

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

JANUARY 2025

OFFICERS:

President — Cheri Brodeur
cabrodeur12@gmail.com

VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed
jostreed@bellsouth.net

Secretary — Sue Reed
jostreed@bellsouth.net

Treasurer — Larry Bachle
lawrencebachle@gmail.com

Volunteer Services— Karen Philman
circle17kpl@yahoo.com

Legislative Representative & Website —
Paula Marczynski marczy52@gmail.com

Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord
Cora.lord@icloud.com

Schedule of Events:

- JAN 14— REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM—Brooksville
- JAN 20 — DOUGH SHEETER (RICK REED)
- FEB 17 — BLACK HISTORY MONTH (ALPHONSO JOHNSON)
- MAR 17 — SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (RICK REED)
- APR 21 — TBD (CHERI BRODEUR)
- MAY 19 — ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- MAY 20-22 — FREA CONVENTION—St Augustine
- JUN & JUL — NO MEETINGS

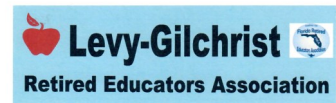
COME JOIN US!

Levy and Gilchrist counties are located in rural north central Florida. The Suwannee River forms the western boundary of both.

We meet on the **3rd Monday** September thru May at **10:30 a.m.** at **The Trenton Library in Trenton.** We welcome all retired school personnel living in our area, no matter where you worked.

The Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association is a unit of the state-wide **Florida Retired Educators Association.** Association (FREA) organization.

We held the drawing for our Scholarship fundraising raffle. Our lucky winner was **Rick Lawrence!**



Scholarship Raffle - \$10 donation

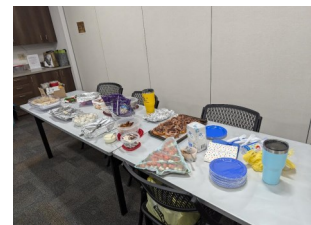
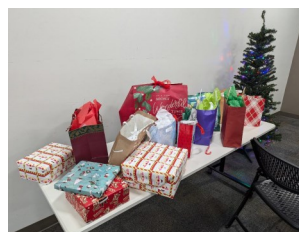
\$400 Bass Pro Shops gift card

Drawing December 16, 2024

Winner need not be present to win

DEC

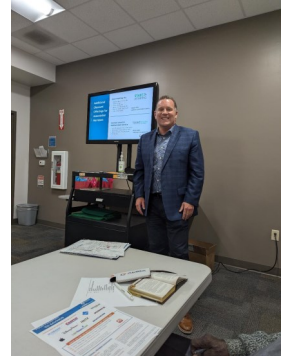
Our December meeting was primarily for gift giving and fellowship. We had a nice group attend our December meeting.



L-GREA Activities

NOV

Chris Gluck, our AMBA representative, gave a great presentation on the ways AMBA supports FREA members. He focused on the Passport savings program and how that can be used as an incentive for attracting new members as well as a way for everyone to save money every day. Thank you, Chris, you are welcome back anytime!



OCT



Due to the absence of the President, VP, and Secretary (**Cheri** was in her home in NC dealing with Hurricane Helene aftermath, and **Rick** and **Sue** were on a cruise) **Paula** chaired the meeting and **Cora** took the minutes. **Alphonso** led the devotionals and pledge, and committee reports were given by **Karen, Larry, Paula, and Cora**.

Fundraiser ideas were discussed. While it was acknowledged that gun raffles are extremely popular in our area, we were cognizant of the negative issue of guns and schools. As a compromise, we decided to raffle off a \$400 Bass Pro Shop gift card so the winner can choose their own item(s). Paula will create the tickets and bring to our next meeting and it will be raffled off at our Dec meeting. We also plan to have another T-shirt raffle in the spring.

Jon discussed the possibility of us having an entry in the Veteran's Day parade. He will get the necessary information.

Our program was presented by **Fisher Langford**, a student at Bell High School.

SEP

Cheri called the meeting to order and **Alphonso** provided opening thoughts and led the pledge and singing of God Bless America. Committee reports were presented by **Rick, Sue, Karen, and Paula**.

Paula shared information about the proposed constitutional amendments — pros and cons — and encouraged everyone to study their impact before voting .

Janeice Smith gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the “kissing bug”. Thank you to **Laura** for providing this program.



L-GREA Activities cont.

AUG

We held our organizational meeting for the year at the Trenton Library and planned out the year's calendar. We had three guests — **Laura Storm, Mark Kinney, and Jon Meinholtz.**



Because of the date change due to Hurricane Debby, **Rick** had to man our table by himself at the Gilchrist Welcome Back Teachers day. He did a great job!

We look forward to a successful year!

APR

Plans were finalized for the FREA state conference. **Paula** and **Cora** will attend. We discussed the FREF basket and funds were collected to purchase items for it.

MAR

Congratulations go to **Rick** who was announced as our unit Volunteer of the Year!

As VP and Scholarship chair, Rick introduced this year's winner of our \$500 scholarship, Evelyn Frazier. Evelyn is a senior at Bell High School and plans to pursue a career as a high school English teacher. Congratulations to her!

We had two visitors this month—
Lisa Hudson and Adrienne Snyder. Welcome!

FEB

Cheri called the meeting to order and **Alphonso** provided the opening devotions. Minutes and Treasurer's report were given by **Sue** and **Larry**, respectively. Committee reports were presented by **Rick, Paula, Karen, and Cora.** **Larry** gave an update on **Harriet's** improvement.

For our program for Black History Month, Alphonso shared photos and newspaper clippings about his experience as Grand Marshal for the Williston Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. We are so proud for him!

