation raffle tickets available, and our 2018-2019 dues are now due to the state.

Alphonso Johnson informed us there will be at least 12 proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot. We need to be prepared to read about them, become informed, and **VOTE**. Alphonso was presented his VOTY award by Karen Philman, Volunteer Coordinator.



Paula Marczynski announced that our local scholarship recipient, Sarah Lourcey, was selected to receive the state scholarship for \$1,000. We are so excited on her behalf! Sarah is a student at Chiefland Middle High School.



Our program this month was on DNA Testing for Genealogy, presented by Paula Marczynski. She gave a breakdown of the different DNA testing companies and type of tests available and explained advantages and disadvantages of each. She used alphabet blocks as a means of explaining how DNA markers can easily change thru generations and even among siblings and close cousins.

Betsy Scott was hostess this month. Door prize winners were Jim Elliott, Mary Jo Mansfield, and Paula Marczynski.

MARCH

President Rick Reed discussed legislative happenings and bills that were passed affecting education and our retirement benefits.

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Philman, reported our unit amassed almost 2,000 volunteer hours...quite an accomplishment for our small group! Alphonso Johnson was recognized as the 2017 L-GREA Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding service to his community and volunteer hours.

Pat and Jim Elliott gave a very interesting program on Homesteading. They tested out knowledge of poultry and live-stock, then presented everyone with a dozen eggs from their hens.

Rick and Sue Reed were this month's hosts. Door prize winners were Jim Elliot, Larry and Harriet Bachle, and Mary Jo Mansfield.



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 Elliott.



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.

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!

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!

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.

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.



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