

FCRE

FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS



SPECIAL EDITION!

Advocate

VOL. XXXVII, No. 5

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

JANUARY 2016

LOBBY DAY: THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016

by
Barbara Allen, Director, Government Relations Team

All retired teachers and education support persons are **invited and encouraged** to travel to Richmond on Thursday, January 28, 2016, to visit our Northern Virginia legislators. Don't feel like you must be an expert on issues to qualify as an education retiree lobbyist. You are a retired educator, and your input counts. Join us for an interesting day. Learn what we do, and why we do it.

THE FACTS:

Our primary purpose is to meet with and educate our local legislators on retiree issues. We also show solidarity with our active colleagues as well. We continue a tradition here: our colleagues who came before us did the same for us. It is important to develop long standing relations with our education friendly members of the General Assembly. We must keep them aware of our issues and concerns. If we don't keep them informed, who will?

To organize, the Government Relations Team met Thursday, December 17, 2015, 10:00 a.m. and will meet again on January 14, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at the Fairfax Education Association Office, 3917 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA. At those two meetings, we will organize our teams/groups so that we will be able to visit all of our legislators on Lobby Day, January 28, 2016. 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 28, 2016, and all FCRE and FEA-R members are welcome to go along to lobby our General Assembly members in Richmond.

There will be **three** places that the bus will stop to pick up participant before leaving for Richmond:

- Stop # 1-- 6:00 a.m. -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. Remember, the bus leaves at 6:00 a.m.**
- Stop # 2-- 6:30 a.m. - The parking lot of Little River United Church of Christ at 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA., across from the Northern Virginia Community College. Remember, the bus for Richmond leaves from the Church at 6:30 a.m.**
- Stop # 3-- Between 6:50 a.m. and 7:00 a.m - Cracker Barrel. just off Route 95, at 17115 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, VA. Remember, the bus leaves Cracker Barrel between 6:50 and 7:00 a.m.**

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

Retirees will meet with legislators during the morning after the briefing by VEA.

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.

(continued in the next column on this page)

If you are interested, please come to our meeting on **January 14, 2016**, and learn a little more about our agenda. Please feel free to contact **Barbara Allen** at **Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com** or call **703-978-0470** and come along on the Lobby Day trip. **It's fun!**

On page 3 of this newsletter are the basic issues of our **Position Statement**.

Mark your calendars for this important date:
Thursday, January 28, 2016!♦



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR OUR NEXT TRIP PRESENTATION:

2:00 p.m., JANUARY 27, 2016

FCRE OFFICE

6708 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA. Remember to come to the Employee Entrance on the right side of the building.

AND

REMEMBER, THE DEPOSIT DATE FOR

COLORADO ROCKIES IS

JANUARY 15, 2016!

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 _____

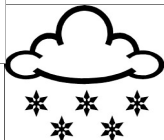
IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: _____

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.



SNOW??????????? If ice or snow falls on 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♦



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!

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!

POSITION STATEMENT

For the 2016 General Assembly Session

On behalf of all Virginia's retired education employees, the members of the Fairfax Education Association--Retired, and the Fairfax County Retired Educators 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 the Charter School Amendment.**
 - a. This amendment would allow the Commonwealth to determine whether or not to approve charter schools in a locality and impose an unfunded mandate by forcing local jurisdictions to fund these schools.**
- 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.**

FCRE *ADVOCATE* JANUARY 2016
FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
P.O. BOX 682
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150-0682

PRESORTED
STANDARD CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MERRIFIELD VA
PERMIT NO. 1175

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

JANUARY 2016

FCRE *Advocate* Vol. XXXVII, No. 5
JANUARY 2016
The FCRE *Advocate* is published by the FCRE—Fairfax County Retired Educators exclusively for the association membership.
©2016 Fairfax County Retired Educators, Inc.
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: fcree@fcree.org
Website: www.fcree.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 ElectBillie Johnson
Parliamentarian.....Walt Mika

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Budget and Finance.....Walt Mika
Communications.....Ken McDaniel
Health Benefits.....Walt Mika

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, continued:
History and Records.....Phyllis McDevitt
Linda Beuhring
Information/Publications.....Billie Johnson
Legato School Museum.....Sue Langley
Government Relations/Legislative...Barbara Allen
Luncheon Director.....
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: fcree@fcree.org and
luncheon@fcree.org
WEBSITE: www.fcree.org**