

Fall Issue
Sept. 2017

New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

www.nh-rea.org

Do You Believe?

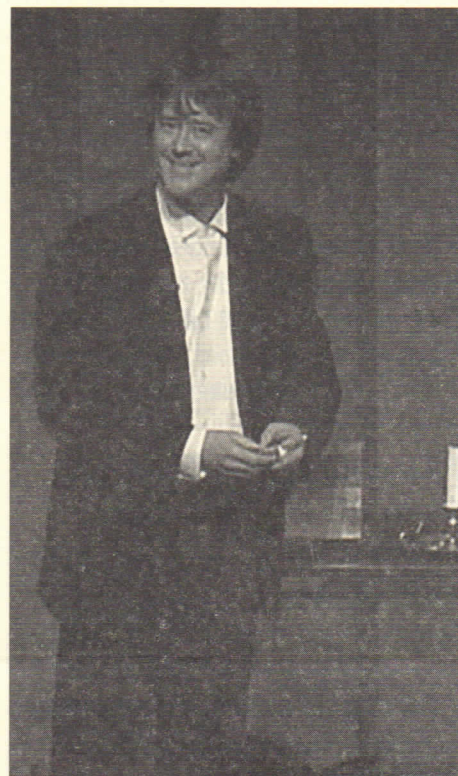
Our program for the Fall meeting is Magician Méliès (pronounced MEL-YAY). Méliès is the stage name of John Sanbonmatsu, a magician, mentalist, writer, and philosopher in Massachusetts. A member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, John was mentored by the Chilean magician Matias Letelier and studied with acclaimed magician Aaron Fisher. When not practicing or performing magic, John can be found teaching or working on his blog for the Huffington Post.



Magic is the art or practice of restoring wonder to a disenchanted world. Magician Méliès promises to take you on a journey into the impossible that will leave you entertained and astonished, emotionally moved and filled with joy. Wishing the program would not end.

Magician Méliès specializes in slight of hand, intimate illusions, mysterious occurrences and spiritual seances. Here is a program not to be missed. A stunning 75-minute program of Magical Theater, Mentalism & Mystery.

Magician Méliès specializes in magic for adult birthday parties, anniversaries, bridal showers, holiday and office parties, nonprofits, marriage proposals, and magic for older children. More information can be found at <https://www.magicianmelies.com/>



President's Message

by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President



photo by Peter Desautels

Membership Matters...Especially Yours

Autumn brings the promise of another busy year for NHREA members and especially those new education retirees that we look forward to joining us.

It is a great time for each of us to reach out to those "newly" retired and encourage them to join with us in our advocacy efforts, community service activities, and now travel to new and exciting places.

It is important for the continuation of the growth and strength of the state organization that members of one of the 19 local units also join NHREA, the state organization.

The Communication Committee has been hard at work on the web site (www.nh-rea.org) as well as establishing a

Facebook page. Thank you to Nancy and Jim Andrews, Candy Bailey, Sue Holak, Barbara DiVenuti, Maureen Chamberlain, and Marcia Walenta.

At our Spring meeting, concerns about the continuing cost of printing, mailing, and returns of the newsletter were shared. In our continuing effort to save both cost and the environment, the Communication Committee is investigating the possibility of GOING GREEN with our newsletter. This will be further discussed at our September Board Meeting and Fall Membership Meeting.

In May, we listened to a presentation by Go Ahead Tours about the possibility of sponsoring a domestic tour in the

(See President's... on pg. 2)

NHREA/AARP CONNECTION

by Martha LaFleur, Executive Council Member for AARP-NH

Senior Leadership Series

The University of New Hampshire Center on Aging and Community, in partnership with AARP NH and the Dartmouth Center for Health and Aging, has been awarded a two-year grant (\$185,733) by the Tufts Foundation to support the ongoing development and sustainability of the NH Senior Leadership Alumni Network. This networking program was initiated in 2010 and has included the participation of several retired educators from around the state. The series has developed over 100 Alumni Leaders with a strong interest and knowledge base on issues related to aging. The new grant's funds will help develop a coordinated advocacy in support of age-friendly communities. A focus of this effort will be addressing the needs of the most vulnerable older adults.

(See NHREA/AARP... on pg. 6)

Membership Report

by Norma Gray

As of Sept 30 we are printing about 4500 newsletters. If you are getting home from out of state and find it waiting PLEASE let us know so you can go online and see it and save the postage.



photo by Mr. LaFleur

NHREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES

1yr. = \$25, 3yrs. = \$60,
Lifetime (up to 74 years) = \$200,
Lifetime (75 - 89 years) = \$100,
90 years & older = Free

Please circle your choice, complete the form, and mail with check payable to NHREA to: Norma Gray, 19 Adams Dr., Kittery, ME 03904

President's... (Continued from page 1)

fall of 2018. At this time, the exact tour hasn't been determined. This will also be further discussed at both fall meetings.

In July, I attended NEA's Representative Assembly as well as the Retired Meeting. Both were informative about state issues as well as NEA's national agenda. I will be traveling to Washington, DC in September to attend NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association) and advocate for continued support of our senators and representatives for both Social Security and Medicare.

Once again, I would like to remind all our members that the organization is only as strong as the volunteers that hold it together. We still are looking for volunteers for leadership positions.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Sandy Amlaw -NHREA President,
Delegate to NH Assembly

In 2017, 18 bills related to the retirement system were introduced. Among the 14 bills that did not advance were proposals to create a cash balance plan (defined contribution) for new hires; restoration of the state's contribution toward local employer pension costs for teachers, firefighters, and police officers; modification of the law regarding the employment of NHRS retirees by participating employers. In addition, the legislature did not authorize a 2017 COLA for eligible retirees and their eligible beneficiaries.

In the 2017 legislative session, three bills were enacted into law. All three bills had to do with administrative issues and did not impact contributions or pension benefit formulas.

Senate Bill 140 - establishes renewable three-year terms for members of the retirement system's Independent Investment Committee.

House Bill 405 - requires the upcoming decennial commission to review the following additional issues: the feasibility and cost of eliminating the reduction in a Group 1 retiree's retirement allowance at age 65; the current plan for paying off the retirement system's unfunded actuarial accrued liability; the effects of retirees returning to work; and, the effects that changes to employer contribution rates have on municipalities.

House Bill 418 - repeals the duties of the State Retiree Health Plan Commission to analyze and make recommendations regarding premium contributions under RSA 100-A-56.

ANNUAL FALL MEETING

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Elks Lodge

500 Jones Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Fall Meeting Buffet Lunch Menu

Italian Buffet featuring:

Chicken Parmesan, Haddock, Pasta
Salad, Rolls

Dessert: Strawberries and Ice Cream

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND PLACE
ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND.
YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT!

**9:30 to 10:00 a.m. - Registration / coffee, tea and
assorted breakfast pastries**

10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. - BUSINESS MEETING

President Sandra Amlaw, presiding

11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - PROGRAM

Magician Méliès

12:30 p.m. - BUFFET LUNCHEON

Cost: \$25 per person*

See reservation form below.

Reservation deadline, October 12, 2017.

*If a member is not staying for lunch, there will be a \$5 registration fee
to cover the cost of materials, coffee, and pastries.

(Cancellations must be sent to Connie George,
603-774-1092 or ca_george@aol.com, by October 13, 2017)

DIRECTIONS TO Elks Lodge Portsmouth, NH

**When heading north OR south
on I-95 to Portsmouth, NH.**

Get off at Portsmouth Exit
3, Route 33 and turn right off
the ramp onto Rte. 33 - Middle
Road. (From the south you will
go over the highway and then
use the distance measures
below)

Continue on Middle Road
for approximately 1.6 miles
and the road will fork slightly
to the right becoming South St.

Bear right at the fork and
continue through the lights
on South St. to the second set
of lights on South St. (approx.
0.8 miles)

Turn right onto Sagamore
and follow approximately 0.3
miles to Jones Ave. (second
right, Sign on the Phone Pole).

Stay on Jones Ave. to the
very end. (Do not turn on other
side streets.)

Event Parking is on the right.

RESERVATION FORM

Reservations must be received by Thursday, October 12, 2017.

Please complete the form and return it with your check, payable to
NHREA, to Connie George, 1042 Montalona Rd., Dunbarton, NH 03046.

I (We) plan to attend the luncheon and enclose

\$ _____ to cover _____ reservations.
Buffet, so no choices needed.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

No cancellation can be accepted after October 13, 2017.

Deadline for Spring 2018 Issue

The NHREA newsletter is far less
interesting without your news.

Send all articles and Unit News
for the Spring Newsletter to:

Co-Editor Candy Bailey

candy3499@aol.com

&

President Sandra Amlaw

sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com

Please send all correspondence by
March 1, 2018.

Scholarship Awardees

By Margaret Pyszka- Scholarship Committee

Mary W. Ruell Award

Allison Yelgin of Merrimack, NH, a graduate of Merrimack High School, has won the Mary W. Ruell English Scholarship. She plans to teach abroad for a few years after graduation and ultimately to teach high school English. Allison has a 3.98 GPA and an impressive record of college and community activities.

Memorial Award

The Memorial Award goes to Alexandria LeBlanc of Atkinson, NH, a graduate of Timberlane Regional High School. Alexandria plans to teach elementary education. It is her hope to be an integral part of shaping young minds.

Irene Hart Scholarship

Danielle Proventure has won the Irene Hart Scholarship. She is a resident of Allenstown, NH, and attended



left to right: Alexandria LeBlanc, Danielle Proventure, and Allison Yelgin
photo by Sandy Amlaw

Bishop Brady High School. Her plan is to become an elementary school teacher. The Assistant Director of

Housing and School Life has called Danielle, "a consummate good citizen of the campus."

Draft Motion

by the Communications Committee

The following is the draft motion that was developed by the newly assembled Communications Committee at two meetings during the spring and summer of 2017. The draft motion concerns this newsletter that is becoming more expensive to print and deliver. We have also heard that many retirees who are spending time out-of-state are not receiving the newsletter.

Proposed motion for Fall 2017 NHREA Executive Board meeting and for Fall NHREA Annual Meeting:

Starting with the Spring 2018 NHREA Newsletter issue paper copies will no longer be sent to NHREA members via US Postal Service. The NHREA Newsletter will henceforth be published electronically and sent to

members via e-mail. The newsletters will be available on the NHREA website: www.nh-rea.org and limited paper copies will be available to members by contacting local unit presidents or the NHREA president.

Rationales for this proposed change include:

- Providing NHREA news at a lower cost (current costs average \$3600+ per issue)

- Utilizing the NHREA website to provide a central communication resource for our members

- Reaching more retired NH educators even when they are "out-of-state" part of the year

- Increasing opportunities to provide timely legislative updates to statewide members to assure that we are united in protecting member pensions in the New Hampshire Retirement System.

- Improving membership renewal processes by providing electronic updates

This motion will be submitted by the NHREA ad hoc communications committee convened at the Spring 2017 NHREA Annual meeting. Committee members include:

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vicTreasure@yahoo.com

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Janice Galloway,
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Nancy Andrews,
Nancy1969@comcast.net



GOING GREEN with the NHREA NEWSLETTER

by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President

In our continuing effort to save trees, the environment, and money, NHREA would like to Go Green with our NHREA Newsletter. The Fall 2017 newsletter will be mailed to all members as well as posted on our web site (www.nh-rea.org). Beginning with the Spring 2018 newsletter, we would like to offer the option of delivery by email as well as on our web site. We feel that our members who are snowbirds would have more access to the news from New Hampshire.

The Communications Committee is still working on the logistics of this change and will have more information at the General Meeting in October.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me - Sandy Amlaw at sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com.

FACEBOOK UPDATE

By Candy Bailey, Newsletter Co-Editor

As many of you know, and many may not know New Hampshire Retired Teachers has a Facebook page. We have slowly but surely gotten more people to follow the page. When the executive board met a while back we discussed methods that may reach more of our retirees. Facebook was one method that was very doable. I have set up the page and I will admit it is a learning experience! I would like to use this page to spread information to retired teachers all over the state.

The benefit of online correspondence is that it can be looked at everywhere that there is an internet connection or WiFi. It would also be helpful knowing what kinds of information you might want to see on the Facebook page? Employment opportunities? Travel plans? Recipes? (NO. There are already too



Like us on

Facebook

many pages devoted to recipes!) Please let me know if and how you might want the page to change. My e-mail is on the page with the roster.

Volunteer Hours

by Pauline G Desautels

NHREA members are reminded that the collection of volunteer hours is on-going. Plans to collect these volunteer hour contributions to the extended N.H. Community will be made at the Fall Conference. Thus far, over 3,500 hours of goodwill time have been logged. These volunteer hours are a reminder to the community and to the New Hampshire Legislature that though we are retired we continue to contribute to the community and the state.

Strafford County (SCREA)

by Penny Bodwell

The members of the Strafford County Retired Educators Association are pleased to announce that Jacqueline Lupinski of Oyster River High School is the recipient of our \$1500.00 scholarship for 2017. She proudly aspires to be an Early Education Teacher.

This past spring at our meetings we have enjoyed the ukuleles of the Silver Strummers, the updates provided by President Sandy Amlaw, and the laughter workshop presented by Sandra Maisey.

Pack Your Bags for the Maiden NHREA Trip

by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President

NHREA, in conjunction with Go Ahead Tours, will be sponsoring its first trip. We thought it was wise to start small with a domestic trip. Working with Go Ahead Tours, we have the opportunity to choose between 2 trips.

The first is "The American South: New Orleans to Nashville". This is an 8-day tour along the Mississippi River to see the best of the South.

The alternate choice is "Charleston to Savannah: The Antebellum South". This is a 7-day tour offering the experience of America's Deep South.

We will be discussing which trip our members are most interested in at our membership meeting in October.

Cheshire County Retired Educators Association (CCREA)

By Jim Hurley, CCREA Publicity, ccrea_publicity@outlook.com

The Cheshire County Retired Educators Association (CCREA) meets five times a year. We meet in September, October, December, April and May. All of our meetings include social time, a meal and entertainment. We also sponsor several activities during the year. We would like to begin this year highlighting a program that we sponsor during the school year. The program is the Read Aloud Program. Every May for the past nine years the CCREA has organized a 'Day of Service' where a CCREA member is matched with a second grade class in Cheshire County to read a book. Presently we

are working with over 45 second grade classrooms. The teachers and children welcome us into their classrooms where they are eager to share the joy of reading. Pat Trow-Parent chairs the Read Aloud Program and the book selected each year is by an award-winning author/illustrator. The Elm City Rotary Club provides funding for a hard-cover copy of the book for each classroom that we visit. CCREA member Tim Dunn operates Moonstruck Press and designs stunning bookplates for each book. Books are purchased locally through the Toadstool Bookstores who provides us with a generous discount.

We Can't Do It Without YOU!

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Co-Editor

Twice a year the newsletter is published. It can be a hectic time with articles coming in from around the state, events going on, and the buffet and entertainment to plan. What can be even more hectic is setting up the newsletter WITHOUT articles from around the state. Although I know that Maureen and I have the appreciation of all of the members who read the newsletter I don't really think that you want to hear about what I was doing this summer (it wasn't exciting), or my health status (I'm getting old!)

Many of us grew up in the same towns, or went to school with one another. As time went on and we all got jobs in different areas of the state we lost touch with one another. This newsletter is one way of rediscovering old friends and acquaintances.

As you are going to the meetings of your local units mention something that you would like to see in the newsletter. If you have an idea let Maureen or me know about it. Our emails are included in the 2017 roster. The newsletter is nothing without news and there is no news without you!

role in the future. Being able to provide care to a loved one is incredibly important to family caregivers, despite the impact this role may have had on those who were employed while doing so. As such, most caregivers maintain that having support (e.g. information and respite services) which enables them to provide this care is invaluable.

You may also choose to "friend" AARP NH on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aarphn or find us on Twitter www.twitter.com/aarphn.

NHREA/AARP... (Continued from page 2)

Work will begin this fall to establish the process of recruitment for the 2018 Senior Leadership Series class. I can speak personally as to how valuable and worthwhile this program has been for me, and I encourage other retired educators to consider applying if you would like to become a better-informed advocate and supporter for an age-friendly community in which you live.

Andrus Award

On November 9 the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service luncheon will be held at St. Anselm College's New Hampshire Institute of Politics. The award is the association's most prestigious volunteer tribute; it recognizes outstanding individuals who are sharing their experiences, talents, and skills to enrich the lives of others. Call the AARP office in Concord (1-866-542-8168) for more information.

Part of the AARP Family

Once you are a member of the NHREA, you can join NRTA (National

Retired Teacher's Association) which is AARP's Educator's Community, and America's foremost network of 50+ adults and organizations with a passion and affinity for education and learning. Members of NRTA are dedicated to advancing continuous educational opportunity, advocacy, and service as a means of safeguarding the economic security, work opportunities and future well-being of all generations.

You simply call 1-888-678-2277 (7 am-11pm M-F) for more information.

Staying Connected to AARP New Hampshire

As always, remember to visit www.aarp.org/nh for updates on events, discounts and other opportunities. For example: November is National Caregivers' Month and there will be several events/informational programs conducted throughout the state. The majority of New Hampshire residents 50 and older have been caregivers for adult loved ones, and many more expect to assume this

NHREA 2017-2018 ROSTER

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NHREA policy restricts this list for personal use only. To protect individuals listed, no information on this list should be given to anyone outside the association except as voted on by the membership.

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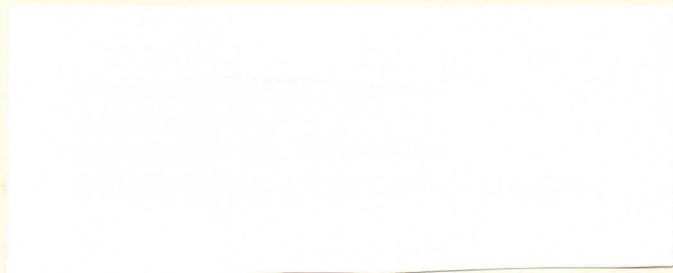
Upper Valley

Joelle Merchant

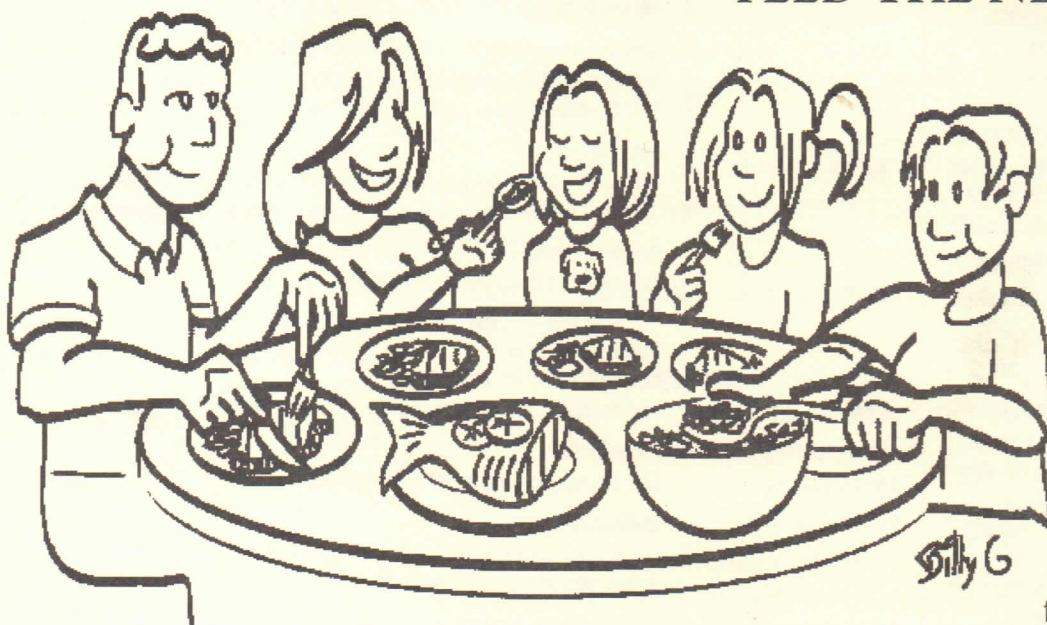
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FEED THE NEED



As teachers we have all witnessed children and families without enough to eat.

Although it is sometimes hidden, there is still a real need for support for many of our students and their families. We can help

our fellow citizens of New Hampshire. At each of our general membership meetings we will be collecting money to donate to a local food pantry. Thank you retired teachers for your generosity to those who may be facing difficult times.