



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

THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME XLIII, Number 2

Winter 2022

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope you have stayed healthy and warm during this cold, snowy month. FCRE continues to slowly plan activities as we continue to deal with the pandemic. We have hosted two successful luncheons and are planning our next luncheon for February 10.

As always, FCRE is working for you. In December, members of the GRT participated in Zoom meetings with our state legislators to present the joint FCRE/FEA-R Position Statement. At the invitation of FCPS, our thoughts about the new FCPS Superintendent were presented in a Zoom meeting with a representative of the search team. FCRE continues to meet with the FCPS HR representatives to protect and improve retiree health care and pension benefits. To maintain these efforts, more volunteers are needed. Please consider volunteering to help the Board as it navigates these changing times.

FCRE also hopes to bring back some popular activities of past years. This may include high tea at a local restaurant, hotel, or museum. Spring may also include day trips to a winery, garden, or museum as well as lunch at various restaurants. Contact me at cshelt@verizon.net with your ideas and questions. You will be contacted by email about these plans, so please make sure we have your email.

FEBRUARY 10 LUNCHEON

The next luncheon will be Thursday, February 10 in the large room on the main floor of the Elks Lodge. Entertainment will be provided by the W. T. Woodson High School Wind Quintet.
 MENU: garden salad, meat or vegetarian lasagna, garlic bread and dessert

For a reservation: please send an email (preferred) to luncheon@fcrc.org or phone 703-923-9877.

Give your name and name of any guest(s) and your lasagna choice.

Reservations must be made by noon on Friday, February 4.

Payment of \$20 for a member or \$22 for a guest can be made at the door.

Proof of vaccination and masks required.

Unclaimed reservations will be billed.



In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER: If Fairfax County schools are closed/only holding virtual classes, the luncheon is cancelled.

If FCPS has a delayed opening, the luncheon will take place as scheduled.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM NEWS

POSITION STATEMENT **FOR THE 2022 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 and as the sole option.
 - a. Implement VRS actuarial recommendations, including continuing to fully fund the Board Certified Contribution Rate to VRS.
 - b. Move to reverse action taken that created the hybrid plan.
 - c. Oppose all efforts to erode the VRS retirement plan.
 - d. Protect the assets and promote the sound funding of the VRS and assure that VRS Investment returns are used for the best interest for current and future beneficiaries.
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 local revenues.
 - b. Provide additional health insurance credit to all educational support professionals.
3. Support legislation to promote criminal justice reform.

The Position Statement also included statements to support active educators. This was presented to the local state legislators at the December Zoom meetings.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Barbara Allen, GRT Chair

On Wednesday, January 12, the General Assembly convened in the midst of the continuing pandemic. In-person contact will be held to a minimum. Masks have been encouraged, but not mandated. SO, our means of communicating with our legislators will be by email and phone. I will be meeting with the GRT to determine how we can most easily and quickly contact legislators to express our support or opposition of pending legislation.

I hope that we can determine a way of communicating with you, our members, when there is a need for many of us to express our view on certain issues being brought before committees, the House, or Senate. It will present the "bill," give a summary and if the GRT recommends support or opposition. The number of people who support or oppose a bill is extremely important. Legislative Aides keep track of those very important numbers to relay to their Senator or their Delegate. This is a very important process and you can be a part of it from the comfort of your own cozy home!! We will contact you if you are interested in helping express your views. GET INVOLVED!

Contact Barbara by email at barbarawallaceallen@yahoo.com or phone 703-978-0470.

TRAVEL

Your Travel Committee has several Collette tours selected for 2022. Prices listed include airfares and are per person double. The tours and dates are as follows:

- March 12-21: Sunny Portugal - cost \$2463
- April 21-29: Holland and Belgium River Cruise - cost begins at \$3516
- June 18-26: Western Canada's Rockies, Lake and Wine Country - cost \$3734
- July 22-30: Colorado Rockies National Parks and Trains - cost \$2946
- August 28-September 4: Pacific North West & California - cost \$2949
- October 1-12: Scotland Isles of Lore & Legend – cost \$4849

Details about each trip can be found on our website: www.fcrc.org/fcrrtours.html

We are planning a ZOOM travel information session (possibly on February 17) to give details and answer questions about these trips. Contact Trevor to be put on the list for the presentation.

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

SHILLELAGH DAY TRIPS

MURDER at OATLANDS HOUSE : Wed Mar 23, 2022; Cost is \$199

A DAY in OCCOQUAN: Wed April 27; Cost is \$119

BLUE ANGELS CRUISE (ANNAPOLIS): Tues, May 24; Cost is \$187

BEEHIVE – The 60's MUSICAL: Tues July 19; Cost is \$117

For more information, check www.shillelaghtravelclub.com or contact Trevor Major as listed above.

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.

W. HAROLD FORD SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

[501 c3 Tax Deductible]

Make your check payable to W. Harold Ford Foundation 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!

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Springfield, VA 22150-0682

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**Upcoming FCRE Luncheon Dates at
the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd.,
Fairfax, VA**
Thur, Feb 10 -- reserve by Feb 4
Thur, Jun 9 -- reserve by Jun 3

<p style="text-align: center;">Winter 2022 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. © 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 style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p><u>OFFICERS: JULY, 2021 - JUNE, 2022</u> <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>History & Records:</u> <i>VACANCY</i> <u>Information & Publications:</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 Pfennig <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>
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