

New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President*

It's hard to believe that we have not met in almost two years. So much has changed and yet some things have remained the same. Even though we have not met in person, the leadership continues to work on legislation, organizing the newsletter, supporting our finances, and reaching out to the local leadership, as well as other duties that support our members.



photo by Peter Desautels

NHREA continues to work closely with the New Hampshire Retirement Security Coalition, NEA-New Hampshire, AFT, and NRTA (our parent organization, and a division of AARP). It is only through combined numbers that we can make progress in protecting our pensions as well as working to improve those pensions.

Members that qualified under HB616 that was passed in 2020 finally saw a 1 1/2 % COLA in the July

pension payment that they received at the end of July. We will continue to work to find a way to fund a sustainable annual COLA for all members.

Some of our units had disbanded before the pandemic and it is very difficult to keep former members of those units up-to-date on retirement issues. It is also very difficult to obtain information on new retirees. If you know of anyone who has retired in the last year, please let me know and we will send them a FREE one year membership.

We must never lose sight of the goal of our association which is to protect the hard-earned pensions of our members and to serve those members. Thank you to all the wonderful hard-working members that keep this organization running.

Keep Our Membership Going (And Growing)

by Norma Gray, Membership Chair

The dues letters are late being sent out. There were many changes with the transition in the AARP Office. Mary Callahan of the AARP has been a wonderful resource for us during all the time I have been involved with membership. She has an intern who is now going to be the membership contact. If you know your membership needs to be paid, then use the form included here. If you later receive a dues request, please ignore this request. I appreciate and look forward to calls, texts, or emails from members with changes or updates that need to be addressed.

The organization needs addresses for recent state retirees. As we receive the addresses, we make the contact. If you know of any addresses that need to be corrected or new addresses, please get that information to me or Barbara Divenuti. I am very appreciative for all that Barbara does for me and you.

Stay Safe and Well!

NHREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

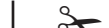
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please circle the amount enclosed.

DUES: 1 year = \$25, 3 years = \$60,
Lifetime (if you are up to 74 years old) = \$200,
Lifetime (if you are 75 - 89 years old) = \$100,
If you are 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



New AARP Liaison

After more than a year of searching we now have a representative to the AARP-NH Council! Diana Griffin has stepped up to take the position. Diana has over 30 years of teaching experience both in the United States and Ireland. She has

taught both Physical Education and Adapted Physical Education. She retired from the Mascenic school district in 2018.

Filling this position is one step closer to returning to our pre-pandemic lifestyles. Thank you Diana and welcome aboard!

Looking For a Part-time Job?

Assessment Administrators

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is seeking motivated individuals to proctor in-school assessment sessions with fourth- and eighth-grade students. You must be available to work the specified data collection period of January 24 to March 4, 2022. NAEP provides paid training, paid time, and mileage reimbursement for local driving, and weekly paychecks. This is a part-time, temporary position. For more information, visit <http://www.WorkNAEP.com> and provide your name and email. We will contact you with a link to our online application when it is available. **Online applications will be accepted beginning in July 2021.** Questions? Email: WilliamGould@naepmail.westat.com

Assessment Coordinators

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is seeking motivated individuals to lead teams of in-school assessment proctors conducting assessments with fourth- and eighth-grade students in schools. You must be available to work December 2021 to March 4, 2022. NAEP provides paid training, paid time and mileage reimbursement for local driving, and weekly paychecks. This is a part-time, temporary position. For more information, visit <http://www.WorkNAEP.com> and provide your name and email. We will contact you with a link to our online application when it is available. **Online applications will be accepted beginning in late June 2021.** Questions? Email: WilliamGould@naepmail.westat.com

Protecting the health and safety of our employees and survey participants is a top priority for Westat. Based on recommendations from the CDC and other public health authorities, we require staff to protect and monitor their health while working on their assignment. The use of personal protective equipment, regular testing for COVID-19, getting vaccinated or other screening activities is required.

The data collection window may be extended due to weather or other delays.

WESTAT

EOE, including disability/veterans

Spring 2022 News Deadline

All news and articles for the Spring 2022 edition should be sent to:

Candy Bailey
candy3499@aol.com

Deadline is April 15, 2022



The newsletter is more interesting with your news and information.

Making The Best of It

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

Just when we thought it was safe to put the masks away, rejoin the yoga class and enjoy a sit down meal in a local restaurant...along comes Delta! I've gotten accustomed to only seeing the top half of people's faces.

This has been a time for appreciating what is right around us. This summer has been a nature walk for me; right in my own back yard. A new plant this year is Tithonia (Mexican sunflower). It is a bright orange daisy-like flower that in our garden is about 7 feet tall. Each early morning it is alive with bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.



We have a bubbling bird-bath that has invited birds and bees for a drink and a bath throughout the day.

I've been interested to see that just like humans wildlife seems to have three times a day when they eat: morning, midday and evening.

Sitting in a lawn chair watching the garden has been relaxing and rewarding. I've been able to quietly watch the creatures around me that are not affected at all by isolation, quarantine and virus. They come and go, nibbling and sipping and resting. The turkeys wander through looking for whatever turkeys look for. The deer come to nibble on the old apple tree. The chipmunks come to hide whatever they can wherever they can. A hawk sits quietly in a tall maple surveying the comings and goings waiting for an opportune time for a meal. Next door in the pasture horses graze and swat at flies.

Would I have been able to enjoy this peaceful tableau if everything was still open and active? I think not. There is something to be said about making the best of a bad situation.

NHREA 2021 ROSTER

OFFICERS

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Nominating - VACANT

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*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.*

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News From The Units

Cheshire County Retired Educators Association

by Jim Hurley, CCREA Publicity

The Cheshire County Retired Educators Association (CCREA) is off to a great start for the 2021-2022 year. We have a new president, Steve Stepenuck, and we have scheduled five luncheons with guest speakers and entertainment. We have a "meeting caller" network to ensure every member is called prior to each luncheon to keep them up to date on CCREA activities and to reserve a seat at the upcoming luncheon. Our program booklet is being distributed to members at our first luncheon.

Last year we were unable to meet but the full board and the committee chairs met via Zoom and all members were invited to join our meetings. We are very happy to be able to meet in person and hopefully we will be able to continue to meet throughout the year. Masks are required at our first luncheon and tables will be social distanced with four people per table.

We would like to welcome our new president, Steve Stepenuck. Steve's career was mostly spent at Keene State College where he taught Chemistry and Environmental Studies. Steve has been working with the board and committee chairs to ensure a safe, organized and fun time for all who attend our luncheons.

All NHREA members are welcome to attend our luncheons. Our luncheons are catered. We only request that you call the president, Steve Stepenuck at 603-352-7540 one week prior to the luncheon date to reserve and get directions to our event.

A tentative list of our luncheons includes the following. On September 14th the program is on Wildlife Photography. On October 19th we will experience a Radio Play program. On December 7th we will celebrate with a

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turkey dinner and enjoy holiday music and sing-a-long songs. On April 12th we will have speakers from the RSVP volunteer center. Our last luncheon is on May 10th where the program is on local archeology. All programs are subject to change based on availability.

As you can see we are off to a great start. We wish all New Hampshire retired educator associations the best of luck this school year!

Strafford County Retired Educators

The SCREA hasn't met throughout this year of the 'plague'. That is not however, a sign that the group has disbanded. We are looking forward to the spring of 2022 hoping that the pandemic will be under control. The Executive Board will plan to meet in the spring and make plans for the year. It has been a long time and it will be wonderful to see friends and catch up.



CONTINUE TO Feed The Need

Covid restrictions continue to waver and we are not yet comfortable in 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 food challenges please reach out to NHREA. Thank you retired teachers for your generosity to those who may be facing difficult times.