www.nh-rea.org

The Annual Meeting Beckons...Come Join Us!

The annual general membership meeting will be held at the Susan N. McLane Audubon Center in Concord on Tuesday May 7, 2019. Directions are on the page with the Annual meeting notice.

NHREA president Sandy Amlaw will update the attendees on what is happening with the state legislature as it concerns retirees and their pensions.

All units are suffering from declining membership. Some units have dissolved. This is a good time to get

together and discuss the mission of the NHREA and its local units and how to get younger retirees to join.

The luncheon will be catered once again by The Common Man restaurant. The program will feature a speaker discussing 'The State of Our State.' The NHREA is not a political group that chooses or endorses one party over another but we know that our members want to know what is going on right here in New Hampshire.

Please join us for this important, interesting, and relevant meeting.

President's Message by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President

Membership is the lifeblood of an organization, and the New Hampshire Retired Educators Association is no exception.



photo by Peter Desautels

If you are a NHREA member, you are vital to the success of our association. We always encourage people to step into local unit or state leadership roles, but even if this is not a comfortable step for you, by being a member you are valuable to NHREA. We appreciate your membership, and we need EVERY MEMBER to spread the word about NHREA!

We also need more of "you" to successfully continue the mission of NHREA. It should come as no surprise that our numbers have decreased over the years, sadly in large part to deaths. We must explore new ways to encourage newly retired educators to join us. The Membership Committee is working on ways to reach the pool of potential members and show the value of becoming a member.

When talking to potential members, we need to assure them that our organization works hard on the front line to protect their retirement benefits.

(See President's... on pg. 6)



Scholarship Spotlight By Margaret Pyszka, Scholarship Chairperson

Danielle Provencher, of Allenstown was the winner of the Irene Hart Scholarship in 2017. Danielle attended Bishop Brady High School and graduated from Keuka College in Keuka Park, NY, in May 2018 with a major in Special Education.

Currently Danielle is living in Shenzhen, China. She got this opportunity by contacting an organization called EF English First. Her responsibility is to teach English to non-English speaking Chinese children between the ages of three and eleven. Danielle has taken on this challenge even though she is not familiar with any Chinese dialect at this time. Her first two weeks on the job were spent in a crash course becoming acclimated to the language and culture of the region. She has made the commitment to live and work in China for a full year.

AARP Launches New Campaign Stop Rx Greed: Cut Drug Prices NOW

by Martha LaFleur, AARP/NHREA

AARP is calling on the President, Congress and State Governments to stop Rx Greed and cut drug prices now. This nationwide prescription drug campaign will be mounted at both federal and state levels - to stop drug companies from price-gouging Americans and to pass commonsense bipartisan legislation to lower prescription drug prices now. AARP New Hampshire has long recognized

that one of the top legislative issues most important to its members and their families is "advocating for affordable prescription drugs." Some of you may be interested in becoming an AARP Activist, and in receiving the AARP Advocate, a free monthly e-newsletter, as well as e-mail action alerts on the issues you care about, and the latest news from Congress and the White House. To sign up go to "action.aarp.org."

This campaign news brings to mind a book I have been reading (a remarkable story), Ethel Percy Andrus... One Woman Who Changed America by Craig Walker. Ethel Percy Andrus worked diligently to improve the quality of life for others. She represents the ideal of the Advocate "a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy." She was a

Fall 2019 News Deadline

All news and articles should be sent to: Candy Bailey candy3499@aol.com

Deadline is August 8, 2019

The NHREA newsletter is far less interesting without your news.



photo by Mr. LaFleur

true champion during her career as an educator and continued thereafter to be a "bold and visionary" champion for older Americans.

Dr. Andrus helped to organize and found NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association) and subsequently be-

came the founder of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). Her goals for both organizations was "to empower people to choose how they live and enrich their lives as they age." I think she would be amazed to know that there are more than 38 million members of AARP today.

Can you visualize yourself as an advocate? Advocacy in all its forms seeks to ensure that people, particularly those who are most vulnerable in society, are able to: (1) have their voices heard on issues that are important to them; (2) have their rights defended and safeguarded; and (3) have their views and wishes genuinely considered when decisions are being made about their lives. I believe educators belong in this group of Advocates by virtue of our careers in teaching young and old, and many of us continue to do this advocacy work in our retirements.

Recently, I have become a member of a planning team of AARP volunteers in the Seacoast area, helping to bring to our regional members a "community presence" of enjoyable and educational events that will be sponsored by AARP-New Hampshire. The Manchester and Concord AARP volunteer groups have been well on their way to providing such wonderful opportunities for AARP

Facebook Update

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

The New Hampshire Retired Educators Association's Facebook page is a great way to get information out quickly and to hundreds of people at once. There are many NHREA members who don't and will never use Facebook. However those who do can pass the message along. Currently the page is used to post legislative updates, timely information from local units, and events throughout the state that may be interesting. Please consider using this convenient method of learning and spreading information. Just remember to spell out:

New Hampshire Retired Educators

The NHREA also has a webpage. This is a valuable resource for information pertaining to the NHREA. Past newsletters, scholarship winners, and meeting notices are all on that page. If you haven't already checked it out please do! The address for the webpage is: nh-rea.org

members in their areas. Here are two (very popular!) events that will be coming to all three communities this Spring (AARP members from any area of the state can enjoy these events)--

*Tasting Tour! Join us at all new venues this year, from vineyards to breweries to distilleries. (Details on the 2019 dates, locations and times can be found at aarp.cvent.com/TastingTour2019).

*Or maybe Ice Cream Night in mid-June is something you would enjoy. Just bring your AARP card (you can invite a guest too if you so choose) and you will receive a free ice cream cone; save time and skip the line by pre-registering at aarp.cvent.com/ IceCream2019.

In closing, I can't resist sharing the following quote. As Ethel says, "I like the word **old**. We feel it's a victory, not a defeat!" Well said Ethel!!

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Susan N. McLane Audubon Center 84 Silk Farm Rd, Concord, NH 03301 Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Luncheon catered by The Common Man Restaurant

Spring Meeting Buffet Lunch Menu

(no pre-selection required)
Garden Salad, rolls and butter
Chicken Piccata, Baked Haddock
Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake
Beverage station w/water, coffee and soda selections

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 12:30 p.m. - BUFFET LUNCHEON

Cost: \$30 per person. Seating limited to 100* See reservation form below. Reservation deadline, April 27, 2019.

*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 May 1, 2019)



DIRECTIONS TO Audubon Center

Drive to Concord

- 1. Take I -93 South to I-89
- 2. Take I-89 in Concord to Exit 2 for Clinton Street/Route 13.
- 3. Go *left* off ramp. (Same direction for both ramps)
- 4. Turn right at first blinking light, onto Silk Farm Road.
- 5. Entrance to Center and Sanctuary is on the left. See sign.

Membership Report

by Norma Gray

NAME:

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.

NHREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

	603-774-1092 or ca_george@aol.com	ı, by May 1, 2019)
Please	RESERVATION FO ations must be received by Sate e complete the form and return it with to Connie George, 1042 Montalona Ro	turday, April 27, 2019. your check, payable to
	I (We) plan to attend the luncheor	n and enclose
	to cover This is a buffet. No choices n	ecessary.
Address		
Telephone		
E-mail		
	No cancellation can be accepted a	ifter May 1, 2019.

ADDRESS:_		
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 circle your choice and mail
the dues with the check payable to
NHREA to: Norma Gray, 19 Adams Dr.,
Kittery, ME 03904

NH House Moves COLA Legislation Forward

On Wednesday, February 27, 2019 the NH House of Representatives voted Ought to Pass by a vote of 250-91 on HB616-FN, a bill that would provide a 1.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to all retired NH public employees. The last time NH retirees received a COLA was 2010. Sandy Amlaw, President, NHREA stated:

"Today, the members of the NH House did the right thing and made a step forward to bring some relief to our retirees. These men and women dedicated their careers to this state and its communities and did everything that was asked of them. It is nice to see the bipartisan support for this legislation and it says to the retirees we hear you and we respect all that you did during your careers."

The bill was then scheduled to clear the NH House Finance Committee before making its way through the NH Senate. The Governor must sign the bill for it to become law.

As of February 27, 2019: Additional 2019 bills related to the New Hampshire Retirement System are:

HB 418-FN: As amended modifies the grandfathering provision for retirees working part-time for NHRS participating employers on Jan. 1, 2019. ED+A Committee: Ought to Pass (OTP) House Passed on consent calendar.

HB 468: Reclassifies attendance stipends paid to teachers and school employees as earnable compensation for NHRS. ED+A Committee: held public hearing on 1-22-19

HB497: Requires state to pay 15% of employer contributions for teachers, police officers, and firefighters employed by political subdivisions beginning in fiscal year 2020. House Finance Committee Division 1 voted to retain the bill.

HB 629: Bill establishes a defined contribution state retirement plan for new members of the retirement system who began service on or after July 1, 2019. ED+A Committee voted to recommend Inexpedient To Legislate (ITL) (Note: This bill would have harmed our members.)

HB 675: Modifies cost calculation methodology for the purchase of service credit in the retirement system for active service in the armed forces prior to NHRS membership and in cases of employer oversight. ED+A Committee recommended OTP. House Passed on consent calendar.

HB 720: This bill allows a retired faculty member of the community college system to begin part-time employment prior to 28 days after retirement. ED+A Committee recommended ITL.

SB 28: Bill as amended adds an active NHRS member appointed from a list of nominations provided by public employee labor organizations to the NHRS Independent Investment Committee as a non-voting member. Passed by Senate. Will be referred to the House.

(According to the NH Retirement System as of June 30, 2018 there are 37,012 retirees and beneficiaries receiving benefits and the average pension benefit is \$20,248.)

NHREA's membership in the NH Retirement Security Coalition enables us to work closely with other NHRS retirees to seek legislative support for issues that will benefit our members. Note: Casey McCabe at info@nh retirementsecuritycoalition.com and nhrs.org



To Our New ecome Lifetime Members!

Constance Fisher Anne Emmerson Frances Tullar Jane Newcomb Ann Marie Gooch Linda Aevenitis Joanna Toohig Priscilla Roberts Barbara Agel Nancy Beaudry Floyd Murphy Marty Thyng Roland Blanchard Sharon Johnston Norma Skadeland Alfried Englund **Donald Wilson** Chester Willey Nancy Gaolaud Clara Whitney Nancy Titley

Clyde Collishaw Jane Baldwin Dianne Gotshall **Charles Perry** Anne Heisey Gloria St. Pierre Joanna Keeley Charles Chamberlain Nancy Drew K. Reeve Williams Leona Drew **Beverly Mahoney** Mary Parker Kathleen Weisiger Michael Hathaway Merle Drown Barbara Padellaro Ronald Ouellette **Dennis Murphy** James Mulligan Charles Taylor

Merinda Townsend Mary Berry Nancy Pearsall Barbara Baker Graydon Lord Elaine McCabe Mary Jane Penfield Kristen Brooks Lois Dziergowski Miriam York Nancy Eastman Marina Sintos Elaine Berry Hilda Berlinguette Wayne Elliot **Evelyn Barrett** Judith Wilson **Gail Prince** Roberta Lippemeier Patricia Rude Madeline Bernard Judith Johnson



In Memorium



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

Mary Ann Engle Jenness passed away on Saturday, December 1, 2018 with her husband by her side.

Education was Mary Ann's calling and she applied her skills as an educator in many forms. She earned a Masters degree in Education and held teaching positions in Massachusetts and Florida prior to New Hampshire where she devoted the last twenty-seven years of her teaching career to fifth graders at the Stratham Memorial School, from which she retired in 2008.

Most of all, Mary Ann loved traveling with her husband, Steve, to Europe, the British Isles, Turkey and Greece, her favorite being Italy, and particularly her beloved Florence. She enjoyed experiencing different cultures and saw human diversity as a strength, making friends wherever she went.

Mary Ann was a true partner in marriage and a true friend, often caregiver, to many. She was outgoing, with a dynamic personality and a true love of life.

Brenda L. Huff, of Sunapee, New Hampshire passed away on Sunday, June 24, 2018. Brenda was born February 10, 1950 in New London, New Hampshire to Bill and Alice Roach. She was a graduate of Sunapee Senior High School, received her undergraduate degree from Plymouth State University and her Masters in Education from UNH.

Forever devoted to teaching, Brenda will always be celebrated for her patience, guidance and inspiration inside the classroom, and for her undivided love for her children and family outside of it. Upon retiring, she continued to educate and inspire through children's books, games and toys at her quaint shop, Tattered Pages, located in downtown Sunapee. Brenda

embraced "retirement" by keeping the books at basketball games, enjoying time on Perkins Pond and volunteering in the community. She wasn't afraid to share her views on the current political climate, enjoyed witty banter with her brother and can still be heard yelling at the refs of her children's sporting events. She will forever be missed by everyone whose lives she has touched.

Marjorie P. Soucy, died on August 1, 2018 at Sullivan County Health Care. She was born on December 11, 1927. Marjorie grew up in Westfield, MA, graduating from high school with the class of 1945. She went on to graduate from Keene Teacher's College in 1950.

Marjorie taught 1st grade at Newport Elementary School for 18 years. She appeared with her sister, Priscilla Sargent, in two films by local film producer and director, Bruce Cronin, "The Wild Goose" and "Henry Phipps Goes Skiing" starring "Babe" Sargent, her brother-in-law. Marjorie was active with the Newport Opera House and appeared in several local plays.

Marjorie was a very involved member of her community as a past member of the Newport Teacher's Association, the Professional Women's Club, and the Newport Home Demonstration Club. She also sang in the South Congregational Church Area Choir.

Philip H. Decelle, 85, of Wolfeboro passed away on January 27, 2019. Phil attended public school in Ware, MA and, later, a preparatory school in Tilton, N.H. He then attended the University of New Hampshire where he majored in business administration and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1956. Philip was actively involved in athletics, earning varsity letters in football and baseball. Upon

graduation he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Army (Armor Division). Mr. Decelle went on to become a Social Studies teacher for 35 years before retiring in 1993. He taught in Groton, VT, Barre, MA, and, for 29 years, in Wolfeboro, NH. He was one of the original staff members of Kingswood Regional High School when it opened in 1964. At Kingswood he was a classroom teacher, head of the Social Studies department, a baseball and football coach, and advisor to various student organizations during his tenure. Students will remember him for his booming voice, his love of lecturing about the "isms" (socialism, communism), and for being a challenging, but motivating, teacher.

Cathleen 'Cathy' Coakley, died on Sunday, March 3, 2019. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, she began her teaching career at Oyster River High School in Durham, where she coached the girls' basketball team. In her tenure, the Bobcats won back to back State Championships. Twice she was named coach of the year.

Her coaching career included stops at UNH, Fordham, Northeastern and JMU. In 2009 she returned to UNH as Coordinator of Student Athlete Development, a position she held until her passing.

Luise C. Watman, 72, of Somersworth died on March 13, 2019. She taught Anatomy and Physiology, and Biology at Somersworth High School for 29 years. Luise gave her life to loving her students, inspiring them to learn the wonders of the human body, and encouraging them to excel in all of their efforts. Later, Luise had great joy in following the lives and accomplishments of her former students.

NEWS FROM THE UNITS

Sullivan County Retired Educators (SCTEA)

By Anne Rouillard, Secretary

Thirty-two members and guests attended a luncheon meeting on October 16, 2018, at The Sugar River Valley Technical Center in Claremont. The luncheon was prepared and served by the students in the Culinary Arts Program. Two new members were recognized. Both John Lajoie and Susan Matteson had taught for many years in Claremont. A moment of silence was held for two members who had recently passed away. Brenda Huff had taught in the Claremont and Sunapee Schools and Marge Soucy taught in the Newport Schools.

President, Joella Merchant introduced the guest speaker, Frank Sprague Frank graduated from Stevens High School, Keene State College, and then earned a Masters Degree in Education from Keene State College. Frank is well known in the Claremont/Newport area where he has held positions as guidance counselor, coach and administrator. He is currently the chairperson on The Claremont School Board. Frank spoke to the members regarding the revival of the Claremont Law Suit and the need for adequate funding for education.

In New Hampshire there are seventy-four communities that are directly affected by inadequate funding. Because we keep losing funding, our property taxes continue to rise. Members were encouraged to vote and to know what the candidates stand for.

Joella gave an update on House Bill 1756-FN. She also informed the members that the State Association is looking for volunteers to serve on a newly formed legislative committee to



help in the effort to guide information and prevent misinformation to our legislators as they begin the 2018-19 year in which COLA will again be on the agenda. She asked for someone from our unit to serve on this committee. Frank Sprague volunteered.

Hoping to increase our membership, the officers are looking for ways to reach out to all schools located in Sullivan County. Several ideas were suggested.

Strafford County Retired Educators Association (SCREA)

by Penny Bodwell, Secretary

Members of the Strafford County Retired Educators Association (SCREA) are announcing spring meeting dates: April 11, May 9, and June 13. All meetings will take place at Spring Hill in South Berwick on these Thursdays beginning at 10:00 for registration, a business meeting at 10:30, a speaker at 11:00, and a buffet luncheon at noon priced at \$25.

The featured speaker on April 11 will be John Donavan, an expert on

the Gary Powers incident. Gary Powers was the American pilot shot down while flying a CIA U-2 spy plane over the Soviet Union in 1960.

Interested retired teachers, administrators, nurses, guidance counselors and pare professionals are welcome to attend. For reservations or information about joining the group, call Penny Bodwell at 603-312-6628 by April 4.

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

We are members of the New Hampshire Retirement Coalition, the leading group in the state that works toward protecting and enhancing the benefits we all contributed to in our working days.

The Legislative Committee has been busy following retirement bills in both the House and the Senate. There were 10 retirement bills filed this year. These bills will be addressed in a separate article. However, the bill most important to our members is HB-616-FN, better known as the COLA bill. It was wonderful to see all the "RED SHIRTS" at the hearing in the FD&A Committee. I testified about the concerns of our members about the stagnation of our pensions over the last nine years creating a loss of buying power for retirees. Please plan to put on your "RED SHIRT" and attend the vote when you are notified about the date.

As always I have enjoyed attending unit meetings in Cheshire County, Nashua, Seacoast, and Timberlake-Hampstead-Sanborn. I look forward to attending Strafford County in the spring. If you would like me to update your members, please let me know when your next unit meeting is.

I am looking forward to this year of possibilities for NHREA, as we work together to share what NHREA has to offer and to build our membership.

NHREA 2019 ROSTER

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Plymouth, NH **DATED MATERIAL**

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.