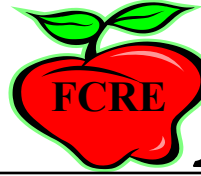


# FCRE

FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 4



# Advocate



FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

DECEMBER, 2016

## LET'S GET READY! LOBBY DAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017!!

by  
Barbara Allen, Director, Government Relations Team

It is that time of year again when the election is over (thank heavens this one is over and who knows what's ahead!!) and we can look forward to talking with our local legislators. We will be briefing them on the current status of our issues and what we would like for them to support OR oppose. It is important for us to educate them each and every year and emphasize those issues that are most important to retirees. This helps to develop the long standing relationships with "education friendly" members of the General Assembly. If **WE** don't remind them of the issues that are important to retirees.....who will?

To organize for these lobby events and activities, the Government Relations Team will meet Thursdays, November 17, and December 15, 2016 at 10:00 a. m. at the Fairfax Education Association Office, 3917 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA, and again on January 19, 2017, At these meetings we will organize our teams/groups so that we will be able to visit all our legislators on Lobby Day, January 26, 2017. Each team will have a leader who will call to make appointments with our legislators and be the spokesperson for that team.

**The Lobby Day bus trip is on January 26, 2017, and all FCRE and FEA-R members are welcome to come along to lobby our General Assembly members in Richmond.** There will be **three** places that the bus will stop to pick up participants before leaving for Richmond:

**Stop # 1** is the parking lot at Fair Oaks Mall, between Poles 55-58. You can see the ManTech Building sign from poles 55-58, but that building is **not on** the Fair Oaks Parking Lot property. The bus will leave there at **6:00 a.m.**

**Stop #2** is the parking lot of Little River United Church of Christ at 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, across from Northern Virginia Community College. The bus will leave for Richmond from there at **6:30 a. m.**

**Stop #3** is the Cracker Barrel, just off Rt. 95 at 17115 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, VA. The bus will leave from the Cracker Barrel between **6:50 a. m. and 7:00 a. m.**

**Briefing on latest issues will be given by VEA Staff** members at 8:30 a. m. in House Room 3 in the Capitol.

**Retirees will meet with legislators during the morning after the briefing.**

**The bus will leave** Richmond at least by 3:00 p. m. and will return sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 p. m. to the stops that were made in the morning.

If you are interested, please come to our meetings on December 16, 2016, or January 19, 2017, and learn a little more about our agenda. Or please feel free to contact Barbara Allen at [Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com](mailto:Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com) or call at [703-978-0470](tel:703-978-0470) and come along on the Lobby Day trip. It's fun!! The basic issues are stated in our Position Paper on page 2 of this newsletter.

**All retired teachers and education support persons are invited and encouraged to travel to Richmond and visit with our Northern Virginia legislators. Don't feel like you have to be an expert on "issues" to qualify as an education retiree lobbyist. Join us for an interesting day. Learn what we do, and why we do it. Read over the Position Statement—this is your beginning!**

**Happy Holidays—see you in the New Year for Lobby Day, January 26, 2017!!♦**



# **FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS AND FAIRFAX EDUCATION ASSOCIATION—RETIRED**

## **POSITION STATEMENT For the 2017 General Assembly Session**

**On behalf of all Virginia's retired education employees, the members of the Fairfax County Retired Educators, and the Fairfax Education Association-Retired support the following:**

- 1. Fully Fund the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and maintain it as a defined benefit plan without any other option.**
  - a. IMPLEMENT VRS actuarial recommendations.**
  - b. FULLY fund the VRS by July 1, 2018.**
  - c. OPPOSE all further efforts to erode the VRS pension benefits.**
- 2. Provide equity for ALL education employees, bringing them to the level of benefits to state employees in comparable positions.**
  - a. This increase should be appropriated from the state funds and NOT from local revenues.**
  - b. Provide health insurance credit to all education support professionals (ESP).**
- 3. Fully fund SOQ mandates and revise the funding formula to more accurately reflect the needs of all localities.**

**In solidarity with our actively employed colleagues, retired educators also call on lawmakers to:**

- 4. Commit to providing a high quality environment for teaching and learning.**
  - a. Attract and retain highly qualified educators.**
    - i. Maintain the current continuing contract.**
    - ii. Reinstate the three person fact-finding panel.**
    - iii. Restore a three year probationary period for new teachers.**
    - iv. Significantly improve educator salaries.**
  - b. Continue to examine and evaluate the frequency and dependence on high stakes testing.**
  - c. Reduce the use of high stakes testing in teacher evaluation.**
  - d. Oppose voucher and tax credit plans for private and home K-12 education.**
- 5. OPPOSE Charter School Amendments.**
- 6. Support Medicaid expansion to provide necessary health care to children of low income families and to bring additional federal funding to the Virginia General Fund.**

# VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Eva Pappas, Vice President and Luncheon Programs

## THE SOJOURNERS— SHOULD NOT BE MISSED!

COME, JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE  
THE HOLIDAY SEASON  
AT THE  
ELKS LODGE ON  
DECEMBER 8, 2016!

The Sojourners are a dynamic duo comprised of vocalist, **Kathryn Boudreau** and keyboardist/arranger, **Ether Smith**.

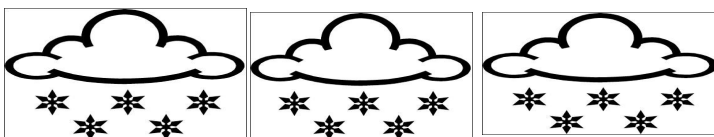
During much of the year, the duo takes their audiences on a "sojourn" down Memory Lane, with an eclectic repertoire of Patriotic and Gospel tunes, as well as Songs of Yesteryear from the 1940s through the 1970s.

For the holiday season of December, the duo presents a vast range of pieces to evoke the special spirit of the season.

Both Kathryn and Ether are retired from the U.S. Air Force and now enjoy sharing their music with a wide variety of audiences.

Join us at the Elks Lodge on December 8 for good food, good fellowship, and good music to get you ready for the holidays! Mail, call, or email your reservation as soon as possible. The Sojourners are not to be missed!

Happy Holidays!



If ice, snow, or other inclement weather occurs on the days of our luncheons or activities, please listen to your radio or television. If Fairfax County Public Schools are closed, our activities are cancelled as well. If FCPS opens late, our activities will operate on time.

# DECEMBER 8, 2016 NEXT MEMBER LUNCHEON LOCATED AT:

Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50)  
Fairfax, Virginia

## AGENDA:

11:00 a. m.-Social Hour and cash bar--meet and greet friends.

11:30 a. m.-Luncheon Menu: Turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, pumpkin pie with whipped cream.  
Optional Vegetarian Plate

12:30 p. m.-Program: The Sojourners!

-Business Meeting-  
-Announcements



## LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations **must** be received by phone, mail, or email **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, December 2, 2016**; we have to give the Elks Lodge the definite number by that date and time. Please call, mail, or email early!

1. **BY MAIL**--Mail your name, name(s) of guests, and check for \$15 for members, \$18 for guests. Make your checks payable to **FCRE**, and mail to **Fairfax County Retired Educators Luncheon Reservations P. O. Box 682 Springfield, Va. 22150-0682**
2. **CALL: 703-923-9877**  
Leave your name (please spell slowly), phone number, and guest name(s)

**OR:**

3. **EMAIL-- [luncheon@fcrc.org](mailto:luncheon@fcrc.org)**  
We still want the same information--your name, and your guest(s) name.  
**NOTE: If you email us with your reservation, expect a reply that your reservation has been received. If you don't receive a reply, please send again because we did not receive your reservation.**

Cost of luncheon: \$15.00 for members of FCRE  
\$18 for each guest.

Members and guests without reservations may be accommodated at \$21.00 per person only if space is available. Unclaimed reservations will be billed.

**NOTE: VEGETARIAN MEALS AVAILABLE!  
JUST TELL US WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR  
RESERVATION!**



# DECEMBER TRAVEL REPORT!

by  
Doris Patteson, Director



If you did not turn out for the October 27 Travel Presentation at the FCRE Office, you missed a great time seeing the beautiful scenes of **Alpine Lakes and Scenic Trains featuring cruises on Lake Como and Lake Maggiore**. As fall slips into winter, this was delightful to dream of where you could be for **August 14—23, 2017**, which are the dates of the trip. The other presentation was **Iceland's Magical Northern Lights** which is scheduled for November 4—10, 2017.

The Alpine trip looks very exciting with lots of lovely scenery, several train trips, including the Glacier Express, lake trips, visits to Zurich, Lucerne, Zermatt, St. Moritz and Como, wine tasting, Swiss entertainment, fondue and lots more!

Our Collette representative emphasized the fact that the trip to Iceland is a very popular destination this year, and Collette has sold out most of their space for the next two years! Early registration is a must! We have just added this as a new trip, and it also sounds exciting! We planned this trip for November in order to have a good opportunity to see the Northern Lights, but the trip has many other features to offer as well. Some of us are really looking forward to taking a nice mineral bath in the blue lagoon, so bring your bathing suit! The pictures of Iceland in the presentation were beautiful—some really great water falls, views of the glaciers, geysers, colorful villages, and lots of history of this beautiful, unique land. We will visit with a family who survived the earthquake, and they will tell us the story of their survival. Go ahead and request the brochures for this trip if you do not have them, and get your deposit/insurance in as soon as you can!

Our deposit/insurance date for **Rediscover Cuba** has passed, but we will still take reservations as long as space is available. Once we give up our space, it is often taken immediately by another group. Our price on Cuba has been reduced by about \$800 which is good news! Some new policies have recently come out allowing our planes to fly directly to Cuba, and we no longer have to spend the night in Orlando. The trip to Cuba is scheduled for April 27, 2017. So, start practicing your salsa steps now!

**Canyon Country's** deposit/insurance date has also passed, and again we will take reservations as long as space is open. And finally, for this group of traveling places, don't forget our **Pacific Northwest and California**. The deposit/insurance date is **this December 26, 2016. Don't wait! Get your reservation now!**

And a reminder: if you have traveled with Collette recently, don't forget to sign up for your loyalty credits of \$150.00 toward your next trip. Here is what you do: go to **Gateway.GoCollette.com** and follow the instructions there.

Call for brochures on any of our trips or on any other trips you would like to take. You can arrange when the trip is convenient for you! Call **Doris Patteson** at **703-534-3975** or email her at **[dpatteson@verizon.net](mailto:dpatteson@verizon.net)**

Think about giving yourself a trip as a Christmas present! What a nice gift indeed!

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FCRE W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION!

W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION  
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# MEMBER ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

by  
Barbara Marshall, Director



## BOOK GROUPS

- Annandale Book Group--Dottie Addison, coordinator. Meets the **3rd** Wednesday at 12 noon in various locations. Call Dottie at **703-971-8479** for more information.
- Fairfax City Group--Sue Williams, coordinator. Meets at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd Friday in Barnes and Noble at Fair Lakes.
- Vienna Tuesday Book Group--Joey Graves, coordinator. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at the Providence Community Center. In December, sharing a favorite children's book or short story. In January, share poetry.
- Vienna Retired Ladies Group-The next meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Oakton Library. **The contact person for this group is now Dee Hardtke.** Dee's email is [dmhardtke@gmail.com](mailto:dmhardtke@gmail.com)

## BRIDGE GROUPS

1. 2nd and 4th Monday Group--Meets 2nd and 4th Monday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Contact person is Barbara Marshall at 571-203-0375 or [bmarshall12@verizon.net](mailto:bmarshall12@verizon.net). This group will meet at the Vienna American Legion this month. The Legion is located at 303 Center St., Vienna, VA 22180.
2. Tuesday Morning Group--Coordinator is Sandy Smith. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in homes.
3. Third Monday Evening Group--Coordinators are Claudette Coffey and Joey Graves. Meets in homes at 7:00 p.m.
4. 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday Bridge Group--Coordinator is Nancy Smagala. Meets at David R. Pinn Community Center on Zion Road in Burke at 9:45 to 12:00. **Note: this group will be back at the Pinn Center beginning September 17. The contact people for this group are now Bunny Monroe ([MissBunnyM@aol.com](mailto:MissBunnyM@aol.com)) and Emily Krisko ([kriskodt@aol.com](mailto:kriskodt@aol.com))**
5. The Bridge Review Group with Dave Meadows meets at 1:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at the American Legion in Vienna, Va. See address above in 2nd and 4th Monday Group.

## CINEMA ARTS GROUP

The Cinema Arts Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month during the school year. The film selection determines the time at 9:45-10:15 a. m. Following the movie, interested participants have lunch and a lively film discussion at First Watch Café located across from the Cinema Arts Theatre.

If interested, please email **Alicia Clelland** at [cllellaap@cox.net](mailto:cllellaap@cox.net) to be on the "revised" contact list. This will ensure that you receive notice each month of the movie selection. The FCRE website also announces the film and time of showing on the weekend preceding the movie.



## THANK YOU!

FCRE would like to take this opportunity to thank the **Apple Federal Credit Union** for their continued support of our activities. We really appreciate you!



## REMEMBRANCES

Fairfax County Retired Educators is saddened by the loss of one of its members:

**Robert Eugene Phipps**

**October 26, 2016**

**Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.**

## REMEMBER:

**FCRE Recommendation: Do NOT under any circumstances withdraw from your Fairfax County Public Schools-sponsored health insurance plan. If you do, you cannot rejoin!**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM:  
THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF FCRE.  
MAY THE SEASON BE OF PEACE  
AND JOY FOR YOU!**

**FCRE *ADVOCATE***  
**FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS**  
**P.O. BOX 682**  
**SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150-0682**

**DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016**

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**TIME SENSITIVE!**

**FCRE LUNCHEON DATES**  
**December 8, 2016**  
**February 9, 2017**  
**(Snow day, March 9, 2017)**  
**April 13, 2017**  
**June 8, 2017**

**CLIP AND KEEP!**

**DEC/JAN 2016-2017**

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**DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016-2017**  
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**P. O. Box 682**  
**Springfield, VA 22150-0682**  
**Email: [fcre@fcre.org](mailto:fcre@fcre.org)**  
**Website: [www.fcre.org](http://www.fcre.org)**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**OFFICERS FOR 2016—2017**(July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017)  
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Vice President..... Eva Pappas  
Secretary.....Anita Cline  
Treasurer.....Barbara Dent  
Past President .....John Dent  
Parliamentarian.....Walt Mika

\*\*\*\*\*

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**TO REACH  
FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED  
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**CALL: 703-923-9877 OR**  
**EMAIL US AT: [fcre@fcre.org](mailto:fcre@fcre.org) and**  
**[luncheon@fcre.org](mailto:luncheon@fcre.org)**  
**WEBSITE: [www.fcre.org](http://www.fcre.org)**