

RCEA-R Reporter

APRIL and MAY CELEBRATIONS

Spring is here and brings with it a number of celebrations that highlight our schools and school personnel. **National Poetry Month** and **School Library Month** are just a few. They each provide an opportunity to visit and engage in our schools and support students and staff.

During **National Teacher Appreciation Week** May 4-8, make an effort to contact elected officials, expressing support for teachers and public schools. Also consider this list from NEA of gifts teachers said they love:

- Gift cards from - Amazon, Target, LL Bean, etc. Coffee places and restaurant gift cards work, too, but only if you know what the individual teacher likes
- Spa-service gift cards
- Artwork (student-made)
- Thoughtful handmade crafts
- Letters or notes from students/parents sharing thank yous, memories, updates, and the positive effect the teacher had

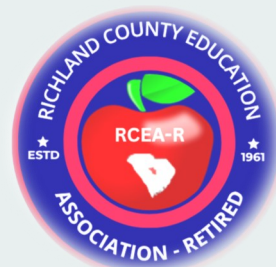
Remember to wear your RCEA-R button during your school visits and take photos.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2026-2027

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Lillie James, is presenting the following **slate of officers for 2026-2028**. Any other persons interested in serving should contact the committee chair immediately. Per the RCEA-R Bylaws, voting will take place during the June 11, 2026 meeting. Please be sure to attend so your vote can be cast and counted.

President, Ida Thompson, **Vice-President**, Janie Fair, **Secretary**, April Cobbs, **Treasurer**, Marvin Byers, **Financial Secretary**, Wanda Turner. Board Members: **Patricia Gold**, **Elizabeth Gregory** and **Peggy Goodwine**.

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*"Retired Educators in
Service to the
Community"*

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PLEASE NOTE:

Deadline for submitting articles for the June newsletter:
May 14, 2026



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

After returning from the 2026 SCEA-R Lobby Day at the State House, I have several reflections and thoughts. First, I want to thank the two RCEA-R members, **James and Theresa Muldrow**, who joined me and the other retirees at this event. Every participant's presence was important.



Secondly, as we stood on packed balcony catwalks waiting to be introduced in both the House of Representatives and Senate, I was struck by the size and number of groups who were there to advocate for their respective issues, causes and political agendas. Like us, many were dressed in specific colors, wore buttons denoting their group's name and jostled to have one-on-one conversations with their elected officials. Watching the crowds and their interactions reminded me of what a free and diverse democracy should look like. Various voices, points of view and opinions all present in a civil and respectful way, even connecting and learning about each other and exploring possibilities of common ground.

So the question I continue to ask is **'What difference does your voice make?'** Does it matter? It certainly does! Exercise that right and use your power! Others are doing it and doing it very well.

Ida W. Thompson, President

COURTESY REPORT

Since the last newsletter, sympathy cards were sent to the following families of members who have passed:

William Cannon, Angela Gay Brown, and Lillie Johnson McAllister.

Sympathy cards were sent to **Mary Bostic** - death of her mother, Elese Lorick, and to **Sherry Rivers** - death of her sister.

Get well cards were sent to members **Ida Thompson** and **Brenda Milton.**

APRIL MEETING REMINDERS

Plan to be in attendance at the **April 16th** meeting, 11:00am, Seawells Restaurant on Rosewood Drive. Lunch payments may be made via the rcear.org website or mailed to the post office box. All reservations must be received by Monday, April 13.

The Community Service Project for April is donations for the Harvest Hope Food Bank. Please bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations. Come sporting your **favorite hat** as we celebrate the Spring season.



An Inspirational Thought

"When men no longer have the least fear of saying something untrue, they very soon have no fear whatsoever of doing something unjust."

*Theodor Haecker
German writer, translator and cultural critic.*

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

RCEA-R members continue to be visible in the community, representing our organization and bringing visibility to retired educators.

Ethel Adams received the Distinguished Alumnus Service Award from Benedict College. She is a 1966 graduate and received the award during the Alumni Leadership Awards and State of the College Luncheon.

Congratulations to **Esther Ruth Sims** who was recognized as the oldest person who attended the Bethel Bible Camp which was started in 1941. For many years she coordinated the camp's annual fundraiser event. The featured speaker for this year's fundraiser was **Dr. Bobby Donaldson**, an alumnus of the camp who participated during his youth.



Ida Thompson presented to students at Lewis-Greenview Elementary School regarding the community's history and early development. The students in Ms. Floyd's fifth grade class shared their research with parents, staff and former school leaders March 20.

Ida also had an opportunity to discuss school issues with two of the three candidates (**Sylvia Wright** and **Lisa Ellis**) for State Superintendent of Education at the Past President's Reception of the S. C. Association of School Librarians Conference March 18.



MEMBER RECOGNITIONS

During the February meeting, the following groups were photographed and recognized for their years of service and mastery in their respective content areas.



School Librarians



Guidance Counselors

Elementary Educators, Speech Clinicians and Administrators will be photographed at the April 16th meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Many thanks to the following members for your recent scholarship donations.

Beth Barry, Miranda Blocker, Patricia Brown, Marvin Byers, Jestine Coaxum, April Cobbs, Gladys Cureton, Willene Dansby, Alice Dean, Linda Doctor, Janie Fair, Elizabeth Gregory, Mildred Jacobs, Nellie Jones, Martha Kelly, Rosie Mickle, James & Theresa Muldrow, Mary W. Paige, Sherry Rivers, Mary Lee Smith, Tryphena Taylor, Belinda Thomas, Ida W. Thompson, Alfreda Tindal, Wanda Turner, Sandra Vant, Genoise Washington, Ida Wideman, Betty Young

Thank you for your support!

Send all dues and donations to:
RCEA-R
P. O. Box 25432
Columbia, SC 29224

Welcome New and Renewing Members



Laverne Bassard
Dr. Lula Casey Goodwine

Help RCEA-R continue to grow by recruiting a new member! Bring your guest

MISSION

RCEA-R works to keep its members informed of current rights, benefits, and privileges, to further the general welfare of retired school personnel, and to maintain continued interest in professional growth.

RCEA-R is open to both certified and classified personnel.

Visit the RCEA-R Website
Regularly
rcear.org

SPECIAL GUESTS

The February 12th meeting was most enjoyable and informative! **Dr. Bobby Donaldson, USC Associate Professor of History and Executive Director, Center for Civil Rights History and Research** presented an important review of major education and historical events in South Carolina. He referenced the following books in his talk: *Born to Rebel* by Dr. Benjamin Mayes, *African Americans and the Palmetto State, A True Likeness, A More Perfect Union: the Merger of the South Carolina Education Association and the Palmetto Education Association*. Several members had connections with the events and individuals he presented (pictured below).

Other special guests were **Attorney Alice Broadwater** (who was featured in the CBS News documentary about the Green Book), and **Bishop Sylvester K. Reid**, Pastor of Refuge Temple Church. We are most grateful for all our guests who were in attendance for this meeting.



ON THE CALENDAR

April 5
Easter—Resurrection Day

April 16
RCEA-R Luncheon and Meeting

May 9
SCEA-R Annual Conference

May 10
Mother's Day

May 14
Deadline for June Newsletter Articles

May 25
Memorial Day



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Take note of these events taking place across the city this month. You can also check the City of Columbia and local school district and college websites for additional information.



April 18—9:30am

RCEA-R Officers:

Ida Thompson, President Janie Fair, Vice-President, April Cobbs, Secretary, Marvin Byers, Treasurer, Wanda Turner, Financial Secretary, Sandra Vant, Parliamentarian
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