



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Larry Carmichael, LWREA President

At the Board of Directors meeting on January 4th, the Board voted unanimously to recommend to the general membership that the annual dues be raised from \$10 to \$15. This vote followed several discussions in prior meetings and a poll presented in our newsletter to the membership. Of those responding to the poll request, 69% were in favor of raising the dues, 28% wanted to keep the dues at \$10 with fund some raising activity, and one person recommended other measures to help balance our budget. The recommendation was announced at the January 10 General meeting, but the proposal will not be presented for vote until the March 6 General meeting. This will give ample time for input and questions prior to the vote. I will work with our Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair to present our financial picture and rationale behind the Board's recommendation at the February General meeting and also include this information in the March Newsletter.

We hope to see you at the General meeting on February 7; our program for that meeting promises to be interesting and very entertaining. Also, be sure to save the date for our March meeting on March 6, 2012.



**Refreshments for February meeting will be provided by members whose last names begin with JKLM You should bring refreshments no later than 1:45 p.m (15 minutes before the meeting starts). If you have questions, call Hospitality Chairman Jerry Gilmore at 575-2410.
THANK YOU.**



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Linda Edson

The Florida Legislative session will begin early this year because of redistricting. Session will begin the week of January 9th. There are three identical bills being introduced that may affect retired teachers, state workers, police and firefighters. Below is a list of those bills and a brief summary of each one:

Senate Bill 1280: Florida Retirement System

GENERAL BILL by Latvala

Florida Retirement System; Revising definitions of the terms "normal retirement date" and "vested" or "vesting"; requiring new employees to, by default, be enrolled in the investment plan; extending the period during which employees may elect to participate in the pension plan; prohibiting certain employees from choosing to move to the pension plan after a certain period, etc.

House Bill 525: Florida Retirement System

GENERAL BILL by Workman; Abruzzo; (CO-INTRODUCER) Pilon

Florida Retirement System; Revises definitions of terms "normal retirement date" & "vested" or "vesting"; revises provisions relating to early retirement benefit calculation to conform to changes made by act; requires new employees to, by default, be enrolled in investment plan; extends period during which employee may elect to participate in pension plan; prohibits certain employees from choosing to move to pension plan after certain period.

Senate Bill 1334: Florida Retirement System

GENERAL BILL by Oelrich

Florida Retirement System; Revising definitions of the terms "normal retirement date" and "vested" or "vesting"; requiring new employees to, by default, be enrolled in the investment plan; extending the period during which employees may elect to participate in the pension plan; prohibiting certain employees from choosing to move to the pension plan after Put ia certain period, etc.

Please write, email or call your representatives asking them to not pass these bills. You can find out who your representatives are by following these few steps:

Go to the House website: www.myfloridahouse.gov
On the menu bar choose "**Representatives**"
Click on "**Find Your Representative**"
Put in your house address, city and zip code.
This will list your House Representative, Senator, Congressional Representative, and US Senators.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

Scholarship Fund	\$445.97
Checking Account	\$1,539.98
24 Month CD	\$3,004.19

Where Are the Germs Hiding?

Gladys F. Caswell, Health Committee Chairperson,

Many researchers now think that commercial disinfectants are not really as effective as they once were; they simply have led to the developments of more resistant strains of bacteria. We must all be of the mindset that a part of being healthy is not just exercising and watching what we eat; keeping a healthy environment is critical, too. Do you know where the most germs are in your bathroom? They're not where you're thinking; but in the sink drain. What to do about them?

Here's how to make a sweet-smelling antibacterial spray, and an easiest-ever tip of dealing with those drain germs-properly.

Pour a cup or two of straight vinegar down your drains. Ordinary vinegar has an 80-99% kill rate for bacteria and viruses. Do this once or twice a week and you're set.

Make this sweet-smelling antibacterial spray to use on toilet seats, countertops, doorknobs, cutting boards-anywhere germs like to lurk. Lavender has been used as a disinfectant and antiseptic for many years. Unlike traditional cleansers and aerosols, lavender water leaves no sticky residue and makes an excellent, natural room freshener and cleanser.

INGREDIENTS FOR LAVENDER WATER

1 cup water

1 teaspoon pure essential oil of lavender

Place water in a spray bottle, add lavender oil and shave vigorously to mix. Spray on surfaces and allow to sit at least 15 minutes, or don't rinse at all. Makes one cup of spray. Keeps indefinitely.



LET'S START "ACTING UP"

The Acting Up Players are a repertory company who hold bi-monthly workshops at Tallahassee Little Theatre, perform community outreach skits, songs and monologues, as well as staging a fully produced show (the Matinee Series) at Tallahassee Little Theatre each year.

Acting Up welcomes new members each fall and spring by inviting participation in acting classes taught by Artistic Director, Naomi Rose-Mock.

Once you have completed the first two levels of the acting classes, you can become a repertory company member with the Players.

Acting Up boasts membership in the Players of over 30 vital and active seniors, who enjoy the group for the fellowship, performance opportunities and grounding in the performing arts that it provides. For more information on becoming involved with Acting Up, or to book a performance by the Players, please contact Naomi Rose-Mock at 879-0294 or Naomi.rosemock@gmail.com. Enjoy the show!





LEON WAKULLA RETIRED
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

1828 Wagon Wheel Cir W.
Tallahassee, FL 32317

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Literacy Committee In Action

Mary M. Spencer Co-chair / Evelyn Florence Co-chair



Thank you LWREA members for the selection of colorful, delightful books that you contributed to the teen moms who are enrolled in the TAPP Program. Committee Members Harriet Hendry, Barbara Montgomery and Mary M. Spencer visited the teen parents program on December 9, 2011. We presented a workshop on the importance of literacy to their babies lives. Harriet Hendry demonstrated using Nursery Rhymes. They were shown a portion of a wonderful video on literacy. They were very responsive when we had question answer time and they were delighted to receive at least three books to take to their child. We as also would like spotlight Harriet Hendry's organization for collecting and contributing hard cover books for the very young children for each of our visits.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Doris Lounette Brown 2/28
Kathy Carmichael 2/24
Maggie Lewis-Butler 2/19
Gail Mosher 2/17
Elaine Padgett 2/9
Irene Perry 2/3
Ella Reed 2/11
Fred Varn 2/9
Rhea Wilson 2/23

5th Grade Essay Contest

Evelyn Florence is spearheading the 5th grade essay contest for 2011-12. Leon County and Wakulla County's 5th Graders and private schools are invited to participate. The deadline for entries is February 10, 2012. The 1st place entry will be awarded a \$100.00 saving bond, the second place entry will receive a \$50.00 saving bond and the third place entry will be awarded a \$25.00 savings bond The winners will be invited to read their Essays at the March 6th meeting please call Evelyn Florence (878-9761) if you would like to help judge the essays. M. Spencer Co-ch
Evelyn Florence Co-chair