

HEAReporter

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Hillsborough Educators Association - Retired

April 2024



President's Message - Sue Huttig

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Easter Greetings and Springtime Wishes to all members and their families. With the newness of Spring in the air, let us celebrate the newness of all creation.

Last Month our speaker was Catherine Gilmore who spoke about Hillsborough County Community Schools. Mrs. Gilmore is the coordinator at Gibsonton Elementary School for wrap around services (food pantries, after school programs, health, wellness and parent resources. Currently Hillsborough County has 15 Community Schools.

Please note that there **will be no** meeting at the CTA Building this Month.

Please join us for the morning Eco Tour on Wednesday April 17, 2024. The tour will be from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. Please arrive at least 20 minutes early. Cost is \$37.27 with the promo code **10LAT for Discount**. If you need assistance with the registration please call Latitudes Tours at 813-641-1311.

Yvonne Lyons will present this slate of officers at our May Meeting: President - Stephen Tabin, Secretary - Deborah Toth, District 1 Director- Norma Goff, Membership Chair: Suzy Buchanan

Our May 15, 2024 meeting will be our end of year Potluck luncheon for the CTA staff. Please contact Mary Gonzales to let her know what you are bringing. (813-748-3586)

Vice President Report - Stephen Tabin

No report - Get well soon!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April Birthday Wishes

Kathleen Thompson 04/01

Delores McMillan 04/04

Billie Jo Lasher 04/08

Gwen Butler 04/09

Arlie Page 04/11

Janet Burt 04/14

James Samuelson 04/16

Deborah Thompson 04/16

Vernadill Young 04/16

Bertha Smith 04/18

Emma Thomas 04/19

Ben Cooper 04/20

Patricia Savage 04/23

Penny Haun 04/25

JoAnne Reed 04/25

Michelle Manieri 04/25

Charles Gomez 04/26

Rich Lucas 04/28

Evelyn Hernandez - Gonzalez

Barbara Wiggs 04/29

Daphine Britt 04/30

Marjie Boyd 04/30

Leo Haggerty 04/30

From Laura Tucker – Legislative Report

On Tuesday, April 3, 2024 The School Board met to consider the 1 Millage proposal by Superintendent Van Ayres. A Milage is equal to \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of the taxable value of your home. The plan is to use the majority of the funds for instructional and non instructional pay increases. They have proposed a \$6,000.00 increase for teachers and administration (instructional) and \$3000.00 for non-instructional including bus drivers. Every employee would benefit except for the Superintendent. The School Board voted to approve the referendum to be placed on the ballot so that the citizens of Hillsborough County can decide whether or not to approve the tax. The vote was 6-2 with Hahn and Rendon in the descent.

On Wednesday the Board of County Commission voted to place the Community Investment Tax, a revenue stream that can only be used for Capital outlay, on the ballot in November, a full two years before its expiration date. They passed a motion that would continue to 1/2 cent tax for an additional 15 years. They reduced the amount of the revenue sharing with the school district from 25% to 5%. The Superintendent said that the minimum share needed was 10%. On April 16 there will be another BOCC meeting to approve the final ballot language. There is still time to voice your concerns about this issue.

Welcome New Members

Instructional

Rose Asher

Susan Martin

George Bartuska

Paula Marczynski

Dorothy Proyer

Gwendolyn Richards

ESP

Nelson Valentin-Mendez

Treasurer's Report -Barb Toepke

Membership forms can be found at HCTA.org. Scroll down to find HEA-Retired and then join or renew. Contact Barb at btoepke504@gmail.com or call 813-439-7481.

Volunteer Hours can be sent to Norma Goff at ngoff48@gmail.com or call 813-431-0314. Count your hours spent helping family, friends, faith groups, and community organizations

FEA-Retired is our state organization. Don't be fooled by mail from "FREA" asking us to pay with a credit card to join. They have no benefits like FEA, NEA, and AFT.

PEN America Index of School Book Bans can be found at pen.org. Their website says "Pen America stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to protect open expression in the US and worldwide." Check out their federal lawsuit against Escambia County schools, which accounts for over half of the banned books in Florida. Please note that Hillsborough is not on the list.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry continues to serve their community. Visit their website to see vibrant watercolor paintings of workers, learn their history, review activities, and view a storytelling event. Go to beth-el.org/donate or send a check to Beth-El at 18240 US 301, Wimauma, FL 33598.

Oasis Opportunity

Donate online today

–<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/oasis-network-of-nw-tampa-inc>

Every child deserves the **opportunity** to have their basic needs met so they can achieve personal and academic success. *The mission of Oasis is to be a premier provider of clothing and fundamental necessities for at-risk and low-income Hillsborough County Public Schools students to ensure personal and academic success.*