

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

OFFICERS:

President—Rick Reed

VP & Sunshine—Betsy Scott

Secretary and Facebook—
Sue Reed

Scholarship and Website—
Paula Marczynski

Volunteer Services—Karen
Philman

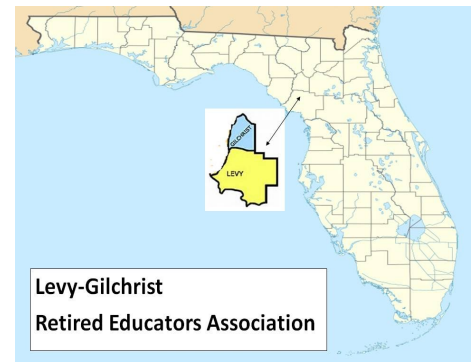
Legislative Representative—
Alphonso Johnson

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 Gathering Table** restaurant in Chiefland. **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.**



Schedule of Events:

APRIL

- APR 15— SENIOR ADULT TRAVEL (Rick), Larry & Harriet Bachle, hosts
- May 14-16 — State FREA Conference, Daytona Beach
- MAY 20—LEGISLATIVE ISSUES, Betsy Scott hostess
- **NO MEETINGS JUNE OR JULY**

Larry reminded us about the “Scholarship Extravaganza” and that he had a few more tickets available. Also, dues were collected from members.

Committee Reports:

Alphonso updated us on the FREA legislative priorities and passed out handouts. Paula distributed copies of our updated website and said it should be uploaded soon. She also reported sending an email to our state scholarship winner about her 2nd year info update.

Our program was presented by Dr. Jerry Nash from Senior Adult Travel. It was a very informative, interesting talk about the various trips he has offered and upcoming adventures for mature travelers. He provided brochures as well. Several members have traveled with him in the past and spoke highly of his professionalism and attention to details.

Door prizes (lovely potted flowers) were won by Karen, Paula, Betsy, and Sue.



L-GREA Activities

MARCH

Larry reminded us about the “Scholarship Extravaganza” and that he had a few more tickets available. Also, dues need to be paid at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Alphonso updated us on the legislative status and urged us to continue to monitor and lobby our legislators on key education issues, as well as others that impact our area. Paula announced that the FREF website upgrade has finally been completed. It looks great and is easy to navigate. Karen reported on the books that were donated at Chiefland Elem School.

In honor of Women’s History Month, Paula gave a presentation on Women in the Space Program. It highlighted the groundbreaking accomplishments and pioneers of women through the years. An important acknowledgement were the Mercury 13 -- those women who were part of the original astronaut program, went through the same rigorous training, yet were not allowed to go in space due to an archaic requirement of combat flying hours (at that time, women were not allowed in combat).



Door prizes (Easter basket filled with goodies) were won by Betsy, Rick, Larry, and Sue.

FEBRUARY

We had our opening devotion/pledge, and singing of God Bless America. Committee reports were given. Education funding is adversely affected by legislative activities; we need to stay active and in contact with our legislators and make our voices heard. We had no applications for scholarship this year. Books collected this year for the literacy project will go to Levy county schools.

Door prizes (lovely potted plants) were won by **Karen, Harriet, Paula, and Betsy.**

Alphonso gave a very interesting presentation on **Lt. Col. Alexander Jeffereon (ret.)**, a member of the USAF Tuskegee Airmen 332nd Fighter Group during WWII, who was shot down during one of his missions and became a POW at Stalag Luft III in Germany. The Tuskegee Airmen were a proud and important part of WWII history, but unfortunately, there are many younger Americans who are unaware of the extent of these contributions. Anyone who is interested in helping to support can send a contribution to the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum in Detroit, MI or visit their website at www.tuskegemuseum.org



JANUARY—NO MEETING

DECEMBER

This was our social meeting of the year. Following the opening activities and committee reports, we had a White Elephant gift exchange which is a lot of fun for all! There were many interesting gifts and opportunities to “grab” ones previously opened. Everyone left happy with what they received. Buffet luncheon followed the meeting.

L-GREA Activities cont.

NOVEMBER

Special guests at our regular monthly meeting were Mr. Alonzo Braddon, District Chairman, and his wife. He gave a report on the district meeting held in October.

We welcomed back Mrs. Mary Jo Mansfield who has been ill. She brought Mrs. Cora Lord as a guest.

Our program speaker was Mr. Michael Kovacs, a representative of Florida Retirement Group. He spoke on Medicare plans and the options those on Social Security have or can have at age 65.

Mrs. Harriet Bachle was our hostess and the door prize winners were Mrs. Sue Reed, Mr. Rick Reed, Mrs. Cora Lord, Mrs. Braddon, and Mrs. Nancy Hauk.

OCTOBER

Alphonso and Rick gave a presentation on the upcoming proposed ballot amendments and how voting one way or another could impact us. Alphonso will represent us at the district meeting in Ocala. Paula brought chocolate from the Angell and Phelps chocolate factory in Daytona Beach for door prizes and provided enough that everyone was a winner.



Charlie Watson of the Bell Woodturners gave the program and talked about the art of woodturning. It was very interesting and informative!

SEPTEMBER

Larry updated us on issues with finding a bank that won't charge fees.

COMMITTEES:

There were no legislative updates, but members were encouraged to become informed about the candidates and issues for the upcoming General Election...and get out and **VOTE**. There are many proposed constitutional amendments as well as key political seats to fill.

Paula shared printouts of the L-GREA webpage and reported on disbursement of scholarship information to all area high schools and superintendents. Karen requested books for the Margaret Poppell Literacy for Life



AUGUST

Our planning meeting was sparsely attended, so it was difficult to plan activities for the year. We planned for the first few months and those that people especially wanted to handle. The meeting for our scholarship recipient was moved to March instead of May due to extensive EOY testing during that time. Several programs and activities were mentioned, with various members assigned to check into them. We also discussed ways to get new members.