
BTU RETIREES NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6 issue 6 May-June 2017

Board of Directors 2016-17

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Happy Mother's Day



Notes from the president, Carol Fischer:

Dear Retirees,

I am proud to announce our new officers for the next two years:

Carol Fischer- President

Vice President- Betty Bunnell

Secretary- Susan Pignatto

Treasurer –Sue Warger

I want to personally thank Edie MacMurdo for the many years of service she has given to BTU/R. I also want to thank Ronney Virgillito for taking over as treasurer this past year. Your Board works very hard to make BTU/R enjoyable for all of you.

I did not get a chance to wish you all a Happy Passover and or Easter but I do I hope you all had a good Passover or Easter. Before long we will be in the midst of summer heat and summer vacation-although as retirees we are on a sort of permanent vacation. Except, we all

do so many things- clubs, volunteering, part time jobs, acting, etc., etc. But in the summer things slow down and many do take a vacation from the varied activities of the rest of the year. I wish for those of you who take a vacation a great one.

I wish I had good news for you in the political department, but I do not.

The laws our state legislators are thinking about passing are not good for teachers or public schools or retirees. Our retirees in Tallahassee have been following every bill very closely and report out daily- no good news yet. FRS is being attacked, and the charter schools look like they will be getting money to expand. I will keep sending emails so those of you who want to can email, write, or phone your legislators-state and federal. The experts say that large numbers of letters are the most effective way to sway our politician's vote but phone calls and emails also help.

If you have strong feelings or want to change or influence the laws then you might want to be active and write a letter or two. News is not great on the federal level either. This is the first time I can remember being so upset about the way our country is being governed. Sometimes I just cannot watch the news. I know that I find it extremely difficult to watch or listen to our president. He needs to develop his vocabulary. His lack of vocabulary drives me crazy.

Your Board is planning next year and we would love for more people to come to the activities that we plan. If there is something you think others would enjoy let us know. It is my wish that everyone attends at least one of our monthly events next year. If any of you have some time and want to meet new friends- just a

reminder that the Tuesday group welcomes new people.

Movie Club

We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 11:15 a.m. at the Tamarac Café and Diner (SW corner of Nob Hill and McNab). Come join us! We schmooze, eat lunch and get to see some terrific movies. For more information, call Marilyn Boudin at 954-472-3381.

Canasta and MahJong players also meet. Call Marilyn Boundin #954-472-3381 for times and locations.

Book Club

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at the BTU office at 10:00 a.m.

May- Rent Collector by Wright

June-Color of Secrets by Ashford

July- Golden Son by Goudda

SUNSHINE

If you have any glad or sad news to share, please call Rhoda Flohr (561)413-3889 or email her at rhodaflohr11031@comcast.net

BIRTHDAYS

May 8th- Judy Pine

May 8th Mark Wilcox

May 10th- Sondra Lerner

May 11th- Joyce Glicksberg

May 12th- Brenda Irby

May 14th Rhoda Flohr

May 14th-Karen Neal

May 15th- Lora mills

May 17th Nancy Lindberg

May 26th- Fran Kraft

May 30th- Sara B urns

June 1st- Linda Banton

June 6th –Carol Fischer

June 7th- Suzanne Atkins

June 7th- Janet Vandivort

June 12th- Maxine Rosenfeld

June 18th- Elaine Engel

June 19th Ricki Levenberg

June 22nd- Alyce Aspler

June 25th- Barbara Levy-Jacobs

June 25th- June Rothouse

June 27th- Selma Keil



If I missed anyone's special day. It is only because I do not have it on my membership list.

Enjoy your special day and may you have many more !!!

REMEMBER.. WE CAN NO LONGER TAKE CASH FOR ANY EVENT. WHEN RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED--THE DEADLINE IS FIRM. NO EXCEPTIONS. Remember that SEATS ARE LIMITED AT THE BTU OFFICE.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **2017**

May 17 - End of the Year Lunch at Lago Mar Country Club in Plantation and possible fashion show .

EACH EVENT HAVE A FIRM DEADLINE- NO EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE ON THESE FINAL DATES.IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND AN EVENT

**PLEASE GET YOUR CHECK
IN ON TIME.**

Smart Stage Matinee Series and More at Parker Playhouse

We are so fortunate to live in a county that embraces the arts. Below are special educator programs that offer discounts to teachers, as well as, other programs that may be of interest to you. I hope that many of you will take advantage of these fabulous performances to support the arts in South Florida.

Discover Broadway for Teachers

Please note that these theater packages at the Broward Center go on sale Wednesday, August 17, 2016 and can be reserved through the group sales team at 954-660-6307 or 954-660-6328. Packages include 1 orchestra level ticket, free

admission to a pre-show meet the stars workshop at 5:30, 6:30 pre-show diner including wine and refreshments. 8:00p.m. performance and parking voucher. NOTE: LIMIT 2 TICKETS PER ORDER

FINDING NEVERLAND Wed. June 14, 2017 at 5:30p.m. \$102.15

**SIX DOLLAR SMART STAGE
MATINEE SERIES FOR GROUPS OF
10 OR MORE:**

Last year more than 40 members of our group took advantage of the morning matinee series that is for students (former SEAS program) and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Please advise if you are interested in attending any of these performances and I will reserve the minimum of 10..

MONEY for these performances goes to Ronney Virgillito since Betty Bunnell already has made reservations for us.

Your Vice- President/Program
Coordinator,

Betty Bunnell

If you have not renewed your membership use the following form and send your check for \$65 to the BTU Office : ATTENTION HOLLY

<https://bturetires.shutterfly.com/>

Reminder

Volunteer Hours- please send to Kate Alexander Kama1950@bellsouth.net or #954-475-2671

Volunteer hours are for any time you spend helping a non family member-trips to the doctor, shopping, classrooms etc.

Broward Teachers Union
Retirees Chapter

I understand that my \$65 membership dues are for a period of one year. These dues entitle me to all benefits derived from BTU's state and national affiliates. (Life time \$24)

NAME _____

D.O.B. _____

Home mailing address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone () _____

Cell () _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please remit to BTU Office, 6000 North University Drive, Tamarac, FL 33321

Telephone # (954) 486-6250 ATTENTION: Holly Corliss

PHOTOS

Monica Lynn as always has provided us with great photos of our events. Check them out at :

Dates of Note:

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Stuff you didn't know you didn't know...

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades- King David

Hearts- Charlemagne

Clubs- Alexander, the Great

Diamonds- Julius Caesar

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th- John Hancock and Charles Thompson. Most of the rest signed on

August 2nd but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace .

Most boat owners name their boats .The most popular name requested: Obsession.

If you were to spell out numbers. How far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"? One thousand.

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2017 Legislative Session

The 60 day session runs this year from Tuesday, March 7 through Friday May 5th .

It is a critical fact that everything that the Legislature has done to public education over the past 20 years can be undone.. Each legislative session is a chance to make a difference. It may not be easy but if we as educators don't stand up for the rights of our children, who will!.

You can make your voice heard during this session : (1) sign up for text alerts-often on very short notice, the FEA sends out action alerts – text feaactivists to 31996. Sign up today so you can be ready when a quick response is needed.

(2) share info on social media. When the BTU or state unions posts on social media- share it. Parents trust and respect what we think about what the Legislature is doing.

(3) Call your legislators- contact them in their home office or in Tallahassee. It is an important part of having educators' voices heard. You can find the address of your particular legislator on myflorida.gov, or FEAactioncenter.org/act/contact-your-lawmakers.

Help protect public education in Florida.

We are facing an uphill battle in Washington since Betty DeVos has been selected as the head of the Department of Education .She is a champion of for profit charter schools and wants to use taxpayer money to fund private and religious schools.

Things that must change to improve public education;

Ensure adequate funding- Florida ranks 35th in the nation in average teacher salary. How can we retain good teachers when we don't pay them a competitive wage.

LET TEACHERS TEACH- Elected officials need to recognize and trust us as professionals who work every day with students and know what works best in our classrooms.

Reduce time spent in testing- Florida's testing system is out of control. It cheats our students of valuable teaching time. All of us know that these tests were never designed to punish schools and students. Fostering creativity and teaching critical thinking skills are far more important than a test score which we all know can be skewed from one day to the next, depending on how these students feel that day.

Just because we are retirees doesn't mean that we have dropped off the grid. We have grandchildren, neighbors, friends etc. who are affected by what the legislature does with education. We will always be educators and be interested in education.

Many of us volunteer in the schools and mentor young teachers. We present innovative Grants each year to help with classroom projects that otherwise would not be affordable-yes, we know how much of our own money we spent just to inspire students.

So ...please pay attention to what our elected officials are doing in Tallahassee and Washington. It may not affect you immediately today but it will in the future.