

Levy-Gilchrist Retired Educators Association

May 2019

OFFICERS:

President, Scholarship, and Website—Paula Marczynski

VP —Rick Reed

Secretary and Volunteer Services—Karen Philman

Legislative Representative—Alphonso Johnson

Sunshine & Shadows — Betsy Scott

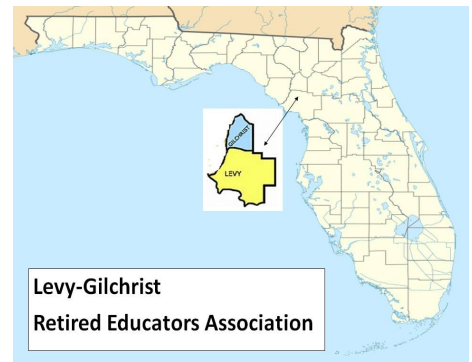
Facebook—Sue Reed

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:

- **NO MEETINGS JUNE OR JULY**
- **AUG 19** —Planning meeting for year

MAY

VP **Betsy Scott** called the meeting to order in Rick's absence. Alphonso gave the Thought for the Day and led the Pledge and God Bless America. This was followed by the Minutes, Treasurer's, and committee reports.

Alphonso and **Paula** gave a report on the FREA State Convention (see highlights on the next page).

Our main agenda for today was the election of new officers. See the list in the top left corner of this page. We look forward to a new year after the summer break. Hopefully we will be able to gain some new members during this time.

Door prizes were won by **Harriet, Alphonso, Paula, Karen, Larry, and Mary Ann.**

L-GREA Activities

FREA CONVENTION — DAYTONA BEACH



Alphonso and Paula attended the FREA state convention, held at the Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach. It was a very informative and entertaining experience as we “Let the Good Times Roll”! Alphonso was recognized at the Extravaganza for his long-time service and dedication to the organization and to AARP. So proud of him!

We brought a basket for the FREF fundraiser filled with goodies that represented items from both counties. It contained Kickin’ Cowboy Barbeque Sauce (both mild and spicy) from Bell, and a variety of items from the Red, White, and Blues Farm in Williston (corn relish, onion relish, jelly, honey, blueberry pops, honey sticks, and a Farm Life t-shirt and decal).



Our Opening Speaker, **Lily Liu**, AARP Historian Emeritus talked about Ethel Percy Andrus, the founder of NRTA and AARP...”Ethel, One Woman Who Changed America”.



One of the highlights of the convention was the Rise and Shine Speaker Breakfast Buffet with **Ersula Knox-Odom** as **Mary McLeod Bethune**. It was an outstanding performance!

APRIL

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 cont.

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

