

Hillsborough Educators Association - Retired

Vol. 19 Issue 3

September 2024

Let's take the learning outdoors!
Join us for a tour of *Nature's Classroom with Karen Thompson* on September 18 at 10:00 am. We will walk the grounds and see the animals before the schoolchildren go outside.

Our business meeting will begin at 11:00 in a room with AC! Pat Hall and Jill McDannold will present an overview of the coming constitutional amendments. Read about them now at vote411.org. November candidates will be on that site by September 13.

Barb Toepke, President
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813-439-7481

Oct: ABC&D of Medicare
Nov: 70th Anniversary of Brown v. the Board of Education.
Dec: Holiday Luncheon

Superintendent Van Ayres spoke on Aug 21. His powerpoint presentation showed that surrounding counties have higher teacher pay with their millage referendums. We have lower pay and higher vacancies. For more information go to educationfoundation.com and vote YES for children in November.

Please renew your annual membership this month! Print the attached form or contact Treasurer Deb Toth at debtravels2017@icloud.com. We are waiting two more weeks!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Carol Carmody
Joe Bohren
Pasquale Russo
Bob Minthorn
Barbara Poole
Brenda Swanson
Nelson Valentin-Mendez
Deborah Larry
Sue Harmon
Debby Kruger
Joie Barksdale
Celia Lopez
Phyllis Sims (8/29)

**Welcome to new member
Florencine Plonta!**

Innovative Grant donations of any amount are welcome. FEA provides two grants at \$150 each. The rest of the funds come from generous member donations, CTA, and our treasury. Members voted in August to give \$300 for two grants. CTA member applications are due September 27. Dale Sena and her committee of Gail Hutton, Sue Huttig, and a Polk educator will evaluate them and tell us how many they would like to award.

To donate, send a check made out to HEAR to Deb Toth at 3102 N. Habana Ave, Tampa FL 33607, or hand her a check at our September meeting. Write "Innovative Grant" at the bottom of the check. Thank you for sending your donations by September 27.

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Want to help CTA recruit new members? Sign up to visit the ISC building and sit with CTA staff as they explain union benefits to newly hired educators. Call Barb or Norma to schedule a morning visit.

Send volunteer hours to Secretary **Norma Goff** at ngoff48@gmail.com or call 813-431-0314. FEA announces the state retiree hours and financial value at the convention in September.

Poll Workers from HEA-R are Cheryl Burnett, Juanita Cook, Cheryl Kobres, Laura Tucker, Jessie Finlayson, and Harrietta Willis. Thank you also to phone callers and canvassers.

CTA's *New Teacher Free Market* was a success again this year with our members who helped sort, pack, and display items for the August give-away: Norma Goff, Pat Hall, Yvonne Lyons, Jill McDannold, Barb Toepke, and Juanita Young.

American Library Association's *Banned Book Week* is Sept 22-28. Read a few of them at ala.org.

NAACP's Freedom Fund Dinner is September 28. Let Barb know if you'd like to attend. CTA usually has 10-20 members and staff attending. The speaker is Dr. Daniel Black, African American Studies Professor at Clark Atlanta University.

Stephen Tabin, Vice President

The NEA Staff Organization and NEA recently reached a tentative agreement and are seeking ratification. I was there when NEASO's strike ended NEA convention meetings three days early in Philadelphia this past July. Since then delegates have voted on business by email.

Kamala Harris spoke at the AFT's biennial convention held in Houston. No matter who your favorite candidates are or how you feel about the numerous items on the ballot, **please VOTE!** You can Vote by Mail, vote early at libraries, or vote at the polls on November 5. Register to **Vote by Mail** at www.votehillsborough.gov.

School Board members in Districts 1, 3, and 5 were reelected. Thanks for your votes to protect public education. [Lynn Grey](#) is in a runoff so please do what you can to help her keep her District 7 seat.

Delegates to *FEA-Retired* in Orlando on Sept 19 are Suzy Buchanan, Stephen Tabin, Barb Toepke, Deb Toth, John Streater, and FEA District Director 7 Dale Sena.

Delegates for the *FEA Delegate Assembly* Sept 20-21 are Suzy, Stephen, Barb, Marilyn Dupree, Norma Goff, Laura Tucker, and Harrietta Willis. Jim Roney will volunteer with the Credentials Committee.