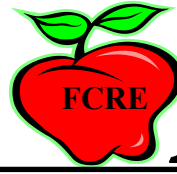


FCRE

CRAB CAKES!
APRIL 13 LUNCHEON!



FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS



Advocate

VOL. XXXVIII, No. 7

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

APRIL 2017

FCRE JOINS COALITION TO SAVE FAIRFAX ERFC PENSIONS

The Executive Board of the Fairfax County Retired Educators has been meeting jointly with the Executive Board members of FEA-R and FEA since last year on matters of importance to all three organizations. As you have read in recent issues of the *Advocate* and local newspapers, FCRE has a joint Government Relations Team that meets monthly to discuss and monitor the Fairfax County School Board actions and the FC Board of Supervisors' actions relating to active educators and retired educators. Our Government Relations Team also meets with our state legislators concerning state legislation which would affect us.

Our Government Relations Team advocates for better working conditions for those still employed, stronger health care benefits for all, and maintaining pension benefits for all. We retirees speak for those still employed because retirees in the past spoke for us. A promise made is a promise kept.

FCRE tries to inform you through our monthly newsletter on issues that will impact our pension benefits, our health care benefits, and our ability to continue to live locally in Fairfax County. You have read numerous articles in the *Advocate* regarding shortfalls in the Fairfax County Schools Budget that will have an impact on our local ERFC supplementary pension plan. Various options have been proposed to reduce the School System's contributions to the ERFC pension plan which covers FCPS employees and support personnel.

We, FCRE, oppose all these options. NO CHANGES TO ERFC!

In response to these attempts by FCPS to reduce ongoing costs by targeting our ERFC, our Executive Board recommended that FCRE join a larger group that is called the Coalition to Stand Up for Fairfax Employee Rights. The goal of the Coalition is to collectively work to maintain our well-managed pensions. The members who belong to this Coalition are not all ERFC members but have their own pension plans funded through Fairfax County. Coalition members recognize that if one group is targeted by Fairfax County for pension reductions (or outright cancellation of an existing plan) any, and all pensions can be targeted in the future.

The Coalition will try to identify strategies to scrutinize the Fairfax County Budget, the Fairfax County School Board Budget, related financial/budgetary items, funding trends, and Fiduciary legal issues. This pension issue is not a one year decision but involves multiple year projections that will also impact the pension sustainability of other Fairfax County pensions. Once changes in benefit packages begin, or a delay in funding of pension obligations begins, the results will be a downward spiral which would affect the quality of services for all of Fairfax County residents.

The Coalition covers many people, still employed by or retired from Fairfax County, who provide valuable and necessary services to the citizens of Fairfax County. The need to maintain the pensions of these valuable employees as well as those who served this County well in the past is a must. Many of the FC retirees are able to stay in Fairfax County and help maintain its excellence because of the pensions they heavily paid into. The retirees of Fairfax County who remain in the County contribute to its wealth and its excellence. We do not want that to change.

On page 2 of this newsletter is the same information from last month's *Advocate* to tell you how you, as a former education employee of Fairfax County can keep your ERFC pension from being reduced. **ALL** are affected. not just those who are still active employees(retirees are affected, too). See last month's newsletter for the breakdown of the options Fairfax County School Board is planning to vote on in April. Send them an email every day, give them a call every few days leading up to the vote on **April 27, 2017. Support NO CHANGES TO ERFC!!!!**

SAVE YOUR ERFC PENSION!

1. When you email, put **NO CHANGES TO ERFC** in the subject line.
2. When you call:
 - a. Be nice.
 - b. Introduce yourself as a member of ERFC and simply say you would like the school member to know that you are supporting No Changes to ERFC. Thank the person for their time.

We have until April 27, and this is your chance to be heard on this attack on your retirement funds. We gave a good portion of our lives to build Fairfax County School system, and we gave a good portion of our salaries to establish this pension fund for our later years. We need to protect what we have now and protect it for those who are continuing in our profession. Thank you for all you do.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

FAIRFAX	COUNTY	SCHOOL BOARD	2016/2017
1. At Large	Ryan McElveen	ryan.mcelveen@fcps.edu	571-423-1089
2. At Large	Ilryong Moon	ilryong.moon@fcps.edu	571-423-1090
3. At Large	Jeannette Hough	jhough1@fcps.edu	571-423-1091
4. Braddock District	Megan McLaughlin	megan.mclaughlin@fcps.edu	571-423-1088
5. Dranesville District	Janie Strauss (Vice Chairman)	jane.strauss@fcps.edu	571-423-1087
6. Hunter Mill District	Pat Hynes	pat.hynes@fcps.edu	571-423-1082
7. Lee District	Tamara Derenak Kaufax	tdkaufax@fcps.edu	571-423-1081
8. Mason District	Sandy Evans (Chairman)	ssevans@fcps.edu	571-423-1083
9. Mt. Vernon District	Karen Corbett Sanders	klcorbettsan@fcps.edu	571-423-1086
10. Providence District	Dalia Palchik	dapalchik@fcps.edu	571-423-1084
11. Springfield District	Elizabeth Schultz	elizabeth.schultz@fcps.edu	571-423-1080
12. Sully District	Tom Wilson	tawilson1@fcps.edu	571-423-1085
Student Representative	Laura Chu	laura.chu@fcps.edu	

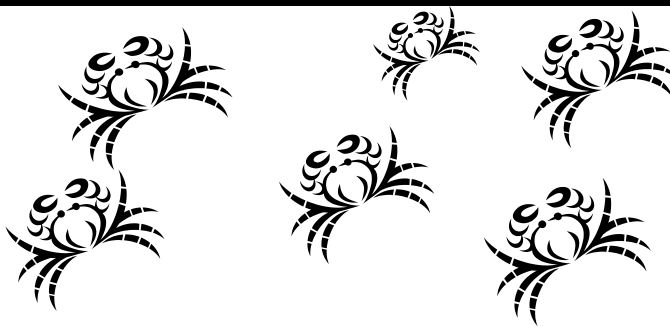
SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:

- • **February 9 - School Board adopts FY 2018 Advertised Budget** – meeting at Luther Jackson School.
- • February 14 - Fairfax County Executive releases FY 2018 Advertised Budget Plan
- • February 21 - Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Meeting
- • February 28 - Fairfax County Board of Supervisors advertises tax rate.
- • March 13 - School Board conducts budget work session.
- • April 4 - School Board presents FCPS budget to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.
- • April 4-6 - Board of Supervisors holds public hearings on the budget.
- • April 24 - School Board conducts budget work session.
- • **April 25** - County Board of Supervisors completes FY 2018 Budget mark-up to determine budget package and tax rate. **WATCH THIS DATE, TOO! !**
- • **April 27—ERFC to be voted on.**

Here's a link to the actual budget: <https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/pdf/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget.pdf>

You can click on a topic in table of contents to easily get to the page.

NOTE: At the April 13, 2017, FCRE Luncheon, the chef at the Elks Lodge will be serving CRAB CAKES. If you are allergic to crab or shellfish, please indicate this when you make your reservation and ask for a substitute meal for the APRIL 13, 2017 Luncheon. We want to keep you safe!



**April 13, 2017
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:
Spinach Salad,
CRAB CAKES!
Red Skin Potatoes
Cole Slaw
Lemon Meringue Pie
- 12:30 p. m.-Program: Carolyn Kiggins
- Business Meeting--



LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be received by phone, mail, or email no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, April 7, 2017, 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@fcre.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.

Unclaimed reservations will be billed.



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.

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!

**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!

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!

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Eva Pappas, Vice President and Luncheon Programs



DECLUTTER OR DOWN SIZE—WE HAVE THE ANSWER!

Most magazines have a section on how to down size or reduce your clutter. Americans are known for their voracious appetite for shopping. Too many of us have too much of everything. Ever wonder why after the holiday season everyone shops for display containers? That's right, to store unwanted items for another season. Or, it's a plot to help us forget what we have so we can buy more of the same. It's a never ending cycle.

I have often thought about refugees who must leave their homes in short notice and carry only one suitcase. What would I place in the rarefied space of that sole suitcase? I have a problem with decluttering all my life. To make matters worse, I collect articles and books on the subject which only exacerbates the problem. With all that in mind, I decided to invite **Carolyn Kiggins** to our April luncheon. I heard her speak on the Art of Consigning and decided we could all benefit from her program.


Carolyn Kiggins is the Community Retail Supervisor at Vinson Hall Retirement Community. She manages the Treasure Shop which is a consignment shop and also a gift shop that is in Vinson Hall's new Community Building. Vinson Hall is a Continual Care Community in McLean open to military and government employees.

Carolyn Kiggins is excited to tell you about her community and the process of downsizing whether you are planning to move or just want to de-clutter. She has been in retail over 30 years and finds it to be a great career while moving around as an Army wife. She has worked in all aspects of retail, but her position at the Treasure Shop is proving to be the most interesting. She has learned a great deal about techniques and people! Carolyn has a Sociology degree and loves listening to people tell their stories through their treasures.

Carolyn has a husband and five children who are all grown and spread around the country. Carolyn and her husband love to visit their kids and go antiquing whenever they get the chance. Carolyn is looking forward to sharing some of her greatest finds here at the Treasure Shop and some of her own favorites as well. She will explain the process of consigning, what is popular, and how you can get the most for your treasures. The best part of consigning is bringing something in and making room to take something "new" home! Her shop also takes donations with proceeds that go directly to the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation which benefits residents, and funds two apartments for wounded service members.

Carolyn is looking forward to seeing members of FCRE and their friends at our next FCRE Luncheon on April 13th. So think about de-cluttering, down sizing, finding new treasures for your home. All of us can use some suggestions on what to do with some of our treasures!

Make your reservations now for the April 13 Luncheon and this very interesting, entertaining program!
See you there!

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	WRITE CHECKS TO: W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND SEND TO: W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND FCRE P. O. BOX 682 SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150-0682
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____	
EMAIL ADDRESS _____	
IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: _____	DETACH THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION. YOU WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT FOR YOUR TAX RECORDS.

TRAVEL REPORT, APRIL, 2017

by
Doris Patteson, Director



We will soon start selecting our trips for 2018! Do you have suggestions? We would like to hear from you about places you would to see! That is half the fun is seeing dreamed of places with the people you love whom you can turn to and say, "Wow! A dream come true!" If you have made a list of places you would like to see, tell us, too; and we will try to see that those dreams come true! Send us suggestions! (See below for information)



Indochina Travel Group Returns!—Our people returned from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. What a wonderful trip they had which included many learning experiences such as seeing silk made from silkworms to the final, beautiful fabric. And added to this silk experience was the process of silk painting through needlework which produce some unbelievably beautiful scenes. More of the arts included seeing the carving of marble and soapstone figurines. And to add to that experience, we saw the development and processing of cultured pearls! Lacquer work was observed, and this intricate process was very intriguing.

And then the group got to prepare Vietnamese foods as well as eat them! Many boat trips took us to various villages and the Mekong Delta. The group even had an overnight boat trip on the Halong Bay where they saw ancient limestone mountains spring up out of the waters with unusual shapes. This was a mystical experience coupled by being able to explore caves inside the mountains. Floating markets were always a delight, and suitcases were heavier after a trip to the markets featuring local crafts.

Angkor Wat and its ancient temples was a destination for many. We did suffer for art because the temperatures were close to 100 degrees while visiting the temples and pagodas filled with gold, emerald, and white Buddhas. Palaces, museums, monuments taught us all about the history and culture of these ancient lands which have figured in our own history. Traffic was unbelievable, filled with motorcycles and traffic jams. Although traffic was unbelievable, we observed rice being grown still watered by the use of water buffalos.

Our group had thirteen, and we traveled with people from Ireland, Great Britain, and Canada. If you have not traveled to this enchanted land, it is highly recommended.



FCRE TRIPS that still have open dates are as follows: Make your reservation as soon as possible! Space is limited!

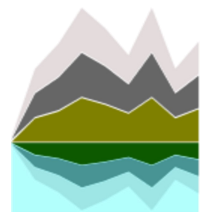
1. **Islands of New England**—deposit/insurance date is April 16! Sign up before you forget! This trip departs on October 16. Destinations are Providence, Newport, Boston, cranberry bog, Plymouth Rock, Plimouth Plantation, Cape Cod, Hyannis, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Provincetown, a whale watch or a Sand Dunes excursion and a lobster dinner. Picture New England and all the fall colors!
Do not wait; get your deposit/insurance in now.
2. **Iceland's Magical Northern Lights**—deposit/insurance date is April 28! Sign up before you forget! Iceland is a very popular destination, and our Collette representative emphasized that Collette has sold out most of their space for the next two years! Early registration is a must. We just added this as a new trip, and it sounds so exciting! November 4—10 are our dates which will give us a great opportunity to see the Northern Lights. Some of us are looking forward to taking a mineral bath in the Blue Lagoon. Request brochures if you do not have one. We have a limited number of spaces.
3. **From the Outback to the Glaciers**—deposit/insurance date is early August. This trip leaves on February 12, 2018. Highlights of this trip include Cairn, Great Barrier Reef, Melbourne, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Sydney, and the Sydney Opera House, Christ Church, Franz Josef Glacier Region, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook National Park, etc.



Call for brochures of these trips to: **Doris Patteson**
Telephone number: **703-534-3975**

Email Doris Patteson at: **dpatteson@verizon.net**

Travel with FCRE—it is fun!



MEMBER ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL, 2017

by
Barbara Marshall, Director

BOOK GROUPS	BRIDGE GROUPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. Email suewms@cox.net ● Vienna Tuesday Book Group--Joey Graves coordinator. Meets the 2nd Tuesday at the Providence Community Center. Contact information is JoeyGraves1@gmail.com 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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--Meets at David R. Pinn Community Center on Zion Road in at 9:45 to 12:00. The contact people for this group are now Bunny Monroe (MissBunnyM@aol.com) and Emily Krisko (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.
<h2 style="color: blue; font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">CINEMA ARTS GROUP</h2>	
<p>The Cinema Arts Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:30—10:00 a.m. depending on the movie selected. Following the movie, interested participants have lunch and discussion at First Watch Café located across from the Cinema Arts Theatre.</p> <p>If interested, please email Alicia Clelland at clellaap@cox.net to receive details regarding the movie selected.</p>	

We're still are not asking for money.

We're still are not asking you to go anywhere.

We're still are not asking you to stop doing whatever you love doing in retirement.

We are only asking that you provide us with your email address or update your email address if it has changed since you first retired.

FCRE is trying very hard to keep all members informed of the latest news coming from FCPS regarding all actions and recommendations made concerning retiree benefits.

Our newsletter, the Advocate, is our main source for getting that information out to you, but sometimes crucial and timely news needs to be sent between Advocate mailings. (Note: if you are getting your newsletter by email, then we have your correct email!)

BUT FCPS still does not have contact information for all retirees.

We attempted sending a flash email to all members with reported email addresses last November during the Open Enrollment period for health plans, only to discover that 99 email addresses bounced back. That means that 99 of our members did not receive the information we wanted them to have during that period.

Please take a moment and let us know your present email address. We assure you that your email address will be used only within FCRE and will not be given out to any other group.

Please send us your email, and if you have already done so, thank you! Send us your correct email!

Send an email to membership@fcree.org with Subject: Email address. Don't forget your name!



**PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR
FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018**

**W. HAROLD FORD
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.
Budget - Fiscal Year 2018
July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018**

INCOME:

Dedicated Donations	
FCRE	\$ 2,000.00
Apple Fed. Cr. Union	2,000.00
Mary O. Ambler Trust	2,000.00
Bobbi Vest Memorial	4,000.00
Raffle & Table Donations	300.00
Individual Donations	900.00
Fundraising Event	500.00
FCRE Admin. Fund	900.00
Interest – Apple FCU CDs	300.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 12,900.00

EXPENSES:

2018 Scholarship Awards	
FCRE	\$ 2,000.00
Apple Fed. Cr. Union	2,000.00
Mary O. Ambler	2,000.00
Bobbi Vest	4,000.00
W. Harold Ford	2,000.00
Administrative costs	900.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 12,900.00

**FAIRFAX COUNTY
RETIRED EDUCATORS, INC.
Budget - Fiscal Year 2018
July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018**

INCOME:

1. Membership Dues	\$ 20,000.00
2. Member Services	0.00
3. Interest—Apple FCU Accts, CDs	300.00
4. Miscellaneous Income	2,000.00
5. Transfer from Reserves	7,545.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 29,845.00

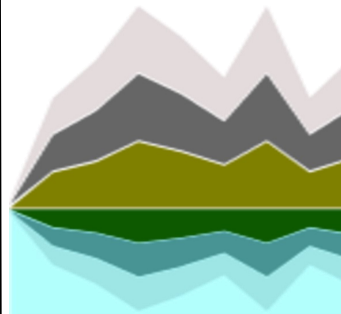
EXPENDITURES:

11. Information & Publications	\$ 4,000.00
12. Postage—Info & Publications	4,000.00
13. Copy Equipment—Supplies	500.00
14. Copy Equipment—Maintenance	385.00
15. General Office Supplies	600.00
16. Post Office Box Rental	175.00
17. Telephone Services	2,200.00
18. Computers—Programs and Main.	700.00
19. Tax Preparation & Audit	600.00
20. Corporation Liability Insurance	2,500.00
21. Internal Website & ISP	0.00
22. Miscellaneous	10.00
23. Annual State Incorporation Fee	25.00
24. Office Manager	5,800.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$ 29,845.00

**THE BUDGETS ARE FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR, JULY 1, 2017 TO
JUNE 30, 2018**

The budgets will be voted on by the membership
at the June 8, 2017, luncheon meeting.



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

APRIL 2017

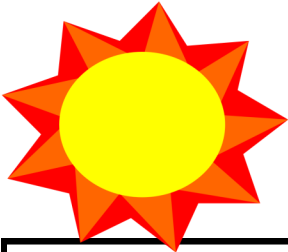
PRESORTED
USPS MARKETING
MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MERRIFIELD VA
PERMIT NO. 1175

**FCRE LUNCHEON DATES:
JUNE 8**

TIME SENSITIVE!

**ARE YOU IN THE PINK?
SEE PAGE 3 TO SEE
WHAT TO DO!!!!!!**

Spring



APRIL, 2017

FCRE *Advocate* Vol. XXXVIII, No. 7
APRIL 2017

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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 22150-0682

Email: fcfe@fcfe.org

Website: www.fcfe.org

OFFICERS FOR 2016—2017 (July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017)

President.....Billie Johnson

Vice President.....Eva Pappas

Secretary.....Anita Cline

Treasurer.....Barbara Dent

Past President.....John Dent

Parliamentarian.....Dennis Pfennig

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Budget and Finance.....Andy Mika

Communications.....Ken McDaniel

Health Benefits.....John Dent



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, continued:

History and Records..... Linda Beuhring

Information/Publications.....Billie Johnson

Legato School Museum.....Sue Langley

Government Relations/Legislative...Barbara Allen

Luncheon Director..... Linda Beuhring

Membership..... Mary Jane Hasselkus

Valerie Shapiro

Member Activities..... Barbara Marshall

Member Services-Tours.....Doris Patteson

Parliamentarian..... Dennis Pfennig

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: fcfe@fcfe.org and
luncheon@fcfe.org
WEBSITE: www.fcfe.org**