

HEAReporter

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Hillsborough Educators Association – Retired

March 2024

President's Message

Sue Huttig, President

Happy March, Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter. This is truly a month of holidays and new beginnings. May you and your families enjoy these special days.

Our February meeting featured Walt Belcher. Mr. Belcher worked at the Tampa Tribune as a media writer. He is now a storyteller with the Florida Storytelling Association. Members enjoyed listening to many of his great stories. Finally, Mr. Belcher informed members about the Florida Storytelling Festival held every January. At the end of his presentation, Sue Harmon presented his wife, Mrs. Deborah Belcher with a birthday cake.

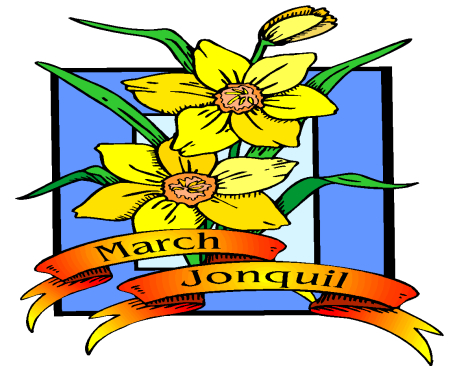
At our February Meeting we collected \$104.00 dollars for Beth-El and a total of 489 volunteer hours were reported.

Our March meeting will be on March 20, 2024. It will be at the CTA Building beginning at 10:00 am (please note the change from a field Trip to a meeting.) Our guest speaker will be Catherine Gilmore speaking about Community School Programs. Our April meeting will be a boat tour of the Tampa Bay Estuary with Latitudes Tours of Ruskin. Thanks, Sue Harmon, for this update. Please be thinking about speakers and field Trips for the 24-25 HEA-R year. Please bring your ideas to the meeting.

Dale Sena District 7 Director

The FEA-Retired election for delegates to both the FEA and NEA annual meetings opened on March 4 and runs through March 22. Watch your e-mails for your secure ballot link. I've heard from some of you that the ballot is overwhelming because you do not know any of the folks running.

For FEA you may vote for as few a 1 or as many as 35. For NEA you may vote for as few a 1 or as many as 4. It takes only a minute or two to cast your ballot and we have local HEAR members who would really appreciate your vote. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or problems regarding this vote.



Happy MARCH Birthday!

- 02 Daisy Wade
- 04 Dee Perry
- 06 Carol Coon
- 06 Susan Torpey
- 06 Audrey Young
- 07 Belinda Cooper
- 09 Susan Buchanan
- 09 Faye Cook
- 09 Gladys Mitchell
- 10 Armetta Jackson
- 12 Barbara Haggerty
- 14 Barbara Henderson
- 18 Gwendolyn Lamb
- 24 Linda Harmon
- 29 Ed Fabian
- 30 Janet Watson

Please let me know if I missed your birthday.

**Welcome New Member
George Bartuska
Gwen Richards
Nelson Valentin-Mendez**

News you can use

FEA DA- Elections: Please consider voting for our local members: Suzy Buchanan, Marilyn Dupree, Norma Goff, Stephen Tabin, Barb Toepke, Laura Tucker and Harrietta Willis.

NEA-RA Elections: Suzy Buchanan and Barb Toepke are on the Ballot. Only two names can be elected.

Barb Toepke – Treasure

Currently we have 88 Annual Members and 181 Lifetime Members.

Suzy Buchanan reported that she mailed out 86 applications to newly December and January retirees. Thank you Suzy, and Stephen Tabin and Barb Toepke for handing out information about HEA-R to upcoming retirees at the January Retirement workshop held at the ISC.

Membership Forms can be found at HCTA.org. Scroll down to find the HEA-Retired and then join or renew. Contact Barb at btoepke504@gmail.com or call 813-439-7481. Please send your **Volunteer Hours** to Norma Goff at ngoff48@gmail.com or call 813 439-7481.

FEA-Retired is our state organization. Mail received from "FREAR" is not us. We will not ask you to pay by credit card.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - STEPHEN TABIN

VOTE: the time is here. The next general election will be March 19 when the republican party will be in Florida.

On November 8 we will see more elections including that of our next president of the United States.

There are several important educational level elections. Online voting is open for our Florida Retired Delegates. FEA-R President Janice Poirier is an automatic delegate.

Community Outreach

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry continues to serve their community. We will pass the envelope around for your monetary Donations at our monthly meetings. You may also go to beth-el.org/donate or send a check to Beth-El at 18240 US 301, Wimauma, FL 33598.

HEA-R Members can also donate to **OASIS**, organized by social workers to provide clothing for school children, at Oasis-Network.org

AFT and NEA Ceasefire Statement. NEA President Becky Pringle spoke at the Labor Council Ceasefire zoom meeting on Feb. 22.

Her voice was calm but carried a strong voice of authority and care for both Israeli and Palestinian children. AFT and NEA Ceasefire Statements can be found at their websites under Press Releases. Statements call for a negotiated ceasefire, the release of hostages, and immediate humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza. Google AFL-CIO, UAW, APWU and SEIU for more union statements.

STEPHEN TABIN (Continued)

Four more are elected. Lets have a better election turn out this year.

HEA-R LOCAL ELECTIONS. According to our HEA-R Bylaws the follow position up for election: President, District Director 1, and Membership Chair. Our Secretary Position has been an appointed shared position this past year. We will also need to vote for secretary. Consider running for one of these positions or nominate some else with their approval at the March 20, 2024 meeting. Elections will be held at our May Meeting.