



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

# THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME XLI, Number 5

January 2020

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM (GRT) REVIEW

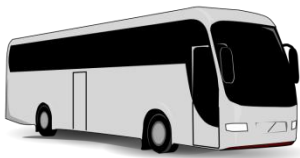
Northern Virginia and Fairfax County, in particular, have continued to ride the BIG BLUE WAVE since our successful elections two years ago. And, on Election Day, November 5 of this year, we were able to elect more candidates than was actually necessary to “flip” the majority in the State Senate and the House of Delegates from Republican to Democrat.

As educators, the reason this is important is that Democrats generally have been (and can be expected to continue to be) much more supportive of increasing benefits for school employees, increasing teacher salaries, maintaining the Virginia Retirement System, providing health benefits, and providing a high quality environment in our schools for teaching and learning. As our legislators are creating the language to support the bills that will be introduced during the 2020 General Assembly Session, they are looking at the long-term outcome of what their legislation can provide, and how it will shape the future development of programs that will provide new technology, social services to communities in need, and more equitable learning opportunities for all of our students.

A meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, at 10:00 AM at the FEA office building to make final plans for Lobby Day. These plans include determining who the group leaders and team members will be, and sharing the appointments set with the members of the General Assembly.

Maybe this is the year, 2020, that you should consider coming to Richmond for our Retiree Lobby Day on January 30, 2020! Yes, you have to get up early, but once or twice a year isn’t too bad. There is a place on the bus waiting for you!

### BUS TRIP INFORMATION FOR LOBBY DAY – THURSDAY, JANUARY 30



- ✓ **Bus Stop #1** is the parking lot at Fair Oaks Mall between poles 55 and 58. The Mantech Building can be seen from that part of the parking lot, but is not ON the Fair Oaks Mall property. The bus will depart this area at 6:00 AM.
- ✓ **Bus Stop #2** is the parking lot of the Little River United Church of Christ at 8410 Little River Turnpike. It is across the street from NOVA Community College in Annandale. To access the parking lot of the church, turn on Lake St. and follow the long driveway to the parking lot. The bus will depart Little River UCC at 6:30 AM.
- ✓ **Bus Stop #3** is the parking area of the Cracker Barrel restaurant just off Rt. 95 at 17115 Dumfries Rd., Dumfries, VA. The bus will leave that area between 6:50 AM and 7:00 AM.

- 8:30 AM: Arrival in Richmond, and dropped off at the Pocahontas Building at 8:30 AM. We will visit with our Northern Virginia Legislators through the morning at our appointed times. Lunch is available across the street at the Sun Trust Bank Building cafeteria.
- 2 PM: board the bus for the return trip to Northern Virginia. Stops will be made at each pick-up location.

If you need more information or would like to attend Lobby Day, please contact Barbara Allen at [Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com](mailto:Barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com)

**POSITION STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE 2020 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

**ON BEHALF OF ALL NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S RETIRED EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYEES,  
WE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Fully fund the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and maintain it as a defined benefit plans 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 including reversal of action taken that created the hybrid plan.
2. Provide equity for ALL education employees, bringing them to the level of benefits provided to state employees in comparable positions.
  - a. Appropriate increases from state funds, NOT from local revenues.
  - b. Provide health insurance credit to all education support professionals.
3. Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.
4. Gun violence prevention.
5. Non-partisan redistricting.

**IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR ACTIVELY EMPLOYED COLLEAGUES, RETIRED EDUCATORS  
ALSO CALL ON LAWMAKERS TO:**

6. Commit to providing a high quality environment for teaching and learning.
7. Commit to rights of educators to negotiate their salaries and working conditions through an official process jointly developed by the localities.
8. Fully fund Department of Education recommended 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.
9. Oppose charter school amendments and private efforts to impact curriculum and/or any attempts to divert public dollars to non-public schools.
10. Support equitable learning opportunities for all students, including improving infrastructure, providing technology, and supporting wrap-around community services.

**TRAVEL SEMINARS**

**TRAVEL SEMINAR** on Thursday January 9 at the FCRE office, 6708 Backlick Rd, Springfield.

2 PM – information about the Colorado Rockies    2:40 PM – information about French Canada

**TRAVEL SEMINAR** on Thursday, January 16 at the Shillelagh Office, 100 East St SE, Vienna.

2 PM – information about French Canada                      2:40 PM – information about Colorado Rockies

Please RSVP to Trevor Major by calling 703-242-2204 or email at trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com.

**SHILLELAGH DAY TRIPS**

**MURDER at MOUNT HOPE MANSION: Tues Mar 10, 2020; Cost is \$125**

**BARNES FOUNDATION MUSEUM: Wed May 20; Cost is \$166**

**A DAY in St. MICHAELS, MD: Tues, June 16; Cost is \$152**

**BEEHIVE – The 60’s MUSICAL: Thurs July 23; Cost is \$117**

For more information, check [www.shillelaghtravelclub.com](http://www.shillelaghtravelclub.com) or contact Trevor Major as listed above.

<p><b>THANKS to the</b> Apple Federal Credit Union FCRE appreciates your support!</p>	<p><b>THANKS TO FCRE MEMBERS</b> who brought books to the December luncheon for Books are Food for Your Brain.</p>
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**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Donations to the Ford 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.

<p><b><u>W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP DONATION</u></b> [501 c3 Tax Deductible]</p> <p>Make your check payable to <b><u>W. Harold Ford Foundation</u></b> in the following amount:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> \$5    <input type="checkbox"/> \$10    <input type="checkbox"/> \$15    <input type="checkbox"/> \$20    <input type="checkbox"/> whatever you can </p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>STREET _____</p> <p>CITY, STATE, ZIP _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">           Detach this form and mail with your check to:            FCRE Scholarship            PO Box 682            Springfield, VA 22150-0682 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">You will receive a receipt for your contribution. Thanks!</p>
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January 2020

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PO BOX 682  
Springfield, VA 22150-0682

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**Upcoming FCRE Luncheon Dates at the  
Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd.,  
Fairfax, VA  
2019 – 2020**

Wed., Feb. 12 -- reserve by Feb. 7  
Thurs., Apr. 23 -- reserve by Apr. 17  
Thurs., Jun. 11 -- reserve by Jun 5

**January 2020  
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The FCRE *ADVOCATE* is published by the  
Fairfax County Retired Educators  
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Change of address, letters, comments should  
be 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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