

The Publication Dedicated to Retired Florida Educators & School Personnel



Volume 52, Issue 2
Summer 2025

FREA BULLETIN



Harriett Jenkins
FREA President

Dear Fellow FREA Members,

Thank you for making the **2025 Convention a glowing success!** Fire and Ice: Lighting the Way, Freezing the Moment was more than a Convention theme—it became a lived experience, thanks to your energy, support, and spirit. From our dynamic Keynote Speaker to the breakout session facilitators, from team-building activities to the DJ, food, and trivia fun, every detail came together because you showed up and made a difference.

Welcome to fiscal year 2025-2026! Our **new FREA Theme** is “Each One, Reach One — Together We Thrive!” As we turn the page and shift to a new fiscal year, our focus continues with rebuilding and strengthening our membership with intentionality. Each One, Reach One means:

- **Reach out** to a retired educator who’s not yet a member.
- **Reconnect** with someone who’s stepped away from involvement.
- **Recruit new life** into our Units through personal invitations.

Together we thrive when **every member** plays a role in keeping FREA growing and thriving. Our strength is in our connections!

Continued on page 2

FREA Calendar 2025

June 2-6	Office Closed
June 30	End of Fiscal Year
June 30-July 4	Office Closed
August 13-14	FREF Meeting-Ocala
August 20	Executive Committee Meeting-Zoom
August 21	FREA Board Meeting-Zoom
Sept 1	Labor Day—FREA Office Closed
Sept 22-24	Rosh Hashana
Oct 1-2	Yom Kippur
November 16	Florida Retired Educators Day
Nov TBD	Executive Committee Meeting
Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving-Office Closed

For more calendars [Please click Here](#)

2nd Notice to FREA Members

FREA has gone digital. From now on, if you have an email on file with us, you will receive the FREA Bulletin only in your email inbox. (You may request a hard copy from the Office. info@frea.org)

For those members with no email, they will still receive a hard copy in their mailbox.

IF you have not renewed your FREA Membership through FREA or your FREA Unit, it is time! [Click here](#) for online renewals or to download renewal form.

FREA Executive Committee

President	Harriett Jenkins St. Lucie CREA HarriettMJenkins@aol.com
President-Elect	Carrie Frye Seminole CREA cfrye@att.net
State Director	Linda Stephens Polk II REA lindawest0552@icloud.com
Secretary	Melanie Waite Santa Rosa CREA melanie7896@gmail.com
Treasurer	Gayle Hodges Orange CREA gayle.hodges1991@gmail.com
Executive Committee Rep. 1-5	Donna Harper harper2paint@gmail.com
Executive Committee Rep. 6-10	Pat Watkins patdanwat@msn.com
Ex-Officio	
FREA Executive Director/ Newsletter Editor	Anne Fagan anne@frea.org

President Continued from page 1

FACT #1: Due to current financial realities and the need to preserve resources, **Convention 2026 will be held virtually on May 26 – 28** live via Zoom. This decision is strategic and timely; it will allow FREA to:

- **Eliminate** venue, travel, food, and hotel expenses
- **Reduce** registration costs for members
- **Increase** accessibility for those with health or mobility concerns

Despite being virtual, you can still look forward to Engaging speakers, Awards, Prizes, Informative sessions, Interactive fun, Drawings, Officer Trainings, Newcomers Celebration, Vendors, Professional Development, Attendance awards, Chat & Chew rooms, Fun, and more! We are making HISTORY! Plan to attend! Stay tuned for more information in the fall.

FACT #2: FREA has long followed a three-year grace period for members who do not pay dues. At the end of that period, which fell during this current administration—nonpaying members were purged from our rolls. Unfortunately, this process led to a noticeable drop in current membership statewide.

Combined with post-COVID challenges, including health issues, aging, disabilities, the demise of members, and unforeseen circumstances beyond human control, this has significantly impacted both our membership numbers and our financial health.

OUR VISION = OUR SOLUTION: Unswervingly, we each run a **race** - but our success hinges not on individual strides alone, but on the unwavering strength of our collective membership. Together, we advance – not simply as participants, but as a unified force committed to **purpose, progress, and possibility**. Our strategic action plans include:

- **A statewide membership drive** under the “Each One, Reach One” initiative
- **Enhanced communication and outreach support** for local Units
- **Cost-saving efforts like** the virtual 2026 Convention
- **New fundraising strategies** to supplement potential declining revenue

As your President, I remain fully committed to leading us forward with transparency, integrity, and purpose. Join us as we run hand in hand and approach the finish line together using research-based, proven strategies that will guide us toward sustainable growth and long-term success. **Together**, we've built an incredible foundation—and now, **together**, we will continue to rise with renewed purpose and VICTORY! Just Watch!

Harriett Jenkins, FREA President



President Jenkins with her husband Elvin at the Wednesday night Gala.



In 2024, FREA Members Donated Over \$8 Million Dollars of Volunteer Hours to the State of Florida.

Each year FREA members choose their District Volunteers of the Year (VOY). These 10 people represent their District's volunteers at Convention.

From l-r: Phyllis Omilak, State Volunteer Services Chair; D2 VOY, Phyllis Simmons; D9 VOY, Judith Walters; D4 VOY, Frank Pifer; D8 VOY Perry Blocker; D5 VOY, Bettye Pittman; D6 VOY, Cecelia Solomon; D1 VOY, Barbara Beck; FREA President, Harriett Jenkins.

Dear Fellow FREA Members,

How wonderful to see so many of you at the FREA State Convention in May. It was particularly heartwarming to witness participants enjoying the activities that had so skillfully been organized by President Harriet Jenkins, Executive Director Anne Fagan and their many helpers. The President's theme of Fire and Ice: Lighting the Way, Freezing the Moment was colorfully displayed and depicted in all aspects of the convention. In addition to being a joyful occasion, meaningful sessions and business prevailed. Now we move on to the planning of the next convention which will be virtual. Your involvement and support will be vital to its success.

A special note of thanks to the State Committee Chairs who prepared comprehensive reports of their respective committee's annual accomplishments. Even though time did not adequately allow for oral reporting, the success of each committee was duly noted. The commitment and dedication of each chair is greatly appreciated. Kudos on your accomplishments.

A huge thank you to Dr. Phyllis Omilak, Volunteer Services Chair, and Joe Flanagan, Parliamentarian/Bylaws Chair, for your unwavering allegiance to carrying out the duties of your respective committees. As you resign from your position of committee chair, we wish you well and look forward to your continued active participation in FREA. You are appreciated!

A warm welcome to the newly appointed chairs: Asonja Corbett, Parliamentarian, and Dr. Monica Johnson, Volunteer Services. We look forward to the leadership and expertise you will provide in this new role. Please know that you have a strong support team to assist you. Not only will the outgoing chair provide guidance, but board members and the FREA Office will also assist you. Do not hesitate to ask questions. Feel free to contact me anytime.

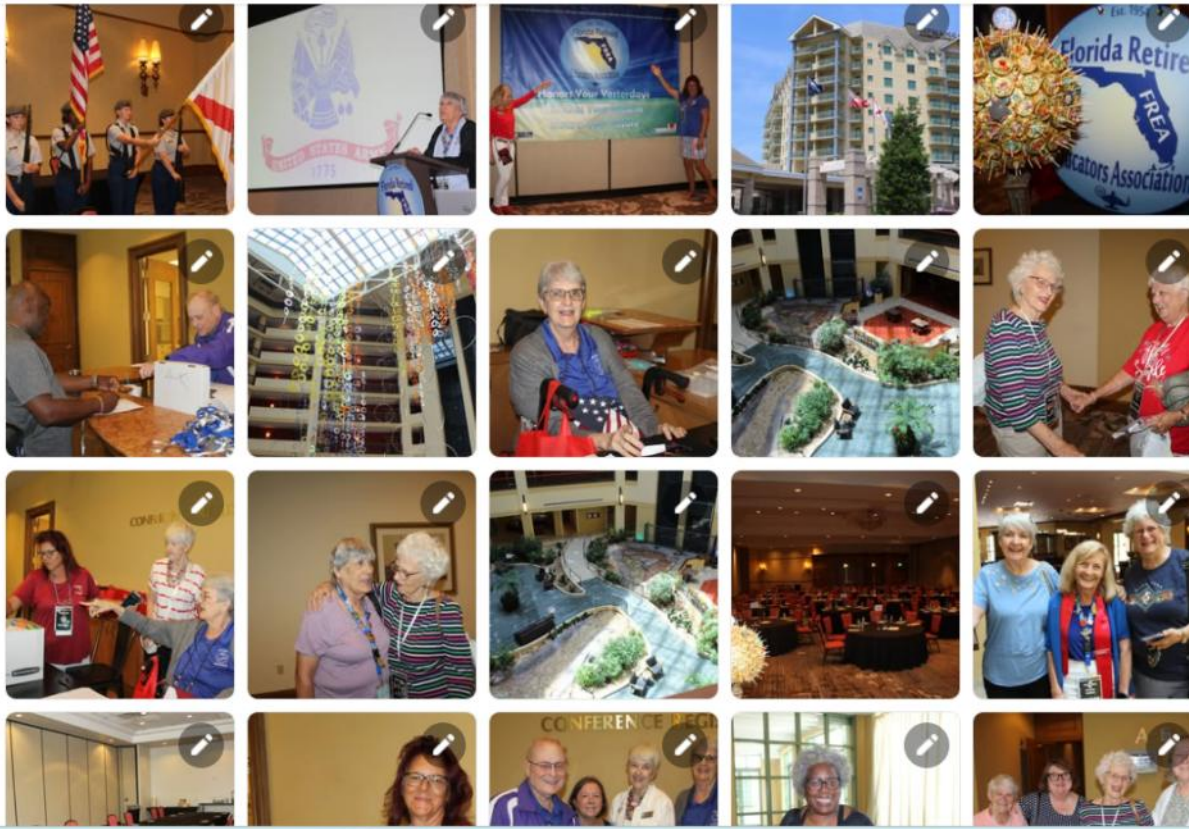
Unit Presidents, we encourage you to invite AMBA representatives to speak at your unit meetings. They are available to work with you on recruiting options. Call on them. If you need contact information, I will happily provide it.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer. *Carrie*

Carrie Frye FREA President-Elect/Benefits Chair cfrye@att.net



**Carrie Frye
FREA President-
Elect**



**Let the
2025
Convention
Begin!**

**Want to see
all 700+ full
size photos?
Click Below.**

Go to [https://
www.facebook.
com/
FloridaRetiredE
ducatorsAssocia
tion/photos](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaRetiredEducatorsAssociation/photos)



Karla Brogdon
FREF Chair



FREF Celebrates!

Thanks to the generosity of the FREA membership, the Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF) had a very successful fundraising season. Units were very generous. We had 38 items (money, gift cards, scratch offs, and traditional baskets) donated to our Dollars for Scholars room (Gathering Room) at Convention at the Marriott World Golf Village Renaissance Resort in St. Augustine .

New FREF Scholarships Awarded

(For privacy reasons, students are listed first name, last initial, & unit that submitted the application.)

Mackenzie L.—Charlotte	Madison W.—Manatee
Elaina P.—Lake	Eva L.—Palm Beach
Payton H.—Lee	Chloe S.—Sarasota

For information on the FREF Scholarship for Future Educators [click here.](#)

Marie Grein Practicing Educator Grants

Two Practicing Educators were selected to receive the \$1000 Marie Grein Practicing Educators Grant.

Eric Lazenby—Choctawhatchee High School
(Bay County)

Shandel Ramlochan—Olympic Heights High School
(Palm Beach County)

For information on the Practicing Ed. Grant, [click here.](#)

2025 Extravaganza Winners

District Drawings—\$100 Winners

District 1	L. L. Thweatt
District 2	Carson Ealy
District 3	Carlton Middleton
District 4	Ruth Morris
District 5	Daisy Jones Hicks
District 6	Jan Wallis
District 7	Karen Owens
District 8	Marguerita Coon
District 9	Pat Griffis
District 10	Beverly Hoppe

Statewide Drawings

\$200	Karen Owens
\$300	Jody Scruggs
\$500	Dorene Penhalison



AMBA Named Scholarship Continues to Grow

In 2023, FREA's benefits provider AMBA, committed to creating an FREF Named Scholarship by donating \$1000 per year to FREF for a period of ten years. This money is being used to create the AMBA Scholarship, an investment in future educators.

L-r: Lexie Mowery, AMBA; Karla Brogdon, FREF State Chair; Chris Gluck, AMBA.



Build a "They Continue to Care" Legacy for your departed loved one.

When loved ones pass, family members may donate to FREF in their memory. i.e. Include in obituary, "In lieu of flowers, please donate to FREF".

Your loved one's legacy will live on in the Foundation.

Screenshots From Facebook Photo Page



Just Some of the Tuesday Afternoon and Evening Fun-Smiles For Everyone!

So Many Photos—So Little Space—Click the link below to see all 700+!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaRetiredEducatorsAssociation/photos>





Linda Edson
FREA State Legislative
Co-Chair

**FREA...
...Keeping an Eagle Eye on
Your Pension!**



Susan Darovec
State Legislative
Co-Chair

Florida Legislators Go Home, Finally

Without making a decision on a COLA for FRS retirees, again, the Florida Legislature finished their arduously long 2025 Session. The good news is, they did not do anything to harm the pension fund. Now is the time to visit your legislators and work on educating them about why reinstating the COLA for the FRS retirees is long overdue and it is time for promises made, promises kept.

FREA Legislative Priority #3: Advocate health and welfare issues for seniors that will ensure retirement with dignity (empowering people to choose how they live as they age); including, but not limited to, support for Social Security and Medicare Benefits, Health Insurance, Cost Of Living Adjustment, and Affordable and Accessible Housing.

4 Ways the 'One Big Beautiful Bill' Could Change Your Tax Bill

\$6,000 bonus deduction for older adults among key provisions

[By Maya Dollarhide, Updated July 04, 2025](#)

The reconciliation bill signed by President Donald Trump on July 4, one day after it narrowly won final passage in Congress, extends the tax cuts enacted during Trump's first term and implements dozens more changes to the tax code. Here are some of the elements most likely to affect older adults.

No change in income tax rates

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) lowered five of the seven [personal income tax brackets](#), including the top rate, which dropped from 39.6 percent to 37 percent. Those rate reductions were set to sunset at the end of 2025, but the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#), as the measure is widely called, makes them permanent.

The new law also permanently establishes the larger standard deduction that was included in the 2017 legislation but was set to expire after this year. It also increases the 2025 standard deduction from \$15,000 to \$15,750 for an individual taxpayer and from \$30,000 to \$31,500 for a married couple filing jointly.

Bigger deduction for older adults

Americans ages 65 and older can claim an extra standard deduction (\$2,000 for a single filer, \$1,600 per qualifying spouse in a couple) on top of the standard deduction available to all taxpayers who don't itemize. The reconciliation bill adds a 65-plus bonus deduction of \$6,000, through the 2028 tax year.

Unlike the standard deduction, older taxpayers can take this bonus deduction whether they itemize or not.

AARP [supported the provision](#), saying it would help offset the [taxes many Social Security recipients owe](#) on their benefit payments. The new deduction "delivers tax relief at a time when many older Americans are living on fixed incomes while facing rising costs," Nancy LeaMond, AARP's chief advocacy and engagement officer, wrote in a [June 29 letter](#) calling on Senate leaders to back the bonus deduction.

Who qualifies? Individuals with incomes of up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 for spouses filing jointly) can subtract the full \$6,000 from their taxable income. The deduction phases out at higher income levels, and you can't claim any of it if you earn more than \$175,000 (\$250,000 for a couple).

For example, in 2025 a 65-plus married couple with a combined income of \$120,000 can take the standard deduction (\$31,500 for joint filers), plus the existing age-related addition (\$3,200), plus the new bonus (\$6,000 each), reducing their taxable income by \$46,700.

Deduction for car loans

...The new law allows borrowers to deduct up to \$10,000 in car loan interest payments for the next four tax years.

There are a couple of caveats. First, the vehicle must have undergone final assembly at a U.S. factory. Second, eligibility is tied to income: If you earn more than \$100,000 (individual) or \$200,000 (couple filing jointly), the deduction tapers off by \$200 for every \$1,000 of additional income. If you are a single filer earning **(4Ways...)**

\$120,000, for example, you can deduct \$6,000 of car loan interest.

SALT deduction

The 2017 tax law introduced a \$10,000 cap on the amount of state and local tax (SALT) payments people could deduct from their federal taxes. The new law temporarily increases the threshold to \$40,000 for taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income below \$500,000.

The provision could provide significant savings for homeowners who live in states and communities with high property taxes and property values. Older Americans are more likely to be in this group: While 63.1 percent of all U.S. adults own their homes, the rates rise to 75.7 percent of people ages 55 to 64 and 79 percent of those 65 and older, according to a [Bankrate review](#) of Census Bureau data.

The SALT deduction cap will increase by 1 percent a year until 2030, when, under the new law, it reverts to \$10,000.

Other tax provisions, while not directly affecting individuals' tax bills, could have important economic ramifications for [family caregivers](#) and lower-income homeowners. These include:

Enhanced business tax credit for paid family leave. The new law extends and expands provisions of the 2017 measure that benefit people caring for ailing loved ones, via tax credits for employers that [offer paid family and medical leave](#).

The credit, which was set to expire at the end of 2025, is now permanent. In addition, employers can now offer it to workers after six months of employment; previously, the minimum service requirement was a year.

The expanded credit provides "important support to employers whose workers are juggling jobs and caregiving responsibilities," LeaMond wrote in her June 29 letter.

Expanded tax credits for low-income housing. According to a [May 2025 AARP survey](#), nearly 4 in 5 adults ages 50 and older support tax credits to encourage investment in housing for low- and moderate-income households. The new law expands the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, a federal incentive for developers to build and renovate affordable housing.

Among other steps, the law extends an increase in federal allocations to the states for disbursing the credits and makes it easier for builders and investors to qualify. "With a growing number of older adults struggling to find safe and affordable housing, these investments are timely and essential," LeaMond wrote.

Virtual Presentations Available

Looking for a Virtual Presentation for your Meeting?

Bob is here to help!

Health and Wellbeing

Brain Health - It's never too late to focus on your brain health! In this session you will learn about the six pillars of brain health, activities that support brain health, and hopefully inspire you to make life changes.

Downsizing and Decluttering: You Can't Take It with You - Having too much stuff can impede people from relocating or getting health care into their homes. This engaging presentation explores why stuff is so important for some people and teaches practical, easy-to-follow tips on downsizing and decluttering. Learn how to get started!

Medicare 101 - This is an overview of the different parts of Medicare, coverage and costs, and choices of Medicare plans.

Social Security - This session explains Social Security benefits, discusses the options for when to claim your retirement benefits, covers implications of working while collecting benefits, and the longevity of Social Security.

Financial Security

Fraud – the ugly side of AI - Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here today and rapidly expanding across society. AI has great potential to improve humanity in medicine, education, research, and global connectivity. AI has an ugly downside which is misinformation, disinformation, and fraud. In the future, we will have great difficulty separating fake from reality. This session is a brief look at AI and the potential for fraud.

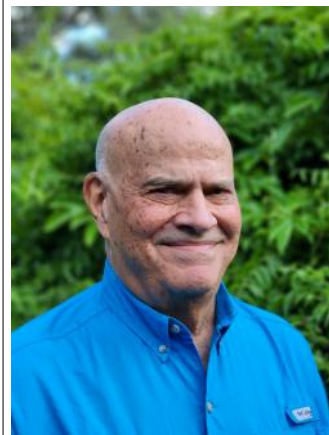
Fraud – Cryptocurrency the New Frontier - Cryptocurrency fraud is growing in the digital age. Scammers use methods like phishing, Ponzi schemes, and fake initial offerings to deceive individuals into transferring their digital assets or investing in non-existent projects. *Cryptocurrency scams take the old scams to a new level of sophisticated technology.* Learn more about this emerging threat in this session.

Understanding Your Credit Rating - Do you understand what your credit rating means? Join us and see how credit ratings are determined, and how to improve your score. We also will discuss how to freeze your credit to prevent scammers from getting fraudulent cards in your name. This session is a mixture of information on credit ratings and protecting yourself from fraud.

Dementia and Alzheimer's

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia - Learn basic information on the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages, risk factors, research and FDA-approved treatments.

10 Warning Signs - What is normal aging? Identify the early warning signs of Alzheimer's versus typical age-related changes, learn how to approach someone about memory concerns, the importance of early detection, and the benefits of diagnosis.



Health Living for Brain and Body

Information and tips on how to live well. We know that what's good for the heart is good for the brain. Join us to learn science-based recommendations for taking care of our brains and bodies and tips on how to make small changes to build healthier habits.

For more information or to schedule an event, contact Bob Busch at

rbusch@aarp.org

Congratulations to FREA's 2025 5th Grade Essay Winners!

It was a family affair at Convention as each of the top 3 5th Grade Essay winners made the (sometimes long) trek to Convention to receive their awards. In the center are the students who wrote the winning essays. From l-r: Gauge Richards, Mark Eubanks, and Brooklynn Barnhardt. Brooklyn, as the first place winner read her essay in front of the enthusiastic audience of Convention attendees. Phyllis Omilak, pictured far right with FREA President Harriett Jenkins, served as the Volunteer Services State Chair and oversaw the contest process. Congratulations to All! [To read the Top 3 Essays Click Here.](#)



The Wednesday Night Gala was filled with Trivia Contest Prizes, AMBA prizes, and lots of surprises.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaRetiredEducatorsAssociation/photos>



President-Elect Carrie Frye, far left, and President Harriett Jenkins, far right, present the 10 Units with the highest percentage of registered members in their District with their 2025 Convention attendance Award.



FREA District Directors (DD) after being sworn in by President Jenkins. From l-r: Harriett Jenkins, FREA President; Deb Gornoski, D3; Emily Berry, D6; Sheila King, D4; Linda Stephens, State Director; Bonita Williams,,D9; Sue Colton, D10; Carrie Frye, President-Elect.



Standing with Keynote Speaker Dr. William Bennett far right, are from left, Elvin Jenkins, Linda Stephens, State Director, and Harriett Jenkins, President.



What could be a better prize for winning the Trophy Contest than your very own Buc-ees Bags? We bought extra for those IRCREA members who could not attend, but happy to share are: Joyce Castle, Deborah Dillon, Kathleen Johnson and Charlotte Jones.

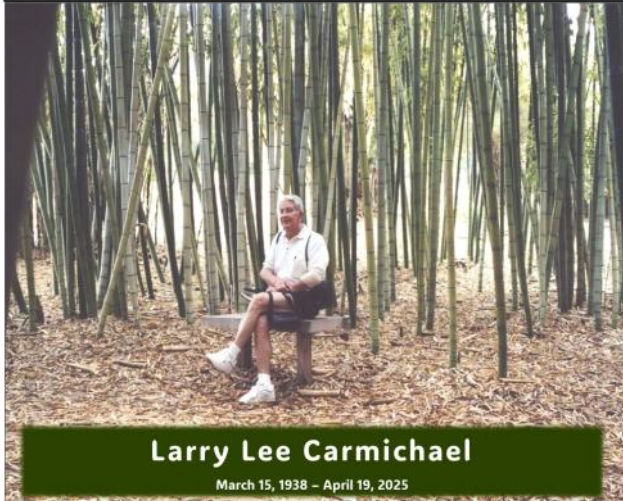
“A” School Grade: Indian River CREA Wins FREA Build Your Own Trophy Contest and Shares Their 1st Place Trophy With School Board

On June 16th, the Indian River County Florida Retired Educators Association presented their State FREA Winning Trophy to their Superintendent and School Board along with a designed check valuing their



community volunteer hours performed by their membership. The theme for our trophy was “Stronger...Together”. By supporting our teachers, school district and community through volunteerism, our district has earned an ‘A’ Grade from the State for 2 consecutive years. We are hoping to maintain ‘A’ status again this year. By presenting our trophy and check, our association shared how proud we are of the District’s dedication and commitment to providing our students and their families with quality public education.

If every morning, you can find a reason to say,
 "Yes, it's going to be a beautiful day."
 And every day, you find a reason to say,
 "Yes, it is a beautiful day."
 And every night, you find a reason to say,
 "Yes, it was a beautiful day."
 Then one day, you'll look back and easily say,
 "Yes...It was a beautiful life." *Doe Zantamata*



Larry was born in Marked Tree, AR and grew up in Blue Mountain, MS. Larry served on the USS Oriskany as a Lieutenant in the US Navy. Larry graduated from Florida State University and received an Education Administration Degree. He was married to Kathleen Hafner. Larry worked for Leon County Schools as a Principal at multiple middle schools and at the Leon County Schools District Office. He was a member of Springtime Tallahassee, 20th Century Krewe, and had a passion for helping others. He also volunteered as a Guardian Ad Litem.

He is survived by a daughter, Mikki Butler, sons Keith Carmichael and Derek Carmichael, Granddaughters Emma Smith, Molly Butler, Hannah Butler, Great Granddaughter Avery Smith, and Sister Celia Forehand.

We say good-bye to our Friend, Mentor, and FREA Legislative Warrior

Larry Carmichael 1938-2025

FREA lost one of its best friends, and warriors for our mission, in April. Larry will be sorely missed by those who had the honor and pleasure of working with him. His thoughtful guidance, quiet humor, and quiet strength set the tone for his decades long tenure here at FREA.

Larry served as FREA President from 2000-2002. He served as the State Legislative Chair during his time with FREA, creating strong relationships in Tallahassee among legislators and the Florida Retirement System (FRS). He was instrumental in securing the Cost of Living Allowance for FRS members. Larry also created the FREA Benefits Committee to guide the organization through the ever more complex world of member Benefits. He more recently worked with other FREA Past Presidents to create the Past Presidents Advisory Council to provide guidance and context to current and upcoming FREA Presidents. His historical knowledge of FREA was highly valued.



Larry presenting former Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer, FL SBA Ash Williams with the FREA Larry Carmichael Appreciation Award for his strong support of FREA.



Larry loved to dance and was always one of the first on the convention dance floor when a big band song came on. He also enjoyed singing. Here he is crooning *Moon River* with FREA 2006-2008 President Ed Ethridge, at Convention 2017.



YOUR FREA MEMBERSHIP UNLOCKS DISCOUNTS & SAVINGS

FREA is working harder than ever to support its members and to provide new and innovative ways to enhance your membership. Part of this initiative is providing discounts and benefits to promote physical and financial health for members in Florida!

My top priority is serving member's needs and fostering the growth of FREA. As AMBA continues to support FREA through our partnership, I eagerly anticipate meeting more of our valued members.

If you have any questions about your benefits or would like AMBA to be part of your next event, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lexie Mowery



Lexie Mowery
AVP of Operations for
East Market

Contact Lexie Mowery to
schedule an AMBA representative
to attend a unit meeting or event.



Lexie.Mowery@amba.info



561-722-1239

In Memory

March 1, 2025 ~ June 30, 2025

First Name	Last Name	City	Unit				
Roberta	Parks	Gainesville	Alachua CREA	Cathy	Thompson	Orlando	Orange CREA
Martha	Copeland	Buford	Bay County REA	Marion	Hennebury	Lake Worth	Palm Beach CREA
Donald	Conkel	Pompano Bch	Broward CREA	James	Short	Loudon	Palm Beach CREA
Bobbie Lou	David	Plantation	Broward CREA	Philip	Sorensen	W Palm Beach	Palm Beach CREA
Mary Ellen	Fowler	Dania Beach	Broward CREA	Shirley Ann	Redd	Lakeland	Polk REA Unit I
Marjorie	Gregg	Tallahassee	Broward CREA	Nadine	Robbins	Bartow	Polk REA Unit I
Jacqueline	Hall	Plantation	Broward CREA	Barbara Sue	Ellis	Winter Haven	Polk REA Unit II
Luther	Henderson	Fort Lauderdale	Broward CREA	Fred	Mc Griff	Lake Wales	Polk REA Unit II
Rosalinda	Horton	Napa	Broward CREA	Jenese	Truelsen	Milton	Santa Rosa CREA
Lizzie	Johnson	Fort Lauderdale	Broward CREA	Katheryn	Alexander	Sanford	Seminole CREA
Ann	Mc Clintock	Plantation	Broward CREA	Betty	Campbell	Maitland	Seminole CREA
Rosemary	Mc Garry	Hollywood	Broward CREA	Viola	Menefee	Sanford	Seminole CREA
Juli	Patten	Plantation	Broward CREA	Lynne	Blackwood	Palm Bay	South Brevard REA
Mary	Perfect	Plantation	Broward CREA	Katie	Sistar	St Petersburg	S. Pinellas CREA
Martha	Pipes	Boca Raton	Broward CREA	Andrew	Hosie	Port St Lucie	St. Lucie CREA
Phyllis	Bolin	Pine Ridge	Citrus CREA	Lillian	Spyies	Warner Robins	Sumter CREA
Karen	Janota	Lecanto	Citrus CREA	Josephine	Strong-Simons	Bushnell	Sumter CREA
Ruth	Strickland	Crystal River	Citrus CREA	Lucile	Holder	Tampa	W Hillsborough REA
Willmonteen	Smith	Old Town	Dixie CREA	Phoebe	Murrell	Graceville	West Jackson REA
Claudette	Elps	Jacksonville	Duval CREA	Joann	Black	Orange City	West Volusia CREA
Betty	Jones	Plant City	E Hillsborough REA	Ann	Gerard	Deland	West Volusia CREA
Maurine	Knight	Quincy	Gadsden CREA	Carolyn	Litke	Fort Worth	West Volusia CREA
Fannie	Smith	Quincy	Gadsden CREA	Members at Large			
Russell	Lethridge	Lake Placid	Highlands CREASP	Sharon	Gardner	Haines City	
Larry	Carmichael	Tallahassee	Leon/Wakulla REA	Donald	Matcovich	Maryville	
Mamie	Franklin	Madison	Madison CREA	Robert	Nicoletti	Lakeland	
Alice	Brenneman	Sarasota	Manatee CREA	Donna	Rushing	Tampa	
Roberta	Briggs	Bradenton	Manatee CREA	We Say Good-Bye: Former District 8 Director			
Jeffrey	Schneiderman	Bradenton	Manatee CREA	Catherine Trapp Thompson			
Susan	Burrows	Stuart	Martin CREA	October 25, 1951-April 24, 2025			
Rosa	Jones	Fernandina Bch	Nassau CREA	A second generation Orlandoan, Catherine (Cathy)			
Patricia	Tiggett	Palm Harbor	North Pinellas REA	was born in and passed away peacefully at Orlando			
Frank	Johnson	Winter Park	Orange CREA	Health (formerly Orange Memorial Hospital). She was			
Nancy	PelserBorowicz	Orlando	Orange CREA	predeceased by her husband, Tommy Thompson,			



She is survived by her sister, Anne Trapp Shirley (late Henry Shirley), Maitland and her brother, James Trapp (Sandy), Archer, as well as many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and cousins who were all important to her.

Cathy graduated from Edgewater High School and LaGrange College, as well as receiving a Masters degree at UCF. She retired from the Orange County School System after teaching in a classroom and serving as a Curriculum Resource Specialist and Vice Principal in numerous schools. She was a dear friend and outstanding educational professional, positively impacting thousands of children over her long career, and providing stellar educational leadership at OCPS. Her legacy is far reaching.

She was an active member of Orange County Retired Educators, The Rosalind Club, LaGrange College Alumni and First Presbyterian Church, Orlando. Cathy served on the Florida Retired Educators Executive Committee as FREA District 8 Director from 2018 to 2022.



Florida Retired Educators
Association
8950 9th St. N #105
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**We are a Non-Partisan,
Non-Political organization.
We support those who
support our Mission, and
include all voices in our
membership.**

**All FREA Members, General
or Associate, regardless of
which state they come from,
may utilize FREA Benefits.**

**There is strength in
numbers, and FREA needs
YOU to join to make our
voices stronger together!
www.FREA.org/AboutUs**

**Over 700 photos of the 2025 Convention are available
on the [FREA Facebook page](#). Our thanks to (l-r)
Kathleen Reitz and Janet Ford for their terrific work!**

**FLORIDA RETIRED
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**
(727) 577-6400
www.FREA.org — info@frea.org
**Bulletin submissions sent
to:**
info@frea.org
or text photos to
727-310-7035

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editor has exercised the
privilege of editing Bulletin material where
space was limited or when similar
information was received.

FREA State Office

Executive Director	Anne M Fagan
Bulletin Editor -	anne@frea.org
Membership	
Accounting Specialist	Diane Lynch
	diane@frea.org

