

SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 48 NUMBER 8
Gail Weston, Editor

May 2018
Paula Walker, Labels



President's Message



MARK THESE DATES

Greetings SPCREA Members, Supporters, & New Retirees

Our April celebration featured Jennifer Tyson from Sunken Gardens. She spoke with us about natural Florida plant life and how to use it to maintain our yards to attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. What a delight she was to listen to!

Congratulations to our newly elected officers! Installation of officers will occur at our May meeting. Come help us celebrate the change of leaders! We will also conduct our Omega Ceremony to honor those who have passed on.

Heather Baxter was approved for a fourth year of her FREF scholarship. We will also be introducing and honoring our local scholarship recipient, Daniel Costas-Butcher. Congratulations to both of these fine young people!

We are again collecting books for children through the Margaret Poppell "Literacy for Life" Project. If you have new or slightly used books you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the May meeting.

Another exciting event coming up in May is the annual FREA Convention. Save the dates May 23 – 25, 2018. Check out the FREA website for more information. www.frea.org

I am looking forward to seeing you all on May 10th at the Big Apple for our eighth and final meeting of this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you need. My email is westong65@yahoo.com and phone is 727-365-5498.

Gail Weston, President

Come join the fun!
FREA Convention
May 23-25, 2018
Altamonte Springs
Hilton Hotel
Altamonte Springs
(Orlando)



SPCREA MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS - 2017 -2018

May 10th – Military Program with Mr. Milton White from the Military and Veterans Success Center at USF-SP.

May 17th - Executive Board Meeting at St. Pete. College Library at 10:00 AM

May 23rd-25th – FREA Convention at the Hilton in Altamonte Springs

OUR MEETING PLACE IS: Big Apple Buffet, 1030 58th St. N. (Tyrone Gardens Shopping Center) St. Petersburg

OUR MEETING DATE is the 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 11:00 A.M.

SPCREA Board Meetings - 3rd Thursday of the month. 10:00 am SPC Library, 750 66th St. N.

SPCREA Executive Board

Gail Weston, President

westong65@yahoo.com

Vicki Coleman, President-elect

vickicoleman49@gmail.com

Cheryl DiCicco, Recording Secretary

pdicicco@tampabay.rr.com

Jim Moore, Treasurer

moore4688@aol.com

Anita Shoby & Pat Crooks,

Corresponding Secretary

anitashoby@yahoo.com

gardenbug1@tampabay.rr.com

Brenda Guinn Past President and

Nominations moebrend@live.com

Paula Walker, Membership

pmcwalker1@mac.com

President Elect Report – Vicki Coleman

What a wonderful opportunity for us at the April meeting! Jennifer Tyson, a Garden Specialist from the Sunken Gardens who coordinates the volunteers and the education programs spoke with our group about native Florida vegetation. She handed out advice and information that was practical and therefore useable in our home and balcony/patio gardens. I took away ideas for shady plantings, pot plantings, ground covers, and more. Plus, she left us a referral sheet with websites listed for additional information. Thank you, Jennifer. I don't feel as hopeless about our "yard areas" anymore.

Our May meeting is traditionally dedicated to our military forces, active and retired. This month we will welcome Mr. Milton White. Mr. White will give us an overview of the Military and Veterans Success Center at USF-SP. The Center provides "a place for Veteran Students to have camaraderie and come together on a daily basis to share transition strategies, study, network and reintegrate in civilian life." It will be interesting to hear about how the military life and the student life intersect.

Hope to see you Thursday, May 10, 2018, 11:00 AM at the Big Apple!

INFORMATION SERVICES

Summer is coming! Hydration! Thirst is the signal the body sends to let you know when you are becoming dehydrated. Consume the fluids of your choice and remember alcoholic beverages are not a good substitute. Sugary drinks taste good but there is nothing better than water to quench your thirst. Try it with slices of lemon or cucumber and if that doesn't appeal to you, then check out your local market for the new varieties of flavored water. Whatever you do, remember this is summertime in Florida, so limit your time in the sun and heat and Drink! Drink! Drink! lots of water.

Hurricane Season: Each year hurricane season begins on June 1st and lasts 5 months, with storms typically peaking in August and September. As with every hurricane season regardless of forecast, knowing the essentials of how to prepare could truly be a life saver.

Be Prepared with a Hurricane Kit and Plan

It is important to create a kit of supplies that you could take with you if you are forced to evacuate. This kit will also be useful if you are able to stay in your home, but are still affected by the storm, such as through the loss of power. One common trend seen when hurricanes are approaching is a wide-spread panic. When this happens, people rush in large numbers to get all the supplies they think they need. However, if you prepare your kit ahead of time, you can alleviate a lot of the potential stress of a very chaotic situation. You should create your kit in a bag that you can easily take with you. Some recommended items to include are:

- Non-perishable food (enough to last at least 3 days)
- Water (enough to last at least 3 days)
- First-aid kit (include any prescription medication you may need)
- Personal hygiene items and sanitation items
- Flashlights (have extra batteries on hand)
- Battery operated radio (again, have extra batteries)
- Waterproof container with cash and important document
- Manual can opener
- Lighter or matches
- Books, magazines, games for recreation
- Special needs items: pet supplies and baby supplies if applicable
- Cooler and ice packs
- A plan for evacuation and for if family members are separated



MEMBERSHIP – Paula Walker

Have you renewed dues for 2018 – 2019?

There are 2 ways to receive a dues reminder:

**You will receive a reminder from SPCREA to renew your dues. There is a form to join or renew your dues in the SPCREA newsletter and on the attendance table at the meeting. Your membership status is noted on your newsletter mail label. Notices can also be sent to members receiving their newsletters via email.

You may also receive a bill from FREA for your state dues. The state only sends reminders that your state dues are being renewed, not local unit dues. If you mail a check to the state, you are current with **state dues only unless you include \$10 extra for your local unit dues. If you send state and local unit dues to FREA, we are unable to check your local dues status until the state sends the check to Jim.

A better solution is to send your dues renewal directly to Jim Moore, our treasurer. Fill out the membership form in the newsletter with your check and give or send them to Jim. You will pay \$45 for both state and local unit dues. He will designate your local and state dues as being paid, send the information to me and send your state dues to FREA. I will then designate you as a current member or send a reminder as needed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 727-321-1788 or pmcwalker1@mac.com.

Paula Walker
Membership Chair

Project Cheer

Our donations for May go to the Veterans Abilities Guild.

An alarming number of disabled veterans are homeless or living in substandard housing. Even after veterans qualify for subsidized housing assistance from the VA, most don't have basic essentials like coffeemakers, toasters, pots 'n pans, dishes, linens, and towels. Unwilling to accept this reality, the Abilities Guild established the Veterans Mall, a large storeroom of kitchen, bath, and bedroom items given for free to disabled veterans. To date, 1,600 veterans have been served, but the demand far outweighs the supply. Kindly consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Abilities, Inc. 100% of your gift will be used to purchase products at discount prices and ensure that veterans have the basics they need to successfully transition from homelessness to apartments in the community. For information, e-mail or call Frank De Lucia at frank.delucia@servicesource.org or 727-600-8900.

ABILITIES GUILD
2735 Whitney Road
Clearwater, FL 33760-1610

Supporting Abilities, Inc. dba ServiceSource Florida Regional Office Since 1980



We are collecting drink tabs for the Shriners Hospital for Children. We will have a donation jar at all meetings, so please save your tabs from drink cans, soup cans, tennis ball cans, or other sources. They will be taken to a local Masonic Lodge. They are then sent to the Shriners Hospital. They are sold and the funds are used to support children in need of care.



We are also collecting Box Tops for Education for our schools. If you have Box Tops on items you buy, they will benefit our children. There will be a container for you to drop them into.

We are again in need of someone to take over the Project Cheer Committee. Please consider helping us with this volunteer opportunity. Contact Gail Weston if you can help. westong65@yahoo.com or 727-365-5498

APRIL MEETING PICTURES



Pledge to the flag!



President, Gail Weston giving the Thought for the day! Nancy Merada and Pat Davey



Jennifer Tyson from Sunken Gardens giving a most informative talk about natural Florida plants and Sunken Gardens.



Vicki Coleman gathering up the donations for CASA!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELECTED OFFICERS for 2018 -2020 Installation will be at the May 2018 meeting!

PRESIDENT – Vicki Coleman moves from President-elect

PRESIDENT-ELECT – Cheryl DiCicco

TREASURER – Jim Moore

RECORDING SECRETARY – Katie Sistar

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Anita Shoby & Pat Crooks

PAST-PRESIDENT – Gail Weston moves from President

SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
TREASURER REPORT

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE as of 2/28/2018		\$2937.08
INCOME		
State dues	420.00	
Local dues	120.00	
Associate dues (local)	10.00	
FREF	51.00	
Local scholarship (50/50;March)	46.00	
Local scholarship (Fashion show)	70.00	
TOTAL INCOME: 2/28/18 –3/31/18		\$717.00
EXPENDITURES		
State dues	560.00	
Newsletter	25.93	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 2/28/18 –3/31/18		\$585.93
BALANCE on 3/31/2018 (Checking)		\$3068.15
BALANCE on 3/31/2018 (Savings)		\$730.02

Present funds for FREF member donations is \$236.00

Present funds for local scholarship is \$1135.00

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Moore, Treasurer

If you have money for Jim Moore, please put it in an envelop or attach a note to it so he knows who it is from and what it is for.

For Your Information: SPCREA Committees

Membership - Paula Walker
 Volunteer Services (Community Services & Literacy) – Pat Davey
 Information Services (Information, Protective Services, & Health Care) – Nancy Merada
 Retirement Planning – Jan Wallis
 Legislative – Alan Blessing
 Nominations – Brenda Guinn
 Bylaws – Vicki Coleman
 Benefits Committee (Insurance)
 Newsletter – Gail Weston
 Publicity – Joyce Walters
 Historian -
 FREF – Wanda Dudley
 Sunshine (Hospitality) –
 Cultural Affairs – Phyllis Hand
 Thought for the Day – sign-up
 Project Cheer –
 Music – Jackie Thornton and Nadine Johnson

We are always in need of volunteers to help with the different committees. If you see one you would like to help with talk to the chairperson. We do have some with no chair and could use your assistance.



COMMUNITY SERVICE – VOLUNTEER HOURS -Pat Davey

FREA Mission: To encourage community involvement through Volunteerism and Literacy Projects

Have you submitted your hours yet?

Report Your SPCREA Volunteer Hours:

Name: _____

Month: _____ **2018**

Schools

- _____ Clerical, class assist, café, clinic, media center, Fundraising, maintenance, etc.
- _____ SAC/PTA, speaker, club sponsor, field trips
- _____ Mentor, direct work w/ children, sm. grps, etc.

Church

- _____ Administrative
- _____ Visiting shut-ins, collecting food/clothing, work with adults, maintenance
- _____ With children: education, choirs, child care

Medical

- _____ Hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, etc.
- _____ Transportation to and from
- _____ With children, (care for non-relatives)
- _____ All Children's, Ronald McDonald House, etc.

Community Service

- _____ Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, etc.
- _____ Children's sports leagues, (coaching referee, etc)
- _____ Food banks, thrift shops, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Clothes for Kids, etc.
- _____ Museum or theater docent, tour guide, advisory boards, Neighborhood Watch, etc.
- _____ Charity work
- _____ Manning "hot lines", serving in jails/detention ctrs
- _____ Environmental, community clean-up, etc.
- _____ Animal shelters, wildlife sanctuaries, etc.
- _____ Voter registration, voting center work, etc.

Personal Help to Others (DO NOT include family members

- _____ Shopping, personal care, housekeeping, transport,
- _____ Babysitting, "foster" grand parenting
- _____ Banking, bill paying, correspond, companionship
- _____ Translating, bureaucracy navigating, etc.

Other _____

***** Please bring to the meeting or e-mail the info to Pat Davey at stingraydavey@gmail.com**

Change of Address Form: Have you moved lately or changed your phone number or email? If so, please let us know so we can send newsletters, information, and the directory. If you know of a member who is ill or has passed, please contact Paula. (727-321-1788)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone# _____

Mail to: Paula Walker, 3600 15th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713 OR send to pmcwalker1@mac.com

Please complete this entire application. All information is CONFIDENTIAL.
THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS **JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABEL ON THE NEWSLETTER WHICH
INDICATES YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS.**

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$45.00

Please check: New Member _____ Renewal _____ General Member _____ Associate Member _____

Who encouraged you to join? _____

Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Miss _____ Dr. _____ Other _____ Years of Service _____

YOUR NAME: _____ Date of Birth _____

Mailing Address: _____ Apt/Lot _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(9 Digit Zip Code Please)

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Newsletter preference:

Regular Mail _____

E-mail _____

SUMMER ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE) What Months? _____

Street/Box/route _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Date Retired: _____ Retired from: _____

List Special

Interests/Activities: _____

SPCREA Dues \$10 + FREA dues \$35 = \$45.00 \$ _____

FREF Scholarship Donation (optional) \$ _____

FREA Legislative Advocacy (optional) \$ _____

DATE: _____ TOTAL \$ _____ CHECK # _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **SPCREA**

AND MAIL TO:

Jim Moore, 4688 8th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713-6115

**LIFE MEMBERS--PLEASE SEND AT LEAST \$3.00 "FREF DONATION" TO SUPPORT FREF
SCHOLARSHIPS**

SPCREA & FREA: Honors Your Yesterdays
Enriches Your Present &
Secures Your Future

SOUTH PINELLAS COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
4688 8th Ave N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33713-6115

Hope to see you at our May 10th meeting!

BIG APPLE BUFFET

Tyrone Gardens Shopping Center
1030 58th Street North



Encourage your retired educator friends to join our group!
Bring a friend to our next meeting!

Want to know more? Visit the FREA website at www.frea.org



Find us on
Facebook