

# HEA Reporter

Volume 18, Issue 6

Hillsborough Educators Association – Retired

December 2023

President's Message

Sue Huttig

Hillsborough Educators Association-Retired

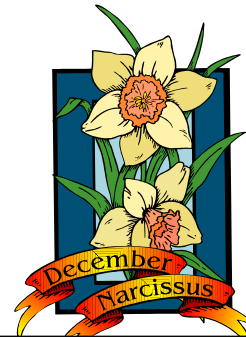
**Happy Holidays from your HEA-R board to you and your families.** May you find Peace and Joy during this season.

**It's time to celebrate: Please join us for our Annual Holiday Luncheon at USF Embassy Suites Hotel, Salon F and G, on December 13, 2023 beginning at 11:00 A.M. The cost is \$23.00 including the gratuity. Our Menu will include: House salad with assorted toppings and dressings, seasonal vegetables, garlic mashed potatoes, herbed tilapia, and grilled chicken with tomato basil salsa. Deserts will be chef's choice. Drinks will include lemonade, water and coffee. Please RSVP to Sue Harmon by December 7. Phone or Text at 813-843-7336 or e-mail: [harmonbay@verizon.net](mailto:harmonbay@verizon.net). Please wear your Holiday attire.**

## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - Stephen Tabin

December is a time for memories, past and present, as well as a celebration of all of the December Holidays. For some of us, it is a lonely time of the year, as we sit alone, facing that empty chair at the dinner table. Our thoughts are with each and every one of you. We hope that you can join your (new and old) friends, and colleagues at our annual HEA-R Holiday Celebration. You say that you have not attended a HEA-R meeting or our Holiday Party in a long time?. Make the time to join us. You will be glad you did! We hope to see you there!

The 2024 Florida Legislative session runs from Tuesday, January 9 through Friday, March 8, 2024. Be sure to stay up-to-date with all of the latest news during the session at: [FEAweb.org/session](http://FEAweb.org/session). We know that 2024 is an important year, especially on the national level, and we need to stay informed. in any way we can. *(continued on other side)*



## Happy Birthday!

- 01 George Bartuska
- 02 Sherry Barry
- 05 Sandra Grant
- 08 Leticia Kickliter
- 08 Marie Tapia
- 09 Charles Perdomo
- 10 Lisa Culberson
- 13 Art Guzzetta
- 16 Carol Melious
- 18 Judith Schwartz
- 21 Sally Catt
- 22 Carolyn Miller
- 22 Nancy Mikowski
- 23 Alma Bowers
- 28 Shirley Perdomo
- 29 Agnes Abreu
- 29 Sue Croley
- 31 Elaine Fess

**If I missed your birthday, please let me know. Sue Huttig (813) 416-5044**

### News You Can Use

#### Vice President's Report Continued

In January, 2024, we will hold our next HEA-R Business Meeting in our CTA Union Hall on Habana Avenue. The date and time are: Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10 AM. John Sakellarides will be our speaker. Be sure to arrive about 15 minutes early so that you can talk with your friends and colleagues and enjoy some coffee and snacks.

#### Barbara Toepke – Treasurer's Report

**CFPB at FLARA!** Want to learn about senior debt, housing or scams? FLARA hosted a zoom by the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, a government agency dedicated to making sure that banks, lenders, and other financial institutions treat us fairly. Check out their website at [consumerfinance.gov](https://consumerfinance.gov) to learn about our rights concerning medical and nursing home debt, and to download resources like Money Smart for Older Adults, a guide to avoid financial exploitation.

**Take Action for Education** during the legislative session that begins in January. Sign up for FEA's weekly zooms to call and email about potentially harmful legislation. Bills would allow private school kids to join public school sports for free; make it easier to convert public schools to charters and to operate unlicensed private schools; and allow teenagers to work construction without proper apprenticeship training. Other bills eliminate restrictions on hours/days that teenagers can work, create more tax breaks on school property taxes, and preempt more local regulations that keep our communities safe. Go to [feaweb.org](https://feaweb.org) and click on Take Action.

#### HCPS Retirement Seminar – Monday 1/29/24

Set up: 3:30 – 4:00, Information Tables: 4:00 – 5:00, Presentation: 5:00 – 6:30.

To be held at the ISC 2920 N 40<sup>th</sup> Street Tampa, Florida 33605 Contact Stephen Tabin 813-419-4706 or [SteveWEA@aol.com](mailto:SteveWEA@aol.com) to volunteer.

**Superintendents** from Pinellas, Pasco, and Hillsborough spoke at the November meeting of the Tampa Tiger Bay Club. They answered questions from the audience about testing, legislation, and child poverty. When asked to name one additional concern, Pasco's leader said **discipline** and parental support. Pinellas' leader said publicity on **free VPK** that helps early learners, and Hillsborough's said daily **attendance** for students to be able to learn.

**Memberships** can be renewed by contacting Barb at 813-439-7481 or [btoepke504@gmail.com](mailto:btoepke504@gmail.com).

**Volunteer Hours** can be sent to Jim at 813-205-5669 or [jimroney53@gmail.com](mailto:jimroney53@gmail.com). Count your hours spent helping family, friends, faith groups, and community organizations.

**Vote-by-Mail** ballots expired by law after the 2022 elections. Reapply at [votehillsborough.com](https://votehillsborough.com) or google your county's Supervisor of Elections office. Ask if your legislator supports voting rights.

#### Hillsborough Regional Stem Fair 2024 Elementary Science

**Join us as we celebrate our elementary scientists, engineers and inventors. We are looking for individuals from the community, teachers, leaders, and volunteers willing to communicate and judge our elementary students in grades 3-5. No experience is necessary!**

**Training, documents and support will be provided the morning of judging.**

**Date: February 7, 2024**

**Time: 8 AM- 12:30 PM (Lunch Provided) Location: The Tampa Convention Center**

**Contact: Michele Wiehagen**  
**[Michele.Wiehagen@hcps.net](mailto:Michele.Wiehagen@hcps.net)**  
**813-892-1555**