



Real Scoop

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We've been waiting 50 years for you! Stay tuned for the 50th Anniversary of REA Gala coming Next Year.

Keep your fingers crossed.

It's hurricane season and so far so good. The most important take away from the weather predictors is to beware of being outside on these 95 degree plus days and **hydrate**. This advice should be taken very seriously.

The \$1250 dollar question

Quite a few members called me to request information on how to apply for the one-time \$1250 bump to ameliorate inflation and soften the economic cost associated with COVID-19. **There would be no application required.** What has to happen is **Action** by the City Council. Our expectation is the introduction of an ordinance or budget amendment with at least ten co-sponsors. Based upon the response to the REA candidate survey we are cautiously confident the support is there. One of our friends who indicated support, Councilman Randy White, was recently elected by his peers as City Council Vice-President. There is a high likelihood based on tradition that he will become President in Summer of 2024.

Update in a Nutshell

We anticipate the ordinance or Budget Amendment to help retirees, many of you who are having rough times trying to get by on your pensions, will be introduced in City Council soon. At such time as that occurs we will be sure to place it on the REA Website and let you know whom you can contact to urge passage.

The "Just So You Know" Department

Transparency and full disclosure requires that I share with you my personal opinion that now is the time to urge the Mayor and City Council to trash our Unitary Local Elections and replace that system with Non-partisan elections. Almost all of Florida's 400 cities including most of the ten most populous cities are non-partisan. Such a plan means no more pledging allegiance to state political party positions. Instead, freeing our elected officials to weigh the merits of proposals and legislation by what's best for the people of Jacksonville. More to come on this in the near future.

Mayor Deegan's Transition Team

As you know I am serving as co-chair of the Infrastructure, Parks and Recreation Committee to give the Mayor fresh ideas to better serve our citizens. Jacksonville has by far the largest area in the country devoted to Parks. Our challenge is to marshal the resources necessary to improve or activate these parks and in some cases make them accessible.

The "Just for you Barbeque"

Mark your calendar for September 24th and beat the rush before tickets run out for a chance to put a little South in your mouth. With all the angst about inflation here's a little ray of happiness: Your REA has again Frozen the cost at just Five (5) dollars. Thanks to our Firefighter Master Chefs this is possible.

Come On Down!

Kudos to Lynette Clinch, Debbie Brooker, and Al Saffer who signed up Fifty -----count "em ---50" new members last month.

Your Vice Presidents, John Keane and Darryl Patterson continue to work feverishly to get a couple of the events you requested from the Daydream Status to reality before 2023 winds down. Thus, dust off your sport clothes for an enchanting Alhambra Evening and pack your bags to hit the road to Biloxi, Mississippi when the leaves start to turn. Watch the website and the Scoop for details.

Two Quotes Worth Remembering

Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right. Henry Ford

The little boy asked, "Do all fairy tales begin with once upon a time?" The little boy replied, "No, many of them begin, "If I am elected, I promise...."

Thanks to the Honorable Matt Carlucci for sponsoring a City Council resolution honoring the REA for 49 years of service.

Until next time, God bless and do a good turn for someone – Right Now.

Best, Eric



PURPOSE

Does God have a special purpose for me?

Psalm 57:2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills His purpose for me.

God Has a general purpose and a specific for you. Your general purpose is to let the love of Jesus shine through you to make an impact on others. More specifically, God has given you spiritual gifts.

(Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11) and wants you to use them to make a unique contribution in your sphere of influence. The better you fulfill your general purpose; the clearer your specific purpose will become.

The natural abilities you have are gifts from God, and they are often a clue to what God wants you to do. Use whatever gifts you have been given to bring honor and glory to God and you will be right where you need to be to discover God's purpose for you.

Leona Spann, Chaplain

From the Secretary’s desk....



To be an effective association secretary, the person has to like to write—letters, newsletter articles, memos, poems, etc. Well, I like to write, but maybe not poems. However, now that the local elections are over—and we have a new mayor and some new Council members—I'd like you to try your hand at writing—a letter to the Mayor and Council about appropriating \$1,240 to each City retiree using unspent Federal Covid funds.

Mayor Deegan has submitted her proposed budget to Council. The Council Members are going to hold hearings on the budget for 2023-2024. Before the election REA asked the Mayoral and Council candidates whether they would support a one-time retirement supplement for each retiree. A few said they would have to think about it. Most (including Mayor Deegan) said they would support that appropriation. One or two said no or didn't reply. Most of those in favor were elected and now its an excellent opportunity to write the Mayor and Council Members to vote for that supplement. E-mail them or write them a letter while there's time to convince them that we retirees deserve the money just as well as the active service employees who have already gotten TWO supplemental payments!

REA Board members have talked about this with many members of the Council and the Mayor since before the election. They will continue to lobby on our behalf. However, a flood of e-mail and letters from you (and retirees who aren't REA members) can be persuasive. Tell your District Council Members and the At-Large Council Members what you want and why you want it. This is truly a group effort—our Association and you.

Greg Radlinski
Secretary

REA Members and Family

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Looking for great deals on great stuff?

Try estate sales

If you're an antiques lover, a bargain hunter looking to upgrade your home, or just interested in unique finds, then an estate sale might be a great way to spend a Saturday.

For the uninitiated, an estate sale is the sale or auction of the contents of a house -- usually to liquidate the belongings of a recently deceased person. Just about everything is for sale -- furnishings, home decor, appliances, artwork, and more.

* To find nearby estate sales, visit an online estate sales directly like estatesales.net, check websites for estate sale companies to see if they advertise any upcoming events, and check the local newspaper. Word of mouth might also help you find great estate sales, too.

* Before you go, think about what your house can reasonably fit -- if you're in the market for a new-to-you washing machine, you'll be pretty annoyed if you bring an estate sale bargain home to find out that it doesn't fit.

* Estate sales are competitive, so be sure to arrive early to get in line and make sure you have first pick of the best items. It also might pay to be around at the end of the day, when liquidators often bundle items together at deep discounts for quick sale.

* If you're in the market for antiques, make sure you can tell a real item from a fake one -- you'll be disappointed if you get home and realize that you overpaid for a fake.

* Test all electronics before you buy them. There are no refunds in estate sales, so that broken-down stand mixer will be yours forever.

* Make sure you bring multiple payment methods. Family-run sales may be cash-only, while professional estate sale companies can usually take cards.

* Bring a car that's big enough to take your new treasures home -- estate sales don't offer delivery.

* Be respectful of the home -- someone's beloved relative or spouse may have passed away recently, so don't trespass on off-limits areas, use the home's bathrooms, or bring small children who require a lot of supervision.

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Officers shall be elected at the Fall (September) Quarterly meeting. Installation of Officers shall be held at the annual membership meeting in December.

Nomination for the 2024 REA Board of Directors

Board Positions

Nominee

President	John Keane
1 st V.P.	Kent Mathis
2 nd V.P.	Darryl Patterson
Secretary	Greg Radlinski
Treasurer	Jackie King
Chaplain	Leona Spann
Sgt-at Arms	Larry Johnson
Historian	Cheryl Brown
Member at Large	Al Saffer
Member at Large	Augen Waarum
Member at Large	Laura English-Williams
Immediate Past President	Eric Smith
Immediate Past President	Greg Radlinski
Advisory Panel - (Former Presidents)	
- Past President	Pete Ison
- Past President	Richard Wallace
- Past President	Shelia Caulkins
- Past President	Flo Clark
GEPF Trustee -	Richard Wallace
PFPF Trustee -	Terry Wood

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904-381-6511**



The Board, Members, and Staff of the Retired Employees Association mourn the passing of former REA President and Retired Police Lieutenant Gary Lee Looney, who passed away on July 16, 2023, at the age of 71. At the time of his passing, he was dealing with complications from an aggressive form of cancer that addressed his entire body in a short period of time.

Gary Looney was born in Orange Park, Fl. and graduated from Paxon High School. After high school, he attended Florida Junior College, earning an A.A. degree in Police Science.

In January 1976, he joined the J.S.O. and started his career as a Corrections Officer. He served as a Corrections Officer for a short period of time before crossing over as a Police Officer in the Patrol Division. Early in his career, Gary was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to the Detective Division. He worked as a Detective Sergeant and an Administrative Sergeant. He was then promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, where he worked as a Patrol Operations Lieutenant and as an Administrative Lieutenant in the Services Division. Always seeking to increase his personal abilities, during his career with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, he was also able to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts degree in Education from U.N.F.

Gary had a "calling" to help others, and he answered the call by serving in several positions within the leadership of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5-30, including Lodge President in 1992. Following his term as President, Gary remained active in FOP activities and politics. Among his many important accomplishments was his service as the elected Police Trustee of the Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund. During his time on the Pension Board, Gary served on every major Committee. In February 1997, he retired from the J.S.O. after serving 21 years with the agency. In retirement, Gary continued serving his fellow officers with leadership roles in the National Association of Retired Cops (NARC) Jacksonville Chapter.



An "avid" golfer, Gary often represented our organizations in numerous charity tournaments, as well as many outings on the "links" as time permitted.

After his J.S.O. retirement, he remained active by working with various companies and organizations until his passing. Gary also served in several Board positions and was President of the Retired Employees Association. During his term as President, Gary successfully fought for significant improvements for the General Employees' Pension Plan; some of these new benefits include the Purchase of Military Time Service Credit; elimination of the Re-marriage penalty; increasing children's benefits from fifty dollars to three hundred dollars per month; increasing the Cost of Living Adjustment to 3% each year; increasing the Health Insurance Subsidy from three to five dollars per month for a maximum of one hundred and fifty dollars per month. His last elected position was that of our Treasurer. He worked as a Financial Advisor with a major Wall Street Firm and an Independent Financial Advisor. He also worked as a Personal Protection and Safety Specialist and as a Criminal Justice Adjunct Instructor for the University of Phoenix and ITT / Tech University. His experience also landed him a position as an Investigator for the largest personal injury Law Firm in the US. From 2011 until his passing, he worked part-time in the Security Field.

Gary is survived by his wife Kathy, who served the REA Members for many years as our Office Manager, his children Angela and Adam Looney, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on July 28, 2023. Gary was laid to rest in Riverside Memorial Park. May he rest in Peace.



Darryl Patterson, 2nd Vice President

Salmon tube saves fish worldwide

They slide, they glide, they leap tall dams in a single whoosh.

They are salmon, the remarkable migrating fish, which often need to be on the other side of a dam if they want to spawn.

Developed by Whooshh Innovations, the Salmon Cannon has now transported millions of fish over obstacles and it's an idea that may save the salmon and restore ecological balance.

The idea is elegantly simple. Using a series of tubes filled with water and high-pressure air, the device propels salmon over dams and other obstacles, allowing them to reach their spawning grounds.

The process begins as the fish naturally swim into a soft tube. With a burst of pressurized air and water, the salmon are propelled through the tube, soaring over the obstruction and landing safely in the water on the other side. The latest versions of the Salmon Cannon even sort the fish -- salmon go over the dam, while random strays are allowed to exit.

The device has been successfully employed in various regions, including the Pacific Northwest in the United States and British Columbia in Canada, aiding the recovery of salmon populations and revitalizing vital ecosystems. See YouTube for several videos of the Whooshh Innovations cannon.



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Jonette M. Buxton	Tammy L. Holmes	Mark Schofield
Gloria Chappell	Alva W. Isaac	Lolita M. Smith
Beverly Coffey	Larry Jones	Donzalo Solomon
Robert Coulter	Linda A. Jones	LaVall Thomas
Marta J. Crespo	Cris Keith	David L. Stevens
Bobby L. Deal	L. Donel Kitchen	John M. Verwey II
Robert Esposito	Mark Muchowicz	Augen Waarum
Michelle R. Fletcher	Gary Nelson	Stefanie A. Walker
David L. Gardner	Tanya M. Nelson	Sherry M. Wendenland
Andrew L. Gilley	Gary M. Oliveras	Vontez Wright
Tuwana Golden	Willie L. Perry	Steve Zona

WE REMEMBER IN SORROW MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

MAY 2023

John F. Schatmeyer
 Katherine J. Dean
 Daisy Williams
 Royce Lyles
 Nikolas Manos
 Nadine A. Carter

JUNE 2023

Howard W. Parrish
 Anthony P. O'Neil
 John K. Williams
 Daunie J. Burris
 Ronald A. Dozier
 Thelma Long
 Betty Hopper
 Betti Padgett

JULY 2023

Willie J. Dawkins
 Helen R. Vandergriff
 Phyllis Simpson

Ask the Medicare Expert:

Does Medicare cover CPAP devices?

If you have been diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea (and that may require a sleep study), Medicare may cover a three-month trial of therapy with a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device.

If the therapy is documented and helps you, Medicare will pay the CPAP device supplier for your rental of the device for 13 months. After that, you'll own the machine.

However, you may have to pay 20 percent of the CPAP machine rental and supply purchases. If you have a Medigap plan, your share should be covered.

Medicare Advantage plans often cover CPAP therapy, too. Check with your plan. Medicare Part B also covers 80 percent of the cost of CPAP supplies on a schedule that varies depending on the item. Replacement supplies (tubing, filters, headgear, mask) are covered about once every three to six months.

Trivia Teaser
Cross Purposes

1. Which group recorded the 1982 hit song "Southern Cross"? a-Jethro Tull, b-The Who, c-Ten Years After, d-Crosby, Stills & Nash.
2. The British military award called the Victoria Cross was introduced by Queen Victoria during which war? a-Seven Years' War, b-Second Boer War, c-Crimean War, d-World War I.
3. Which character on the TV series "The Walking Dead" favored the use of a crossbow? a-Carl Grimes, b-Negan, c-Daryl Dixon, d-Glenn Rhee.
4. Who delivered the "Cross of Gold" speech at the Democratic National Convention on July 9, 1896? a-William Jennings Bryan, b-Henry Clay, c-James G. Blaine, d-Charles Evans Hughes.
5. Who was the founder of the American Red Cross? a-Mary Elizabeth Lease, b-Clara Barton, c-Elizabeth Blackwell, d-Jane Addams.
6. "Ferry Cross the Mersey" was a 1964 hit song for which British Invasion band? a-Gerry and the Pacemakers, b-Freddie and the Dreamers, c-The Moody Blues, d-Herman's Hermits.
7. Who starred as a young blues guitarist in the 1986 movie "Crossroads"? a-Rob Lowe, b-Ralph Macchio, c-Keith Gordon, d-Corey Haim.
8. How many players make up a field lacrosse team? a-7, b-8, c-9, d-10.
9. Who starred as forensic pathologist Jordan Cavanaugh on the TV series "Crossing Jordan"? a-Angie Harmon, b-Sarah Jessica Parker, c-Jill Hennessy, d-Kellie Martin.
10. Irv Cross was the first African-American to work full-time on TV as a sports analyst for which network? a-Fox, b-NBC, c-ABC, d-CBS.

Answers to Plane and Simple : 1-d, Sopwith Camel, 2-b, Boston, 3-b, Orange, 4-b, Fear of Flying, 5-c, Seattle, 6-a, U.S.S.R., 7-a, Netherlands, 8-c, Hap Arnold, 9-c, Le Bourget, 10-d, Dayton, Ohio.

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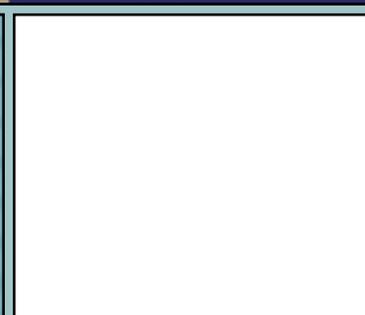
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The King Falls

Across

- Computer monitor, for short
- Summer mo.
- "Hold it right there!"
- A lot of lot
- High schooler
- Peacock's pride
- One who leads a Spartan lifestyle
- White House nickname
- Replace in the schedule
- Gravitate (toward)
- Beach item
- Religious offshoot
- South American monkey
- Like some martinis
- 1973 Supreme decision name

Down

- 100 lbs.
- Perلمان of "Cheers"
- Little piggies
- Antioxidant berry
- Type of acid linked to gout
- Salon supply
- Very old
- Try
- Barely manage, with "out"
- House of Lords member
- Off-color
- Twosome
- One of the Jackson 5
- "Acid"
- Golfer's concern

The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.

August 22

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LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I retired in December, 2020. I learned after retirement that "active" employees received a COVID bonus, apparently twice. Of course, as a Retiree at the time it was distributed, I did not receive a bonus. I feel certain that anyone retiring during and after COVID, should have been entitled to the bonus as well!!

I was an "active" employee at the start of COVID which was horrible for everyone. So much uncertainty, Not knowing if you were going to get sick and possibly die. We lost friends, associates and family. Fortunately, I never got COVID, but for those of us who continued to work during that time, we had to cover for those who were out sick. We had to figure out how to set up an office and work from home for the first time without access to files,. We had to set up home computers, work phones for customer service, supplies, etc. We had to change and rewrite protocol for the office procedures and visits to the office. And for the safety of everyone, we had to worry about sanitizing the office, wearing masks. etc. It was a very stressful and scary time! For us to be retired when the bonus was given and **not** receive the bonus for all that hard work to keep things up and running at the office, was very unfair.

Please continue to fight for this bonus and continue to work diligently to get the Government Pension offset repealed. The Pension offset elimination has been out there too long.

Thank you,
D. Manning



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IMPORTANT!

Check the REA website often for up to date news about our next meeting, when it will take place and where it will be. Also, call the office for information at 904-353-2400. 9am-2pm Tuesday—Thursday.

REA Real Scoop Staff

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