



North Pinellas County
Retired Educators Association
NEWSLETTER



email: nprea@gmail.com

PO Box 4248, Clearwater, FL 33758

Vol. 50, Issue 1

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

Our 50th Year!



Recent Events:

Fri, August 2 - Not Back to Work Luncheon
 Tue, August 13 -- Not Back to School Breakfast

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, Sept. 10, Favorite School Luncheon, 11 am-1:30 pm, Clearwater Country Club

*Be prepared to answer:
 Where are some places you have been this year? What was best?*

Tuesday, Oct. 8, FREA Region 2 Symposium, 8:30 am-2:30 pm in Crystal River

Tuesday, Oct. 8, Halloween and Wounded Warrior Luncheon, 11 am-1:30 pm, Clearwater Country Club

Our Tuesday, Sept. 10, luncheon celebrates the new school year, asking members and guests to come wearing their favorite school colors. Be prepared to answer what you did this year and places you went:



We'll enjoy a luncheon of lemon grilled chicken, scalloped potatoes, carrots, rolls, and dessert. Our guest speakers will be Megan Miller and Savannah Rock, athlete leaders of the Special Olympics. The luncheon price is \$20 this year, tax and tip included. Please RSVP to nprea@gmail.com by Sept. 5.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Sharon Ozbun

Are you ready for some great speakers this year? We have quite the lineup ready for you! I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our first luncheon meeting in September. I know that several of you came to our “not back to school” events during the first week of August, and they were a great success!

Speaking of “back to school,” this is the time of year where many retired educators think back to their first days of teaching and the many memories that they associate with teaching. All of us had many years of experience under our belt and eventually looked forward to that time when we would be able to retire and do whatever we wanted. But now that retirement has arrived, what are we doing? Is it the fun-filled time you thought it would be? Are you doing the things you really wanted to do?

We prepared lesson plans for years, but did we prepare ourselves for the time in which we had a great deal of extra time on our hands? I reflected on this question earlier this year at the annual FREA Convention when we listened to our keynote speaker talk about finding our purpose in life. For some of us that might mean traveling, spending time with grandchildren, helping ailing family members or friends, helping out during an election cycle, or volunteering in the community.

This year’s speaker schedule has a wide variety of volunteer opportunities that I hope some of you will become involved with. We even have opportunities within our own organization to help out.

I hope everyone will be able to make it to our September meeting. We will be hearing from Megan Miller and Savannah Rock, who are both involved with the Special Olympics. They will talk about opportunities for volunteering to help this amazing cause and their own experiences with the program.

It’s amazing if you’re feeling down or lonely, how quickly you feel better when you are helping others. No matter what you decide to do with your “spare” time, enjoy life to your fullest.

FREA WESTERN DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM

This year’s Region 2 Symposium for FREA Districts 4 and 6 will be held on October 8, 2024, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Crystal River Women’s Club (320 Citrus Avenue, Crystal River). This will be an excellent opportunity for members to meet our state officers, President Harriet Jenkins and President-Elect Carrie Frye. The Keynote Speaker will be Citrus County Superintendent Sandra Himmell.

According to the *Citrus Times Chronicle*, “during her 20-year tenure, Himmell has led the district through countless challenges, from successfully navigating the economic collapse of 2008 and the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, to playing a key role in the successful construction of Central Ridge Elementary School, as well as the complete renovation and remodel of Crystal River Primary School and Crystal River High School.

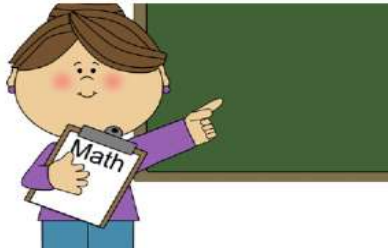
Himmell’s commitment to student safety has also been commendable, as seen in the several safety enhancements implemented on all school campuses. Throughout her career, Himmell has always put students first, making decisions with their best interests at heart. These accomplishments will have a lasting impact in the Citrus County School District and in the education of its students.”

AMBA representatives will also be at the meeting to review benefits, as well as an opportunity to learn how to navigate the FREA website and handbook.

The registration fee is \$20, which includes a continental breakfast and fried chicken luncheon. Raffles for baskets will also take place.

While the symposium is scheduled on one of our prearranged meeting dates, we encourage you to attend if you desire. This will give you an opportunity to meet retired educators from our District 6 as well as from FREA District 4.

If you choose to attend, please email Linda McGeehan and she will arrange for you to send her a check for \$20. This must be completed by September 2nd. Unfortunately, we do not meet as a group until the 8th, so you will need to contact her via email at lindamcgeehan33@gmail.com



...UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 11 am

Bring a friend and wear your school colors to Clearwater Country Club for our Back to School Meeting and Luncheon. Bring clothing for Clothes to Kids, be prepared to report where you traveled this past year, and enjoy our guest speakers--athletes from the Special Olympics Florida.

Tuesday, October 8, 11 am

No Tricks, Just Treats (for the Military) Bring a friend and wear a Halloween style hat or costume. Bring items for vets to put in Wounded Warrior backpacks. Be prepared to write thank you notes for veterans.

Tuesday, October 8, 8:30 am

FREA Region 2 Symposium.

An excellent opportunity to meet our state officers. Keynote speaker will be Citrus County Superintendent Sandra Himmell. The registration fee of \$20 includes a continental breakfast and fried chicken luncheon.

Please email our treasurer, Linda McGeehan, to arrange to attend, lindamcgeehan33@gmail.com Your registration should be completed by Monday, September 2.

...PATRONS WANTED

Please consider becoming an NPCREA PATRON for fiscal year 2024-25. The cost is \$15 and helps to defray the cost of printing our newsletters, directories, brochures, and flyers.

Anyone wishing to become a PATRON should send a check to NPCREA, P. O. Box 4248, Clearwater, Fl. 33758, or give a check to Linda McGeehan, our new Treasurer, or Rick Pope, our Patronage board member, at any meeting.

Our new 2024-25 patrons are:

Mary Blackmon
Martha Gray
Herb Johnson
Carole Pope
Rick Pope

:

...BRIDGE-A-RAMA



Bridge-a-Rama is played on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 am.

More bridge players are needed. Call Phyllis Walls at 727.418.7025 for details.

The September 10 Meeting is going to be Something Special!

by Sharon Ozbun

We'll be meeting at 11 am at Clearwater Country Club, so get ready for some "back to school fun" as you wear your favorite college colors. Let's see how many people represent your school. Will it be the Gators against the Noles? Who will have the most school spirit? We will have a photo screen up for fun photos to be taken in your school colors or just you being you...

We will also be collecting for Clothes to Kids. They are in need of items for boys and older teen males. Shoe sizes children 9 to adult 16. Underwear boys' boxers and knit XS, S, M, and L Men's: S,M, L, and XL. Please try to help in whatever way you can.

As mentioned earlier, we will be hearing from representatives from Special Olympics Florida. Megan Miller and Savannah Rock will be our guests as they tell us how this wonderful program transforms lives through the joy of sport for people with intellectual disabilities.

After our speakers, we will have a luncheon of lemon grilled chicken, scalloped potatoes, carrots, roll, and chocolate mousse for dessert (if available), or ice cream sundae. The Clearwater Country Club salad can be ordered as an alternate meal. Please be sure to RSVP for the luncheon so we have a correct count of attendees.

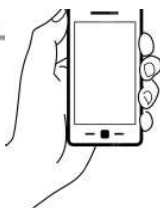
After lunch we will have an update on upcoming events, our Share the Wealth drawings, and door prize drawings. Mark your calendar now for a fun afternoon.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES REPORT

Name: _____ Month(s): _____

	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Adult</u>
<i>Retired Educators Assn.</i>	_____	_____
<i>Community/Clubs</i>	_____	_____
<i>Hospital/Schools</i>	_____	_____
<i>Churches</i>	_____	_____
<i>Friends/Neighbors</i>	_____	_____
<i>All Others</i>	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	_____



Phone to Mr. Eldon Weaver at 954.895.1073
 or email to pegasus_fl@yahoo.com
 or cut out and bring to the meeting





Our October 8 meeting at Clearwater Country Club will feature Danielle Green, spokesperson for the Wounded Warrior Project in Florida.

Luncheon will be served after our speaker concludes, including stuffed shells, salad, garlic stick, and ice cream sundaes. Or a Clearwater Country Club salad is available if you prefer. The price is \$20 including tax and tip. Please prepare to pay in cash or by check made out to NPCREA. RSVP to npcrea@gmail.com by October 1.

Danielle Green

Green, 47, is a former college basketball standout who suffered a life threatening injuries while serving in the U.S. Army. She thought pity and despair were wasted energy. As she rebuilt her own life, she put her experience to work as a readjustment counselor for the Department of Veterans Affairs, helping fellow service veterans cope with the physical and psychological trauma they had encountered on the battlefield.

We'll meet at 11 am, and learn about the goals and successes of the Wounded Warrior Project in our home state. Please bring items for veterans to put in the Wounded Warrior backpacks. Needed articles include toiletries, playing cards, word-search books, paperback novels and biographies, games and puzzles, etc. We'll also write thank you notes for veterans, so please bring your pen.



President Joe Biden welcomed Danielle Green to the White House in June 2022 as she participated in the yearly Soldier Ride. "We're so damn proud of you," Biden told the 30-or-so wounded veterans present.

NOT BACK TO SCHOOL ON AUGUST 2

by Sharon Ozbun

Our first event was a luncheon at Capogna's Restaurant in Clearwater. Our amazing NPCREA members had been out collecting supplies for kids and teachers who needed help putting together all the items they needed for a fresh new school year.

This was the first day back to work for instructional staff in Pinellas County, Florida. We had a fabulous turnout of people and school supplies as well as a delicious spaghetti lunch. Afterward, our past president, Bob Stevens, "Stuffed the Schoolbus" with an enormous amount of classroom supplies and backpacks at the Pinellas Education Foundation in St.Petersburg.



TIFFANY'S

EST 1983
Family Restaurant

Not Back to Classes on Aug. 13

by Sharon Ozbun

Our second event was "Breakfast at Tiffany's" on Tuesday, August 13, as classes resumed in Pinellas County, Florida. We met in their banquet room and had a great crowd enjoying breakfast and catching up on our summer activities. Once again, members did not disappoint.

School supplies and backpacks collected at this breakfast were to be given to the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center in Safety Harbor. However the Center was undergoing a huge renovation, so I went to Kings Highway Elementary School in Clearwater where teachers were very thankful for the donations.





It's that time of year again when we need to prepare for possible hurricanes that may be coming towards Pinellas County. The idea is to get ready, get set, and protect you, your family, and your property!

In terms of getting ready, there are several things that you can do in general to prepare basic emergency supplies.

- Water: 1 gallon per person per day for at least seven days.
- Non-perishable foods: at least a week one week supply.
- Non-Electric can opener.
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils.
- Medications
- Extra bottle, oxygen if needed.
- First aid supplies
- Wipes, hand, sanitizer soap, toilet paper, feminine supplies, diapers
- Eyeglasses, contact lenses.
- Flashlight lantern.
- Battery operated radio.
- Extra batteries.
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery backups, or solar chargers
- Cash, (preferably small bills)
- Books, cards, board games
- Paper and pencil.
- Whistle.
- Rain gear
- Insect repellent sunscreen
- Full tank of gas in vehicle
- Repair kit for car tires.
- Extra gas cans (filled)

It's also important to have all your documents in a waterproof container. Items should include:

- Driver's license, passport, or other ID cards.
- Proof of residency (bill sent to your address)
- Social Security card.
- Birth certificate.

- Marriage license, death certificates, military records, and other hard to replace documents.
- insurance policies for home health, Health, flood, auto, and renters
- Titles to house vehicles boat.
- Account numbers for bank, credit card, savings, and investment.
- Important numbers and emergency contacts.
- Medical records from pharmacy doctors blood types vaccinations.
- Household inventory. It might be a good idea to take pictures.
- Emergency access permit for barrier island residents and businesses

Do you have a pet? They'll need basic items too!

- Food/water for two weeks.
- Collar and leash.
- Carrier crate
- Newspaper, other linings
- Identification/updated microchip
- County, License
- Immunization records.
- Photo
- Medication
- Toys and blanket
- Kitty litter scoop
- Plastic waste bags
- Disinfectant.
- Paper towels

In case you need to go to a public shelter, in addition to your general supplies, you should bring:

- A blanket, pillow, cot, folding chair, or twin sized air mattress. (Battery operated pump would be a great idea.)
- Change of clothing for several days.
- Special dietary items with can opener required.
- Basic food and water is provided
- Wearable medical alert tag.
- Ear plugs

If you're going to a "special needs" shelter, in addition to general supplies, you'll need to bring:

- Your own wheelchair, walker, cane or other medical equipment you typically use.
- Oxygen concentrator and nebulizer
- Written instructions regarding your care.
- Caretaker's supplies

If you shelter in place, in addition to general supplies, you should have:

- Ice coolers.
- Tarps with rope or elastic cord sheet of plastic.
- Wrench, utility knife, hammer and nails.
- Duct tape
- Dust mask.
- Portable, toilet or large bucket with lid
- Large garbage bags
- Disinfectant
- Unscented bleach with medicine dropper.
- Matches/lighter.
- Outdoor grill and extra propane or charcoal.
- Generator

Mandatory evacuations are ordered to protect people from storm surge flooding. Pinellas county ordered a mandatory level “A” mobile home evacuation during hurricane Idalia in 2023. Those who did not evacuate found themselves in dangerous flood conditions. Don’t let this happen to you. When we are asked to evacuate, heed the instructions. If you stay, no one can come and rescue you. It’s important to stay informed by monitoring news sources when a storm is threatening the area. Be sure to fill your gas tank or charge your electric vehicles. Get cash (small bills are best), gather important documents and valuables, refill medications, and secure your home. If you’re registered for special needs transportation, expect a call from the county about assistance. Know your evacuation zone and be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued at any time. When an evacuation order is issued, complete final preparations to evacuate to a shelter or to stay in your home. Be sure to get updated emergency information at disaster.pinellas.gov.

Listen for when shelters are open. If you plan to travel out of the area, leave as early as possible. Turn off your utilities before you leave home.

If you are leaving home for a shelter, there are three types of shelters in Pinellas County. The first type is a “general population” shelter. It’s open to all individuals in Pinellas County. Be aware that they do not have generators, so power may go out. They do not provide cots, chairs, air mattresses, or bedding. You will need to bring those items yourself.

The second type is a “special needs” shelter. This shelter is for those depending on oxygen or electricity for medical equipment or who need minimal medical assistance. Be aware that while there are some cots provided, cots are not available for everyone and pets are not permitted.

The third type of shelter is a “pet friendly” shelter. Dogs and cats are kept in a separate area at the shelter, away from owners and must stay in a crate or carrier. The owner must be staying in the shelter to feed and walk their pet.

While pets are not allowed at special needs and general shelters, service animals are welcome at all shelters. You will also need to be sure to bring documentation to show that your pet has had all of its shots.

After the hurricane passes, expect normal services to be disrupted. If the power goes out, remember that perishable foods should be moved into ice filled coolers. Food that is in a full freezer can be stored safely for two days, if you keep the freezer door shut. Always remember, if in doubt, throw it out. If you have an outside grill, cook any food that is left. Please remember to run your generator safely.

In the event of a water issue from the storm, the water supply may be contaminated. Assume there is a boil water notice in effect until you hear officially. Use bottled water to drink and brush your teeth.

If you need to sterilize water, bring a pot of water to a rolling boil for one minute. You can do this outside on your grill or add 1/8 teaspoon of unscented bleach per gallon of water and let stand **for 30 minutes**. It should contain 5.25% sodium hypochlorite.

If there is a sewer outage, do not flush your toilet or you could have a sewage back up in your home. To use the toilet, turn off your outside water supply, flush once, and line your toilet with a trash bag. Do not use kitty litter in your toilet. As an option, use a portable toilet or a 5-gallon bucket with a tight lid. Line it with a heavy-duty trash bag and use household bleach as a disinfectant. Once service has returned, remove the trash bag from your toilet and dispose of the contents into your regular toilet and sanitize with bleach.



A Quick Voters Information Guide for FREA Members

This year is a very big election year. Every member of the US House of Representatives is up for re-election and one of our Senators is also on the ballot. Plus, Florida legislators and officials are on your local ballot. If you are pleased with the performance of your elected officials, vote to keep them in office. If you are not pleased, vote to remove them. **BUT REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

How Can I Update my Voter Registration Record?

Occasionally, it is suggested you update your voter registration record. You can use any of these options to update your voter registration record:

Online

You can update your registration at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov, Florida's online voter registration system. You will need your Florida driver's license or ID card, and the last four digits of your Social Security number to update your registration completely online. If you do not have a Florida driver's license or ID card, you can use the system to generate a paper voter registration application. You can then print and mail the paper application.

Update by Mail

You can update your registration through the mail by completing a Florida Voter Registration Application (PDF) and mailing it to your local Supervisor of Elections

Update in Person

You can update your registration when you apply for or update your driver's license or ID card at the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or the Tax Collector's Office. For further information about driver's licenses, and ID cards, please visit the Florida Department of Highway **Safety and Motor Vehicles website**. You can also update your registration in person at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

You know it's still summer in Florida when...

--Hot water comes out of both taps

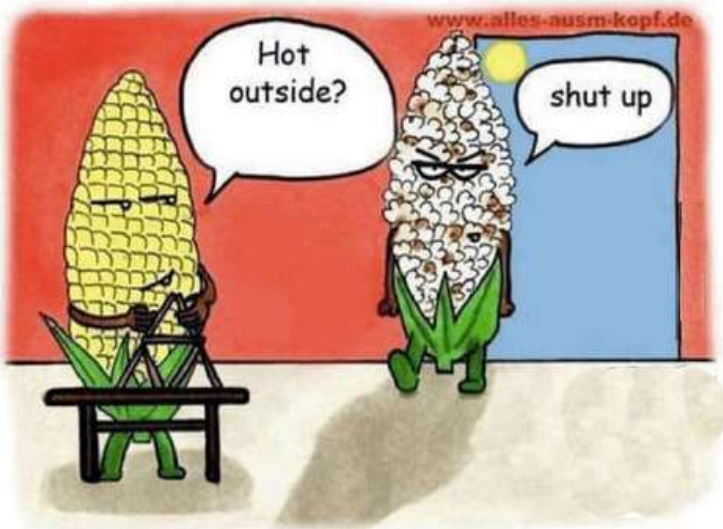
--You find that a seat belt buckle makes a nice branding iron

__The trees are whistling for the dogs to come over

--You keep getting sunburned through your tinted car windows|

-- The temperature drops below 90, and you put on a sweater

--Shade determines the best parking space, not distance.





North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association Membership Application



Unified Dues: \$60.00 Annually – July 1 to June 30

<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of Membership	General Member - Circle One: Retired School Teacher/School Administrator/School Transportation School Maintenance, School Cafeteria. Other:
FREA Benefits are fully available to ALL FREA members be they Regular or Associate.	Associate Member Associate: Any person supporting the mission of the Association may apply for associate membership. (Associate members may not vote as a delegate.)
Circle One: Miss, Mrs., Ms., Mr., Dr., Other	Date:
Your Name:	Spouse's Name
Mailing Address	Apt./Condo
City	Telephone—Cell phone preferred ()
E-mail address:	Your Month/Day/of Birth:
School District Retired From:	Year Retired
Position Retired From	

NPCREA and FREA are your advocates regarding your pension and the future of education in the State of Florida. Would you like to support our efforts on behalf of all present and future Retired Educators, and other beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System like First Responders, etc.? This money will be used in a non-partisan way.

Yes, I would like to support FREA's Legislative Advocacy: \$ 4.00
 Unified Dues for July 1–June 30: **\$60.00**

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Florida Retired Educators Foundation of \$5.00
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: NPCREA (North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association)
Mail to: NPCREA, P.O. Box 4248 Clearwater, FL 33758-4248

Have questions? Contact NPCREA: NPCREA@gmail.com

NPCREA has many active committees. All of our committees welcome new people, ideas and /or suggestions. The work of the committees listed below is explained at our meetings.

Please indicate your interest in one or more of them by checking the line by the committee. The chair will contact you personally.

Volunteer Services	Information Services	Newsletter
Hospitality	Legislative	Photography (Historian)
Sunshine	Name Tags	Retirement Planning
Phone Tree	Membership	Publicity/Website
Cultural Affairs	Nominating	Thought for the Day

**NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY
RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 4248
CLEARWATER, FL 33758-4248**



NPCREA LEADERS FOR 2024-25

PRESIDENT	SHARON OZBUN
VICE-PRESIDENT	KATRINA PERSHING
TREASURER	LINDA MCGEEHAN
RECORDING SECRETARY	MARY BLACKMON
CORRES. SECRETARY	MARCIA LORK
INFORMATION SPECIALIST	MAURA HEDRICH
MEMBERSHIP	CHERYL GOOD
PATRONAGE	RICK POPE
VOLUNTEER SERVICES	ELDON WEAVER
HISTORIAN/NEWSLETTER	MARY BLACKMON

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