



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

# THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME XLII, Number 2

Spring 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's another spring in the pandemic, but progress is being made. Hopefully you've gotten your vaccines and are starting to get to a new normal. Currently all Board officers are serving beyond their terms. *To continue this organization, we need a President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary.* In addition, we need someone to be the Publications Editor. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

The FCRE Board has met via Zoom. Here is what you need to know:

**MEMBERSHIP:** All current members had their membership extended by one year. Check the mailing label on this issue for your new expiration date.

**LUNCHEONS:** Conditions permitting, we will hold luncheons on September 9, December 9, February 10, and June 9.

**TRAVEL:** Collette tours for 2022 are tentatively scheduled. See page 3 for information.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** We hope to award at least one scholarship. Applications are on the website and are due by April 30.

This fall, we anticipate that our social activities will resume. Please consider volunteering for a leadership role and contact me ([cshelt@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:membership@fcre.org) with SUBJECT: email. Don't forget to include your name!



## SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

### Government Relations Team

by Cheryl Brinkley

For many years the FCRE/FEA-R GRT had a tried and true formula for supporting our education issues with our legislators, and each year we all looked forward to our annual bus trip to Richmond for Lobby Day. Due to the pandemic, this could not happen this year. In December, Zoom sessions with our area legislators were held and were very well-attended.

Phone and digital contacts were still made by GRT members to their district's representatives, and Cheryl Brinkley worked with VEA Interim Government Relations Director Shane Riddle to track and alert us to important bills related to our agenda.

Some important bills and issues that were successful included:

- The state budgeting to restore funding that had been withheld from VRS.
- Recovery of 95% of the education funding withheld at the beginning of the pandemic.
- Funding for the state's portion of a 5% raise for educators and support staff. (Unfortunately we are still advocating with Fairfax County Supervisors for funding the local contribution).

Though we had to operate differently, overall the session was very successful at protecting school personnel and restoring last year's gains in the budget and policies. Hope to see you all on the bus next year!



### IN MEMORIAM







FCRE extends condolences to the families and friends of our members who passed away during the past year:

Eleanor Brown	Marcia Carman	Margaret Fleury	Amaryllis Gillespie
Paula Johnson	Ardis Morton	Marie A. Silva	Gaylord Wargo
	Nancy Weisgerber	Bettie Wiltshire	

FCRE makes a donation to the W. Harold Ford Scholarship Fund in memory of each decedent.

## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

The trips for 2022 are listed below. Contact Trevor Major at Shillelagh Travel for more information. Trevor be reached by phone at 703-242-2204 or by email at [trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com](mailto:trevorm@shillelaghtravelclub.com). Links to more details about each trip can be found on our website: [www.fcrc.org](http://www.fcrc.org)

	<p><b>March 12 – 21, 2022: Sunny Portugal</b>            Trip highlights include Portuguese Riviera, Lisbon, Belem, Obidos, Sintra, Choice on Tour, Arraiolos, Cork Factory, Evora, Winery Visit, Alentejo, Monsaraz, Lagos, Algarve, Faro, Tavira, 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Azeitao.            Prices with air: D = \$2463, S = \$2963. Deposit of \$600 due September 13, 2021</p>
	<p><b>April 21 - 29, 2022: Holland &amp; Belgium Springtime River Cruise</b>            Highlights include: Amsterdam, 7-Night River Cruise, Keukenhof Gardens, Arnhem, Middelburg, Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Kinderdijk Windmills, Floriade Expo 2022.            Prices with air start at \$3516 double. Deposit of \$800 due August 22, 2021</p>
	<p><b>June 18 – 26, 2022: Western Canada’s Rockies, Lakes &amp; Wine Country</b>            Highlights: Calgary, Albertan BBQ, Banff, Bow Falls, Lake Louise, Revelstoke Railway Museum, Okanagan Valley, Vineyard Dinner and Wine Tasting, Vancouver, Stanley Park, Granville Island.            Prices with air: D = \$3734, S = \$4734. Deposit of \$600 due December 18, 2021</p>
	<p><b>July 22 – 30, 2022: Colorado Rockies: National Parks &amp; Trains</b>            Highlights: Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado National Monument, Grand Junction, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Arches National Park, Durango &amp; Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park (UNESCO).            Prices with air: D = \$2946, S = \$3646. Deposit of \$600 due January 22, 2022</p>
	<p><b>August 28 – September 4, 2022: Pacific NW &amp; California</b>            Highlights: Seattle, Mount St. Helens Visitor Center, Portland, Choice on Tour, Columbia River Gorge, Hood River, Yaquina Head Lighthouse, Newport, Bandon State Natural Area, Rogue River Cruise, Redwood National Park, Avenue of the Giants, San Francisco.            Prices with air: D = \$2949, S = \$3749. Deposit of \$600 due February 28, 2022.</p>
	<p><b>October 2022: Scotland: Isles of Lore and Legend</b>             More details in the Fall.</p>

## 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](mailto:daddison@wrsystems.com).

**FAIRFAX BOOK GROUP:** Contact Sue Williams at [suewms@cox.net](mailto:suewms@cox.net) for information.

**SPRING 2021**

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

<p align="center"><b>PRESORTED MARKETING MAIL U. S. POSTAGE MERRIFIELD, VA PERMIT NO. 1175</b></p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST

<p><b><u>FCRE LUNCHEONS</u></b></p> <p><b>SAVE THE DATES: Sept 9, Dec 9, Feb 10, June 9</b></p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p><b>Spring 2021 FCRE ADVOCATE VOL. XLII</b></p>	<p><b><u>BOARD of DIRECTORS</u></b></p>
<p>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><u>Info &amp; 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  * * * * * <u>Office Manager:</u> Cathy Shelton</p>
<p><b><u>OFFICERS: JULY, 2020 - JUNE, 2021</u></b></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>	