

HEA Reporter

Volume 18 Issue 7

Hillsborough Educators Association - Retired

January 2024

President's Message

Sue Huttig

Happy New Year 2024

Greetings to all for a Happy New Year filled with Peace and Good Health. Thanks to all who attended our Holiday Celebration at the Embassy Suites-USF. Good food was enjoyed by all. It was nice to see many in Holiday Attire. Thank You Sue Harmon and Yvonne Lyons for bringing Holiday gifts to raffle off. Several Holiday worksheets challenged all. The Bingo worksheet challenge was won by Cheryl Kobres and the Holiday What are you Wearing or Have was won by Norma Goff.

Report of the Vice President - Stephen Tabin

A New Year brings many different and unique opportunities and challenges for all of us. For the young retiree, you can see a vision ahead with many dreams and possibilities. For the rest of us, we still see this vision as we continue to enhance our life and the lives of others but we must work a little harder to achieve our goals. In this New Year may you find HOPE, JOY, and PEACE, as you continue journey in this new year.

Please consider attending our next HEA-R on January 17, 2024 at our CTA Union Hall on Habana Avenue, at 10 am. Attorney John Sakellarides will be our speaker. Be sure to arrive about 15 minutes early so that you can talk with old and new friends while enjoying some coffee and snacks.

The Tampa Bay Times is hosting a Spotlight Tampa Bay Community Conversation on the Conflict, Challenges and Culture Wars in Florida classrooms, on Tuesday, January 30 at the Tampa Theatre with registration beginning at 5 pm. It will be a panel discussion featuring Andrew Spar, President of the Florida Education Association, among others. Cost is \$20 with proceeds going to the Tampa Bay Times Journalism Fund. To purchase tickets go to: mybtickets.com, look for January 30 Spotlight Tampa Bay Community, and click on: Get Tickets. You might really enjoy it. See you on January 17 at our next HEA-R Meeting at 10 am.

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.



Happy Birthday!

- | |
|------------------------------|
| 01 Nancy Thomas |
| 03 Connie Snyder |
| 04 Laurre Gallo |
| 04 Catherine Paunov |
| 08 Evangeline R. Best |
| 08 Mildred DuBose |
| 08 Elizabeth Lynch |
| 09 Stephen Tabin |
| 14 Susan Key |
| 15 Barbara Berckley |
| 15 Carolyn Lee Pierce |
| 15 Thomas McPeek |
| 15 Joann Myers |
| 15 Kelly Willis |
| 20 Carol Engstrom |
| 22 Sam Rosales |
| 22 Michael Terry |
| 24 Barbara Mitchell |
| 25 Beverly Johnson |
| 25 Belinda Stanley |
| 25 Charles Thompson |
| 26 Emma Donofry |
| 26 Candy Gale |
| 26 Regina T. Grandner |
| 26 Diane Ortiz |
| 26 Virginia Roebuck |
| 31 Fred Brewer |

Coming Attractions...

HCPS Retirement Seminar - 1/29/24 At the ISC - 2920 N. 40th Street Tampa, FL 33605
HEA-R will staff a table.

FEA Leadership Training will be January 24, 2024 and FEA Retired Executive Board Meeting is January 25, 2024. Presidents, Membership Chairs and Member Activist are asked to attend.

Dear HEA-R members:

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the HCPS Elementary Science Team to invite you to join us as a judge in the HCPS Elementary Regional STEM Fair.

Students in grades K-5 will be presenting scientific studies, experiments, inventions and solutions to showcase their work in science. Please join us in engaging conversations with our student presenters in grades 3-5.

Date: February 7, 2024

Location: The Tampa Convention Center

Time: 8:00 am – 12:30 pm (Lunch Provided)

8:30 Judging training/ meeting

9:30 Judging face to face grades 3-5 projects.

For further information contact Michele

Wiehagen at 813-892-1555 or email

michelewiehagen@HCPS.Net

Report from Barbara Toepke – Treasurer

We collected \$43.00 dollars for Beth-El at our Holiday Celebration.

FEA-Retired is our state organization. Don't be fooled by mail from "FREA" asking us to join that organization, which has no benefits like FEA, NEA and AFT. Go to feaweb.org and sign up for alerts and action to help public education students and employees during this legislative session.

"Silent Spending" describes losses to government funds due to extra tax breaks. State Rep. Anna Eskamani said that citizens pay more sales tax than all the businesses in the state. The legislature may change property tax exemptions to apply to school district funds. Write your legislators!

Community Outreach

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry- We will continue passing the envelope around for your monetary donations at our monthly meetings. You may also go to <https://beth-el.org/donate/> or send a check to Beth-El at 18240 US 301, Wimauma, FL 33598.

OASIS was organized by school social workers to provide gently used clothing to children. Please consider a financial donation at this time for www.oasis-network.org.

Continued Report from Barbara Toepke – Treasurer

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.

The Legislative Session begins January 9th with an address from the governor to both houses. Three separate Senate education committees meet that week so listen up and look out! Education bills include the following ideas: private school students can join public school teams; easier conversion from public schools to charters; and easier operation of unlicensed religious schools. Call your legislators!

Child Labor Laws that protect 16- and 17-year-olds from working certain hours and days during the school year may be undone. Those same teens will be able to work on roofs and scaffolding, supervised by a person with only two years' experience. This could lead to more injuries, to more school drop-outs, and to lower wages for adults in those same jobs. Email your legislators!

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.