

FCRE

FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS



Advocate



Vol. XXXIX, No. 7

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

APRIL 2018



LET'S TRAVEL!

by

Doris Patteson, Director, Member Services Tours



Two of our couples just returned from our Australia/New Zealand tour with an extension to Fiji! They had a wonderful visit and highly recommend this trip to our members!

And we have one couple participating in this year's **Springtime Tulip River Cruise** from Amsterdam through the Belgian Waterways. Then we have two couples signed up for this trip for April, 2019, through our World Connect Program. You can choose when you want to see the tulips! This is the prime season to observe the tulips and the spring flowers. The 2019 itineraries are filling up fast with some dates already sold out, so if any of you are thinking of this as a possibility for next year, please call me right away to reserve your space. (See telephone number at the end of the article.)

We are now looking at destinations for 2019 and would like your input for suggestions on trips. We will be offering **Spectacular Scandinavia** with an optional 3-night post tour extension to Iceland. This trip will be offered August 1-24, and will feature Copenhagen, Stockholm, a high-speed train to Oslo, Viking Ship Museum, Flam Railway, Sognefjord, Briksdal Glacier, Geirangerfjord Cruise to experience the beauty of the fjords and spectacular waterfalls. Brochures for this trip are available now. We will also be offering a Japan trip in May of next year which will include the bullet train. Stay tuned for more details.

News Flash! Our deposit date for **South America (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile)** just passed, but we still have a few spaces available. Call right away for information!

The next deposit day is **April 12** for **Discover Croatia, Slovenia, and the Adriatic Coast** which is scheduled for October 20-31, 2018. Reserve your space right away. We are looking forward to this trip. Three nights will be spent Dubrovnik which is UNESCO World Heritage site. Dubrovnik is known for its distinctive Old Town, encircled in massive stone walls. It is nicknamed the Pearl of the Adriatic because it is one of the most beautiful and fascinating cities on the entire Adriatic. The Croatia trip will provide us the opportunity to enjoy medieval architecture, tranquil lakes, and local villages. The Croatian charm will delight us on this tour featuring not only Dubrovnik but Lake Bled, Ljubljana, and other pearls of the stunning Dalmatian Coast. We begin our exploration with two nights in Opatija, the Riviera of Croatia and an Istrian gem.

Explore Plitvice National Park by foot and by boat which is a place where waterfalls cascade down sheer cliffs connecting sixteen pristine lakes. We will enjoy a visit and dinner with a local family outside Dubrovnik. We will explore Ljubljana, Slovenia's quaint capital city and float on a pletna boat on serene Lake Bled. The deposit is \$250, and the insurance is \$290.

There seems to be a lot of interest in our **America's Music City Holiday**. This is our Holiday trip, and it will take place November 30—December 7. If you are planning on this trip, get your reservation in right away. The deposit day is coming up fast, and it is **May 30**. **The urgency is that we only have 15 spaces reserved! Make sure you do not lose out!**

Highlights of this trip will be Christmas shopping and to enjoy the lovely decorations at the places we visit. We will take in the sights and sounds of the holidays in America's most famed musical cities. Visit New Orleans, Memphis, and Nashville as we revel in the sounds of the blues, jazz, country, and good old rock and roll!

Enjoy the unique city of New Orleans where jazz, food, and fun are always on the menu. Have a choice on tour—either stroll through New Orleans' famous French Quarter on a walking tour with a local expert or set out on a panoramic motor coach tour for a different perspective of the city. Spend one night in Memphis, the birthplace of the blues, and tour Elvis Presley's Graceland decked out for the holidays. Spend three nights at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and marvel at the more than two million holiday lights along with acres of stunning décor. Discover the historic Belle Meade plantation decorated for the holidays and indulge in warm wassail and home made sweets. Enjoy reserved seats at the Ryman Auditorium, and enjoy some of the original Grand Ole Opry show. Tour historic RCA Studio B and see where country legends recorded hit songs.

(continued on page 2)

from the President:

What a busy time it is, and how can it be almost the beginning of April!

We are traveling, playing bridge, reading great books, seeing talked-about films, lobbying in Richmond, meeting the Governor of Virginia, etc. !!

We are also monitoring what the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is planning for Fairfax County Public Employees when it comes to pensions. SA4FE Coalition has been attending the work groups established by the Board of Supervisors, and so has Coalition members from Police and Fire Departments and county side retirees serving on the work group to have input. Other members of SA4FE have been in the audience to hear what the work group was planning. It seemed that more study was asked for, but the Chair of the Board of Supervisors made the decision that the established timeline would be followed.

SA4FE met and worked out some talking points which are listed below. What needs to happen is that every member of the Board of Supervisors needs to be called, emailed, written a letter to make SA4FE Coalition's position known to each and every member of the Board of Supervisors.

Here are the talking points from SA4FE Coalition:

1. The latest pension plan offered by the Board of Supervisors will result in little or no savings until 2032 when savings will only be \$16 million in a \$ 4 billion dollar budget (\$ 9 million in revenue.)
2. Employees come to work in Fairfax County, and they stay here because of the retirement benefits. The proposals severely reduce the benefits for employees and attack every aspect of retirement except the multiplier.
3. Fairfax will no longer be competitive with surrounding education jurisdictions. Costs will escalate, which will raise the contribution rates for employees and will make Fairfax salaries non competitive. Costs of necessary salary raises, necessary recruitment and training costs associated with lack of retention will become a zero sum game.
4. We employee groups are committed to supporting the candidates who fully support Fairfax employees' right to retirement with dignity.

(These talking points were agreed upon in the March 13, 2018 Planning Meeting of SA4FE Coalition.)

For your convenience, here is the link for the list of the members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with their telephone numbers, emails, and snail mail addresses:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/members-and-districts>

I would ask you to contact every member of the Board of Supervisors, not just your own member. Those of you not living in Fairfax County, your emails and letters would be greatly appreciated.

Remember, members of SA4FE Coalition helped us when educators' needed help with pensions last year.

LET'S TRAVEL, continued from page 1, 2nd column.:

A visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame is on the agenda and is sure to have us humming all the way home and long after we return! You will experience a magical holiday dinner and show at Opryland as we close out this trip.

Choose between a horse-drawn carriage ride or a Grand Ole Opry Resort's Delta River cruise and marvel at the holiday lights and décor. Staying at the Gaylord Opryland Resort is a very special experience and almost worth the trip just for that opportunity! Get your reservation in now!

Many of these deadlines are approaching quickly, so get your deposits/insurance in right away!

Call for brochures on any of our trips or any others that Collette offers.:

Check out the Collette **website: gocollette.com** The website has over 170 destinations, and we can book you for any of those destinations and give you our discounts.

COLLETTE WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR 100th ANNIVERSARY IN 2018!!

Call Doris Patteson at 703-534-3975 or email her at

dwpatteson@gmail.com

(Continued from the first column on this page:)

Thanks to your support, our pension fund was pretty much left intact with changes to apply to new hires. We, as educators, need to return the favor for our policemen, our fire fighters, our first responders, and other public employees of Fairfax County who backed us. Stay tuned for more information as time goes on. Check our website for more information from time to time.

And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of FCRE for their financial support of SA4FE Coalition. Thank you so much! Remember, no FCRE dues money goes to the Coalition. The contributions you have sent in are greatly appreciated. Thank you! Enjoy the spring time!

Billie Johnson



VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Eva Pappas, Vice President and
Luncheon Programs



SPRING IS IN THE AIR AT OUR APRIL 19 LUNCHEON!

Spring is that time of year when we think about getting outdoors to enjoy nature's bounty. Many of us love to garden and get out to visit the many parks and green areas Fairfax has to offer. Did you know there are hundreds of parks in Fairfax alone? Did you know that the Japanese have a word when translated means "forest bathing as a major health benefit.

Those of us who love to garden may ask ourselves what are the best kinds of plants to grow? **Margaret Fisher** can give us the answers!

Margaret Fisher is a member of the Plant Nova campaign which promotes the use of native plants in our landscaping. The vision of the Plant Nova campaign is one where we all use our properties to support the more-than-human world that surrounds us. Songbirds, butterflies, frogs, and all our other neighbors have been in serious decline, but we can turn that situation around by implementing a few changes in our own yards or commercial properties. The first step is to plant native plants as they form the basis of the ecosystem. The basis of our ecosystem is being replaced by ecologically sterile introduced plants such as turf grass, Bradford pear trees, Japanese barberry shrubs, etc.

The social marketing campaign is the result of a partnership of over thirty public, private, and non-profit groups, with the help of hundreds of volunteers. All are welcome to join this collective action movement. Details about garden-worthy native plants and ways to spread the word are available on the website:

www.plantnovanatives.org.

Margaret Fisher is a retired physician and author of **Take Our Advice: A Handbook for Gardening in Northern Virginia**. She started the first "Bee Safe Neighborhood" in Virginia, in which 110 neighbors all agreed to abstain from using neonicotinoid pesticides on their properties. Ms. Fisher is a Fairfax Invasive Management Area Volunteer Site Leader, an Audubon-at-Home Ambassador, and coordinator of the Plant Nova Natives Outreach Campaign. She also has connections to Fairfax County Public Schools as one of the founders of the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, and a former member of the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities.

At our April 19 Luncheon, Ms. Fisher will share a power point program. She will also have copies of her handbook for interested parties. Mark your calendars, and make a reservation. This is one program you do not want to miss!♦

April 19, 2018 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:

Cordon Bleu with Wild Rice

Vegetable

Cheesecake with strawberry topping

12:30 p. m.— Program: Margaret Fisher: The Importance

of Native Plants in our Landscapes

Approximately 1:25 p.m.—Business Meeting and Announcements.



LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be received by phone, mail, or email **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, April 13, 2018, 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@fcere.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.

REMEMBER: A VEGETARIAN MEAL IS AVAILABLE. JUST TELL US WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATION!



MEMBER ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL, 2018

by
Barbara Marshall, Director



BOOK GROUPS

- Annandale Book Group--**Dottie Addison, coordinator.** Meets the **3rd** Wednesday at 12 noon in **THE GEORGE MASON REGIONAL LIBRARY.** **Note: this is a change in meeting place.** 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. Sue's contact information is **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.**

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.** 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. **Fourth Tuesday Evening Group**--Coordinators are **Claudette Coffey and Joey Graves.** Meets in homes at 7:00 p.m. **Note the change in day for this group.**
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.

CINEMA ARTS GROUP

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.

If interested, please email **Alicia Clelland** at **clellaap@cox.net** to receive details regarding the movie selected.

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, 2018" 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 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!

THANK YOU, APPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION!

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. One exception, Lobby Day, usually in January, the GRT Director makes the call.

GOVERNOR RALPH NORTHAM MEETS GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM IN RICHMOND!



We are retired educators from Fairfax County Virginia, but we still fight for kids, retirees, and active educators of Fairfax County Public Schools! We are composed of members of **Fairfax County Retired Educators and Fairfax Education Association-Retired**, join together each year to visit the General Assembly to be advocates for retirees, students, active educators, and future educators. Many belong to both organizations. We may be retired, but we still care.

FCRE has been around in Fairfax County since the 1960s in one form or another. In the 1980s, FCRE took on its present face. We give scholarships to deserving graduates of FCPS who are interested in going into education. Please see our website at www.fcrc.org.

Our joint trip to Richmond with FEA-R each year is one of our biggest highlights of our organization.

With approximately 1000 members, FCRE does not forget the educational system in Fairfax County that we helped build and gave more than 30 PLUS years of our lives.

Thank you to all our members who continue to fight the good fight for kids and education!

**PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR
FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**

**W. HAROLD FORD
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.
Budget - Fiscal Year 2019
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**

**FAIRFAX COUNTY
RETIRED EDUCATORS, INC.
Budget - Fiscal Year 2019
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**

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	1200.00
Fundraising Event	500.00
FCRE Admin. Fund	1000.00
Interest – Apple FCU CDs	325.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 9,325.00

EXPENSES:

2018 Scholarship Awards	
FCRE	\$ 2,000.00
Apple Fed. Cr. Union	2,000.00
Mary O. Ambler	2,000.00
Bobbi Vest	2,000.00
W. Harold Ford	1,000.00
Administrative costs	325.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 9,325.00

INCOME:

1. Membership Dues	\$ 20,000.00
2. Member Services	0.00
3. Interest—Apple FCU Accts, CDs	480.00
4. Miscellaneous Income	2,500.00
5. Transfer from Reserves	7,680.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 30,660.00

EXPENDITURES:

11. Information & Publications	\$ 4,000.00
12. Postage—Info & Publications	4,000.00
13. Copy Equipment—Supplies	500.00
14. Copy Equipment—Maintenance	450.00
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	350.00
22. Miscellaneous	10.00
23. Annual State Incorporation Fee	25.00
24. Office Manager	5,800.00

OFFICERS & DIRECTORSHIPS:

31. President's Fund	\$ 1,200.00
32. Remembrance	400.00
33. Government Relations Team	1,300.00
34. Membership Development	500.00
35. History & Photography	300.00
36. Scholarship Director	1,000.00
37. Directors & Committees	200.00
38. Legato School Museum	150.00
39. W. Harold Ford Scholarship Fund	2,000.00
40. Luncheon Set-ups & Programs	1,000.00
41. Members Services-Tours	500.00
42. Change and Petty Cash Fund	200.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 30,660.00

**NOTES TO THE BUDGETS FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR, JULY 1, 2018 TO
JUNE 30, 2019**

The budgets will be voted on by the membership
at the June 14, 2018, luncheon meeting.



DON'T FORGET TO CONTRIBUTE TO FCRE'S

W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

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.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE SEND IN THE FORM BELOW!

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

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

APRIL 2018

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TIME SENSITIVE!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LUNCHEONS AND RESERVATION DATES:

2018 LUNCHEONS:

1. **APRIL 19, 2018**—make your reservation by **APRIL 13, 2018**
2. **JUNE 14, 2018**—make your reservation by **JUNE 8, 2018**

CLIP AND KEEP!

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

APRIL 2018

FCRE Advocate Vol. XXXIX, No. 7

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The *FCRE Advocate* is published by the FCRE—Fairfax County Retired Educators exclusively for the association membership.

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Editors: Billie Johnson, 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 22150-0682

Email: fcrc@fcrc.org

Website: www.fcrc.org

OFFICERS FOR 2017—2018(July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018)

- President.....Billie Johnson
- Vice President..... Eva Pappas
- Secretary.....Dennis Pfennig, Acting Secretary
- Treasurer.....Barbara Dent
- President Elect.....Cathy Shelton
- Parliamentarian.....Dennis Pfennig

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Budget and Finance.....Andy Mika
- Communications..... Valerie Shapiro
- 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..... Phyllis Rittman
- 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: fcrc@fcrc.org and
luncheon@fcrc.org
 WEBSITE: www.fcrc.org**

