

Fall/
Winter
2024



New Hampshire Retired Educators

www.nh-rea.org

Newsletter

Your NHREA

What is the NHREA?

The NHREA (New Hampshire Retired Educators Association) is an organization open to any retiree who was involved in education. Members include teachers, administrators, and school support personnel. The group is affiliated with the NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association) and AARP.

It was founded in 1952 to promote the economic, social and professional welfare of retirees. Currently there are more than 2000 members in the organization.

There are 18 local units under the guidelines of the state group. Many of these regional units are presently disbanded. The state group is governed by an Executive Board made up of officers, committee chairs and local presidents.

NHREA Mission Statement

"The mission of the NHREA is to advocate for the retired educators in the preservation of their retirement benefits and to support future educators through our scholarship program."

Why Encourage New Retirees to Join?

The NHREA supports legislation to protect and improve retirement benefits for educators.

The NHREA can provide information of value to retirees.

The NHREA publishes a newsletter that can share information state-wide

The Challenges We Face

A group is only as strong as its membership. Right now membership is not increasing as it must to stay strong. Local units are disbanding. Some of this started during the pandemic when members weren't comfortable meeting in large groups. Unfortunately now that we are able to meet face-to-face many of the local units have not started up again.

Our group membership is aging. It has been a challenge to bring in younger retirees. Newer retirees may be looking for something that is not offered by the NHREA. One challenge is to find out what this is.

Finding new members has been an ongoing challenge. Privacy laws and practices have changed. School districts are reluctant to share retiree information. This means that we are relying on word-of-mouth to gain new members.

When retiree related legislation is open to public input a strong presence by those affected may possibly make a difference. Retirees contacting their state representatives lets them know that we merit attention.

What can Be Done?

Each year the NHREA has a General Membership meeting. This is held in the spring. This is a chance to hear updates in state legislation, meet other members and discuss and vote on new initiatives. The larger the membership the stronger the group. Please come to the meeting. The time, place and date will be in the Spring newsletter.



President's Message

Tracy Bricchi,
NHREA President

Hello all!

I have been
incredibly busy

these past few months since we last met. My position on the MVSD school board is a little less busy in the summer but it's beginning to heat up with the opening of school and the beginning of budget season.

I have also decided to run for a seat in the NH House of Representatives. I will be representing District 15 which is Penacook, Ward 1 of Concord. I have lived in Penacook for over 30 years and I love this community. I believe I can bring some good energy to the House.

Given my time on the school board, I have felt the dilemma of balancing the needs of students with the needs of the taxpayers. It is shameful that NH ranks last in the nation for state funding to education. I realize this is due to the way education is funded in our state - primarily through property tax. The people of NH cannot afford this method any longer. Something needs to be done to fix this. I am hopeful that I will be able to help with this problem when I am elected.

The general election is November 5th. It is very important to vote in this election. Voting gives you the chance to play a role in who represents you and your friends and where funding and resources are allocated.

If you need help getting to the polls there are many agencies in each community that will give free rides. Contact your town or city hall to find a ride.

Vote! Vote!

November 5 will mark the end of months (years?) of campaign ads on television, flyers in your mailbox, pleas for donations on your Facebook feed and trying to avoid political conversation wherever you go. All of this is not for nothing. This will be a very important election regardless of which of the candidates or parties you favor.

Please exercise your right to vote. If you aren't sure of your polling location this link provides all of the polls in all of the cities and towns in New Hampshire:

<https://app.sos.nh.gov/pollingplacesampleballot>

If you are interested in helping at the polls call your city clerk to see if he/she can put you in contact with your moderator.



What Would You Like To Do After Your summer Vacation?

Tracy Bricchi, NHREA President

Remember when that was the discussion the first week back at school? Now that we have retired many people – most likely those not yet retired - liken it to an extended summer vacation.

According to Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies 57 percent of American workers plan to continue working in retirement, with 36 percent going part-time and 21 percent full-time. Some say they are working because they need the income while others say they just like to keep busy. Whatever the reason, that is a significant portion of retirees.

In Penacook, NH there is a charter school staffed primarily with retirees from the Merrimack Valley school district. CSI (Competencies, Skills, and Interests) Charter School is a public charter school for 17 to 22-year old students. Their website states: "It is the mission of CSI Charter School to provide a small, non-judgmental, competency- based academic environment targeting independent, self-motivated high school students. CSI creates an opportunity to meet high academic standards through an individualized program that enables them to earn a high school diploma and transition to a work setting or continue their education at the post-secondary level." CSI also partners with NHTI to allow students to take college courses to meet their competencies.

The co-administrators, James Gorman and Chris Barry are former

administrators in the district. Retired coaches include Linda Fanny - English, Dave Anderson - Math, Harvey Black - Math & Science, Larry Boucher - Math & Science, Ryan Brandt - Science, Seelye Longnecker - Social Studies, and Tracey Stevens - Math. These retirees are the backbone of the school.

There are many charter schools in NH that are always looking for teachers/coaches. If you are interested in some part-time work, reach out to them and see if you would be a good fit.

There are many more part-time jobs on AARPs list of the top 25 Part-time jobs for retirees:

- Bookkeeper
- School Bus Driver
- Office Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Secretary
- Nanny
- Home Health Aide
- Receptionist
- Office Clerk
- Security Guard
- Customer Service Representative
- Retail Sales Associate
- Cashier

If you are feeling the need to get back into the workforce, the sky's the limit! Let us know what part-time jobs you have. We would love to feature you in our newsletter and highlight what you are doing.

Opportunities

GO WHERE YOU'RE NEEDED:

JOIN AMERICORPS TODAY AND SERVE YOUR COUNTRY

AmeriCorps allows you to stay engaged after retirement. Serve at a non-profit, school, faith-based organization, or municipal agency and support the long-term health of your community. You'll also earn a stipend and an education award, which you can pass on to your children or grandchildren.

If you're ready to get involved, then don't delay, contact us today:

Call: 862-210-5569

Email: goodwillamericorps@gmail.com

<https://goodwillnne.org/programs/amicorps>

PEAR DECK TUTOR IS LOOKING FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS TO JOIN OUR REMOTE TUTORING COMMUNITY

We believe that 1:1 tutoring can change a student's life - and we're always looking for tutors who share that belief. Virtual tutoring via Pear Deck Tutor is flexible, 100% remote, and provides a steady source of income for retired educators. Tutors set their own hours and choose the times that work best for them.

Apply today on our site:

<https://grnh.se/1a1893f26us>

Contact Info: peardecktutor@goguardian.com

Pear Deck Learning

2030 E Maple Ave, Suite 100

El Segundo, CA 90245

1(888)310-0410

MY TURN, INC

MY TURN, Inc. (a non-profit organization) seeks self-motivated and compassionate tutors to assist adult education students. Candidates from all academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply, however, there is a strong need for math and English language tutors.

Duties include:

- Working with individual or small groups of students and supporting their use of online learning platforms.
- Building and maintaining rapport with students, which may include reaching out to students via telephone.
- Option to work with students outside of our classroom/office.

Volunteers must commit to keeping student information confidential and complete a criminal background check. We will provide the forms to you and cover costs. Most of our students are aged 18+, but some students may be aged 16 or 17 and senior citizens.

We also are willing to participate in academic internships for university students and will work with their instructor/professor to meet their needs to earn credit from their institution. Start/end dates of internship will normally coincide with the university calendar and last one semester. We are currently approved by NH Dept. of Labor to host an intern and will make all reasonable attempts to support interns in completing projects for academic course credit.

my-turn.org

NEWSLETTER HELP

This newsletter is an effective way to get information out all over the state and to other states as well. Many of our retired educators have moved from the town or city they taught in to other parts of the state or country.

The newsletter staff is looking for one, or more than one volunteer to help gather news, stories and general information to share. Are you living in a retirement village out-of-state with other retired New Hampshire educators? Have you been on a cruise with teacher friends? Are you volunteering or working part-time in the school where you taught?

We are looking for a potential Lois Lane or Jimmy Olsen to get information out to other educators. Please contact the newsletter editor at candy3499@aol.com

A reminder that the NHREA does not endorse or sponsor any of the opportunities that are listed. This column is meant as a forum for individuals or groups to let others know about them.

**Spring 2025
News Deadline
April 18, 2025**

Send information to:
Candy Bailey, Newsletter Editor
Candy3499@aol.com

NHREA 2024 ROSTER

OFFICERS

President – Tracy Bricchi

146 Village Street, Penacook 03303
tbricchi@hotmail.com 603-491-8927

Vice President - Ann Kalasky

14 Rosewood Ln, Manchester 03103

Recording Secretary - Linda Fanny

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

Corresponding Secretary - VACANT

Membership Secretary- Norma Gray

19 Adams Dr., Kittery, ME 03904
815-546-0418 victtreasures@comcast.net

Treasurer - Barbara DiVenuti

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

Executive Director - VACANT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Newsletter Editor - Candy Bailey

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

Delegate to NEA/NH Assembly - Sandy Amlaw

39 Gowling Rd., Hudson, NH 03051
603-883-9427 cell 603-966-6340
Sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com

Rep to AARP - NH Council - Diana Griffin

603-320-1891 digriff@comcast.net

Parliamentarian - VACANT

Event /Program Coordinator - VACANT

28 Caslyn Dr., Eliot ME 03903
1-207-703-2117

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Legislative - VACANT

Nominating - VACANT

Scholarship - Ann Kalasky

14 Rosewood Ln, Manchester 03103
603-512-3435

Publicity - VACANT

Web Page Manager - Sandy Amlaw

39 Gowling Rd., Hudson, NH 03051
603-883-9427 cell 603-966-6340
Sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com

NHREA 2017-2018 UNIT PRESIDENTS

Ammonoosuc Valley

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

Androscoggin Valley - DISBANDED

Louise Estrella gslmestrella@gmail.com

Cheshire County

Maureen Henry- 357-3305

Governor Wentworth

Deborah Yurick- President
Deborahy53@gmail.com
40 Central St., Farmington, NH 03835

Lakes Region

Joan Shaheen 536-5263

Londonderry - DISBANDED

Manchester Area

Barbara DiVenuti bdivenuti@comcast.net
396 Lowell St., Manchester 03104
603-390-1908

Merrimack Valley

Kathy Gray kbushmv@gmail.com 582-3461

34 Abbott Rd, Penacook, NH 03303

Sue Huppi – Co-President

s.huppi@comcast.net 731-6101

2 Lovage Place, Penacook, NH 03303

Metallak

Cynthia Mills- President

rcmills@myfairpoint.net

Terrence Rosi- Vice-president

terrencerosi@gmail.com

Mount Washington Valley -

DISBANDED

Nashua - DISBANDED

Salem Area

Frank Stewart Salemretirededucators@comcast.net

10 School St., Salem, NH 03079

Seacoast

James Andrews co-president

jamesandrews161@comcast.net

Janet Lovering co-president

j.lovering13@myfairpoint.net

Southeastern

Charlene Cochrane 2ccochrane@gmail.com

Southwestern

Elizabeth Collins 654-9627

lelizabethcollins@gmail.com

45 Collins Rd., Wilton, NH 03086

Strafford - DISBANDED

Timberlane-Hampstead-Sanborn

Sue Sherman susherm@hotmail.com

3 kimball Ave., Plaistow NH 03865

Gail Ryan Dacey V.P. grd514@aol.com

Upper Valley

Elaine Hawthorne hawk8@myfairpoint.net

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.

How Can We Reach You?

First we wrote letters letters. It took a while for a friend to receive it. Then the friend wrote back. Technology advanced. Next was a phone call. If no one was there we left a message. More progress... Then the internet happened. We can communicate with people all over the world. I know! It was magical! Open the computer and you can connect with everyone. I know this is true because I've had three marriage proposals and there are at least four gentleman that think I am "...a lovely, handsome lady".

At this time there are many ways to keep in touch: email, Facebook, Snapchat, Threads, Instagram and many others that I am too old to even be aware of.

What is your preferred method of communication? How to you keep up with current goings on? NHREA currently has a Facebook page: New Hampshire Retired Educators. We have a presence online: nh-rea.org, and we have this newsletter.

Here is the question: how can we best reach you. The executive board of the NHREA doesn't want you to read what we have to say, we want your input. If there is a preferred method to do this we want to know what it is.

Please let us know. The board members' contact information is on the NHREA Roster page of this newsletter. We want to hear from you.

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



Be Kind To Yourself

This summer showed an abundance of color in the garden. I spent hours just sitting and enjoying the warmth, the pollinators, the birds, and our fountains. I realize how privileged I am to have this house, the yard and the garden. I am also grateful knowing that if I have a problem I have family in the area that will come to my aid in an instant.

Not all of us are as fortunate. Some retirees are in circumstances where there is no close extended family or group of friends to provide support. Being self-reliant is a great asset but so is knowing when you need help.

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. Getting this newsletter makes you a part of a community of retired educators. The roster is included. Connect with someone if you need a conversation.

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

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DATED MATERIAL

News from AARP

*Diana Griffen, NHREA-AARP
Representative*

It has been a busy summer and early fall with all the community happenings, meetings, Speakers Bureau presentations and voter engagement events in the world of AARP NH.

There are three Volunteer Community groups at AARP-NH. The Greater Concord Volunteer Team, the Greater Manchester Volunteer Team and the Seacoast Volunteer Team. These teams are headed up by Ashley Davis, who is the Associate Director of Community Outreach and Advocacy - one of the five full-time staff members at the state office in Concord.

There have been many events this summer for members and their friends (non-members are always welcome to take part) including Ice Cream nights, Movies for Grown Ups, Wine Tasting, Nature Walks, the Sunflower Festival in Lee, Farm to Table dinner, Paper Shredding, Mini Golf and many other exciting things going on. Every

event has a theme-related topic regarding issues facing the 50+ population such as Social Security, Medicare, Prescription Drugs, Caregiving and Fraud concerns.

The Voter Engagement group along with the Capital City Task Force has been most interesting in this busy election year. AARP is strictly nonpartisan. We focus on issues facing the 50+ population NOT on candidates. AARP never endorses a candidate nor contributes money to any campaign or individual running for office.

I would encourage all of you to check out the AARP website - www.aarp.org/NH - for information on events, etc. going on over the next few months. The website has all the information you need, however, please feel free to contact me at digriff@comcast.net if you need any help or advice regarding questions you might have involving AARP. I'm happy to help.

Happy Fall everyone!

Diana Griffin