



New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

COLA...What COLA? Where's the COLA?

This spring we will be discussing the COLA or lack thereof for the members of the New Hampshire Retirement System. To present this subject we have two people who work closely with this issue: Casey McCabe is the Director of the NH Retirement Security Coalition and Marty Karlon is the Public Information Officer for the NH Retirement System.

Casey McCabe became Director of the NH Retirement Security Coalition in

2011. At that time, she helped organize the Coalition partners and their members through one of the most critical fights for retirement security as the NH Legislature overhauled the benefits of current members and eliminated Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for retirees. She continued to be involved in retirement issues fighting for COLAs and lobbying against bills that would dismantle the NH Retirement System.

She returned to the position of Director for the Coalition in October of 2017. She assisted the Coalition through the Governor's 2017 Decennial Commission on Retirement and is currently supporting the partners through the 2018 Legislative Session. In her role as Director, Casey is responsible for running the Coalition's weekly meet-



Casey McCabe

ings, tracking all retirement legislation, drafting communications for partners to share with membership, serving as the Coalition's press contact, updating the Coalition's social media outlets, and working with and coordinating outside consultants, speakers, and national partners. Outside her work for
(See COLA... on pg. 6)



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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS...ESPECIALLY YOURS

As we move into 2018 we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. We have been successful in protecting your pension. However, we need to be aware that we have challenges in 2018, especially in membership recruitment and retention.

"Membership Matters...Especially Yours" is an important mantra. I fervently believe that each and every member is important to our organization, whether you are a new or a veteran retiree. I know that we work hard every day to protect the retirement pension that we contributed to during our work years. But the truth is that NHREA is losing members. We

have studied the problem and know that we need your help to turn this trend around.

NHREA is the state's largest organization dedicated to the preservation of benefits and advocacy of New Hampshire's retired educators.

I have met with Marybeth Dixon and Al Compo, NRTA, and with their help, I hope to form a membership Committee to address this issue. But a committee can only do so much. It is up to all of us to recruit new members.

Some of the loss is due to the inevitability of death. But we are losing

(See President's... on pg. 4)



photo by Peter Desautels

NHREA/AARP CONNECTION

by Martha LaFleur, Executive Council Member for AARP-NH

There is more to AARP than discounts!

"AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age." With more than 38 million members nationally, and approximately 230,000 of these members living in New Hampshire, AARP's overall goal is to enhance the lives of all of us as we age.

As an overview, I would like to share with you three areas of potential impact to all of us, to which AARP is providing focus and resources:

1) *Health Security* ~ Advocacy in caregiving, consumer offerings, and health care access (Medicare/Medicaid ACA).

2) *Financial Resilience* ~ Federal advocacy and post-election strategies for sustaining and strengthening Social Security. Build opportunities in work and jobs areas such as entrepreneurship and better equipping job seekers with the resources necessary to fight against discriminatory practices. Savings/planning and financial security are additional areas of attention and include fraud prevention and "work and save" programs. Still other areas of advocacy include public pensions, state budgets, and taxation.

3) *Personal Fulfillment/Community Engagement* ~ Here are just a few examples: volunteer involvement, workshops (e.g. "Discover your Real Possibilities"), outreach programs ("Create the Good") and social events such as "Movies for Grownups." AARP is also working with organizations and communities to help foster the concept of livable communities for all ages. I hope this brief overview provides some insight into the extensive work that AARP is doing for the benefit of its 50-plus members. And...oh yes...the discounts AARP offers are great too! (Go to www.aarp.org and click onto Members Benefits to see ALL that is available!)



photo by Mr. LaFleur

Upcoming Events

I would like to highlight two events that are scheduled for this Spring that might be of interest:

* AARP New Hampshire will continue to team up with Bank of New Hampshire for five FREE Saturday **Shred-a-thons**, to be held at these bank locations: Gilford, Littleton, Bedford, Dover and Concord. (These will take place in late April and early May).

* Exploring the possibility of turning your hobby into a business? Join

AARP New Hampshire, Small Business Administration and Score representatives to find out how! This is a FREE, interactive, two-hour workshop that will be held in Manchester and North Hampton in June.

For more details please remember to visit www.aarp.org/nh for updates on events, discounts and other opportunities.

Finally, I am pleased (and excited) that State Director, Todd Fahey, has invited me (as a representative of

Facebook Update

by Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor

The New Hampshire Retired Educators Facebook page continues to slowly gain more followers. Happily members have sent information that they want disseminated quickly. Understandably not everyone uses or even looks at Facebook. Please remember we are not asking you for personal information. Just to read and gain some information. If your unit is planning to meet let me know so that it can be posted. Please let me know if and how you might want the page to change. My e-mail is on the newsletter page in the roster. It is time for us seasoned citizens to enter the digital age!

Deadline for Fall 2018 Issue

The NHREA newsletter is far less interesting without your news.

Send all articles and Unit News for the Fall Newsletter to:

Co-Editor Candy Bailey
candy3499@aol.com

&

President Sandra Amlaw
sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com

Please send all correspondence by
August 15, 2018.

the AARP New Hampshire Executive Council) to accompany him to Washington D.C. in late April to attend the 2018 AARP Leadership Summit Event. In addition to a program of activities, we will be actively lobbying on behalf of NH's 50+ population in pursuit of those goals I have discussed previously. I am looking forward to working with other state volunteers, meeting our representatives and talking about important issues affecting NH 50-plus members.

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Susan N. McClane Audubon Center
84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301

Luncheon catered by the Common Man Restaurant

Spring Meeting Buffet Lunch Menu

Buffet (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 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

New Hampshire Retirement Security Coalition

12:30 p.m. - BUFFET LUNCHEON

Cost: \$30 per person*

See reservation form below

Reservation deadline, May 11, 2018

Seating limited to 100*

*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,
603-774-1092 or ca_george@aol.com, by May 15, 2018)



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.

Membership Report

by Norma Gray

As of February 28, 2018 we have 3374 paid members. If you are getting home from out of state and find it waiting PLEASE let us know so you can go online and see it and save the postage.

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 11, 2018.

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 15, 2018.



Andrus Awards

MANCHESTER — AARP New Hampshire honored about 75 volunteers during a luncheon Nov. 9, 2017 at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics. The most prestigious volunteer award, the Andrus Award for Community Service, was presented to John Larrabee, a leader in his community of Eastman.

The Andrus Award, named after AARP founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, recognizes "outstanding volunteers who are making a powerful difference in their communities in ways that are consistent with AARP's mission, vision and strategic direction."



Others honored at the volunteer recognition luncheon were:

- Andrus Award finalists: Dick Chevretils, Concord; Marty and Yvonne Devine, Raymond; Ken Gould, Kingston; and Lillian Walston, Concord
- Advocacy Volunteer of the Year: Guy Chapdelaine, Bedford
- Driver Safety Volunteer of the Year: Robert Bloomfield, Amherst
- Tax-Aide Volunteer of the Year: Pauline Gagne, Nashua
- Retired Educator of the Year: Candy Bailey, Rochester
- Community Partner of the Year: Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

President's... (Continued from page 1)

other members who just don't renew their membership. It has been difficult to contact newly retired educators due to the privacy restrictions at the SAU level.

NHREA cannot sustain its existence for very long with these losses. These losses affect both the financial aspect of the organization and the volunteers that keep it running.

As I have said at every local unit that I have visited, 'Membership Matters': in participation at the local level, their projects and programs, and at the state level with advocacy and committee work.

When we lose members, we lose their valuable contributions and their voice in Concord. We cannot be successful in our mission without a strong, active membership.

Our strength is in our numbers.

Will each of you reach out to a non-member and ask them to join NHREA today? If you believe like I do that **Membership Matters... Especially Yours**, I know you will.



Candy Bailey was presented with the New Hampshire Retired Educators Award at the AARP Andrus Awards ceremony held at St. Anselm's College. Candy is a longtime advocate for retired educators. She is currently editor of the NHREA newsletter which is published twice a year. She has also attended NRTA's membership conference in Chicago.



In Memory Of.....



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

Nancy Bean - Merrimack Valley Retired Educators Association

Nancy Bean passed away on December 17, 2017. She worked in the Concord School District until her retirement in 1991.

Ken Bowlen - Strafford County Retired Educators

Ken began his teaching career in Lebanon, Maine for one year and then he moved to the Wentworth School in Portsmouth, the community where he grew up. After the Wentworth School closed, Ken transitioned to the Little Harbor School. He retired from the Portsmouth School System with a total of 38 years as an educator. Ken's wife Priscilla, who was also an active member of the Strafford County Retired Educators, died in 2016.

Betty Cate - Merrimack Valley Retired Educators Association

Betty Cate passed away on December 23, 2017. She worked for over 20 years as a teacher for the Pembroke School District working at Three Rivers Middle School and retired in 2007. Betty loved quilting and was a committee chairman for the Capital Quilters Guild.

Barbara Doyle - Seacoast Retired Educators Association

Barbara passed away on October 18, 2017 at her home in Barefoot Bay, FL. Barbara was a retired teacher of 31 years in the Portsmouth school system. Her dedication to teaching left a positive imprint on all the children in Portsmouth who had her as a teacher. She was the NHREA president from 2004-2010.

Paul Magoon - Sullivan County Retired Educators Association

Paul Magoon passed away on October 26, 2017. He taught English at Stevens High School for 36 years, retiring in 1991 as Chairman of the English and Music Departments. Paul had been president of The Sullivan County Retired Educators for many years and an active member of NHREA.

Jane Marrett - Merrimack Valley Retired Educators Association

Jane I. Marrett, 86, of Meredith, died on February 9, 2018 at Meredith Bay Colony Club. Through the years Jane taught many grades. After teaching in many countries she returned to the United States and ended her 22 year career in Concord.



2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Decennial Commission met until December when they filed their final report. They met weekly with several "experts" testifying about the retirement system. Each member sub group was allowed to have one person testify. Some of the recommendations made it into bills and some did not.

The following is a summary of the retirement bills that were filed in the 2018 session: *The two bills that are of most importance to retired educators are starred.*

HB1427-FN-relative to membership in the retirement system for certain officials

HB1603-relative to employee representation on the independent investment committee in the New Hampshire retirement system

HB1729-FN-allowing the state retiree medical benefits subsidy to be used for alternative group insurance plans

HB1754-FN-establishing a state defined contribution retirement plan for state and political subdivision members of the retirement system

***HB1756-FN-A**-relative to an additional allowance and a COLA for retirees from the state retirement system

***HB1757-FN**-relative to the reduction in the calculation of state retirement system annuities at age 65

HB1767-FN-establishing a multiple employer public retirement system

HB1805-establishing a committee to study level dollar amortization of retirement system unfounded accrued liability

HB1823-FN-relative to layered amortization of retirement system liabilities

SB458-authorizing the purchase of retirement system creditable service by a certain surviving spouse

SB324-FN-allowing an optional retirement system allowance to include a subsequent remarriage of a divorced retiree

SB-including police officers of the capital area police unit in group II of the retirement system

SB-relative to health care premium payments for certain retired state workers

CACR-relating to the retirement age of judges. Providing that the retirement age of judges be increased



NEWS FROM THE UNITS

Strafford County Retired Educators Association (SCREA)

by Penny Bodwell

The members of the Strafford County Retired Educators Association meet on the second Thursday in April, May, June, September and October. Doors open at 10:00 for registration, meeting at 10:30, a presentation at 11:00 followed by lunch at noon with time to socialize in between.

Spring Hill in South Berwick will host all three spring meetings with their popular buffet for \$25. Plans are in place for the following programs: April 12 South Pole by Sally Elshout, May 10 Isles of Shoals by Ann Beatty, and a Hiking Adventure in Patagonia with Marcia and Don Goodnow on June 14.

We will continue our tradition of conducting a raffle at each meeting to benefit our Scholarship Fund given to a deserving senior from Strafford County who plans to major in education.

We appreciate the tireless efforts of Ken Bowlen who for years chaired the Scholarship Committee earning the money to fund our scholarship with his raffles at each meeting. May he rest in peace.

Sullivan County Retired Educators (SCTEA)

By Anne Rouillard

On October 24, 2017, The Sullivan County Retired Educators met in Claremont at The Sugar River Technical Center. Twenty members and guests attended. Students in The Culinary Arts Department prepared and served the luncheon.

Our guest speaker was John Cloutier, a State Representative. John is a Claremont native, graduating from Stevens High School and later from Keene State College. John has



been a state representative for many years and elected by Sullivan County, District 10, thirteen times. He also is a security officer, a substitute teacher and serves on various state committees. John admitted to having limited knowledge regarding the state retirement legislation, but did mention that because New Hampshire is a frugal state, this causes problems with our retirement system. He did tell us that in January a bill will be presented to define the Retirement Benefit Plan and also The Contribution Plan. There will be major changes to these plans.

Members were encouraged to join NHREA and support our state association. Information was available to anyone interested.

I am sorry to report that Paul Magoon died on October 26, 2017, following a period of declining health. Paul had been our unit president for many years and was a strong supporter and advocate for NHREA. He will be truly missed.

Seacoast Retired Educators Association (SREA)

By Jim Andrews

Seacoast REA presents a varied program of speakers that mirror the interests and concerns of our 145 members. So far this year we have

hosted Attorney Jack McGee speaking on estate planning; New Hampshire Retirement System Public Information Officer Marty Karlon speaking on NHRS activities; and Strawberry Banke Historical Garden Curator Eric Wolcholz speaking on cultivating herbs. In April we will be treated to musical selections presented by Patrick Dorrow Productions, and in May we will learn about the York Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The group collects food donations which are shared between local food pantries and actively raises money to support scholarships at the three high schools in our region.

COLA... (Continued from page 1)

the Coalition, you will find her hiking in the White Mountains, practicing yoga, and working on her Crossfit skills.

Marty Karlon has served as public information officer for the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) since



Marty Karlon

2010. He is responsible for member, retiree, and employer communications and education, as well as monitoring legislation related to the retirement system and providing testimony and data to policymakers. Prior to joining NHRS he worked in senior editorial and online positions at New Hampshire newspapers for 20 years. He's not a NH native, but he's lived here for more than half his life.

NHREA 2018 ROSTER

OFFICERS

President - Sandra Amlaw

39 Gowing Rd., Hudson 03051
603-883-9427 cell 603-966-6340
sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com

President-elect - VACANT

Vice President - Pauline Desautels

24 Carroll St., Nashua 03063-3149
603-889-6437 pdesautels@aol.com

Recording Secretary - Linda Fanny

16 Douglas Ave., Concord 03303
603-224-3415 lindamfanny@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary - Connie George

1042 Montalona Rd., Dunbarton 03046
603-774-1092 ca_george@aol.com

Membership Secretary - Norma Gray

19 Adams Dr., Kittery, ME 03904
207-439-5002 victTreas@aol.com

Treasurer - Sue Holak

50 Isaac Circle, Dover, NH 03820
603-749-1619 slpsue@yahoo.com

Executive Director - VACANT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Past President - Barbara Doyle

561 Ocean Blvd. #4, Hampton 03842
603-926-0648 badred561@aol.com

Newsletter Editor - Candy Bailey

68A Church St., Rochester 03839
603-767-3022 candy3499@aol.com

Delegate to NEA/NH Assembly &

Executive Board - Sandra Amlaw

39 Gowing Rd., Hudson 03051
603-883-9427 cell 603-966-6340
sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com

Rep. to AARP-NH Council - Martha Lafleur

mlafleur45@gmail.com

Parliamentarian - VACANT

New Membership Chairperson - Peter Desautels

24 Carroll St., Nashua 03063-3149
603-889-6437 pdesautels@aol.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Legislative - VACANT

Nominating - VACANT

Scholarship - Margaret Pyszka

188 Pulpit Rd., Bedford 03110
603-464-9122 margaretpyszka@comcast.net

Publicity - Peter Desautels

24 Carroll St., Nashua 03063-3149
603-889-6437 pdesautels@aol.com

Web Page Manager - Sandra Amlaw

39 Gowing Rd., Hudson 03051
603-883-9427 cell 603-966-6340
sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com

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.

NHREA 2018 UNIT PRESIDENTS

Ammonoosuc Valley

Linda Massimilla 444-5270
balloontraveler@yahoo.com 197 Orchard Rd., Littleton 03561

Androscoggin Valley

Louise Estrella gslmestrella@gmail.com

Cheshire County

Jeanette Gardner jpamgardner67@yahoo.com

Governor Wentworth

Norma Metz
snmetz@roadrunner.com P.O. Box 115, Melvin Village 03850

Lakes Region

Patty Heinz pweden@aol.com

Londonderry

Penny Felix
felixnp712@gmail.com 47 Christine Dr., Milford 03055

Manchester Area

Barbara DiVenuti
bdivenuti@comcast.net 396 Lowell St., Manchester 03104

Merrimack Valley

Beth Corcoran co-president 848-6277
backwilt@yahoo.com 148 Rumfort St., Concord 03301
Barbara Ward co-president 225-9141
149 East Side Dr., Concord 03301

Metallak

Mary Jolles 237-0979
mjolles@myfairpoint.net 206 Roaring Brook Rd., Colebrook 03076

Mount Washington Valley

Nashua

Susan Haas 889-1326 suehaas@comcast.net
18 Watersedge Dr., Nashua 03063

Salem Area

Richard O'Shaughnessy 898-5809
salemretirededucators@comcast.net 10 School St., Salem 03079

Seacoast

Nancy Andrews co-president nancy1969@comcast.net
James Andrews co-president jamesandrews161@comcast.net

Southeastern

Charlene Cochran 620-9428
ccochrane@myfairpoint.net

Southwestern

Elizabeth Collins 654-9627
ebc.collins@gmail.com 45 Collins Rd., Wilton 03086

Strafford

Dot Quinn dotreading@comcast.net

Sullivan

Anne Rouillard co-president anniebtr@aol.com
Joelle Merchant co-president

Timberlane-Hampstead-Sanborn

Sue Sherman
suesherman@hotmail.com 3 Kimball Ave., Plaistow 03865

Upper Valley

Elaine Hawthorne hawk8@myfairpoint.net

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 winter. We can help our fellow citizens of New Hampshire. At each of our general membership meetings we will be collecting money to donate to a local food pantry. Thank you retired teachers for your generosity to those who may be facing difficult times.