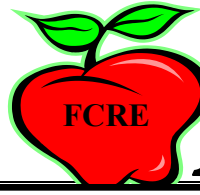


FCRE

FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS



Advocate

VOL. XXXVII, No. 7

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

MARCH 2016

LOBBY DAY, 2016

by
Barbara Allen, Director, Government Relations Team

Each year Lobby Day is different, but there is one condition that *looms* over every single one of us, and that is: "What excitement will the weather provide?" This year there were many names for The BIG snow, Snowmeggdon, Jonas, historic event, record breaking, and some names that should not be printed! No matter what we called it, there was a lot of snow. And as I write this, I still see mounds of snow that were piled high from neighborhood snow blowers. What is lovely to look at while safe and warm inside with a cup of tea becomes awful and treacherous when decisions have to be made on whether or not to venture out on slippery roads and unplowed streets. Do we go ahead and brave the weather, or do we reschedule? The decision waswe GO!!

So, CONGRATULATIONS and thanks to the tried and true who persevered and were lucky to get out to make the trip to Richmond to speak for education. The Richards Bus Company was superb as always providing us with a safe, cautious driver...AND...we did not have to deal with rescheduling appointments with 27 legislators which would have been really difficult.

I do want to give special thanks to **Stella Worley** who has always provided support, advice, logistical help and who took care of all things related to getting our transportation. I could not/would not do this trip without her. Stella, you are the best! A big thank you goes to **Mimi Dash** whom we count on to have the latest important information and to add to our knowledge base and to expand our talking points.

When we arrived in Richmond at the Capitol, we received the latest report on issues related to retirees and/or education by Robley Jones of the VEA staff who briefed us on what we needed to know. Off we went to talk to our senators and delegates or their legislative aides.

Our teams talked about a variety of issues including: our Position Statement items which includes our support of the Virginia Retirement System and a defined benefit pension plan. Our Position Statement emphasized the full funding of the VRS by 2018 and our opposition to further efforts to erode the VRS pension plan. Also on our agenda, we spoke in favor of our still employed colleagues by suggesting higher teacher salaries, suggesting more money for Virginia's schools, protection of teacher personal information, reform of the grievance/dismissal regulation, and voiced our opposition for the Charter School Amendment. Please see the January Special Edition of the *FCRE Advocate* for the rest of our talking points of our Position Statement.

My special thanks to our group of lobbyists who braved the chill January day:

Stella Worley	Joanne Alexander
John Dent	Cheryl Fulton
Dennis Pfennig	Adrienne White
Joey Graves	Bruce Smith (PWEA)
Faye Wagoner	Barbara Allen
Jane Carl	
Mimi Dash	

After a long day, we boarded our bus for the trip home satisfied that we had braved the weather and spoken for our important education issues.

Our next steps are to keep up with the bills brought forth by our legislators and to keep a close watch on what takes place in Richmond. We also need to pay close attention to the elections coming up in this very important election year.♦

2:00 p.m.--
THURSDAY, MARCH 24,
2016!
TRAVEL PRESENTATION
AT FCRE OFFICE!
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!





RETIREE LOBBY DAY, JANUARY 28, 2016

by
Dennis Joseph Pfennig

It had snowed two feet two days earlier; the temperature the night before fell to 17 degrees; the roads were covered with black ice; the public school in NOVA were closed, but nothing deterred the hardy retirees, members of **Fairfax County Retired Educators** and/or **FEA-Retired**, from heading to Richmond by bus about 6:30 a.m. to lobby the General Assembly.

Led by Barbara Allen, joint association Chair of the Government Relations Team and assisted by Stella Worley, "The Bus Queen," the retirees were joined by Prince William retired, and VEA-Retired Council member, Bruce Smith, on the way south. Once in Richmond, VEA Government Relations Director Rob Jones led a half hour discussion of bills then before the lawmakers that were in some cases favorable to educator interests and some which were not.

Divided by Barbara Allen into three teams with specific assignments, the retirees were on their way to scheduled appointments with lawmakers at 9:00 a.m. My team included John Dent, President of FCRE, Cheryl Fulton, and Faye Wagoner. We managed to speak individually for fifteen minutes to one-half hour with State Senators George Barker and David Marsden and State Delegates Dave Albo and David Bulova. Delegate Tim Hugo's Legislative Aide had to substitute for his boss because Hugo was in a committee meeting.

In each session, our team stressed the positions by the joint organizations on pending legislation. By the end of the morning, we were satisfied that even if those we spoke to did not agree with all our positions, they listened respectfully and were given clear reasons why our arguments were sound. Each of the other two teams were equally well received and satisfied with the day's events.

By noon, the General Assembly was ready to go into formal session, and we were ready for lunch. Never let it be said that retirees neglect food! The trip back to NOVA on the bus was uneventful and nap worthy.

If you have never been to Retiree Lobby Day, think about it for 2017. The comradery, the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile instead of complaining to spouses and neighbors, and the joys of an early winter morn are all well worth rising before the sun.♦

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2:00 p.m.--TRAVEL
PRESENTATION at
FCRE OFFICE
MARCH 24, 2016!



Our travel presentation on **Albuquerque Balloon Fest** and **Magical Christmas Markets** got snowed out on January 27, and our Regional Collette Representative will be traveling most of February and March. Therefore, the deposit date for the **Albuquerque Balloon Fest** is **March 22, 2016**. Sorry there was not a presentation on this. If you are interested in this trip, please contact Doris Patteson at **703-534-3975** as soon as possible.

We are rescheduling our presentation for **Thursday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m.** at the FCRE Office in the back of the Apple Federal Credit Union, 6708 Backlick Road, Springfield, Virginia. Bring your friends! And don't forget to come in the Employees' Entrance on the side! We will have door prizes and food! And we will present **Magical Christmas Markets** at that time and take some time to discuss future trips. We also want to get your suggestions and input for these future trips! Where do you want to go?

We also have our deposit date coming up for **Imperial Cities**. That date is **February 22, 2016**. Get your reservations in as soon as possible!


As you know, Doris can book you on individual Collette trips through Collette's **World Connect Program**. If we are not offering a group trip to your favorite destination, check the Collette website, and let Doris know where you want to go. We also have the **Spotlight Tours** where you stay in one destination and tour from that location.

Email Doris Patteson at dpatteson@verison.net or call her at **703-534-3975** for all information!

**SEE YOU ON MARCH 24, 2016 AT THE
FCRE OFFICE AT 2:00 P.M.!**



VEGETARIANS!



Please be aware that we can accommodate vegetarian choices if you let us know when you make your reservation for the luncheon. We can let Chef Jay know how many vegetarian plates we will need if you tell us when you call, email, or write to make your reservations! Just be sure that you tell us you need a vegetarian meal!

APRIL 14, 2016 NEXT MEMBER LUNCHEON LOCATED AT:

Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50)
Fairfax, Virginia
11:00 a.m.

MISSING!!! **YOUR PICTURES!**



MISSING! YOUR PICTURES! WHERE ARE THEY? WE NEED YOUR HELP!

It is time to pick up your camera on your way out to your FCRE Book Group, FCRE Bridge Group, etc.!

We want to include pictures of the groups that meet for FCRE social activities!

Our photo books should include the good times you have while playing bridge, going to movies with lunch afterwards, and gathering to discuss shared book readings.

Your smiling faces should be on the Spring 2016 edition of our historical record book!

IMPORTANT: Please take a **camera** with you because pictures from a camera meet the specifications for printing. Advanced digital camera phones may give acceptable results if they have high resolution capability.

We want to remember all of the good times for the 2015-2016 FCRE year, but we cannot do that if we do not have pictures.

Take your pictures, and then email your photos to **Linda Beuhring** at lebeuhring@verizon.net. You can also transfer them to a thumb drive or flash drive that can be borrowed for a while.

Send **Linda Beuhring** an email if you have questions!♦

ADVOCATE MAILED LATE --EXCITING STORY!

There was no dark and stormy night, but we did have two feet of snow before Tuesday, January 26 when we were scheduled to mail the February *Advocate*.

Snow was on the ground, schools were closed so we did not meet. Our Office Manager, Anita Francis, called our faithful and intrepid group; and they donned snow boots and waded through the snow to put out the newsletter on Thursday, January 28. Luckily, the weather cooperated and melted the snow, and the roads were fairly clear. Although FCPS schools were closed, the faithful group made it to the FCRE Office in Springfield. Doris Patteson brought refreshments which she would have used for her canceled travel presentation. (The travel presentation is re-scheduled for March 24. See the story on page 2).

Thank you for slogging through the snow: Cindy Borer, Anita Cline, Anita Francis, Dee Kirby, Rita Mayer, Phyllis McDevitt, Doris Patteson, John Patteson, Barb Schwalber, and Helen Smith. What a great group you are!♦

MEMBER ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

by
Barbara Marshall, Director



BOOK GROUPS

- Annandale Book Group--Dottie Addison, coordinator. Meets the 3rd 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 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.
- 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



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 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 at the First Watch Café to discuss the film.

Contact person is **Alicia Clelland** at clellaap@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 one of its members:

Thomas Flick
January 22, 2016

Our thoughts and prayers are with his families and friends.

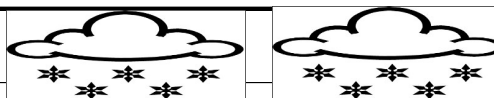
REMEMBER:

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

FCRE LUNCHEON! APRIL 14, 2016! KATE CORBETT, AUTHOR OF CALLA LILIES IS OUR SPEAKER! MORE IN APRIL ISSUE!

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!



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.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The Board of Directors of the W. Harold Ford Scholarship Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who contributed to the Scholarship Foundation from July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.



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FCRE LUNCHEON DATES
Thursday, April 14, 2016

Thursday, June 9, 2016

ARE YOU IN THE PINK?
SEE PAGE 4 TO SEE
WHAT TO DO!!!!!!

MARCH 2016

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