

The Retired Educator

Volume XXIV Issue 3

Spring 2022 Mar, April, May

Special points of interest:

- February, WPHS Singers, 90+ Celebration
- March, Mike Walsh, Light-house Central FI
- April, Dave Woods, Inventors Council
- May, Installation and Necrology
- Membership App.

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Final Months

I hope that this edition of newsletter finds you safe. My time as your president is slowly coming to an end. On July 1st OCREA will have a new president. This has not been the two years I envisioned for my presidency, but I hope that you will agree that we have maintained our membership and programs during a very difficult set of circumstances. We were able to maintain over 90% of membership during this time. OCREA received the membership award last year for our steady membership. I was able to start several new initiatives during this period. Communications with the members was updated with a modernized webpage. The Facebook page was revamped and a

Facebook: Orange County Retired Educators Association
Web Page: OCREAFL.org

change to the newsletter format. OCREA was able to start participating in the 5th Grade Essay which is part of Volunteer Services with the help of two dedicated board members. I also opened board positions to members who were willing to move into leadership roles. With the help of Board members, we were also able to maintain a relationship with our charities. But with all this success, there was also a disappointment. I so wanted to do our meetings in dual platform, but technical difficulties made impossible. During my final four months we still have several projects to complete. Our FREF chair has Extravaganza Tickets available to be bought. Re-

member that these tickets help fund student scholarships. OCREA will need to select the Volunteer of the Year and the Earnest and Ruth Hawke Scholarship winner. The convention for this year is going to be held at Sea World Double Tree in May. The Board will choose one delegate from leadership and another delegate will come from the members. If you are interested in going to the convention, please send your name to ocrea2018@gmail.com. Although I won't be your President, I will serve as FREA/FREF State Treasurer, and I will continue to serve OCREA. Thank you for allowing me to be your President.

Gayle Hodges, President
OCREA



February Celebration
For Our 90+ Years Young
Members

Programs The Hometown Superheroes



Don't we love listening to our youth sing from the heart! Horizon High School brought joy to our group in December!

We have no meeting in January. Our February meeting will welcome Winter Park High School student singers and our "90 year young" members' celebration.

In March we will hear about **Lighthouse Central Florida** and the services it provides for those with vision loss from speaker Mike Walsh, VP Chief Programs Officer. He is represented by *Daredevil*, a blind superhero with radar senses.

In April, Dave Woods, representing superhero *Ironman*, *Tony Stark*, an inventor, will let us know about the **Central Florida Inventors Council**,

We hope to have our May luncheon and Necrology program.

Please join us!

~Christie Woods
OCREA VP & Program Chair

*Let's get
going,
OCREA!*

Cultural Affairs

I know we have all seen animals designated as Canine Companions when out in public. Have you ever wondered about the training of these animals and the people they assist? Find out more when OCREA tours the Canine Companions for Independence, Southeast Center, on February 15. We will meet at the center at 10:30 AM. Ad-

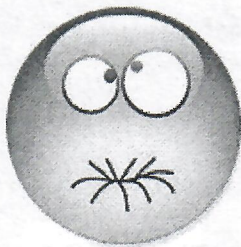
dress: 8150 Clarcona-Ocoee Road, Ocoee, FL 32818. Let's plan to lunch afterward at Olive Garden, 7300 W. Colonial Dr, Orlando, 32818 (corner of Hiawasse Rd), approximately noon. Email me at anne-gard64@gmail.com or let me know at the general meeting on February 3. I am teaching a class in March at the Center for Health and Well-being in Winter Park. It is perfect-

ly planned for Women's History Month: "Eight Great of the Sunshine State." Four sessions are scheduled for March 8, 10, 29 and 30, 10:30-11:30 AM. Address is 2005 Mizelle Ave. 32792. Website <https://youhealthandwellbeing.org> As your Cultural Affairs chair, I would be remiss in not telling you to look for UCF Celebrates the Arts from April 5-16 at the Dr. Phillips

Sunshine to Sympathy

No, that is not the name of the newest bestselling book you should read. Those words encompass the type of greeting cards sent out by the Sunshine Committee to our members. From a brief thinking of you type card to a more solemn sympathy card, we send them all. Since the beginning of the year, over 25 cards have

been sent out to members or their families. If you know of someone who needs a card, please contact Marie Hernandez at hernanm2_1999@yahoo.com who will make sure an appropriate greeting goes out.



Legislative News

The week of January 31-February 3 about 12-15 FREA members went to Tallahassee to address our legislature. Remember to sign up for up-to-date texts by texting 81411 and text the message FREEMEMBERS. Stay abreast and act quickly if there is any threat to our pension. Watch for emails with links from FREA. You may also go to the frea.org website to listen

and watch the recorded webinar "FREA Legislative Priorities" to learn how to navigate through our website and to properly see how to contact your representatives, understand what an unfunded liability is, and to learn about the need to educate active teachers. FREA is over 10,000 active members strong, and we are encouraged to keep in

contact with our representatives about protecting our pension fund.



Informational Services

Winter has past, and Spring blossoms into fair weather, renovation projects, and timely changes.

As you spring forward through your daily routines, take the time to explore your FREA Membership benefits.

FREA's partner AMBA offers members a free Benefits Review. AMBA also offers savings and discounts on Dental and Vision Plans, Insurance Plans, and more. Contact AMBA: 1-844-385-4360.

AARP has a free virtual library; past online events and seminars can be accessed. Visit the website:

AARP@aarp.org

Register for scheduled FREA Webinars. Visit the FREA website for more virtual events and activities:

www.frea.org

Register for Life Information for Elders Seminars. Visit: Office on Aging@ocfl.net
OCREA Information Services Committee wishes you a safe, healthy, and memorable Spring and Summer season.

Debra Dykes Kornhaus - Chair



Retired Educators Foundation of Orange County (REFOC)

Our purpose is to provide scholarships for Orange County students seeking higher learning.

We are a not-for-profit foundation. **REFOC Director Slate of Nominees for 2022-2024.** The term of directors begins July 1, 2022. A Director may serve three two-year terms. After having served three two-year terms, a director may not serve again until a lapse of one year.

Prince Kelley (2nd term) Cathy Thompson (3rd term) Dave Magee (1st term)

Gary Moser (1st term)



*Nomination
Committee
Chair*

Sharon Kochlany

Members

Susan Brown

Anne Gardepe

Ellen James

The Retired Educator

Officers:

President – Christie Woods

Vice – President – Janice Quint

Corresponding Secretary – Joanne Canarelli

Recording Secretary – Fran Burns

Directors:

Anne Gardepe (2021 - 2023)

Kay Wing (2021 - 2023)

Judith Hays – 2nd Term (2022 – 2024)

Sharon Kochlany (2022 – 2024)

Suzanne Lincoln (2022 – 2024)

“Officers, except the Treasurer, shall be elected at the March Annual Meeting.”

“The Treasurer shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.”

“Nominations for all elective officers may be made from the floor with prior approval of the nominee.”

Additions

Cheers to 85 Years, and to you.

Since 1937, Addition Financial has had the privilege of serving our members with financial education, special offers and resources for financial success. This year, we celebrate our members for choosing us as their financial institution. January 19, 2022 marks our 85th year of service, and we have you to thank for that!

Fast Track Mortgage - Retire your Mortgage

It's never too early to start thinking about retirement. You've worked hard for your future, so now is the time to reverse those worry lines and revamp your priorities. With our Fast Track Mortgage option, you can stay ahead of the curve by retiring your mortgage early.

Visit AdditionFi.com/FT2022 for more information!

Convenient Appointments Available

We have reopened our branches for service at the teller line with limited capacity. For your convenience, we encourage you to schedule an appointment. Visit AdditionFi.com/Appointment to book your appointment today!

Membership Application

**ORANGE COUNTY RETIRED
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP 2021 ~ 2022**

Name _____
 Address _____
 Email _____
 Cell phone Number _____ Home Phone No. _____
 Date of Birth {only needed for 90's Club Membership}

Renewal	New	Associate	Membership Dues
Orange County Retired Educators Association			\$15.00 -
Florida Retired Educators Association			\$35.00
FREA's Legislative Advocacy			\$ 4.00
FREF (Florida Retired Educators Foundation Donation			
		Total	_____

Make checks payable to: OCREA {Orange County Retired Educators Association}
 Mail to: OCREA

\$P.O. Box 678236 Orlando, FL 32867

OR

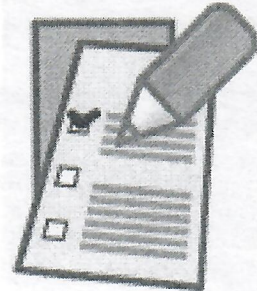
Send payment* via PayPal to: treasurer.ocrea@gmail.com

*Please add an additional \$2 fee to the total to cover PayPal processing.

Write your name, address and phone number in the Notes section before sending payment.

Thank you!

Jennifer Cunningham – treasurer.ocrea@gmail.com 407-712-4529



**Additions
Holidays**

**Monday,
February 21,
President Day**

**Monday, May
30, Memorial
Day**

Membership

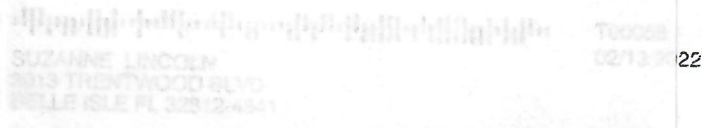
Should old acquaintances be forgot, and never recalled. Many have sung this song and reflected on this line. Whatever happened to some of the people that I met in my beginning years of employment? How about joining OCREA and perhaps re-meet old acquaintances. OCREA is dedicated to continuing the fellowship with others that may have been interrupted by transfers, family obligations, relocating to other areas, and just life changing events. You can have new opportunities to catch up on old acquaintances by encouraging old acquaintances to join OCREA and develop new acquaintances. Ask those acquaintances that you may perhaps see in your social activities online, invite them to visit and perhaps that will be the push that is needed. Meeting once a month, field trips, volunteer information, super speakers with reverent information geared to our senior networking, and of course the wonderful way to see old acquaintances. DRUMROLLS and CHEERS to the newly joined and to those who are singing the joy to join.



**Orange County
Retired Educators'
Association**

PO Box 678236
Orlando, Fl. 32867
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Vice-President
Christie Woods
Recording Secretary
Debra Dykes Kornhaus
Corresponding Secretary
Marie Hernandez
Treasurer
Jennifer Cunningham

Directors

2020-2022
Judith Hays
Ellen James
Fran Burns
2021-2023
Anne Gardepe
Kay Wing
ExOfficio
Dr. Sharon Kochlany

Sunshine Contact

Marie Hernandez

**THE RETIRED
EDUCATOR**

Publisher In

September
December
March

**Orange County Retired
Educators Association**

PO Box 678236
Orlando, FL.32867

Editors

Yearbook

Jennifer Cunningham
Judith Hays

Newsletter

Gayle Hodges



In the event of inclement weather, OCREA will follow Orange County Public School System's decision relating to the closing of schools.