

THE PEER PIPELINE
PINELLAS EDUCATION EMPLOYEES - RETIRED



THE COMMITMENT CONTINUES

November, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda McGeehan

Dear PEER Member,

Those of us who are local and active have had a very busy beginning of the school year - - - even though we didn't have to go to work. Instead, we had a "Beginning of the School Year - - BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO GO!" catered luncheon. Of course, we do this every year. Always good to be grateful!

We started with Nancy Velardi, the PCTA president, filling us in on "the State of the Union" and some of the situations teachers are facing. They are having to deal with more issues every year. (So, BE KIND TO THEM!!!)

Besides the help our New Teacher Flea Market gives, it helps for us to be informed. We can let the public and especially our friends know that Florida now has many laws that impact how teachers are paid. So many of these laws limit pay raises for experienced teachers. (Do you wonder why Florida has a teacher shortage?!!)

In October, following a bountiful breakfast spread, we welcomed and were very impressed by Dr. Keesha Benson and Brian Martin. PCTA has endorsed both for school board. School board races are non-partisan.

Some of our members were elected by PEER to attend the FEA-Retired Annual Meeting in Orlando on Oct. 13th. Marilyn Warner is an automatic delegate because of serving on the FEA-Retired Executive Board as the Immediate Past State President. Others were Linda McGeehan (automatic as PEER president), Carolyn Underwood, Allin Turner, Joan Procida, Mia Sadler, and Maura Hedrich. We carpooled over, which was more fuel efficient and lots more fun. You might want to run next year!

Three of our attendees were also elected as FEA state delegates, so they stayed for the full weekend for the FEA Delegate Assembly with teachers and support personnel from all of Florida. Look for Marilyn, Carolyn, and Joan's picture at the Human and Civil Rights Awards Gala.

We want to thank all who serve and give up their time to represent us and watch out for retiree issues. In today's political climate, we'd be an easy place to cut funding if we weren't diligently watching.

What's next? Come see! Mark Monday, November 21st on your calendar. We have a Vietnam era Navy veteran who was on the USS Forrestal in 1967 coming to make a presentation. All the years we taught about veterans and patriotism, especially in November, will come to mind and heart. Christmas party/lunch on December 19th -----not to be missed (unless you live in Indiana now...)

PEER LEADERSHIP

President	Linda McGeehan	Hospitality	Jana Maples
Vice-President	Maura Hedrich	Membership	Sheryl Lane
Secretary	Kathy Bell	NEA-Retired	Marilyn Warner
Treasurer	Rick Pope	PAC	Allin Turner
Book Club	Jana Maples	Pipeline	Marilyn Warner
Flea Market	Linda McGeehan	Scholarship	Terry Plaia
Greeter	Nan Lanham	Sunshine	Carol Pope
Grant Manager	Jana Maples	Volunteer Hours	Allin Turner

JOY by Nikki Banas

*Make your life about joy.
Celebrate your big and little wins. Grow every day.
Enjoy the first sip of your morning coffee,
and the second, and third and fourth.
Find something to smile about on your commute.
Give hugs often, compliment others whenever you can.
Get inspired. Nourish yourself.
Go outside and spend time in nature.
Take chances. Make the art.
Watch the sunrise. Climb the mountain.
Because life is just too short and fragile
to not live a life of chasing joy.*

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maura Hedrich

Autumn has arrived and we can “feel” the difference already. The mornings and evenings are cooler which makes for getting outside for long walks enjoyable.

We are thankful that Hurricane Ian decided to make a right turn much like Hurricane Charley in 2004 did, but our neighbors to the south and east were not as fortunate and had historic damage. Many homes and businesses will need a lot of help to rebuild or clean up to be inhabitable again. In many cases it will take years. Many groups and agencies have been on the ground since the first day giving assistance. I hope members will consider making monetary donations to help Floridians get back on their feet. So many people have lost everything they had.

As we continue to move past the trauma of Ian, I hope we've all taken some time to reflect on what we will do different “the next time” because there will be a “next time.” Pinellas County Government has a new alert that has valuable information for residents leading up to, during and after a storm. It is called ‘Alert Pinellas’. You can sign up for alerts on line at storm.pinellascounty.org or at the AP Store and download it on your phone. You can find out what evacuation zone you are in and check evacuation zones of other addresses. There is a tab to help you ‘make a plan’ as well as different ‘how to guides’ and much more. Knowing what your elevation is, no matter where you are is important. Most phones have a compass where you can discover the elevation. With all the rain that fell in many counties south and east of Pinellas County people lost their cars to flooding so knowing where to park your car is important.

For those of us who lost power for a few days having bags of pre made ice and freezing containers of water was helpful for us to keep things cold. Next time I will make more bags of ice and freeze more containers. We also turned the temperature in our refrigerator down as well as the air conditioner the morning the storm was going to make land fall. That really helped to keep the house comfortable. We also have two 10-inch battery fans to move the air around. Having a battery to charge your phone would come in handy too. You can charge it in your car, but then you are using gas and that might be a premium if a storm hits.

If you live in Zone A, B or even C having one or two different hotel reservations when it looks like a Hurricane Warning for our area is imminent would be a good plan. Having a couple choices to evacuate to is important. In most cases you can cancel a reservation 24 hours before check-in. Many of the deaths from Ian were from drowning.

We know as Floridians that when September rolls around we are in prime hurricane season. That means paying close attention to the weather in the tropics and when something develops not to take our eyes off it. That means tuning into the local news and weather at least twice a day. The Alert Pinellas will also start sending updates at that time. My favorite weather guy is Denis Phillips on ABC Action News. He streams live on line and on Facebook when the tropics heat up every night and gives the latest updates and predicts what might happen and what we need to do to get ready. His Rule #7: Don't freak out unless he freaks out! Be ready, but don't freak out.

Hurricane season doesn't officially end until November 30th so we still need to do our homework to be ready and prepared.

Verizon 5:48 PM 60%

Dr. Keesha Benson for Pinellas...



You and 8 others

Love Comment Share



Maura and Dr. Keesha Brown, School Board Candidate, at the October PEER Meeting

ADD THESE PEER MEETING DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR

November 21

March 20

December 19

April 17

January 23 (is the 4th Monday to miss MLK day)

May 15

February 20

At each meeting, we collect items for:

Food Bank/Hope Village: non-perishable foods are especially needed during the Holiday season.

Blessing Bags: everyday items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, snack items, socks, washcloth/small towel, small juice/drink, pen, pencil, small paper tablet, anything that might benefit and help people in homeless shelters or teens in trouble. In October, Blessing Bags were donated to Hurricane Ian Flood relief.

Don't forget to send your Volunteer Hours to Allin Turner at amturner8218@gmail.com.



Pinellas Education Employees – Retired (PEER) 2023 Scholarship

PEER offers a \$1000 scholarship to a graduating Pinellas County public high school senior who is related to our PEER/PCTA/PESPA family. Criteria for the scholarship include demonstrating above average achievement and motivation toward advancing his/her education, GPA of 2.5 or above, service to school and community, leadership and good character, and an immediate family relationship (parent, sibling, grandparent or legal guardian) with a PCTA, PESPA or PEER member. An interested student needs to complete the PEER Scholarship Application and essay, attach an official copy of his/her current high school transcript through the first semester of senior year, and send them postmarked (or in the PCTA/PESPA Office) by February 28, 2023 to:

PEER Scholarship Committee, c/o Sheryl Lane
Jade Moore Building
650 Seminole Blvd,
Largo, FL 33770

Students or their parent/guardians may obtain applications from the PCTA/PESPA website (www.pcta-pespa.org) and clicking on either the PEER link or the 2023 PEER Scholarship link or by calling Terry Plaia at (727) 799-2937 or tplaia1@tampabay.rr.com prior to February 18, 2023.

FROM SARAH BORGMAN, NEA-RETIRED PRESIDENT



November: NO flowers, NO leaves (except those that need ranking), NO snow---yet. Nevertheless, the calendar says November has arrived. What a great time to renew our commitment to what lies before us in possibly a long cold winter and the potential of the worst flu season in years. I only mention that as we survived COVID for 2½ years so don't let any prediction scare you. We are as strong as we need to be; we are workers; we are organized; and we are willing to continue in our work and activities come what may. How are you doing with your goals? Is your membership growing and are there workers in place to help you reach out to potential members? Have YOU made a contribution to PAC and/or our Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Fund? These are all programs of NEA Retired. Don't say "NO" in November! Raise your hand and volunteer. Call your presidents and ask what you can do. Turn any doubts into action, and turn any NO into a GO!

FEA-RETIRED MEETING

The FEA-Retired Annual meeting was held in Orlando on October 13. PEER was well-represented with seven members attending. We were able to hear about what is happening with FEA-Retired and learn about the successes of our fellow retired locals.



PEER members attending the Annual Meeting:
Mia Sadler, Linda McGeehan, Allin Turner,
Carolyn Underwood, Maura Hedrich, Joan Procida,
and Marilyn Warner



Linda and Marilyn receiving the FEA-Retired
Communications Award for our Pipeline

FEA Delegate Assembly

The FEA DA followed the annual meeting. Joan Procida, Carolyn Underwood and Marilyn Warner were elected to attend. It was wonderful being in-person and being able to network with each other. Andrew Spar, FEA President, was inspirational and enthusiastic, focusing on education today and the upcoming elections.

Nelly Henjes, Pinellas, and Cartier Scott, West Palm Beach, were elected to the NEA Board of Directors.

One of our own local politicians, Ed Hooper (R), received the Unity Award for his support of education.

There were several interesting speakers including Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO President; Princess Moss, NEA Vice-President; Karla Hernandez, Florida Lt. Governor Candidate; Val Demings, Florida Senator Candidate; Charlie Crist, Florida Governor Candidate; and Randi Weingarten, AFT President.

A lot of emphasis was placed on the election and how the results will affect our lives. As Randi said: "Elections are about who we are and who we will be."

PHOTO FROM THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY



Human and Civil Rights Dinner

The dinner was a beautiful, formal evening honoring winners of HCR Awards.



Joan, Randi, Fed Ingham



Val Demings, Felicia, Carolyn



Marilyn and Randi Weingarten



This year, NEA-Retired is having a Virtual Holiday Auction. WOW!! What a wonderful way for all of us to shop early for holiday gifts and donate to the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education at the same time! PAC Captains, please participate and spread the word to all of our members. This will be fun and, just think, we can shop for everyone on our lists while still dressed in pajamas! The timeline for the Virtual Silent Auction is:

October 1 – November 5	Donate items
November 6 – November 12	Sneak Preview
November 13 – November 19	Bidding Open
November 19 9:00 PM EST	Auction closes

Here is some information from Julie Horwin, Silent Auction Co-Chair, about how to donate:

The link to the in-kind contribution form: <https://forms.office.com/r/vU85BTqR9d>

The email to send photos of donated items after the form is filled out: Please put "Retired Auction" in the subject line. julie.horwin@gmail.com

Note: Please send as many photos as you like - more photos= more money!

On the in-kind donation form, please use your bestselling words to generate interest in your item - make it attractive with your words!

This will be a lot of fun! Please plan to donate items and bid, bid, bid!





A History of the Cornucopia

November 17, 2010
Allison Beck

What does this “horn of plenty,” mushrooms, and ice cream have in common? More than you would think...

Derived from the Latin “cornu” meaning horn, and “copia” meaning plenty, the cornucopia has long been used as a common harvest symbol associated with a plentiful bounty.

Historically, a real goat’s horn, filled with fruits and grains, was depicted at the center of lavish tables of food. As well, many Ancient Greek gods and goddesses, like Fortuna and Demeter, have been portrayed holding cornucopias.

How did the association between a horn and plenty come to be? Greek legend says that Amalthea, a goat—and Zeus’ “foster” mother, accidentally broke off one of her horns. Zeus felt terrible for her, and so he promised that the horn would always bring her what she wants.

But did you know that there is also a cornucopia-shaped mushroom? Craterellus cornucopioides—commonly known as the Black Trumpet mushroom—was named this because of its horn-like shape.

Most interestingly, at the 1904 St. Louis World’s fair, the first waffle cone was referred to as the “World’s Fair Cornucopia,” also because of its cone-like shape. A fitting name, as waffle cones are quite big—cones of plentiful ice cream, indeed



650 Seminole Boulevard, Largo, FL 33770

2022-2023

Membership Type: New Renewal Life Member Pre-Retired Life

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Last First MI

Address _____ Phone _____
home

City/State _____ Zip _____
cell

Email Address _____
(You will receive a reminder of monthly gatherings by email. Meetings are every 3rd Monday from September through May unless otherwise specified.)

Years in Pinellas Education _____ Retired from _____
school/worksite

Total Years in Education _____ Registered voter yes no

MEMBERSHIP DUES ENCLOSED (make checks payable to PCTA)

____ Annual dues **\$56** ; unified (PEER/FEA-R/NEA-R/AFT-R) _____ **\$3** PAC
OR donation
____ Lifetime dues **\$500** ; unified (PEER/FEA-R/NEA-R/AFT-R) (voluntary)
