



FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS

FCRE ADVOCATE

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JANUARY 2019

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THE ADVOCATE FAIRFAX COUNTY VIRGINIA

JANUARY 2019

LOBBY DAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019

LET'S GET READY! LET'S "ADVOCATE"



BY

Barbara Allen, Director, Government Relations Team



I have heard that word **advocate** used quite frequently of late. Other words that might also be used are "support, encourage, promote, or be in favor of...." All of those words work very well when it comes to lobbying for those things in which we believe and those issues that we feel should be supported legislatively.

Members of the **Fairfax County Retired Educators (FCRE)** publish a newsletter most months, and we know it as the **ADVOCATE**. Many members of the **FCRE** are also members of the Fairfax Education Association - Retired.

Members from both groups met recently with many of our Fairfax County legislators during a Breakfast and a Luncheon event. Those retirees from both groups who are interested in developing our "Position Statement," visiting with our elected officials here at home to introduce those issues, and participating in our Lobby Day Trip to Richmond during the General Assembly are part of the Government Relations Team. We "advocate" locally on issues that affect us here in Fairfax County, and at the state level where we try to promote issues that will affect all educators in Virginia.

ANY ONE who is a member of either of our retiree groups may participate in the GRT. Remember, we "advocate" locally on issues that affect us here in Fairfax County, and at the state level for all educators.

Is someone "advocating" for you? The answer is **yes**, but we would like to include you as well. At one point in time there were educational professionals who advocated for many issues that we now take for granted.

Is someone advocating for the brand new teachers? Is someone advocating for those teachers who have yet to be hired? We need to protect and preserve those things that we have worked so hard to achieve for ourselves, our active teachers and educators, and those who are still coming into the education profession. Someone did this for us, and we do it for those who are coming into our profession. A promise made is a promise kept.

Thursday, January 24, 2019 is Lobby Day for Retirees! I hope that you will consider coming with us to lobby our State Senators and our Members of the House of Delegates. If you have traveled with us before, you know how interesting it can be. But if you have not yet experienced Lobby Day, I hope you will join us on the bus to Richmond this January 24, 2019!

Our **Position Statement** for the **2019 General Assembly Session** that we have developed over the years, changed, tweaked, added to, taken from as situations change is written on the next page. ♦



POSITION STATEMENT FOR THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

On behalf of all Northern Virginia’s retired education employees, the members of the Fairfax County Retired Educators and Fairfax Education Association—Retired 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, including continuing to fully fund the Board Certified Contribution Rate to VRS.

b. OPPOSE all efforts to erode the VRS retirement plan.

2. Provide equity for ALL education employees, bringing them to the level of benefits provided to state

In solidarity with our actively employed colleagues, retired educators also call on lawmakers to:

3. Commit to providing a high quality environment for teaching and learning.

a. Attract and retain highly qualified educators.

i. Recognize the importance of professional autonomy for practitioners and provide avenues for their input.

ii. Maintain the current continuing contract.

iii. Reinstate the three person fact-finding panel.

iv. Restore a three year probationary period for new teachers.

v. Significantly improve educator salaries.

b. Continue to examine and evaluate the frequency and dependence on high stakes testing.

c. Promote a teacher evaluation system that uses multiple measures, reduces reliance on standardized test scores, and reflects a teacher’s effectiveness.

d. Oppose voucher and tax credit plans for private and home K—12 education.

4. Fully fund SOQ mandates, including significant reductions in class size, attention to providing a safe learning environment, and revision of the funding formula to more accurately reflect the needs of all localities.

5. OPPOSE Charter School Amendments and/or any attempts to divert public dollars to non-public schools.

6. Support equalization of learning opportunities for all students, including improving infrastructures, providing technology, and supporting wrap-around community services.

JOIN US FOR LOBBY DAY ON JANUARY 24, 2019!

All retired teachers and education support persons are invited and encouraged to travel to Richmond and visit with our Northern Virginia legislators. Don't feel like you must be an expert on issues to qualify as an education retiree lobbyist. Join us for an interesting day! Learn what we do and why we do it. We ALL need to **advocate for retirees**, actively employed educators, and those yet to be employed as educators. Someone did it for us before we came to Fairfax County, and a promise made is a promise kept.

If you are interested, please come to our meeting on **Thursday, January 10, 2019, at 10:00 a. m. at the FEA Office in Fairfax City** 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!

BUS TRIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 24, 2019!

A bus is provided by FCRE and FEA-R. It will stop at three (3) places before heading down to Richmond:

1. STOP #1. THE PARKING LOT AT THE FAIR OAKS MALL BETWEEN POLES 55 AND 58. You can see the Mantech Building sign from 55-58, but that building is **NOT** on the Fair Oaks Parking Lot property. The bus will leave that area at **6:00 a.m.**
2. STOP #2. THE PARKING LOT AT THE LITTLE RIVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST at 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Va., across from Northern Virginia Community College. The bus will leave from there at **6:30 a.m.**
3. STOP #3. THE CRACKER BARREL, JUST OFF ROUTE 95, 17115 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, VA. The bus will leave from the Cracker Barrel between **6:50 and 7:00 a.m.**

IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA:

Retirees will meet with legislators in the Pocahontas Building until **11:00 a.m.** at which time we are scheduled to meet with the **Secretary of Education, ATIF QARNI !!!** This should be most interesting so start thinking about questions you would like to put to the Secretary.

We will then be able to eat lunch in the cafeteria of the Sun Trust Building across the street and then board our bus for the trip home, arriving at pick up points between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

And we hope you will have a great day!

AGAIN, if you are interested in going to Lobby Day with us, please try to come to the organizational meeting on **January 10, 2019 at the FEA Office. Or call Barbara Allen, 703-978-0470, or email Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE EARLY DATES IN 2019!

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. January 24, 2019—Lobby Day in Richmond—FCRE and FEA-R. All day! See above!2. January 25, 2019—8:00am to noon—Thomas Jefferson ERFC Retirement Seminar. FCRE has a table.3. January 26, 2019—Travel Deposit deadline for "Spectacular Scandinavia."4. January 28, 2019—VEA Lobby Day in Richmond. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. February 13, 2019—2:00 pm, FCRE Office—Travel Presentation. Come and see what is new in travel for the rest of the year!6. February 14, 2019—11:00 am—FCRE Luncheon—Valentine's Day! At the Elks Lodge, Fairfax. |
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JANUARY 2019

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LUNCHEONS RESERVATIONS
 2018-2019:

1. February 14, 2019, make reservation by February 8, 2019.
2. April 11, 2019; Make reservation by April 5, 2019
3. June 13, 2019; make reservation by June 7, 2019.

TIME SENSITIVE!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Officers for 2018—2019(July1, 2018—June 30, 2019)
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 Communications.....To be announced
 Health Benefits.....John Dent
 History and Records.....To be announced.
 Information and Publications—Billie Johnson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, continued:

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 Luncheon Director.....Phyllis Rittman
 Membership.....Valerie Shapiro
 Member Activities.....To be announced
 Member Services Tours.....Doris Patteson
 Parliamentarian.....Dennis Pfennig
 Program Director.....Eva Pappas
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 Office Manager.....Cathy Shelton
 Remembrances.....TBA
 50/50.....Anita Francis



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Get Involved!

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