



FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
703-923-9877 WWW.FCRE.ORG

THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME XLI, Number 3 NOVEMBER 2019

ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

LOTS OF CANDIDATES IN MANY RACES!

by Barbara Allen, Government Relations Team

Every year in the Commonwealth of Virginia there is an election, but this is the year that the candidates are **all local**. We will vote for State Senators, members of the House of Delegates, members of the School Board, the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff, the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Soil and Water Conservation District -- and all of these candidates represent us locally. Before casting your ballot, research the candidates to be sure that they are going to support retiree issues that are important to you and that they are friends of education who will support public education issues throughout the Commonwealth.



It will be very helpful to take a sample ballot with you into your polling place. There will **not** be a "D" or an "R" after the name of any candidate on the ballot except for candidates for State Senator and the House of Delegates. So it will be worth spending some time **before** you cast your ballot to make sure that you know for **whom** you want to vote.

These candidates need help from their constituents, and there are many ways help can be given. You may not wish to go out and knock on doors, but perhaps you might be able to help in a campaign office, or use a virtual phone bank to help contact voters. In my precinct, we have been writing postcards. It seems to be the latest way of trying to reach out to people. Receivers of a phone call can "hang up," but the receiver of a postcard cannot "hang up." Even if one is inclined to throw away what is perceived as junk mail, postcards can be read in the 30 seconds between ones post box and ones paper recycle bin!

VOTING DAY CHECKLIST

The following are a few reminders we hope will be useful for you on Election Day, November 5, 2019:

- bring a photo ID -- go to vote.virginia.gov to verify that your photo ID is acceptable (Virginia Driver's license or ID card or US Passport or other government (US or VA) photo ID cards)
- consider voting absentee -- there are 20 valid reasons one may vote absentee before election day, in person or by mail. Please note that **in-person absentee** voting ends on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at 5:00 PM;
- follow information on elections through Twitter@fairfaxvotes and @fairfaxcounty or go on-line at fairfaxcounty.gov/elections.
- review and become familiar with the sample ballot before casting your vote; and
- remember, there is an election every year in Virginia -- so please VOTE!

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM & LOBBY DAY PLANNING

Barbara Allen and the members of the Government Relations Team (GRT) would like to remind everyone that just because election day comes and goes, the work of this committee never stops. Following the next election, the GRT will need your participation more than ever! As a result of the November elections, there will be newly elected officials in Richmond who will need to be informed of the issues that are important to educators and to retirees. Just like Uncle Sam, the GRT needs “YOU” -- NOW! You are invited to join the GRT at the next meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 10:00 AM at the Fairfax Education Association Office on Old Lee Highway in Fairfax City. This will give you an opportunity to hear about and become familiar with the issues and concerns that are relevant to retirees and that will be shared with legislators when GRT makes its annual trip to Richmond for Lobby Day. This is a day when face-to-face meetings are held between the GRT and Northern Virginia Legislators.

Lobby Day will be Thursday, January 30, 2020. On this day, members of FCRE and FEA-R will be going to Richmond to meet with our local Northern Virginia legislators, and you are invited to join us. It will be a one-day down-and-back trip to Richmond on a charter bus. Typically, folks attending Lobby Day park their cars at a designated location (usually a church) in the Annandale area or at a designated spot at Fair Oaks Mall, whichever is more convenient. From those locations, they board a charter bus and ride together to Richmond. There is no cost to FCRE or FEA-R members. If you are interested in hearing about or participating with the GRT and its activities (including Lobby Day), please send your email address and telephone number to Barbara Allen at Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com or call 703-978-0470. Your name and contact information will happily be added to our list!



OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2020

Each year, FCPS provides a window of time called Open Enrollment during which you may review your health benefit elections. This year, Open Enrollment began on October 14, 2019, and will continue until November 8, 2019. It is during this open enrollment period of time that it is important to review your health benefit elections and make decisions about what is the best option for you. If you find it necessary to make a change from a previous election, it is during Open Enrollment that this change may be made. Although it has come to the attention of FCRE that some statements regarding your current medical and dental choices have been delayed in arriving, it is hoped that, by now, you have received yours. Also, you should have received the Retiree Benefits Briefing by now, which includes cost information and the schedule of Benefits Open Houses, as well as briefings about the plans and a flu clinic.

If you have not received this information by the time you receive this newsletter, please contact the FCPS Office of Human Resources at 571-423-3000 or by email at HRConnection@fcps.edu. Additional information may be found on the website of Fairfax County (fcps.edu, search retiree open enrollment), and the websites of your provider(s).

Still have questions? Call your benefit plan provider using the Customer Service number on the back of your insurance card, or as stated above, contact the FCPS Office of Human Resources at 571-423-3000 or by email at HRConnection@fcps.edu.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

The trips for 2020 are listed below. Contact Trevor Major at Shillelagh Travel for more information or to make a trip deposit. Trevor be reached by phone at 703-242-2204 or by email at trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com.

	<p>March 22–April 4, 2020: Treasures of Japan The deposit deadline has passed, but there may still be available space. Contact Trevor if interested.</p>
	<p>April 18-26, 2020: Spotlight on the French Riviera The deposit deadline has passed, but there may still be available space. Contact Trevor if interested.</p>
	<p>July 17-26, 2020: Charming French Canada Discover the many charms of the Canadian province of Quebec, from its natural and historic wonders to some of its most luxurious hotels. Trip highlights include a tour of Montréal, the tradition of maple syrup making at a local sugar shack, a tour of Quebec City, a whale-watching expedition, a lavender farm and Montmorency Falls. Deposit Deadline: January 17, 2020</p>
	<p>August 14-22, 2020: Colorado Rockies Experience the majesty of the Colorado Rockies, four National Parks and two historic trains that celebrate the can-do spirit of the Old West. From towering peaks to deep canyons and Old West towns to dynamic cities, a region of contrasting beauty and charm awaits. Deposit Deadline: January 27, 2020</p>
	<p>October 7-12: Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta has grown into one of the world’s most photographed events. This exciting journey also includes time in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, two culturally rich cities. Visit the unique shops and restaurants of Old Town Albuquerque. Set out on an open-air tram tour of Santa Fe with a local guide. Experience the Santa Fe School of Cooking. Deposit Deadline: April 30, 2020</p>
	<p>November 3-14, 2020: Costa Rica – A World of Nature From discoveries on water to journeys <i>terra firma</i>, experience Costa Rica – a living Eden on Central America’s isthmus. Experience the rainforest, sample the fresh cacao during a visit to a local plantation, visit the green sea turtle research station in Tortuguero National Park, and admire the white sand beaches of Manuel Antonio National Park. This is the very best of Costa Rica – a world of nature. Deposit Deadline: March 27, 2020</p>

UPCOMING TRAVEL PRESENTATIONS

There will be two presentations in January regarding summer trips. If you are interested in attending a presentation on one or both of these trips, contact Trevor Major to RSVP at 703-242-2204 or at trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com.



- **Colorado Rockies:**
 - Thursday, January 9, 2020, 2:00 PM, at the FCRE Office, 6708 Backlick Rd, Springfield, VA
 - Thursday, January 16, 2020, 2:40 PM, at the Shillelagh Office, 100 East St. SE, Vienna, VA
- **Charming French Canada:**
 - Thursday, January 9, 2020, 2:40 PM, at the FCRE Office, 6708 Backlick Rd, Springfield, VA
 - Thursday, January 16, 2020, 2:00 PM, at the Shillelagh Office, 100 East St. SE, Vienna, VA

THE ADVOCATE DELIVERY



As a point of information, FCRE would like you to know that *The Advocate* is typically mailed on the last Tuesday of the month. There are times, however, when unexpected delays in delivery may occur that are beyond the control of FCRE, resulting in you receiving your copy much later than expected. You may choose to receive *The Advocate* promptly (meaning the day after it is taken to the post office) via email simply by informing FCRE that you would like to receive *The Advocate* via email. This request should be made at fcre@fcre.org. Additionally, you may view *The Advocate* on the FCRE website by going to www.fcre.org, clicking on FCRE *Advocate* (on the left), and scrolling down to find the issue you wish to read.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDED

FCRE will be electing new officers for the 2020-2021 term. The positions that must be filled are treasurer and secretary. In order to have a slate of officers on which to vote, a Nominating Committee must be selected. This committee will meet one time at the FCRE office in late November to complete this work. Volunteers are urgently needed to be on this committee. If you are willing to help out by being on this committee, please contact Cathy Shelton at cshelt@verizon.net and let her know. Better yet, please consider placing your name on the slate for one of the positions mentioned. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Donations to the FCRE Scholarship fund are always welcomed. If you would like to make a donation, please complete the form below and return it, along with your check, to the address given on the form.

W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

[501 c3 Tax Deductible]

Make your check payable to W. Harold Ford Foundation in the following amount:

_____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$15 _____ \$20 _____ whatever you can

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Detach this form and mail with your check to:

FCRE Scholarship

PO Box 682

Springfield, VA 22150-0682

You will receive a receipt for your contribution. Thanks!

BOOK COLLECTION AT DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Again this year, FCRE is encouraging its members to bring a book or two or three to the December 11 luncheon to support **BOOKS ARE FOOD FOR YOUR BRAIN!** This organization is located at the **FOOD FOR OTHERS** food bank in Fairfax. The books are distributed to families who use the services of the food bank. Needed books include new or gently used board books, read-aloud picture books, easy readers, and chapter books through fourth grade reading level. Start collecting now and bring your books to the December 11 luncheon. **Help make kids happy!**



FINANCIAL PLANNING DISCUSSION

Are you approaching 70.5 years of age and need to know the many and complex rules for Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) on your retirement accounts? Even if you already have a financial plan, it is always good to get a second opinion since penalties can be so severe -- at times as much as 50% of the disputed amount! So get your questions regarding your retirement future ready for our expert in financial planning, and join retired teacher and FCRE board member Andy Mika, CFP from Pegasus Financial Group, on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, for a small group presentation/discussion on RMDs at the FCRE Office at 10:00 AM. Please RSVP Andy Mika at amika@pegasusfg.com by Thursday, November 14, 2019.

FUTURE LUNCHEONS & LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

The dates of the remainder of the FCRE luncheons are listed on the last page of this newsletter. We hope you will be able to attend. We would like to bring to your attention to the programs that will be presented at those luncheons because they will be both entertaining and informative.

Date	Program
Wednesday, December 11, 2019	On Wednesday, December 11, 2019, luncheon attendees will be serenaded by a 26-piece string ensemble from West Springfield High School. Please come listen to the music of the holiday season!
Wednesday, February 12, 2020	The Harmony Heritage Singers will be the entertainment at the Wednesday, February 12, 2020, luncheon. The Harmony Heritage Singers are a group of retired gentlemen who sing in the distinctive Barbershop style.
Thursday, April 23, 2020	The Thursday, April 23, 2020, luncheon program will be delivered by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. He is the son of Gary Powers, the pilot of the U-2 spy plane who was downed over the Soviet Union in 1960. Mr. Powers, Jr., will give the definitive account of one of the most important events of the Cold War based on personal files never before made available to the public.

Members are reminded that the luncheon cost to members is \$18.00 and the cost to non-members \$20.00. **If at all possible, it is requested that luncheon reservations be made by email at luncheon@fcre.org.**

HELP WANTED!

Use your talents to keep FCRE strong!

Volunteers are needed for:

Treasurer (until June, 2020)

Member Activities

Luncheon (set-up, guest check-in)

Newsletter (mailing prep)

Contact cshelt@verizon.net

CINEMA ARTS GROUP



This group meets the third Wednesday of the month from September to June. Participants attend a movie at Cinema Arts followed by an optional lunch and discussion at First Watch Café. Contact Alicia Clelland at clellaap@cox.net to be added to her contact list

BOOK GROUPS

Annandale Book Group: Meets 3rd Wednesday at noon at various locations. Contact Dottie Addison at daddison@wrsystems.com for more information.

FAIRFAX CITY GROUP: Meets 2nd Friday at 10:30am in the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Fair Lakes. For information, contact Sue Williams at suewms@cox.net.



VIENNA GROUP: Meets the 2nd Tuesday at the Providence Community Center. Contact Joey Graves at joeysgraves1@gmail.com for information.

BRIDGE GROUPS

2nd and 4th MONDAY GROUP: Meets at 9:45am at the Vienna American Legion, located at 303 Center St. NW, Vienna, VA. Contact Barbara Marshall for information at bmarshall6210@gmail.com.



4th TUESDAY GROUP: Meets in homes at 7pm. For information, contact Joey Graves or Claudette Coffey. Email Joey at joeysgraves1@gmail.com.

1st, 3rd, and 5th MONDAY GROUP: Meets at the Pinn Community Center on Zion Rd in Burke, VA from 9:45am-12:00noon. Contact Bunny Monroe at MissBummyM@aol.com.

THANKS to the

APPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION!

FCRE appreciates your continued support!

FCRE RECOMMENDATION

Do NOT leave your FCPS Health Plan. You may not be able to re-enroll.

FCRE ADVOCATE
FAIRFAX COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS
PO BOX 682
Springfield, VA 22150-0682

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING FCRE LUNCHEON DATES
at the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd.,
Fairfax, VA
2019 - 2020
Wed., Dec. 11 -- reserve by Dec. 6
Wed., Feb. 12 -- reserve by Feb. 7
Thurs., Apr. 23 -- reserve by Apr. 17
Thurs., Jun. 11 -- reserve by Jun 5

November 2019
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Change of address, letters, comments should
sent to the FCRE address above or
emailed to: fcre@fcre.org

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OFFICERS: JULY, 2019 - JUNE, 2020

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