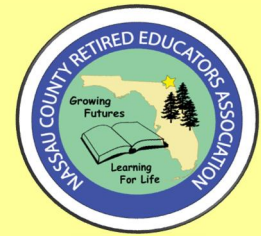


# The NCREA INSIDER

NASSAU COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
SUMMER 2015 Volume 1 Issue 3

www.nassaufrea.org



## NCREA SHINES FOR MEMBERS

Special activities and meetings bring out the best . . .

Our NCREA Unit members do enjoy the times we have together. This year we experienced some very informative guest speakers, fun activities, wonderful outings, and as always, great food and fellowship! Having significant community and political leaders visit our meetings indicates the importance of Retired Educators as a group. Senator Aaron Bean, Superintendent John Ruis, and Sheriff Bill Leeper certainly keep us informed and up to date on many topics.



Learning more about local history is really fun!

Being able to share special talents from hobbies and crafts that many of us have was an especially fun meeting. Who knew we have so many artists and crafty artisans! And don't we always look forward to our special social outing events? This year's tour of the American Beach Museum was fascinating. The Museum is a lovely attraction and a very well done display of historical information.

We do look forward to another year of good times together. Thanks to our **President Thomas Ford** and his leadership team for helping us continue to 'build together towards tomorrow' !

HAVE A SAFE HEALTHY SUMMER!

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to the very talented and bright students of the Class of 2015! Our *NCREA Malvin L. Lofton Memorial Scholarship* was awarded to Yulee High School senior **Shannan Perkins**. Shannon plans to study International Business at Jacksonville University.



And for the first time, a student from Nassau County was chosen as one of the select few scholarship recipients from our state *Florida Retired Educators Foundation*! **Ryan Lusardi** is an exceptionally gifted young man, also from Yulee High School, who originally planned for a Mathematics teaching career. However, he has since changed his plan and will instead study Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida. [Note: because he will not be pursuing a career in education, he had to decline this FREF scholarship award.]

The future indeed is in good hands !

## FREA DISTRICT 5 LOSES BELOVED DIRECTOR



In mid-April, the news of the passing of **District 5 Director Bertha Padgett** was certainly very sad and shocking to all. Bertha was a wonderful leader for our District. She was a compassionate, caring, and classy lady. Her leadership style included impeccable organization and very specific visionary planning. We welcomed Bertha to our NCREA meetings, and when she did attend, she always expressed her great pleasure and honor to be with us.

We will miss you, Bertha !

**\*\*NOTE-** Dr. Norma White, Duval REA, has been appointed and agreed to act as District 5 Director for the remainder of the term.

### NCREA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2015



Congratulations to our **Volunteer of the Year Dotti Williams**. As do many of our members, Dotti is very active with several volunteer opportunities. She enjoys

sharing her time with Alpha Delta Kappa women's educator sorority, Take Stock in Children Scholarship program, various school district responsibilities, church, and, of course, the Retired Educators. She deeply appreciates this special honor and expresses a huge 'thank you' to the Volunteer Services committee.



**MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS . . .**  
*Shirley Baker,*  
*Membership Chairman*

### MANY NEWLY RETIRED COLLEAGUES

With the retirement of many more of our 'former colleagues' this year, there is once again a wonderful opportunity to add to our membership. Each current NCREA member should personally seek out to contact a new retiree and invite them to join us. If you are asked to specifically contact someone, reply with an enthusiastic 'of course I will!'. To help explain the benefits of our membership, or what we basically do, remember to use simple 'sentence stories' to start a conversation. An example of a 'sentence story' is

*"Did you know that our retirement pension fund is one of the most successful in the country because of FREA members?"*

Let's each try to do our part to increase our membership -





## FREA CONVENTION 2015 – A WILD RIDE OF FUN!

The FREA 2015 Convention in Orlando was full of fantastically fun flamingoes and more! Convention business, of course, had to be attended to as well. We were well informed about the stable and productive FRS funds from Ash Williams, State Board of Administration, encouraged about keeping



**Dotti Williams & Nancy Johnson**

Units growing, recognized Units and Districts receiving various awards and honors, and remembering our friends who have passed on. There was also the successful FREF fund-raising activities, 'out of the box' Unit displays, and video history presentation.

An entertaining activity directed participants to create a special Flamingo Character while showing off our Unit Logo shirts. (Yes, we had NCREA logo shirts made !)



There was a surprisingly fun and challenging Scavenger Hunt involving items obtained in and around the hotel site, and a special Passport stamp-collecting activity from the Vendor displays.

**Nassau was again honored with several awards including a 'rosette' ribbon [ "first place" ] Certificate of Merit, AND our student winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Essay contest was chosen 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the state!**

The culminating Banquet was a visit to the **Club Tropicana**, and was that place jumping! With décor reminiscent of a 1950's era nightclub, the entertainment was superb. Especially dedicated members performed 'live' or with 'lip-sync' talents. An evening of delightful fun for sure!



**Ex. Director Barbara Williams belts out Ethel Merman; and the 'Rat Pack' croon Moon River !**

And did I mention the **2016 Convention plan? – to be a Cruise!** This special trip will begin from Tampa and travel to Key West and Cozumel, with Convention business being tucked in during sea travel days. Looks like a definite opportunity for fun!  
**CONVENTION CRUISE 2016**

Five night cruise **April 9 – 14, 2016**. Must book your space now – prices starting at \$424.23, with \$200 deposit now and can pay off balance by Jan. 18, 2016. Do not contact FREA office! **Contact Cruise Planner Char Corso, 727-934-6321, [ccorso@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:ccorso@cruiseplanners.com) .**



Please check out the FREA web site, [frea.org](http://frea.org), for more information and photos.

## FUN MEMORIES TOGETHER . . .

[See more photos on our web site: [www.nassaufrea.org](http://www.nassaufrea.org) !

### "SUNSHINE RAYS"

#### BIRTHDAY

##### MARCH

Joan Bean	Kay Stephens
Thomas Ford	Nancy Thornton
Marion Grant	Courtney Tyson-Shelby
Nancy Johnson	Bettie Williams
Willie King	

##### APRIL

Thomas Blue	Stephanie Manwell
Willie Ina Harper	Shirley Taylor

##### MAY

Ben Isaac	Ellen Ryan
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##### JUNE

Charles Albert	Rosa Jones
Nancy Ashe	Mary Libby
Lillie Isaac	Barbara O'Conner

##### JULY

Shirley Baker	Eleanor Simmons
Mary Ann George	

##### AUGUST

Joyce Bowman	Laura Morris
Danny Fullwood	June Smith

#### PRAYERS for COMFORT & HEALING

Nancy Thornton	Stephanie Manwell
Linda Jones	Polly Hord



February - yum omelet's to order!



April - American Beach Fun!



May - Luncheon time sharing winning essay from student.

### OBSERVATIONS ON GROWING OLDER

- ✓ When people say you look "Great"  
- - - they add "for your age!"
- ✓ What used to be freckles are now  
liver spots.
- ✓ You have 3 sizes of clothes in your  
closet - - - 2 of which you will  
never wear.
- ✓ But old is good in some things : old  
songs, old movies, and best of all,

**OLD FRIENDS !!**



## NCREA TID-BITS

**DUES:** NCREA Treasurer **Stephanie Manwell** will certainly continue to accept dues payments of \$45 anytime. They really should be paid by June 30, 2015 in order to align our records more easily with the state fiscal year reporting.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Our reporting of personal volunteer service hours is not due until next February, but this is just a friendly suggestion to try and note your volunteer times on a calendar each month as they occur. This might make it easier to prepare your report next year.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:** Note the Meeting Schedule below for next year. Dates and locations are set however, actual program and activity plans are still being made. Just make sure you mark your calendar for each month to be with your NCREA friends!

### MEETING SCHEDULE 2015 - 16

9:45 – 10:15 am ‘Social Time’

10:15 am Business meeting begins

**Sept 15** – Full Service School, Yulee; *Welcome Back ‘Pot-Luck’ breakfast*

**Oct. 20** – Full Service School, Yulee

**Nov. 17** - Full Service School, Yulee

**Dec.15.** – *‘Holiday Luncheon’*

**Jan.19** – Full Service School, Yulee

**Feb.16** - Full Service School, Yulee

**March 15-** Full Service School, Yulee

**April 19** – *‘Social Outing’*

**May17-** *‘End of Year Luncheon’*

**May 25 – 27** - 2016 FREA Convention

[www.nassaufrea.org](http://www.nassaufrea.org) [info@nassaufrea.org](mailto:info@nassaufrea.org)

### 2014-2016 NCREA EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President-** Dr. Thomas Ford  
904-778-3228

**Pres.-Elect-** Dotti Williams  
904-879-2857

**Secretary** – Linda Jones  
904-261-2851

**Treasurer-** Stephanie Manwell  
904-310-6010

**Chaplain-** TBA

**Historian-** Nancy Johnson  
904-225-5570

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Membership-** Shirley Baker  
904-261-3094

**Volunteer Services-** Joyce Patten  
904-757-9247

**Information Services** – Charles Albert  
904-261-4113

**Retirement Planning-** Joan Itak,  
904-277-4393  
and Linda Jones

**Communications**

**& Newsletter** - Dotti Williams

**Scholarship** – Dotti Williams

**Sunshine** - Stephanie Manwell