

(Put  
those)

# Apples Away!



A publication of the Hernando County Retired Educators Association  
May June 2026 - Volume 10:6

*We are a community of retired educators and school personnel  
whose vision is to serve, socialize, and support education.*



**Diane's Dispatch**  
[kennedy4@yahoo.com](mailto:kennedy4@yahoo.com) or 352-651-6612

Greetings! Welcome to HCREA 2026-2027.

Welcome LeighAnn Knight and Mari-Celeste Sowers, Co-Membership Chairs, Debbie Pfenning, Volunteer Services Chair, and Hanora Cassels, Secretary, all new members on the HCREA Board of Directors. We are still in need of a Legislative Chair, an FREF Representative, and members for some of the committee. Please think about volunteering for one of these important positions.

If you suggested one of the activities or trips chosen for our 2026-2027 calendar, please think about being a contact person for an activity in need of a contact person/organizer.

We have several fundraisers this year. Two that we enjoyed are back, Texas Roadhouse and the Belk Charity Sales. We made over \$400 with the Summer Sale and hope to bring in even more with the sale in November. We are also looking at possibly a fundraiser with Glory Days.. If you have any ideas for fundraisers, please send them to Sharon, Cecelia, or me.

It won't be long before we "No Go Back to School". The NOGO Week schedule is on page 4 of this newsletter. Events are planned for each day starting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The full calendar will be emailed to you separately.

We are looking forward to a fun, interesting year and "growing" our unit. (Hence the Plumeria at the beginning of this message.)

Diane Kennedy, HCREA President

The Hernando County Retired Educators Association supports retired educators and the community through our many programs and volunteer activities. This chapter was established in 2015. We are part of the Florida Retired Educators Association and, although it is not a political organization, FREA works to maintain our FRS pension, COLA adjustments, and health care subsidy, and has a representative for our ongoing legislative needs in Tallahassee.

## In this issue

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Diane's Dispatch         | - page 1        |
| Information for Members  | - page 2        |
| Member Spotlight         | - page 3        |
| HCREA Out and About      | - page 4        |
| Cookies and Conversation | - page 5        |
| Other HCREA News         | - pages 6 and 7 |
| Minutes of June Meeting  | - page 8        |
| Association Information  | - page 9        |

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Barbara Renczkowski – 7/17  
Phyllis Lang – 7/27  
Debbie Pfenning – 7/27

Nancy Snyder – 8/26  
Sharon Twyman – 8/27  
Emily Berry – 8/29



## THE LUCKY XIII

Each issue of *(Put those) Apples Away* will review a section from one of the thirteen articles of HCREA's Bylaws.

### *Articles I., II., and III. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

#### Article I. Name and Address

**Section 1.01** The name of the organization will be Hernando County Retired Educators Association, Inc. (HCREA)

**Section 1.02** The official address of the Association will be the address of the current treasurer.

#### Article II. Governance

The HCREA will be governed by its officially adopted bylaws.

#### Article III. Affiliation

The HCREA will be affiliated with the Florida Retired Educators Association, Inc.

☺ Bonus – three this issue because they are short and easy! ☺



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Hanora Cassels

Hanora Cassels and her husband Dan celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May. They have one daughter who works in the Citrus County Court system.

Hanora was born in Sterling Heights, a suburb of Detroit, Michigan. While still young, her family moved to Florida. She graduated from Seminole High School in Pinellas County in 1979, then earned her Associates Degree from St. Petersburg Junior College. She took some time off and later finished her education at USF graduating in 1989. Between 1982 and 2003 Hanora worked for the Sheriff's Office, working her way from Communications to eventually be involved in teaching various programs and helping with the Careline program.

Hanora began her teaching in Hernando County School System by teaching for one semester at Spring Hill Elementary School. Later, she would move to Pine Grove Elementary for 15 years. While there, she taught grades K, 1, and 2, depending on the year. She really enjoyed working on holiday programs with her grade level teams.

In 2018, Hanora retired from the school system but couldn't sit still. She then began volunteering back at the Sheriff's Office and working part time at Kirkland's Home store. In 2020, Hanora began working full-time in the Citrus County Clerk of the Court office and was there for 4 ½ years.

Hanora likes to spend her time reading and watching programs on Netflix. She also likes to get out into nature and walk in the parks. Lately, she has been considering joining a Birding Club.

Hanora and her husband like to travel. They had family in Massachusetts and still do in Las Vegas, Nevada. They also like to take cruises whenever possible, and are planning a 14-day trip to Great Britain to see the sights in England, Scotland, Ireland and France.

People who have influenced her teaching are Jan Sanderson and Bonnie Tyree. Jan helped her to become more creative and influenced how to work well with her students. Bonnie, on the other hand, was someone who she co-taught with and really enjoyed working with.

While growing up her idol was JFK. She respected what he stood for and what he attempted to do in his life. Hanora also adored her mother, her "North Star", guiding her as she grew up.

Hanora feels that her attributes are her calmness and caring. She believes that this led to having good relationships with her students and their parents.

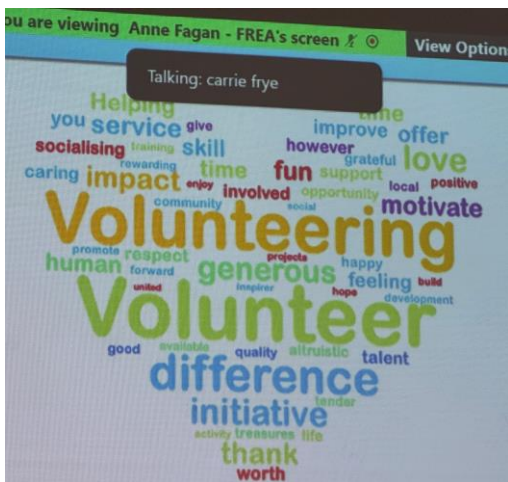
Some good memories are of the people she has worked with and of former students. Hanora fondly remembers a sweet boy in kindergarten who was being raised by his grandparents. Another good memory was of having a student whose mother became a volunteer for her class and continued to volunteer for years, even after her child moved up.

Finally, Hanora hopes that people will remember her for being kind, patient, and as a good friend. She also hopes people will remember her for having a good sense of humor.

# HCREA OUT AND ABOUT

## FREA Virtual Convention “Watch Party”

!



**Getting our name out  
in the Community:  
HCEF Reading Bash  
and  
Back to School Bash**



# ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS!

Are you a Retired Employee of a Florida school asking yourself, "What do I do now?" If you are, HCREA has excellent opportunities for you to connect with your peers. Among gathering with each other for day trips or activities that serve your community, we have four business meetings a year with speakers, and Celebration/Meetings in June & December. Dues are \$60 yearly.

Interested and would like more information? Please email us @ [hcreainfo@gmail.com](mailto:hcreainfo@gmail.com).

## COOKIES AND CONVERSATION

Dear HCREA Members,

We are excited to announce year two of *Cookies and Conversation*. At the August, October, February, and April meeting, the first fifteen minutes will be for friends to connect, sign in, sign up for events, and enjoy a small treat. At the end of this time, Diane Kennedy, HCREA president, will begin the program.

Please consider volunteering for one of the four meeting dates. A variety of tasks make our gatherings welcoming:

- bring cookies
- manthe refreshment table
- be a friendly face in the parking lot,
- and another friendly face at the door.

LeighAnn Knight and Mari-Celeste Sowers, HCREA Membership Committee Co-chairs, are coordinating *Cookies and Conversation*. Choose the meeting you wish to volunteer for and contact LeighAnn at [ledfordl@hotmail.com](mailto:ledfordl@hotmail.com) or Mari-Celeste at [Ladimarigold55@aol.com](mailto:Ladimarigold55@aol.com)

Thank you for your support in making this time available and enjoyable for all.

The HCREA Board

# IN OTHER NEWS

## **NOGO Week** **August 3-7**

**MONDAY** – 9 :30 AM - **Breakfast** at Bob Evans  
- Merry-Lyn  
- Reserved area in rear of restaurant  
- Merry-Lyn 352-835-7210

After breakfast - **Game Day** at Spring Ridge Community Center - Merry-Lyn and others  
- Fun, Games, Prizes, and Surprises

**TUESDAY** – 10:30 AM - **Meeting** at SH Library - Diane  
“Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation”  
and  
- the first *Share the Wealth* of the year!  
- Invite Friends  
- Invite Retirees

**WEDNESDAY** – 10:30 AM - **Brunch and Bowling** at the Train Station in Inverness  
- Great menu, all freshly cooked in kitchen at the Train Station Café  
and  
Duckpin Bowling – so much fun!  
Cecelia – 352-232-0897

**THURSDAY** – 6:00 PM - **Dinner** at Bayport Inn  
– Mari-Celeste 352-556-4724

**FRIDAY** – 11:00 AM - **Craft Day** at Spring Ridge Community Center  
– Merry-Lyn and Sharon

Please see the next page for more information.

# HCREA CRAFT SOCIAL



FRIDAY, AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>

11:00AM - 3:00PM

14133 SWEETSHRUB CT

Spring Ridge  
Community Center

BRING FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS

Call Sharon for questions  
(352) 398-6950

The HCREA  
2026-2027  
calendar of events  
will be in your email  
very soon!

**MINUTES ~ May 27th, 2026**  
(taking place of **June** meeting)  
**FREA CONVENTION/GENERAL HCREA MEETING**  
Hernando County Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

\*See sign in sheet for those in attendance.

HCREA Meeting called to order by President Diane Kennedy at 12:12 P.M.

**Diane** welcomed all, including our visitors from Citrus County.

Motion to approve Agenda with flexibility approved.

**President's Remarks**

Diane said to see LeighAnn Knight for Share the Wealth tickets and Gift Basket Giveaway.

Diane thanked Sharon Twyman for her hard work arranging our catered Olive Garden Pasta Bar luncheon.

**Old Business**

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance to date is \$2500.07.

**New Business**

- a. **Fundraising Ideas:** spoke about our upcoming Belk fundraiser.
- b. **Tentative HCREA Calendar:** Cecelia provided copies for the group. The events reflect the results from our choosing our favorites at the April meeting. Emily Berry spoke on an idea for a local cafe', A Taste of Portugal, after our April 2027 meeting..
- c. **2026-2027 Budget:** Alan provided copies of the proposed budget. Sharon made a motion to accept as presented; Cecelia seconded. The budget passed.
- d. **Committee Chairs 2026-2027:** Diane announced that Hanora Cassels has accepted the position as Secretary, and Mari-Celeste Sowers will join LeighAnn Knight as Membership Committee Co-Chair.

**Upcoming FREA Calendar Dates and Adventures**

- a. **Saturday, June 27th –** Hernando County Education Foundation *Reading Bash*. Sharon said the event runs from 9 AM to Noon, and that details will be in an email to all very soon.
- b. **Saturday, July 18th –** Hernando County Sheriff's Office *Back to School Bash*. Cecelia spoke on the book give away from 10 AM to 1PM. Volunteers are needed. Details to also follow through email.
- c. **NOGO Week ~ August 3rd - 7th**  
Monday, August 3rd ~ Breakfast and Game Day  
Tuesday, August 4th ~ First General Meeting of the year  
Wednesday, August 5th ~ Brunch & Bowling  
Thursday, August 6th ~ Dinner @ Bayport Inn  
Friday, August 7th ~ Craft Day  
Diane asked for volunteers to take charge of each day. Mari-Celeste volunteered for Thursday, 8/6.

Ticket winners drawn were Phyllis Lang and Linda Kelley. Basket Winner was Linda Kelley.

Mari-Celeste motioned to adjourn the meeting, Lynda Ehrman seconded. Diane adjourned @ 12:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Mari-Celeste Sowers on 06/01/02026 as temporary Secretary.

# **HONOR YESTERDAY---ENRICH TODAY---SECURE TOMORROW**

## **ABOUT THE HCREA**

Our mailing address is 6017 Forest Creek Drive, Brooksville, FL 34601

Our email address is [HCREAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:HCREAinfo@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook: Hernando County Retired Educators Association  
[HCREA Facebook page](#)

### **2025-2026 HCREA Officers**

President – Diane Kennedy [tkenned4@yahoo.com](mailto:tkenned4@yahoo.com)

Co- President-elect – Cecelia Solomon [buckysmom85@gmail.com](mailto:buckysmom85@gmail.com)

and Sharon Twyman [Sharontwyman0827@gmail.com](mailto:Sharontwyman0827@gmail.com)

Immediate Past President – Linda Kelley [lighthouses407@bellsouth.net](mailto:lighthouses407@bellsouth.net)

Secretary - Hanora Cassels - [hanora1@msn.com](mailto:hanora1@msn.com)

Treasurer - Alan Solomon [asolomo2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:asolomo2@tampabay.rr.com)

### **2025-2026 HCREA Committee Chairs**

Bylaws – Laurie Pellito [lapellito@gmail.com](mailto:lapellito@gmail.com)

Information Services – Cecelia Solomon [buckysmom85@gmail.com](mailto:buckysmom85@gmail.com)

Legislative – *Volunteer Needed!*

Membership – LeighAnn Ledford – [ledfordl@hotmail.com](mailto:ledfordl@hotmail.com)

and Mari-Celeste Sowers  
[Ladimarigold55@aol.com](mailto:Ladimarigold55@aol.com)

Nominations – Linda Kelley [lighthouses407@bellsouth.net](mailto:lighthouses407@bellsouth.net)

Volunteer Services - Debbie Pfenning - [debbiepfenning@gmail.com](mailto:debbiepfenning@gmail.com)

*with* 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest – Sharon Twyman  
[Sharontwyman0827@gmail.com](mailto:Sharontwyman0827@gmail.com)

FREF – *Volunteer Needed!*