



MESSAGE From Lois Turetzky, Ed.D Unit Leader



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Unit
Leader's
Message
Lois Turetzky, Ed.D

How the Right-Wing Plans to Control
School Boards and Curriculum
Lois Turetzky, Ed.D

Just as there was a long-term plan for the Right-Wing Conservatives to control the supreme court, there is one to control school boards and curriculum.

Moms for Liberty, a Florida based conservative organization, conducted a nationwide three-day convention in Tampa from July 14-17th, 2022 to provide members with strategies on how to run for the school board in their communities and how to promote and encourage conservatives to run for these positions to ensure a conservative majority.

Sessions emphasized the recruiting, vetting and promoting of candidates that advocate conservative ideology. Lectures addressed the "legal defense of parent's rights over school board authority, strategic research, and ways to fight gender ideology...social and emotional learning and restorative justice (Pennacchia, 2022). Among the speakers were Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Rick Scott, and Betsy DeVos.

The Leadership Institute established in 1979, located in Arlington, Virginia, mission is to promote

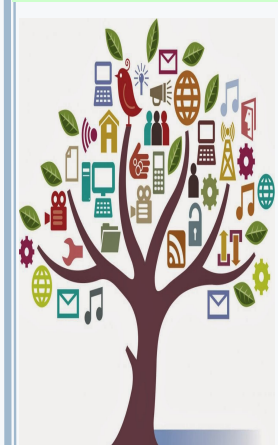
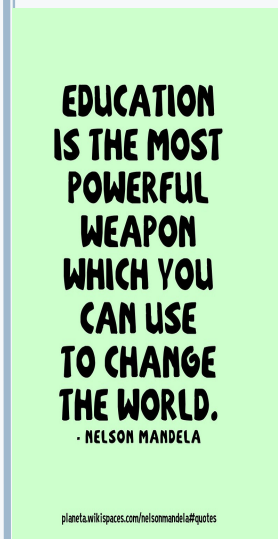
conservatism and teach individuals "to succeed in politics, government and the media". On August 9th 2021, Ron Nehring, director of the institute, conducted a workshop on school board take-overs. The email advertising the workshop stated: "conservatives are preparing a school board takeover and you can get involved". The institute also conducts 20-hour online course teaching strategies for taking over school boards. The purpose of which is "to stop the teaching of Critical Race Theory before it destroys the fabric of our nation".

Other groups that target K-12 educators in addition to Mom's for Liberty are: Parents Defending Education, Intercissors for America and No Left Turn in Education. A strategy of the Parents Defending Education is to create websites that provides parents and others a platform to complain and target anonymously teachers and other school personnel that advocate "woke" issues.

How does this affect the curriculum? In June of 2022, the Civics Alliance, a conservative education group promulgated a new set of K-12 social studies standards called "American Birthright". The American Birthright standards are an attempt to counter the "woke" in today's social studies curriculum. The word "birthright" in this context means *freedom*. Its introduction states:

Too many Americans have emerged from our schools ignorant of American history, indifferent to

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liberty, filled with animus against their ancestors and their fellow Americans, and estranged from their country...The warping of American social studies instruction has created a corps of activists dedicated to the overthrow of America and its freedoms, large numbers of liberty, and many more who are so ignorant of the past they cannot use our heritage of freedom to judge contemporary debates.

The “American Birthright” is just one of several right-wing conservative groups that have begun to revise the social studies curriculum in schools. In Florida, under the direction of Governor Ron DeSantis, the state is implementing a new civics curriculum, called the “Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative.” This summer the state held a three-day conference to train teachers on the implementation of this program. This civic curriculum was developed, according to Joyce, “in consultation with Hillsdale College, a small Christian college that has become a guiding force on the right, and the Charles Koch-founded Bill of Rights.” Florida teachers completing this training stated, according to the Miami Herald, “the state’s new standards promote “Christian fundamentalist” understanding of history and the trainers had told them that the founding fathers opposed the separation of church and state.” They also stated that slavery in America was portrayed in a misleading way. On August 23rd, 2022 Ron DeSantis in an Education Tour prior to this year’s primaries stated: “If I can have a conservative majority on every school board in the country, we would be in such good shape”. In Sarasota County, three school board members supported by Governor DeSantis won and created a conservative 4-1 majority. In Miami - Dade County, two of the schoolboard members supported by DeSantis resulted in a conservative majority in that district too.

In Tennessee, Governor Bill Lee, is working with Hillsdale College to create 50 Christian themed based charter schools. Thus, diverting public school money for a religious based education.

According to the Texas Tribune, the state legislature banned teaching students about race or slavery if it makes them “feel discomfort.” They want to call slavery “involuntary relocation.” Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks, two Texas billionaires, are right-wing conservatives that have supported

extreme right-wing conservatives in the Texas legislature. These legislators are beholden to these men and advocate for their positions on education, guns and LGBTQ issues. According to Diane Ravitch, these billionaires “preach a version of Christianity that is suffused with hate, not love or charity or kindness...They aim to destroy public education, which they see as the root of America’s cultural decline.”

In Arizona, the Koch Brothers supported by former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos worked with the Arizona legislature to create a state vouchers system called “Empowerment Scholarship Accounts” Parents are given prepaid bank cards, public funds, which can be used for private, religious and home-school education. It can pay for tuition, books, tutoring and education therapies.

As you can see, there is a slow and steady plan for conservatives to control school boards and influence curriculum. Food for thought as we fight to save our democracy.

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**CSA LIAISON &
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
TO FLORIDA RETIREES**

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Informational Updates

Hello everyone! Hope all is well.

As your CSA Florida Liaison and Outreach Coordinator, one of my primary responsibilities is to keep you informed about your health & welfare benefits, and any changes that impact them. I accomplish this by issuing a monthly, or almost monthly, newsletter which I call Informational Update.

If you haven't been receiving these updates, it generally means one of three things: you changed your email address and never notified me, you never gave me your email address, OR I typed email address incorrectly in my email grouping. Whatever the reason, contact me by either calling or emailing me.

Time to Take Your Flu Shots

Now is the time for you to protect yourself and your family and friends by getting a flu shot. Getting the flu shot is especially important for people 65 and older since their immune system declines with increasing age. As a result, this group has had been hurt the most by the flu disease. In recent years, for example, it is estimated that between 70% and 85% of the flu-related deaths occurred to people over 65 years.

For the coming flu season, the CDC recommends that people over 65 get one of the three higher dose vaccines. Studies have shown that these vaccines are more effective than the standard dose. While taking a flu shot does not guarantee you won't get the flu, it will help mitigate the symptoms and shorten the disease period.

If you need to get a COVID-19 vaccine, including the updated one, you can, according to Medicare, get them at the same time as the flu shot (although I would check with your doctor). Keep in mind that Medicare covers flu shots and COVID vaccines at no cost to you.

Changes in Medicare for 2023 and Beyond

Finally, after much lobbying and debate, Congress passed a law this past August, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, which will go a long way in reducing the cost of drugs. The best part of this legislation is that it will cap drug out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare beneficiaries at \$2,000 starting in 2025. While we would like to see it begin in 2023, better late than never.

For 2023, the law also includes:

- Tax penalties on drug companies that raise their prices more than the inflation rate
- Free recommended vaccines for Medicare beneficiaries, and
- \$35 insulin co-pays for Medicare beneficiaries

On September 27, 2022 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced the 2023 premium & deductible for Medicare Part B, as well as the "High Income" thresholds for Part B and Part D.

Medicare Part B premium is \$164.90, a decrease of \$5.20 from \$170.10 in 2022

Medicare Part B deductible is \$226, a decrease of \$7 from the annual deductible of \$233 in 2022

"High Income" thresholds for Medicare Part B & D income-related monthly adjustment amount (IRMAA) surcharges continue to rise. The lowest threshold for an individual who needs to pay a surcharge is \$97,000. Those individuals who make more than \$97,000 & less than or equal to \$123,000 pay a \$65.90 surcharge. The lowest threshold for a legal couple who needs to pay a surcharge is \$246,000. Legal couples who make more than \$194,000 & less than or equal to \$230.80 pay a \$230.80 surcharge.

Have a wonderful & safe day!

Norm Sherman
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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Marilyn Funes, Ph.D.— Membership Coordinator

Our post Thanksgiving Luncheon is rapidly approaching (November 28, 2022) and we on the CSARC of Southeast Florida Executive Board are eagerly looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at that time. It has been a long while since we have seen each other in person.

We are ending this year with 340 paid up members. Unfortunately many of you still have not paid your dues. You can do so by mailing your check to me or bringing a check with you to the luncheon at Henry's of Delray Beach.

According to our records many of you have not paid this year's (2022-2023) dues. We have tried to contact you via e-mail, telephone, and or snail mail. As you know we value your membership, but we must follow CSA rules and regulations which states that non-payment of dues means non-membership. (This does not apply to our "gay nineties" who will continue to enjoy all benefits of membership free of dues.) Therefore those of you who haven't paid dues must do so by the middle of December or you will no longer be a member of CSARC of Southeast Florida.

Have a safe and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Funes, Ph.D.
Membership Coordinator.



CSA Retiree Chapter of Southeast Florida regrets to announce the loss of the following members/spouses/significant others since our last Newsletter.

Edith Coltoff

Malvin Cutler

Charles Flohr

Samuel Hager

Kenneth Ritzer

Howard R. Rosen

Natalie F. Rosen

Norman Spiegel

Our Heartfelt condolences are extended to their loved ones.

School Memorabilia Showcase

At our January 9th, 2023 Health and Welfare meeting, there will be a display of New York City School Memorabilia. Marty Raskin, a collector of these artifacts, has collected them over the years. He will display some of them at this event. I am sure you will enjoy seeing part of his vast collection.

Eulogy for Douglas V. Hathaway

By now, you probably know that Douglas V. Hathaway, Ph.D., CSA Welfare Fund Administrator, known by all as “Doug,” passed away suddenly on Friday, October 28. His passing was not only a major shock, but it also left a void that will be extremely hard to fill.

As the Fund Administrator, Doug’s unwavering commitment to and unconditional concern for the members were unparalleled. His accessibility and dedication were instrumental in helping so many of them.

Under Doug’s Leadership, the CSA Retiree Fund benefits program improved greatly. For example, starting January 1, 2023, the optical benefit climbs from \$100 to \$150, a tremendous achievement.

On a personal note, I am going to miss Doug greatly. He was my Batman to my Robin. Whenever I had a question for him (at least 2 to 3 times a week), he always was there to answer me, no matter how busy he might have been or how late it was in the evening.

Doug was a warm, kind, caring, gentle, and competent person who left an indelible and endearing mark on CSA that will never be forgotten.

May he rest in peace...

Norman Sherman

A Tribute to Douglas V. Hathaway

As the Unit Leader of Southeast Florida, I had many occasions to work with Dr. Hathaway in consultation with Norman Sherman our Health and Welfare Liaison to the union. Doug was a tremendous asset to our unit’s members. He went above and beyond his designated duties to assist members with their benefits, IRMAA forms and other concerns they had. He will be greatly missed by every one of us.

Lois Turetzky, Ed.D

My Heroes

**My heroes are those
Who live their Life
No matter the challenges
Despite sadness and strife**

**My heroes are those
Who manage without fuss
The sun and the storms
They are just like us**

**My heroes are those
Strong and capable
Curious and inventive
Trustworthy and responsible**

**My heroes are those
Who live in the day
They look to the future
With hope, come what may**

**My heroes are those
Who bravely each day
Make a promise and honor it
They do what they say**

**My heroes are those
Who continue to learn
Who are cheerful and helpful
Those to whom you can turn**

**My heroes are those
With courage to dare
Whose work is with words
It takes bravery to share**

**My heroes are just
Some plain folk
Who faith makes heroes
With one lightning stroke**

**They are all my heroes
Living their days
Facing their lives
In their own unique ways**

By Lenore Kay

**CSARC of Southeast Florida
2022-2023**

Dates to Remember

Luncheon at Henry's: November 28, 2022

Time 12:00 P.M.

16850 Jog Road, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

Health and Welfare Meeting: January 9th, 2023

Time 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, Florida, 33446

General Morning Meeting and Luncheon: February 15, 2023

Time 9:30 AM Meeting, 12:00 PM Cocktail Hour and Luncheon

Indian Springs County Club

11501 El Clair Ranch Road, Boynton Beach, Florida, 33437

Health Fair: March 3, 2023

South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, *Florida*, 33446

With this newsletter, you will receive, three registration forms. One for the luncheon at Henry's, one for the Health and Welfare Meeting and one for the Annual meeting and luncheon. Please respond as soon as possible.



Please e-mail any letters, comments, or articles of information you would like to share with the Retiree Chapter of Southeast Florida. Write to me at Lenore Kay, 8440 Lake Cypress Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467. Email to lenore8nj@yahoo.com

Thank you,

Lenore Kay, Marilyn &
Carlo Funes Editors



CSA RETIREE CHAPTER OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

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And Outreach Coordinator**

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In Memoriam



Southeast Florida Chapter

Dear Colleagues,

11/12/22

CSA is having a get together luncheon on November 28, 2022, 12:00PM at Henry's. Your cost will be \$10 per person. CSA will be subsidizing most of the luncheon including tax and tips. Come meet your fellow members for a great meal! Members and their spouse or significant other are welcome.

Henry's
16850 Jog Rd
Delray Beach, FL 33446

Please send \$10 per person no later than November 18th, 2022 to:

Eleanor Pessa
7853 Amethyst Lake Pt
Lake Worth, FL 33467

Check should be made out to CSARC of Southeast Florida

Name of member _____

Spouse/other _____

Phone # _____

Amount enclosed _____

