

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

MARCH-APRIL 2024

OFFICERS:

President — Cheri Brodeur
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VP & Scholarship — Rick Reed
jostreed@bellsouth.net

Secretary — Sue Reed
jostreed@bellsouth.net

Treasurer — Larry Bachle
lawrencebachle@gmail.com

Volunteer Services— Karen Philman
circle17k1p@yahoo.com

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

Sunshine & Shadows—Cora Lord
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Schedule of Events:

- MAY 14-16 — FREA CONVENTION
- MAY 20 — ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- 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.



Congratulations to our \$500 Scholarship Winner **Evelyn Frazier!** We wish her well in her future career in education!

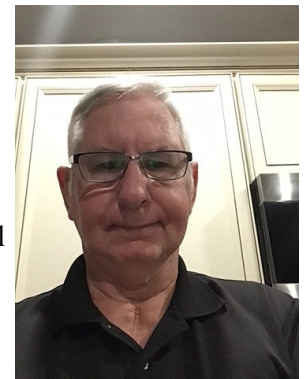
APR

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!



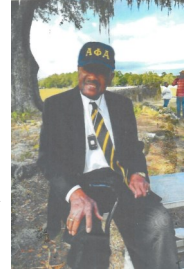
We had two visitors this month—
Lisa Hudson and Adrienne Snyder. Welcome!

L-GREA Activities

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.

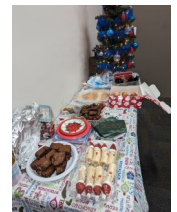


DEC



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.



OCT

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, Paula, and Karen**.

We had a special guest from Levy County schools teacher association...**Kim Hudson**. She talked about issues facing current teachers and how the state voucher program has negatively impacted public education.

Cheri gave a very informative presentation on tips and concerns when traveling overseas. She offered travel books for those who were interested.

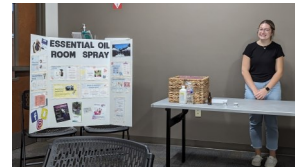
L-GREA Activities cont.

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 **Paula, Rick, Sue,** and **Karen.**

Paula and Rick discussed a spreadsheet she designed and shared with him for collecting and tallying volunteer hours. The program is setup for each person's specific needs.

Our program about essential oils was presented by **Lois Bachle**, the granddaughter of members **Harriet** and **Larry**. It was an excellent and informative message on how to create products and market strategies for her FFA Ornamental Horticulture project.



AUG

This was our planning meeting for the new fiscal year, along with the exchanging of officer materials. **Cheri** took over as president, **Sue** is our new secretary, **Paula** is our legislative & website rep, and **Karen** is VOY coordinator.



Paula, Karen, and **Alphonso** gave a report on the FREA convention in Panama City. Some personal highlights were recognition of Paula as District IV Volunteer of the Year and Alphonso winning one of the \$50 baskets!

Rick gave an update on our presence at the GCSD back to school meeting for personnel. Unfortunately we were unable to get with Levy, but **Sue** sent materials to be distributed to employees.

We welcomed new member **Jerri Lunsford!** Afterwards we enjoyed Cherry Cheese Danish made by Rick.

MAY

Alphonso provided the opening thoughts and led the pledge and God Bless America. **Cheri** gave an update on the legislative bills that passed that affected education and us as retirees.

We finalized plans for the state convention. Items were brought and added to the FREF basket from our unit.

Rick agreed to take our informational packets and pens to the district contact to be distributed to newly retired employees. Hopefully we will be able to acquire some new members through this.



Door prizes were won by Alphonso, Cora, Cheri, Paula, Sue, and Karen. In addition to these, Rick gave a rose from his garden to all of the women members to celebrate Mother's Day.

We held our election of officers for the next two years. Congratulations to the new officers! They are listed on the top left of the front page.