

# Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

## SUMMER 2025

### OFFICERS:

President & Website — Paula Marczynski  
marczip52@gmail.com

VP & Legislative— Cheri Brodeur  
cabrodeur12@gmail.com

Secretary — Sue Reed  
jostreed@bellsouth.net

Treasurer — Larry Bachle  
lawrencebachle@gmail.com

Volunteer Services— Cora Lord  
Cora.lord@icloud.com

Scholarship — Rick Reed  
jostreed@bellsouth.net

Sunshine & Shadows— Karen Philman  
circle17klp@yahoo.com

Devotion—Alphonso Johnson  
alphonsojohnson2016@gmail.com

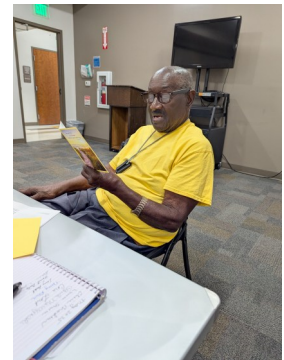
### COME JOIN US!

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.

At our May meeting we celebrated **Alphonso's** 96th birthday!  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



### FREA CONFERENCE 2025

### Schedule of Events:

- JUN & JUL — NO MEETINGS
- AUG — Kickoff planning meeting



**Cora and Paula** represented the unit at the FREA convention. This was our basket contribution for the FREA scholarship fund. It was filled with lots of beautiful and delicious honey-related items.

The time was spent with information-filled sessions like legislative updates on pensions etc, innovative ways to promote our units, trivia night, and awards and recognitions. The Memorial service honored those we have lost over the past year.



This was the trophy we created for the team-building exercise.

## L-GREA Activities

### APR

**Rick** reported that they had three applicants for our local scholarship. He and **Sue** will interview them and select a recipient.

**Gina Geiger**, Gilchrist County School Superintendent, spoke to us about bills pending in the state legislature that impact public schools — especially those impacting rural counties. She also addressed issues ongoing in Gilchrist and her plans for future improvements. We talked with her about the programs available through FREA and emphasized our desire to be educational partners and mentors where needed.

We selected a slate of officers for the next two years who will be installed at the May meeting: President -**Paula Marczynski**, VP & Legislative- **Cheri Brodeur**, Sec - **Sue Reed**, Treas -**Larry Bachle**, Sunshine/Shadows – **Karen Philman**, Vol Serv –**Cora Lord**, Devotion - **Alphonso Johnson**, Scholarship—**Rick Reed**.

Congratulations to Sue Reed who won our Scholarship Quilt Raffle gift card!

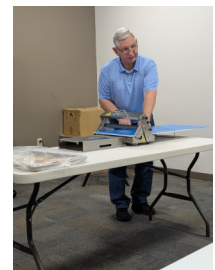


### MAR

Our meeting was short and sweet. **Rick** called the meeting to order in the absence of President **Cheri**. **Larry** reminded us that our dues need to be renewed soon and he still had a few Extravaganza tickets left to purchase.

Rick and Sue reported that no students had submitted applications for the FREF Scholarship by the state deadline, but they would continue to contact school guidance counselors to see if any students were interested in applying for our \$500 local scholarship.

Rick did a presentation on his dough sheeter and explained how it made his pastry baking so much easier. He then passed out samples!



### FEB

Following the call to order, the opening procedures, and committee reports, we discussed the upcoming state convention in May. **Larry** shared information about the extravaganza tickets and several members purchased them. **Paula** was selected as our delegate as **Cheri** is unable to attend. **Cora** will also attend the convention.

Tickets for the T-shirt quilt raffle were distributed. The drawing will be at our April meeting.

Since we had no scholarship applicant this year (which is usually our March program). **Rick** will provide a presentation on his new dough sheeter.

**Alphonso** provided a very interesting presentation on **Stanley Harris**, who was one of the distinguished Tuskegee Airmen. We greatly appreciate his service!

Door prizes were won by Alphonso, Sue, Paula, Rick, Cheri, Karen, Harriet, and Larry.

## L-GREA Activities cont.

### JAN

After our opening procedures and committee reports, **Karen** and **Paula** talked about the District Symposium in Brooksville. They shared pictures, the SWOT poster, and passed around the ribbons we received for the unit. **Rick's** cinnamon rolls were greatly appreciated!



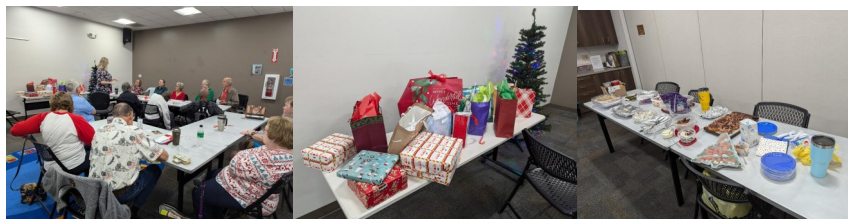
### DEC

Our December meeting was primarily for gift giving and fellowship. We had a nice sized group attend our December meeting.



Scholarship Raffle - \$10 donation  
\$400 Bass Pro Shops gift card  
Drawing December 16, 2024  
Winner need not be present to win

We held the drawing for our Scholarship fundraising raffle. Our lucky winner was **Rick Lawrence!**



### NOV

**Chris Gluck**, our AMBA representative, gave a great presentation on the ways AMBA supports FREA members. He focused on the Passport savings program and how that can be used as an incentive for attracting new members as well as a way for everyone to save money every day. Thank you, Chris, you are welcome back anytime!



### OCT

Due to the absence of the President, VP, and Secretary (**Cheri** was in her home in NC dealing with Hurricane Helene aftermath, and **Rick** and **Sue** were on a cruise) **Paula** chaired the meeting and **Cora** took the minutes. **Alphonso** led the devotionals and pledge, and committee reports were given by **Karen**, **Larry**, **Paula**, and **Cora**.

Fundraiser ideas were discussed. While it was acknowledged that gun raffles are extremely popular in our area, we were cognizant of the negative issue of guns and schools. As a compromise, we decided to raffle off a \$400 Bass Pro Shop gift card so the winner can choose their own item(s). Paula will create the tickets and bring to our next meeting and it will be raffled off at our Dec meeting. We also plan to have another T-shirt raffle in the spring.



**Jon** discussed the possibility of us having an entry in the Veteran's Day parade. He will get the necessary information. Our program was presented by **Fisher Langford**, a student at Bell High School.