

President's Message

Sue Huttig, President

Happy March, I can't believe how fast time is moving. I wish each of you a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

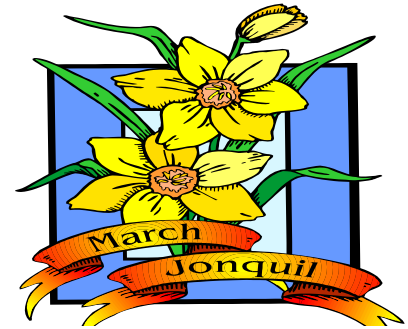
Our February meeting featured Independent journalist Billy Townsend. He told us about positive changes he made during his term on the Polk County School Board. He also described problematic relationships between state politicians and charter schools in Jefferson County. Pat Hall shared some of her research on Hillsborough County's charter schools.

Our March meeting will be on March 9, 2022 (due to spring break). It will be at the CTA Building beginning at 10:00 am. The guest speaker will be Nadia Combs, our current school board chair.

Reminders: Please bring your January issue of *NEA Today* to our next meeting, or drop it off at the CTA building with a note for HEA-R. Pat Hall would like more copies to give to school board members and to the director of Community Schools at Gibsonton Elementary. Our district currently has 9 schools like Gibsonton that receive extra support for students and families.

Have any retired friends that want to join HEA-R? Have them call Treasurer Barb Toepke at 813-439-7481 or visit HCTA's website for an application form.

Our Constitution and Bylaws require that the President, District 1 Director and Membership Chair be elected in even numbered years, so those positions will be on the ballot this May.



Happy MARCH Birthday!

- 02: Daisy Wade
- 04: Dee Perry
- 06 Carol Coon
- 07 Belinda Cooper
- 09: Susan Buchanan
- 09: Faye Cook
- 09: Gladys Mitchell
- 10 Armetta Jackson
- 12: Barbara Haggerty
- 14: Barbara Henderson
- 18: Gwendolyn Lamb
- 24: Linda Harmon
- 29: Ed Fabian
- 30 Janet Watson

Please let me know if I missed your birthday.

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**Welcome New Member
Agnes Abreu**

News You Can Use

FEA says TAKE ACTION! Tell your representatives to vote NO on HB 1197. It would weaken educators' freedoms instead of solving the shortage of teachers and staff. Check out their website at fea.org for more information.

Take Action! Tell your legislators to vote YES on two bills. HB 619 would require US-made iron and steel on all public works projects. HB 7071 has more tax cuts for working people and fewer long-term tax cuts for corporations.

Take Action! Tell your legislators to vote NO on these two bills. HB 1467 will ban books and limit school board members to serve only 8 years. SB 1412 will restrict most citizen initiatives. Remember fair redistricting, restoration of voting rights, and preserving more environmental lands? They couldn't have been on the ballot under this bill. For SB 1412, call Sen. Burgess at 1-850-487-5020 and Sen. Boyd at 1-850-487-5021.

Who to call? Call 1-850-717-50__ for House of Representatives bills, or HB. The last two numbers are the district, so for 57-Rep Beltran, call 1-850-717-5057. Call also 58-McClure, 60-Toledo, 62-Valdes, and 64-Koster.

Call the following representatives to thank them for supporting educators and all working people: 59-Learned, 61-Hart, 63-Driskell, 70-Rayner. Not in Hillsborough County? Google your

Community Outreach

Things to do today.....

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry continues to serve their community. Visit their website to see vibrant watercolor paintings of workers, learn their history, review activities, and view a storytelling event. Go to beth-el.org/donate or send a check to Beth-El at 18240 US 301, Wimauma, FL 33598.

HEA-R Members can also donate to **OASIS**, organized by social workers to provide clothing for school children, at Oasis-Network.org.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - STEPHEN TABIN

. I AM READY FOR SPRING, and all of the POSITIVE feelings it brings us. I HOPE YOU TOO ARE READY FOR SPRING AND POSITIVE FEELINGS. I am sure you will agree that we need all of the positive feelings that we can get in these troubled times.

It was noted that the proposed motion to change our Constitution re: quorums was formally withdrawn, in writing, by the maker of the motion, Dale Sena, and was accepted by the members present at the meeting with no objections. Discussion followed on how we can resolve this issue. Any ideas?

Over twenty-five HEA-R members, as well as over 200 CTA members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at the Nature's Classroom on Saturday, February 26. It was the Centennial Celebration of the CTA. We enjoyed speeches by current CTA President Rob Kriete, and a historic perspective from our own Yvonne Lyons (former CTA Executive Director), and Jean Clements, past CTA President. I joined others in taking a quiet, scenic 25-minute boat ride of the Hillsborough River. Raffles were held, vendors donated freebies, and a delicious barbeque was complimentary. (Pre-registered) members (us) were surprised with a framed Certificate of Appreciation from HCTA for our many years of service in education and union support. If you registered but did not see yours, or did not get a certificate and you were present at the Centennial Celebration, please email me at: stevewea@aol.com.