

2018 Scholarship Recipients

Irene W. Hart Award

The Irene W. Hart Award is named after a Concord NH teacher who died in 1995 at the age of 98. Her efforts were responsible for the alliance between state teacher pensions and the Federal Social Security System. She devoted many years to educational causes, and served her profession as a leader on many state and local levels. The scholarship award is \$1500.00.

Nicholas M. Yialiades has been awarded the Irene Hart Scholarship. Nicholas is a graduate of Hinsdale Middle/High School and attends

Keene State College. Nicholas' major is Secondary Education and as he will graduate with a dual certification in both English and Social Studies, it is his plan to teach either at the middle or high school level.

Nick has been an active member of the Keene State College community, and his advisor says he is among the finest students and most promising beginning teachers with whom she has worked.

The Memorial Award

The NHREA Memorial Award is a tribute to the many retired and dedicated

educators who provided education to the children of New Hampshire. The amount of the award is \$1500.00.

Lindsay C. Conrad has been awarded the Memorial Award. Lindsay is a graduate of Central High School in Manchester, NH and attends Salve Regina University in Newport, RI. Lindsay's majors are Elementary and Special Education. Her goal is to teach either in a regular education classroom or in a separate classroom for children with special needs. Her ultimate goal is to get a doctorate in education and teach future teachers to teach.

(See Scholarship... on pg. 3)

President's Message *by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President*

As we move forward, we need to continue to focus on membership and legislation. Many of our units share the same frustrations as the state organization. It has become more and more difficult to reach newly retired educators.

The members of the Membership Committee met in July to address these issues. We developed a plan and are moving forward. One-on-one contact seems to be a valuable way to get new retirees involved. We want to encourage members to bring a friend to unit meetings. We have not been successful getting information from the SAUs, so we are planning to contact the retirement system to see if they can help notify new retirees about our organization. I will keep all presidents updated on the progress of the committee.

The Legislative Committee also met in July. Our focus is mid-term elections and COLA legislation. Through



photo by Peter Desautels

the work of our coalition partners, we were successful in securing a TSA (temporary supplemental allowance) for our qualifying members. This is only a baby step as we feel ALL public retirees need and deserve a COLA. This will be our focus.

We need to put our efforts into electing legislators who would support our legislative agenda. The coalition has put out information on the Decennial Commission report. It contains the history of the pension system as well as the changes that have been made that affect retirees. As we meet with potential legislators, we will share this information with them.

Even though passing a voucher bill will not have a direct effect on retired teachers, it will indirectly affect us by taking large amounts of money out of public schools and sending it to private schools. This will ultimately

(See President's... on pg. 8)

AARP launches voter Engagement Campaign BE THE DIFFERENCE. VOTE

by Martha LaFleur, AARP/NHREA

AARP's newest initiative recognizes the incredible power of older voters and how we can hold politicians accountable for their positions on such critical issues as Medicare, Social Security, prescription drug costs, caregiving, and financial security--all of which are "on the line". It is a multifaceted campaign which seeks to encourage the greatest possible turnout of voters aged 50-plus during the ongoing primaries and in the November general election. The campaign website [aarp.org/vote](https://www.aarp.org/vote) (<https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/government-elections/>) will serve as a one-stop portal where voters can obtain up-to-date information about the election, including issue briefings, polling results and voter guides.

AARP Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer, Nancy LeMond's straight forward message to our elected officials expresses my sentiment as well **"stop messing around and get to work ...!!"**

REMEMBER YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

A second initiative which also falls under the umbrella of "Power of the Older Voter" is a joint venture between **AARP** and **POLITICO** which have teamed up to produce a new magazine series called The Deciders. Driven by a polling and data partnership, this **POLITICO** publication decodes American voters 50+ and explores our impact on the 2018 midterm elections.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

AARP research shows that nearly 90 percent of people age 45 and older want to stay in their *homes* and *communities* for as long as possible. AARP New Hampshire is pleased to welcome Goffstown and Portsmouth as New Hampshire's first members of the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities**. As the first communities in the Granite State to sign



photo by Mr. LaFleur

on to this network, these communities' civic leaders will have access to global resources and information on age-friendly practices, models of assessment and implementation, and the experiences of towns and cities around the world. According to AARP, "the network helps participating communities become great places for people of all ages by adopting features such as safe, walkable streets; better housing and transportation options; access to key services; and opportunities for residents to participate in civic and community activities."

AARP New Hampshire State Director Todd Fahey states, "by becoming part of the network, Goffstown and Portsmouth are making a commitment to do even more to improve livability in their communities and involve older residents in the process." Nationwide, 263 communities representing 70 million residents have received the Age-Friendly designation from AARP. Learn more at aarp.org/agefriendly or aarp.org/livable.

Finally, as always, please remember that this article is time sensitive therefore, for further details, please visit www.aarp.org/nh for updates on events, discounts and other opportunities in your area.

Facebook Update

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

The New Hampshire Retired Educators page on Facebook continues to be an outlet for news and information that is pertinent to educators statewide. If you haven't looked at it yet please take time to read the posts. We don't have thousands of followers (if only!) but we do have a solid core. This page is an avenue for information to be shared almost instantly. If each person who saw us on Facebook told one or two others our numbers would mount quickly. Please make use of this valuable asset. Just remember to look for New Hampshire Retired Educators (spell out the whole name) in the Facebook search box.

Deadline for Spring 2019 Issue

All news and articles for the Spring 2019 edition should be sent to:

Candy Bailey
candy3499@aol.com

Deadline is April 5, 2019



NHREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

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CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please circle the amount enclosed.

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

Please mail the dues with a check payable to NHREA to: Norma Gray, 19 Adams Dr., Kittery, ME 03904



In Memorium



We would like to take a moment to remember friends and colleagues who have passed away during the last year.

Patricia Heinz

Patricia Heinz, president of the Lakes Region Retired Educators, passed away suddenly on May 24, 2018. She taught at the Holderness Central School for more than thirty years before retiring in 2001. She was an exceptional educator. During her retirement she served as a volunteer for many projects and organizations in her hometown of Ashland. Patty was a founder of the Ashland-Holderness "Got Lunch" program.

John McArthur

John W. MacArthur, 77, of Hooksett, NH, died April 14, 2018. Until his retirement, John taught A.P. Psychology, Sociology, and Global Studies for thirty-eight years at Salem High School. Always a teacher, provider,

and mentor, he was the advisor of the yearbook committee for many years. He was recognized in "Who's Who" in American Teachers. After retirement, John taught social studies and math at the Hunkin School, Bradford, MA.

He was a member of the Salem Retired Teachers' Association.

Dick Spence

Richard M. Spence, 77, of Salem, NH passed away peacefully at home June 2nd. In September 1967, Dick found his true calling and became a third-grade teacher beginning his thirty-year teaching career at the William T. Barron School in Salem, NH. He used his computer talents in the classroom to the delight of the children. His love of both nature and photography resulted in hundreds of

beautiful photographs. He also won first prize in Salem's photography contest.

During his career, he became known for his crazy neckties. On his final day of school, all the students and staff honored Dick by wearing neckties. Mr. Spence and his students were featured on the front page of the Eagle Tribune.

Marion Sambataro

Marion Sambataro, 84, of Salem, NH passed away Monday, March 19, 2018. She was educated in Methuen and went on to become a secretary at the North Salem Elementary School in Salem, NH. In 1989, she was recognized by the Lawrence Eagle Tribune as "Woman of the Year."



Scholarship... (Continued from page 1)

Lindsay is an accomplished violinist who performs with the Newport County Orchestra and teaches violin to beginning students. She comes highly recommended by her professor at Salve Regina.

The Mary W. Ruell Award

The Mary W. Ruell Award is given to a New Hampshire student completing his or her course of study at either a New Hampshire or out-of-state college or university. This scholarship is given in honor of a dedicated New Hampshire educator, Mary W. Ruell. She developed, edited, and produced our professional newsletter for 25 years. She was the newsletter's advisor from 2010 until her passing in 2013. This award is given to a student majoring in Journalism or English. The amount of the award is \$1500.00.

The Mary Ruell Award has been awarded to Patricia M. Poitras. Patricia is a graduate of Newport Middle/High School in Newport, NH and attends Keene State College.

Her goals are to join the Peace Corps and to become an author. While she has had no work published at this time, her professor reports that her essays and evaluations of works they have read in class are good. He says he thinks Patricia embodies the values of Mary Ruell for whom the award is named.



photo by Sandra Amlaw

NEWS FROM THE UNITS

Salem Area Retired Educators Association (SAREA)

By Carol Maartmann-Moe

The Spring meeting was held on April 17. Cindy Palermo and the Health Trust reps presented the health insurance rates which will be increased by 1.9%, a much lower increase compared to last year. Completing the health assessment form is helpful in keeping the rates down. Please make sure that Cindy has your email address in order to send out info on Health Trust. Biometric screening can be done at Convenient MD (Windham) or at scheduled visits. At Convenient MD just present your Anthem card and say you are a Health Trust member. There is no cost. This needs to be done by November 30.

The Retiree Specialist talked about Medicare cards that will be replaced with new cards with no Social Security numbers on them. They will be randomly sent out and there is no need to provide Health Trust with new cards. If you do get a call from Health Trust asking for information please check with Cindy Palermo to see if it is a legitimate call before giving out information.

A moment of silence was observed for those who have passed. They will be missed.

Seacoast Retired Educators Association (SREA)

By Jim Andrews

The Seacoast Retired Educators Association meets five times during the year, in October, November, February, April and May. Our luncheon meetings are held at the Portsmouth Country Club and usually consist of a (very) short business meeting, a presentation and a time to eat and converse with friends and colleagues. Our presentations vary from year to

year, but we always try to include a speaker from the New Hampshire Retirement System at one meeting and a musical group from one of the schools in our area at another.

At every meeting we raffle off items either made or donated by members to support our scholarship program. This past year, the SREA awarded two \$750 scholarships, one to Caitlin Bishop of Portsmouth High School and the other to Lucas Blood of Exeter High School.

This year we welcome a new co-president, Janet Lovering. Janet retired from Portsmouth High School and has been a frequent and active participant in the scholarship program.

Strafford County Retired Educators Association (SCREA)

by Penny Bodwell

SCREA Scholarship

The Strafford County Retired Educators Association is pleased to announce the presentation of the Ken Bowlen Scholarship to Emily Callahan from Somersworth. She will be working toward becoming an elementary school teacher at Southern New Hampshire University in the fall.

Emily, the daughter of Christopher and Jana Picou, is fifth in her graduating class at Somersworth High School. She has been an active member of many clubs including Student Council, Class Council, and the National Honor Society. She has received numerous awards during her high school career including the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Award, Girls State, DAR Good Citizen Award, Student Council Outstanding Leadership Award, Somersworth High School AP US History Award, and was named a New Hampshire State Scholar. She worked at the

Wentworth Douglas Hospital and was involved in community service.

The \$1500 scholarship was presented by Amy Gelinas and Chris Bowlen, children of Ken Bowlen, on June 12 at the Somersworth High School Awards Ceremony.

Sullivan County Retired Educators (SCTEA)

By Anne Rouillard

The Sullivan County Retired Educators met on May 15, 2018, in Claremont at The Sugar River Technical Center. Thirty-five members and guests attended the luncheon/meeting. The guest speaker was Andrew Grimson who serves as the Executive Director for The Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity. Andrew has an extensive educational, technical and commercial background and has held numerous corporate roles. Following retirement in 2017, he took on this new position to help serve those in need of home repairs who are financially in need and to aid others in purchasing homes.

Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 and has affiliates in 1300 US communities and 70 countries. The Upper Valley division was founded in 1986 and serves those communities from Claremont to the Canadian border. It includes 26 towns in Vermont and New Hampshire. To date, 34 homes have been built or retrofitted. To be eligible for services, certain criteria are required, including financial need and disability. Major funding resources come from donations and home owner mortgages. Volunteers are the key to Habitat for Humanity's success. These volunteers come from the public, Dartmouth College students, church groups, travelling groups and company service employee days. (Hypertherm has been very involved in this area). The Habitat for Humanity office is located in

(See News...Units on pg. 6)

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Upper Valley

Joella Merchant

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

have a negative impact on the local taxes which we all pay. If your taxes increase but your pension doesn't increase, your buying power will decrease.

On a happier note, Margaret Pyszka and I met with our scholarship recipients to present their awards. It is heartwarming to discuss education with young, energetic future educators. You can see their pictures and read a brief bio on each of them in the issue.

I plan on continuing my road trips throughout the state. I have already met with the Salem unit and will meet with the Southwestern Unit this fall. I would love to come to your meeting and discuss these issues with local members. Please remember, I am only a phone call or email away.

News...Units (Continued from page 4)

White River Junction, Vermont. They are hoping to establish a Claremont Chapter and also to increase new homes to 2 or 3 per year. Presently, they have been building one home in a year.

At the business meeting, president, Joella Merchant announced that she had attended the Senate Vote on House Bill 1736-FN on April 26th. Members were told of the one-time payment to be given in July 2019, and also that no COLA increase would be seen at this time. Joella and Anne Rouillard attended the NHREA spring meeting held in Concord on April 19th. One of the issues that was raised was the lack of membership in NHREA and the inability to access information regarding recent retirees. Members were encouraged to join NHREA. As we move forward into the new legislature year, it will be more important than ever to assist NHREA in education and advocating about COLA to our policy makers and our members.

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FEED THE NEED



As teachers we have all witnessed children coming to school without having had 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.