



Brevard Federation of Teachers Retired Chapter News "Retired, Not Expired"

Volume 29, Number 2
Nov, 2024

President's Message

--Anne Marie Monteparo

Election day is upon us! This election is an opportunity to stand up for public education and our students. Whether you vote early, by mail, or on Election Day, every vote counts. Please be an informed voter on November 5th! Read and study your sample ballot and DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! Voting is your right and your power!

I want to thank all our members who attended last month's BFT-R political luncheon. For those members who could not attend, our speakers were eight candidates who are running for office in this year's election!



L to R: Vinnie Taranto – Democrat- County Commissioner District 5
Sandy Kennedy- Democrat – US House Representative Brevard County District 8
Bryan Bobbitt – Democrat- County Commissioner District 1
Vance Ahrens- Democrat- FL State Senate District 19
Yvonne Minus – Democrat- County Commissioner District 3
Juan Hinojosa- Democrat- FL House Representative
Joanne Terry – Democrat- FL House Representative District 31
Ava Taylor-School Board District 4- Nonpartisan

Many thanks to these candidates who shared some background information, explained to our members why they have chosen to run and what they hope to accomplish for our citizens if they are elected.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on November 7th. Also please join us on our next field trip to The Pritchard House on November 12th.

"The best way to predict your future is to create it." — Abraham Lincoln



Next Meeting--Thur, Nov. 7, 2024

1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge

11:30 Brown bag lunch

12:00 Business meeting

12:30 Speaker: Travis Payne, financial advisor

BFT-R will provide drinks, dessert & paper products

Our speaker for November, Travis Payne, is an independent financial advisor with BENCOR and co-founder of Payne Financial Group. His office is about a block from the BFT office.

Through the BENCOR partnership, Travis specializes in helping teachers and their families navigate the road to a successful retirement. He enjoys giving clients peace of mind and strategies needed to help enhance their financial freedom.



Membership News

--Sheila Cootes

We're very happy to welcome **Diane C. Sartore** as a new member and as a **LIFE** member. Diane taught physics and chemistry at Titusville High School. She lists launch support, Florida's environment, her family, and electing pro-education candidates (who actually know how education works) as her interests. **WELCOME, Diane!**



The following are on the **2024-25 "Honor Roll"** (those members who have paid their 2024-25 dues since the last newsletter): **Marilyn Bollo (who is now a LIFE member), Carolyn Bruce, Gary Castner, Altamese Davis, Teri Delgado, Cindy Donovan, Judith Doyle, Lonnie Jean Ford, Sheila Hammett, Kathryn Harbaugh, Rita Hewett, Bonita Holland, Nancy Johnson, Gerald Jones, Kurt Kaufman, Deborah Keys, Mary Krause, Rosalie Larruscain, Richard Ley, Anne Marie Monteparo, Barbara Morse, Craig and Tina Newman, Fern Patton, Ann Perrine, Nancy Rhodes, Eileen Schaap, Geneva Swilley, Lance Wallace, Dicque Walz, Linda Wells, Sally White, Jennifer Whiting, Kathy Whitehead and Cynthia Woznicki.**

Life membership is \$400. We (BFTR) will pay your local dues the year you become a "life member." Save \$46 per year (plus the \$30 we "give" you for that first year's local dues). We will be glad to accept the \$400 amount in two or three (your choice) installments.

Membership questions? Just call or text (321) 427-7808 or e-mail (scootes@earthlink.net)

Holiday Lunch 2024

On **December 5th** at 11:30 BFT/R will be getting together at Tuscany Grill in the Avenues of Viera for our yearly Holiday Luncheon.

The choices are:

Salmon Acropolis – "60 South" Salmon sautéed with artichokes, red peppers and sun-dried tomatoes, in lemon-white wine butter, served over fettuccine.

Eggplant Rollatini - Thin sliced battered eggplant stuffed with a garlic ricotta blend, baked and topped with mozzarella and served over spaghetti and marinara.

Lasagna - Pasta sheets layered with ground sirloin, ricotta and mozzarella cheeses and Italian herbs, baked in our homemade ragout and covered with melted mozzarella.

Chicken Marsala - Tender chicken breast served with sauteed mushrooms in a Marsala and light cream sauce, served over angel hair.

Mediterranean Salad - Mixed greens, hearts of palm, red onion, olives, artichoke hearts, tomatoes, and feta cheese with Greek dressing (with or without grilled chicken).

The lunch includes bread, house salad, soda or tea and a cannoli for dessert.

The cost is \$22/person. BFT/R is paying the tax and gratuity.

We are limited to 38 people. The first 38 to RSVP and send in their payment will have a spot. **We need at least 20 people in order to reserve the room.**

RSVP by Nov. 15 to Lin Herz by text at 321-960-8104 or email lin32905@gmail.com

Send in your payment **check made out to BFT/R** to:

Anne Marie Monteparo
1118 Wild Flower Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32940



Important things you should know about Amendments 3 and 4 on the Florida Ballot

Did you know that only Amendments 3 and 4 on the ballot were citizens' initiative amendments and all the others were placed on the ballot by the Florida legislature? This means that about a million and a half citizens of Florida signed a petition to get Amendments 3 and 4 on the ballot.

Governor Ron DeSantis, who opposes those amendments, has been using taxpayer funds to fight those amendments and there are numerous lawsuits in process and being filed against this. Sen. Jason Pizzo, who may be the likely candidate for governor in 2026, will file a court order against the State of Florida for allegedly misusing taxpayer dollars to fund an advertisement opposing a ballot initiative legalizing recreational marijuana.

In other words, for supposedly using Floridians' money to campaign against the citizen-led referendum, called Amendment 3.

Sen. Pizzo, the incoming Senate Minority Leader, said in a text message. "There is no appropriation for FDOT to spend money." Politico reported that Smart and Safe Florida, the organization involved in getting Amendment 3 on the November ballot, has sent cease and desist letters to 54 TV stations running the ad, calling it critically-timed, state-funded political "propaganda", and that FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) has been paying for commercials distributing false information about marijuana use and car crashes as political service announcements.

The ACLU also filed a case concerning Amendment 4, which would overturn the six-week abortion ban, which alleged that the state was running a taxpayer-funded misinformation campaign and allowing state officials to use public resources for a political campaign, which is restricted in Florida law. The case focused on a separate provision of the Constitution concerning the people's political power.

As a Taxpayer you should know that tax funds have been used to fight against what the taxpayers of Florida are fighting for. That is not only just plain wrong, but also a misuse of those funds and illegal.

Watch what happens.

Election Day: November 5th, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Early Voting for the 2024 General Election
Monday, October 21, 2024 - Saturday, November 2, 2024

Voter Information:

Brevard Supervisor of Elections: Information for Brevard voters including early voting sites, candidate information & financial reports, check your mail ballot status, and view your sample ballot. <https://www.votebrevard.gov>



The League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVFL) is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major policy issues, and advocating for legislative changes and policies for the public good. <https://lwvfl.org/>

Informed Voters' Guide to the Amendments gives a short synopsis of each amendment & tells who supports or opposes each one. <https://floridaamendmentguide.com/>

VOTE411 is a League of Women Voter's owned website that is committed to provide voters with "one-stop-shop" non-partisan information for both general and state-specific elections. VOTE411 includes answers to many voting questions.

<https://www.vote411.org/florida>

Field Trip

--Lin Herz

On November 12th we'll be touring the historic Pritchard House in downtown Titusville at 11:00. The Queen Anne style home has been restored almost exactly as it was in 1891, when it was built by Captain James Pritchard. The tour (upstairs and downstairs) is a little over an hour.

The Pritchard House is on the U.S. Register of Historic Places. After our tour of the house, the group will decide if we want to tour the beautiful gardens, and then go to lunch.

The cost of the tour is \$10. **Please send your checks, made out to BFT/Retired to Anne Marie Monteparo by November 7th, or bring it to our meeting on November 7th.** If you bring it to the meeting, please put it in an envelope with your name and cell phone number.

Anne Marie Monteparo
1118 Wild Flower Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32940

For more information contact Lin: 321-960-8194, lin32905@gmail.com

Read, Recycle, and Reward Program

--Rita Hewett

Thank you BFTR for sponsoring our book program. Your financial assistance has helped us buy storage bags, books, stuffed animals, and cleaning/repair supplies. Although we have a core of dedicated workers, we could really use some additional volunteers from our membership. There are several ways to help and we know that many hands make light work! Please consider joining us in this very worthwhile project.

In October we delivered materials to one central area school. A total of 247 students were served: 1st Grade - 77; Kindergarten - 84; Pre-K - 82; Ex. Ed. - 4. Each student was given 2 books for a total of 494 books distributed. In addition, each student was provided with a stuffed animal or related toy as a book buddy along with a parent letter (written in both English and Spanish) with helpful reading tips.

Students are often supplied with extra items including bookmarks for 1st graders, tissue holders for kindergarten students, small figurines for pre-K students, and small Styrofoam objects for Ex. Ed. students to decorate.

The holidays are coming and it is a great time to make reading a fun and generational effort. Give books as gifts this season and add a toy or item that relates to the book. This will foster extended learning and enjoyment. Encourage your grandchildren and other young children to read more books about the seasons and holidays. Read the instructions for a holiday recipe and make a delicious dessert together. Also, remember that if your family has gently used books they would like to pass on to others, please consider donating them to our BFTR book program.

For additional information, contact Rita Hewett at rmhewett@yahoo.com or text (321) 720-3683.



We participated in a Trunk or Treat to give away our non vetted books. About 90% of our 4 full tubs of books were taken. We will give the rest away at a holiday parade.



Congratulations to our 2024 Innovative Grant Winners!

FEA-Retired funds two \$150 Innovative Grants for each district. The BFT-R Executive Board voted to fund nine additional grants for \$150 each.

Winners of the FEA-Retired Innovative Grants are:

Christine Bell, 2nd grade teacher at Meadowlane Primary School

Christine will use the funds to purchase individual math manipulatives for her students. 29% of her students are English Language Learners who will benefit significantly from tactile experiences.

Jennifer Capayas, 1st grade teacher at Sabal Elementary School

The funds will be used to purchase materials to implement a multisensory process to enhance decoding and encoding skills, as well as improve proficiency with high-frequency words and sentence dictation.

Recipients of BFT-R Funded Innovative Grants are:

Tonya Bandy, 1st grade teacher, South Lake Elementary School

Michael Broud, Automotive Technology teacher, Heritage High School

Melissa Cole, Kindergarten teacher, Enterprise Elementary School

Michelle Conner, Kindergarten teacher, Enterprise Elementary School

Christina Hoolihan, Grade 3-6 Theater Club teacher, Sunrise Elementary

Jean Maccione, PreK ESE teacher, Itinerant

Brittany Meeks, High School Science Teacher, Palm Bay Magnet High School

Theresa Smith, English Language Learner-Reading teacher, Endeavour Elementary School

Caitie Walters, Pre-K ESE Teacher, Mims Elementary School

Volunteer Hours

Until further notice, if you email your volunteer hours, send them to **Anne Marie Monteparo** at amonteparo@cfl.rr.com Please put “volunteer hours” in the subject line. You can also write in your volunteer hours on the sign in sheet at our next meeting.

Dues are due in October

--\$30 for life member

--\$76 for non-life members

Make check payable to BFTR

Pay Sheila Cootes at the next meeting or mail it to her using the form on page 5.





Brevard Federation of Teachers-Retired Chapter News

OFFICERS

CALENDAR

<p>President: Anne Marie Monteparo amonteparo@cfl.rr.com</p> <p>Co-Vice-Presidents: Nancy Rhodes nanr1871@gmail.com Jonathan Schuman 321-213-7808</p> <p>Co-Secretaries: Linda Guiles lindag315@aol.com JayAnn Preston jayannpreston@yahoo.com</p> <p>Treasurer: Susan Vincent snv1@cfl.rr.com</p> <p>Membership Chair: Sheila Cootes 427-7808</p> <p>Sunshine Coordinator: Eva Slaughter 724-0702</p> <p>Program Coordinator: Lin Herz lin32905@gmail.com</p> <p>Phone tree: Rita Gynan fgynan@cfl.rr.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Nancy Johnson nanjoh99@gmail.com</p>	<p>Thur, Nov. 7 - BFT-R meeting at BFT Office 1007 Florida Ave, Rockledge -11:30 Brown bag lunch -12:00 Business meeting -12:30 Speaker: Travis Payne, financial advisor</p> <p>Next meeting - February 6, 2025</p>
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Membership Application

I want to join BFT/R for the 2024-2025 school year and receive membership benefits. Enclosed please find a check payable to BFT/R for:

New Member

___ Annual dues \$76.00
___ Lifetime dues \$400.00
(state and national)

Renewing Member

___ Annual dues \$76.00 (For non-life members)
___ Local dues for Lifetime members **\$30 each year**
___ Lifetime dues \$400 (BFTR pays local dues 1st year)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Former School _____ Subject /Grade Level _____

Interests _____

Signature _____

Please complete this form and mail it and your check to **Sheila Cootes, 3737 Sunward Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32953.**