

Fairfax County Retired Employees Association

HOT FLASHES

FCREA Officers

Chairman:

Pam Martin 703-323-4929

Vice Chairman:

Kay Wintermoyer

Secretary:

Chuck Higdon

Treasurer:

Bobbie Deegan 301-937-7070

Joseph Blackwell—Immediate Past Chairman

Board Members

Joyce Gerhart Dorris Medlin

Barbara Miskimmin

Retirement Board: John Yeatman

Travel Coordinator: Betty Powell

Rita Kayn: Editor Hot Flashes

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Sunshine

Dolores Testerman 703-273-1295

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703-938-1869

Retirement Agency

10680 Main Street, Suite 280
Fairfax, VA 22030
1-800-333-1633 or 703-279-8200

Chairman's Message

May was a busy month for the retirees! I was unable to attend our annual meeting on May 1st, so my personal thanks to former FCREA Chairman Joe Blackwell for chairing the meeting for me. By all accounts, it was a great success. I also want to thank the speakers for sharing their insights with the retirees:

- Penelope Gross, Board Vice Chairman
- Susan Datta, Chief Financial Officer/Budget Director
- John Yeatman, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Employees Retirement System
- Retirement Administrator Bob Mears
- Joe Thomas, President/CEO of Fairfax County Federal Credit Union
- Donna Dowd, Benefits Coordinator
- Pat Ferguson, Office of Elections

At the annual meeting, John Yeatman announced that our cost-of-living increase will be 1.4%, to be reflected in the July 31 retiree payment. If you are receiving a pre-social security benefit, remember that the county COLA will apply only to your base benefit, not the pre-social security benefit.

Other business conducted at the annual meeting included electing Joyce Gerhart and Chuck Higdon to the Board of Directors and passing a motion to change the Association's fiscal year to January 1 through December 31. The association had been operating on a July 1–June 30 fiscal year. To implement this change, the current annual dues period is being extended through December 31, 2013. This means that **annual members who are current in their dues don't have to renew their membership until January 1, 2014. Those members who have already paid their July 2013 dues will be credited for the following year.**

The 3rd annual Information for Seniors Fair on May 15th was another success. Many thanks to our vendors and to Barbara Miskimmin for sponsoring our use of American Legion Post 177. A very special thank you to the Inova Hospital System, who provided a variety of screenings and then went over the results with each individual. I hope you were able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to get your questions answered.

Our annual picnic will be September 5th at Nottoway Park. See the article in this issue for more details.

A limited number of FCREA bags sporting our "Keeping Connected" logo are still available for just \$1. See Bobbie Deegan if you would like one.

That's all for now. See you at the next Keep in Touch luncheon on June 19th.

Sincerely,

Pam Martin, Chairman

Fairfax County Retired Employees Association

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June 2013

SENIOR INFO FAIR

GREAT SUCCESS!!

On May 15th, the Senior Info Fair was held at the American Legion Hall in the City of Fairfax. Over 20 vendors presented information. There was a bake sale, FCREA Logo bags and 50/50 tickets were sold. Raffle tickets for a Gift Basket from Mary Kay, and Fair Trade Winds were also sold. The total proceeds from the Info Fair was \$303.25. Inova Fairfax Hospital was very busy with screenings for Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, etc.



FCREA ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 1, 2013

The Fairfax County Retired Employees Association held its 21st annual meeting at 9 AM on May 1, 2013 in the Fairfax County Government Center. Joe Blackwell, Immediate Past President of FCREA, conducted the meeting on behalf of Chairman Pam Martin, who was unable to attend. Board Vice Chairman Penny Gross and Budget Director Susan Datta brought the retirees up-to-date on the County's budget situation. The General Fund has grown only 1.4% a year, on average, since FY2009. The County has responded to this shortfall over the years by cutting 500+ positions, eliminating employee raises in FY2010 and FY2011 and reducing them in FY2012, and increasing turnover rate savings, among other actions. DMB projects that annual revenue growth will be less than 3% for the next few years. To meet the financial challenge in the coming year, the adopted budget cuts 41 positions (but does not require a reduction-in-force) and eliminates all pay raises except longevity steps. To meet future financial challenges, the County is adopting a program called STRIVE – Sustainable Training, Resources and Incentives for Valued Employees. The 3 components of the program are sustainable compensation, performance management, and succession planning.

Bob Mears commended us on having John Yeatman as our representative on the Board of Trustees for the Employee Retirement System. The confidence the other trustees place in John's knowledge and judgment is evident from the fact that they chose him to be Vice Chairman. Bob noted that, unlike many governmental bodies in the U. S., the Fairfax Board of Supervisors has fully funded the retirement system every year, and he was happy to report that retirement system's return on its investments has been among the highest in the country.

Joe Thomas announced that the credit union is now able to provide trust and investment services to credit union members. On May 16th, the credit union is offering a free seminar, "Investing in Your Retirement." The credit union also is sponsoring a free "Shred-It" event at the Members Way branch on May 18th.

Patricia Ferguson from the Elections Office is urgently seeking persons willing to serve as election officers and/or on-call outreach field staff. On election day, working a split shift is a possibility. Workers must be registered to vote in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For more information, contact Patricia Ferguson at patricia.ferguson@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-4711.

Donna Dowd reminded the retirees that the County has solicited bids for its health insurance providers and pharmacy benefits. No selection has been made yet. This year's open enrollment will be October 14 – November 15, 2013. Donna reminded retirees that under the current prescription plans, members pay a percentage of prescription costs instead of a flat rate. So it is important that we get prescriptions filled at the pharmacies where the cost is lowest. (Continued on page 4)



Keep In Touch Luncheon

(Third Wednesday of each month 11:30AM)

Old Country Buffet, Fair City Mall

9650 Main Street, Fairfax

Traveling East from Fairfax City on Main Street (Rt. 236), turn left at the light at Fair City Mall sign, which is across from Woodson H.S. Restaurant is on left side next to Marshall's.

Lunch at the Old Country Buffet will cost **\$9.00** per person. Please call Dorris Medlin at 703-256-6379, if you plan to attend.

Welcome New Members!

- **Judith Cronauer, DPWES**
- **Gudrun Foster, Library**
- **Sue Garner, DHR**
- **Deborah Garris, Parks**
- **Jane Goodwin, Library**
- **Dorene Griffin, DAHS**
- **S. Ludwig, FCPS**
- **Neus Martin, DTA**
- **Betty Mial, Health Dept.**
- **Susan Mittereder, Cty Ex**

Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia

Affiliated with Northern Virginia Community College, the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia (LLI) is a non-profit, member-run organization dedicated to providing continuing educational opportunities to older adults of all backgrounds and income levels. LLI membership is especially attractive to individuals 50 years old or older (retired or semi-retired), who are interested in pursuing intellectual enrichment and enjoying social interaction with their peers. Benefits of membership include a monthly newsletter, participation in courses and special interest groups, day and overnight trips, an overseas study/travel program, and social events. Classes are scheduled throughout the year on weekdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the NVCC Annandale Campus and off campus in churches, community centers, public libraries, and other convenient locations. Current annual dues are \$110 per person. For additional information call the LLI office at (703) 503-0600 or view the web site at <http://lli.nova.org>.

Thinking of You

Speedy Recovery to:

- **Bob Martin**
- **Lila Carnevale**
- **Jean Lederer**
- **Eva Lindsey**



Condolences to:

- **Betty Powell on the death of her brother**



**FCREA
10035 Glencroft Ct.
Vienna, VA 22181**

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Serving Fairfax County Employees,

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FCREA ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY (cont'd)

County retirees who have County health insurance also may obtain a fitness pass for County RECenters at a reduced rate through Live Well.

Bobbie Deegan recommended that we waive the 30 days notice required by the by-laws and pass the following amendment to ARTICLE III – Membership:

Change Section 1.c to read, "The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1 through December 31" instead of "The fiscal year of the Association shall be from July 1 through June 30." The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Joyce Gerhart and Chuck Higdon were nominated to join the Board and elected unanimously.

John Yeatman made a motion that annual dues remain \$5 per year, with the current dues period being extended to December 31, 2013 to implement the change in fiscal year. A lifetime membership will remain \$50. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Joe Blackwell reminded attendees that the Information for Seniors Fair will be May 15th, 10 AM – 2 PM at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street in Fairfax, VA. Betty Powell requested items for the bake sale. Please package them, mark if they have nuts in them, and price each package. Lunch will be available downstairs, 11 AM - 1:45 PM, at a very reasonable price.

Lastly, Joe announced that the annual picnic will be September 5 at Nottoway Park in Oakton, VA.