

PALM BEACH COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter – May 2018

New Members

Vivarine S. Echols
4000 Heath Circle N.
WPB 33407-3117
561-723-2700

Connie Riggleman
107 NE 13th Avenue
Boynton Beach 33435
561-704-3906

Change of Address

Patricia Kennedy
13220 51st Pl. N.
WPB, 33411

Shari Brenner
14747 Barletta Way
Delray Beach

Rochelle Muhlrud
9290 Clearhill Road
Boynton Beach 33473-5017

Death of a Member

Lenore A. Dupee
4851 Parkcrest St.
WPB 33415
DOD: May 3, 2018

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 4/30	\$6,258.94
Scholarship	\$6,463.14

Corresponding Secretary's Report

'Thinking of You' cards were sent to Cliff Raylor, Elmira Reddick and Hattie Robinson. 'Get Well' card was sent to Sarah Lawrence.

Book Collection

The books you have seen on your way in are going to West Riviera Elementary School. Andrea Peppers is organizing and placing labels in each book signifying they came from our organization.

Thank you for your generosity.

Retirees' Breakfast

The School Board's breakfast for this year's retirees is being held June 7 at the Hilton Hotel. Some of our members are helping prepare the 'gift' bags' for each retiree. The bags include information about Retired Educators as well as an application form for our unit.

Ebony Chorale

The Spring Concert will take place at the Bak Middle School of the Arts on May 27 at 5 p.m. A member of our unit is being featured. See Flora Jackson for tickets. \$25 for a rewarding musical experience.

Scholarship Award Winners

	<u>State Awardees</u>	<u>Local Awardees</u>
Freshmen	Stacie Jo Heron	Skyler Hawkesworth
Sophomores		Megan Klein
Juniors	Miracle McKinnon	Erin Fitzpatrick
Seniors:		

“Gold Coast Federal Credit Union/Mr. and (the late) Mrs. Clifford Taylor Award:”

Taina Martin

Also present at the luncheon is Gabriella Hechaverria, who graduated May 6, 2018 from Florida Gold Coast University.

Our congratulation to all our winners. We are very proud of your accomplishments.

And Finally...

As we head off to the relaxing summer months, we hope you stay cool and healthy.

Just as a reminder: In August, Florida will have a general primary election. Somewhere I read that our age group – 55 and up – is the largest voting bloc in the country. So take some of that ‘relaxing’ time and learn about the candidates. We are already seeing and hearing ads on television. To learn how candidates voted in the legislature, go to aarp.org/flvotingrecord2017. We will have a representative of the League of Women Voters at our October meeting. They provide interesting and thought-provoking information for voters.

Almost forgot – we need more members. If you know any of the current retirees, tell them about PBCREA. It’s not necessary to come to meetings; we’ll keep them informed with our local newsletter plus the state papers. In my mind, the biggest advantage of PBCREA and FREA is we are the guardians of our pension plan.

Guardian Ad Litem Program

“Guardian Ad Litem” is a state supported program consisting of trained volunteers and professional staff. These volunteers are citizens from the community who now become part of the court process in order to represent and advocate for a child’s best interest. Most of these children, now subjects of judicial proceedings, have been removed from their homes because of alleged abuse, abandonment or neglect.

While cases vary in complexity, most require approximately ten to twelve hours per month. Our volunteers see their children at a minimum once every 30 days, advocate for needed services for the children; report to the judge, case manager and attorney via written reports and testimony; monitor the case from beginning to end with all efforts toward permanency and reunification and speak with all parties associated with the case (teachers, therapists, parents and the child). With a GAL, a child is half as likely to languish in the foster care and child welfare system and more likely to find a safe, permanent home.

In Palm Beach County, there are approximately 1,400 children in the system at this time. To be part of Guardian ad Litem, there are no special legal skills necessary – just good common sense and the desire to help abused and neglected children. Someone interested in helping children may also volunteer for our “Speak Up for Kids” program. Speak Up for Kids’ is a 501(c3) non-profit whose sole purpose is to support the GAL program and its mission. Volunteers are needed for Marketing, Website Management, Administrative, Special Events and Media Relations.

To obtain more information regarding Guardian ad Litem and Speak Up for Kids, visit our website at Galpb.org or speakupforkidspbc.org or call 561-355-6224.

Making a lasting difference in the life of a child. **VOLUNTEER** to be the **VOICE OF A CHILD.**