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Harriett Jenkins FREA President

Dear FREA Members,

As fall unfolds and we welcome the winter season, our thoughts are with those affected by the recent hurricanes, Helene and Milton. The devastation brought by these storms has been profound, impacting many of our members and their communities. During these challenging times, it's essential to remember that we stand together as a supportive and resilient community.

For those in need of financial assistance, the FREA Educator-in-Crisis grant is available to help you rebuild and recover. Go to our website www.frea.org, use the scholarships and grants pull down menu, then click on Educator in Crisis for the information and

application. This grant is to be used as a final source of

assistance to educators and is in the form of a gift to eligible individuals. Please reach out if you require support; we are here to assist you in any way we can.

As we reflect and continue to move full speed ahead, it is our hope that members exercised their right to vote by Election Day. Make no mistake, your voice remains crucial in shaping the future, and participating in the democratic process is a powerful way to make a difference for today and tomorrow.

As we look ahead, it's a perfect time for you to sign up for at least one Ad Hoc committee. Each committee is currently seeking members. Review the online committee descriptions and sign up for any committee (s) where your skills and interests align. (Contact me via email to sign up. The due date to sign up has been extended to November 30th.) Your involvement is vital to the success of our ongoing initiatives, and we greatly appreciate your commitment to our organization.

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, we hope you take the time to cherish all moments with your loved ones. It is a special season to reflect on our blessings and express gratitude. We are immensely thankful for each of you and your unwavering support of FREA

Lastly, we are also excited to see you at the upcoming Regional Symposiums in January 2025. These events are epic professional development opportunities for us to connect, learn, and grow together. Each Symposium session will be exciting and represent a commitment to FREA's core values of continuity, teamwork, fellowship, member

engagement, community visibility, and legislative involvement. It will be a grand experience for all attendees.

Stay safe, stay strong, and continue to support each other.

Warm regards,

Harriett

Harriett M. Jenkins, FREA President



of the information and					
FREA Calendar					
November 11	Veterans Day				
November 13-	FREA Executive				
14	Committee Meeting				
November 17	Florida Retired Educators				
November 17	Day				
November 25-	FREA Office Closed for				
29	Thanksgiving				
December 4	FREA Webinar 1 PM EST				
	Savings for the Holidays				
December 23-	FREA Office Closed for				
January 3	Holidays				
January 28	FREA Executive				
	Committee /Board				
	Meeting				
For full calendar please Click Here					
FREA Executive Committee					
Presiden	+ Harriett Jenkins				
	St. Lucie CREA				
HarriettMJenkins@aol.com					
President					
Elect	Seminole CREA				
cfrye@att.net					
State Direc	tor Linda Stephens Polk II REA				
lindawoo	. •				
lindawest0552@icloud.com Melanie Waite					
Secretar	y Santa Rosa CREA				
melanie	e7896@gmail.com				
	Gayle Hodges				
Treasure	r Orange CREA				
gayle.hodges1991@gmail.com					
Executive Committee Rep. 1-5					
Donna Harper					
harper2paint@gmail.com					
Executive Committee Rep. 6-10					
Pat Watkins					
patdanwat@msn.com					
Ex-Oficio					
FDFA Fyogutiya Anno Fogon					

Ex-Oficio
FREA Executive Anne Fagan
Director anne@frea.org



Carrie Frye

Dear Fellow FREA Members,

What a challenging hurricane season many Floridians have had. Please know that your safety and the security of you, your loved ones, and your property have been at the forefront of our thoughts.

Many Floridians have sustained immeasurable damages and some in our lives lost everything but their life. Our unshakeable fortitude and determination keep us moving forward, not only for ourselves but for our friends, neighbors and others in need. A resilience that we may not even realize we have comes to the forefront to guide us forward in those difficult moments after a catastrophe. Not only do we rise to the occasion of recovering personally, but we step up to embrace others in need. What a

joy it is to witness the **FREA President-Elect** compassion and empathy expressed for our fellow

mankind as we come together in such situations, especially in these recent challenging circumstances! I am aware of the lengths to which some of you have gone to help. Thank you!

My hope is that you and your loved ones are safe, your property is secure and if you need a hand, someone offers one. Please let us know if we can help.

With deep respect,

Carrie Frve FREA President-Elect cfrve@att.net

Hurricane fatigue is a real thing. After a significant hurricane event, many people who are no longer running on adrenaline will crashboth physical and emotionally. And it often doesn't happen right away, but sometimes weeks or months afterwards. You are not alone feeling this way, and it's very normal.

- meteorologist Craig Setzer



Linda Edson FREA State Legislative Co-Chair

FREA... ...Keeping an Eagle Eye on Your Pension!





It was a long and exhausting election season for all of us. The FREA Legislative Committee is concentrating on getting COLA restarted and

reactivated for our members. The 2025 Florida Legislative Session runs from March 4 to May 5. We will be hitting the ground running and sending you updates after the 1st of the year. Thank you for your support!



FREA District Directors and FREF Trustees Wanted

Edwinna Williams, Nominations Chair

Each fall we issue a "Call for Nominations" for the respective offices of FREA District Director or FREF Trustee when their term expires. The deadline for submitting the required documentation is December 15th. The required documentation includes a nomination letter, an acceptance statement, a biography sketch, and a photo. Come join our Leadership Team!

For more details, please <u>click link here.</u> Thank you, *Edwinna*



Cecelia Solomon **FREA Information Services Chair**



Units 11, 12, 26, 34, 52, 53, 582, 61, 62, 64N, 71, 72, 75, 82, 83, 86N, 94, 95, and 04 have all joined the Cupid Crew! Thank you to all Units that are newbies for the program. The rest of us were brand new last year; we survived, and found it is one of the most rewarding projects our units were ever involved with - so much so that we are doing it again! Please



Anne Fagan FREA Executive Director

contact Anne Fagan, any Unit that participated last year, or Cecelia for assistance, ideas, or reassurance. This heart-warming project is a fun, team-building way to do good and to feel good!



By The Numbers

34—Suwannee Lafayette—Mrs. Naomi Gilliard and Mrs. Ann Johnson presented a generous donation of school supplies from the members of Suwannee/ Lafavette Retired Educators to the guidance counselors at Suwannee Middle, Suwannee Riverside Elementary, Suwannee Pineview Elementary, Suwannee Springcrest Elementary, Branford Elementary, and Lafayette Elementary.



42 - Alachua CREA was definitely active during the 2023-2024 year with guest speakers Johnathan Leslie, Director of Youth Builders, Dr. Toni Griffen, Supervisor of Guidance Counselors and Mental Health Services in Alachua County Schools, and Bill Goodman, retired school counselor and Supervisor of Student Services. Vivian Filer and Deloris Rentz shared a report on the Cotton Club Museum and a presentation on Financial Scams were topics at other meetings. ACREA also hosted an

end-of-the-year luncheon and a social in honor of the three 5th Grade Essay contest place winners for Alachua. ACREA kept pretty busy!

43 – The Levy/Gilchrist REA members also stayed busy in 2023-2024. They honored a local Scholarship winner, sent two members to the FREA Convention, a student guest speaker from Bell HS, presented the connection between the Florida Farm Bureau and youth and agriculture, held in-depth discussions on the

Amendments on the November ballot, learned about the "kissing bug"; had a a presentation from Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz on Identity

Theft, and more!

47 – Citrus CREA members collected candy donations and put together "Sweet Treat" bins and delivered them to all the staff lounges in the Citrus County School District. Attached is a picture of administrators and the resource officer sharing their smiles after delivery at Floral City Elementary School. CCREA loves the smiles!



WHEN IT COMES TO MEDICARE, IGNORANCE IS DEFINITELY NOT BLISS.



YOUR FREA MEMBERSHIP UNLOCKS DISCOUNTS & SAVINGS

FREA is working harder than ever to support its members and to provide new and innovative ways to enhance your membership. Part of this initiative is providing discounts and benefits to promote physical and financial health for members in Florida!

My top priority is serving member's needs and fostering the growth of FREA. As AMBA continues to support FREA through our partnership, I eagerly anticipate meeting more of our valued members.

If you have any questions about your benefits or would like AMBA to be part of your next event, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lexie Mowery



Lexie Mowery AVP of Operations for East Market

Medicare Alphabet Soup Getting You Down?

Contact me to help you with a benefits question, or to have Your Local AMBA Representative contact you. Lexie.Mowery@amba.info or (561)722-1239

Greetings From FREF

I hope this finds everyone healthy and safe. Once again, Florida is dealing with the results of numerous horrific weather events. Due to storm damage and in the best interest of our FREA family, the regional symposiums have been postponed. The district trustees got very creative

Florida Retired

Educators Foundation

with their fundraising ideas, but unfortunately you will not be able to experience their creativity until your symposium. FREF is truly grateful for the support of our FREA members in helping us to fund our scholarships and practicing educator grants. We look forward to seeing you soon.

FREF's 2024-2025 Scholarship Process

Presidents, please make sure that your current FREF Unit Chairs have received the updated scholarship information. All FREF Unit Chairs and their local high schools should currently have our 2024-2025 packet.

Please visit the FREA website and check out the Scholarship page.

Students with technology skills are requested to use the online version of the application. This is the preferred method, given the fact that using snail-mail has caused students to miss deadlines. However, we have added a hard copy option for school personnel to access for students who do not have the technology. We want everyone to have access to our scholarship application, online or not.

Current Scholarship Criteria

- Seniors graduating from an accredited Florida high school (public or private)
- Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
- ♦ Minimum test scores –SAT 1000 or ACT 22
- MUST attend an accredited Florida college/university (public/private).
- MUST teach in Florida, following graduation. A copy of the OFFICIAL FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE must be sent to the State FREA Office. The scholarship requires recipients to teach in the State of Florida for one year for every year the scholarship was awarded. If not, they <u>must</u> repay any scholarship monies received.
- Application, directions, and required info list are on our website.

Extravaganza Tickets

As in past years, we will be selling

extravaganza tickets.
Depending on how units
choose to meet will dictate
the process used to sell the
tickets.

<u>Unit Presidents late</u> <u>November or early</u> December.

Any units meeting via ZOOM need to contact Karla Brogdon for specific guidelines.

brogdon1@msn.com

Phone—941-722-4692

FREF Practicing Educator Grant Applications Now Being Accepted. Deadline February 15



Do you know, or are you currently, a practicing educator in a Florida school? Do you have a project that you would love to do with your students but cannot get the funding? The Practicing Educator Grants are here to help. Each year grants of \$1,000 each are awarded to the winning educators who apply for the grant. Winners have done everything from buying a French horn, to starting a robotics club, to buying wobble chairs for autistic students, and more. Interested? https://www.frea.org/practicing-educator-grant/

Build a "They Continue to Care" Legacy for your departed loved one.

When loved ones pass, family members may donate to FREF in their memory. (i.e. include in obituary, "In lieu of flowers, please donate to FREF".)

Your loved one's legacy will live on in the Foundation.



Cecelia Solomon Info Services Chair

NRTA 75th Anniversary Wrap-up

In September 2022, Edwinna Williams, Harriett Jenkins, Anne Fagan, and I had the honor of representing FREA at the 75th Anniversary of NRTA in Washington, D.C. AARP was our host, and, during our 48 hours there, we may have heard presentations from every bureau, office, and division of the organization. The amount of information shared was incredible and invaluable!

Looking over my suggestion list for this column, I realized there was still much to share, so here are some of my notes. Disclaimer: The following items are not in seminar order or a particular value or ranking, just the way I organized them.

<u>National Retired Teachers Association</u>: The seed that grew into AARP! NRTA works with the network of state REAs to protect the interests of more than 850,000 working and retired educators 50+.

Advocacy (A fancy way to say lobbying for no pay.): State and Local races are important. (Old adage: "All politics are local.")

AARP has our priorities front and center!

Keep Social Security fully funded. The speaker explained that it used to be the "third rail", a charged line never touched, now it is an ongoing initiative to keep it whole. It is the most popular government program.

Caregiving—Prepare to Care

- 38 million plus caregivers in the nation
- 3 Easy ways to get a guide filled with resources and helpful information.

The Power of Women: The Ethel Newsletter

- Higher number of voters
- Sensitive to issues
- Overall, 60+ age group is the largest voter group!

Membership: So many suggestions and tips!

- AARP has over 35 million members, but that's less than one-third of the possible members
- Money is not the main reason they join. Members want a great experience!
- Involve members in "initiatives" plans, programs, projects!
- Ask "What are you doing in retirement?" and share the stories.
- Communication channels to consider: Publications, Mail, Digital Marketing, Personal Contact, Content on other groups pages, Tik Tok, QR Codes, and Personalize the information as much as possible.
- Remember, we may be in the same state, but rural suburban, coastal, and urban living are all different experiences. Share!

Benefits to being an AARP member

Driver Safety: Save money on your car insurance. <u>www.aarpdriversafety.org</u>

Fraud Watch Network: Think you have heard it before? A new way to scam seniors is invented almost daily. www.aarp.org/membership/benefits/finance/fraud-watch-network/

Home Fit: Want to stay safely in your home? Here's some tips on how. www.aarp.org/membership/benefits/home-life/homefit-guide/

Livable Communities: Florida has some. Where are they? How can yours become one. www.aarp.org/ livable-communities

Senior Planet : So much to learn, and so little time. Lifelong learning keeps you young! Online classes in Finance, Fitness, Technology and more seniorplanet.org/

If you have ANY questions on any item mentioned, just email me at Buckysmom85@gmail.com

Cecelia

Questions about being a Unit Membership (or other FREA/FREF Officer/Chair?)

The New FREA Handbook is Here To Help!

September and October have presented many Units with unexpected challenges this year. I hope you are all well and moving forward.

In the middle of October, copies of the new FREA 2024-2026 Handbook were mailed to the District Directors. The original distribution plan was to distribute them at the Regional Symposiums, but Hurricane Helene necessitated cancellation. Plan B: The Office mailed enough Handbooks so that each active FREA Unit could be given 3 copies by their

granjo55@aol.com (C) 772-285-5953

Jody Scruggs FREA Membership

Chair

District Director. In the Handbook are many tips and procedures to help Unit Membership Chairs (and all FREA officers) with their positions. Need more copies? Contact the Office. info@frea.org to let us know.

The promised "Lists" have also been a challenge this year, but we are getting closer. We hope to have both the FRS and Member-at-Large lists available for you to request early in November. Just in time for the Holiday Events your Units might be planning.

I will let you know when the lists are ready.

Questions about anything to do with Membership Chair procedures? I am here for you. Just give me a call or email.

Thank you for all that you do. FREA/F Chairs and Officers work hard and you are appreciated!

Jody

PS: I recently sent out the "Oops" letter to several members in my unit. You know, it's that reminder that your Membership Chair might send to your unit members when they still have not sent in their annual dues. FREA sends out email reminders in May and hard mail reminders in September. Why haven't they paid? Did they move? Or did they forget? Maybe a phone call for a friendly chat and gentle reminder would be a good idea?

Suggestion: Check out *The 4 C's How do you keep your Unit vital, strong, and growing?* On the website page above, or on pages 32-33 in the NEW FREA Handbook.

The NEW FREA 2024-2026
Handbook is available on the website or click image (right)
Want copies? Contact the
Office info@frea.org

Florida Retired Educators Association

Handbook

2024-2026



8950 9th Street N, Suite 105 Saint Petersburg, FL 33704 www.FREA.org ~ 727-577-6400 ~ info@frea.org

Carrie Frye FREA President-Elect

Seminole County REA Celebrates Doris Duxbury 103-years Young!

On October 10, 2024, SCREA members, District 8 Director Sheila King, local dignitaries and family members honored Doris Duxbury in celebration of her 103rd birthday. Yes, you read that correctly ... 103! The Sanford City Mayor proclaimed that day as **Doris Duxbury Day in the City of Sanford.**

Doris continues to enjoy excellent health and actively contributes to SCREA and her community. She has served for over 70 years in many ways and still eagerly volunteers her home for meetings and assists in any way when a need arises. Since 1986, Doris has been instrumental in the success of SCREA always encouraging others to remain active by networking and serving others. She served as the SCREA Unit President for three terms and is **currently** the SCREA Membership Chair.

Doris has two sons, one daughter-in law, four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She attributes her successful career to her mother who encouraged her to get a degree and be active in the community and also credits her for her longevity genes.

To be with Doris is a genuine treat as she is such an engaged, respectful, compassionate and delightful lady!



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Doris Jackson moved with her family from Florence, SC to Sanford, FL in 1922 when she was one year old, moving into a home on Magnolia Avenue, where she still resides today; and

WHEREAS, Doris Jackson and her family joined the Holy Cross Episcopal Church where Doris attended kindergarten and has a remained a member for life, serving in various ministries including most recently the St. Mary's Women's Association and the Funerals and Kitchen Committee; and

WHEREAS, Doris Jackson married Alton Duxbury, who was stationed at the Sanford Naval Air Station, in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Doris Duxbury graduated from Florida State University and became a 5th grade teachers at South Side Elementary School, Pinecrest Elementary School, and Goldsboro Elementary School and also had a dance school in downtown Sanford; and

WHEREAS, Doris Duxbury, since retirement, has actively helped shape the Seminole Retired Educator's Association, in the past serving as president and organizing the meetings as luncheons and networking events so members feel more like family, and

WHEREAS, Doris Duxbury remains active in the Seminole Retired Educator's Association, now serving as Membership Chair and annually hosting the summer planning meeting at her home; and

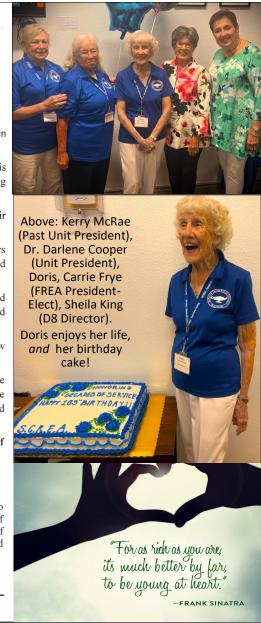
WHEREAS, the Sanford City Commission and the City of Sanford want to join with the Seminole Retired Educator's Association in honoring Doris Duxbury for the work she has done supporting the teaching profession and retired teachers, for her more than 70 years of service to our community, and to help celebrate her 103 birthday,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ART WOODRUFF, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Sanford, Florida, do hereby officially proclaim September 10, 2024 as

"Doris Duxbury Day in the City of Sanford"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Sanford, Florida to be affixed this 10th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty four.





By The Numbers continued.

FREA Members Just Keep On Giving



64N— North Pinellas REA August NOT BACK TO SCHOOL Events—A Huge Success!

By Sharon Ozbun, president, North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association

While some people had to go back to work in the hallowed halls of learning, our amazing members were out collecting supplies and preparing kids who needed a little bit of help putting together all of the items they needed for a fresh new year.

Our first event was Friday, August 2 at Capogna's Restaurant in Clearwater, Florida. This was the first day back to work for

instructional staff in Pinellas County, Florida. We had a fabulous turnout of people and supplies, as well as a delicious spaghetti lunch. After lunch, our past president, Bob Stephens delivered the items collected. We definitely "Stuffed the School Bus" at Pinellas Education Foundation with an enormous amount of classroom supplies

Our second event was "Breakfast at Tiffany's" in Palm Harbor, Florida, on Tuesday, August 13. We met in their banquet room and had a great crowd enjoying breakfast and catching up on the summer's activities. Once again, members did not disappoint! Backpacks and school supplies collected at this event were initially going to be given to the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center. However, once I showed up to the center I found they were in the midst of a huge renovation and were not taking any donations. Undaunted, I traveled to Kings Highway Elementary School in Clearwater where they were very thankful for the donations.



71—Manatee CREA

collected back to school supplies in September. President Barbara Borderieux (right). The supplies were given to School Attendance Support (SAS) employees Ellen Binder and Judi Ussery (far right). They thought the donation was a great idea to encourage students, and were delighted to have the supplies.



During this Joyous Holiday Season, The FREA Office Thanks You For Your Endlessly Giving Hearts!

Anne M. Fagan, FREA Executive Director Diane Lynch, FREA Membership Specialist

Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things.

A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who

are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.

by Author Unknown

In Memory

July 8,2024 ~ October 30, 2024

First Name	Last Name	City	Unit
Donna	Johnson	Lynn Haven	Bay County REA
Georgie	Hartzog	Panama City	Bay County REA
Howard	Gray Jr	Panama City	Bay County REA
Nancy	Wyatt	Foley	Bay County REA
Sylvia	Creel	Atlanta	Bay County REA
Walter	Ford	Panama City	Bay County REA
Erma	Johnson	Clearwater	N. Pinellas REA
Alice	Martin	Plant City	E Hillsborough REA
Miriam	Arnold	Cantonment	Escambia CREA
Clara	West	Palm Coast,	Gadsden CREA
Peggy	Berggren	Ve <mark>ro Beach</mark>	Indian River REA
Carol	Carlson	Titusville	North Brevard REA
Judy	Zieg	Orlando	Osceola CREA
Edith	Seveny	Delray Beach	Palm Beach CREA
June	Grie <mark>se</mark> mer	West Palm Beach	Palm Beach CREA
Doris	Hicks	Lakeland	Polk REA Unit I
Elaine	Opisso	Deland	West Volu <mark>s</mark> ia CREA
Gloria	Barker	Deland	West Volusia CREA

Members at Large				
First Name	Last Name	City		
Carol	Bylaska	Leesburg		
Catherine	Brett	Tempe, AZ		
James	Busch	Pinellas Park		
Kathleen	Vance	Panama City		
Marie	Corscadden	Boynton Beach		
Oree	Wilson	Panama City		
Vera	Hardee	Mulberry		

Mlive

Winifred M. Letts

Because you live, though out of sight and reach,

will, so help me God, live bravely too,

Taking the road with laughter and gay speech,

Alert, intent to give life all its due.

I will delight my soul with many
things,

The humors of the street and books and plays,

Great rocks and waves winnowed by seagulls' wings,

Star-jeweled Winter nights, gold harvest days.

I will for your sake praise what I have missed,

The sweet content of long-united lives,

The sunrise joy of lovers who have kissed,

Children with flower-faces, happy wives.

And last I will praise Death who gives anew

Brave life adventurous and love—and you.



Florida Retired Educators
Association
8950 9th St. N #105
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED





We are a Non-Partisan,
Non-Political organization.
We support those who
support our Mission, and
include all voices in our
membership.

All FREA Members, General or Associate, regardless of which state they come from, may utilize FREA Benefits.

There is strength in numbers, and FREA needs YOU to make our voices stronger together!

www.FREA.org/AboutUs

FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

(727) 577-6400

www.FREA.org — info@frea.org
Bulletin submissions sent

to: info@frea.org or text photos to 727-310-7035

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editor has exercised the privilege of editing Bulletin material where space was limited or when similar information was received.

FREA State Office

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Diane Lynch

diane@frea.org



The Last Word

At the August Board/Trustee Meetings, President Harriett Jenkins hosted members for a social hour. Attendees above were from I-r: Harry Williams, D9 Trustee; Bonita Williams, D9 Director; Carrie Frye, President-Elect; Phyllis Omilak, Volunteer Services Chair; John Darovec, D7 Legislative; Harriett Jenkins, President; Susan Darovec, D7 Legislative; Linda Thomas, State Director; Lamar Kirkland, D2 Director; Susan Colton, D10 Director; Joe Flanagan, Bylaws; Deborah Dykes-Kornhaus, D8 Trustee. At right, Past-President/Nominating Chair Edwinna Williams and D7 Legislative John Darovec try to choose which goodies to have.