Welcome Back

It is really hard to believe that kids have been back in school for over three weeks, and it is time for another great year for FCREA and GREA!! All of last year’s officers are returning this year, and I am happy to serve once again as president. We have been working over the summer to develop a budget, prepare for meetings, secure informative programs and great speakers, and organize the handbook for publication. This year you will receive an electronic handbook, and we will only print a hard copy handbook for those who request them. This will save us a great deal of money.

Some articles in this newsletter are repeated from last year’s first newsletter because they are very important; however, be sure to read through the whole newsletter. There is valuable information about TRS on the last page.

We are looking forward to an awesome year, BUT we need your help. We need you to come to our meetings, participate in our community service projects, be a part of our fellowship, and help us recruit more members. We are only as strong as our efforts together. I hope to see you at our first meeting on September 8.

Increase Membership

In order to continue to earn Unit of Excellence, we must increase our membership by 10%. That means we must enroll over 30 members this year in GREA. Please help us by inviting a newly retired educator, an inactive member, or another retiree who is not a member to join FCREA and GREA. We have many members, but only a few who regularly attend our meetings. We want to grow the numbers who attend our meetings. It is fun to see old friends and enjoy the fellowship during our meetings. Please invite a retired friend to attend each month. Our programs for this year are listed on the second page.

Elected for a 2nd Term

FCREA Officers
President: Sandra Watson
watson.sandra@me.com
Vice President: Deb Posey
dposey@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Tracie Fleming
tflemin1@bellsouth.net
Treasurer: Mary Maud Hiestand
heistandmm@comcast.net
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 8, 2016</td>
<td>Candidates for FCBOE Districts 1, 3, 5</td>
<td>“Meet the BOE Candidates” Candidates will have formal presentations and will stay for individual questions after the meeting. Come and participate so you make an informed decision at the ballot box.</td>
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<td>October 13, 2016</td>
<td>Nancy Hall Traveling Teachers</td>
<td>Nancy will present information about Traveling Teachers and traveling in general (safety, insurance, packing, etc.).</td>
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<td>November 10, 2016</td>
<td>Patty Brown, Auctioneer with Red Belly Rooster Auction Theatre</td>
<td>FCREA Annual Scholarship Auction – We need a big crowd to come and bring things to auction as well as money to spend!!!</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>No meeting</td>
<td>Enjoy Holidays</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>No meeting</td>
<td>Happy New Year</td>
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<td>February 9, 2017</td>
<td>Pippy Rogers Laughter Yoga</td>
<td>Laughter Yoga – Pippy will discuss this form of exercise akin to internal jogging that promotes the use of laughter as a form of physical exercise</td>
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<td>March 9, 2017</td>
<td>Chef Nancy Jaworski My Chef Nancy</td>
<td>Chef Nancy will discuss ways to cook to eat healthy – even when cooking just for two. She has a recipe every month in <em>Fayette Woman</em> magazine</td>
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<td>April 13, 2017</td>
<td>Brian Cooper, Pinewood Studio Joan Jordan, Area 10 Director</td>
<td>Pinewood Studio – Brian will talk with us about Pinewood Studio and Pinewood Forrest, the new exciting and eclectic community to be constructed next to Pinewood Studio. Installation – Joan will preside over our installation of new officers.</td>
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<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Scholarship Luncheon – We honor our high school scholarship recipient and our middle school achievement award recipients.</td>
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FCREA GOALS for 2016-17
(Remain the same as last year)

- Provide enjoyable/meaningful content at all meetings.
- Encourage members’ involvement in our community, schools, and elections
- Keep members aware of legislation and other issues that concern retired educators
- Publicize our unit through local media in order to increase interest/membership in both FCREA and GREA
- Establish a professional relationship with our School Superintendent, local School Board members, and school principals in order to promote FCREA and GREA to those educators nearing retirement
- Encourage members to support GREA purposes and projects
- Meet the GREA requirements for Unit of Excellence and Unit of Distinction

FCREA Community Service Projects
1. Volunteer hours in service to school and the community
2. Donate to Fayette Samaritans – food, clothes, money
3. Donate to “the Honeycomb” – classroom materials
4. Support the scholarship/awards for Fayette County students through donations or participation in the annual Scholarship Auction
5. Support Fayette County School System through donations to the Teacher of the Year Celebration, Teacher Retiree Event, and Fayette County Education Foundation

Our Scrapbook
This year Terry Wilson and Judy Pearson, new retirees, will be doing our yearly scrapbook. We are hoping to do a digital book this year. If you have pictures or see articles in the paper or local magazines related to FCREA, please send them to Terri or Judy. Their contact information is in our handbook. Help FCREA keep up our tradition of making great scrapbooks.

GO TO: www.fayettegaretirededucators.org for important information. FCREA and GREA registration forms available online – renew early before our first meeting!!!
Annual Scholarship Auction – Nov. 10

We need all members to attend our annual Scholarship Auction. This auction funds the scholarship that we present each year to a high school senior at one of our high schools. The student must be planning to major in education, and the high school is selected on a rotational basis.

The auction is run by Patty Davis from Red Belly Rooster Auction Theatre here in Fayette County. She suggested that we get our auction items together the month before the auction to advertise what items we have and possibly open the auction to the public.

We could really use a volunteer to coordinate the auction this year so we can earn the most money possible. If you are interested in helping FCREA in this way, please contact Sandra Watson at watson.sandra@me.com or at 770-461-3458.

If you are not interested in participating in the auction in November, please consider a donation to our scholarship fund. The more money we make from the action, the more money we can provide a deserving student who is a future teacher.

WE HOSTED
GREA Meeting for Areas 9 and 10

On Thursday, August 25, FCREA hosted the GREA Area Meeting for Units 9 and 10 which includes the following counties. Area 9: Harris, Marion, Meriwether, Muscogee, Schley, Talbot, Taylor, Troup, Webster/Chattahoochee. Areal 10: Butts, Carroll/Heard, Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Griffin/Spalding, Henry. 87 members attended.

The program included updates from GREA leaders. Jesse Hunter, President, talked about his goals for GREA and his humanitarian project - the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy (FFCL). His goal is for each unit to raise a minimum of $360 which will provide 10 children with a book a month for one year. We will provide more information about FFCL as the year goes on. Dr. Bill Sloan, GREA Executive Director, talked about our retirement. There is more about TRS later in this newsletter.

We were encouraged to grow our units and strive to become a “Unit of Distinction.” We need everyone to join or rejoin our unit and recruit new members.
Our TRS Program

Dr. Bill Sloan talked at the GREA Area meeting about our retirement plan. He explained the difference between a Defined Benefit (DB) plan and a Defined Contribution (DC) plan. At present, we have a DB plan which provides retirement income that lasts and cannot run out. Professional money managers make investment decisions about our money and it has low fees.

A DC plan [also called a 401(k) or 403(b)] does not guarantee that retirement income will last through retirement. It can experience dramatic fluctuations in account value with stock and market downturns. This plan requires that employees decide how to invest and spend down retirement savings, and it often has higher or unclear fees.

Almost every year, the legislature tries to change our DB plan to a DC plan. If and when they try to do this, we must come together to ensure that they hear us when we protest. Please keep up with legislation related to our TRS. I am sending information about comparing these benefits in another email. This is important information.

Plan to come FCREA’s first meeting of the year on September 8, 2016.

Meet our Fayette County Board of Education Candidates

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church – Family Living Center 10:30 AM