



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

THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME XLI, Number 2

OCTOBER 2019

OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS OCTOBER 14

Each year, FCPS provides a window of time to review your health benefit elections and make decisions about what might be the best option for you. **Open Enrollment will occur from October 14, 2019 to November 8, 2019.** Elections made during Open Enrollment become effective January 1, 2020.

FCPS will mail materials in the coming weeks. You should receive a statement of your proposed plan enrollment for 2020 (your current plan) as well as the annual Retiree Benefits Briefing. Your Briefing will contain important information about plan updates and/or changes as well as the premiums for 2020. There will also be a schedule of Benefits Open Houses that include briefings about the plans and a flu clinic.

Additional information may be found on the website of Fairfax County (fcps.edu, search retiree open enrollment) and the websites of your provider(s).

Questions? Call your benefit plan provider using the Customer Service number on the back of your insurance card. You can also contact the FCPS Office of Human Resources at 571-423-3000 or by email at HRConnection@fcps.edu.

KAISER INFORMATION FROM FCPS OFFICE OF BENEFIT SERVICES

Kaiser Permanente began converting all Medicare eligible participants to a Medicare Advantage plan in 2019. The Medicare Advantage plan is identical to the current Medicare Plus plan with some changes. Effective January 1, 2020, the conversion to the Medicare Advantage Plan will occur for residents of Virginia and some Maryland counties. Participants will be receiving communications from both FCPS and Kaiser Permanente that will provide more information about the change.

OCTOBER 17 LUNCHEON SPEAKER

The guest speaker this month is De Hawley Brown, the FCPS Human Resources Director of Health Benefits for the past 15 years. Prior to her position with FCPS, she worked in the global corporate world in a similar capacity. She has proven to be a great friend to FCRE members as she was instrumental in providing our members with the best and most comprehensive health plan we have had. She has attended many meetings at the FCRE office in Springfield where she has listened to member concerns and taken the time to explain many of the health plan's new features. She will discuss open enrollment at the October luncheon and there will be an opportunity for members to ask questions during a question and answer period at the end of her presentation. FCRE is pleased she will be able to join us for the luncheon, and we hope you will also be able join us for lunch, friendship, and this interesting, informative, and important program.

IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

Did you know that, in Virginia, there is an election EVERY year? Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2019, and polls are open from 6:00am-7:00pm. This election will decide the Virginia Senate, House of Delegates, Soil and Water Directors, and seats on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County School Board. There are a variety of ways one can vote, but the important thing is **to vote!** If you need general information about voting, contact the Office of Elections by calling 703-222-0776 (TTY: 711), by reviewing their website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections, or by emailing them at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov. If your voter registration information needs to be updated or you know someone who needs to register, the deadline for completing this registration process is October 15, 2019.



Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Office of Elections by 7:00pm on November 5, 2019 (Election Day) in order to be counted. Remember to mail your ballot!

The deadline for voting by **absentee ballot in-person** is Saturday, November 3, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. **In-person absentee** voting starts on or about September 21, 2019 and continues through November 3, 2019, at the Fairfax County Government Center. Dates and times the government center will be open for **absentee in-person** voting at the Office of Elections are as follows:

Office of Elections	
12000 Government Center Parkway Conference Center Rooms 2 & 3 Fairfax, VA 22035	
September 21 - October 12 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	October 13 - November 3 Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The locations and dates and times of operation for the Fairfax County satellite locations are as follows:

Satellite Voting Locations		
October 13-November 3, 2019		
Monday-Friday 3:00-7:00pm; Saturdays 9:00am-5:00pm		
Franconia Governmental Center 6121 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310	McLean Governmental Center 1437 Balls Hill Road McLean, VA 22101	Providence Community Center 3001 Vaden Dr. Fairfax,, VA 22031
Lorton Library 9520 Richmond Highway Lorton, VA 22079	Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	Sully Governmental Center 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard Chantilly, VA 20151
Mason Governmental Center 6507 Columbia Pike Annandale, VA 22003	North County Govt. Center 1801 Cameron Glen Dr. Reston, VA 20190	West Springfield Govt. Center 6140 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A Nominations Committee must be chosen at the October 17 luncheon. This committee will be chosen from members present at the luncheon, and will be comprised of five members. Members may be nominated (with the permission of the nominee) from the floor or members may nominate themselves to be on the committee. A slate of candidates for the offices of Vice President and Secretary will be prepared for presentation to the membership at the February 2020 luncheon. Please consider working on the nominations committee -- or running for a vacant office.

FCRE TREASURER NEEDED NOW!

Of particular urgency is the need for a treasurer -- **now!** FCRE's long-time treasurer, Barbara Dent, has moved from the area and this has left a huge vacancy in the smooth operation of FCRE financial affairs. Barbara is very willing to help train someone to take over this vacancy. Some of the responsibilities of the treasurer include writing checks and paying bills, entering data into the QuickBooks software program (at the FCRE Office), and making financial reports. The treasurer is **not** responsible for collecting or depositing money. This is handled by the office manager. Taking on this role would be an incredible help to FCRE. Please give this request some heart-felt consideration, and contact Cathy Shelton at cshelt@verizon.net with any questions.

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.

<p>W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP DONATION [501 c3 Tax Deductible]</p> <p>Make your check payable to <u>W. Harold Ford Foundation</u> in the following amount:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$15 _____ \$20 _____ whatever you can</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>STREET _____</p> <p>CITY, STATE, ZIP _____</p> <p>Detach this form and mail with your check to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">FCRE Scholarship PO Box 682 Springfield, VA 22150-0682</p> <p>You will receive a receipt for your contribution. Thanks!</p>

LUNCHEONS

As you probably know by now, some necessary changes were made concerning the 2019-2020 FCRE Luncheons. Due to scheduling at the Elks Lodge three of the FCRE luncheons are planned for a Wednesday and three are planned for a Thursday. The remaining Wednesday lunch dates are December 11 and February 12 and the Thursday lunch dates are October 17, April 23, and June 11. Mark your calendars now!



A second change is that the cost has been increased this year by the Elks Lodge. Since luncheon prices have been the same since 2007, we are fortunate this increase has not come sooner. It is still a good deal since the price includes the food, tax, and gratuity. The cost to members will now be \$18 and the cost to non-members will be \$20. **If at all possible, it is requested that luncheon reservations be made by email at luncheon@fcre.org.**

CHANGES TO FCRE BY-LAWS

When the FCRE By-Laws were written and approved by the membership, thirteen directorships were established. They are listed on the address page of this newsletter. The Board has voted to eliminate three directorships. They are Budget and Finance, Communications, and Programs. The work originally set for these positions is currently completed by other Board members. Budget and Finance duplicates the work of the Treasurer, Communications is handled by the Office Manager, and Programs are organized by the Vice President. The membership will be asked to approve the elimination of these three directorships at the October 17 luncheon meeting. Questions before that date can be sent to Cathy Shelton at cshelt@verizon.net.

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 take 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.

FCRE RECOMMENDATION

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

THANKS to the

APPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION!

FCRE appreciates your continued support!

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 joeygraves1@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 joeygraves1@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.

FCRE OFFICE HOURS

The FCRE Office is staffed two days a week (Tuesday and Friday) for a few hours each day, usually starting at 10:30 AM. Office manager Cathy Shelton is there to help in whatever way she can. If you need a fast response or have a question on a day other than Tuesday or Friday, it is best to email Cathy at cshelt@verizon.net. At times, members have contacted the FCRE office with questions regarding FCPS retiree benefits, but those questions should be addressed directly with the Office of Benefit Services at HRConnection@fcps.edu or at 571-423-3000.

OCTOBER LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019
Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA

<p><u>Agenda</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>11:00am</u> -- Social Hour and Cash Bar • <u>11:30am</u> -- Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> garden salad meat or vegetable lasagna vegetables garlic bread apple crisp coffee, & tea • <u>12:30pm</u> – Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> De Hawley Brown, FCPS Human Resources Business Meeting 	<p><u>RESERVATIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be made by NOON on Friday, October 11, 2019 • EMAIL at luncheon@fcree.org (preferred & will be acknowledged) <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHONE 703-923-9877 Leave your name and guest(s) name. <p>Cost is \$18 per member, \$20 per non-member.</p> <p>Payment (check payable to FCRE) can be made at the door or sent to FCRE Luncheon Reservation P. O. Box 682 Springfield, VA 22150-0682</p>
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EMAIL???

There are times when information for retirees needs to be sent quickly, as was the case when FCRE sent an email on September 11 to all members regarding the urgent need for a treasurer. This and other important information can only be received by members if FCRE has your correct and current email address. Please take the time to insure that FCRE has your correct email address. If you receive *The Advocate* via email, that means FCRE has your correct email address. If we don't have your current email or you would like to receive *The Advocate* by email, please send your correct email address to membership@fcree.org with the subject: Email. Remember to include your name!

PASSING OF AN FCRE MEMBER

It is with great sadness that FCRE shares the news of the loss of one of our members, Richard Clelland, on September 6, 2019. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Alicia, and his family and friends. Alicia is FCRE's Travel Liaison and the Cinema Group coordinator.



TRAVEL NEWS

The Collette 2020 trips that will be enjoyed by FCRE members are scheduled as follows:



- **Treasures of Japan** -- March 22 - April 4, 2020 (even though the deposit deadline is past, you may still contact travel consultant Trevor Major if you wish to join this trip).
- **Spotlight on the French Riviera** -- April 18 - 26, 2020 (travel presentation will be given on October 10, 2019; deposit deadline October 11, 2019)
- **Charming French Canada** -- July 17 - 26, 2020 (deposit deadline January 17, 2020)
- **Colorado Rockies** -- August 14 - 22, 2020 (deposit deadline January 27, 2020).
- **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta** -- October 7 - 12, 2020
- **Costa Rica a World of Nature** -- November 3 - 14, 2020

The travel presentation for the French Riviera trip will be held at the Shillelagh Travel Club in Vienna on October 10, 2019 at 2:00 PM. All 2020 trip arrangements will be handled by Trevor Major, Shillelagh Travel Consultant. He can be contacted at trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com or 703-242-2204.

If you have ideas for DAY TRIPS that the Shillelagh Travel Club might organize, please send them to Cathy Shelton at cshelt@verizon.net. The last day trip is in December and there will be more next spring.

TRAVEL SEMINAR
SPOTLIGHT on FRENCH RIVIERA
(April 18-26, 2020)

Thursday, October 10 at 2:00pm
at the Shillelagh Travel Office
100 East Street, SE, Suite 202
Vienna, VA

SHILLELAGH DAY TRIP

to
Toby's Dinner Theatre for
"A Christmas Story" and buffet lunch
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
9:00am-5:00pm
For more information:
shillelaghtravelclub.com
or
call 703-242-2204

OCTOBER 2019

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

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LUNCHEONS
2019 - 2020

1. **October 17,** reserve by Oct 11
2. **December 11,** reserve by Dec 6
3. **February 12,** reserve by Feb 7
4. **April 23,** reserve by Apr 17
5. **June 11,** reserve by June 5

<p align="center">OCTOBER 2019</p> <p align="center">FCRE <i>ADVOCATE</i> VOL. XLI</p> <p>The FCRE <i>ADVOCATE</i> is published by the Fairfax County Retired Educators Exclusively for its members.</p> <p>© Fairfax County Retired Educators</p> <p>Change of address, letters, comments should be sent to the FCRE address above or emailed to:</p> <p align="center">fcre@fcre.org</p> <p align="center">* * * * *</p>	<p align="center">BOARD of DIRECTORS</p> <p>Budget & Finance Andy Mika</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>History & Records Nadine James</p> <p>Information & Publications Connie Dineen</p> <p>Legato School Museum Sue Langley</p> <p>Legislative/Govt Relations Barbara Allen</p> <p>Luncheon Coordinator Phyllis Rittman</p> <p>Member Activities</p> <p>Member Services/Tours Alicia Clelland</p> <p>Membership Valerie Shapiro</p> <p>Parliamentarian Dennis Pfennig</p> <p>Program Director Eva Pappas</p> <p>W. Harold Ford Scholarship P. Rittman</p> <p align="center">* * * * *</p> <p>Office Manager Cathy Shelton</p>
<p align="center">OFFICERS: JULY, 2019 - JUNE, 2020</p> <p>PRESIDENT Cathy Shelton</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT Eva Pappas</p> <p>SECRETARY Dennis Pfennig</p> <p>TREASURER</p> <p>PRESIDENT-ELECT</p>	