

**Thursday, April 2, 2020**

**10:00 AM Social Gathering**

**10:30 AM Meeting**

**“The Future of Public Education in Florida”**

**Speaker: Linda Kobert, Orange County School Board Member**

**Refreshments: General Membership T—Z**

At each meeting we will collect items to benefit The Russell Home.

Thank you for your generosity! See the list of needed items elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Thursday, May 7, 2020 11:30 AM**

**Spring Luncheon**

**Cost $11.00**

**(You can include this amount with your Membership Dues if you would like.)**

**Main Entrée is Baked Chicken**

**Note Location: Church on the Drive, 1914 Edgewater Dr. In College Park**

***The Retired Educator***

**Vol. XXII April, May 2020 Issue 4**

**OCREA**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**First Thursday of each month Sept.—May (except January)**

**College Park United Methodist Church**

644 W. Princeton St., Orlando

Located on the corner of Princeton and Edgewater Dr. Entrance is across from Publix on Harvard at the back of the church. If the parking lot is full, parking is available along

Harvard.



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In Memoriam

George Martens

Eugenia Messervey

**Message from Vice President and Program Chair: Dr. Gayle Hodges**

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of this program year for Orange County Retired Educators Association. The theme OCREA: *Our Past Builds the Future* has been used to choose our speakers for the year and our speaker for April is no exception. The April speaker for the future is Orange County School Board Member, Linda Kobert. Linda Kobert is the school board member from District 3, South Orlando and served as School Board Vice Chair from 2016-2018. She is a small business owner and community leader, who over the last 10 years has established four non-profit organizations including Fund Education Now. All her children are products of Orange County Public Schools. She will be speaking about the future of public education in Florida.

Last in the program series will be our annual luncheon. The cost of the luncheon is $11.00. During the luncheon the Board will honor some members with certificates. It is also the time of the year that newly elected members of the Board will be installed. There will also be an installation of newly elected members to the Retired Educators Foundation of Orange County (REFOC).

Please plan to come and share these last two programs with your fellow members.

**Message from the President**

This is OCREA’s last newsletter of the year and the last few months for me to serve as OCREA’s president. This message will be very brief, which is rare for me, as I tend to be wordy. I won’t lie; serving as president has been very challenging at times. However, the challenges resulted in many positive impacts. They enabled me to grow and become a better person.

I know that OCREA will continue to be strong and be a very important part of my life. I also know that the new board will lead it so that it continues to be a valued part of the community. I know that the friendships that I have developed within the OCREA membership will continue to grow. Being a member of OCREA has made such a difference in my life. When Ami and I moved from South Florida to Central Florida, we knew no one other than my daughter and son. I was struggling with adjusting to retirement, and I missed my friends and family down south. Then I read an announcement about an OCREA meeting in the Orlando Sentinel and my life turned around for the better. I remember how frightened I was traveling by myself to the meeting in a location I had never been to and walking into a room of strangers. It was one of the most frightening things I have ever done. To my surprise, so many people welcomed me unconditionally that I felt so comfortable and a part of the group immediately.

Last June, an opportunity became available for Ami and I to go on a two-week intercontinental cruise with my daughter’s in-laws that we could not refuse. Unfortunately, I will miss the Spring Luncheon so I must say goodbye to you all at this time and at our April meeting. I am sure that that the Spring Luncheon will be as wonderful as always under the capable hands of other board members.

My final wish as the outgoing president is that each of you brings a new member into OCREA. Our membership must grow in order to flourish. Consider inviting and treating a friend to the luncheon and perhaps they too will become a member like I did!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Sharon Kochlany*

OCREA President

**Membership: Cathy Thompson**

It is time to renew your membership for 2020-2021. For just $50 a membership in OCREA and FREA helps the Florida State Retirement System support the pension plans for retirees. OCREA, through its foundation (REFOC), awards scholarships to high school and technical school students, as well as teachers for post graduate work. Join today to enjoy camaraderie of colleagues, participate in social activities and field trips, and all learn about various volunteer opportunities. All you need to do is fill out the application included in this newsletter mail it or bring your check to the next general meeting. You may also include the cost of the Spring Luncheon in your membership payment. Make your check out to OCREA. Thank you!

**A person lying on a bed

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Mrs. Christina Sharp (left), new member of the “90s Club,” was

*Reminder: May Luncheon begins at 11:30 at Church on the Drive,*

*Located in College Park at 1914 Edgewater Dr., Orlando 32804*

**Volunteer Hours Report Form**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Month (s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Religious\_\_\_\_\_\_

Literacy\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Environmental/Ecology\_\_\_\_\_

Library\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Hosp/Nursing Home\_\_\_\_\_

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

Shopping\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Schools\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other/Project Name\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Youth Hours\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

presented with a beautiful apple by Volunteer Services Chair,

Joanne Canarelli at our February meeting.

**Russel Home Teacher Wish List:**

Construction Paper (Colors)

Poster Boards small and large any colors and white

Canvas Boards small so kids can paint on them

Washable Paints

Brushes

Christmas and all Holiday craft kits for 25 kids

Any type of craft for the kids to make: 25 kids

Wipes

Paper Towels

Sharpies medium and wide black

Plastic magnetic letters

Double sided tape

Pompom's for craft projects

Small food scale for cooking class

Rhythm sticks for music class

White Card Stock Paper

Blank Bingo Cards

Bingo Markers

Wide Craft Sticks

Computer Paper

Website: www.ocrea-fl.org

**Information Services: Debra Dykes Kornhaus, Unionlady4ever@gmail.com**   
Springtime is blossoming, March Madness has subsided, and time moves forward to another new season.   
Are you moving forward and enjoying your membership benefits? FREA and AMBA provide savings and discounts.   
  
MASA(Air and Ground Ambulance Plan), Travel Discounts, and Accident Policy are a few of the ways that   
AMBA helps you "Keep Living Your Way" as the summer months approach. To learn more call: [1-877-556-4582](callto:1-877-556-4582) website: [myambabenefits.info/frea](http://myambabenefits.info/frea)   
  
Would you like to know more about Estate Planning, Long-Term Care Insurance, or Retirement Income Strategies? Florida Retirement Group, endorsed by the FREA, serves pre-and post-retirees. FREA/OCREA members may call [1-800-595-8891](callto:1-800-595-8891) for information and advice.   
  
Have you had your flu shot? Did you know that anyone can get the flu? It's not too late to vaccinate! The American Lung Association has launched the MyShot campaign for you or someone you love 50 years of age or older. Speak to your health care provider about flu shot options and visit [GetMyShot.org](http://getmyshot.org).   
  
Continue to move forward this year with healthy seasonal lifestyle changes. High-tech Health monitors may   
assist you. The High-tech device, MI SMART BAND 4, tracks exercise, sleep, and heart rate. Explore the variety of high-tech "wearables", and visit your medical professional regularly for wellness exams.   
  
Have you been the victim of a scam? Do you know how to protect yourself? Get notified about the latest scams and receive valuable tips on how to protect yourself. Access the website:   
[aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).   
  
The OCREA Information Services Committee wishes you a safe and healthy summer!

**Bylaw Change**

**A change in bylaws was necessary because we no longer meet in January.**

**4.02: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**: Officers, except the Treasurer, shall be elected at the March Annual Meeting. The Nominating committee shall present the slate of nominees to the Board of Directors at the December Board of Directors meeting. The nominees will be published in the next newsletter and announced to the general membership at the ~~January~~ February meeting. Nominations for all elective officers may be made from the floor with prior approval of the nominee. Officers shall take office on July 1st and serve for a period of two (2) years. The Treasurer shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.

**Addition Financial Credit Union**

**0101 1010110 (Online Banking 101)**

You don’t have to learn binary to become a master of online banking. Save yourself trips to a branch or an ATM and bank from the convenience of home.

In our online banking seminar, we’ll give you the ins-and-outs of our online banking system so that you can log on in complete confidence.

Join us Wednesday, April 29, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. RSVP at AdditionFi.com/online-seminar.

**Annual Meeting**

Addition Financial’s annual meeting will be on April 23 in the Joseph A. Melbourne, Jr. community room at our Lake Mary Operations Center, 1000 Primera Blvd., Lake Mary. The meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. and all members are welcome to attend.

**Check Out Our Blog**

If you’re looking to learn about finances, check out our blog. We post insider tips on topics like credit cards, money management and starting small businesses. You can also find helpful calculators that will help you understand your budget, your retirement fund and your loan payment. No matter what financial expertise you need, we have resources to help. Start looking through our resource center now.

Visit AdditionFi.com/Financial-education **Addition Financial’s Holiday Closing Dates:**

Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day

A group of people standing in a room

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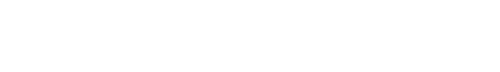
The photo and article above appeared in the “Cool Stuff” Newsletter published by Orange Technical College.

The Career and Technical Education Orange Technical College Campuses says another big “Thank You” to the Orange County Retired Educators Foundation Board for their continued scholarship donations to our technical students in 2019-2020.  Teriann Wright, Senior Administrator, CTE Financial Services and Compliance, presented an update on the ten scholarship recipients in 2019-2020 at their Board meeting Wednesday January 22, 2020 – a total of $10,000.00 donated this school year.

The Board members were pleased to hear this update, as most of these students have already graduated and currently working in their field, as shown in a photo opportunity.  Pictured are Brenda Alston, Robin Matthes, Cathy Thompson, Christie Woods, Ann Winn, Prince Kelley, Kim Stutsman and David Magee.  Members not able to attend Betty Sasser, Nancy Pelser-Borowicz, and Sharon Kochlany.  The Foundation has given a GRAND TOTAL of 63 scholarship donations totaling $64,000 over the last eight years.  AWESOME!  These scholarship donations help our technical students become successful individuals in the workforce.  What a great CTE partnership! It’s a beautiful thing!

**Submitted by Teriann Wright, Senior Administrator, CTE Financial Services and Compliance Career and Technical Education.**

**Reminder: May Luncheon will be held at Church on the Drive in College Park at 11:30. Address is: 1490 Edgewater Dr. Parking is in back of the church.**





**The Retired Educators Foundation of Orange County (REFOC): Christie Woods, REFOC Scholarship Chair**



The REFOC Scholarship Committee chose two recipients of the REFOC Educator’s Scholarship. Lily Thompson teaches ELA 5th and ESOL Compliance at Dover Shores Elementary School. She has been a teacher in OCPS for sixteen years. She is attending UCF and studying for a Masters degree in Reading.

Our second recipient is Carmen Benitez Gotay. She teaches Spanish at Apopka High School and has taught in OCPS for two and a half years. She is getting her M.Ed. at the University of Phoenix in Curriculum and Instruction. Presentations of the certificates and checks are arranged with the principals at each school.

The Academic Scholarship is now available to high achieving high school seniors. The postmark deadline is March 28, 2020. Twelve recipients will be chosen by the REFOC Scholarship Committee. Students can receive more information from the [ocrea-fl.org](http://ocrea-fl.org) website or their school’s College and Career Specialist.

The final of the three scholarships to be awarded is the Technical Scholarship for students attending one of the OCPS Orange Technical Colleges. The students can contact their instructors or Teriann Wright, Senior Administrator, CTE Financial Services and Compliance, for more information. The deadline for that scholarship is July 23, 2020.

**FREF Scholarship Committee Report: Janice Quint, FREF Scholarship Chair**

OCREA has forwarded a candidate to the Florida Retired Educators Foundation for consideration for a scholarship this year.

Ashley Moen is a delightful young lady and is already a leader in our community. She attends Valencia College as well as University High School. She will graduate this spring with a high school diploma and an associate degree. With her work experience and volunteer work as a tutor Ashley has already influenced students by providing them guidance and support. She will continue to do this as her goal is to become an elementary school teacher. Ashley will receive the Ernest and Ruth Hawk Scholarship from OCREA which is worth $2,000. We fund this scholarship from a small fund which we established years ago as well as from the money we raise from the Little Red Schoolhouse. We are hoping to be able to introduce you to Ashley at our luncheon in May.

I hope you will join me in wishing her good luck.

**Extravaganza Tickets**

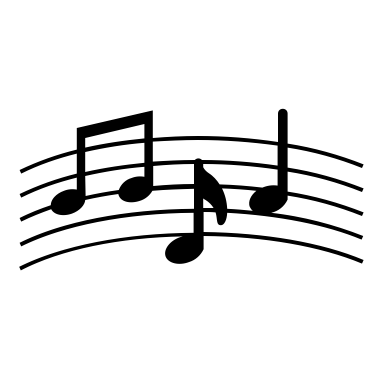
Extravaganza Tickets are now on sale through the beginning of May. For $10.00 you have a chance to win $500.00 in cash. See Janice Quint at any of our meetings to purchase a ticket. You may also contact her at jlquint75@gmail.com.

**Cultural Affairs---What’s going on away from our College Park United Methodist campus? Add this enjoyable date to your calendar.**

**April 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

Matinee of **“Mamma Mia”** at Annie Russell Theatre on Rollins College campus

Group ticket cost is $15 per person to be paid by March 31. Contact Anne Gardepe annegard64@gmail.com

Optional lunch in downtown Winter Park prior to show, TBA

**Hope you will join us!**



**ORANGE COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 678236**  
**Orlando, FL. 32867**

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Dr. Kim Stutsman

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**Orange County Retired**

**Educators Association**

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Orlando, FL 32867

**Editors**

Yearbook - Lillian Vincent

Newsletter - Kim Stutsman

Sunshine Contact

Margie Wells

In the event of inclement weather, OCREA will follow Orange County Public School System's decision relating to the closing of schools. If weather conditions have you questioning whether OCREA will meet, tune in to your local news to hear the decision of OCPS.