

Hillsborough Educators Association - Retired

Vol. 21 Issue 1

July 2026

Happy 4th of July! Enjoy family, friends and fireworks, and drink lots of water to stay safe during this heat wave.

Join us on Aug 19 to hear **Bill Sauers**, Social Security Storyteller Extraordinaire! He tells how his family survived after the death of his father, and how SS helps many children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Bill travels the state in his union job and also recruits seniors to join FLARA, the [Florida Alliance for Retired Americans](#). Join us at CTA at 10 am for our first meeting of the year.

Barb Toepke, President
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July 28: Kathy Castor at Fair Oaks.

Join FLARA and the neighborhood to celebrate Rep Castor's support for seniors and the birthdays for Social Security and Medicare. Walk around the amazing new park and community center just south of Hillsborough on 34th Street. See flyer.

July 30: Teacher market set up at CTA.

Aug 1: New Teacher market at CTA.

Aug 4: 7 pm CLC zoom, ask Barb or John

Aug 18: Primary, School Board voting.

Aug 19: HEA-Retired meeting

Thanks again to members at the May 20 meeting for so many ideas on speakers and field trips. The HEAR Board is meeting to plan our schedule for the year.

July Birthdays

1 Jacqueline M	17 Marilyn D
7 Nancy S L	21 Joyce Y
8 Jessie F	22 Yvonne L
9 Mary W	22 John S
10 Barb T	23 Donna C
11 Jill McD	24 Carla S
14 Carroll M	25 Harrietta W
16 Arles K	29 Edith P

Vote Aug 18 in the Primary election! The **West Central Florida Labor Council** screens local candidates based on their background, knowledge of state and local issues, and how they support working people. **Please support the endorsed candidates** by canvassing, donating, phone banking, or texting. See the list attached to this email.

ANNUAL RENEWALS! Dues are still only \$56 for the whole year, \$37 for ESPs. See the form attached to our email and send it in before August so we can stay current with FEA-R. **Lifetime** members please let us know any changes in your phones and emails.

Volunteer Hours with faith groups, family, friends, and community groups are due to FEA-R this summer! Please send in all your hours this month to help us win another certificate at the FEA-R meeting. The total retiree hours for the state are announced at the FEA DA, with a financial value added. Send your numbers to Norma Goff at ngoff48@gmail.com or call her at 813-431-0314.

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HCTA New Teacher Free Market **Val Chuchman, Secretary-Treasurer**

Thank you for everything you did to make last year's event such a tremendous success. New educators walked away with classroom supplies, resources, and a warm welcome to our profession because of volunteers like you.

Thurs, July 30, Set-Up

9:30 am at the HCTA Office

Sat, Aug 1, New Teacher Free Market

9:00 am–12:00 pm at the HCTA Office

Every year, this event reminds our newest educators that they are joining a profession supported by an incredible community. We hope you'll be part of making that happen again this year.

The **FEA-Retired Conference** is in Orlando on September 24. Florencine and Stephen were elected to represent us and we have two more spaces open so call Barb if you would like to be a delegate. We will carpool there for the day. George, Norma, and Barb will also attend through their elected positions.

Help Wanted: A coffee volunteer to help Norma and Mary set up before our meetings, coffee pot instruction provided. We also need a greeter at the sign-in sheets and a quorum counter. The **Program Chair** contacts speakers suggested by members and the board, and helps plan field trips. Can you help us?

George Greenlee purchased **FIFA World Cup** tickets through the NEA Members discount ticket plan! He has an account with **NEA Member Benefits**, so he gets notifications on sports tickets and other interests. He checked NEAmb's prices and the savings were substantial. Once tickets were purchased through NEA Member Benefits, they were sent to him in FIFA's 2026 World Cup App.

George was in the **Atlanta stadium** with over **67,000 fans** to watch South Africa play Czechia. It was exciting to see people from all over the world with their colorful flags and jerseys at the game and at the Fan Fest in a nearby park where people could watch the game for free on a large screen. Atlanta Transit (MARTA) ridership doubled during the match days.

George has received other benefits from NEAmb such as travel discounts and insurance. Call 800-637-4636 or go to NEAmb.com, set up an account, and see what you can find. Look for your member number on the mailing address of your NEA-Retired magazine.

Treasurer Deb Toth mailed a check for \$215 to **Burney Elementary**, a Community School in Plant City. Thank you all for your donations this year.

5 Calls is a free app that lists brief summaries of many current national concerns. Easy to do, so please call!

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Stephen Tabin, Vice-President

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The United States of America is celebrating its 250th Birthday. Do more than watch baseball, fireworks and fly your flag. Make your memories by standing up for your rights in this country and state. Keep an eye on that proposed amendment to our state constitution. It may sound good, increasing your homestead property tax exemption to \$150,00 and then to \$250,000 but what are the consequences?

Andrew Spar, FEA President, says this is not a tax cut; instead it is a tax shift. We will still pay but through other methods. The things we enjoy in Tampa as well as in Hillsborough County may well disappear. Fire and police departments will take a hit. And, before too long, our public schools and education will be on the cutting block a year or two later. And keep vigil about what our Federal Government is presently doing and what will be done next. As they say, watch what they do, not what they say. Years from now, your grandchildren will ask what you did in 2026 to celebrate. Hopefully, you can tell them you participated in saving America. And that includes your right to VOTE.

Have you signed up again for **Vote-by Mail**? Go to **votehillsborough.gov** for Tampa and check to be sure. You can still vote early in person or on election day, but at least you'll have a ballot with all the candidates, all the amendments, and possibly a new district and a new polling place!

School Board: July 14,28: 4 pm meeting.

July 21: 10 am workshop.

View meetings on Frontier 32, Spectrum 635, and live at hillsboroughschools.org. See July's newsletter for CTA's endorsed School Board candidates.

Candidates for our August election:

President: Barb Toepke

Corresponding Secretary:

Florencine Plonta

Membership Chair:

Jessie Finlayson

District Director One:

George Greenlee

Nominations may also be made from the floor at that meeting, or call Elections Chair Stephen Tabin at 813-955-6733.

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.

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