

The Publication Dedicated to Retired Florida Educators & School Personnel



FREA BULLETIN

Volume 51, Issue 2
Summer 2024



Dear Florida Retired Educators Association Members,

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I address you as the newly elected President of the Florida Retired Educators Association. I am deeply honored to be entrusted with this role and to have the opportunity to work alongside our dedicated members to advance the crucial mission of our great organization. My heart is filled with immense gratitude to my predecessor, Edwinna Williams, for her leadership during these past two years. Edwinna will continue to serve FREA as our Nominations Chair. I am also grateful to each outgoing and incoming member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their dedication and support. We are a winning T.E.A.M. that will continue to make a profound impact and positive difference during this administration.



In my new capacity as President, my top priority is to continue the remarkable legacy of our association in advocating for the interests and welfare of Florida's retired educators. As a Florida retired educator myself, I understand firsthand the unique challenges and opportunities that come with retirement, and I am committed to ensuring that our organization remains a strong and effective voice for retired educators across the state.

One of my key goals as President is to enhance our outreach efforts to new and existing members. I believe that by strengthening our presence in our local communities and promoting the many benefits that come with being a member of our association, we can attract even more retired educators to join our ranks and become active participants in our mission. That is why I am now announcing our **2024-2025 theme**: *"Transforming Vision into Reality"*. We will strategically work together to blaze and renovate many seen and unseen trails that purposefully lead to guaranteed success.

Additionally, I am eager to continue working with our dedicated members to expand our programs, business partnerships and initiatives. Whether it's through providing professional development opportunities, promoting healthy lifestyles, or advocating for legislation that impacts our members, we will continue to work tirelessly to support all retired Florida educators.



Celebrating 70 Years of Service, outgoing President Edwinna Williams, right, passes the FREA President title to incoming President Harriett Jenkins.

Finally, I want to encourage our members to share their thoughts, feedback, and ideas with my T.E.A.M. and me continuously. Your voice is crucial as we strive to create the best possible experience for all our members. Watch for brand new tools such as FREA Needs Assessments, Ad Hoc Teams, GroupMe Chat Rooms, Strategic Action Plans for Success and much more.

I am so excited to embark on this next chapter in the history of the Florida Retired Educators Association and to work with all of you in pursuing our vital mission. Together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of retired educators and communities at every level across the state.

For the love of service, **Harriett**

FREA Calendar

August 12-15 St. Petersburg	FREA/FREF Summer Board Meetings
September 2	Office Closed for Memorial Day
October 7 Districts 1,2,3	Northern Symposium
October 8 Districts 4,6	Western Symposium
October 10 Districts 5,8	Eastern Symposium
October 11 Districts 7,9,10	Southern Symposium
November 17	Florida Retired Educators Day

For full calendar please [Click Here](#)



**Introducing FREA’s 2024-2026 Executive Committee
And Board of Directors**

FREA District Directors L-R—Row 1: D1, Donna Harper; D2, Lamar Kirkland; D3, Laura Hodges; D4, Margaret Williams; D5, Dr. Don Leech; **Row 2:** D6, Emily Berry; D7, Pat Watkins; D8, Sheila King; D9, Bonita Williams; D10, Dr. Susan Colton





Anne Fagan
FREA Executive
Director

Summer Survival in Florida

Sigh. It's Summer, it's Florida, it's hot, it's humid, and it's hurricane season. For those of you who have lived in Florida for a while, you know this is the time we pay the piper for our wonderful fall, winter, and spring. For the newcomers, welcome to walk outside and feel hot-wet-towel-in-your-face-weather. Forget the fact that summer in Florida is 'only' 6 months, we do have 2 glorious months each year of the rest of the seasons. And as I always tell my Northern gloating friends and family this time of year, "At least I am not scraping sunshine off my windshield, or shoveling rain off my sidewalk, or wearing 6 layers of clothing just to go outside." However, summer and fall do bring hurricanes to our state. You can't even say shores anymore, because the tracks of some hurricanes have caused devastation hundreds of miles inland.

In this bulletin are the basics of getting ready for hurricanes, and links and sources to go more in depth in your preparation. So many of us have pets. They are closer to us many times, than our families are. Knowing what to do for Mr. Cat (my cat's real name), or Ricky the Black Lab and Lucy, the Golden Retriever (yes those are the real names of a friends' dogs), is important.

Should you stay, or should you go? Evacuation. There is a chart on page 12 to help you make that choice, and a Disaster Preparedness checklist. You can download all the above info [here](#).

Prepare for the worst, and hope for the best. That is a widely used Navy Seal saying. And it is a good one. One other tip I will share just because I love this invention. The

Water Bob. It fits in your bathtub, fills with water, and while they say it is potable water for 5 days, I think it is better used for something else, like refilling your toilet. The Water Bob takes up no room, and even after not using it for 5 years, when I decided I should test it, I filled it, and it was fine. So, I emptied it and bought a new one. On Amazon. Or look for a source that you prefer.

And lastly, I have a question for you. Do you have flood insurance? I didn't, until last year. Why? Because like many

Cont. Page 4

What Should You Do If A Hurricane Threatens Your Community?



Look Inside Pages 12-13

Hurricane Watch and Warning What is the Difference

NOAA-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *possible* within the specified area. A hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds in an area.

During a hurricane watch, prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case a hurricane or tropical storm warning is issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.

Hurricane warnings indicate that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *expected* somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph), the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds to allow for important preparation.

During a hurricane warning, complete storm preparations and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials. National Hurricane Center—<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

FREA Executive Committee	
President	Harriett Jenkins St. Lucie CREA HarriettMJenkins@aol.com
President - Elect	Carrie Frye Seminole CREA cfrye@att.net
State Director	Linda Stephens Polk II REA lindawest0552@icloud.com
Secretary	Melanie Waite Santa Rosa CREA melanie7896@gmail.com
Treasurer	Gayle Hodges 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-Officio	
FREA Executive Director	Anne Fagan anne@frea.org



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

Summer Survival...
(Continued from page 3)

Floridians, I live in a non-evacuation zone. We bought our cottage in St. Petersburg a whopping 47 feet above sea level for that very reason. No evacuating. However, did you know that flood insurance does not cover water incursion into your home? And your homeowners insurance may not cover it either? Even if the water damage is because of a hole in your roof your insurance may cover the roof, but not the water damage. We all know that if there is one thing hurricanes do well it is supplying rain, and the winds to drive it into your home. It may take a special rider to get the water incursion coverage, but it would be well worth it. Please take this as a tip from a friend, do your own research, and see if it is a good idea for you.



Here is to a safe hurricane season for all of us. It is supposed to be a busy one, but busy or not, it just takes one. So please be ready. And don't be like me. Use a list. Hurricane Irma was on her way. I had my propane stove, my propane, my Water Bob, my dried food supply, my canned goods, my manual can opener, my water jugs, and... no matches or lighter. Not one. Fortunately, it was another near miss for Pinellas County and we never lost power, but the lesson was learned. Lists are good. Now, where the heck did I put it...

Best regards,

Anne



FREF Celebrates!



Thanks to the generosity of the FREA membership, FREF had a very successful fundraising season. Units have been very generous. We had 38 items (money, gift cards, scratch offs, & traditional baskets) donated to our Dollars for Scholars room (aka Gathering Room) at our Convention at Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel.

New Scholarships Awarded

For privacy reasons, students are listed first name, last initial, & unit that submitted the application.

Nathaniel R—Bay	Graham H—Orange
Juan G—Broward	Charlotte R—Palm Beach
Emma H—Charlotte	Hayli M—Pasco
Jessa C—Highlands	Fernando V—Pasco
Olivia A—Lee	

Marie Grein Practicing Educator Grants

The Trustees also selected two practicing educators to receive the \$1000 Marie Grein Educators Grant.

Valerie Anderson—Citrus Springs Middle School (Citrus)
Amanda Stallman—Hernando Elementary School (Citrus)

2024 Extravaganza Winners

District Drawings—\$100 Winners

District 1	Anita Schmitt
District 2	Phyllis Simmons
District 3	Hagan Ve Etta
District 4	Marcia Wiesel-Leary
District 5	Nancy Johnson
District 6	Charlotte Schneider
District 7	Johncyna McRae
District 8	Debra Dykes Kornhaus
District 9	Joan McClenny
District 10	Anne French

Statewide Winners

\$200	Terry McDonald
\$300	Valaria Stephens
\$500	Judy Mager



AMBA Rises to the Occasion for 2024

At Convention 2023, AMBA made a promise to donate \$1000 per year to the FREF Scholarship fund for a period of ten years. We received our 2024 check at our May convention. This money will be used to help build up our scholarship program for future educators.

Thank you AMBA!

**Thank
You**



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.



BENEFITS STILL FIT?

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from FREA & AMBA:

- Dental & Vision Plans
- Long-Term Care
- Emergency Ground and Air Transportation Coverage
- Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurance
- Medicare Solutions
- Final Expenses Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance
- Tax-Deferred Asset Protection
- Hearing Benefits
- Hospital Stay Coverage
- Discounts on Travel, Dining & more

1.877.556.4582

myambabenefits.info/frea

Florida Retired Educators Association



FREA Benefits Partner AMBA Hits a Hole-In-One at Convention

For the 4th year FREA members have enjoyed a strong benefits partner in AMBA. Not only does AMBA provide terrific benefits at group discount rates, but they are also committed to the growth of FREA as the voice of advocacy for retired educators and school personnel.

Top left: Made in the shade. Jeff Hesse showing off just 2 of the giveaways awarded by AMBA. **Top right:** Jeff Hesse, Mike Cook, Chris Gluck, and Lexie Mowery of AMBA congratulating George Ellis of Miami-Dade CREA after he sank a hole-in-one on their indoor putting green. **Lower left:** Debra Dykes-Kornhaus, D8 Trustee and Sue Colton D10 Director, enjoy a Tropical Southern Night at the AMBA sponsored Welcome Reception Tuesday.





It's a big election year— and criminals are already out in force

with scams aimed at stealing your cash and personal information while making you think you're taking part in the democratic process. Barbara from Michigan told the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline she lost \$500 to an impostor claiming to be President Joe Biden's press secretary, who texted her repeatedly for donations via gift cards. Desi from Florida paid \$20,000 to a social media impostor for Donald Trump memorabilia and had to cancel his credit cards to protect his finances. Mary from California is trying to stop repeat credit card charges to a political campaign.

Law enforcement and election officials across the U.S. are warning about voter registration scams, criminals deploying artificial intelligence to impersonate candidates on the phone and social media, and schemes to garner campaign contributions and interfere with voting. Another danger: fake political surveys designed to steal personal data, including credit card account information.

Election-related scams often target older adults, simply because they're so politically engaged. "Almost half of individual campaign contributions come from people age 50 and older," says Brett G. Kappel, a Washington-based campaign finance lawyer.

The months before a presidential election are a boom time for crooks. "Politics brings out passion in people, which is always an opportunity to steal," says AJ Nash, vice president at the cybersecurity company ZeroFox.

Here's the scoop on three big election year consumer scams—and how to avoid them:

▶ SCAM PACs AND BOGUS DONATIONS

Sounding like charities, scammers register as political action committees (PACs) with the Federal Election Commission. By phone, email, text and social media, they solicit donations they say will support candidates and campaigns that promote worthy causes—from breast cancer awareness to firefighters. Instead, they keep most of the money for themselves, Kappel says. The haul can be huge: One large group of "scam PACs" raked in more than \$140 million over the previous two election cycles, according to a 2023 investigation of FEC records of PACs by the news website The Daily Beast.

Donation-seeking scammers may impersonate candidates, campaigns and political interest groups, sometimes using AI—riding on the sense of election urgency to push you to act, says Melanie McGovern, of the International Association of Better Business Bureaus.

Outsmart them: Never donate right away to groups that contact you, Kappel says. Give directly to candidates and campaigns by looking up their contact information online. You can review a PAC's finances by looking up the group on the FEC's website at [fec.gov/data](https://www.fec.gov/data). And check how groups accept payment. "Legitimate PACs must have bank accounts and will accept credit cards," Kappel says. "Scammers want you to use PayPal, send a check or, worse yet, a gift card, because the money can't be recovered."

▶ FRAUDULENT SURVEYS

Pollsters measure public opinion through surveys by email, text, social media and phone. Scam surveys aim to steal your personal identifying information, often by offering a gift or other incentive that requires you to provide your credit card number, Social Security number, address or date of birth, the Pennsylvania attorney general's office warns.

Outsmart them: Don't assume phone surveys must be legit if you're on the National Do Not Call Registry—these types of calls are exempt, according to the Federal Trade Commission. A legit political poll won't offer you a gift or ask for personal information, says Amy Nofziger, AARP's director of fraud victim support. "I do not participate in phone surveys," she says. "You can't verify who they really are."

▶ VOTER REGISTRATION SCAMS

Early in the 2024 primary election season, officials in some states were already warning about voter registration scams that use phone calls and text messages to phish for personal information. Voters are asked to confirm their registration by clicking on a link. Scammers may impersonate election officials and ask you to provide personal data to update or renew your registration, the National Association of Secretaries of State warns.

Criminals exploit confusion about registration rules, which vary by state. "The dates aren't as clear as when your taxes are due," notes Michael Kaiser, president and CEO of Defending Digital Campaigns.

Outsmart them: You can't register to vote by phone and you can't vote online in a federal election. But voting rules vary from state to state, and so do deadlines for mail-in and absentee ballots. In many cases, regulations have changed since 2020. Cut through the confusion "by going to the secretary of state or board of elections for your state," Kaiser says.

Don't click on a link in an email or text. Find trustworthy information about your state's rules at aarp.org/electionguides.

Sari Harrar is a contributing editor for AARP who frequently writes about fraud for the AARP Bulletin.

Have questions related to scams? Call the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline toll-free at 877-908-3360. For the latest fraud news and advice, go to aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

BY THE NUMBERS

Dear FREA members and Units from Northwest to Southeast Florida and all the counties in between,

Your willingness to donate to and participate in the 2024 FREA Convention puts the words of the FREA Mission into something visible.

Members of local units:

- Encouraged community involvement through sharing activities and events on the ALL ABOUT Units display boards.
- Were sources of information and materials through the Margaret Poppell Literacy for Life Project with the donation of over 150 books to Veterans.
- Continuing the future educators' scholarship program by supporting the FREF Dollars for Scholars event.

Thank you!

The FREA Officers and Board of Directors.



Cecelia Solomon
Info Services Chair

Cupid Crew Returns Details Coming Soon!

As a charitable affiliate of AARP, Wish of a Lifetime from AARP grants life changing wishes to older adults and inspires people to redefine aging in America. Just like Wish of a Lifetime, the National Retired Teacher Association is an affiliate of AARP, and FREA is an affiliate of NRTA. Even more importantly, NRTA is the seed that grew into AARP, and is now considered the Education Community of AARP.

For the last 12 years on Valentine's Day, Wish of a Lifetime teamed up with volunteers around the nation to help older Americans feel connected and loved. No matter the age, we all need connection to thrive physically and emotionally. But nearly one in four adults age 65 and older are isolated. That's over 50 million Americans who may not see or hear from anyone on Valentine's Day. Cupid Crew helps older adults feel connected and loved!

This past February, A pilot group of FREA units around the state participated in this program to "try it out", and everyone felt it was an amazing and rewarding volunteer opportunity. Next February, you and your local unit can become part of Cupid Crew. At the August FREA Board meeting, District Directors will receive information, which will also be shared in FREA e-newsletters for all FREA Units. Be ready for more news in August on Cupid Crew. Don't belong to an FREA Unit? Check with the Office for one near you and join the Crew!



Back To School Project Photos Wanted for NRTA



Does your Unit do a ‘Stuff the Backpack’, ‘Fill the Box’ or whatever title you use, project in August to get much needed school supplies to teachers and/or students? NRTA (our national organization) would like to celebrate your efforts with a photo essay to be shared nationally. Here is the request sent to FREA Executive Director Anne Fagan from NRTA:



Phyllis Omilak
Volunteer Services
Chair

“I’m writing to ask for your help! NRTA has a unique opportunity to celebrate retired educator efforts during the Back-to-School season. We know that in your state, retired educators hold school supply drives, gather to wave at students on the first day, bring treats to teachers, etc. All of these efforts are appreciated by your communities, and we have an opportunity to share them this year with AARP.

A picture is worth a thousand words! Please take a few minutes right now to send a few pictures of how retired educators in your state have celebrated “Back-to-School” season...The NRTA team recognizes the crucial role you play in AARP’s mission. We kindly request that you extend this invitation to everyone in your state educator network – please share this request with your members, local units, volunteer leaders and other educators. Thank you!”

How to have your Unit take part? Simple!

1. During your Back to School Event, take photos of subjects suggested above.
2. Write 1 or 2 sentences describing the photo (s).
3. Give your Unit name.
4. Email to the FREA Office with the subject line ‘Back to School Project’ info@frea.org or text the NEW FREA cell phone: 727-310-7035

Please remember: In the interests of privacy, do not include any children’s faces in the photos.

FREA Summer 2024 Membership Moment

Are you in the “LOOP”?

Staying connected to FREA and all they have to offer our members is vital to supporting the Mission of our organization. FREA is working hard to provide the most current information on the website so it is available to you. Check it out!

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can update your own contact information on the FREA website www.frea.org to get started. Log on and click on the **Members Only** section using your Member # . Your Unit Membership Chair has your # if you can’t find it. It’s on the Member Status Report she requests from diane@frea.org . Or you can email Diane to get it. Please be sure to include in your contact info a phone # and an email address. This is especially important for those in Unit Officer positions.
- The **Unit Information/Forms** page on the website has current report forms as well as information for your Unit. Check to see if there is a revised date and destroy any old forms you may have.
- **Unit Meeting and Officer Contact Form** should be updated by your Unit President when your New Officers are installed. Please include an email for each officer position. If a Unit officer does not have email it would be helpful if you can provide an alternate Unit members’ email so that information will get to your Units in a timely manner. Individual position changes should be sent to FREA diane@frea.org as they happen.
- **Unit Information:** There is a section for connecting to Units through websites, Facebook or newsletters. Check it out and see what other units are doing. **If your unit has a link posted here, please be sure to keep your newsletter, website, or Facebook page updated. Send your current newsletter to anne@frea.org so she can link them to the page.**



Jody Scruggs
FREA Membership
Chair



Linda Edson
FREA State Legislative
Co-Chair

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



George Ellis
FREA State Legislative
Co-Chair

FREA Legislative Priorities

- **FRS - Protecting and Enhancing Retiree Earned Benefits**
- **Ensuring Accountability and Equity for all schools taking state funds**
- **Health & Wellness for a Retirement with Dignity for Florida seniors**

From Dr. George Ellis: 2024 is shaping up to be a big election year. Many local, state and congressional seats are up for voters to make key choices, as well as the Presidential race. Be sure you are registered to VOTE, since rules in Florida have changed.

Our FREA Legislative Team and individual units should be contacting candidates in your districts and communities to get to know them, invite them to a Q & A in-person or by Zoom to see where they stand on our legislative priorities.

The advocacy materials at [FREA.org/legislative](https://www.frea.org/legislative) are an easy way to gain insight into working with legislators and provide many answers to questions they may ask. You will find our list of priorities as talking points for legislative support and other handouts on that page. There are also links to find your state senator/representative by name, district or by your home address. Once you know who they are it is just picking up the phone and reaching out to them. They need to get to know you as a constituent.

We are suggesting each unit develop a plan to set up candidate invitations for a Q & A Meet and Greet at a general meeting in October before the November elections. That means some leg work in August and September to make this happen. Linda Edson outlines below the steps to take.

Our committee is working with the Key Women Educators of Delta Kappa Gamma to participate with them on a group Q & A ZOOM with legislators. The FREA legislative team visits Tallahassee and that is another way we schedule and see legislators in smaller groups in their Capitol offices.

This is a very big political year. Be sure you are registered to vote and of course cast your ballot.

Candidate Meet and Greets— A great way to introduce FREA to Candidates and Vice Versa

By Linda Edson, Legislative Co-chair

A major goal this year is to get people out to the polls to vote. As a member of FREA we are non-partisan and thus we do not support one candidate over another. However, we can introduce candidates to our membership. I do this through a Candidate Meet and Greet. In the past this has been very well received by the candidates and our membership. It takes a little bit of leg work preparing for the event, but the rewards are worth the work. ***People are more likely to go to the polls when they have met the candidate of their choice.***

General Guidelines

Each candidate running for a certain office is invited to speak at the general unit meeting. You do not want a debate or a mud throwing contest, so it is explained in the invitation letter, that each candidate will have 2 or 3 minutes to tell the membership why they are the best candidate for the job. (the length of time is determined by the number of candidates and allotted time.) Stress we are not interested in hearing what their opponent has done wrong but what they can bring to the position or what they have done in the

past. If a candidate cannot attend, give them the opportunity to hand you a written page telling why they are the best candidate. If a candidate does not respond to your invitation letter, try to contact them at least 2 times. If you still do not hear from them, explain this at your meeting and go on.

Who to Invite:

This year is a BIG state-wide election year. **EVERY Representative and Senator is on the ballot.** It would be very beneficial to invite all local candidates for these position. (The winner will remember you had them speak at your meeting). Choose a few local candidates to also attend. How many positions you invite will depend on your comfort level. If there are school related positions open, I usually invite all of them. Then I choose a few positions that are important to our community. Each candidate is given the opportunity to speak for 2 or 3 minutes so keep that in mind when deciding how many candidates to invite. Remember you must invite all candidates who are running for the office.

At the Meeting

If you have the room, put the candidates in front of everyone and have a sign stating who they are and the position they are running for. Give each candidate a moment to speak about why they are the best suited for the job. Make sure to have a time keeper and a microphone. After everyone has spoken, have a place available for each candidate to stand while handing out literature and answering individual questions. Encourage your membership to ask individual questions, take pictures and interact with the candidates. Many of our membership will ask questions while in a small group but they are not comfortable asking the same question in front of a large group. (I plant some people to ask questions to any candidate standing around without anyone talking to them)

After the Meeting - send a thank you note to each candidate and put pictures in your newsletter.

How to Find Candidates

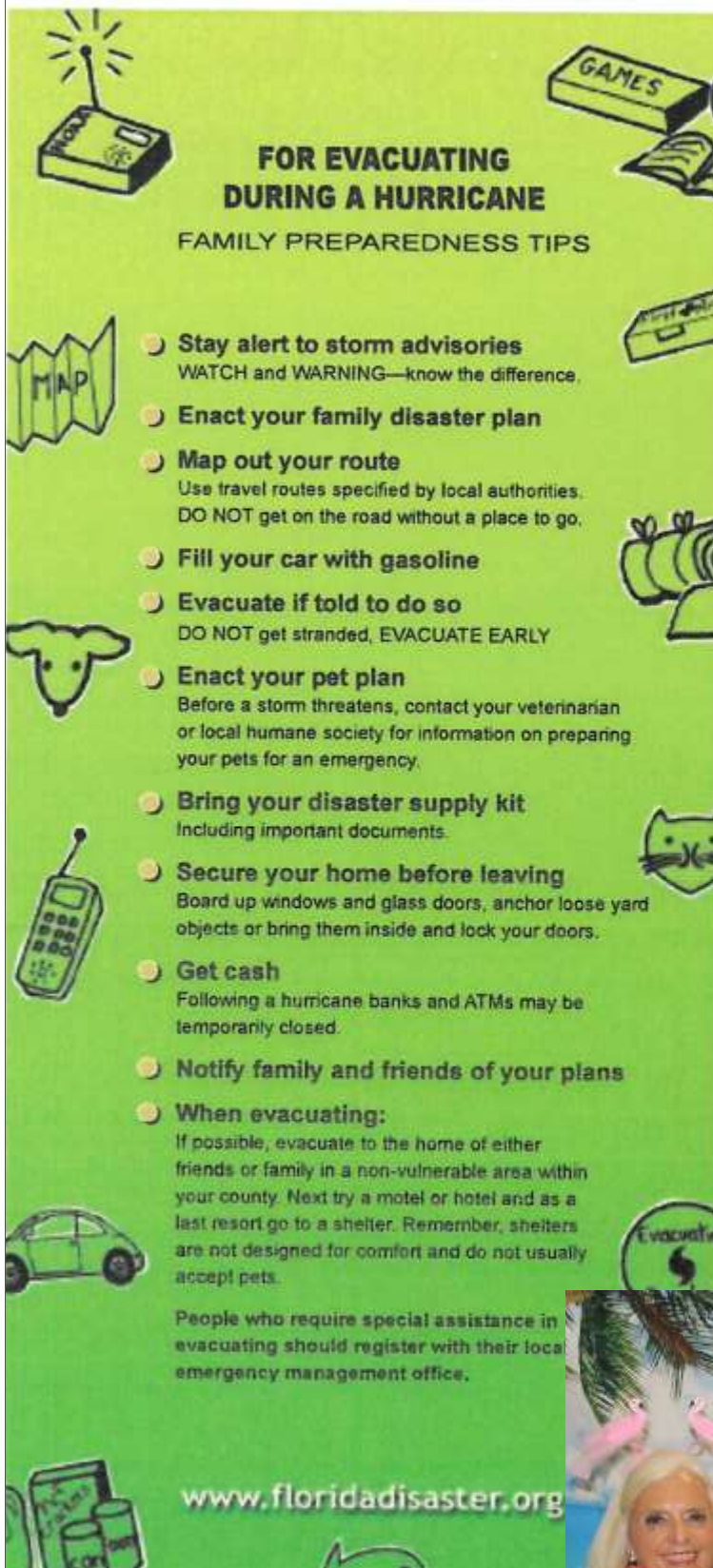
Go to the State-wide Election Website: Florida Division of Elections Go to the Drop Down for Candidates, Campaign, Documents and Committees. Search Candidates and Races Database. Go to General Election. You will see a list of everyone running for National and State offices. Locate the Representatives and Senators Section, it's listed by your district number.

How to Find Local Candidates

Go to your local Supervisor of Elections Website for your county. You may need to explore where they have the candidates information. This should also include contact information where you can send an email invitation. You may learn about other election information you want to share with everyone.

Questions on how to set up a Meet and Greet? Please contact me at edsonl@nettally.com





FOR EVACUATING DURING A HURRICANE

FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

- **Stay alert to storm advisories**
WATCH and WARNING—know the difference.
- **Enact your family disaster plan**
- **Map out your route**
Use travel routes specified by local authorities. DO NOT get on the road without a place to go.
- **Fill your car with gasoline**
- **Evacuate if told to do so**
DO NOT get stranded, EVACUATE EARLY
- **Enact your pet plan**
Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.
- **Bring your disaster supply kit**
Including important documents.
- **Secure your home before leaving**
Board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside and lock your doors.
- **Get cash**
Following a hurricane banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed.
- **Notify family and friends of your plans**
- **When evacuating:**
If possible, evacuate to the home of either friends or family in a non-vulnerable area within your county. Next try a motel or hotel and as a last resort go to a shelter. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets.

People who require special assistance in evacuating should register with their local emergency management office.

www.floridadisaster.org

Disaster Supply Kit

WATER—at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 days

FOOD—at least enough for 3 days

- non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices
- food for infants or the elderly
- snack foods
- non-electric can opener
- cooking tools/fuel
- paper plates/plastic utensils

CLOTHING—seasonal/ rain gear/ sturdy shoes

BLANKETS/PILLOWS, etc.

FIRST AID KIT/ MEDICINES

- prescription and non-prescription medications
- glasses, dentures, hearing aids, etc.

SPECIAL ITEMS—for babies and elderly

TOILETRIES—Hygiene items

MOISTURE WIPES

FLASHLIGHT/ BATTERIES

RADIO— Battery Operated and NOAA Weather Radio

CASH

KEYS—Extra set of home and car keys

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS in a waterproof container

- insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- Document all valuables

TOYS/BOOKS/ ENTERTAINMENT

TOOLS—Keep a set with you during the storm

VEHICLE FUEL TANKS FILLED

PET CARE ITEMS

- proper identification/immunization records
- ample supply of food and water
- a carrier or cage
- medications
- muzzle and leash

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

The team of Feisty Fiona realized their dream of First Place in the Flamingo Fling. Is Fiona ready for a hurricane? We hope this info helped. Fiona's creators were from l-r: D9 Indian River CREA: Deborah Dillon and Joyce Castle, and from D6 North Pinellas CREA: Sharon Ozbun.



FREA Celebrates 70 Years of Service with Entertainment, Enlightenment, and Education.

We learned, we laughed, we listened, and we shared. The Convention attendees stayed busy with breakout sessions, enjoyed the Gathering Room while donating to the FREF Scholarship Fund, did some Team-Building at Flamingo Fling and attended two festive evenings with very different themes: Tropical Southern Nights on Tuesday, and the FREA 70th Anniversary Gala on Wednesday Night. The pictures below are just a sample, many more are available on the [FREA Facebook page](#). Did you attend & take photos? Please share!



Top left: FREA Unit Polk II attendees came ready to shine at the Gala. Top right: Flamingo Fling Friends show off their creation. Center left: Gayle Hodges, FREA Treasurer; Bettye Pittman, District 5 Trustee; and Diane Lynch, FREA State Office, showing their True Colors. Center right: Hanging out with a feathered friend: Anne Fagan, FREA Executive Director, Dr. Simmie Raiford, Keynote Speaker; and Dr. Don Lynch (D5 Director) and Barbara Lynch.



Bottom left: Karla Brogdon, FREF Chair and husband David sharing a quiet moment. Bottom right: Miami Dade CREA is represented well by FREA Legislative Co-Chair Dr. George Ellis, Larry Ellison with MDCREA President Gretchen Ellison, and MDCREA President-Elect Cheryl Golden with husband Paul.

In Memory

March 6, 2024 ~ July 8, 2024

First name	Last Name	FREA Unit
Andrew	Brown Jr	Alachua CREA
Ruth	Brown	Alachua CREA
Sheila	Parker	Alachua CREA
Simon	Johnson	Alachua CREA
Donna	Shipes	Bay County REA
Claudia	Finlayson	Broward CREA
Eleanor	Meyer	Broward CREA
Frances	Smoot	Broward CREA
Helen	King	Broward CREA
Jacqueline	Jackson	Broward CREA
Mozella	Lennon	Broward CREA
Patricia	Schroeder	Broward CREA
Rita	Sanderson	Broward CREA
Ruth	Hooper	Broward CREA
William	Wolfolk	Broward CREA
Genetta	Mc Gee	Central Brevard REA
Rebecca	Gimbel	Central Brevard REA
Gary	Williams	Citrus CREA
Kathryn	Mc Innis	Dixie CREA
Martha	Brown	Duval CREA
Ray	Fooshee	Duval CREA
Carolyn	Conn	Escambia CREA
Sallie	Farmer	Gadsden CREA
Shirley	Jones	Indian River REA
Gloria	Simmons	Leon/Wakulla REA
Mary Ann	Jensen	Manatee CREA
Ellnora	Riecken	Miami-Dade CREA
Linda	Randazzo	Miami-Dade CREA
Mary	Davis	Miami-Dade CREA
Roberta	Kaiser	Miami-Dade CREA
Mayme	Hodges	North Pinellas REA
Bobbie	Jarrett	Orange CREA
Fleur de Lys	Healy	Orange CREA
Jane	Mc Nulty	Orange CREA
Jean	Forest	Orange CREA
Kaye	Chastain	Orange CREA
Rex	Cain	Orange CREA

First name	Last Name	FREA Unit
Addie	Hudson	Palm Beach CREA
Barbara	Wilson	Palm Beach CREA
Lee	Lively	Palm Beach CREA
Molly	Dodd	Polk REA Unit I
Robert	Fields	Polk REA Unit I
Avis	Shell	Santa Rosa CREA
Imogene	Cordova	South Pinellas CREA
Jerry	Carter	Suwannee/Lafayette REA
Mary	Lee	Suwannee/Lafayette REA
Leonor	Diaz	W Hillsborough REA
G Nick	Williams	West Jackson REA
Bettye	Brown	West Volusia CREA

FREA Members at Large

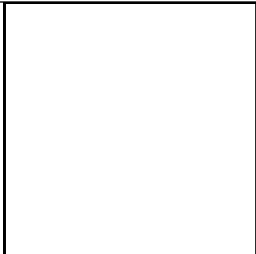
Carl	Warren
Celia	Inagawa
David	Tagliavia
Edwin	Zoll
Georgie	Haugabrook
Gwendolyn	Burkhart
Jack	Hall Sr
Jackie	Miller
Johanna	Van Heuveln
John H	Smiley Jr
Max	Sute
Nicholas	Barlotta
Robert	Fagan
Ruth	Levin
Suzanne	Mc Dermott
William	Rosenzweig

Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with heart and soul there is no such thing as separation.





Florida Retired Educators
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**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

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

FREA State Office

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The Last Word: Save the Date!

FREA Convention 2025: May 20-22

FREA President Harriett Jenkins, and FREA President-Elect Carrie Frye are looking forward to hosting the 2025 Convention for you! We are going to be at the [World Golf Marriott Renaissance Resort](#) in historic and beautiful St. Augustine. Plans are underway, and understanding that inflation has hit everyone hard; we are excited to tell you that by September registration will begin and it will be done in a way that we hope

will make attending Convention more affordable for everyone. In addition to the business of Convention, we are planning for group excursions, both on land and on water, and other exciting activities that will make attending the 2025 FREA Convention a highlight of your year.