

WHEN IS OUR MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

The NHREA like the rest of the country has been locked down since the beginning of the pandemic a year ago. Last year's general membership meeting was canceled in keeping with CDC guidelines. It just wasn't considered safe or prudent to have a large group together.

A year has passed and although there is certainly hope on the horizon, it still doesn't seem like a good idea to have a large group gathering at this time.

Next spring we definitely hope to be meeting in person again. It will be wonderful to sit across the table and have an actual in-person conversation.

In the meantime please be thinking about some of the topics we would have been discussing: new officers, new programs, increasing membership, and community activities. Currently there are a variety of ways to reach NHREA officers:

Facebook: New Hampshire Retired Educators

Listings on the roster page of the newsletter

The NHREA home page: nh-rea.org

Please stay safe and if you feel confident in doing so get vaccinated! See you next spring!

President's Message

by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President

It's hard to believe that we are still safely distancing, wearing masks, and washing our hands frequently. But those are the things that have kept us safe over the last year. It is amazing how similar our wishes for 2021 are to those of 2020:

A cure for coronavirus.

Time to hug loved ones without fear of spreading the virus.

More compassion and cooperation in all levels of our society.

A living wage for all of our working citizens.

Equity and equality for everyone.

I'm sure we can all think of more, some personal and some more global.

John Richardson, a noted American academic who writes, lectures and consults on applied systems dynamic was once referred to as "one of the twenty most effective decision makers in the world." He

once said that there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened. Many retirees fall in the second category. They volunteer in the community, support our schools, and step up to leadership roles both in



photo by Peter Desautels

their communities, the state and in our organization.

The core mission of the NHREA is to protect our defined benefit retirement pension. Our secondary mission is to promote the dedication, commitment and skills of our members in service to fellow retirees.

Given the dwindling resources with which we work, it is more important than ever that each of us becomes one of those "who make things happen". One way we can do that is by recruiting fellow retirees to become members of their local unit and our state organization. If your local unit has disbanded contact some of the former members. Look to see if there are recent retirees in your area who might be interested in starting the unit again.

A new year provides new opportunities and new challenges. Together we will take advantage of those opportunities and meet those challenges. And we will all be stronger for our efforts.

Thank you for all you do. Stay safe.

COME JOIN THE TEAM!

NHREA continues to look for a member to serve as a representative to the AARP-NH Council. The AARP liaison is a part of a team of leadership volunteers who, under the guidance of the AARP state president and the state director, carry out AARP's strategic priorities within the state.

The following is a brief summary of the responsibilities and training required for the position:

Responsibilities:

Provide input on strategies for accomplishing goals outlined in the state plan.

Help to position AARP as an influential power in the state.

Work in partnership with the state office staff and leadership volunteers.

Provide guidance and assistance on a variety of activities.

The position is a 2-year term with a limit of 3 terms.

Training Required

Orientation to AARP.

Other skills training as necessary.

If you are interested in more detail, please contact Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President at sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com or 603-966-6340.

Fall 2021 News Deadline

All news and articles for the Fall 2021 edition should be sent to:

Candy Bailey
candy3499@aol.com

Deadline is August 13, 2021

The newsletter is more interesting with your news and information.

Please Grow Our Group

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

The updated roster of New Hampshire units and officers is not included in this issue. The reason for this is that due to lack of member input there is not enough news to have enough pages in the newsletter to allow the roster. Right now many of the state level positions are vacant and many local units have disbanded.

Why has this happened? Are our retirees disinterested? Are people too busy to join? Is it fear of the virus? (actually this decline started before the pandemic). Is the message of the importance of the group not reaching enough ears?

The goal of the NHREA is to promote the economic, social and professional welfare of retirees. The group supports legislation to protect and improve retirement benefits of educators.

There is also the important social aspect of this organization. Meeting people with similar interests, backgrounds and work experiences can be invigorating. How interesting to find out that a retired teacher from Coos County went to the same university at the same time as a retired teacher from Rockingham County. Two retirees who share the same interest in a particular hobby can exchange information.

Here are some questions to consider:

If your local NHREA unit has disbanded would you like to see it start up again?

What did you like about it?

What would you like to see done differently?

Would you consider joining with another unit in another city or county?

WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING DURING THE PANDEMIC...?

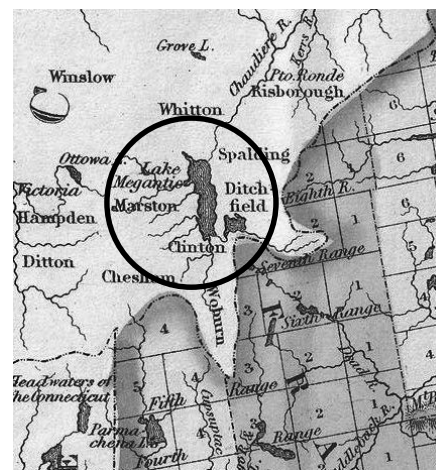
Jacky Quintal

When my friend and I heard that the borders were liable to be closed last March, we were in Milan and we packed up and left for Canada where she lives...We thought we would be here for a few weeks and therefore packed accordingly... Well...suffice it to say that we are still here and waiting for the borders to open... She cannot stay alone anymore so I am her "proche aidant" as the Canadians know it.

It was a good thing that I had friends who took over as my powers of attorney...paid my bills, sent me warm clothes...

So we are spending our time in a little village on the shores of Lake Megantic...waiting for the borders to open...

(See What have I been doing... on pg. 3)



NHREA Scholarship

by Margaret Pyszka,
NHREA Scholarship Chair

The last year has seen many postponements, cancellations and delays. The NHREA scholarship is one of these losses. Due to the uncertainty of future academic choices and how these will play out, the scholarship has been put on hold for this year.

We look forward to being able to offer these funds to deserving young future educators and plan to offer the scholarship in 2022.

In Memorium

Beautiful memories silently kept
of ones that we loved and will never forget.

Marcia Walenta - March 19, 2021
Marcia was the school nurse at Oyster River Elementary School and then Moharimet Elementary School where she worked for a total of 22 years. She belonged to both the Strafford and Portsmouth units. She served on NHREA Executive Board, first as treasurer then became the event planner, booking both venues and entertain-

ment. Marcia will be remembered as a staunch advocate for NHREA members

Anne Pickard - March 28, 2021.
Anne was a French/English teacher. She taught for 20 years for the Merrimack Valley School District in Penacook, NH.

Barbara Roumbanis
Priscilla Harmon

2021 Retirement Bills

by Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

The New Hampshire Legislature proposed the following retirement bills for the 2021 session:

HB130-relative to administration by the retirement system of certain health care premium deductions.

HB173-requiring the independent investment committee of NHRS to report investment fees.

HB274-relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.

CACR6-relating to the retirement age of judges. Providing that the retirement age be increased.

HB248-relative to the judicial retirement plan.

HB356-relative to the city of Manchester employees' contributory retirement system.

HB211-revising certain benefit provisions in the city of Manchester employees' contributory retirement system.

HB497-allowing a school district to exempt its chief administration officer from compulsory participation in the retirement system.

HB390-FN-L-relative to the amortization of retirement system unfunded accrued liability.

HB619-FN-designating police and fire dispatchers as group II members of the retirement system.

HB536-FN-relative to death benefits for public works employees killed in the line of duty, and relative to workers' compensation offsets for certain retirement system benefits.

CACR12-repealing the retirement age for judges.

SB72-relative to a state share of retirement system contributions by employers.

SB119-relative to the ordinary death benefit in the retirement system.

For more information, please feel free to contact me at sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com

WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING...?

(Continued from page 2)

Sandy Amlaw

Last March I was swimming five days a week. Then the pandemic hit and the pool was closed. It wasn't until September that I realized going back to the pool wasn't going to happen anytime soon. So I decided to get into a healthy routine. I started walking two to four miles a day around my neighborhood. I challenged myself to walk every day possible in 2021. So far, so good. It has been beneficial for my physical health (my knees liked the pool better) and I truly enjoy the peaceful serenity.

Candy Bailey

I thought that the shutdown time would be a great time to do a large stained glass project. I found a pattern that I liked, had the glass I needed and no excuse not to proceed. I didn't realize that motivation is as important as having the necessary materials. My large project is cut and waiting for me to proceed. I made little Christmas ornaments and turned to reading instead. I have read many good books and am looking for reasons to get outside.

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

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NHREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

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 or older membership is FREE

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

Don't Let This Be Your Last Newsletter!!!

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

Newsletters are sent to members of NHREA who are current with their dues. We are reviewing our paid member list and understand that this has been a stressful and unpredictable time. With this in mind we are extending the time for members to pay their dues before the newsletter is discontinued. Please check to ensure that your dues are up-to-date. We need all of our members!



CONTINUE TO FEED THE NEED

At this time during Covid restrictions we are not holding general membership meetings. Although we are not collecting funds for food pantries we strongly encourage everyone to do what they can to help those who are food insecure. If you find yourself are facing these challenges please reach out to NHREA. Thank you re-

tired teachers for your

generosity
to those
who may
be facing
difficult
times.