

# Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

OCTOBER 2024

## OFFICERS:

President — Cheri Brodeur  
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VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed  
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Secretary — Sue Reed  
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Treasurer — Larry Bachle  
lawrencebachle@gmail.com

Volunteer Services— Karen Philman  
circle17klp@yahoo.com

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

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

## Schedule of Events:

- NOV 18 — FREA BENEFITS—Chris Gluck (PAULA MARCZYNSKI)
- DEC 16 — CHRISTMAS PARTY
- JAN TBD — REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM—Crystal River
- 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.



**Fisher Langford** gave his speech on how the Florida Farm Bureau is encouraging the connection between youth and agriculture.

## 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.



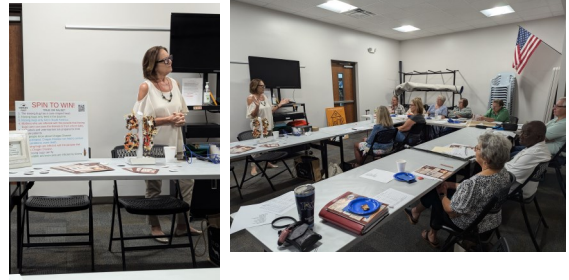
## L-GREA Activities

### 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.



### 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 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!

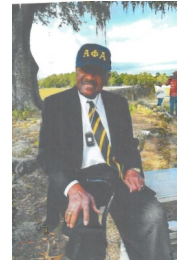
We had two visitors this month—  
Lisa Hudson and Adrienne Snyder. Welcome!

## L-GREA Activities cont.

### 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!



### JAN

**Cheri** called the meeting to order and **Sue** provided the devotion. **Alphonso** was unable to make the meeting due to serving as Grand Marshal in the Williston MLK Parade.

A presentation was made to the group by **Michelle Walker-Crawford** about her new tutoring service starting Wed, Jan 17th called The Learning Curve.

**Larry** gave the treasurer's report and collected funds for Extravaganza tickets. He also reminded us that organization dues need to be paid. Volunteer hours were turned in to **Karen**. **Rick** and **Sue** gave an update on our scholarship applications and **Paula** gave a legislative report. **Cora** passed around a birthday card for **Harriet** that we all signed.

**Paula** made a presentation on the Excel program she created which is based on the FREA Volunteer Services form but is catered to an individual's specific areas of volunteerism and tallies numbers as they are entered. It makes it much easier to keep track of one's hours. Door prizes this month were camellia blossoms from **Paula's** home. Everyone received some.



### DEC



We had a very informative presentation on Identity Theft and ways we can keep ourselves safe online. Sheriff Schultz and several of his deputies gave a presentation on Identity Theft.



Following the program, we had goodies prepared by members and a gift exchange.

