

Hillsborough Educators Association - Retired

Vol. 20 Issue 9

April 2026

Ready to travel April 15?

Join us for a photo and history trip to Botswana with Sandy Hamilton, a former Peace Corps volunteer. Wear your best African dress to join us on Wednesday, April 15 at 10 am at CTA.

Barb Toepke, President

btoepke504@gmail.com

813-439-7481

School Board: April 7, 21 at 4 pm.
5:30 pm April 28, Recognition meeting.
View meetings on Frontier 32, Spectrum 635, and live at hillsboroughschools.org.

May 20: HCTA Potluck, Elections

We have a potluck every May to celebrate HCTA staff and thank them for hosting and helping us throughout the year. Contact Mary Gonzalez at 813-748-3586 or marimartez1@gmail.com to let her know what you can bring.

Brian Nathan won the election for the FL Senate District 14 by 405 votes! The Navy veteran and IBEW electrician will take office now but has to run again this fall. Please consider calling or texting for him and for all other candidates endorsed by the Labor Council and HCTA since every vote counts.

Have you signed up again for Vote-by-Mail? Go to votehillsborough.gov for Tampa and check to be sure. VBM voters knew about the special election for SD 14, while many others did not.

April Birthdays

1 Kathleen T	19 Emma T
4 Delores M	20 Benjamin C
8 Billie Jo L	23 Patricia S
9 Gwendolyn B	24 Diane S
11 Arlie P	25 Penny H
14 Janet B	25 JoAnne R
16 James S	26 Charles G
16 Deborah T	28 Rich L
16 Juanita Y	29 Evelyn H
17 Norma B	29 Barbara W
17 Ann-Marie W	30 Marjie B
18 Angela R	30 Leo H

Welcome New Members!

Norma Barber Marcia Hepburn

Esther D. Burney Elementary is the school we support with donation\$ at every meeting. Burney is a Community School near downtown Plant City. Google it to read their newsletters, demographics, and school improvement plan.

Membership and Program Chairs are open to all volunteers. The Membership chair sends letters to CTA retirees and hands out information at school district events. The Program chair contacts speakers suggested by members and the board, and helps plan field trips. Let Barb know if you can help.

Membership is still open for this school year 25-26. Email Deb Toth at debtravels2017@icloud.com or call her at 813-841-4841.

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HEA-R Elections!

Stephen Tabin, Vice-President

steveuea@aol.com

Would you like to become more active in HEA-R Leadership? Here is your opportunity! According to our Constitution & Bylaws, half of our officers shall be elected in May for two-year terms commencing July 1. Here is our slate of candidates.

President: Barb Toepke

Corresponding Secretary:

Florencine Plonta

District Director One:

George Greenlee

Membership Chair: vacant

All these named are incumbents but you can join our Executive Committee by putting your hat in the ring. Candidates can also be nominated from the floor in May. Call Elections Chair Stephen Tabin at (813) 955-6733, Suzy Buchanan at 205-531-8960, or Mary Gonzalez.

Scam Alert! Tampa Electric sent notices to customers about people asking for credit card payments over the phone and fraudulent websites. Read what to do at ***TampaElectric.com/scam*** and at ***PeoplesGas.com/scam***. Check AARP's website at ***aarp.com/scam*** for a phone number and ways to avoid falling victim to the many professional scammers.

NABTU is a great suggestion for high school graduates! The ***North American Building Trades Unions*** have a website with details and videos of a great variety of occupations. They include painters, HVAC, plumbers, steelworkers and more. The website explains their state and union approved apprentice programs that provide school, a job, and a paycheck.

The ***Senior Connection Center*** has many services and suggestions for elder care. Call ***800-96-ELDER*** or visit their website at ***seniorconnectioncenter.org***. They receive funding from the state to provide an Elder Helpline, Medicare Choice, Elder Abuse Prevention, Health and Wellness classes, and Caregiver Support.

5 Calls is a free app that lists brief summaries of many current concerns. It's easy to make 5 calls every day. ***Sen Ashley Moody 850-590-9100.*** ***Sen Rick Scott 813-225-7040.*** ***Capital Switchboard 202-224-3121.***

Volunteer Hours with faith groups, family, friends, and community groups can be sent monthly to Norma Goff at ***ngoff48@gmail.com***, or call her at 813-431-0314.

Read the latest news on ***Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid*** at the ARA's website ***retiredamericans.org***. Read about SS history at ***ncpssm.org***.

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Stephen Tabin, Vice-President

April is a good month to enjoy: Spring and flowers and nice (hopefully not too hot yet) weather; the beginning of a new Major League Baseball Season (Think Tampa Bay Rays); and, unfortunately, another one or two Special Sessions of the State Legislature (Think the State Budget and maybe Redistricting and maybe Property Tax Changes).

Watch your local news and read your newspapers online or otherwise. Check out social media, but be sure to verify. Join us at our monthly business meetings and read our email messages. As citizens and union members, we need to pay attention, be strong, and be united, and take action when requested by your union.



Florencine, Stephen, Barb and Norma at the October FEA-DA. Barb won a basket and shared all the goodies. Look for more photos in future newsletters.

Many thanks to George Greenlee who arranged our field trip to Tarpon Springs.



We toured the Leepa-Rattner Art Museum at St. Petersburg College and had lunch afterwards at the Sponge Docks by the river. George taught economics at SPC so he knew some of the local artists in the galleries. He told us that a previous SPC president drove a truck up to New York to pick up the artworks by Leepa and Rattner to be sure the college could have them.