



On the Level

October, 2015

Volume16; Issue 7



CALL FCFT FIRST!

We hope that things are going well for you and that you are feeling positive about your classroom situation. Unfortunately, anything can happen when you are dealing with students. Accidents do occur unexpectedly. You need to document anything that happens which could affect you negatively. Write down all information about any incidents that occur with students. Do so while the incident is fresh in your mind. Be particularly careful with unruly students. Stay calm.

If you think that you are going to be investigated, call us first. Don't say anything that may incriminate you, when you think that you may be disciplined. Don't talk with other teachers. Be circumspect in what you say to anyone.

In meetings with FCPS administrators, ask to have your union representative with you. In meetings with CPS and/or law enforcement, ask to contact your union and an attorney.

Do not meet with CPS or law enforcement and FCPS officials, simultaneously, without legal representation. Contact FCFT, ASAP.



Inside this issue:

Call FCFT for advice about school matters.

FCFT is here to help you!

New VA Rules from DMV

Pre-Retirement Meetings for those within 1-5 years of retirement.

Visit the Smithsonian for a change of scenery.

FCFT-703-451-6840

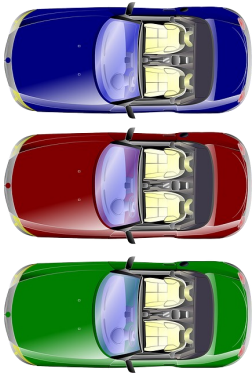
WHEN YOU CALL FCFT

One of the benefits of FCFT membership is that you can call us at our office, 703-451-6840. Our office is open from 8:30 to 4:30 P.M. Our receptionist will ask for your name. When she asks for your name, she is not trying to pry or be nosy. We

simply wish to talk with our members and ensure that as a member you are given priority. Be satisfied that our Labor-Relations Specialists will keep your concerns confidential. Sometimes a phone call will relieve your mind, and you will feel better.



NEW TRAFFIC LAWS



The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issued some new rules of the road. We are seeing more bicycle lanes on our roadways now, so you should know that bicycles, mopeds, and other non-motorized vehicles are now included in the list of vehicles for which a motorist can be cited for following too closely. Motorists may cross double yellow lines to pass a bicyclist, pedestrian, or skateboarder, if such movement can be made safely. Drivers who pass a

trash or recycling truck on a neighborhood or two-lane road must decrease their speed to 10 mph below the speed limit and pass at least two feet to the left of the truck. Drivers passing a stationary mail vehicle displaying a flashing, blinking or alternating amber light must proceed with due caution and maintain a safe speed for road conditions. For more info go to <http://www.dmv.state.va>.

ON THE LEVEL

ATTEND A PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

ERFC sponsors many Pre-Retirement Sessions during the school year. Each session will inform you about the provisions of both ERFC benefit plan structures. Remaining sessions are scheduled for Monday, November 9th; Monday, November 23rd, and Monday, December 2nd. Registration for all sessions is through **MyPLT under RET**. Most sessions are open to members who are within one to five years of retirement. Four sessions are planned for the spring semester in 2016. Dates are announced in MY FCPS. *On the Level* will also publish the dates for the second semester in January.

VISIT THE SMITHSONIAN



If you are looking for a respite from grading papers on a weekend, you might be interested in visiting the Smithsonian American Art Museum at 8th and F Streets, N. W. One of the current exhibitions being shown is *Experience America*. The exhibit shows the works of American artists during the time of the New Deal.

The art displays the beauty of the American landscape during the period from the 1930's to the beginning of World War 2. Ordinary Americans are shown going about their daily lives in small towns and big cities.

