



# *The Retired Educator*

Vol. XXVII Issue 1

Fall 2024: Sept., Oct., Nov.

## OCREA

### General

#### Membership

#### Meetings

10:00 a.m.  
(11:30 Feb & May)  
First Thursday  
Sept.—May  
(Jan. no meeting)

#### Location:

Church on the Drive  
1914 Edgewater Dr.  
Orlando 32804

#### 2024-2025 Theme

Rock-n-Retirement

#### OCREA Website

[ocreafl.org](http://ocreafl.org)

#### Facebook

OCREA

#### OCREA Officers

President  
**Janice Quint**  
Vice President  
**Monica Johnson**  
Rec Secretary  
**Kim Stutsman**  
Cor Secretary  
**Cathy Thompson**  
Treasurer  
**Jennifer Cunningham**

#### FREA Website

[frea.org](http://frea.org)

#### Convention

May 20-22, 2025  
Renaissance World Golf Village  
St. Augustine, FL

## **President's Message**

Welcome to a new year for OCREA with the first "Rock-n-Retirement" edition of our OCREA newsletter! As we embrace the vibrant rhythm of a new year, we are thrilled to share numerous events that showcase our dynamic organization.

This year marks a new chapter filled with endless possibilities. It's a time to reconnect with friends, explore new interests and enjoy great programs at our gatherings.

In this issue, we highlight the upcoming activities, adventures and information.

Stay connected with your fellow retirees through our upcoming events and gatherings. Every gathering provides an engaging speaker, practical tips and resources to help you make the most out of your retirement years. Please attend our gatherings every month to enjoy the fellowship of our educators.

Visit our webpage at [ocreafl.org](http://ocreafl.org) often. This will keep you

updated on our gatherings and events.

Also you can stay connected with us on Facebook at OCREA.

Thank you for being an integral part of OCREA. Together, we continue to inspire and uplift one another, providing that the spirit of education and community remain strong!

Keep rocking your retirement!

Janice Quint  
President



FROM ...TO



## **Newsletter Update!!**

**This will be our last edition of the newsletter that will be mailed to your home. Future editions will be emailed to you and posted on our website.**

## Vice President, Programs: Monica Johnson

We will continue the rich tradition of enjoying monthly programs at our meetings that entertain, enlighten and energize us. Our programs will remind us of the legacy that we have left in our schools as we hear an update on the great things happening in OCPS in September. Exciting and new information continues in October as we are introduced to Sally McArthur of "Fly Into A Book," and begin our monthly book collecting as part of the FREA Margaret Poppell reading program. In November, we will meet an OCPS graduate who is our current Orlando Poet Laureate, Shawn Welcome, and we will once again enjoy music from

our OCPS singers in December. There will be surprises and fun around this year's theme, "Rock'n Retirement." Get ready to move, groove, laugh and learn!



## 5th Grade Essay Contest

### Chair: Debbie Smith

We will once again be participating in The Florida Retired Educators Association annual 5th grade essay contest. The essay topic was to write about an experience with a grandparent or grandparent figure(s). If you have a grandchild in the fifth grade, encourage them to enter and then enjoy the essay!

The winner at the state level is awarded a cash prize of \$150. Essays are limited to 500 words. The rubric can be found online at [frea.org](http://frea.org). See contests in the drop down menu, then teacher tool kit.

Locally we have secured a \$250 value packet for Dave & Busters arcade for our winner. We also have gift packages to Fun Spot, Congo River Mini Golf and Pirates Cove Mini Golf. All prizes are for four people.

This is a great opportunity to recognize achievement and an opportunity

to let the public know about our unit. Essays are due to Debbie Smith by January 22, 2025. Contact Debbie Smith if you know of a 5th grader or 5th grade teacher who might want to participate at [kenanddebbiesmith@icloud.com](mailto:kenanddebbiesmith@icloud.com) Also if you are able to help read essays shortly after they are due, we would love for you to join us and/or return to the essay committee.



## Volunteer Services Chair: Monica Johnson

You can report your volunteer hours at any time by going to the OCREA website and completing and submitting the online form, or by emailing Monica Johnson at [cimabonniejean@outlook.com](mailto:cimabonniejean@outlook.com), or by texting at 407-325-7718. We will have volunteer report forms at each of our monthly gatherings. Every time you report hours, your name goes into the OCREA bag for a monthly drawing. We are currently ahead of last year's volunteer totals, so KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK! Remember, every volunteer hour counts, so report it!

# VOLUNTEER



**Membership Chair:**

**Cathy Tapley**

Thank you for renewing your membership in OCREA and FREA. In case you have not renewed yet, you can complete the application found in this newsletter.

If you happened to renew directly with FREA, please let us know. They notify us once a month, so your membership may not reach us in a timely manner.

If you know a retired educator who might enjoy our interesting programs, informative gatherings,

culturally and socially valuable field trips and the collegiality of fellow educators, please invite them to become a member.



**Hospitality Chair:**

**Suzanne Lincoln**

Welcome back to our third year at Church on the Drive where we bring refreshments to enjoy as we “Chat and Chew” with old and new members.

There will be a sign-up sheet at our September 5th General gathering for volunteers needed each month. We need: Two Door Greeters, A *Thought for the Day* not to exceed 3 minutes, and a Table Decoration

for our refreshment table.

Your OCREA board will take care of the September 5th duties.



Refreshments for the general meetings will be according to last names:

- October: A – D
- November: E – H
- December: I—L
- January: NO meeting
- February: Pot Luck Luncheon
- March: M - R
- April: S – Z
- May: End of the Year Luncheon

**Cultural Affairs Chair:**

**JoAnne McNamara**

Orlando offers a wealth of cultural opportunities perfect for retired educators. The city boasts a vibrant tapestry of art, history, nature, and performance.

Let’s continue to take trips throughout the year that offer a lifelong learning journey. As our trips have in the past, let’s continue to connect with our community and foster lasting friendships.

Our visitation sites will continue to be a reasonable driving distance. Most of our trips are free or low-cost.

We are still working on detailed plans for our cultural outings this year. More details will be forthcoming at our monthly gatherings. Please try to join us for one or more of our 2024-2025 trips!



**2024 VOLUNTEER HOURS  
REPORT FORM**

Return to Monica Johnson  
cimabonniejean@outlook.com

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Month(s): J F M A M J J A S O N D  
(circle the above months)

Religious \_\_\_\_\_

Literacy \_\_\_\_\_

Environment \_\_\_\_\_

Ecology \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Help \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Nursing Home \_\_\_\_\_

OCREA/FREA \_\_\_\_\_

Shopping \_\_\_\_\_

Schools \_\_\_\_\_

Other Projects \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Hours** \_\_\_\_\_

**Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF)/  
OCREA**

**Scholarship Chairman:  
Kim Stutsman, Ed.D.**

Each year OCREA in conjunction with FREF (Florida Retired Educators Foundation) gives a scholarship to a high school senior desiring to become a teacher in Florida. The recipient receives a \$1000 scholarship, our Ernest & Ruth Hawk Scholarship and is also eligible for a scholarship from FREF of \$4000 over a four year period, \$1000 per year. You are encouraged to support the Hawk Scholarship by contributing to the "Little Red Schoolhouse" at our monthly meetings. Our goal for the year is to collect \$1000. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**OCREA Membership Application**

Hand out the application below and  
invite a friend to a meeting!

**Orange County Retired Educators Association**

**2024-2025 Membership Application**

**Dues: \$65.00 Annually (FREA/OCREA)**

**July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025**



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  **New**     **Renew**

\_\_\_\_\_ **General Member:** Retired School Teacher, School Administrator, School Transportation, School Maintenance, School Cafeteria, School Para, etc.      \_\_\_\_\_ **Associate Member:** Any person not affiliated with a school system but wants to support the mission of The Association may apply for membership

**FREA Benefits are fully available to ALL General or Associate Members.**

**Name and Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone—Cell preferred** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth Month and Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$55.00 FREA/OCRA Unified Dues**

**\$ 4.00 Legislative donation**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ FREF donation**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ OCREA Ernest & Ruth Hawk Scholarship donation**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed (Make check payable to OCREA)**

**Mail check to:**  
OCREA  
P.O.Box 464  
Lake Helen, FL  
32744

**PayPal**  
Send payment to  
Ocrea.treasurer@gmail.com  
Please remember to add \$2 to  
the total to cover the PayPal fee.

Legislative Donations—OCREA and FREA are advocates for your pension and the future of education in the State of Florida. Donations support advocacy for all present/future Retired Educators and other beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System like First Responders. All donation Money will be used in a non-partisan way.



**Make sure your information is up-to date**

We want to make sure you have access to the full digital banking experience, so it's important that we have your current email address on file.

Make sure your profile is complete and up-to-date by signing into your digital banking account and viewing your settings. You'll be able to make any necessary changes inside of your account, or you're welcome to stop by your local branch and a team member will help you out (no appointment necessary).

**You need to see these CDs**

For a limited time only, we are offering special rate savings certificate opportunities. Once you open one of these CDs, just sit back and relax while

you watch your savings grow... visit [AdditionFi.com/CDPromo](http://AdditionFi.com/CDPromo) for more details.

**Homebuying is within reach when you apply for a 5/6 ARM (AdjustableRate Mortgage)**

Maybe you haven't found that dream home, but you found something close... or maybe you're new to the area and you're not sure where you'd like to call "home"... or maybe you're just looking for a lower rate home loan opportunity. Wherever you are in your homebuying journey, let us give you a hand! Or better yet, an ARM. Visit [AdditionFi.com/ARM](http://AdditionFi.com/ARM) to learn more.

**Member Referral**

It's true, friends make life richer... When you refer friends or family member to Addition Financial, you can earn up to \$300 and they can earn up to \$300! Now that's true friendship.

Visit any branch or [AdditionFi.com/ReferAFriend](http://AdditionFi.com/ReferAFriend) to learn more!

**Don't sweat it. We'll help you own your business space**

It can be difficult to have a temporary location while trying to grow your business. That's why we want to take the burden of renting your business space and help you own it instead.

Contact us today:

[BusinessServices@AdditionFi.com](mailto:BusinessServices@AdditionFi.com) or call us at 407-896-9411 x2489

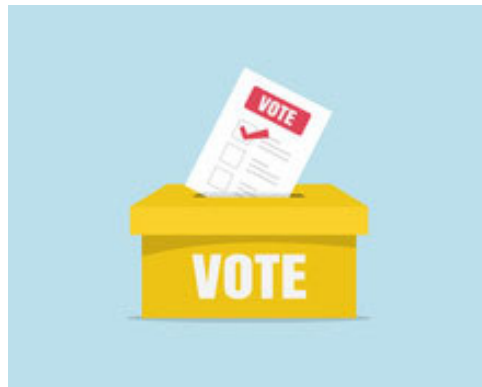
**Addition Financial Holiday Closures**

- Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day
- Monday, October 9 in observance of Columbus Day
- Saturday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving Day
- Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas Day

**Legislative Chair: Claire Stephens**

For Advocacy there are two summer updates!

Remember that if you want to vote by mail you will need to re-enroll with the supervisor of elections office. You can go online at [www.ocfelections.com](http://www.ocfelections.com) or call 407-836-8683.



If you live in the City of Orlando, Belle Isle or Edgewood, please be aware that there is a primary election on August 20th.

Use the links below to identify your representatives in State government.

- FloridaHouseofRepresentatives: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FindYourRepresentative>
- FloridaSenate: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators>

**Information Services Chair: Pat Franklin**

Hopefully summer heat did not derail your exercise routine.

Did you know that 20 minutes of walking a day reduces your risk of early death by 16 to 30%? You might consider lifting weights inside. If you are 70 or older, you only need to lift weights two days a week.

Don't go overboard! Use 5 pound

weights for your upper body and you will feel a difference. I hope you didn't gain a few extra pounds like I did. A year ago, we were told it was cheaper to eat out than pay high prices at the grocery store.

We still have 4% inflation, but food prices have gone down and restaurant prices have gone up. It is now cheaper to cook at home; so grab some healthy recipes and enjoy a home

cooked meal. As this New (school) Year begins, let's spend our time prioritizing a healthy future.



ORANGE COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 464  
Lake Helen, FL 32744  
Address Service Requested

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**Orlando, FL**

**THANK YOU to ADDITION FINANCIAL for sponsoring our Newsletter.**

**2024-2026 Officers**

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Janice Quint

**Vice-President**

Monica Johnson

**Recording Secretary**

Kim Stutsman

**Corresponding Secretary**

Cathy Thompson

**Treasurer**

Jennifer Cunningham

**Directors**

**2023–2025**

Richard Gomer

*(completing another's 2nd term)*

Prince Kelley (1st term)

**2024–2026**

Pat Franklin (1st term)

Chris Daniels (1st term)

Suzanne Lincoln (2nd term)

**Ex Officio**

Christine Woods

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Educators Association**

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**Editors**

Yearbook – Jennifer  
Cunningham, Janice Quint, & Dr.

Kim Stutsman

Newsletter - Janice Quint

**Sunshine Contact**

Monica Johnson