

(Put those)

# Apples Away!



A publication of the Hernando County Retired Educators Association  
December 2024/January 2025 and February/March 2025 Volumes 9:4 and 9:5

*We are a community of retired educators and school personnel  
whose vision is to serve, socialize, and support education.*



## Linda's Two Cents Worth

[lighthouses407@bellsouth.net](mailto:lighthouses407@bellsouth.net) or 352-238-3257

Hello!

I hope you are doing well in 2025. Who knows what life has in store for you this year? We hope you will join us for not only social times and fun activities, but also helping in our community by volunteering.

At the recent FREA Symposium, we were asked to describe our Unit in one word. I chose "EVOLVING". Our members are always looking for new retired educators to join. We thrive from new energies and ideas, but also appreciate our veteran members who keep us progressing. Many people help our association work to follow FREA guidelines. It is always appreciated when someone says they will take on a new task, no matter how small.

Please share your ideas and suggestions for planning next year's calendar. The committee need to know your interests!

Meister Eckhart said "And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings."

Gratefully,  
Linda Kelley, President



The Hernando County Retired Educators Association supports retired educators and the community through our many programs and volunteer activities. This chapter was established in 2015. We are part of the Florida Retired Educators Association and, although it is not a political organization, FREA works to maintain our FRS pension, COLA adjustments, and health care subsidy, and has a representative for our ongoing legislative needs in Tallahassee.

### In this issue

Linda's Two Cents Worth	- page 1
Information for Members	- page 2
Member Spotlight	- page 3
HCREA Out and About	- pages 4-9
2024-2025 Calendar	- page 10
Inspirational Prose	- pages 11
Association Information	- page 12

**REMINDER!**  
**Voting for the 2025-2027  
HCREA officers will be held  
at the next meeting.  
If you will be unable to  
attend, please email Laurie  
Pellito at**

**[lapellito@gmail.com](mailto:lapellito@gmail.com)**

See page 9 for more information.

**The April 1<sup>st</sup> General Membership meeting  
will be at 10:30 AM at the Capital City Bank,  
14302 Spring Hill Drive, across from the  
entrance to Pristine Place. The meeting room  
entrance is on the left side of the building.**

**A deputy from the Hernando County  
Sheriff's Office will speak on personal  
safety.**

**We will also be voting for the  
2025-2027 HCREA officers.**

**(see page )**

**We hope to see ALL of you there!**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

*Alan Solomon - 2/5*

*Mary Knight - 2/6*

*Anna Drier - 2/16*

*Linda Wrinkle - 2/22*



*Roseanne Johnson - 3/12*

*Cindy Riedlinger - 4/1*

*Rhonda Love - 4/5*

*Patrice Carlo - 4/16*

*Jeannie Lashley - 4/27*

*Dennon McGeehan - 4/27*

*Laurie Pellito - 4/27*



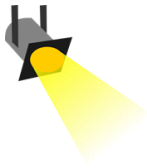
*Linda Kelley - 5/2*

*Merry-Lyn Orlando - 5/2*

*Wendy Post - 5/6*

*Beth Hurt - 5/9*

*Cecelia Solomon - 5/25*



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Phyllis Proctor

Here's what Phyllis had to share with Alan during a recent phone interview.

Phyllis Proctor was born in Sumter, SC at Shaw Air Force Base. She was the fourth child of seven. Her family's hometown was Tampa. They moved to South Carolina, then to Michigan for seven years. After that the Roberts family (Phyllis's maiden name) moved back to Tampa.

Phyllis went to USF, earning a degree in elementary education with a certification in early childhood. Her teaching career spanned 30 years at one school, Lacoochee Elementary in Pasco County. Most of the years she taught were in kindergarten. She also taught first grade, fourth, and fifth grade. She spent a year working with kids in a reading pull-out program. Phyllis retired in 2006.

There are two people who influenced her the most. Her father, Frank Roberts, encouraged all his children to go to college. Three sisters did and became teachers. The other person who influenced her life was a Kindergarten teacher named Phyllis Long, a lady Phyllis worked with for four years. Mrs. Long taught Phyllis about the love of teaching five-year-old students. Mrs. Long is a child at heart. She always wanted to bring happiness to her students. She also looked for the most troubled children in her class and tried to improve their lives.

Phyllis has a lot of fond memories of her career. She helped students learn about the world around them. Her class created a butterfly garden. The students also enjoyed working in the trail in the woods at the school. There were ten stations teaching about nature. One of Phyllis' favorite things she did was put on a show for all the parents each month. This would let the parents know what their kids learned. It was important for Phyllis to teach at Lacoochee Elementary because her family moved to Lacoochee when she was 12 years old. That is when she knew she wanted to teach there. Not only did she work at the school, she also worked in the First Baptist Church of Lacoochee and some other churches in the area. Phyllis worked for 50 years in church service teaching children and adults. She is still helping at a church now.

Phyllis's three major interests are reading, gardening, and craft projects. She even paints! Phyllis is engaged to fellow HCREA member Alfred Lang. They have wedding plans for May. Phyllis said she would not change a thing if she had the chance to restart her career. She loved working with her kindergarten classes and hopes people will remember her for her dedication and love for the children.

---

Editor's note: Quotes for this issue are from the "Problems Lead to Success" chapter in *A Thousand Paths to Patience* by Michael Powell.

"The experiences that teach us the most are the ones we haven't bargained for."

# HCREA OUT AND ABOUT

December, January, February, and March have been B-U-S-Y!

December 4<sup>th</sup> – A “Winter Wonderland” Holiday Party at Southern Hills



---

“Patience is not the same as apathy; the actions of patient people are effective because they are not discouraged when results come slowly and they sustain their belief that their actions will yield the desired outcomes.”

**January 9<sup>th</sup> – Candy and Cards for Schools**



**January 14<sup>th</sup> - FREA Symposium: *Transforming Vision into Reality***

*HCREA was excited and honored to be the Host Unit!*



January 21<sup>st</sup> – a *Cupid Crew Card Party!* Fun, food, and over 700 cards decorated!



January 30<sup>th</sup> - Ybor City trip.

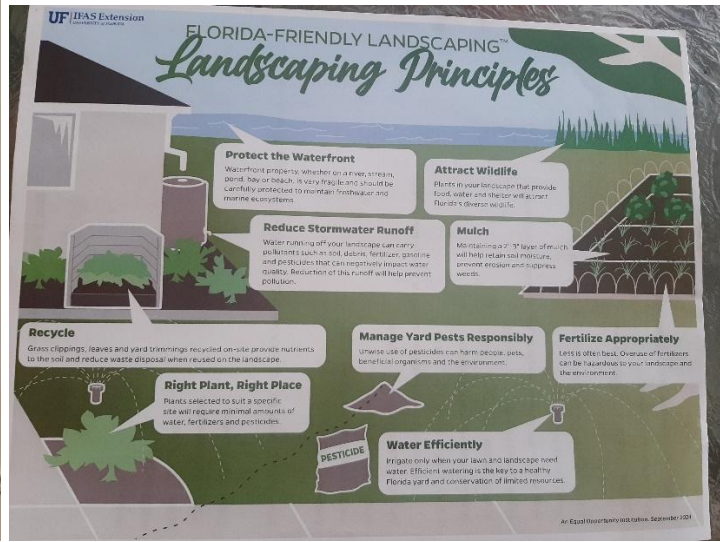
Members visited the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts and thoroughly enjoyed their lunch at the Columbia Restaurant



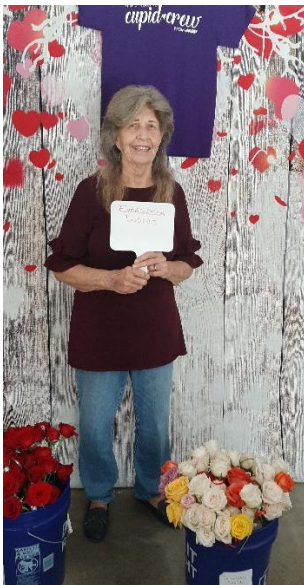
---

“Don’t give up on your dreams. Where there is passion and patience, you can’t go wrong.”

## February 4<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Bill Lester



## February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – 2025 Cupid Crew in action!



WISH OF A LIFETIME®  
**cupid crew**  
FROM AARP®



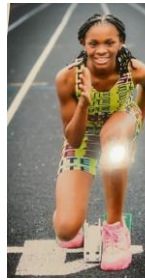


Also in February

**FREA 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay winner for HCREA  
Deanna Reed, Suncoast ES**



Deanna's mom, Deanna's "Big Sister" from BBBS, Deanna, Mrs. K McKissick, her teacher, Ms. Darcey Hughes, SES principal, and Sharon Twyman, chair of essay project.



Sharon, Deanna's mom, Deanna, and Mary Frank

### March 4<sup>th</sup> – HCREA Board Meeting

Ten members of the Board had a very productive meeting.  
Be watching your email for more information on next year's events!

"Don't give up on your dreams. Where there is passion and patience, you can't go wrong."



After the meeting, members attended a Mardi Gras lunch at *A Taste of New Orleans*.  
Good food, fun, and friends!



***HONOR YESTERDAY---ENRICH TODAY---SECURE TOMORROW***

**Voting for the 2025-2027 HCREA Officers  
will be held at the April General Meeting.**

Slate of Officers

President: Diane Kennedy

President-elect(s): Phyllis Proctor  
Cecelia Solomon and Sharon Twyman

Secretary: Jean Squiller

Treasurer: Alan Solomon

*If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact  
Laurie Pellito at [lapellito@gmail.com](mailto:lapellito@gmail.com) to request a mail-in ballot.*

# HERNANDO COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS

## 2024-2025 Calendar of Events

*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at Capital City Bank, 14302 Spring Hill Drive, and begin at 10:30 AM.  
Items in Italics at the end of a month are FREA reminders.*



### APRIL

**1 TUESDAY** - General membership meeting with a speaker from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office on Personal Safety

*Nominations Committee conducts elections for officers at general meeting  
Finance Committee prepares budget to be sent out to members in newsletter prior to June vote.*



### MAY

**7 TUESDAY** - Board of Directors meeting  
Contact: Linda Kelley - 352-238-3257

**14 TUESDAY** - Escape Room TBA  
More information soon!  
Contact: Phyllis Proctor – [pjproctor58@gmail.com](mailto:pjproctor58@gmail.com)

**20-22 TUESDAY-THURSDAY** - FREA Annual Convention  
Renaissance World Golf Village Resort, St. Augustine  
*More information on the FREA website: [www.frea.org/convention](http://www.frea.org/convention)*



### JUNE

**3 TUESDAY** - General membership meeting and Celebration 11:00 AM  
Hernando Oaks Grill  
Contact: Linda Kelley - 352-238-3257

## Inspirational Prose

Do you have a favorite poem, a passage from a novel that speaks to you, a letter to Dear Abby that you have carried for years, or maybe favorite lyrics? These examples and many more writings are Inspirational Prose.

If you have words or a text that you value, please consider sharing.

### “Decide to Forgive

by Robert Muller, former assistant United Nations secretary-general  
[very interesting guy: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Muller\\_\(United\\_Nations\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Muller_(United_Nations))]

Decide to forgive  
For resentment is negative  
Resentment is poisonous  
Resentment diminishes and devours the self.  
Be the first to forgive,  
To smile and take the first step  
And you will see happiness bloom  
On the face of your human brother or sister.

Be always the first  
Do not wait for others to forgive  
For by forgiving  
You become the master of fate  
The fashioner of life  
A doer of miracles.

To forgive is the highest,  
Most beautiful form of love.  
In return you will receive  
Untold peace and happiness.

And here is the program for achieving a truly forgiving heart:

- SUNDAY: Forgive yourself.
- MONDAY: Forgive your family.
- TUESDAY: Forgive your friends and associates.
- WEDNESDAY: Forgive across economic lines within your own nation.
- THURSDAY: Forgive across cultural lines within your own nation.
- FRIDAY: Forgive across political lines within your own nation.
- SATURDAY: Forgive other nations.

Only the brave know how to forgive.  
A coward never forgives. It is not in his nature.

## ABOUT THE HCREA

Our mailing address is:  
6017 Forest Creek Drive  
Brooksville, FL 34601

Our email address is [HCREAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:HCREAinfo@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook: Hernando County Retired Educators Association  
[HCREA Facebook page](#)

### 2024-2025 HCREA Officers

President - Linda Kelley [lighthouses407@bellsouth.net](mailto:lighthouses407@bellsouth.net)

President-elect – Diane Kennedy [tkenned4@yahoo.com](mailto:tkenned4@yahoo.com)

Immediate Past President – Laurie Pellito [lapellito@gmail.com](mailto:lapellito@gmail.com)

Secretary - Jean Squillers [latigraunodo@hotmail.com](mailto:latigraunodo@hotmail.com) *with*

Sunshine - Mari-Celeste Sowers

[Ladimarigold55@aol.com](mailto:Ladimarigold55@aol.com)

Treasurer - Alan Solomon [asolomo2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:asolomo2@tampabay.rr.com)

### 2024-2025 HCREA Committee Chairs

Bylaws – *Volunteer Needed!*

FREF - Emily Berry [emnbrooks@me.com](mailto:emnbrooks@me.com) *with* HCEF liaison – Mary Frank

Information Services – Cecelia Solomon [buckysmom85@gmail.com](mailto:buckysmom85@gmail.com)

Legislative – Mari-Celeste Sowers [Ladimarigold55@aol.com](mailto:Ladimarigold55@aol.com)

Membership – Jeanne Lashley [gjlashley@yahoo.com](mailto:gjlashley@yahoo.com) and

Merry-lyn Orlando [MerryLynOrlando1234@gmail.com](mailto:MerryLynOrlando1234@gmail.com)

Nominations – Laurie Pellito [lapellito@gmail.com](mailto:lapellito@gmail.com)

Volunteer Services - Phyllis Proctor [pjproctor58@gmail.com](mailto:pjproctor58@gmail.com) *with*

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest – Sharon Twyman

[Sharontwyman0827@gmail.com](mailto:Sharontwyman0827@gmail.com)

