

# New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

## 2020/2021 ANDRUS AWARD WINNERS



AARP New Hampshire Retired Educators of the Year	
2021	Linda Fanny
2020	Margaret Pyszka
2019	Barbara DiVenuti
2018	Nancy Andrews
2017	Candy Bailey

Each year AARP state affiliates celebrate volunteerism in several categories including Retired Educator of the Year. Because of the pandemic, no ceremony was held honoring last year's volunteers. However, 2020 and 2021 volunteers in all categories were honored at a ceremony in August, 2022.

Margaret Pyszka was honored for 2020. Margaret has held many different leadership roles in NHREA. She currently serves as chair of the Scholarship Committee.

Linda Fanny was honored as the Retired Educator for 2021. Linda also serves in many leadership roles in the NHREA. She currently serves as Recording Secretary.



Members with Ethel Andrus

## President's Message

by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President

Summer has drawn to a close and the hot, humid days are fading from our memories. Now it is time to reflect on the many things that NHREA leaders do for our members.

The Leadership team continues to meet to keep the organization running. The Executive board met in September working to lay the groundwork for the future of NHREA.

During the pandemic our local units were unable to continue meeting. Some have closed down permanently. Others are just beginning to resurface with smaller meetings. I would thoroughly enjoy coming to a unit meeting to talk with the members.

Many of our members continue to volunteer in their local communities, at schools, libraries, hospitals, as well as serving on boards of non-profit organizations. Thank you for all you do.

NHREA is hoping to expand membership. The best way to do this is through your local towns and school districts. If everyone who receives this newsletter would send me the name and address of one local retiree, I would be happy to send them



photo by Peter Desautels

information about NHREA and a free one-year membership to our organization. I have had the opportunity to connect with newly retired members through this initiative.

A new year provides new opportunities and new challenges. Together we will take advantage of those opportunities and meet those challenges.

Meanwhile, stay safe, help others, and look forward to a brighter tomorrow.

## NRTA 75th ANNIVERSARY

by Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

75 years ago, a retired educator, Ethel Percy Andrus, founded NRTA, (National Retired Educators Association), to address educators' economic challenges and health insurance needs in retirement. The benefits she was able to provide

(See NRTA 75th... on pg. 3)

## A Note From Our AARP Liasion

by Diana Griffin

I continue to thoroughly enjoy serving on the New Hampshire Executive Council of AARP. When I joined the Executive Council in August of 2021, all meetings were on Zoom. I had never been to the state office in Concord or met the staff or other Executive Council members in person.

As we have all experienced isolation in one way or the other over the past few years - we know there is nothing like being with people in person. Zoom certainly has earned its place in our society and kept things going, but oh...to be back with people! There's nothing like it! I love it!

### New Executive Director

Some exciting news from AARP: we have a new and wonderful Executive Director. Her name is Christina Fitzpatrick and she comes to us with a plethora of experience. We are very lucky to have her as our new Executive Director. She is a super lady.

### Speakers Bureau

The AARP New Hampshire's Speakers Bureau comprises a group of trained volunteers who offer FREE presentations that address a variety of topics, such as fraud, caregiving, brain health, downsizing, and sorting fact from fiction online. The Speakers Bureau collaborates with libraries, senior centers, veterans' groups and multicultural organizations. Volunteers are recruited and trained by the AARP. Presentations are FREE and ideal for groups of 10 or more. Talks run 30 to 60 minutes depending on the topic selected. I've become a member of the Speakers Bureau and have given several presentations in various parts of the State. I'm just a rookie at this type of presenting, which is quite different from teaching. I'm learning the new content for the presentations, but I'm finding it a challenge to stick to the script! I'm getting better under the

## Let's Get the Word Out

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

This past September I was able to attend the conference celebrating the 75th anniversary of the NRTA. Representatives from all over the United States heard speakers discussing topics that are important to all of us. One of the issues that plagues many of us is membership in our respective organizations. Discussions centered around what we as members of retiree associations can do to recruit new members.

One of the aspects of putting this newsletter together is updating the membership roster. Sadly many of our local units have disbanded. Another sad situation is the number of seats on the Standing Committee that are vacant. One that stands out to me is the Publicity chair.

One aspect of finding retirees to join the NHREA is letting retirees know that the organization exists! Part of

tutelage of experienced presenters, but still have a way to go. The presentations are very informative and I would highly recommend them.

If you are looking for a presentation for your local NHREA unit, community group or business, please email [nhaarp@aarp.org](mailto:nhaarp@aarp.org) or call 866-542-8168 to book a presentation or to volunteer as a speaker.

### Storytelling

Another area in which I have become involved is "Storytelling." We had a wonderful presentation at the Audubon Society in Concord given by David Hunt from DC - an experienced storyteller who taught us the secrets of persuasive storytelling, especially when endeavoring to recruit volunteers. It was a great workshop.

### Elections

As we enter the hectic political season here in NH, I've been invited to attend several "Politics and Eggs" sessions at the NH Institute of Politics

publicity is knowing how to reach retirees. The NHREA needs someone to get information out to potential members. A publicity chairperson can help with this. It is understood that older retirees sometimes shy away from (and may even distrust) social media. However, we are looking to recruit newer retirees. These are people who may have been using aspects of social media in their teaching.

Do new retirees use Facebook? Are they still subscribing to newspapers? Are they on Instagram? TikTok? Why do retired teachers join an organization? What do they want from that organization? How can these needs be met? Do new (and some longtime) retirees know the mission of the NHREA?

These are some of the questions that need to be answered in order to 'grow' the NHREA. If you would like to be part of our rejuvenation please let us know. You can email Sandy Amlaw at [sandy\\_amlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com) or Candy Bailey at [candy3499@aol.com](mailto:candy3499@aol.com).

at St Anselm's College. AARP is strictly non-partisan, which has been made very clear to me! I also attended three debates at NEC in Henniker prior to the Primary which I found to be rather enlightening, to say the least.

### Local Broadcast

Finally, last week I was interviewed by Karen Ulmer Dorch, a volunteer with AARP. She presents a program on the local Concord TV station out of Concord High School. It was great fun, although initially I was quite nervous. She's a marvelous interviewer and put me at ease right away. She asked me about my life in Ireland and then how I assimilated to the culture here in the United States, among other things. I was able to give a "shout out" to NHREA! I enjoyed the experience very much.

So that's about it in my life with AARP. Always busy and very interesting.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Holiday season.

# NHREA Legislative Report

by Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

It seems every year we face the same battles in the legislature. This year will be no exception.

Our biggest strategy is to educate the new legislators on the needs of retirees. Many do not understand how our retirement system works. They don't realize that we contribute to our retirement while we are employed.

Although bills have not yet been filed, we will continue to work toward a COLA bill for ALL retirees. Last year we were successful in helping the lower income retirees with a one-time supplemental check.

I will continue to keep local leaders updated on any pension bills that are filed in the 2023 Legislative session.

## **NRTA 75th... (Continued from page 1)**

retired teachers became so popular that non-educators sought the same member benefits. Therefore, eleven years later, in 1958, Dr. Andrus reached out to a broader audience by founding AARP (then known as the American Association of Retired Persons). In 1982, the two associations merged at the national level and NRTA became a division of AARP.

NRTA is America's leading national organization representing the interests of more than 850,000 working and retired educators. A network of state-based Retired Educators Associations collaborate and provide strategic support to protect educators' financial security and foster volunteerism.

More information about NRTA can be found on AARP National Retired Teachers' Association (NRTA) website: [aarp.org](http://aarp.org)

Please feel free to connect with your local NHREA at any time to learn more about what is happening in New Hampshire.

# NHREA 2022 ROSTER

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## **Spring 2023 News Deadline**

All news and articles for the  
Spring 2023 edition  
should be sent to:

Candy Bailey  
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**Deadline is April 15, 2023**

The newsletter is more interesting  
with your news and information.

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### **Londonderry - Disbanded**

### **Mount Washington Valley - Disbanded**

### **Nashua - Disbanded**

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.



## In Memorium



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

**Francis W. "Frank" Bruni** of Gorham  
- May 6th, 2021. Frank was born  
on November 27, 1934 in Cascade,  
Gorham, NH. He graduated from  
Gorham High School in 1959. He  
earned a Masters of Education from  
PSC. After many years as a teacher,  
coach, and then administrator in the  
Whitefield, Lebanon, Mascoma, and  
Berlin School Districts, he retired from  
education in 1994.

**Irene A. Jean**, 85, of Hudson, NH  
- January 22, 2022. In 1974, Irene  
graduated from Rivier College with a  
BA in Early Childhood Education, and  
went on to earn a Master's degree in  
Education from Fitchburg State Col-  
lege. Irene taught 5th and 6th grade  
over the course of 20 years at Mat-  
thew Thornton School in Londonderry,  
NH, before retiring in 1995. Irene's  
welcoming smile and warmth touched  
everyone she met. She had a way of  
spreading joy and love and bringing  
peace to those who knew her.

**Kathleen D. Dailey** 72, of Dover  
- August 7, 2022. Kathy graduated  
from St. Lawrence University in  
Canton, New York with a Bachelor of  
Arts Degree and went on to graduate  
from Colgate University in Hamilton,  
New York where she received a  
Master's in Arts in Teaching. She  
taught Social Studies at Dover  
High School for 36 years until her  
retirement. She was a member of the  
Strafford County Retired Teachers,  
the D.T.U. and the NEA.

**Annie Ruth Charleston** 90 -  
April 2, 2022. Annie worked in Goffs-  
town, retiring in 1995 to Durham,  
North Carolina. Annie loved children  
and very generously donated to chil-  
dren's projects, even those who may  
not have been in her family.

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## CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Local food pantries are critical  
for those who are experiencing  
food insecurity. While we are not  
collecting funds for food pantries,  
we strongly encourage everyone  
to do what they can to help in your  
area. If you find yourself are facing  
these challenges please reach out  
to NHREA. Thank you retired edu-  
cators for your generosity to those  
who may be facing difficult times.

### 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 & older = Free

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