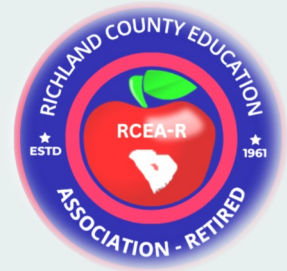


Richland County Education Association-Retired
Columbia, South Carolina

June 2026
Volume 1, Issue 5

RCEA-R Reporter



*"Retired Educators in
Service to the
Community"*

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026

Districts have announced graduation schedules for its senior classes. Heartiest congratulations to the graduates and their families.

Richland School District One

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Columbia Metro. Convention Ctr.

Richland One Middle College
11 a.m.

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Colonial Life Arena

Eau Claire High School – 8 a.m.
Lower Richland High School – 11a.m.
C.A. Johnson High School – 2 p.m.
W.J. Keenan High School – 5 p.m.

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Colonial Life Arena

Columbia High School – 8 a.m.
Dreher High School – 11 a.m.
A.C. Flora High School – 2 p.m.

Richland School District Two

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Colonial Life Arena

Blythewood High School
1:00p.m.
Ridgewood High School
5:00p.m.

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Colonial Life Arena

Richland Northeast High School
8:00a.m.
Westwood High School
11:00a.m.
Spring Valley High School
2:00p.m.



JUNE MEETING REMINDERS

The Executive Board looks forward to seeing all RCEA-R members at the June 11th meeting. **Dr. Kim Moore, Richland Two Superintendent** is our special guest. We will also award this year's scholarship winners and the top three **Community Service Award winners**. Sincere thanks to all of our community service participants for your continued love, support, compassion and service.

June 11, 2026

11:00a.m. - Seawell's Restaurant - Register online

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PLEASE NOTE:

NEA Annual
Conference

**July 3-7, 2026
Denver, Colorado**

RCEA-R P. O. Box 25432 Columbia, South Carolina 29224
rcearcolumbia@gmail.com Website: rcear.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the ***Class of 2026*** and send them off to future learning and employment opportunities, I can't help but wonder what that future holds. Certainly there will be many successes and undoubtedly some challenges.

Our educational profession is absolutely critical to the health, well being, sustainability and growth of our communities and nation. Ensuring that youth are well educated, critical thinkers and compassionate human beings is embodied in the work that educators do every day. As retirees, we have impacted the lives and changed the trajectory of countless students and their families. We know that education is a noble calling that leaves a lasting impact and offers countless rewards along the way. Those rewards are manifested in talented leaders, qualified professionals and well-rounded citizens. That should make every educator extremely proud.

So, as we salute this graduating class, salute yourselves for the work you have done through the years to be a part of the lives of our community's youth.

Ida W. Thompson, President

COURTESY REPORT

Since the April 2026 newsletter, a sympathy card was sent to the family of deceased member, ***Nelson K. Squire, Sr.***

Sympathy cards were sent to ***Mildred Jacobs and Ida Thompson*** in the loss of their relatives.

A get well card was sent to ***Ethel Adams.***

Report any bereavements, hospitalizations and illnesses promptly so RCEA-R can respond.

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR JUNE

Please remember to bring donations for **SisterCare** to the June 11th meeting. Requested items are listed below.



Suggested Donation Items:

- Store or Visa/Mastercard gift cards (\$20 or \$25) for survivors to purchase groceries
- Dishwashing detergent, pump hand soap, dish sponges and Brillo pads
- Cleaning supplies (Lysol spray and wipes, Clorox spray and wipes)
- Bath towels and washcloths
- **NEW** twin-size or full-size pillows
- Twin-size and full-size sheet sets
- Twin-size and full-size comforters

If you're writing a check, make it payable to RCEA-R. We will write one check to SisterCare. Cash donations can also be brought to the meeting.

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

Theresa Muldrow was part of the delegation of **Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Day** at the S. C. State House April 21. Members attended a caucus meeting and were recognized on the floors of the House and Senate. Many elected officials stopped by individually to greet the members and answer questions.



Ida Thompson was named **Woman of the Year** by the Columbia Branch of the **National Association of University Women**. The presentation was made during the organization's annual scholarship luncheon April 27. Ida serves as Second Vice-President of the branch. A number of RCEA-R members were in attendance to witness her recognition.



RCEA-R members celebrated teachers across the midlands during National Teacher Appreciation Week. **Tommye McMillan** took treats to the Summit Parkway Middle School faculty. **Ida Thompson** joined members of NAUW and NCNW to provide breakfast treats for the Forest Heights Elementary faculty. **Theresa Muldrow** and members of the C. A. Johnson Alumni Association provided a delicious meal for the CAJ faculty and staff.



RCEA-R members **Belinda**

Thomas, Celese Eure, James and Theresa Muldrow and Alice Dean attended the SCEA-R Annual Conference May 9. Members were updated on legislative issues and other items of interest to retired educators. The conference was held at SCEA Headquarters in West Columbia.



Congratulations to **Alfreda W. Tindal** who was recognized by the S.C. General Assembly May 6th for over four decades of exemplary public service. She retired as Richland County's Enhanced 9-1-1 Address Coordinator Specialist, having received numerous honors throughout her career.



NEW LOCATION

RICHLAND COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE

PHONE

803-576-2240
option 1

FAX

803-576-2205

EMAIL

Election Information

LOCATION

300 Columbia Mall

Blvd.

Ste. 210

Columbia, SC 29223

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 192

Columbia, SC 29202

HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dues Reminder

RCEAR's fiscal year ends June 30.

Annual pay members
please note that your
dues expire June 30.

**Dues for 2026-2027
must be paid by
August 30, 2026.**

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

ON THE CALENDAR

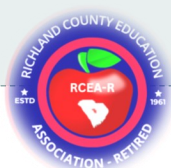
June 14
Flag Day

June 21
Father's Day

July 4
Independence Day

August 6
First Day of School
Richland District One

August 5
First Day of School
Richland District Two



MEMBER RECOGNITIONS

Elementary Educators and Administrators were recognized for their service and photographed during the April meeting.



Social Workers, Industrial/Vocational Arts, Classified and Associate Members will be photographed during the June meeting.



*Dr. Robert Kirton and his wife, Isha Kirton presented RCEA-R President **Ida Thompson** with a copy of their children's book, *The Beast and the Least*.*



RCEA-R officers pose with the meeting's special guest, **Sheriff Leon Lott** who discussed safety measures in dealing with phone and online scams.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Juneteenth Fest

Celebrate 10 years of freedom, culture, and community at Finlay Park with live music, great food, family fun, and unforgettable vibes. The festival will bring together thousands of residents and visitors for a full day of live entertainment, cultural celebration, community engagement, and family-friendly experiences.



Summer Reading Reminder

Richland Library's award-winning **Summer Learning Challenge** program is underway, running from May 30—August 8, 2026. Everyone in the community can participate with prizes awarded for completing reading activities, attending library programs and special events.

RCEA-R Officers:

Ida Thompson, President Janie Fair, Vice-President, April Cobbs, Secretary, Marvin Byers, Treasurer, Wanda Turner, Financial Secretary, Sandra Vant, Parliamentarian
RCEA-R P. O. Box 25432 Columbia, SC 29224 rcearcolumbia@gmail.com rcear.org