

## Annual Meeting Entertainment is *Nice & Naughty*

The program for the May 21 general membership meeting will be *Nice & Naughty*, a.k.a. Peg & Cheryl. The duo performs original contemporary folk music. *Nice & Naughty's* original music speaks to all aspects of everyday life, from whimsical to poignant, serious to silly. Accompanied by stand-up bass, guitar and penny whistle, their exquisite harmonies are the highlight of their performance. Sometimes irreverent, but never rude, they're sure to appeal to all audiences! Their repertoire is both funny and

thought-provoking; hence the name *Nice & Naughty*. Their performances are tailored to their audiences.

Band members Peg Chaffee and Cheryl Sager have been performing music for many years in various genres and bands. Their repertoire is eclectic; from touching and sentimental (nice) to saucy and occasionally suggestive (naughty). Audiences praise *Nice & Naughty* as "very talented and entertaining", and "great songwriters" with "wonderful harmonies."

(See ...*Nice & Naughty* on pg. 4)



## President's Message *by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President*

*"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sail."*  
William Arthur Ward, American writer

I feel this is a very appropriate quote. From the time since NHREA was established, this philosophy has been in play, allowing the organization to make changes that the times required to ensure our existence.

I believe our first accomplishment was getting the state to create a guaranteed retirement pension plan for most school

employees. Our predecessors could have sat back and complained, but they worked hard to grow an organization that moved beyond vision to action.

In the time since, "sails were adjusted" to meet large and small scale issues. Some of these issues were legislative, some involved membership, and some addressed volunteerism.

Our main legislative goal is to protect the **defined benefit retirement plan** and increase its compensation to reflect the cost of living. In order to do this, we continue to work with a coalition of other group members of the New Hampshire Retirement System. We know that strong membership numbers help NHREA's voice be heard.

At both the local and state levels, our current "wind" remains membership growth. In the past year two more local units have closed due to low member-

ship numbers and lack of volunteer leadership. In June, one of our larger local units will also disband. Currently our membership committee is working to address this issue.

I am not a sailor, but I do know that it is essential to "stay the course" toward the destination of sustaining NHREA's goals and mission.

We will only be successful in these goals if we work together at the local level as well as the state level. Recruiting new retirees is vital to our ongoing success and bringing new life and new talent to our association.

I will close with a quote from Ethel Percy Andrus, the founder of NRTA, our parent company; *"Such to me is the new image of aging: growth in self, and service for all mankind."*



photo by Peter Desautels

## Martha LaFleur Honored

Exerpts of AARP article, [states.aarp.org](http://states.aarp.org)

The AARP 2019 Andrus Award Winner, Martha LaFleur, has a saying, "if there's a will, there's a way." That is exactly how she looks back on her career as an art educator. She started at Keene State College as an art education major until the school moved the program away.

She gives credit to her mother, who went straight to Keene State's president and demanded they do better, as influencing her for who she is. She was allowed to take art courses through the University of New Hampshire and graduate from Keene State in 1967. While at UNH, she missed the opportunity to take a secondary education course at Keene that would certify her teaching degree.



*photo by Mr. LaFleur*

Martha has dedicated her entire career to art education. She spent 34 years teaching in the Keene School District and went into early retirement in 2001, while still substitute teaching for 11 years after. She even taught a course on "Design for Art Education Majors" only 10 years after graduating from college.

Martha emphasized that just because she retired from teaching doesn't mean she retired from doing all of the other things she wants to do, especially her advocacy work. Some of her earliest volunteer work included her time as co-director for the Samaritans Suicide prevention hotline during the 1980s, all the while teaching and raising a family.

Martha has served as an advocate for the importance of an arts education long after she retired, including her presidency as the Cheshire County Retired Educators Association. It was during this time that Martha caught the political bug after testifying on behalf of pension payment bills at the state house.

The previous Executive Director of New Hampshire Retired Education Association (NHREA) and 2012 Andrus Award winner, Roland Stoodley, approached Martha about joining AARP New Hampshire's Capital City Task Force, which took some urging. LaFleur became an AARP New Hampshire volunteer. She graduated from the New Hampshire Senior Leadership program in 2011 and is a member of the AARP New Hampshire Executive Council. In 2014, she was named the AARP New Hampshire State Advocacy Volunteer of the Year.

Previously, she considered herself to be a typical AARP member without knowing much about the organization. After attending her first meeting, Martha said, "I got hooked. It was just an eye-opener about what AARP was trying to do for the betterment of seniors." Soon after that, Martha was appointed to the Executive Council for AARP, representing the NHREA.

When she moved to Greenland from her hometown of Keene, she says she lost her surroundings of friendships with retired teachers and had to reinvent herself in a new community. When she organized a potluck with some members of an artist's co-op in Kittery, she asked the group what they were most passionate

## COVID-19 and Its Ramifications



*by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor*

As of press time for this issue of the newsletter the Annual Membership meeting is in the planning process. As of this time we are seeing that many large group gatherings are being cancelled or postponed. We will keep our members apprised of changes as they happen. In the event that the meeting is cancelled or postponed we will post the information on our Facebook page (New Hampshire Retired Educators), put it on our webpage ([nh-rea.org](http://nh-rea.org)), and get in touch with unit leaders to pass information along. If you include your telephone number or email when you register for the meeting we can contact you directly if there is a cancellation or postponement. The health and well-being of our membership is important. Do what you need to do to stay healthy.

about. One woman expressed her fear of turning 70 and Martha brought up the possibilities of AARP. "It's so much more than what you can imagine, what AARP does, and how much fun it can have being part of a group... So, when I got to share my passion, I talked about AARP."

Martha said AARP gave her an education beyond her expectations and connects her advocacy work with AARP's Senior Leadership, Executive Council, and Capital City Task Force to her teaching experience.

Her teacher-mode is in full swing at all of the AARP events she helps organize. She says what helps people understand AARP's mission is telling its purpose and telling the story of how it started. "Teachers are advocates, especially public education for children; you're advocating for them. So it's a natural fit that you continue doing advocacy work, even when you retire."

**(See ...Honored on pg. 4)**

# ANNUAL MEETING

**Susan N. McLane Audubon Center**  
84 Silk Farm Rd, Concord, NH 03301  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2020**

Luncheon catered by The Common Man Restaurant

## Buffet Lunch Menu

(no pre-selection required)

Garden Salad, Rolls and butter

Chicken Piccata, Baked Haddock

Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake

Beverage station w/water, coffee and soda selections

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND PLACE  
ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND.  
YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT!

**9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Registration / coffee, tea and  
assorted breakfast pastries**

**10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. - BUSINESS MEETING**  
President Sandra Amlaw, presiding

**11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - PROGRAM**

**12:30 p.m. - BUFFET LUNCHEON**

Cost: \$25 per person. Seating limited to 100\*

See reservation form below.

Reservation deadline, May 1, 2020.

\*If a member is not staying for lunch, there will be a \$5 registration fee  
to cover the cost of materials, coffee, and pastries.

(Cancellations must be sent to Connie George,  
603-774-2200 or [ca\\_george@aol.com](mailto:ca_george@aol.com), by May 14, 2020)



**NH AUDUBON**  
Protecting our environment since 1914

## DIRECTIONS TO Audubon Center

### Drive to Concord

1. Take I -93 South to I-89
2. Take I-89 in Concord to Exit 2  
for Clinton Street/Route 13.
3. Go *left* off ramp. (Same  
direction for both ramps.)
4. Turn right at first blinking light,  
onto Silk Farm Road.
5. Entrance to Center and  
Sanctuary is on the left. See sign.

## THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!!!

Please make sure your dues are  
paid to stay on our mailing list.



### 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 circle your choice and mail  
the dues with the check payable to  
NHREA to: Norma Gray, 19 Adams Dr.,  
Kittery, ME 03904



### RESERVATION FORM

**Reservations must be received by Friday, May 1, 2020.**

Please complete the form and return it with your check, payable to  
NHREA, to Connie George, 1042 Montalona Rd., Dunbarton, NH 03046.

I (We) plan to attend the luncheon and enclose

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover \_\_\_\_\_ reservations.

This is a buffet. No choices necessary.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**No cancellation can be accepted after May 14, 2020.**



# WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE 2020 LEGISLATURE?

By Nancy Andrews, Co-Chair Legislative Committee, Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

The 2020 Legislation includes fourteen House Bills and one Senate Bill. Many of them are specific to certain towns, job classifications, or Group 2 members.

An **OTP (Ought to Pass)** recommendation from the committee means they passed it.

An **ITL (Inexpedient to Legislate)** recommendation from the committee means they tabled the bill.

The following Bills will affect both Group 1 (employees and teachers vested prior to January 1, 2012) and Group 2 (police and fire vested prior to January 1, 2012) retirees.

**HB1634-FN**-Exempts a retirement system retiree's part time employment

with a different employer from the 28-day waiting period. - **ITL**

**HB1154**-Enables municipalities to exclude the principle of retirement saving accounts and pension plans from the calculation of net assets when determining eligibility for certain means-tested property tax exemptions (in committee).

**HB1326-FN**-Requires the quarterly report of the retirement system's independent investment committee to include a description of investment fee (in committee).

**HB1205-FN**-Provides for the application of the reduction of a retiree's annuity at the member's full retirement age under Social Security system.- **OTP**

**HB1447-FN**-Revises the penalty for a retired member of the retirement system working part-time for a retirement system employer who exceeds the maximum hours during a calendar year to be a 23% deduction for the remainder of the year. - **ITL**

**HB1235-A**-Establishes a committee and an appropriation to study ensuring workforce maintenance through enhancement of the retirement system. - **OTP**

We will continue to work on legislation to improve retirement benefits for all our members.

For more information on these bills, please go to the legislative web site. [www.gencourt.state.nh.us](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us)

## ...Nice & Naughty (Continued from page 1)

Cheryl began performing with several friends and relatives in 1990 to 1992 until she and three other female musicians formed a band named *Labrys*. In 1999 the group went through a "divorce", with Cheryl and one other member remaining. The two "adopted" Peg and the trio, remaining as *Labrys*, enjoyed success throughout Southern NH, MA, and Maine. Sadly, there was then another divorce. Cheryl got "custody" of Peg, and *Nice & Naughty* was born! The two decided to stay together as a duo and they remain happily together in musical bliss today.

## ...Honored (Continued from page 2)

Despite her expansive resume in the educational sector and the incredible contributions she has made to AARP New Hampshire, Martha remains humble. Upon being nominated for the Andrus Award, Martha said, "My first reaction was, 'Oh, there's got to be some others here that you could be giving this honor to.' "

We are lucky to have Martha in our community of activist volunteers. Alan Cohen, who works with Martha on the AARP New Hampshire Executive Council, remarks that Martha is outgoing, friendly, self-confident and knowledgeable about AARP, its programs and mission. She is visible at countless events and is a role model for volunteers who see in her the type of volunteer that they can become.

We are pleased that Martha LaFleur was chosen by her peers to be AARP New Hampshire's 2019 Andrus Award Winner!

## 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 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](http://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.

## Scholarship Spotlight *By Margaret Pyska, Scholarship Chairperson*

Each year the NHREA awards three scholarships to students who plan a career in Education. This is the 2nd installment of our look back at some of the recipients and what they are doing now.



Abigail Thompson was the 2016 winner of the Irene Hart Memorial Award\*. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire's five-year program and received a Master of Education at graduation.

She got off to a great start on her goal of teaching special education in an urban area by applying to the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP), a large network of charter schools in New York state. After several complete interviews and a classroom demonstration of her teaching skill, she was hired by and selected to

teach at the KIPP Washington Heights Elementary School.

For her first two years in the system Abby was a classroom teacher. When an opportunity opened as a special education coordinator in the school, Abby applied. She was awarded the job and is currently coordinator for all third grade classes. As coordinator she is in charge of six teachers and 96 students of whom 25 have IEP's.

Abby is happy with her career but there have been some surprises. One pleasant surprise was the diversity of her students. The majority of them

come from families whose origins are from the Dominican Republic. She loves the culture of the families who are close to each other and always find ways to connect with the school. Each teacher in the charter school is assigned a cell phone so that parents can stay in close touch with teachers. Language differences do not seem to present a problem. Abby works in an area with a diverse population: Hispanic, African American, and Caucasian.

An adjustment Abby has had to make is the size of the work load. She works from 7:40 AM to 4:00 PM. She has continuous interaction with her

(See ...Spotlight on pg. 8)

## In Memorium

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

**Virginia M. Hallisey** 95, a longtime Nashua teacher, passed away Friday afternoon, January 31, 2020.

She was born in Nashua on February 4, 1925, the eldest of four children of the late Helene J. (Desautels) and Harold J. Hallisey.

A career educator, Virginia graduated from what is now Plymouth University and Boston University and she was extensively involved in Alumni Affairs.

Retiring at age 70 from the field of education, Virginia had a long and remarkable career in the area of Business Education. She enthusiastically mentored many students and organized and developed many ongoing student business organizations as a teacher and administrator in the Nashua School District, SAU 42.

Upon her retirement, she pursued the legislative and professional interests of teachers throughout New Hampshire. As a result, in 2010, Virginia was awarded the coveted New Hampshire/AARP Andrus Award for Distinguished Service. She belonged to many professional organizations in which she

served as an officer and board member including the Nashua Area Retired Educators Association and the New Hampshire Retired Educators Association. Virginia was also a founding member and board officer of the now Granite State Credit Union.

**Doris Grady** 96, of Dover, NH, died peacefully at her home on Monday October 14, 2019. She worked for many years with her family at Flynn's Market in South Berwick and dedicated 55 years of passionate service to the children of the city of Dover, NH as a teacher, tutor, volunteer and school board member. She taught and mentored many generations of elementary, middle and high school students. Upon her retirement as a teacher, she continued her passion for education by serving on the Dover School Board for 20 years, stepping down at the age of 92. In 2009 and 2018 Doris was honored as the Retired Teacher of the Year at the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony. She was also recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Dover Rotary.

### Fall 2020 News Deadline

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

**Candy Bailey**  
candy3499@aol.com

**Deadline is August 7, 2020**

The newsletter is far less interesting without your news.

## News From The Units

### Sullivan County Retired Educators

*By Joella Merchant, President SCREA*

On October 8, 2019, The Sullivan County Retired Educators met at the Sugar River Technical Center in Claremont. President Joella Merchant welcomed 35 members and guests. Following lunch, prepared and served by the students in the Culinary Arts Department two guest speakers were introduced. Kay Burge and Terri Smith from the mammography department at Valley Regional Hospital presented a detailed overview of the importance for breast examinations and mammograms. Breast cancer has been proven to be reduced by forty percent with screenings. Screenings should begin at age forty and routinely scheduled every year. With the advent of the 3D screening, fifteen views are taken and this has increased the breast cancer detection

rate. Kay and Terri both emphasized the need for women to be aware of the risk factors for breast cancer.

Following the guest speakers, the business meeting was held presided over by Joella. She gave an updated legislative report and explained HB616 regarding COLA and the increase that will become effective in July 2020. Reminder postcards will be sent out early in 2020 and will give the dates for our two meetings, one in May and the other in October. At our spring meeting the membership voted to donate \$300.00 to the "Got Lunch Program" in Newport. We will continue to donate towards local programs that we feel will benefit from our donations and are asking members to contribute whatever they wish.

Election of officers was held. Joella Merchant, president, Anne Rouillard, vice president/secretary and Bonnie Belden, treasurer.



## THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!!!

Newsletters are sent to members of NHREA who are current with their dues. We are reviewing our paid member list and will not be sending the next (Fall 2020) newsletter to members who have not paid their dues.

### Strafford County Retired Educators Association (SCREA)

*By Penny Bodwell, Secretary*

The April 9, 2020 meeting of the SCREA has been cancelled due to recommendations of the CDC not to have large gatherings. Entertaining author and historian, Roxie Zwicker, who presents stories of folklore and ghosts of New England will hopefully be rescheduled in the fall. Zwicker conducts speaking tours throughout the Northeast on haunted history, and in addition she runs New England Curiosities which offers ghost tours and spooky trolley rides in Portsmouth. She has been featured on NH Chronicle, the History Channel, the Travel Channel, WMUR, several New England newspapers, and many national magazines.

All meetings of the SCREA are held at Spring Hill located at 117 Pond Road in South Berwick, Maine. The meetings are open to educators who live in Strafford county. Registration is at 10:00, meeting starts at 10:30, the program at 11:00, and the \$25 luncheon at noon.

Following meetings will take place on second Thursdays, May 14 and June 11. For more information call Penny at 603-312-6628.

# Welcome

## To Our New Lifetime Members!

*By Norma Gray, Membership Chair*

Albert Alex  
Beth Corcoran  
John Woodburn  
Jane Newcomb  
John Boucher  
Donald Wilson  
Carol Hodgdon  
Robert Cote  
Irene duPont  
Ruth Van Ledtje  
Christine Ryan  
Mary Rooney  
Edward Yenco  
Joe Arnstein  
Eileen Flockhart  
Boris vonYork  
Irene Sherburda  
Elizabeth Kelly  
Katherine Reardon  
Robert Bettencourt  
Allen Stevens  
Conrad Berthiaume

Alys Hickcox  
Claire Hickey  
Carolyn Olson  
Richard Walsh  
Donna Kelly  
Elizabeth Morin  
Joan Zelonis  
Linda Hillier  
Joyce Mayhew  
Clark Dustin  
Dorothy Dustin  
Marian Prescott  
Alice Friedenson  
Nancy Beaudry  
Ceasar Meledandri  
Barbara Garneau  
Judith Wilson  
Stasia Hall  
Helen Koehler  
Shirley Walker  
Bruce Stevens  
Bette Hirtle

Susan Wydra  
Thomas Thurston  
Virginia Cunha  
Nancy Garland  
Margaret McShea  
Donna Perrault  
Olga Haveles  
Deborah Nowak  
Loretta O'Will  
Martin Burns  
Nancy Deachman  
David Tucker  
William Hodge  
Geraldine Botsch  
Theresa Downing  
Paul Duquette  
Frances Tullar  
Anne Emerson  
Constance Fisher  
Jane Baldwin-Reed  
Priscilla Roberts  
Donald Wilson  
Brian Bogle



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### ...Spotlight (Continued from page 5)

students as well as the completion of the reports and paper-work that is required as special education coordinator.

The 'hustle and bustle' of living in New York City also surprised Abby. She is, however, very happy with her career choice and intends to stay in the field of education for her entire life.

\*The Irene W. Hart Memorial Award is named for a dedicated Concord, NH High School English teacher who died in 1995 at the age of 98. Ms. Hart was instrumental in the initiation of programs which improved the equity of salaries for teachers and provided improved retirement benefits for them. 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. Her efforts were so outstanding and untiring for education that she unquestionably deserves the honor of having this NHREA Award named for her.

## Feed the Need

As educators 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. We can help our fellow citizens in New Hampshire. Please consider making a donation to your local food bank. Thank you retired educators for your generosity to those who may be facing difficult times.



NH Retired Educators Assn.  
NEA/NEW HAMPSHIRE  
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## COME JOIN THE TEAM!

*by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President*

NHREA needs a member to serve as a representative to the AARP-NH Council as our last representative, Martha Lafleur, finished her term in December.

I have outlined the responsibilities for the position:

**Position Function:** 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.

### 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 two-year term with a limit of three 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](mailto:sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com) or 603-966-6340.