

From: Janet Ford (mvjsmom@aol.com)

Date: Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 12:40 PM EST

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
♥♥ BLAST ♥♥
FEBRUARY 2025**

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

♥♥ Let's wear RED! ♥♥

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

11:15 AM

GOLDEN CORRAL BUFFET RESTAURANT

10100 Fox Trail Road S

Royal Palm Beach

****SW Corner of Okeechobee Blvd. & SR 7****

****behind Ruby Tuesday****

Cost is approximately \$13 payable to the restaurant

If you are not eating, you must pay for a drink.

When you come through the line to pay, please follow directions to come directly to the meeting room.



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

"Fall Prevention and Home Safety"

presented by

JEFF HEINZ

Fire Safety Specialist

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue



FREF EXTRAVAGANZA TICKETS 2025

Our Palm Beach County Unit has 60 tickets to sell. Each ticket is \$10 and this money benefits the Foundation for state awarded

scholarships. When you buy a ticket - or MORE!- your name is entered in for \$100 District Drawings. There are Large Group Drawings of \$200, \$300, and \$500 also! Let's make sure we sell all 60 tickets! More chances to win!! Checks accepted made out to FREF.

Deadline - April Meeting (April 10, 2025)



January Meeting at Volante
YOU should be there!









VALENTINES ♥ FOR ♥ THE ♥ VA ♥ HOSPITAL

Bring your Valentines - child size only! - to the Luncheon. We will have "TO" and "FROM" labels you can attach to each card.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATIONS

Black History Month, observed annually in February, is a time dedicated to honor and celebrate the achievements, contributions and cultural heritage of African Americans.

Our community is offering several events to celebrate. Here are a few of the many activities to choose from:

Sunday, February 16: "Say It Loud" - A celebration of Black History Month showcasing Black culture and artistry through performances, interactive exhibits, panel discussions and immersive experiences.

Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center <https://www.boynton-beach.org/769/Say-it-Loud>

Saturday, February 22: NAACP South County Branch Inaugural Gala
Celebrate freedom, equality and empowerment
Delray Beach Golf Club

https://www.facebook.com/Southpalmbeachnaacp/?lsrc=lb&wtsid=rdr_1loYduGU9cB7YoJeu

Sunday, February 23: "Rosewood Lunch and Learn"

Descendants of Rosewood will share stories of their ancestors. Then a skit will showcase Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letter from a Birmingham Jail. Lunch will be served.

Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, Delray Beach

<https://www.spadymuseum.com/events/>

Thursday, February 27: "Cultural Conversation: Sleeping with the Ancestors - How I Followed in the Footprints of Slavery" presented by Joseph McGill and Herb Frazier of the Slave Dwelling Project

African American Research Library and Cultural Center, Fort Lauderdale

<https://broward.libnet.info/events?r=range&start=2025-02-27>



Fifth Grade Essay Contest

We had 31 entries and we expect to have a winner soon.

We greatly appreciate all teachers from Palm Beach County who participated.



Florida Retired Educators Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with over 10,000 members throughout the state of Florida. We have an active legislative committee dedicated to public education, teacher recruitment/ retention, health care for seniors, school safety, and our FRS Pension.

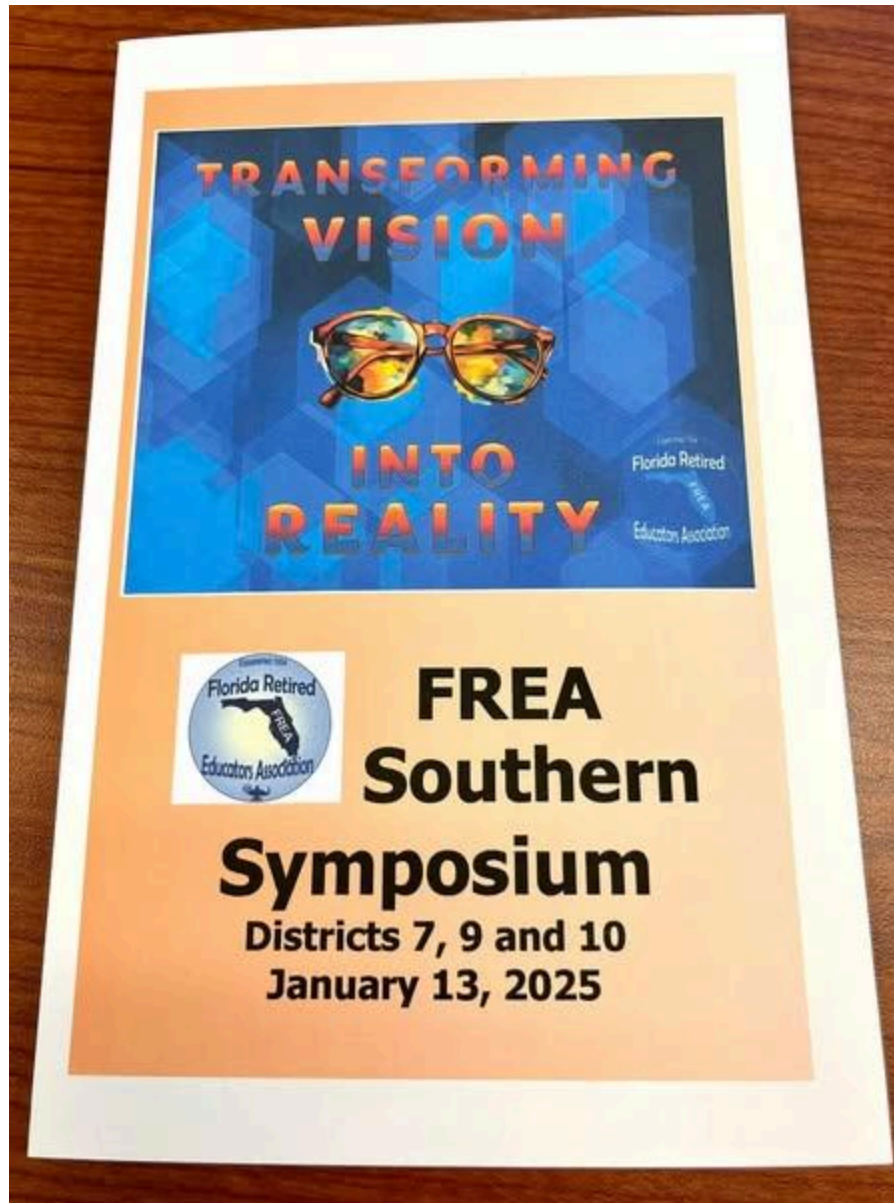
Our retired school personnel usually live in the communities where they worked. Thus, our members have a large impact on their home economy. We live, shop, volunteer, and are active in our communities. We love to encourage others to enter the profession and give out scholarships to future teachers and hold an essay contest for 5th graders.

We have a few priorities we would like to have our Legislators consider for this year:

1. **Reinstate the Cost of Living Adjustment for all school personnel.** With inflation on the rise, seniors need the COLA to remain financially independent. In 2011 the legislature stopped the COLA with the promise it would be readdressed in 5 years. It is now 2025 and the COLA is still on a side table. Starting back a COLA at .1% a year would encourage teachers/employees to stay longer. If we start now, after 10 years FRS members would receive a 1% COLA, after 20 years they would have 2% and after 30 years they would have a 3% COLA matching the 2011 percentage.
2. **Change the Default back to Define Benefit** – A pension plan encourages personnel to stay in the profession and stay in the state. When a new teacher begins, they are overwhelmed with learning how to be a new teacher. All of the paperwork required of them puts their pension/investment decisions on the back burner. At 22 years of age, you don't think about retirement, and they overlook the option to choose DB or DC. Florida has one of the best pension plans in the country. Most of the cost (over 70%) comes from the excellent investment of the pension fund. Putting new hires into the Pension plan would help retain them until they are vested and allows them to receive a COLA. Whereas the investment plan encourages new hires to transfer to other professions or states and take their money with them. Also, since the pension plan earns more than the investment plan, the state has put additional funds into the investment plan, thus costing taxpayers.
3. **Making teachers part of the high-risk FRS group.** Police and Firefighters are considered members of the high-risk FRS group because they are first responders and put their lives on the line. Because of this classification, they receive additional benefits and pay. With all of the school shooting, teachers are now responsible for student's safety and they are in danger of being involved in a life-threatening situation. Why are they not considered high-risk?
4. **Insurance for seniors** – Through out the state, insurance companies are leaving the state. This is causing many people to lose their insurance or pay high rates. People on a fixed income are spending more of their money on paying insurance. Also in order to become eligible for insurance, you need to prepare your home: remove trees, have a new roof, replace your hot water heater, replace pipes, etc. Many seniors have lived in their homes for decades and all this expense comes at once. Leaving them the choice of going without insurance or going into large debt. Last year Florida started the My Safe Florida program. This sounded great on paper but ran out of money day one.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE





PALM BEACH COUNTY REA
WAS RECOGNIZED!

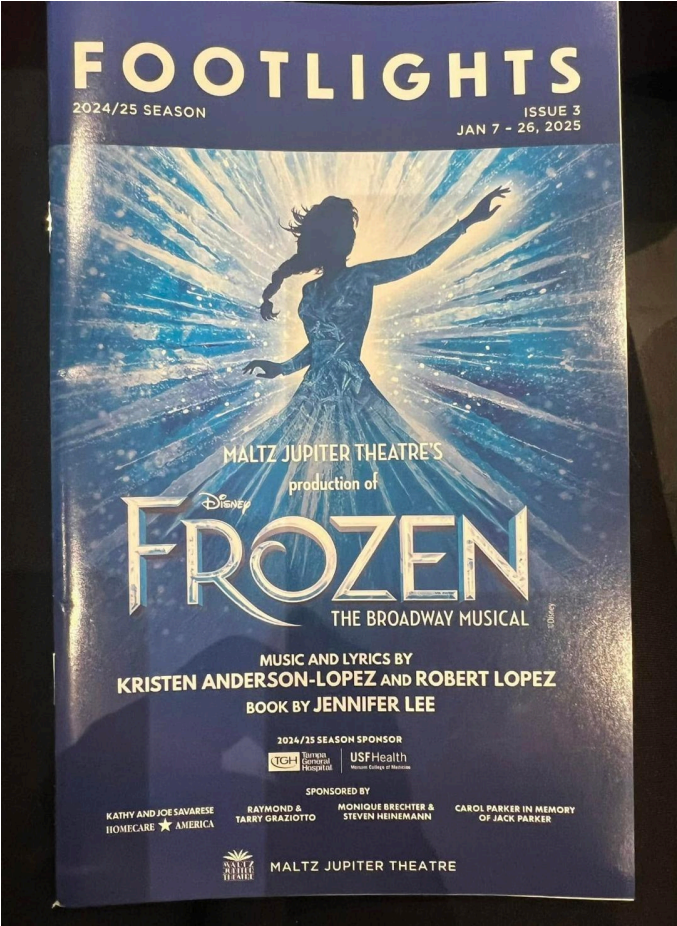






WORLD TRAVELLER!







COURTESY

PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT MEMBERS WHO ARE ILL
OR WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY SO WE CAN
APPROPRIATELY ACKNOWLEDGE IN A TIMELY
MANNER. SEND INFORMATION TO

JANET FORD - 561-683-3665 - mvjmom@aol.com

OR

RAYE JOHNSON - 561- 585-6907 -

rayejohnson@comcast.net

THANK YOU



PBCREA Luncheon Locations & Dates for 2025

March 13th @11:00am - Volante of Delray Beach - \$18 cash - Salad,
Entree, Dessert

April 10th @ 11:15am - Golden Corral of RPB - \$13 - Buffet

May 8th @ 11:00am - Volante of Delray Beach - \$18 cash - Salad, Entree,
Dessert





Wendy Sartory Link
Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections

ELECTION DATES AND DEADLINES

2025 Uniform Municipal Elections

Election Day - Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Deadline to register to vote - Monday, February 10, 2025

Deadline to request that a VBM ballot be mailed to you - Thursday, February 27, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

Early Voting - Not available

Deadline to return your VBM Ballot - Tuesday, March 11, 2025, by 7:00 p.m. to our Main Office or by 5:00 p.m. to a Branch Office

Run-Off Election Day (if necessary) - Tuesday, March 25, 2025



Your direction
is more
important than
your speed.
♡.