



From the President - - -

Easing out of Summer Heat

Years ago I received a special décor magnet that, in moments of stressful days of classroom teaching, gave me a relieving chuckle. It was basically in the shape of a blackboard and was inscribed in chalk-like writing. The notation simply read : “ **Three Good Reasons for Teaching: June, July, August** “. You chuckled, right? Well, nowadays, we can enjoy these summer months in a different manner, but even so, as September begins to appear on the calendar horizon, we again return attention to activities and events of the Fall season. We more earnestly appreciate changes in climate temperatures and look forward to gatherings with friends we perhaps have not seen for several months.

Of course, in Florida, seasonal climate changes are not really that significant. Floridians usually describe our ‘seasons’ as ‘hot’ and ‘cooler’, or maybe ‘rainy’ and ‘drier’. The summer of 2013 has so far been very unusually mild in terms of heat, and I personally enjoyed this greatly. Even so, as the ‘Fall’ season approaches, I do mentally and physically begin to ease out of summer. The energetic mind-set present a few months ago that urged me on to almost a phrenic pace of participation in outdoor activities and travel is definitely waning. Some days now I almost recognize a semi-sluggish attitude that makes me decide to just sit in air conditioning comfort, sip iced tea, and enjoy a fun read or movie. But, hey, that’s okay, right? Looking forward to September and the Fall is a pleasant thought with a continuum of contentment as we really do ease out of the summer time.

Blessings, *Dotti Williams*

NEW NCREA HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

All dues paying members will receive a copy of our 2013 -14 NCREA Handbook. This year’s edition has been printed in an 8 ½ “ x 5 ½ “ booklet version which hopefully will be more useful. The booklets contain lots of helpful information about our organization, as well as the extensive listing of members. The Handbooks will be distributed at the first couple of NCREA monthly meetings. Contact Dotti Williams for questions, or if you need your copy mailed.

NCREA DISPATCH

NASSAU COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

“Growing Futures - Learning for Life”

FALL 2013

Volume 6 Issue 5



NCREA JUST GETTING BETTER !

Your Executive Board has produced some exciting and rewarding plans for our Unit. Members are encouraged to support the activities and projects, and also to share any other suggestions or ideas with your officers.

➤ MONTHLY MEETINGS:

1. Note the **Meeting Schedule** for this year as posted in this newsletter.
2. We want to increase our volunteer spirit of giving at each meeting. Members are asked to bring specific items for donations to every meeting. ‘**Gently used books**’ for infants through adult readers will be given to the *Baptist Medical Center Auxiliary Book Drive*. These books are given to patients and visitors to the hospital. Additionally, **non-perishable food items and paper goods** will be collected to benefit the *Salvation Army Hope House* in Fernandina. Also, travel size **personal hygiene items** will be donated to *Micah’s Place*.
3. The annual donation collection at our December Holiday Luncheon will continue to specifically benefit *Quality Health Nursing Home*, and also food item collection at the November meeting will go to the *Hope House*.

➤ 2013-14 NCREA GOALS:

1. Increase Unit membership.
2. Fund a local scholarship [to award in addition to the M.L. Lofton Memorial Scholarship].
3. Engage more diligently in visitation to our homebound/nursing home members.
4. Participate and support more fully the school district’s middle school career fairs.
5. Plan several social outing activities during the year for members, and provide bus transportation.
6. Sponsor some community activity/event, such as a technology workshop.

\$\$\$\$\$\$ DUES NEWS \$\$\$\$\$\$

Thanks to all who have paid dues already for this year. Remember, we are trying to get our financial records to correspond to the state fiscal year July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. Therefore, most dues have already been sent, but **Treasurer Stephanie Manwell** will continue to accept dues as needed. **Please do not send any dues to the state office.** Our dues are **\$45**, which includes the \$35 state dues plus \$10 NCREA dues.

Stephanie’s address: 1601 Nectarine St., Apt. H3, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

MEETINGS REVISITED - - - 2013 FREA CONVENTION



Convention décor, our Welcome Bags Attendance Award, Sara Dixon Vol. of the Year



Kindle Fire won by Eugene Grant; portable TV won by Dotti W. ; Unit Display; Banquet group



Convention attendees Thomas Ford, Stanley Lofton, Nancy Johnson, Stephanie Manwell, Dotti Williams, Barbara Leech, Martha Owens; June Smith attended also but is not pictured.

NEW NCREA WEB SITE

NCREA now has its own WEB SITE ! The web address is **www.nassaufrea.org**. Do check it out and refer to it often. Member input is always welcome for suggestions. The web site has the meeting schedule, newsletter copies, photos, links for special helps, and more.



NCREA RECIEVES MANY AWARDS FROM THE STATE

Our Unit received many awards and recognitions this year at the **2013 FREA Convention**. Special Thank You notes to the membership for all your participation support and efforts !

- ✓ We received many accolades and appreciative comments regarding the Welcome Bags
- ✓ Our very own **Stanley Lofton** very ably co-chaired the special Wednesday evening River Cruise/dinner at the state FREA Convention.
- ✓ Our very own **Sara Dixon** is the Volunteer of the Year for District 5.
- ✓ NCREA received a special **Attendance Award** at the FREA Convention for the highest convention attendance of District 5
- ✓ We earned a **Certificate of Recognition and a Patch Award for Volunteer Services** [thanks for leadership of **Joyce Patten** and **Nancy Johnson**].
- ✓ We earned a **Certificate of Merit and a Patch Award for 'Unit Operations'** [thanks to **all members** for support in meeting all criteria for a merit operating Unit].
- ✓ We earned a **Certificate of Recognition from the FREFoundation** [thanks to **Stephanie Manwell, Marion Grant, and all supporting members**].

"SUNSHINE RAYS"

BIRTHDAYS



SEPTEMBER

Ernie Albert	Sherry Quattlebaum
Emily Gilyard	Beth Reynolds
Mamie Hill	Marvilene Sage
Eunice Maley	Patricia Sparkman

OCTOBER

Joan Carter	Cornelia Graves
Sara Dixon	Stanley Lofton
Deloris Gilyar	

NOVEMBER

Peggy Dennard	Barbara Leech
---------------	---------------



PRAYERS for
COMFORT & HEALING

Peggy Dennard	Cornelia Graves
Eunice Maley	

MEETING SCHEDULE 2013-14
9:45 - 10:15am 'Social Time'
10:15am Business meeting begins

- Sept. 17- Crazy Egg Restaurant, Yulee; "Welcome Back Breakfast", 9:30am
- Sept. 26- Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jacksonville, District 5 Workshop
- Oct. 15- FB Police Station Community Room, 'Membership'
- Nov. 26- Full Service School, Yulee; 'Let's Get Even More Techie'
- Dec. (10 or 17)- TBA, 'Holiday Luncheon'
- Jan. 21- Full Service School, Yulee; "Volunteer Services"
- Feb. 18- Full Service School, Yulee; 'Fun Fitness'
- March 18- FB Police Station Community Room "Information Services"
- April - Cummer Museum of Art, Jacksonville; 'Social Outing'
- May 20- Cedar River Restaurant, Fernandina; 'Wrap-Up Dining', 11:30am
- May 28-30- Renaissance Hotel, World Golf Village, St. Augustine; 2014 FREA Convention