

**PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE
EMERITUS FACULTY AND COLLEGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

HISTORY

In March 1992 Elisabeth Erling, then a Vice President of Palm Beach Community College, sent out a letter to 106 recently retired instructors, professors, and administrators, inviting them to meet to form an organization for faculty emeriti. Twelve of the twenty individuals at the April 7, 1992 organizational meeting of the Emeritus Faculty Association are still members of the College Retirees Association today! They are:

Floyd Becherer	James Gross
John Connolly	Mary Orsenigo
Lucille Dickinson	Margaret Richardson
Banna Ghioto	Ann Steckler
Charles Graham	Lawrence Tuttle
Paul Graham	Joan Young

EFA's first elected officers were President Sam Bottosto, Vice President Lucille Dickinson, Secretary Jim Flatley, and Treasurer Mary Bosworth. The first newsletter came out in December 1992, edited by Paul Graham, succeeded in that position by Jim Flatley and then by Joan Young in 2000.

Marian Morse, one of the first instructors at Palm Beach Junior College in 1934, joined the EFA in 1993 and mailed in dues to pay for her membership until her 100th birthday anniversary!

In conjunction with the College's celebration of its 60th anniversary in 1993, a "Wall of Fame" reception held in October 1993, 98 ½-year-old Morse telephoned to the crowd from Cape Cod, Mass., and shared with about 200 guests her memories of PBJC from 1934-1955. Her remarks were reported in the EFA Newsletter of December 1993.

The EFA changed Presidents over the years: in 1994 Lucille Dickinson, in 1997, Elisabeth Erling (she had retired in 1995), in 1998 Mary Bosworth, in 2000 Bill Wilson. It was Bill who started what has become a tradition: our Holiday Luncheon at Atlantis County Club.

Also over the years some members provided programs for us at our meetings. Sylvia Meeker described and showed us slides of her adventures in Senegal. At another meeting Sylvia reported some of her genealogical findings about her family and gave us many tips and resources to use in our own genealogical pursuits.

At one meeting Banna Ghioto, wearing her uniform, showed us photos and memorabilia relating to her service as a U.S. Army nurse during World War II. Sunny Meyer performed for us at another meeting, singing and dancing members from "Puttin' on the Glitz," a show she had produced, written, and directed with the Wellington Senior Players.

Jan Bussell, a licensed flight instructor, entertained us with stories of his flights and students and airplanes that he had constructed. Betty Morgan described her experiences on a medical missionary trip to India and Honey Duncan, her adventures on a trip to Alaska.

And of course many members shared experiences through our newsletter, sending us news of family events, travels, births and deaths or original poems (Alice Duxbury) or photos (Rosalie Morrissey). In fact, Rosalie has come to be referred to as the EFA's Official Photographer.

In 2007 a committee headed by Kathleen Asher began to explore the possibilities of obtaining benefits for members from the College, like use of the fitness center, a College email address, a Web page for EFA on the College's Web site, reduced prices for theatre productions, use of computer labs, etc.

But several meetings with College officials to achieve these benefits produced nothing but promises until 2010 when the idea of extending membership to **all** retired employees was raised – again. (It had been rejected by vote of the members in 2001.) When the question was put to our members in October 2010, they overwhelmingly agreed with that idea. Notices were sent out to all staff retirees of the past several years. Palm Beach State College Retirees Association was born officially in May 2011 and its bylaws approved by the College's Board of Trustees in June 2011.

Staff retirees Nancy Buhl and Shelley Hill began in 2010 to work diligently toward gaining College benefits for the members of the new CRA by dealing with President Gallon, Vice President Richard Becker, and other PBSC officials. Thanks mainly to their efforts, CRA members now enjoy the following benefits:

- College Email Addresses (at no cost)
- College ID Cards (for a one-time fee of ten dollars)
- College Bookstore discounts
- College Library privileges (including use of computers)
- the same discounts offered to College employees by community enterprises
- a CRA Web Page on PBSC's Web Site

Joan Young
CRA Secretary & Founding Member
March 2013