

SEMINOLE COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
THE SCREA NEWSLETTER
March-April 2018



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...*Ms. Kerry McRae*

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Dear SCREA Members,

The Florida Legislature is now in session and education is very much on the agenda. There seems to be a trend to radically “modify” our public school system by passing bills that privatize our current system, hinder (or even eliminate) teacher professional organizations, and unfairly favor alternative educational choices. FREA sends out **legislative alerts** to notify members of current happenings. FREA may also send out a **Call to Action** which is more important and asks that you contact your legislator or sign a petition. Your State Senator or Representative contact information can easily be found on the FREA website www.frea.org.

Do you know someone who would benefit by joining the SCREA Family?

New Opportunities- At our March 13th meeting you will have the opportunity to order SCREA shirts and purchase name tag lanyards. Shirts will be \$17.00 and Lanyards \$5.00. It would be great to see us all decked out at the State Convention!

Legislative Update- The current legislative session is currently discussing issues of great concern to all educators past and present. Be assured FREA is watching and communicating with law makers on such vital issues as: Charter School Vouchers vs Public Education, Changes in the FL Retirement System, Fair Teacher Evaluation Systems, Bullying, and Human Trafficking. We are your eyes and ears but, your support and input is greatly needed and appreciated!

March 13, 2018 Luncheon/Meeting-Please come join us on Tuesday, March 13th at the Patio Grill (2900 South Orlando Drive, Sanford, FL 32773). Individuals may order lunch starting at 12:00 PM. Time is given for socializing followed by a brief business meeting.

Our guest speaker will be a representative from the Seminole County Sheriff's Department focusing on **crime against seniors**. You are sure to learn more on **how to keep you and your family safe!**

Reminder!!- March is membership renewal time! Your \$50 helps to ensure that our organization continues to keep an active watch on the Florida Retirement System, encourage community involvement, lobby for quality public education, and provide scholarship opportunities for upcoming educators.

FYI:  **Facebook Group - Seminole County Retired Educators Association**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
FREA CONVENTION May 23-25
Altamonte Springs Hilton

In support of the nearly 4,000 Families In Need (FIN) in Seminole County, we will gladly collect and transport any food, hygiene, or clothing items at each meeting and transport them to the appropriate agencies. (See page 3).

Join us for Lunch and our Meeting! 3/13/18





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FREA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CALENDAR

The Florida Legislative Session is usually a 2 month session beginning in early March and ending in late April or early May. Occasionally, these dates may change and when that happens this committee changes its dates accordingly.

The State Legislative Meeting (FREA) is held the 3rd or 4th week of the session. Ten District Legislative Chairs and specified State Officers meet in Tallahassee for three days. The objectives of this meeting are:

- Monitor and report on the health of Florida Retirement System (FRS).
- Identify issues critical to FREA which are being discussed in legislative bills.
- Visit and lobby legislators regarding the identified priorities.
- Develop proposed legislative priorities for the following year to be presented at the annual FREA convention for approval.



Families in Need Wish List

Feel free to bring items to our meetings and we will deliver them.

Food Pantry

Microwaveable meals-
(mac & cheese, noodle
cups)
Canned Protein-(chicken,
tuna, ham)
Canned beans & soups
Canned Beef stew, chili,
ravioli
Peanut & other nut
butters
Shelf stable milk & cheese
Instant breakfast drinks
Crackers & chips
Breakfast cereal & bars
Rice & pasta
Jelly & Jams
Microwaveable popcorn
Canned vegetables &
fruits
Canned tomato &
spaghetti sauces
Apple sauce
Fruit snacks
Utensils & plates

Hygiene

Full-sized conditioner
& shampoo
Variety of tampons,
sanitary napkins
Full-sized toothpaste
Toothbrushes
(adult & child)
Deodorant
(male & female)
Full-sized lotions
Laundry detergent,
PODS
(smaller packages)
Body wipes
Body wash & bar soap

Uniforms

Collared short & long
sleeve shirts
(navy blue, white,
red, green)
Khaki shorts, skirts &
pants
NEW underwear
(varied children,
adult sizes)
NEW socks
(varied children, adult
sizes)



FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Examples of Community Service Categories

Here are a few examples of activities which may be listed for your Community Service Hours.

SCHOOLS: Assisting in office, clinic, sports program, landscaping, and grounds and building maintenance; chaperoning on field trips and social events; fundraising; speaking to classes or assemblies; sponsoring or assisting in clubs or extra-curricular activities; serving on advisory boards.

ECOLOGY/ENVIRONMENT: Conserving and/or protecting wildlife and/or the environment; participating in bird counts; working in animal shelters or wildlife sanctuaries; conducting educational programs on endangered species (plant/animal), finite resources, good stewardship of the earth; publishing ecological environmental newsletters, pamphlets, brochures; fundraising; recycling; tree planting; working in community cleanups; “adopting” or assisting in cleaning or landscaping public sites – medians, rights-of-way, beaches, cemeteries, squares, parks, entrances to subdivisions, etc.

CHURCH-RELATED WORK: Conducting Bible study, training union; directing choir; advising youth groups; collecting food and clothing for needy; counseling; visiting shut-ins; maintaining church grounds or cemetery; keeping nursery, etc.

CIVIC/COMMUNITY SERVICE: Providing for needy-food pantries, thrift shops, transportation, advisory boards; serving as tour guides/aides to museums, historic districts, zoos; fundraising; manning telephone “hot lines” for referrals or counseling; working with Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Alpha Center, Neighborhood Watch, etc.; registering new voters; walking or running for charity, etc.

HOSPITAL/HOSPICE/PRIVATE: Providing services (including entertainment and gifts) in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, home care programs; counseling victims of cancer, paralysis, stroke, AIDS, etc.; serving on advisory boards; working in any capacity to encourage preventative medicine, healthful living, health care, improvements in medical insurance and benefits, etc.

PERSONAL HELP TO OTHERS: (DO NOT INCLUDE immediate family) providing personal care, transportation, shopping, food, housekeeping, yard maintenance, odd jobs; managing business-banking, bill-paying, corresponding, helping with taxes, translating for the deaf or speakers of other languages; guardian ad litem; babysitting; “foster” grand parenting, DO NOT COUNT services that would be provided in the normal course of events. ***Count only those hours that are devoted exclusively to the person(s) being assisted.

DRUG PROGRAMS: Taking programs to schools or other groups; serving as a mentor to youth at high risk, in Alcoholics Anonymous, “Stop Smoking” programs; serving on advisory board of drug agency, manning “hot line” for counseling, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS: (1) serving in/for jails, prisons, detention homes, police departments-teaching, mentoring, counseling, serving on task force or advisory board; (2) making or building art and/or craft projects for fundraisers-raffles, auctions for scholarships, or direct aid to organizations or individuals; (3) coaching, refereeing, fundraising for community sports leagues; (4) restoring toys and/or clothing for charitable organizations, etc.