



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

THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME XLII, Number 1

October 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As fall begins, we've all learned to cope with the necessary changes due to the pandemic and are looking forward to a resumption of normal activities. FCRE still has a number of Officer and Board vacancies and two officers serving although their terms have expired. To continue this organization, we need a President-Elect, Treasurer, *Advocate* Editor and a Member Activities director. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

The FCRE Board has met via Zoom to discuss 2020-2021 events. Some adjustments were made to our usual schedule of events:

ADVOCATE: This is the last printed issue until a new Editor is found.

LUNCHEONS: Postponed until further notice.

SOCIAL GROUPS: Cinema Arts and Bridge Groups are not meeting. See page 3 for Book Group information.

TRAVEL: Some Collette tours are tentatively scheduled. See page 3 for information.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Two or more may be awarded in 2021, depending on donations received.

MEETINGS with FCPS HR: We met in August with HR and FEA-R and hope to continue these quarterly meetings virtually to advocate for retiree benefits.

Updates in the future will be posted on the website, **fcre.org**. If there is important information for our members, an email or mailed flyer will be sent in addition to posting on the website.

So for now FCRE is waiting until this pandemic is under control to resume our normal social activities. Please consider volunteering for a leadership role and contact me (cshelt@verizon.net) if you have questions.

Cathy Shelton
FCRE President

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@fcre.org with SUBJECT: email. Don't forget to include your name!

SCHOLARSHIPS

The W. Harold Ford Foundation, a part of FCRE, annually awards scholarships to deserving FCPS graduates in the amount of \$2000. The highly qualified winners for 2020 are:

Elizabeth Bird: a 2020 graduate of Robinson Secondary School who is attending James Madison University

Kaitlyn Rubens (a repeat winner): a 2019 graduate of Westfield High School who attends Longwood University

Eli Sporn: a 2020 graduate of McLean High School who is attending Brown University

Siobhan Stemme: a 2020 graduate of Centreville High School who attends the University of Michigan

Please consider making a donation to the scholarship fund so FCRE can continue to support students pursuing a degree in education. You can send your tax deductible gift to the FCRE office at the address on the back of this newsletter. Please make your check payable to the **W. Harold Ford Foundation**. You will receive a receipt for your donation.

IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

For this important 2020 election there are a variety of ways one can vote, but the important thing is **to vote!** For information about voting in Virginia, go to **elections.virginia.gov**. In Virginia you can vote early in person, vote absentee by mail or vote in person on election day, November 3.

For Fairfax County, here are the options:



1) **VOTE EARLY IN PERSON**

Fairfax County Government Center:

Sept 18 – Oct 13: Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Saturday from 9 AM to 5 PM

Oct 14 – Oct 31: Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 7 PM, Saturday from 9 AM to 5 PM

Satellite Centers:

Oct 14 – Oct 31: Monday to Friday from 1 PM to 7 PM, Saturday from 9 AM to 5 PM

Go to **fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee** to find the location of Satellite Centers.

2) **VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL**

Pick up the form at the Government Center or at local libraries or apply online at address above. The deadline to send in an absentee ballot is October 23.

3) **VOTE IN PERSON ON NOVEMBER 3**

Polls are open from 6 AM to 7 PM.

FCPS OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR RETIREES

The Open Enrollment period for health benefits for retirees is October 15 to December 7. Information will be mailed in early October about the available plans for 2021. You can also check the FCPS website for information. Go to **fcps.edu/careers/retirees/retiree-publications-resources**.

TRAVEL NEWS

This is the perfect time to think about your 2021 travel plans. Collette has several trips tentatively planned for our members depending on travel restrictions. The trips are:

- February 25, 2021 – Hawaiian Adventure
- March 20, 2021 – Treasures of Japan (re-scheduled from 2020)
- April 27, 2021 - Imperial Cities: Prague, Vienna and Budapest
- May 23, 2021 - America's Cowboy Country
- August 8, 2021 - Maritime Coastal Wonders
- September 1, 2021 - Spotlight on Tuscany
- October 1, 2021 - Spain and Morocco
- November 1, 2021 - London and Paris

A complete description of these trips can be accessed on the Collette website (**gocollette.com**).

All 2021 trip arrangements will be handled by Trevor Major, Shillelachs Travel Consultant. He can be contacted at trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com or 703-242-2204.

BOOK GROUPS

Two Book Groups are meeting (mostly via Zoom). They are:

ANNANDALE BOOK GROUP: meets on the third Wednesday of the month. For more information, contact Dottie Addison at daddison@wrsystems.com.

FAIRFAX BOOK GROUP: Contact Sue Williams at suewms@cox.net for information.

IN THE PINK?

Is there pink on your address label? If so, your membership has expired. Please renew your membership. Dues are \$30 for one year or \$75 for 3 years. Send your check payable to FCRE to: FCRE Membership, P O Box 682, Springfield, VA 22150-0682.



OCTOBER 2020

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

PRESORTED
MARKETING MAIL
U. S. POSTAGE
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 1175

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FCRE Luncheons
Postponed until further notice.

<p style="text-align: center;">October 2020</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FCRE <i>ADVOCATE</i> VOL. XLII</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: fcre@fcre.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p><u>OFFICERS: JULY, 2020 - JUNE, 2021</u></p> <p><u>President:</u> Cathy Shelton <u>Vice President:</u> Eva Pappas <u>Secretary:</u> Dennis Pfennig <u>Treasurer:</u> <i>Vacancy</i> <u>President-Elect:</u> <i>Vacancy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BOARD of DIRECTORS</u></p> <p><u>Info & Publications Editor:</u> <i>Vacancy</i> <u>Legato School Museum:</u> Bob Coffin <u>Legislative/Gov't Relations:</u> Barbara Allen <u>Luncheon Coordinator:</u> Phyllis Rittman <u>Member Activities:</u> <i>Vacancy</i> <u>Member Services/Tours:</u> Alicia Clelland <u>Membership:</u> Valerie Shapiro <u>Parliamentarian:</u> Dennis Pfenning <u>Retiree Benefits:</u> Andy Mika <u>W. Harold Ford Scholarship:</u> Phyllis Rittman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p><u>Office Manager:</u> Cathy Shelton</p>
---	--