



New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

by Margaret Pyska, Scholarship Chairperson

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

This year the Irene W. Hart Scholarship has been awarded to Anna M.

Corrao. Anna is a graduate of Bedford High School and is currently in her fifth year of study in the education program at the University of New Hampshire. Anna is majoring in math and secondary education. She has chosen the UNH five-year program so that she will graduate with a Masters degree in Education. Next school year she will be a full-time intern at the Exeter, NH middle and high schools. Anna is an accomplished tennis player and has taught tennis at the YMCA for several years. She reports that she has learned

some valuable teaching tools from her experience teaching tennis.

The NHREA 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

The Memorial Award was given to Amy C. Gagliardi. Amy is a graduate of Bedford High School and attends St. Michael's College in Vermont. She is majoring in secondary education. It is Amy's goal to teach middle or

(See Scholarship... on pg. 3)

President's Message

by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President

By the time you receive this newsletter and read this article, summertime will be over, schools will be back in session and many teachers will be newly retired. We need to get busy and contact these new retirees as quickly as possible. They need to know the things we do to protect retirees' benefits.

The first step in contacting new retirees seems to lay at the local unit level. Many folks attend the Unit meetings with friends. If we encourage those joining the local unit to also join the state group, then that is a first step.

The state retirement system is able to give the state group the names of retirees and the school district that they retired from, but they cannot give us addresses. Some superintendents will forward our information when asked to do so, but many will not.

The membership committee is hard at work. They held a training in the



photo by Peter Desautels

spring and a follow-up was planned in August. At that time the group worked to formulate a concise plan to reach out to new retirees.

NHREA continues to work with the NHRSC (New Hampshire Retirement Security Coalition) to get Retirement Bills passed in the Legislature. It is

a positive advantage to work with other organizations that have similar concerns about retirement.

Thank you to the Legislative Committee in their diligence on all 10 retirement bills submitted this session.

The content and outcome of these bills is included in a separate article in this newsletter.

In July, Margaret Pyszka and I had an opportunity to have lunch with three delightful and energetic young women whose futures include educating our young students. We presented them with their deserving scholarships from NHREA.

Again this past year I had the opportunity to speak at several Unit meetings. I visited Cheshire County last fall, Strafford County in May, and Salem in July. I also attend the Nashua Unit whenever I get the chance. After 10 years of explaining how a COLA bill failed in the Legislature, it was

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

"FIRST IN THE NATION" NH PRIMARY

by Martha LaFleur, AARP/NHREA

Voter Engagement

As we all know, we are fast approaching a very important time for New Hampshire and the nation with the upcoming National Presidential Primary season that has already brought many candidates to our state. As the Presidential Primary season heats up later this year and in early 2020, AARP New Hampshire hopes and fully expects to have active volunteer teams operative throughout the counties of our state. This voter engagement relies upon several key principles.

***Urging** candidates to focus on and offer solutions to issues of importance to AARP members (resulting in a better informed electorate).

***Sharing** candidate positions with AARP's members, the media and the general public (providing accurate information).

***Encouraging** voters to exercise their constitutional right and responsibility to vote. With our status as "First in the Nation", the New Hampshire primary gives candidates the opportunity to speak directly to those issues that are important to our voters...and if that challenge is met, then (maybe) a



photo by Mr. LaFleur

candidate might earn the New Hampshire voters' support.

NHREA and AARP New Hampshire Connection

These two organizations have had a long history of working together. AARP NH maintains a position on its Executive Council that is reserved for a representative of NHREA who has also been an active member of AARP.

I have been fortunate to serve as this member of the AARP NH Executive Council for the past six years, as the "connection" between these two organizations. It has been a rewarding educational experience for me. I am reminded more than occasionally by the realization, "Oh, the things I have learned!!" Most appreciated are the many dedicated volunteers (and staff) with whom I have had the good fortune to work. Additionally, the knowledge I have gained and the commitment that both organizations have to the needs of older New Hampshire citizens and our fellow retired educators are noteworthy and inspiring.

The six-year term as NHREA's representative to AARP NH will be completed at the end of 2019. I am most grateful to have had this opportunity and look forward to continuing my advocacy work on a less formal basis on behalf of NH's older citizens.

AARP NH Information

Finally, and 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.

Social Media is here

 **to Stay! Use it.**

By Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, webpages. So many platforms! So many new ways to get information. When we retirees were younger it could take days, if not weeks for information to make its way across the country. Today news can go from one side of the world to the other in minutes.

I sat in a meeting a few years ago discussing whether or not cellphones should be in the classroom. The focus was how they could be used as part of lessons. The older educators in the room were talking about what might happen "if devices were in the classroom..." The much younger high school principal brought us back to reality when he said "it's not 'when' it happens. It's now!"

New Hampshire Retired Educators does have a social media presence. We have a Facebook page and we have a website. These are places that can disseminate information and bring educators in our state closer together.

The address for the webpage is **nhrea.org**. This page can be a valuable resource for NHREA information. If you haven't checked it out please do.

If you want to go to the Facebook page just remember to spell out **New Hampshire Retired Educators**. This is a way to get information out to the whole NHREA community at one time.

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

wonderful to describe the impact of HB616, the COLA bill. I am always available to visit local Units. Meeting our members is always a highlight of my job.

I will close with a message I have shared in the past. "Retire, not from service, but to service" is a quote by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, founder of NRTA, our parent group.

Spring 2020 News Deadline

All news and articles for the Spring 2020 edition should be sent to:

Candy Bailey
candy3499@aol.com

Deadline is April 15, 2020

The newsletter is more interesting with your news and information.



Left to right: Anna Corrao (Irene W. Hart Award), Madison Olsen (Mary W. Ruell Award), Amy Gagliardi (NHREA Memorial Award) Photo by Sandra Amlaw

Scholarship... (Continued from page 1)

high school English. Her dream is to bring hope to students who may be struggling in school and to encourage every student to excel. She will be student teaching next year. Her adviser reports that Amy will be a thoughtful, dedicated teacher, the type of person all schools need.

The Mary W. Ruell Award

The Mary W. Ruell is given in honor of a dedicated New Hampshire educator, Mary W. Ruell. Mary 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 W. Ruell Scholarship has been given to Madison E. Olsen. It is Madison's plan to teach high school English and simultaneously get her Masters degree. Ultimately Madison plans to open an alternative high school in New Hampshire for students suffering from opioid addiction. She became committed to this goal while attempting to help a high school friend who was suffering from addiction. She became aware that the student had big gaps in her academic education. She became dedicated to the idea that New Hampshire needed a high school which would foster good teaching of academic skills as well as help to overcome addiction.

Hazel E. Corey, was a longtime resident of Brookline, NH. Hazel taught early elementary for 3 1/2 years in Brookline at the two room school house on Milford Street. Mrs. Corey opened kindergarten in her home and continued teaching for 17 years. After retiring, Hazel helped her husband, Erwin, at Corey's Service Station in Brookline.



In Memorium

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

Otto Gerald Oleson, died on July 20, 2019. Upon graduation from Gorham High School in 1959, Reverend Oleson attended the University of New Hampshire and graduated from what was then Plymouth State College with a B.A. in English and history.

He taught high school English in several public and private schools in Maine and New Hampshire from 1964 to 1991. He was chairman of the English department at Freeport High School in Freeport, Maine, for 12 years. He retired from teaching on November 22, 1991.

Reverend Oleson was ordained in the Order of Charitable Franciscans. Through his life, he took Christ's Sermon on the Mount seriously. He did hospital chaplaincy, visited prisoners in jail and worked to feed, cloth, and provide free fuel assistance to needy Mainers. He founded the Sunny Corner Fuel Assistance program in Bangor, Maine.

He was a member of Veterans for Peace, the War Resisters League, the

American Civil Liberties Union, the Democratic Socialist Party, War Tax Resistance, the Samaritan, Inc. food program, Military Families Speakout, the NAACP, and various other peace and justice organizations.

Reny J. Demers, of Shelburne, NH, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, at the Coos County Nursing Home in Berlin. He graduated from Sanford High School in 1951, and subsequently served in the U.S. Navy for four years. He then attended Gorham Teachers College where he received his Bachelor of Science in Education, as well as his Master's degree.

Mr. Demers, as he was known to his students, was in the field of education for thirty-eight years, first as a social studies teacher and then as an elementary principal for thirty-two years. His last principalship was at the Edward Fenn Elementary School in Gorham, NH. He was a member of the NH Teachers Association and a life-long member of the National Education Association.

News From The Units

Lakes Region Retired Educators Association (LRREA)

By Debbi Gibson, Secretary LRREA

The Lakes Region Retired Educators Association will be holding their five yearly meetings/luncheons on the following dates with guest lectures/activities.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please reach out to Nancy Malone, nmalone@tds.net or Diane Bolduc, dbolduc@worldpath.net, our Membership Chairs for additional information. All Lakes Region Retired Educators are welcome!

Sept. 17th - Giuseppe's, Meredith Susan Gannett - sharing her love of art and the writing of children's books

Nov. 19th - Walter's Basin, Holderness Ann McClellan - speaking on Sherlock Holmes

Jan. 21st - Lyon's Den, Gilford Morgan Dube - State Entomologist

March 17th - Gunstock Inn and Resort, Gilford

Dr. Lynn Davis - Tai Chi

May 19th - Hart's Turkey Farm, Meredith Linda McCracken - cougars found in New Hampshire

All meetings begin with registration from 10:30-11:00. Followed by lunch at 11:00 and our guest lecture/activity. Lunches range from \$20-\$25.

Membership dues are \$15 per year. There is also a Life Membership cost choice of \$75. First year of membership is free!

****If you would like to attend, please contact one of the Membership chairs to make your reservation and WELCOME!!!!**

Strafford County Retired Educators Association (SCREA)

By Candy Bailey, Scholarship Chairperson

The Strafford County Retired Educators (SCREA) annually awards a

scholarship to a high school senior who plans to major in education. The scholarship is named in memory of Ken and Priscilla Bowlen, both of whom taught in and around Strafford county for many years.

After retirement both Ken and Priscilla volunteered tirelessly for the SCREA. Ken spearheaded the scholarship drive each year. The scholarship is awarded to a senior in one of the high schools in Strafford county. The student receiving the scholarship is chosen from a pool of applicants. The winner is chosen based on grades, teacher recommendation, extracurricular activities and personal essay. This year the \$1500.00 scholarship went to a senior at Spaulding High School in Rochester.

Madison Tingle was accepted at four colleges and has decided to attend Keene State College. She will major in Elementary Education. She stated in her application essay that she was inspired by one of her early elementary school teachers to follow a career path in Elementary Education.

In his letter of recommendation one of her teachers stated that Madison "sets goals for herself and her self-discipline and work ethic result in surpassing her own expectations."

According to Madison's essay she "...would prefer to change a single person's life" and "This is why I am going to become an educator."

2019 New Hampshire Retirement Bills

by Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

This is an overview of the bills that were either adopted or retained that were pertinent to New Hampshire retired educators.

HB497 - relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement contributions of political subdivision employers. *Retained in Committee (further work in 2nd year of session)*

HB110 - relative to the cost of fiscal analysis of legislation relating to the retirement system. *House Adopted; Senate Concurred and Adopted with amendment; Waiting for Governor's Signature*

HB116 - relative to job classification of positions in the retirement system. *House Adopted; Senate Adopted; Governor Signed*

HB720 - relative to part time employment of retired community college system faculty. *House-ITL (Inexpedient to Legislate)*

HB418 - relative to the limitations on part time employment under the New Hampshire retirement system. *House Adopted with amendment; Senate-ITL*

HB616 - relative to a cost of living adjustment for retirees from the state retirement system. *House Adopted with amendment; Senate Adopted; Waiting for Governor's Signature*

HB629 - establishing a state defined contribution retirement plan for state and political subdivision members of the retirement system. *House-ITL*

HB675 - relative to purchase of service credit in the state retirement system. *House Adopted; Senate Adopted; Governor Signed*

HB468 - relative to the inclusion of attendance stipends as earnable compensation in the retirement system. *House Adopted with Amendment; Senate Adopted with Amendment; Governor Signed*

SB28 - relative to an active retirement system member appointment to the independent investment committee. *Senate Adopted with Amendment; House Adopted; Governor Signed*

NHREA 2019 ROSTER

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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



FEED THE NEED

As educators we have all witnessed children coming to school without having had enough to eat. Sometimes the meals that are served at school are the main source of nutrition for those children.

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 in New Hampshire. Please consider making a donation to your local food bank. Thank you retired teachers for your generosity to those who may be facing difficult times.



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WHAT IS NHREA?

The NHREA is an association open to all retired educators and staff. It was founded in 1952 to promote the economic, social, and professional welfare of retirees.

Benefits Of Membership In NHREA

The NHREA:

- *Supports legislation to protect and improve retirement benefits of educators.
- *Works with other retirement groups to safeguard and enhance the welfare and interests of its members.
- *Provides information of value to retirees.
- *Holds state-wide general membership meetings giving members a chance to meet and make friends as well as acquire information.
- *Encourages membership and participation in local units, a necessity for a strong NHREA.
- *Publishes a newsletter twice a year to keep members informed.
- *Has established a web page to help inform members. **www.nh-rea.org**
- *Has established a Facebook page: **New Hampshire Retired Educators**
- *Maintains liaison with NEA-NH, AFT, AARP-NH, and NRTA in our ongoing commitment to our members.