

Broward County Retired Educators Association

By Margarite Falconer

Margarite Falconer graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in education. She has taught all grades and adults. She taught in Louisiana, Texas, Colorado and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The last 15 years of her career she was in Broward County teaching science.

The Broward County Educators Association is one of the finest groups of individuals she has ever worked with. They are all well read, informed, active and generous with their time.

They take commitments seriously and work with various volunteer groups both as a group and as individuals. They give scholarships to high school graduates who are going into education.

The Broward County Retired Educators Association (BCREA) welcomes all educators—teachers and administrators, secretaries and registrars, custodians and school bus drivers—anyone who has had a role in the educational process of our youth.

The membership year is from July 1 through June 30. Dues are \$50 per year. The Broward County Retired Educators Association will forward the state dues of \$35 to Florida Retired Educators Association, the state organization (FREA). Members receive a membership card from FREA and are listed in the BCREA membership directory.

BCREA meets on the first Thursday of each month from October through May. Since October 2009, meetings have been held at Deicke Auditorium, 5701 Cypress Road in Plantation. Meetings begin at 11:45 a.m. and include a potluck lunch. Everyone attending is asked to bring a dish to share.

What We Do

Besides having monthly meetings with good food and interesting speakers, members contribute to the community in many ways.



Edna Jacobs, Broward County Historical Commission, Broward County Retired Educators Collection.



*Lillian Lampkins, president of BCREA from 1986-1988 (1920-2006).
Courtesy of the Broward County Retired Educators.*

The primary purpose of the group is to raise money for scholarships which we give to high school seniors who plan to become teachers. Through the Community Service Committee donates school supplies for the Broward Education Foundation, food and clothing for the Co-operative Feeding Program, supplies for the Humane Society and books and magazines for patients in the VA hospital. We also collect coupons for our troops, Campbell's and General Mills labels for education, aluminum pull-tabs, old eyeglasses, blankets and pillows for children in crisis. Members sponsor a fifth-grade essay contest through our Literacy Committee, and donate both new and used books for needy children. Through our Cultural Affairs Committee, offers several activities each year in

the performing arts. The group also have a state travel consultant who plans trips and cruises throughout the world which might be of interest to members.

History

Soon after she retired in 1964, Edna Jacobs was asked by Superintendent Myron Ashmore to organize a group of retired educators in Broward County. On October 26, 1964, a meeting was held to consider the matter. On November 4, 1964 a constitution was drawn up and by-laws were formed. On February 10, 1965 the first official meeting of BCREA was held. Jacobs was elected President of the Broward County Retired Educators Association

Born in Milo, Maine, Edna Kittredge came to Fort Lauderdale

to teach in 1925. She lived with her uncle C. D. Kittredge who was mayor of Fort Lauderdale at that time, and had just built a fine new house. Edna was married to Wallace Jacobs in that house on May 7, 1927. The house later served as the Red Cross Headquarters for the county and is now the French Quarter Restaurant.

Edna's first teaching job was at the Southside School. After six years at Southside, she went to West Side Elementary as principal and sixth grade teacher. In 1954 she became principal of the new Lauderdale Manors Elementary Schools and continued there until her retirement in 1964.

In the meantime, she served as Chairman of the Broward Association of Elementary School Principals and was on the State Board of Elementary Principals where she served as vice-chairman. While on the State Textbook Committee she was instrumental in the promotion of legislation to advance elementary school libraries statewide.

In 1979 the Broward County Historical Commission named her a Pioneer. She was also active in the First Methodist Church where she taught Sunday school, played piano and sang in the choir. She also found time to serve as President of her Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Edna served as District 10 Director for the Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) for four years, but the Broward County Retired Educator Association was her pet organization. She loved all its people and always worked in their interests until her late nineties. She died May 17, 2003.

Lillian Lampkins, who served as President from 1986 to 1988, was the first African American to hold the position.



2012-2013 officers. From the left, President, Margarite Falcone; President-Elect, Diane Texter; Secretary, Josephine Walker; Treasurer, Marelise Le Clerc

Past Presidents: .. Dates of Service:

- Edna Jacobs:..... 1965 to 1968
- Kenneth Haun: 1968 to 1971
- Clara Louise Smith: . 1971 to 1973
- Eleanor Van Duren:.. 1973 to 1975
- Irene Guellette:..... 1975 to 1977
- Hise Tudor:..... 1977 to 1978
- Edna Jacobs:..... 1978 to 1979
- Wilbur Marshall: 1979 to 1981
- Lester Trussler:..... 1981 to 1983
- Elizabeth Geldbaugh: 1983 to 1985
- Lailah White:..... 1985 to 1986
- Lillian Lampkins:..... 1986 to 1988
- Kenneth Hendricks: . 1988 to 1990
- Helen Overmyer:..... 1990 to 1992
- Kenneth Hendricks: . 1992 to 1993
- Thelma Hendricks:... 1993 to 1995
- Kathlyn Barno:..... 1995 to 1997
- Doris Emmett:..... 1997 to 1999
- Darcia Drago:..... 1999 to 2001
- Frances Smoot:..... 2001 to 2004
- Madeline Martin: 2004 to 2006
- Tom Drilling: 2006 to 2008
- Linda Horton:..... 2008 to 2010
- Margarite Falconer: ...2010 to Present

