



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

THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME XLI, Number 1

SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During my first year as FCRE President, I have been very impressed with the dedication of our Board officers and volunteers. Although we are primarily a social organization as evidenced by our luncheons, bridge groups, book groups, cinema group and travel programs, we also meet regularly with FCPS Human Resources staff to ensure that we keep our retiree benefits. In addition, we fund several scholarships each year to ensure that more FCPS graduates enter the teaching profession.

During this past year FCRE has held six luncheons, sent the newsletters from September to June, met four times with both FEA-R and the FCPS Human Resources staff, and awarded five scholarships to FCPS high school graduates. Also, a well-planned bus trip to Richmond in January was organized by the Government Relations Team. This allowed participants to talk with our local legislators about education issues. To ensure that FCRE is known to future retirees, we had an information table at the ERFC pre-retirement seminar in January. Also, all retirees attending the FCPS Retirement Ceremony in April received a folder with information about FCRE and a membership form.

These activities take planning and need plenty of volunteer help. My thanks to the luncheon helpers, the volunteers who get the newsletter ready for mailing, those who represented FCRE at the FCPS Retirement Ceremony and the Board members who do much to keep FCRE strong.

Several of our long time officers are either leaving the area or unable to continue in their role. I would like to thank these wonderful people who have contributed so much to FCRE. Billie Johnson will not be continuing as editor in order to deal with some health issues. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her at FCRE events. Barbara and John Dent are moving to the Fredericksburg area and will be missed. John has been an FCRE President and has continued to work on the Board to represent FCRE at meetings about retirees. Barbara has been our Treasurer for a long time and continues to help as we search for a new Treasurer. Last, Doris Patteson has decided it's time for her and her husband to move from the area and she will no longer serve as our Collette representative. Alicia Clelland will now serve as the liaison between Shillelagh Travel and FCRE members. Our new partnership with Shillelagh also allows us to offer members one-day trips as well as longer trips.

In closing, please think about how you can become more active in FCRE to help us maintain our programs. We need a Treasurer and Barbara Dent is very willing to work with anyone interested in that role. We also need a President-Elect to attend Board meetings during this year to prepare to lead FCRE starting July 1, 2020. If you are even a bit interested in these or other volunteer activities, please contact me at cshelt@verizon.net.

Cathy Shelton
FCRE President



TRAVEL NEWS

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

by Doris Patteson

I am looking forward to our first fall luncheon which will be on Wednesday, **September 11 at 11:00 a.m.** We are planning a unique travel presentation for you with executives from Collette headquarters. This is something that I wanted to do for the FCRE group as my farewell gesture as your travel coordinator. Collette has done a wonderful job providing our travel for the past ten years and they will continue to do so through Shillelagh's Travel Club. I want you to experience some of what I have grown to love about this company after working with them for the past 22 years. You will gain a personal understanding of this company and its people and products--a family-owned business that has provided travel to all parts of the world for over 100 years and to all seven continents with over 160 destinations. They also have a Foundation which gives back to the countries that we visit in so many ways—providing school uniforms, school supplies, medical supplies, training for new occupations, assisting in providing water to communities that have to carry it long distances, and so much more. You will especially enjoy the enthusiasm of the Collette representatives who love their work and love making your travel experiences special. I don't want you to miss this special time. You will have an enjoyable experience.

September Travel Report

by Alicia Clelland

I trust that everyone had a wonderful summer. Wishing all of you a 2020 filled with interesting travel and memorable moments with friends and family.

The Collette 2020 trips are scheduled as follows:

- Treasures of Japan** – March 22 – April 4, 2020 (deposit deadline **September 9, 2019**).
- Spotlight on the French Riviera** - April 18-26, 2020 (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 presentations for the FRENCH RIVIERA trip are scheduled for **September 19, 2019, 2:00 PM** at the FCRE Office in the Apple Federal Credit Union, 6708 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA and **October 10, 2019, 2:00 PM** at the Shillelagh Travel Club, 100 East ST, SE, Vienna, VA.

All 2020 trip arrangements are handled by Trevor Major, Shillelaghs Travel Consultant. He can be contacted at trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com or 703/242-2204.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The W. Harold Ford Foundation, a part of FCRE, annually awards scholarships to deserving FCPS graduates in the amount of \$2000. FCRE once again awarded scholarships at the June luncheon. The highly qualified winners are:

The Mary O. Ambler Scholarship was established in 1944 by the estate of Mary Ambler who was a Fairfax High School teacher. This year's recipient is Caroline Burns, a graduate of Centreville High School and a student at James Madison University.

The Apple Scholarship is given by the Apple FCU Foundation. This year's recipient is Melody Day, a Woodson graduate who will study at the University of Virginia.

The FCRE Scholarship is funded by FCRE. This year it was awarded to Madeline Downey who graduated from Robinson and will attend the University of Virginia.

The Bobbi Vest Trust funds a scholarship in honor of Bobbi Vest who was a FCPS teacher and an FCRE officer. This year Hiba Huruse won the scholarship. Hiba is a Herndon graduate and will attend Virginia Tech.

The W. Harold Ford Scholarship is funded by member donations and proceeds from the 50-50 raffle. This year's recipient is Kaitlyn Rubens, a graduate of Westfield who will attend Longwood University.

If you are interested in making a donation to the scholarship fund, please complete the form below.

W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP DONATION [501 c3 Tax Deductible]
Make your check payable to <u>W. Harold Ford Foundation</u> 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!

LUNCHEONS

For 2019 – 2020, FCRE has had to make some changes concerning the luncheons.

Because the Elks Lodge had already scheduled large groups on some date we requested, three of the luncheons will be on a Wednesday. Those are scheduled for September 11, December 11, and February 12. Thursday luncheons will be on October 17, April 23, and June 11.

Prices for members and non-members will increase because the Elks will be charging us more. Luncheon prices have been the same since 2007 or earlier so this should not be unexpected. This is still a good deal since the price includes the food, tax, and gratuity. For this year, the member price is \$18 and non-members will be charged \$20.

We are meeting with the Elks to provide delicious menus for the luncheons. As always, Eva Pappas is working to schedule interesting speakers or great entertainment for each luncheon.

CHANGES to FCRE BYLAWS

When the FCRE Bylaws 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 done 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 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

FCRE RECOMMENDATION

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

THANKS

TO

**APPLE FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION**

FCRE appreciates your continued support!



NOTES FROM THE MAY MEETING WITH FCPS HR

In late May, representatives from FCRE, FEA-R, and FCPS Human Resources. Some items discussed:

FITNESS PROGRAMS

Both Aetna Medicare Advantage and Kaiser offer free fitness programs for retirees. Enrollment in both programs has been low and the HR Reps warned that this benefit could be cut if enrollment did not improve.

For more information, see page 7 of this newsletter.

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

At this time, FCPS will not participate in the plan to be offered by VRS. At this time there is little information about coverage and costs. FCPS may adopt this program in the future.

RETIREEES WHO SUB

Changes have been made to the application process for FCPS retirees which somewhat simplifies applying. Also, the rate for FCPS retirees who work as subs has been increased to \$20.50 per hour for a short term assignment and \$26 for an assignment of 11 or more days.

More information about the application process can be found on the FCPS website at:

www.fcps.edu/Substitute-Teaching-Retired-Teachers

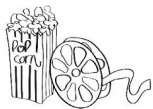
WELCOME!

We are pleased to welcome the new FCPS retirees who have joined FCRE. This newsletter as well as our website will introduce you to all that FCRE does. We are primarily a social organization but we also meet quarterly with FCPS Human Resources to protect retiree benefits and we raise funds to provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors who intend to pursue a career in education. FCRE is not affiliated with any national or state organization. Our programs are supported by member dues. We hope you will participate in some of our events this year.

Barbara Brand
Marie Christensen
Claudia Dougherty
Lisa Hayes
Maria Minnick
Arlene Rosenbusch
Patricia Zeiss

Elva Card
Carey Crimmel
Donald Drain
Peggy Howell
Vivien Patterson
Sherry Sherman

Carol Cassella
Kristie Dorrance
Gerry Lynn Grieco-VanPelt
Walt Leppin
Jan Pry
Susan Wedan



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 lunch and discussion at First Watch Café. Contact Alicia Clelland at clellaap@cox.net to be added to her contact list.

WEDNESDAY SEPT 11

MEMBER LUNCHEON

Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd
Fairfax, Virginia

AGENDA

11:00 AM - Social Hour and Cash Bar

11:30 AM - Luncheon Menu:

Tossed Salad

Chicken and Rice

Seasonal Vegetables

Ice Cream & Cookies

Coffee, Tea

12:30 PM - Presentation by Collette -
information is on Travel Page.
Business Meeting

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations MUST be received no later than
noon on Friday, September 6.

For ALL reservations we need your name
and name(s) of guest(s).

MAIL: Send a check payable to FCRE to
FCRE

Luncheon Reservation

P. O. Box 682

Springfield, VA 22150-0682

PHONE: 703-923-9877

Please spell your name and name of guest(s)

EMAIL: luncheon@fcere.org

Emailed reservations will be acknowledged.

COST OF LUNCHEON:

\$18 for members

\$20 for each guest

When paying at the door, a check is preferred.

Unclaimed reservations will be billed.



BOOK GROUPS

ANNANDALE GROUP

Meets 3rd Wednesdays at noon at various
locations. Call Dottie Addison at
703-971-8479 for more information.

FAIRFAX CITY GROUP

Meets 2nd Friday at 10:30 AM in the
Barnes and Noble 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 9:45 AM at the Vienna American
Legion at 303 Center St, North Vienna, VA.
Contact Barbara Marshall for information.
Her email is bmarshall6210@gmail.com

4th TUESDAY GROUP

Meets in homes at 7 PM. 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 from 9:45 AM to 12 PM.
Contact Bunny Monroe at
MissBunnyM@aol.com or May Roy at
mroy99@verizon.net

**INFORMATION from FCPS
OFFICE of BENEFIT SERVICES**

FCPS OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment will be October 14 to November 8. The Retiree Benefits Briefing will be sent in October.

FITNESS BENEFITS for MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES

Here is information about what each plan offers:

Aetna Medicare Advantage Silver Sneakers Program

Members have access to over 13,000 participating locations, where you can work out with cardio and strength training equipment, attend fitness classes, and access pools and saunas. You can also download Silver Sneakers Go, a mobile fitness app that will provide on-demand workout programs and personalized advice to help you achieve your fitness goals. For more information on Silver Sneakers, visit the Aetna Medicare website at <http://fcps.aetnamedicare.com>, click on the “Live Well” dropdown menu and then click on “Gym Memberships & Fitness Classes”.

Kaiser Permanente Cost Plus/Medicare Advantage Silver & Fit Program

Members can choose from two convenient options – a Fitness Center Membership or a Home Fitness Program. The Silver & Fit Fitness Center Membership gives you a free membership to the fitness center of your choice within Silver & Fit's broad network of participating locations. With this option, you can work out with cardio and strength training equipment, attend fitness classes, and access pools and saunas. If you would prefer to work out at home, Silver & Fit's Home Fitness Program might be for you! To get started, visit the Kaiser website at <http://my.kp.org/fcps>, click on “Plans and Services”, and then click on “Silver & Fit Program”.

EMAIL?

Sometimes, there is news for retirees that needs to be sent quickly. That is when we would email you. Please take the time to send us your email address. If you receive the newsletter via email, we already have your correct email. If not, send an email to membership@fcps.org with SUBJECT: email. Don't forget to include your name!

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

Thursday, Sept 19 at 2 PM
at the FCRE office

or

Thursday, October 10 at 2 PM
at the Shillelaghs Office

SHILLELAGH DAY TRIP

to

Toby's Dinner Theatre for
“A Christmas Story” and buffet lunch

WED DECEMBER 11

9 AM TO 5 PM

For more information:
shillelaghtravelclub.com

or

call 703-242-2204

FCRE *ADVOCATE*
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PO BOX 682
Springfield, VA 22150-0682

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LUNCHEONS
2019 - 2020

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

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