



New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

DON'T LET US DISAPPEAR!

By Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

NHREA, like many organizations, is experiencing a decline in paid membership. It has become more difficult to contact newly retired educators and let them know about the benefits of our organization. Many units are disbanding due to declining membership. We currently have more unpaid members carried over in our database than paid members.

Please remember that the goal of the NHREA is to promote the economic, social, and professional welfare of retirees. | to contact sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com



The NHREA supports legislation to protect and improve retirement benefits of educators. When dealing with legislation, strength is in numbers!

I am asking for help from all our members. Please tell your retired educator friends about our organization and the benefits of joining. First year retirees receive a one - year free membership.

Anyone that needs more information, please feel free

President's Message

by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President

We are living in extraordinary times. Our world is a very different place than it was a few short months ago. Please know that NHREA will be here for you. Membership services and keeping members informed continue to be our major priorities.

The pandemic presented a special set of obstacles in regard to the 2020 legislative session. We did lobby through email, letters, and phone calls. None of the retirement bills that were heard were passed. Hopefully, the next session will be more successful.

Membership growth continues to be a difficult process. If you know of any recent retirees, please send me their information. NHREA offers a free first year membership to them. I would love to talk with them and let them know what NHREA does to protect their retirement benefits.

Even though most local units had to cancel their spring and fall meetings, it is still important to keep members updated on new projects NHREA is participating in.

You will find two of these projects on our Facebook page: New Hampshire Retired Educators. One is the "Saying of the Day" and the other is the "Question of the Day" about places or events that pertain to New Hampshire. It is fun to research the answer. If you have any ideas on either of these, please send them to Candy Bailey at candy3499@aol.com.

Unfortunately, two more locals have made the hard decision to disband. Fortunately for their members the past leadership has continued to send out information about events happening at the state level.

I would like to express my gratitude to the dedicated people that volunteer to organize and participate in

keeping this organization running. We continue to look for new ideas and new volunteers that can help out in any way. If you have an idea or some time, please contact me. We would love to have you join us in helping our fellow retirees.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe Autumn and Winter and Happy Holidays.



photo by Peter Desautels

COME JOIN THE TEAM!

NHREA continues to look for a member to serve as a representative to the AARP-NH Council. Our last representative, Martha Lafleur, finished her term in December 2019. The AARP liaison is a member of the Executive Council. The Executive Council member 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 details, please contact Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com or 603-966-6340.

This May Be Your Last Newsletter !!!!!



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

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 year so far. 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!

Spring 2021 News Deadline

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

Candy Bailey
candy3499@aol.com

Deadline is April 15, 2021

The newsletter is more interesting with your news and information.



Facebook

By Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

Stores have arrows on the floor, restaurants are take-out or outside dining only, going to the vet requires calling in from the parking lot. My how times have become stranger and sometimes just a bit scary!

One thing that has remained the same is the NHREA Facebook page. It has stayed the same because it is still a very effective way to get information spread over the state in a matter of minutes.

The Facebook page has however changed a bit too. We are now posting a New Hampshire trivia question each day of the week. These questions may deal with people or places in New Hampshire. Did you know that a computer language (BASIC) was invented in New Hampshire? Tupperware was invented in Berlin. There is a military dog memorial in Barrington.

There are most likely many more interesting facts that could be shared with other retirees. During this time of staying at home a bit of state research can be invigorating. There are also retirees who have moved to other states. These New Hampshire questions connect them back to where they lived and worked.

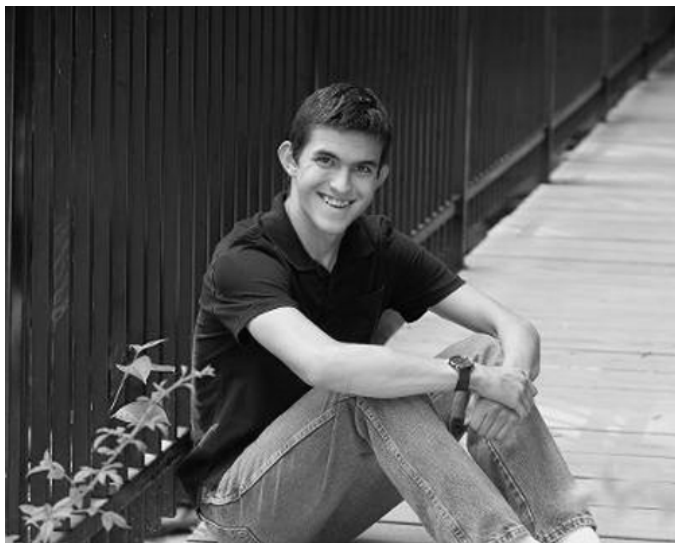
This is an invitation to join in the trivia challenge! Read the questions, research the answers, and post the answer. If you know a little-known fact about the state please post it. See if you can stump the experts.

The Facebook page can be an effective way to communicate with other former educators not just in the state but all over the United States. Who knows.....maybe Instagram is next!

2020 SCHOLARSHIPS

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

Both the New Hampshire Retired Educators and the Strafford County Retired Educators have awarded scholarships this year.



Ryan Moyer, awarded the Bowlen Scholarship by the Strafford County Retired Educators.

New Hampshire Retired Educators Association

Each year three \$1,500 scholarships are awarded by New Hampshire Retired Educators.

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 scholarship has been awarded to Mason Gilmartin. Mason is a student majoring in Education at Southern NH University. When he has completed his undergraduate degree in Elementary Education, he would like to begin a Masters in Educational Leadership. His grandfather is his role model because the life he lived had such an important influence on Mason and other children.

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 has been awarded to Riley Drew. Riley is majoring in Education at Plymouth State University and would like to teach math in middle school. She feels her background in special education will be valuable. Because of her outstanding educational record and volunteer efforts,

she has been invited to take part in next year's Orientation program for Education majors.

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 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.

Strafford County Retired Educators Association

The Bowlen Scholarship was named after Ken and Priscilla Bowlen, career educators who as retired teachers were members of SCREA. They worked to raise money for the SCREA scholarship which is given to seniors in high schools in Strafford County. The scholarship award is sent directly to the college or university at the beginning of the awardee's second semester.

The Strafford County Retired Educators (SCREA) has awarded the 2020 Bowlen Scholarship to Dover High School senior Ryan Moyer son of Emmy and Paul LaVallee of Dover. In high school Ryan was active both in sports and in the Music department and was a member of the National Honor Society. He has been accepted at Plymouth State University where he plans a major in Education.

In his application letter Ryan credited teachers with guiding him on the right path to help him to succeed, something that he would like to continue.

The scholarship was accompanied by a letter from Ken and Priscilla's children Amy Gelinas and Chris Bowlen.

• We have omitted the NHREA roster in this issue. Please refer to the spring 2020 issue. It will also be posted on the New Hampshire Retired Educators Association webpage nh-rea.org.

HB616 Clarification, the COLA Bill

By Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

HB616 was passed in September of 2019. This bill is concerned with a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for retirees in the state retirement system. There has been some confusion about who will be receiving this COLA and how it will impact the amount you receive each month.

In order to receive the COLA, a member has to have been retired 5 years prior to July 1, 2019. The member will start receiving the 1 1/2 % COLA on their first anniversary date occurring after July 1, 2020. If you retired on June 30, your first anniversary is July 1, 2021. I hope this helps to clarify when most educators will start seeing the increase.

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.

What Are The 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 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.

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

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. This has been a particularly difficult year. We can help our fellow citizens of New Hampshire. 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 facing these challenges please reach out to NHREA. Thank you retired teachers for your generosity to those who may be facing difficult times.

