

FCRE

FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS



Advocate



VOL. XXXVII, No. 6

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 2016

NEW YEAR CHALLENGES FOR FCRE

by
John Dent, President

Hello! And Happy New Year to all FCRE members and your families. I hope my message finds everyone in good health and spirits as we welcome the new year, 2016.

As we get back to work, I look backward to recount what we accomplished on behalf of FCRE members last year. Much of 2015 was spent in meetings with FCPS Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza and representatives of the school system's Human Resources team. We worked hard to gain access to participate in discussions concerning Retiree benefits.

We finished 2015 by gaining recognition as representatives for our respective retirees (FCRE and FEA-R) and a "seat at the table". We are preparing to start a series of four (4) meetings with Human Resources to discuss a wide range of issues concerning retiree benefits for the year 2017. These topics will include pharmacy benefits and changes brought about by the Affordable Care Act. As you are aware, health care benefits and costs have changed dramatically over the last few years. Paired with upcoming national elections and possible changes in Congress, there remain many questions to be answered that affect education and educators, retired or not.

Both FCRE and FEA-R were invited to nominate representatives to participate on the Human Resources Advisory Committee to evaluate "Requests for Proposals (RFPs)" for the 2017 year contract renewals. Participation on this advisory committee will require a significant amount of time from the nominees, but we gain direct information into the cost structures, company pricing of medications, and reliability of a company selected to offer pharmacy benefits to FCPS retirees and employees.

Retirees will have two (2) representatives on the advisory panel to select a pharmacy provider for FCPS. Treasurer of FCRE, Barbara Dent was nominated and accepted by FCPS Human Resources to sit on this panel along with Kathy Davis of FEA-R. After a decision is made for the selection of a pharmacy benefits provider by FCPS, we will be able to communicate with FCRE members as well as FCPS.

Along with the coming Lobby Day activities in Richmond on January 28, 2016, and the ongoing activities of our organization, our schedule is full. But we look forward to having an impact in the decision making process relating to retirees and their benefits.

We will continue to update you on the FCPS decisions as they become available, and we certainly look forward to again having a "seat at the table."♦

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Make your reservation NOW for the February 11, 2016, Luncheon. See information on page 2.
2. January 27, 2016--Travel Presentation at the FCRE Office at 2:00 p.m. Please remember to come in the Employees' Entrance at the right side of the building. We are asked not to come in the front door.
3. If inclement weather occurs on days we have activities, please see page 2 on what to do.
4. January 28, 2016--Lobby Day in Richmond! Come and join us to meet our delegates and let them know our concerns. This is the long session of the General Assembly. Refer to the Special Edition of the FCRE *Advocate* mailed or emailed you earlier this month.
5. Get the *Advocate* by email. See page page 3.
6. GREAT NEWS! Thanks to your wonderful generosity, the FCRE Scholarship Committee made \$1,000.50 at the Christmas Sale at our December, 2016 Luncheon! The Scholarship Committee thanks you for your support!



VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by
EVA PAPPAS, Vice President and Program Chairman

Come, and be serenaded

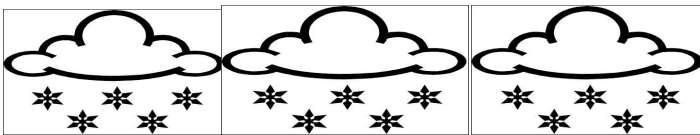
at our February 11 FCRE Luncheon! **The Harmony Heritage Singers** will once again be performing for us at our February Luncheon. Please mark your calendars, and get your reservations in because this is a performance you do not want to miss.

The Harmony Heritage Singers are a group of retired gentlemen who enjoy singing together in the distinctive barbershop style. Under the direction of Bob Wachter, the Singers rehearse twice a month at the Sherwood Regional Library in the Mount Vernon neighborhood. They present about twenty-five performances a year mostly at retirement communities and senior groups in Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Our Harmony Heritage Singers are legally and historically bound to **SPEBSQSA**, an acronym standing for the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

Barbershop harmony is music in a very pure form with nothing but human voices coming together to create rich and satisfying texture that is pleasing to the ears and invigorating to the soul.

Join us on February 11, and let these gentlemen put a smile on your face and in your heart. You will leave truly uplifted by them!♦



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.



February 11, 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.-Lunch
- 12:30 p. m.-Program: Harmony Heritage Singers
- Business Meeting--

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations **must** be received by phone, mail, or email **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, February 5, 2016**, because 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. 682 Springfield, VA 22150-0682**

OR:

2. **CALL:** 703-923-9877
Leave your name (please spell slowly), phone number, and guest name(s)

OR:

3. **EMAIL**-- luncheon@fcrc.org
We still want the same information--your name, and your guest(s) if you are bringing any.

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.



TRAVEL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY!

by
Doris Patteson, Director, Member Services Tours

JANUARY 27, 2016--TRAVEL PRESENTATION AT FCRE OFFICE!!!

JANUARY 27, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.--Travel Presentation at the FCRE Office in the back of the Apple Federal Credit Union, 6708 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA. (Remember to come in the Employees' Entrance, and not through the front door of the Credit Union.) Door prizes, food, and great information on our next trips.



At our next presentation, we will be featuring the ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FEST for September 29, through October 4.



And we will be presenting MAGICAL CHRISTMAS MARKETS for December 3-9, 2016. And, there is an extra \$100 off on the Magical Christmas Markets if you book by the end of January!



FEBRUARY 22, 2016--DEPOSIT DATE FOR IMPERIAL CITIES!

More good news on discounts: An extra \$100 off on the IMPERIAL CITIES if you book this trip by the end of January.

The extra discount is in addition to discounts already given!



JANUARY 22, 2016--DEPOSIT DATE FOR THE COLORADO ROCKIES. Some of you may not have your *Advocate* by then, but if you are interested, call Doris, and she will check to see if spaces are still available.

And, as you know, Doris can book you on individual Collette trips through our **World Connect Program**. If we are not offering a group trip to your favorite destination, check the Collette website and tell Doris where you want to go. Plus, we also have the **Spotlight Tours** where you stay in one place and tour from that destination.



FEBRUARY 20, 2016--FCRE MEMBERS LEAVE FOR TROPICAL COSTA RICA!

FOR INFORMATION ON ANY OF OUR TRIPS OR BOOKING ANY TRIP, email Doris Patteson at dpatteson@verizon.net or call Doris at 703-534-3975.

FCRE Request for Digital Version of Advocate Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving the FCRE newsletter in a digital format instead of the hard copy presently mailed to you, please fill out the form below and return it to the FCRE office. We are offering this option as we move towards digital communications with our members.

Name (please print): _____

Email address (please print): _____

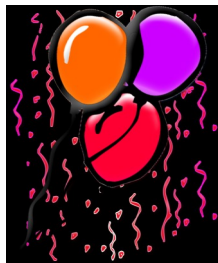
Send this form to:

FCRE

P.O. Box 682

Springfield, VA 22150-0682

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



FCRE would like to welcome our new members who have joined us during this year!

We are so happy that you have decided to become part of our organization, and we hope you are enjoying your membership!

Be sure to come to our FCRE Luncheon on February 11, at 11:00 a.m. at the Elks Lodge on Route 50.

And our new members are:

**Jeannie Carruth
Karen Christopher
Gisela Harrison
Stephanie Johnson
Lou Ann Macchiaroli
Susan Magathan
Marcy McGahee-
Kovak**

**Nancy Nichols
Cheryl Perry
Shelley Prince
Joyce Ramos
Robert Sanders
Susan Trinkla
Mary Vaughan**

HISTORY AND RECORDS

**Linda Beuhring and Phyllis McDevitt,
Directors**

Have you taken a picture of your special group this year? We need your pictures of what you are doing! If you are having a holiday party for your book group or your bridge group, take a good picture for us!

There is space in this year's first semester and second semester photo books to include pictures of your gatherings. Please take pictures!

We would like to ask you to take your pictures with that little digital camera that you have! Digital phones do not give enough resolution to record your fabulous doings!

Put the camera on flash and take several photos. Do several shots that are horizontal as well as vertical. Make sure you have not cut off anybody's head, that eyes are not closed, and guess what! You have pictures of what your special group or activity is doing!

We will try to drop in on some of your groups and activities, but we need your help to make sure we have recorded the events of this year.

And after you have taken your pictures, call the **FCRE OFFICE at 703-923-9877 or email FCRE at fcree@fcree.org** We will get back to you on what to do next! Thank you so much for helping us get your great pictures of your groups and activities!♦

MEMBER ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

by
Barbara Marshall, Director

BOOK GROUPS

- **Annandale Book Group**--Dottie Addison, coordinator. Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 12 noon in various places. Call **703-971-8479** for more information.
- **Fairfax City Group**--Sue Williams, coordinator. Meets at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st Thursday in Barnes and Noble at Fairlakes.
- **Vienna Tuesday Book Group**--Joey Graves, coordinator. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at the Providence Community Center.
- **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 The selection for February is *Girl on the Train* by **Paula Hawkins.**

BRIDGE GROUPS

- **FCRE Group**--Meets 2nd and 4th Monday mornings Contact person is Barbara Marshall at 571-203-0375 or 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.
- **Tuesday Morning Group**--Coordinator is Sandy Smith. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in homes.
- **Third Monday Evening Group**--Coordinators are Claudette Coffey and Joey Graves. Meets in homes at 7:00 p.m.
- **1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday Bridge Group**--Coordinator is Nancy Smagala. Meets at David R. Pinn Community Center on Zion Road in Burke at 9:45-12:00. Players do not stay for lunch. Email nsmagala@aol.com for more information.
- **The Review Bridge Group** led by Dave Meadows meets at the Vienna American Legion on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

CINEMA ARTS GROUP!!!!

Meet your friends at the Cinema Arts Group which meets at the Cinema Arts Theater on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Cinema Arts Theatre in Pickett Shopping Center across from Woodson High School.

Join your friends for a good movie and lunch afterwards at the First Watch Café.

Contact person is **Alicia Clelland** at cllellaap@cox.net **Email Alicia if you would like to be included on the email list for the next film.**

ARE YOU IN THE PINK? IF SO, IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!!

1. Check the expiration date above your name on your mailing label. If it reads, "Expires June 30, 2016" and is marked in pink, it is time to **RENEW!**
2. It is easy to renew; here is what you do:
3. Write your check (payable to FCRE) for **\$75.00 for a 3 year renewal, or \$30.00 for a 1 (one) year renewal.**
4. Please write your **membership number** (it is on the line above your name on your mailing label) and the word, **Renewal**, on the memo line of your check.
5. Mail your check to:
FCRE
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
P.O. BOX 0682
SPRINGFIELD, VA.22150-0682
6. That's all you do to renew!



REMEMBRANCES

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

Jean M. Erickson
December 31, 2015

Mary Helen Youngs
July 24, 2015

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families 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!

THANK YOU!

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

W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION
501 C 3 TAX DEDUCTIBLE
CHOOSE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OF:

 \$5.00 \$10.00 \$15.00 \$20.00
 whatever you can
 Annual Or Endowment

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: _____

MAKE CHECKS TO: W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SEND TO: W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
FCRE
P. O. BOX 682
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150-0682



DETACH THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION. YOU WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT FOR YOUR TAX RECORDS.

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

FEBRUARY 2016

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STANDARD CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE!

FCRE LUNCHEON DATES

Thursday, February 11, 2016
(Thursday, March 10, 2016--
make up day if February
Luncheon is snowed out.)
Thursday, April 14, 2016
Thursday, June 9, 2016

ARE YOU IN THE PINK?
SEE PAGE 5 TO SEE
WHAT TO DO!!!!!!

FEBRUARY 2016

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Editors: Billie Johnson and Walt Mika

Change of address, articles, letters, and comments should be sent by mail only to:

Fairfax County Retired Educators

FCRE *Advocate*

P. O. Box 682

Springfield, VA 11250-0682

Email: fcre@fcre.org

Website: www.fcre.org

OFFICERS FOR 2015—2016 (July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016)

President.....John Dent

Vice President.....Eva Pappas

Secretary.....Anita Cline

Treasurer.....Barbara Dent

President Elect.....Billie Johnson

Parliamentarian.....Walt Mika

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Budget and Finance.....Walt Mika

Communications.....Ken McDaniel

Health Benefits.....Walt Mika

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History and Records.....Phyllis McDevitt

Linda Beuhring

Information/Publications.....Billie Johnson

Legato School Museum.....Sue Langley

Government Relations/Legislative...Barbara Allen

Luncheon Director.....Linda Beuhring

Membership.....To be filled

Member Activities.....Barbara Marshall

Member Services-Tours.....Doris Patteson

Parliamentarian.....Walt Mika

Program Director.....Eva Pappas

W. Harold Ford Scholarship.....Phyllis Rittman

Office Manager.....Anita Francis

Remembrances.....Kathleen Donnelly

Mary McKinley

Receipts Accounting.....FCRE Elf

Membership Records.....Dee Kirby

TO REACH
FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED
EDUCATORS:

CALL: 703-923-9877 OR
EMAIL US AT: fcre@fcre.org and
luncheon@fcre.org
WEBSITE: www.fcre.org

