



# New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

## GOOD-BYE and HELLO and THANK YOU!

As many of you know, we have had vacancies on our Leadership team for quite a long time. It has been our good fortune to have dedicated members who have chaired positions for years rather than seeing them left vacant.

A GIANT thank you to two long time volunteers of NHREA at both the state level and in their respective local units.

We are sad to see that Margaret Pyszka is leaving the position of Scholarship Chair. Margaret has done an amazing job as chair, seeking out eligible scholarship recipients.

Margaret is a member of the Merrimack Valley unit. She has also served in many capacities at the state level.

These include chairing the Membership, Nominating, and Scholarship Committees. She also served as part of the Leadership Team. Margaret received the 2020 AARP Retired Educator of the Year Award.

Pauline Desautels was a member of the now closed Nashua Unit. She has also served as Vice-President of NHREA since 2011. Pauline and her late husband, Peter, are responsible for the positive publicity of NHREA. An historic account of the decade that she and Peter comprised is available for viewing at NHREA state meetings.

Thank you ladies for giving so much to the education retirees of New Hampshire.

## SAVE THE DATE!

After a two-year Covid-imposed hiatus the NHREA will hold an in-person meeting in October. The meeting is being planned as we speak and more information will be available in the Fall/Winter newsletter.

Tracy Bricchi will assume the position of President-Elect. As an active educator Tracy has taught high school math, worked as a department coordinator and curriculum specialist in several school districts in New Hampshire.

Ann Kalasky will serve as the new Vice-President as well as chair of the Scholarship Committee. Ann worked and retired from the Manchester School District. She served on the Manchester Education Association's scholarship committee.

Our Fall/Winter newsletter will contain much more information on our new members.

## President's Message

by Sandra Amlaw, NHREA President

I recently came across an old saying that can be altered to fit the times we live in today. It was written by Martin Neimoller, a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany shortly after World War II. I would like to share his original message.

**First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out-because I was not a socialist.**

**Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out-because I was not a trade unionist.**

**Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-because I was not a Jew.**

**Then they came for me-and there was no one left to speak for me.**

Of course the situation for NHREA is nowhere near as dire as that faced by the people in Germany. But it is still important for members to speak up for each other when it comes to pro-

tecting their pension rights. Silence, indifference, and inaction do affect your future pensions.

When legislation is proposed to increase public pensions, we need to let our elected officials know how important it is to the welfare of recipients of the New Hampshire Retirement System. Members can take action by contacting their legislators, attending hearings, or simply signing up in favor of certain legislation that would support positive bills.

It is also important to volunteer to help recruit new members. The more members NHREA has, the greater power the organization has. Thank you to the members who sent me names of newer retirees. I did send a welcome note and a newsletter to introduce them to our organization.

Unfortunately, because our leadership, both local and state, is aging, myself included, it is becoming more



photo by Peter Desautels

difficult to hold meetings and lobby for legislation. If you know an education retiree, I would enjoy the opportunity to discuss the work that NHREA does and the successes we have had.

## AARP-NH Happenings

by Diana Griffin, AARP liaison

As a member of the Executive Council, I have the opportunity to become involved in many (or all) areas of volunteerism and programs offered by AARP.

As I am now in my second year of being on the Council – and as opportunities have opened up in the post Covid era, I am finding myself extremely busy with everything AARP!

I became a member of the Speakers Bureau early on, as I felt my teaching experience would be an asset as far as getting up in front of a group of people and presenting the various topics offered by the Speakers Bureau. I have given several presentations in various areas of the state on The Six Pillars of Brain Health – and have been a greeter at other presentations.

I would encourage all our NHRTA members to go on the AARP website - <https://states.aarp.org/new-hampshire/> - and check out the plethora of offerings to members. There are too many events, not just Speakers Bureau presentations, currently offered for me to include in this article, however I highly encourage you to check out the website for all that AARP-NH has to offer its members.

If you would like to have Speakers Bureau presenters come to your Library, Senior Center etc. please email me and I will help you get that set up.

The Speakers Bureau offers several presentations, including:

- Downsizing and Decluttering
- Be Red Cross Ready – Emergency Preparedness Essentials
- Fraud Watch Basics
- Six Pillars of Brain Health
- Retirement Planning

• Your Identity: Staying Connected and Protected

• We Need To Talk, which is a Driver Safety Program which can help you plan sensitive, successful conversations concerning elders safe driving.

• Safe Driver (6-hour presentation). This presentation is not offered virtually. It is a comprehensive program which consists of classroom teaching and helpful videos that will update participants on changes in driving laws, roads and safe driving skills. No driving or written test required.

There are several more offerings which may be found on the website. The fraud protection presentations are especially helpful in these days of so many scams and cybercrime.

Happy Spring everyone – no more snow hopefully – I need to see the flowers start blooming!

## OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have extra time on your hands? Do you want more interactive social time? Do you feel that you have skills that you would like to share? Are you volunteering right now for a group that could use more hands?

This issue of the newsletter is the beginning of a new column where we can share opportunities to volunteer. NHREA has no connection with any of the programs and makes no guarantees about any of them.

### **Rochester Opera House**, Rochester, NH

Usher at the historic Rochester Opera House. This beautiful space was built in 1908. It has the last moveable floor in a historic building in the United States. There are periodic usher trainings throughout the year. Ushers earn points to see productions. For more information call the Opera House at (603)332-2211.

### **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**

Museum Educator Position

Would you like to promote an appreciation of Native American Culture past and present?

The Museum Educator conducts guided tours of the Museum and Medicine Woods for groups of students and adults. During the open season, May through October, one Educator is on duty daily to conduct tours at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Duties also include preparing the museum for visitors, showing an introductory DVD, and cleaning up at the end of the day. Educators are also brought in for specific tour reservations especially during the busy Fall school tour season.

Begin training by shadowing other tour guides to gain knowledge and skills. Choose a flexible schedule which can either be paid or volunteer, as little as one day per week.

For questions, email [info@indianmuseum.org](mailto:info@indianmuseum.org) or call 603-456-2600. Anna Glavas, Deputy Director

### **PAX**

Program of Academic Exchange (PAX) works with international high school exchange students from over 70 countries. We are looking for coordinators in the NH/VT area. The program provides students from abroad a way to learn more about America and to

teach local students more about other cultures. This is a part-time, flexible and commission-based program. If you are interested, please go to the PAX website at [www.pax.org](http://www.pax.org) to learn more about the program. If you would like to speak with me, Peggy Jackson, directly I am in the PAX national office at 800-555-6211 ext 208 or at [peggyj@pax.org](mailto:peggyj@pax.org).

### **NAEP**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often called The Nation's Report Card, is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students in public and private schools in the United States know and are able to do in various subjects. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP has been conducted since 1969 and is often considered the "gold standard" in large-scale assessments.

Positions are available for the next testing session. Training starts in January and testing ends at the end of March.

Enter your contact information at [www.WorkNAEP.com](http://www.WorkNAEP.com) to be notified once applications are available.

## 2023 Legislative Report

by Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

There are 18 retirement bills proposed in the 2023 legislative session. Eight of these bills pertain only to Group 2 (police and fire). Eight deal with the management of the retirement system.

The remaining 2 bills are *extremely* important for NHREA members to focus on.

**SB57**-relative to the reduction in the calculation of state retirement annuities at age 65.

**SB205**-relative to a Cost of Living Adjustment for members of the retirement system.

Helpful hints for finding more information on these two retirement bills:

Go to [www.gencourt.state.nh.us](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us)

Tap on **Senate**

Tap on **Senate Home**

Tap on **Quick Links**

On left side of page under **Current Bills** fill in the bill number. Ex: **SB57**.

This information will give you the status of the bill and the next time and place it will be heard. Everyone is welcome to attend these hearings or show their support by contacting their legislators.

In past years retired educators showed their interest and support of bills by attending hearings wearing red shirts as a sign of unity.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [sandy\\_amlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com).

## FEED OUR NEED

As teachers we took the role of surrogate parents in many instances. For years we have used this space to suggest donations to local food pantries to help those who may be in need. Now is the time to look after ourselves. If you or any of your friends are in need of food, housing or emotional support please reach out. There is no shame in admitting that you need help. Call 211 for help to direct you to the assistance you need.

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#### Androscoggin Valley - Disbanded

#### Londonderry - Disbanded

#### Mount Washington Valley - Disbanded

#### Nashua - Disbanded

#### Strafford - Disbanded

Send all news and articles for the  
Fall/Winter 2023 edition to:

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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 & older = Free

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



## News From The Units

### **Strafford County Retired Educators (SCREA)**

*by Candy Bailey, SCREA Scholarship chair*

Sadly the SCREA has disbanded. The decision was made that due to rising costs for the meeting venue and smaller numbers of attendees the group would disband. The SCREA had previously made an annual scholarship donation to one of the high schools in Strafford County and had funds remaining. The funds were divided equally amongst the six high schools in the county. Schools were told that the funds were a gift and that the administration and staff were free to decide how they would use the money. The SCREA felt that these were the people who would know the needs of the high school better than anyone.

These funds are being generally used for scholarships but in one case they will be used for field trips. It is good to know that although we are no longer together as a group, the money that we collected will be used for great things.

### **Manchester Retired Educators**

The Manchester Area Retired Educators Association (MAREA) held it's holiday luncheon on December 7 at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester. We had a two-year hiatus due to Covid so it was nice seeing 99 attendees.

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**DATED MATERIAL**

## In Memorium

**Tom Walton, February 23, 2023**

Tom Walton, a longtime Concord, New Hampshire-area distance runner, triathlete, and coach, died on February 23, 2023, ten days after he suffered a heart attack

Walton was completely devoted to his runners as both athletes and people. He even became a justice of the peace so he could marry two of

them. He was recognized as the Carl A. Lundholm Memorial Award winner in 2013 for contributions for the community and athletics, and was elected to the NHTI Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.

As a member of NHTI's faculty, Walton developed and taught two courses through the Natural Sciences department: Personal Wellness, and Personal Fitness Training.

The program was opened by a welcome from our president Barbara Divenuti. Sue Chretien gave an invocation followed by a moment of silence for our departed members as well as a mention of the 81st year of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

We had a free will collection for a charitable organization. This year we chose FueledbyKids.org which is a volunteer group of students who

prepare weekend meals for needy Manchester area families. We were happy to announce our \$1810.00 donation to the cause.

After our meal, an estimated 25 of our members went home with a Christmas door prize.

Our next meeting will be this May, the date, place and time will be decided at a future date