

President's Message

**Sue Huttig
Hillsborough Educators Association-Retired**

Happy Ground Hog Day. Thank you to all of you who braved the cold weather for our January Meeting. We have cancelled our field trip to the Tampa History Museum because they could not accommodate us in the AM. **Instead, our February 16th and March 9th Meetings are scheduled for the CTA building. Please note that we are meeting on the second Wednesday in March due to Spring Break.**

Congratulations and Thank You to Susan Buchanan who has agreed to be our new Membership Chair. Thank you, Jacqueline Cross, for your service in obtaining new members. We wish you well in your position at USF, working with educational interns.

Did you know as an active retired member, you have an opportunity to be a delegate to the Annual FEA Delegate Assembly (DA) and NEA & NEA-R Representative Assemblies (RA)? Look for an e-mail from FEA, or a letter in the U.S. mail (if you don't have e-mail). This letter will ask you if you want to be placed on the ballot for FEA delegate to the Delegate Assembly (DA) or to the NEA annual meeting or both. FEA will then send out information on electronic voting for Delegates to both meetings. If you want a paper mail-in ballot you must request one. I hope you will consider this opportunity to become more involved in our state organization.

We offer our sympathy to the Norwood family on the passing of Lifetime member Willie Norwood. Willie served as a CTA president and he was an HEA-R retired director. Sympathy cards may be sent to the Norwood Family at 9858 Gilchrist Drive, Seffner, FL 33584-2600.

Welcome New Members:

**Diane Ortiz
Lien J. Delavan
Sharon A. Leto**



Happy Birthday!

- 01 Geneva Murphy
- 01 Emma Simon
- 02 Jean Clements
- 05 Estela Cubano
- 06 Janet Naaktgeboren
- 08 Nancy Bolen
- 10 Linda Pasetti
- 10 Katherine Ederhard
- 15 Rhoda Garcia
- 17 Mary Gonzalez
- 17 Eileen Hinchliffe
- 21 Aura Perez
- 23 MaryAnne Pothier
- 24 Jim Roney
- 25 Mirta Martinez
- 26 John Brown
- 26 Mary Brumley
- 27 Helen Spieler

[Please let us know if we missed your birthday.](#)

At the January meeting, Dale Sena moved and Suzie Buchanan seconded the elimination of the HEA-R Constitution Article V, section C (which requires 20 members for a quorum.) As any change to the Constitution requires two readings before a vote, and this was put forth as First Reading. Second Reading, a discussion and vote will occur at our next business meeting on February 16.

HEA-R Membership Report:

We currently have 122 Annual Members and 177 Lifetime members.

Dues for the year are \$37 for ESPs and \$56 for all others. Email Barb Toepke

btoepke504@gmail.com or call 813-439-7481 to learn about the installment plan for a Lifetime Membership. Barb

Thank you to **Dale, Barb, Suzie and Jim** for giving out information about HEA-R at the District Annual Retirement Seminar held on January 31, 2022 at Armwood High School.

Report of the Vice President - Stephen Tabin

Do you remember the movie, "Ground Hog Day" starring Bill Murray, from 1993? It was about a cynical television weatherman who was covering the annual Ground Hog Day celebration in Punxsutawney, PA, and trapped in a time loop forcing him to relive February 2nd repeatedly. To me, we seem to be in a version of Ground Hog Day. We keep getting up every day and hearing the "same old, same old" about Covid. We also try to change the outcome on a daily basis. And here we are. Do not give up HOPE! We are not going back to a new normal. With proper precautions, we will come out of this stronger than ever. This is my HOPE that I share with you that brings us to better times. The Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association (HCTA) is celebrating 100 years of dedicated service to education professionals in Hillsborough County and YOU (ALL HEA-R members) are INVITED to join the Centennial Celebration at Nature's Classroom, 13100 Verges Road, Thonotosassa, FL, from 11 am to 3 pm on Saturday, February 26. Please RSVP to Sherry Gunn at 813-238-7902 or via email at: sherry.gunn@floridaaea.org no later than Feb 18.

Our thanks to Russ Patterson for arranging for Andrew Warren, State Attorney, to speak with us at our HEA-R Meeting on Jan 19.

We have a new Membership Chair, Susan Buchanan, filling a vacancy. Our best wishes and Welcome to Suzie.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting,
Stephen

Program Chair Russ Patterson, left, is shown with State Attorney Andrew Warren, right, following his remarks to HEA-R on January 19.



Gibson Elementary is featured in a January NEA Today article about Community Schools, (CS) which provide social services for parents and families. Please bring your copy of the January issue of NEA Today magazine to our next meeting so Pat Hall may give copies to school board members and to the school. The district currently has 9 CS's and Pat's group hopes they will add many more. Call Pat at 813-839-2640 to learn more about the Hillsborough Public Schools Advocates.

Take Action for public schools by telling your *state senator and representative* to vote **YES** on H 1017. This will help schools to recruit, retain, and increase the pay for ESPs and other school staff. Call Susan Buchanan at 205-531-8960 to learn more about FEA's Tuesday legislative zooms. Go to feaweb.org, then click Issues & Action, then Find Your Legislator. Scroll to the bottom to sign up for email alerts.

Take Action and tell your legislators to vote **NO** on these bills that harm working people in our state. SB458 and HB1197 prohibit payroll dues deductions for all public unions except police, fire, and corrections. SB1124 and HB943 prohibit responsible wages on city and county public projects. SB520 and HB703 take university presidential searches out of the sunshine and back into secrecy. SB758 and HB865 encourage more charter school expansion.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry continues to serve their community during these difficult times. Go to <https://beth-el.org/donate/> or send a check to **Beth-El 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.

