

Spring/  
Summer  
2026

# New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

[www.nh-rea.org](http://www.nh-rea.org)

## President's Message

Diana Griffin, President NHREA



Dear NHREA members:

Happy Spring! It is so good to see buds appearing on the trees and the snow finally melting!

One of NHREA's most important goals for the year ahead is expanding our membership by reaching out to both soon-to-be retirees and those already retired. Many educators are unaware of the vital work our association does to protect and advocate for retired

educators in New Hampshire. Increasing awareness will strengthen our collective voice and ensure that retirees across the state know they have an organization dedicated to their needs.

Another goal I would like to achieve this year, is to upgrade our website to include a streamlined, fully automated membership process.

This improvement will make joining and renewing so much easier for our membership. The new system would allow you to:

### Apply for membership online

Complete your entire application through a simple digital form—no paperwork required.

### Pay electronically:

Secure credit card payments will be built into the application process, with funds deposited directly to our bank.

Recently, I was notified by Rick Trombly, Executive Director of NEA-NH, that I had been elected to the Retiree seat on their Executive Board. This is an incredible honor, and I want to sincerely thank those of you who voted for me for your support and your vote. Your encouragement means a lot! I am very excited to join forces with NEA-NH and work collaboratively on behalf of all retired educators. Our collective strength grows when we stand together, and the work we do benefits every retiree across the state.

In many states, the retiree chapter is built directly into the structure of their state's NEA, ensuring that retirees' needs and concerns are never overlooked, and their voices continue to shape the future of education in their state. However, New Hampshire differs because NEA-NH does not have its own retiree chapter, so the New Hampshire Retired Educators Association fills a critical role that would otherwise be missing.

I recently read an article in *NEA Today*, the magazine sent out by NEA National. This article discusses how pensions power the economy and why it is important to know if educator pensions in your state are being challenged, for example if COLA increases are not keeping up with inflation – it is important for us to understand the facts. I am attaching the link here so that those of you who are not members of NEANH or NEA Retired can read it. I found the article very interesting: <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/how-pensions-power-economy>.

Lastly it is important to note that NHREA is a **nonpartisan** organization.

We do not endorse political candidates nor do we have a PAC fund. We do however, lobby for retired educators' benefits, COLAs, Social Security, Medicare etc.

NHREA continues to protect your pension as we are the "watchdog group" for your retirement benefits. We advocate for your retirement security by monitoring NH pension legislation to ensure your promised income remains protected.

We are continuing to fight for:

- Cost-of-living improvements
- Fair benefit adjustments
- Responsible management of retiree funds
- Protection from policy proposals that could weaken or reduce retiree security

NHREA is under the umbrella of AARP NH and as such, we keep members up-to-date on topics that matter most to you and your loved ones, including Social Security, Medicare, prescription drugs, caregiving, fraud prevention and affordable housing.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful board for their support and guidance throughout this past year. When I stepped into this role, I did not fully grasp the scope of what I was taking on, and they have stood beside me every step of the way. I am extremely grateful for their confidence in me and for the steady encouragement they have offered. Their partnership has made all the difference.

I look forward to meeting you at our Annual Meeting at the NH Audubon Society, 84 Silk Farm Road in Concord on Thursday, October 8, 2026, from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Thursday October 8, 2026

Annual General Membership Meeting

This is the one time each year that all of our members can meet together. You will have an opportunity to meet the members of the Executive board, ask questions and make suggestions.

The doors open at 10:00 a.m.

Luncheon is at 12:00 p.m.

This year's meeting will be held at:

NH Audubon Society  
84 Silk Road  
Concord NH

10:00am-2:00pm

**Information about the program and the menu  
will be in the next newsletter.**

## *My Part-time Job*

Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

*The following is not meant to be an endorsement of NAEP. It is my experience of finding an interesting part-time job. I welcome hearing from other retirees who have work or hobbies that they enjoy.*

Many of you may remember an article in the newsletter a few years ago concerning working for NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress). NAEP conducts Math and Reading assessments at the 4th and 8th grade level, and Science and Math at the 12th grade level. The assessments are done throughout February and March (fun times on the road in New Hampshire!) every two years. After reading the article I called the phone number. I was interviewed and began my part-time NAEP adventure in 2016.

I had the opportunity to go into schools in Strafford, Rockingham and Belknap counties. Our team tested both fourth and eighth graders. It was such a pleasure to be back in a school setting. It was also an eye-opener to see how much has changed since my retirement 13 years ago. When I retired computers were being used in schools. This was largely in a computer lab setting. iPads were being used but at the school where I worked there were 25 iPads and teachers took turns signing out the cart for their class.

. During my first test cycle I was newly retired and I met many former students whose families had moved to other towns. I also met teachers that I knew who had moved to other schools.

During the first round of testing that I worked on tests were paper/pencil.

The next round introduced NAEP- provided tablets. When we went into schools this year we worked with students who all had their own Chromebooks. As I carefully read my prepared script on how to set up and get to the assessment I watched as the students who are far more technically knowledgeable than I am, were three steps ahead of my script. At one school as we waited for the IT person to come and set up two computers, one of the students set them both up.

While I don't miss getting up at 4:30 a.m. and driving in the dark to schools, I have to say the experience was enriching. I met other test administrators and coordinators. Some were first-timers and some had been doing it for many years.

I was impressed with and heartened by the culture that I experienced at most of the schools. In this time of anxiety, unrest and sometimes downright fear about attending schools and remaining safe, I met with caring administrators and teachers. Kindness was a major message at many schools. I watched teacher interactions with students and even as a stranger I could see a real connection. The students were friendly, polite and comfortable asking for information. The fourth graders were eager to do the right thing (sometimes trying to give their 'neighbor' encouragement or information). The eighth graders were more reserved, a bit cynical but got down to business and worked through the assessment.

Will I sign up again in two years? I can't say. I'm at an age where I'm not sure how I'll feel in a week, never mind two years. The early hours and New Hampshire winter weather can be daunting, but the interaction with teachers and students (an co-workers) is rewarding.

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## *April is Child Abuse Prevention Month*

Every day in your classroom, you showed up for children who needed stability, encouragement, and someone who believed in them. Those same skills are desperately needed beyond the school walls.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire has been standing up for children in abuse and neglect cases since 1989, serving more than 13,000 children in District and Family Courts statewide. On any given day, nearly 1,000 New Hampshire children are navigating the court system after experiencing severe neglect or physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. Each one needs a consistent, caring adult to advocate for their best interests.

Educators make exceptional CASA volunteers. In fact, about one-quarter of our advocates come from education backgrounds—teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, administrators, and professors—who see CASA work as a natural extension of their lifelong commitment to children. Your ability to listen, observe, document, and advocate can be truly life changing.

In your retirement, we invite you to explore becoming a CASA volunteer. Right now, courts are asking us to serve more children than we can—simply because we don't have enough trained advocates.

This work is challenging, deeply meaningful, and incredibly rewarding. It allows you to continue using your expertise to protect and empower young people when they need it most.

Take the next step:

Join one of our monthly virtual information sessions to learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer. Sign up at [www.casanh.org/infosessions](http://www.casanh.org/infosessions)



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## *Unit News*

MAREA (Manchester Area Retired Educators Association) held its annual Holiday Luncheon for MAREA (Manchester Area Retired Educators Assn.) was held on Dec. 3, 2025 at the Derryfield Country Club. There were 73 attendees. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, led by president Barbara Divenuiti. The invocation was given by Suzanne Chretien followed by a delicious luncheon.

Nancy Mellitt was the recipient of our freewill donation of \$2,020 to the NH Food Bank. She gave us a brief description of what the Food Bank does in the state of NH.

We had many door prizes and some of our guests went home with an unexpected gift.

Sincerely

Marcelle Connare, Secretary MAERA

# NHREA 2026 ROSTER

## OFFICERS

**President** - Diana Griffin

**Vice President** - Currently Vacant

**Past President** - Sandy Amlaw

603-883-9427 cell 603-966-6340

Sandy\_amlaw@yahoo.com

**Secretary** - Linda Fanny

603-491-6589 lindamfanny@gmail.com

**Membership Secretary** - Norma Gray

815-546-0418 victtreasures@comcast.net

**Treasurer** - Barbara DiVenuti bdivenuti@comcast.net

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Newsletter Editor** - Candy Bailey

603-767-3022 candy3499@aol.com

**Delegate to NEA/NH Assembly** -

Sandy Amlaw

603-883-9427 cell 603-966-6340

Sandy\_amlaw@yahoo.com

**Rep to AARP- NH Council** - Diana Griffin

603-320-1891 digriff@comcast.net

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Event /Program Coordinator** - VACANT

**Legislative** - VACANT

**Nominating** - VACANT

**Scholarship** - VACANT

**Ammonoosuc Valley**

Linda Massimilla 444-5270 balloontraveler@yahoo.com

**Androscoggin Valley** - DISBANDED

Louise Estrella gslmestrella@gmail.com

**Cheshire County**

Maureen Henry- 357-3305

**Governor Wentworth**

Deborah Yurick- President Deborah53@gmail.com

**Lakes Region**

Joan Shaheen 536-5263

**Londonderry** - DISBANDED

**Manchester Area**

Barbara DiVenuti bdivenuti@comcast.net

603-390-1908

**Merrimack Valley** - DISBANDED

**Metallak**

Cynthia Mills- President rc mills@myfairpoint.net

Terrence Rosi- Vice-president terrencerosi@gmail.com

**Mount Washington Valley** - DISBANDED

**Nashua** - DISBANDED

**Salem Area**

Frank Stewart Salemretirededucators@comcast.net

**Seacoast**

James Andrews co-president jamesandrews161@comcast.net

Janet Lovering co-president j.lovering13@myfairpoint.net

**Southeastern**

Charlene Cochrane

2ccochrane@gmail.com

**Southwestern**

Elizabeth Collins 654-9627 leizabethcollins@gmail.com

**Strafford** - DISBANDED

**Timberlane-Hampstead-Sanborn**

Sue Sherman susherm@hotmail.com

Gail Ryan Dacey V.P. grd514@aol.com

**Upper Valley**

Elaine Hawthorne hawk8@myfairpoint.net

*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.*

## *Remembering*

Edgar Melanson- October 19, 2025- Edgar graduated from Plymouth State University in 1965 receiving a B.Ed. and later an M.Ed. in School Administration and Supervision (1968). Ed attended the Graduate School of the University of New Mexico where he was a member of Phi Alpha Theta, Sigma Chapter, honorary society in history. Ed later received a CAGS degree in School Administration and Supervision from the University of New Hampshire.

Ed began his career in education as a teacher in the Plymouth, NH school system (1964-1965). He continued his career teaching in the Berlin, NH School district where he became an English department chairman, and an assistant principal. Later he was the principal of Lisbon (NH) Regional Schools, followed as the principal of Groveton, NH High School. He left Groveton to become the assistant superintendent of schools in the Berlin School District in 1985. He assumed the position as the superintendent of schools of the White Mountains Regional School District upon leaving Berlin. Following the White Mountains position, he became the superintendent of schools of the Franklin, NH and Hill School Districts. While in Franklin he was also an adjunct professor at the Plymouth State University Graduate School. He ended his career as the superintendent of schools of the Somersworth and Rollinsford, NH School Districts.

## NHREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the amount enclosed.**

**Dues:** 1yr. = \$25, 3 yrs. = \$60

Lifetime (up to 74 years old) = \$200

Lifetime (75-89 years old) = \$100

90 years & older = FREE

Please mail the dues with a check  
payable to NHREA to:

Norma Gray  
19 Adams Dr.  
Kittery, ME 03904



NH Retired Educators Assn.  
NEA/NEW HAMPSHIRE  
9 South Spring Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 383  
CONCORD, NH

**DATED MATERIAL**

## *Reach Out*

Food and housing insecurity is everywhere. If you or someone you know needs help getting enough food please reach out for help. If you are not aware of a food pantry in your community please call the state assistance line at 211. This number may also be of assistance for housing. The New Hampshire Food Bank now has pantries in many high school and middle schools. If you are able please consider donating to this important cause.

## *Join In, Get Involved!*

You may have noticed when you looked at the 2026 Roster that there are many positions that are vacant. We had some members who filled these positions who have sadly passed away. Other positions were left open when a member decided that it was time for some new ideas.

This is a great time for members to step up and get involved with the NHREA.

Do you have a particular interest in what is going on in Concord? Do you read the news daily to hear about new bills that are being presented? Are you interested in how our retirees are being supported in the legislature? The **Legislative** seat on the Standing Committee is vacant.

Do you have some time to work with some other members to reactivate the **Scholarship Committee**? We have historically funded three scholarships per year. These are for New Hampshire college students who are majoring in Education.

Are you a "born" organizer who has heard about a speaker or program that would be just right for our General Membership meetings? The **Program/event Coordinator** position is just waiting for you!

None of these are full-time jobs. More than one of them could be filled by two people or more.

This is a great way to become more involved in the NHREA and meet some interesting people. If you are interested please call any of the officers or Executive Committee members listed on the 2026 Roster. They would be happy to explain what is needed for each position.