December 2019

President’s Message

Season Greetings! It is difficult to realize that 2019 is coming to an end. Where does time go? It seems the more mature we are, the faster it flies. I hope everyone had a terrific Thanksgiving, ate lots of good food, and maintained your desired weight.

Dr. William Sloan, Executive Director Georgia Retired Educators, recently attended the TRS meeting and sent an email stating that TRS has eighty billion dollars in assets, an all-time high. Let us be vigilant and stay on guard if the Georgia Legislature tries any shenanigans with TRS.

Our Scholarship Auction was a huge success. We raised $2,045.00, and, you can increase that amount by donating to the Scholarship Fund. We always appreciate your support. Also, we want to thank Fayette County School Board for the use of the boardroom for our meeting and Scholarship Auction. It is a beautiful facility! The staff was great helping with setup and cleanup. Thanks to everyone for your participation.

Remember our next meeting in the second half of the year will be on January 9, 2020 and will be held at the Fayette County Schools Resource Center (The Beehive) located in the old Fayette County High School Building. The entrance is located across Tiger Trail from the Southern Grounds Amphitheater. The program will include a short business meeting, and the speakers will be Emmett Highland, Drug

FCREA Focus
Fayette County Retired Educators Association

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FCREA Officers

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Committee Chairs

Tracie Fleming -Awards, Recognitions/Scholarship
Andrea Donila - Auction/Necrology
Dorothy Jefferson – Chaplain
Cathy Geis - Community Service
Sandra Watson – Handbook/Newsletter/ Handbook/Legislative
Adrine Green – Membership
Marilyn S. Taylor – Nominating
Carol Lunsford – Publicity/ Webmaster
Terry Wilson & Judy Pearson – Scrapbook/ Decorating
Patricia Franklin – Sunshine
Unfilled – Spotlight Adds
Enforcement Administration, and Georgia Senator Marty Harbin, District 16. Hope to see you there.

Gerry and I wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanza, and a Happy and Blessed New Year

James R. (Jim) Haymans  
President, FCREA  
770-845-6201 (cell) or 678-305-6856  
uscg.res.ret@gmail.com

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**Annual Scholarship Auction in November**

If you missed our Scholarship Auction at our November meeting, you missed a great day of fun and some hot bidding wars for certain items. We held the auction in the FCREA Board Room in the renovated Lafayette Education Center (LEC) that now houses the Superintendent’s Office along with many FCBOE Departments. Dr. Barrow, Leonard Presberg (BOE member), and several of the staff members were able to participate in our live auction. The auction proceeds and some individual donations resulted in $2,045.00 for our Scholarship budget. We had lots of fun for an outstanding cause!! As Jim noted previously, you can still donate to our Scholarship budget. Just send a check made out to FCREA to Mary Maud Hiestand, 409 Willow Road, Peachtree City, 30269.
## Remaining FCREA Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9, 2020</td>
<td>Mr. Emmett Highland, DEA</td>
<td>Information about the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)</td>
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<td>Senator Marty Harbin</td>
<td>GA Legislative Session Information</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Location: Teacher Resource Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 13, 2020</td>
<td>Dr. Cathy Geis</td>
<td>Introduction To and Benefits Of Natural Oils (Location: Arbor Terrace and includes lunch)</td>
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<td>March 12, 2020</td>
<td>Ms. Joyce Rosemon</td>
<td>Cluster Meeting</td>
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<td>The Comfort Bear Story</td>
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<td>April 9, 2020</td>
<td>Ms. Nadia Theodore, Consul General of Canada</td>
<td>Service Leader Discussion</td>
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<td>Ms. Vickie Davis, GREA Area 10 Director</td>
<td>Installation of New Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14, 2020</td>
<td>Dr. Julie Turner, Assistant Superintendent, FCBOE</td>
<td>School System Information</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Scholarship/Awards Luncheon</td>
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### Join Us for Remaining Meetings of FCREA

We are adding a January meeting this year featuring information about the DEA which will be at the Teacher Resource Center at LEC. We will be learning about Essential Oils from our own Dr. Cathy Geis in February. The March Cluster meeting will include Ms. Joyce Rosemon to talk about Comfort Bear. In April, we will have the installation of officers and Ms. Nadia Theodore, Consul General of Canada will be the presenter. Finally, in May, we will have our wonderful Scholarship/Awards Luncheon. Dr. Julie Turner will bring us a school system update. What a great list of meetings to attend. Put these meetings on your calendar and bring a retired friend!!
December Birthdays

Diane Lattimore – 12/7
Susie Lusko – 12/9
Nancy Wortman – 12/21
Kristi Goss – 12/25
Sandi McCallie – 12/27

The Georgia Retired Education Association received the 2019 Best of Gainesville Award

The Gainesville Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Gainesville Area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value. The Award Program was established to recognize the best of local businesses in the Gainesville community.

Congratulations GREA!!!
**Membership**

**Recruit, Reclaim, Renew!!**

To earn a *Unit of Excellence* award each year, we must increase our GREA membership by 10%. That means we need 37 new GREA members. We have 14 new members so far and have until April to recruit 23 more new members. 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. If you are a member of FCREA, but not GREA, we encourage you to join. We have many members, and we want to grow the numbers who regularly attend our meetings. It is fun to see old friends and enjoy the fellowship during our meetings, so please come and invite a retired friend to attend each month.

We need you to join FCREA and GREA!! Dues for FCREA are $15 per year and you must rejoin each year unless you join for life. GREA dues are $27 per year. You can save money if you join GREA through **Automatic Dues Deduction (ADD)** of $2 per month. The $2 is automatically deducted from your TRS check and renewed each year. You never miss it. FCREA can earn money from GREA when retirees pay through ADD. Now’s a good time to be ADD!!! Sign up using the link below!

https://www.fayettegaretirededucators.org/membership

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**Arbor Place Tree Decorating**

FCREA sponsored a decorated tree on the second floor at Arbor Terrace. Several members met at the Bee Hive on Monday, December 2, to see what kind of decorations we had from members and make more decorations using the resources at the Hive. We made garlands of the alphabet and the continents and decorations using 3-D geometric shapes! Nancy Wortmann made and donated ornaments made using pencils and small Little Golden type readers. Jim Haymans purchased a prelit tree, Sandra and Steve Watson assembles the tree at Arbor Terrace on Dec. 5, and several members decorated it on December 6. A big thank you to the following FCREA members who helped make ornaments and/or decorated the tree: Terry Wilson, Karen Bullock, Adriine Green, Cathy Geis, Doe Evans, Marilyn Taylor, Carol Lunsford, Nancy Wortmann, Sue Cleek, Tracie Fleming, and Sandra Watson.
November 14, 2019

Unit Meeting Minutes

Number Attending: 31

President Jim Haymans called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. He welcomed all attending and noted that the business portion of the meeting would be shortened to allow time for the Scholarship Auction.

Jim led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

Pat Franklin recognized new members and visitors. Among the visitors were Superintendent Jody C Barrow and District 5 Board member Leonard Presberg. Dr. Barrow welcomed FCREA members and spoke briefly about the renovations to the Board of Education building.

Pat also recognized FCREA birthdays for November and December.

Jim asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Sandra Watson made a motion for approval, Sandy McCallie seconded, the motion was called to a vote and approved.

Jim asked for approval of the September and October Unit meeting minutes. Terry Wilson made a motion to approve, Gerry Haymans seconded, a vote was called, and the motion was approved. Jim stated that the minutes and the Treasurer’s report are now attached to the monthly Newsletter. Both are also posted on the FCREA website.

Treasurer Mary Maud Hiestand reminded Unit members of the recent email updating the Treasurer’s report.

The following announcements were made:

- The January 9, 2020 Unit meeting will be at the Teacher Resource Center. Drug Enforcement Administration representative Emmett Highland will speak.
- FCREA will be decorating a Christmas Tree at Arbor Terrace for their Festival of Trees. Sandra Watson volunteered to head this project. She asked that members willing to help gather after the Auction. An ‘Education’ themed tree would be nice, and donations of ornaments will be appreciated.
- Community Service Chair Cathy Geis distributed forms for turning in Volunteer hours. The hours are calculated from March to March and there is a broad spectrum of activities that qualify as service hours. Members should return their slips to Cathy or email their hours (geisc@bellsouth.net)
Jim thanked everyone for their participation in the Scholarship Auction. He especially noted the work of Auction Chair Andrea Donila. He welcomed and thanked Auctioneer Patty Brown.

All were invited to meet for lunch at Truett’s Luau following the Auction.

Door Prizes were won by Doe Evans and Gerry Haymans. Susie Lusko won the 50/50 Raffle.

Business concluded the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 and the Auction began.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffre Ray

Secretary

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How Powerful of a Computer Do You Need?

*(based on article by Barbara Nanney in Henry County REA November Newsletter)*

It is December and that means Christmas is just around the corner. If you are shopping for family and friends and you or someone you know needs a new computer, what are the minimum specifications that you will need? It really boils down to how powerful of a computer you really need based on how you will use it.

As you begin to shop for a new computer, you’ll quickly hit the wall of indecision when faced with the endless different options available to you. Do I go with a laptop or a traditional desktop? What kind of processor do I want? What’s the difference between a Core i9 and a Core i3? Do I need 4, 8, 16 GB of memory or more? Do I really need an SSD?

What do you do with your computer? If all you do is surf the web, do some text editing, and watch Netflix or YouTube, then the MINIMUM specs you need are:

- An Intel Atom/Celeron or an AMD A6 processor
- 4 Gb of RAM
• At least 64 or 128 Gb SSD hard drive or 256 Gb traditional hard drive for storage
This is a budget computer for the one who only wants to spend $300-$500

If you work quite a bit with Microsoft Office, browse the web more intensely, open a dozen browser tabs and leave them open, and edit photos, you need a computer with the following MINIMUM specs:
• A Core i3 processor on a laptop or desktop
• At least 4 Gb of RAM but it will be much faster with 8 Gb
• A 256 GB (or more) SSD hard drive or a larger traditional HDD with more than 500 GB of storage
This should cost you anywhere from $500-$1000

If you need fast performance on a day-to-day basis for programming, video editing, rendering or multi-tasking, then your needs step up to a MINIMUM of:
• An Intel Xeon processor with at least 8 cores or at least a Core i9 7800x
• 16-32 GB RAM or DDR4 RAM with at least 2666 MHz to maximize performance
• A NVIDIA Quadro graphics card
• A NVME SSD hard drive is the fastest, best performing SSD type available today.

As we age and need the text and graphics to be larger and larger you ask the question “How big of a screen do I need?” Make sure it has a decent resolution of 1080p (or 1920 x 1080 pixels).

If you are purchasing a laptop, then 1280 x 720 pixels should be fine for a 12” or 13” laptop or a 15-19” screen.

If you’re looking at the screen for long periods, go for a 15” laptop screen of at least 2560 x 1440 resolution or a 22”-27” desktop screen at the same resolution.

Do I buy a desktop or a laptop? All of the above options are available for both desktop and laptop computers, but the desktop parts are faster than what you’d see on a laptop. If you have no need to carry your computer around, then definitely go for a desktop computer. Equivalent components are faster and cheaper.

A desktop computer will probably run you 30-40% less than a laptop and it’s likely to run faster. Laptop components are cramped in a much tighter space and get hotter and run slower overall.

Happy Hanukkah

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year
2020