

President's Message

By June Townsend

Greetings,

Some mornings I look out the window of my home office, and it is so bright and sunny, I get the feeling spring is right around the corner. Then, I go outside and am always jolted by how chilly it really is. None the less, by the time our March meeting rolls around, I'm sure we'll have had a glimpse of spring and be ready to enjoy some yummy sundaes at the Annual Ice Cream Social.

The March meeting is always so much fun—we make our own sunshine, regardless of the weather. This year it is again combined with our second Silent Auction of the year. The two bi-annual auctions are our primary source of funding for the local scholarships that we award in May. At this meeting, we will also be treated to readings by the winners of the Fifth Grade Essay Contest. Be sure to invite your friends and guests to this month's meeting and carpool if possible.

Special accommodations have been made to help you get your donations upstairs at Envision. When you arrive, members with media carts will meet you at the back door, to assist you with your food and auction items. Be sure to arrive around 12:30 p.m., so the auction items may be set up before 2:00 p.m.

In February we had a very informative presentation given by Dr. Jim Croteau, CEO of Elder Care Services, and one of our own members. He shared information on identifying and meeting needs of seniors, as well as local resources that are available. His agency provides valuable services to our community and is always looking for volunteers in a variety of roles.

Special guests, Deloris Harpool and Valerie Joiner from FAMU, provided information on the upcoming Florida Association of Teacher Educators (FATE) Symposium, to be held April 10 at the new Turnbull Conference Center at FSU. Retired educators are encouraged to participate in the symposium. Information and registration information is available from our website, www.LWREA.com or from Evelyn Florence.

I am looking forward to sharing some ice cream with you in March and introducing the new CEO of Envision, Mr. Darryl Worrell. See you there!

March Meeting
Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction
Date: March 2, 2010
Place: Envision Credit Union
Time: 2:00 p.m.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Larry Carmichael

As of February 4, there have been ten Senate bills related to the Florida Retirement System (FRS) filed for the 2010 Legislative session. Six of these have companion House bills at this time. Three of the bills are about giving further privileges to members of the Special Risk (SR) class (police & firemen who have very strong lobbies): one would give SR classification to specified positions in public acute care hospitals which treat certain patients, and one would give Senior Management classification to specified positions in Capital Collateral Regional Counsel's offices.

One bill (SB - 810) would extend retirement credit to FRS veterans with wartime service and would tack small (1 to 2 tenths of a percent) increases on the required contribution rates to fund these additional benefits. SB - 1078 is a "clean - up " bill to clarify some wording in the statutes, but also to add rules for handling funds in cases where a person changes from the defined contribution to defined benefit plan or vice versa. SB - 650 proposes amending the State Constitution to replace the Attorney General on the State Board of Administration (SBA) with the Commissioner of Agriculture. SB - 1530 proposes requiring the SBA to create and audit committee; establish specified investing policies; include specific information in its quarterly reports, and other requirements. The SBA already does all these, so I don't know why this bill was filed.

The remaining bill (SB - 660) and its companion bill (HB- 413) propose to close the defined benefit (pension) retirement plan to all new employees effective January 1, 2011. These bills are far reaching in impact, and are currently the only bills of major concern to FREA. How likely passage of the proposal depends on many factors not yet openly in discussion for the session. But, we really need to alert our legislators every chance we get that closing the pension plan is bad for teachers and for the state of Florida in general.

Many new developments are expected during the month of February, and we'll attempt to carefully monitor these.

2010 SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION

By Laura Morris, Chair

Our Scholarship Committee met to select a candidate to nominate for the state scholarship. The committee selected a student from Lincoln High School (Devon Lynn) to nominate for the Florida Retired Educators Foundation. She has an excellent academic record, is involved in community service and has a passion for sharing music with students. She has aspired to be a teacher since her elementary school years. Her goal is to be a music educator in the elementary and middle school grades and wants to continue her music education in college. Our committee believes she has the qualities and characteristics of a good teacher and will be a wonderful asset to our profession. We believe she has great merit and is most deserving of this opportunity to achieve her goals.

ENJOY A TRIP THROUGH HISTORY

Carolyn Jones, Chair
Cultural Affairs
Committee

Visit the Mary Brogan Museum and view the Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Collection.

THE KINSEY COLLECTION:
The Personal Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey



This collection is owned and being shared by graduates of Florida A & M University. The collection contains a variety of items- paintings, photographs, sculptures, writings, etc. The display will be here until March 21, 2010. At that time, it will be going to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

The touring hours are Monday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday; from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

If there is somewhere you would like to go to and feel our group would like to visit, please contact me at carpjon@attglobal.net



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

By Nanci Hoffman, Treasurer

Checking Balance	\$1656.81
Scholarship Balance	\$1171.61
CD Balance	\$3582.97
Total Assets	\$6411.39

SUNSHINE NOTES

From Eddie Moore and Margie Cash



Keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers. Cards have been sent and calls made to Henry Murphy, who had eye surgery and get well soon wishes to Sara Belcher, John Word, and Helen Kelly. We want Barbara Stewart, RosaBelle Stevenson, Eddie Moore, Lucile Williams, and Evelyn Florence to know that we are thinking of them and hope that they will feel better soon.



"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU..."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU..."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR MEMBERS..."

Submitted by
Nanci Hoffman

Larry Carmichael 3/15
 Betty Innes 3/3
 Genevieve Doyle 3/12
 Missy Jungling 3/15
 Don Driggs 3/28
 Betty Watson 3/1
 Larenaia Gaines 3/24
 Martha Wheeler 3/28

HEALTH IN ACTION... THE POWER OF WALKING

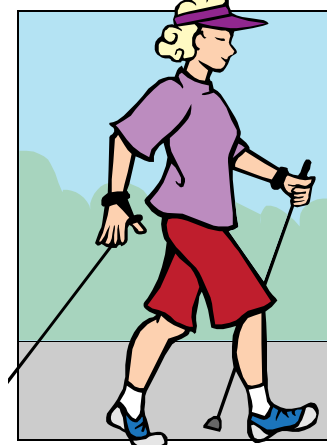
Gladys F. Caswell, Health Committee Chair

If a daily fitness walk could be put in a pill, it would probably be one of the most popular prescriptions in the world. Walking may be the perfect exercise; you can do it anywhere, anytime and at any age. With the right gear and miles to pick from to go for a walk, you'll have no more excuses if making your health a priority is important. You'll reap emotional, spiritual, and physical benefits from this simple activity.

Any amount of walking is good, but for the best health results, set a brisk pace and walk for 30 minutes per day at least 5 times a week. If you're a beginner, you may need to start at a pace that suits your fitness level. When walking you should be able to carry on a conversation. Walking can reduce the risks of many diseases from heart attacks and strokes to hip fractures and depression. All of these claims are backed up by research. Walking requires no prescription; the risk of side effects is very low and the benefits are numerous.

Establish a set course in your neighborhood and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. If bad weather or safety is a concern, then get your daily exercise in the comfort of a climate controlled and safe environment with the Tallahassee Mall Walkers (Weekdays, Mall opens at 7:00 a.m.) or Governor's Square Mall Walkers (Weekdays, Mall opens at 8:00 a.m.) Be sure to check with your doctor on the level of exercise that's best for you.

March 2nd, pick up a Walking Log to become a participant our 1st walking contest to culminate May 4th. Details will be printed on the log. Presentations will be made at May luncheon.





LEON WAKULLA RETIRED
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

1828 Wagon Wheel Cir W.
Tallahassee, FL 32317

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

MARCH BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2010

DOUGLAS BLACKMAN, WINNER OF THE 2009 PULITZER PRIZE

FEBRUARY 28, 2010

MARY BROGAN MUSEUM; 2:00 P.M.

DR. MURRELL DAWSON, FAMU BLACK ARCHIVIST LECTURE

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010

MARY BROGAN MUSEUM; 2:00 P.M.

SCALING UP THE REDESIGN OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

APRIL 10, 2010

FREA REPORTS ARE DUE!

APRIL 15, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTES

The deadline for articles for the April newsletter is Tuesday, March 8. If you have upcoming events/information you would like included, send notices to Prince Lemons at:

pwl1115@yahoo.com.

