



President's Message

By June Townsend

The holidays are definitely upon us. Thanksgiving has come and gone... and the sounds of Christmas carols and holiday music can be heard everywhere you go.

December is an exciting month for LWREA members. At the general meeting December 8th we will have our first Silent Auction of the year and lots of holiday cheer.

On December 15th, we will gather for our second annual Christmas party. You won't want to miss all the fun at this luncheon. Evelyn Florence and her committee have coordinated a wonderful event for us. See more details in this issue about both of these events.

We had a crowd in attendance at the November meeting, despite the very rainy day. For those of you who were unable to attend, Mary Spencer and the Literacy Committee arranged for a very informative program. Godby High School ESE teacher and author, Susan Womble, shared how she became an author and how she selected her subject and characters, as well as her writing process, and the publishing process- for anyone who might be interested in publishing a book. Her books feature students with disabilities in real-life school situations. She brought books to sell and generously donated the proceeds from that day to the LWREA Scholarship Fund.

Health Committee Chairman, Gladys Caswell, distributed a Quick Health Care Reference form to members. Members were encouraged to record personal medical information on it and to store in a plastic bag in the freezer, should they ever need emergency care and not be able to communicate the information. EMTs are trained to check freezers for this information. If you would like a copy of the form, contact Gladys.

We are looking forward to a huge turnout at the December/Holiday meeting and silent auction. Be sure to wear your holiday colors.

December Meeting Program

Presented by: The Fund-raising Committee

Date: December 8, 2009

Place: Envision Credit Union

Time: 2:00 pm

Entertainment: Holiday Music,
Silent Auction, Fellowship



December Program Meeting

By Irene Perry

Our first silent auction for this year will be held at the December 8th General Meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to clear out your closets before the holiday activities begin. We are seeking new, never used, or gently used, items for the auction. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early, so items may be arranged and minimum bids noted on the bid sheets before the meeting is called to order. If you need to drop off items earlier, Santa's helpers will be there as early as 12:30 pm to receive your contributions.

All proceeds from the auction will be divided between the operating funds for LWREA and supporting our local scholarship fund. This is always a very exciting activity and is being coordinated by Irene Perry and School Board member, Maggie Lewis-Butler. Bring plenty of cash and get a head start on your holiday shopping at the LWREA Auction. Just like in a department store, you will be greeted with holiday music and snacks.... However, you will get more for your money at our sale! See you there!

Getting to know you... Nancy Thompson

Born and raised in Tallahassee, I've seen many changes over the past 60 years. Growing up near FSU on Jefferson Street, we could hear the FSU Marching Chiefs practice, as well as music when the FSU circus performed. Ragans Hall and Doak Campbell Stadium now stand where I played as a child. With two educator parents, I chose teaching as a career and had many wonderful mentors, like Dr. Marshall Hamilton, Faye Kirkland, Mrs. Hazel Dupree, and Mr. James Gilchrist who had the confidence to hire me as a young teacher.

Next, I taught at Eglin Air Force Base where I met my husband, Bill. When Bill's service duty was over we moved back to Tallahassee and raised our daughter Margaret Ellen. Mr. John MacElwee hired me to teach 2nd grade at Sealey. Five years were also spent teaching in Killeen, TX. With over 35 years in education, I've had many wonderful parents and children. I finished my career at Crawfordville E.S. from 1987 to 2007. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society has been a very important part of my life for several years, due to the wonderful women with whom I have worked as a state officer. Education has always been the focus of my life as I encouraged and taught children to read. The rest of my life I will enjoy seeing many of the children I have taught over the years.

Refreshments for Dec. 8th Meeting

If your last name begins with G, H, or I, or you are an Executive Board member, the hospitality committee requests you bring refreshments for the December meeting. Plan to arrive no later than 1:45 pm. If you have questions, call Jerry Gilmore at 575-2410. Thank you...we are looking forward to the holiday goodies.



LWREA Christmas Party

By Evelyn Florence

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the 2nd Annual LWREA Christmas Party. It will be held at Julie's Place, 2901 North Monroe Street, on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 @ 11:30am. The room will accommodate 50 people. Bring a friend or spouse if you like. If you want to participate in the gift exchange (optional), bring a gift not to exceed \$10.00. Each person will order their food from the menu.

Many thanks to Fred Zerlin, who spearheaded the 1st LWREA Christmas Party last year. Rhea and Mark Wilson did a great job as emcees. Many positive comments were made about the fun event.

I am requesting that you RSVP to me, Evelyn Florence, if you plan to attend. Also, indicate if you want to help with the party. My cell phone number is 850-566-9761. Hope to see you there!



Financial Statement

By Nanci Hamilton-Hoffman, Treasurer

Checking Balance	\$1863.98
Scholarship Balance	\$773.25
CD Balance	\$3,575.49
Bulk Mail Balance	\$196.00

Literacy Committee News

By Mary Spencer

December 11, 2009, the Literacy Committee will present the first of two workshops scheduled this school year for the Leon County Even Start Family Literacy Program. The participants are teen moms and their children. The program is housed at Lively Technical Center. The workshops that we present are designed to get the young mothers to understand what literacy is, and how important reading, writing and speaking is to a successful life. We give examples of ways the mothers and their young children can have fun with learning. We sometimes use videos, nursery rhymes, songs, puppets and poems, to teach the developmental stages of becoming a reader. **A Child Becomes A Reader**, from the National Institute for Literacy in Washington, DC, with proven ideas from research, is given to all parents. This booklet explains the building blocks of becoming a reader from kindergarten through 3rd grade.

Please donate a book for us to take to the children by our December meeting. I found some wonderful discounted books at Walgreens. Thrift stores are another wonderful source of some good books for kids.

Membership on the Move

Most retired educators do not know LWREA exists! They are unaware of the important contributions we and FREA make in securing their future and community service we provide. Our goal for the next two years is for members to present a 5-10 minute talk at every public school in the Leon and Wakulla Districts on "What is LWREA and Why Education Retirees Should Join." June has created a guide you can use and we will provide you with brochures and other handouts to distribute at the meeting.

Each LWREA member should consider visiting schools they have been associated with and talk to current faculty. The first presentation at Lively Vocational Center was VERY well received. Four members have already signed up for other schools. When you know which school(s) you want to visit, let me know so I can send you contact information, the Presentation Guide and the handout materials. June Townsend and I will be happy to assist you in any way we can. **FUTURE RETIREES NEED THIS INFORMATION!**

Kathy Carmichael, Membership Chairman
877-7618 or kathycarmichael@live.com

Sunshine Notes

From Eddie Moore and Margie Cash

We were all saddened to learn of the deaths of Mary Elizabeth Black on October 19, and of Jacqueline Collier-Pembroke, who passed away November 9. Cards were sent to the families and a contribution made to the FREA Foundation in their names.



Cards and well wishes were sent to several of our members this month who have been affected by illness. Claudia Nelson's sister had a stroke in August. Lottie Tish is improving from an illness and Mark Wilson and Ida Manning have both been hospitalized, but are improving. In early November, Mary Marchant had carpal tunnel surgery. She is home and recuperating. A card was also sent to Maude Greene, now 98 years old, to let her know we were thinking of her. We continue to remember Thelma & Freeman Lawrence; he is homebound and she cares for him.

**"Happy Birthday to You...
Happy Birthday to You...
Happy Birthday dear members..."**



Mary Abner 12/13
Ruth Brokaw 12/08
Sheila Costigan 12/29
Floyd Deterding 12/07
Frances Ferrell 12/17
Pemberton Gaines 12/07
Donna Heald 12/26
John Hutchinson 12/01
Helen Kelly 12/28
Evelyn Presley 12/25
Rosa Rosier 12/16
Victoria Schwartz 12/27
Eugene Scott 12/05
Carrie Sims 12/28
Mary Spencer 12/22
Fay Stanley 12/26
Rosabelle Stevenson 12/26



LEON WAKULLA RETIRED
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

1828 Wagon Wheel Cir W.
Tallahassee, FL 32317

The Book Corner...

By Emily Ruddell

Hot, Flat, and Crowded by Thomas Friedman is a book I recommend everyone read. It is not necessarily "easy" reading but it is important reading. Get a copy, read it, and then pass it along. If you know any English teachers, encourage them to read it in their classrooms. Younger people especially need to be aware of this information -- it is their future. It's about our planet...It's scary and guardedly hopeful. I think it is better than Al Gore's new book because it covers so many issues and shows how they are all connected. Here's a quote from it: "If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change."- if they are toasted properly they are wonderfully crunchy and easy to eat. If you plan to eat them with the shells on, use seeds from the sugar pumpkin. The sugar pumpkin is somewhat smaller than the mega-sized carving pumpkins. The trick? Boil the seeds in salted water first, and then toast them in the oven.

Upcoming Events

December 2

**Board of
Directors
Meeting**

December 8

**General
Meeting/Silent
Auction**

December 15

**Christmas
Party/Julie's
Place**

Editor's Notes

The deadline for articles for the January newsletter is December 11. If you have upcoming events you would like included, send notices to junetownsend@nettally.com.

