

Fall/
Winter
2025

New Hampshire Retired Educators Newsletter

www.nh-rea.org

What Is Happening To NHREA?

Many members may remember the NHREA of the past years. Membership meetings where important retirement issues were discussed, Red Shirt events at the State House to show solidarity for pending retirement-related bills, bi-annual newsletters with information about scholarships.

Where has this gone? Why are we not hearing about the NHREA? Is the problem a lack of interest? What has happened to the active groups of retired educators? Are retirees so busy that they can't be bothered with another commitment?

A recent letter to the Executive Board raised some valid and worrisome questions.

The letter writer is concerned about lack of board meetings, the revenue that the NHREA generates and how it is spent, scholarships, and regional units.

These are all valid concerns and some of them will be addressed at the general membership meeting in October. Following is a brief answer to some of the concerns:

The NHREA executive board has been in a state of flux for the last couple of years. The previous president served many years and felt that it was time for a new leader to take the helm. She remains in an advisory capacity. A new president was elected

at the Spring general membership meeting. Within a short period of time it became apparent to that president that her outside commitments and new position in the state legislature gave her little time to commit to the NHREA and she resigned. The board has selected an interim president who will be voted on at the meeting in October.

The scholarship committee has been inactive since the passing of its long-time head Margaret Psyka. We are continuing to invite members to volunteer to be members of the committee. The last scholarships were awarded in 2019 before the shutdown. The hope is to reinvigorate the committee and begin awarding scholarships to students planning on a career in education.

The NHREA treasurer gives a complete review of the group's finances at each general membership meeting. This will happen at the meeting in October.

The regional units sadly have been disbanding over the last few years. There are now 12 units. Some of these are active and have healthy memberships.

The fact of the matter is that the NHREA membership is aging and we need the next group of new retirees to join and keep it alive.

Meet Our Interim President



Dear NHREA members:
My name is Diana Griffin and I am your new Interim President. I retired in 2019 after a career of 48 years, having taught in both Ireland and New

Hampshire. I loved my years of teaching however, once I retired, I finally had the time to do all those things that had been put on hold while I was busy teaching.

Our previous president Sandy Amlaw introduced me to the New Hampshire Retired Educators Association. I was already a member of NEA-Retired, but at that time, I was unaware there was an association in NH specifically for retired educators.

In 2021 I was invited to become a member of the AARP Executive Council as a representative from NHREA.

NRTA (the National Retired Teachers Association) is the national umbrella organization for NHREA. My primary goal for this upcoming year is to increase our membership by creating an awareness of this organization in NH.

Our organization is endorsed and supported by NEANH and AARP. We invite anyone who was involved in education to become a member. This covers the gamut from superintendents, principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, school lunch staff etc. We welcome everyone!

I look forward to meeting you at our Annual Meeting at the NH Audubon Society, 84 Silk Farm Road in Concord on Tuesday, October 7.

Diana Griffin

Why Be A Member

This is what NHREA does for you:

- Protects Your Pension

We are a "watchdog group" for your retirement benefits. We advocate for your retirement security by monitoring NH pension legislation to ensure your promised income remains protected. In 2018 we successfully lobbied for a 1.5% COLA on the first \$30,000 of your retirement income and we continue to lobby for your retirement benefits.

- Provides Trusted Information

Receive timely, relevant updates from AARP New Hampshire on topics that matter most to you and your loved ones, including: Social Security, Medicare, Prescription drugs, Caregiving, Fraud Prevention and more resources to support your well-being and financial security.

- Helps You Stay Connected

Build lasting friendships and social connections that enrich your golden years through events, meetups, and shared experiences.

- Celebrates Educators

We honor your legacy with special events around Back to School and Teacher Appreciation, offering meaningful ways to continue giving back

- Supports the Environment

Your membership helps preserve New Hampshire's natural beauty — including hosting our annual meeting at the New Hampshire Audubon Society.

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday October 7, 2025

Audubon Center
84 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH

Luncheon catered by Washington Street Cafe

Fall Meeting Buffet Lunch Menu

Buffet (no pre-selection required)

Garden Salad, rolls and butter

Classic Chicken Cacciatore

Vegetable Stir Fry

Assorted Dessert Tray

Beverage station w/water, coffee and soda selections

10:00-10:30a.m.- Registration / coffee, tea, and water

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.- BUSINESS MEETING

Diana Griffin

**11:30.m.-12:15 p.m.- Justin Gamache
*Wright Museum***

12:15 P.M. BUFFET LUNCHEON

Cost \$25.00 per person*

See reservation form

Reservation deadline September 26,2025

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

* If member is not staying for lunch there will be a \$5.00 registration fee to
cover cost of materials, coffee

Luncheon is \$25 per person

Reservations must be received by Friday October 3, 2025

Reservations can be sent to Candy Bailey by email

Candy3499@aol.com Or text to: 603-767-3022

State the number of people that will be attending

Pay with check or cash at the door when you arrive at the meeting

Fall Meeting Speaker



This fall we are excited to have Justin Gamache, the Curator of the Wright Museum of World War II in Wolfeboro as our featured speaker.

Justin will present an interesting look back at the "power of persuasion". We are in a time when we are bombarded by information from all sides. It is sometimes difficult to separate facts from opinions. As Justin will demonstrate in his talk this is not new. The title for his talk is "*WWII Propaganda: Patriotism, Posters, and the Power of Persuasion.*" It is an interesting look at how as things change they somehow remain the same.

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.

Remembering

Margaret Pyszka

Margaret Pyszka- October 22, 2023. Margaret worked for over 25 years for the Merrimack Valley School District where she served as an English teacher and Guidance Counselor. She was a member of the Merrimack Valley Federation of Teachers, where she once served as President. Her dedication to education extended to the National Education Association of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Retired Educators Association, where she received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. Margaret also selflessly volunteered at The Pierce Manse, further illustrating her commitment to making the world a better place.

Maureen Chamberlain

Maureen Chamberlain- January 29,2025. Maureen She her career in Windham, NH teaching elementary school, and then spent several years at Nuffield School in Derry, NH teaching preschool. She ended her career at East Derry Memorial School teaching first graders, her favorite age. She was well respected as a primary educator earning Teacher of the Year in 2007. She retired in 2007 after teaching for thirty three years in the classroom. Maureen was the editor of the newsletter for the NHREA for many years.

NHREA 2024 ROSTER

OFFICERS

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Event /Program Coordinator -

Legislative - VACANT

Nominating - VACANT

Scholarship

Publicity - VACANT

Web Page Manager - Sandy Amlaw

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Elaine Hawthorne
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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.

Opportunities



Hello, my name is Melissa, and I am the Volunteer Coordinator at the Great Bay Discovery Center. We have a robust education program that helps connect elementary school students to Great Bay, and our school programs are possible because of our amazing volunteers! We have field trips every weekday morning mid-April

through mid-June and the kids learn about the natural history of Great Bay (and again in the fall, all about cultural history). If you are interested in volunteering please contact me.

Melissa Brogle

Volunteer Coordinator

Marine Division

Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

89 Depot Rd., Greenland, NH 03840

603-778-0015

melissa.brogle@wildlife.nh.gov

greatbay.org | wildlife.nh.gov

NHREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Please circle the amount enclosed.

Dues: 1yr. = \$25, 3 yrs. = \$60

Lifetime (up to 74 years old) = \$200

Lifetime (75-89 years old) = \$100

90 years & older = FREE

Please mail the dues with a check
payable to NHREA to:

Norma Gray
19 Adams Dr.
Kittery, ME 03904

NH Retired Educators Assn.
NEA/NEW HAMPSHIRE
9 South Spring Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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DATED MATERIAL



Time to Look After Yourself As Well As Others

This is the space that we usually reserve to suggest donations to local food pantries. Food and housing insecurity is everywhere and is not something to be ashamed of. If you or someone you know needs help getting enough food please reach out for help. If you are not aware of a food pantry in your community please call the state assistance line at 211. This number may also be of assistance for housing.

The New Hampshire Food Bank now has pantries in many high school and middle schools. If you are able please consider donating to this important cause.

How Do You Want Your Newsletter?

You may have noticed that there has only been one newsletter this year. In the past the newsletter was published in the spring and in the fall. This year with the restructuring of the Executive Committee, the search for members willing to fill offices and wanting to make sure that the newsletter is relevant, there is only this one issue.

This leads to questions: Do you as members want to get the newsletter more than once a year? Is once a year enough? What information do you look for in the newsletter? Are you willing to contribute to what is published?

For the foreseeable future there will be one newsletter a year. If the editorial staff hears otherwise that can be changed. As is often said, YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT! That is true not just for the newsletter but for the organization as well.