

Spring/
Summer
2024



New Hampshire Retired Educators

www.nh-rea.org

Newsletter

ANNUAL Spring MEETING Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Pope Memorial SPCA of Concord
94 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH
(directions on page 4)

Luncheon catered by Washington Street Cafe

Spring 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

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND PLACE ON YOUR
CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND.
YOUR INPUT MATTERS!

10:00-10:30a.m.-Registration

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.-BUSINESS MEETING
President Tracy Bricchi presiding

11:30.a.m.-12:30 p.m.- Rebecca Rule
That Reminds Me of a Story

12:30 P.M. BUFFET LUNCHEON
Cost \$25.00 per person*

See reservation form. Reservation deadline May 6, 2024
Seating limited to 100*

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

Cancellations must be sent Ann Kalasky 603-512-3435
afiftybill@comcast.net

Opportunities

Granite State Ambassadors

Granite State Ambassadors, Inc. is a program based in New Hampshire designed to promote and celebrate the state's rich cultural, historical, and natural assets. Ambassadors serve as friendly faces and knowledgeable guides, assisting visitors and locals in discovering the diverse attractions and experiences that New Hampshire has to offer. Volunteer at welcome centers, the State House, the MHT Airport, etc. or at special events such as the Made in NH Expo, Sail Portsmouth, Farm & Forest Expo etc.. Refer to www.nhgranitestateambassadors.org for more information.

NHSEE –

NH Science & Engineering Expo

Volunteer to be a judge at the 2025 state science fair (www.nhsee.org) to be held at NHTI in Concord on March 13, 2025. If you have a science background and would like to see the amazing research NH high school students are doing, register at https://nhsee.sternwizard.com/public_site/judge_register.



President's Message

Sandy Amlaw, NHREA President

As winter turns into spring, I reflect on how much things have changed since the pandemic and how much they have stayed the same.

NHREA continues to work to protect your pension. Last legislative session, even though we were not successful in passing a COLA, we were successful

in getting a one-time stipend of \$500 for qualified members that should be paid in the spring, 2024.

Our most pressing difficulty is recruiting, engaging and retaining members. Many of our local units have disbanded for various reasons. Many lack members willing to step up to leadership roles, while others have difficulty contacting new members. The state group has experienced the same difficulties. If you know an education retiree, reach out to them about the benefits of joining NHREA.

The NHREA leadership team works tirelessly in this endeavor. This year we will swear in a new president, Tracy Bricci, and a new president-elect, Ann Kalasky. They will join Barbara DiVenuti, Linda Fanny, Candy Bailey, Norma Gray, Diana Griffin and Bob and Cindy Mills on the leadership team.

It has been my pleasure to serve in a leadership role in NHREA since 2004 becoming president in 2010. During that time my greatest pleasure has been visiting our local units and meeting so many of our hard-working members. I have found that education retirees may have retired from their respective school jobs, but not from their passion to help others.

I would like to thank the members of the leadership team, both past and present, for all their hard work and guidance during my tenure. The success of NHREA depends on the work and diversity of many willing volunteers.

Meet Our New President

Tracy Bricchi is currently working as a bookkeeper at SafeBooks Accounting Solutions in Pembroke, NH. She became an educator after graduating from UNH, but after 2 years working in schools was not sure if that was her true career path. In search of this goal Tracy attended SNHU and received an MBA. From her time at graduate school, while teaching full-time, she became hooked on teaching and continued that passion for over 35 years. In that time span Tracy taught both high school and middle school, the subject always being math-related, or even Physics. Later in her career she switched to become a district administrator. Tracy enjoyed her time as both a teacher and administrator, but always went back to teaching, knowing that is her true passion.



During her career Tracy was a local leader and, on many boards/committees, one of which being the NEA-NH Executive Board as the Treasurer and Secretary. Currently she sits on the MVSD school board as Vice-Chair, surviving being on board through Covid time. Among her greatest achievements is her son Anthony. Tracy resides in Penacook, enjoys knitting and reading, and going on adventures with her son!

2023 Legislative Report

There are 12 retirement bills introduced in the 2024 legislative session. Three of these bills pertain only to Group 2 (police and fire). Three deal with the management of the retirement system.

The remaining 4 bills could have an impact on Group 1 retirees or potential retirees. None of the bills would increase pensions this year.

SB309-relative to the vesting period for members of the state retirement system from 10 years to 5 years. This bill is currently in committee.

HB1307-providing a supplemental approbation for members of the retirement system receiving an accidental disability retirement allowance.

HB1279-relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.

SB368-relative to service allowances for teachers and other group 1 retirement system members.

Helpful hints for finding more information on these four retirement bills

Go to www.gencourt.state.nh.us

Tap on **House**

Tap on **House Home**

Tap on **Quick Links**

On left side of page under **Current Bills** fill in the bill number (ex. **HB1279**)

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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact sandy_amlaw@yahoo.com.

Mind the Gap

Tracy Bricchi

On Jan 31, 2024, I testified before the Senate committee about SB 368. This bill would affect approximately 3000 Group 1 employees. SB 368 would capture the gap that got overlooked last year when HB 2 was passed. HB 2 changed the manner of reducing a retiree's annuity to their full retirement age. Previously the reduction was taken at age 65. Because the bill passed with a date of July 1, 2023, anyone that had retired before that date, and was not yet at their full retirement age was excluded. SB 368 would apply to any retired member of group 1 who retired prior to July 1, 2023, and who has not attained age 65 prior to July 1, 2024. I did point out that even with some one-time bills that have been passed the retirees have not had a COLA in quite some time. This bill is overdue.

There were several state employees that testified in favor of the bill. There was also discussion of the intent of last year's bill. Did it mean to capture all retirees not just those retiring after July 1, 2023?

I urged the committee to pass this forward with their recommendation.



Linda Fanny

I have been Recording Secretary of NHREA for over 10 years. I taught English at Merrimack Valley High School for thirty years, retiring in 2007. I currently work part time at CSI Charter School in Penacook. I have been an active member of NHREA since 2007.

I have two adult children, both of whom work in education. I also have two very exceptional grandsons, and a lovable granddogger (that's correct, she's a dog).

News from AARP – Spring 2024

Diana Griffin, NHREA/AARP Liaison

Over the winter months AARP volunteers and staff were very busy with the Primary. I am a member of the "Voter Engagement" team, and we went all over the state seeing the different candidates talk about their ideas for the future of America!

I saw GOP candidates Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis, Asa Hutchinson, Chris Christie, Vivek Ramaswamy and Will Hurd and Democratic candidates Dean Phillips and Marianne Williamson. I found all their "schpeels" to be very interesting.

AARP New Hampshire is a strong advocate for Granite Staters 50-plus and their families. We work with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to support legislation and issues that make our state a great place to live for people of all ages. AARP is completely non-partisan. AARP never endorses any candidate from any party.

There are four main areas of interest for the 50-plus population. These are:

- Social Security
- Medicare
- Prescription drug costs
- Long term health care/caregiving

The Voter Engagement teams will now be focusing on the Governor's race and other local races. I'm a rookie where this is all concerned but I had a marvelous Team Leader and she, along with many others have taught me a lot over the last few months. When at the various rallies, I kept my ears wide open for any talk about education, and quite frankly, there wasn't much said about education by any of the candidates.

As well as the political end of things I've been pretty involved with the Speakers Bureau. It is a very active group of volunteer presenters who provide educational talks throughout the state on key topics such as Brain Health, Fraud, Social Security, Identity Theft, Downsizing and Decluttering and Home Fit (there are many more.) I would highly encourage you to check out the AARP website for the full list of topics. If you would like us to present to your group, please contact me and I will get the ball rolling for you: digriff@comcast.net.

Finally, please check out the events AARP are having every month. Some are in-person and some are online. For example, events being offered quite routinely are Bowling, Coffee and Conversation, Gentle Yoga, an online cooking classes and many others. The list of events is available on the AARP NH website: www.aarp.org/NH and click on events.

Respectfully submitted, *Diana Griffin*

Happy Spring everyone!

Scholarship Committee

The NHREA supports three scholarships: the Irene Hart Scholarship, the Mary Ruell Scholarship and the NHREA Memorial Award. Each of these awards \$1,500 to a college/university student in his or her junior year who is majoring in Education with a plan to teach.

For years Margaret Pyszka headed the committee. As a result of COVID times and the subsequent passing of Margaret, the committee has been inactive.

It is time to activate the committee. Ann Kalasky is spearheading the committee and is looking for other NHREA members who would give some time and energy for this. Those on the committee will be restarting, re-forming, and examining the guidelines for the scholarships as well as publicizing applications throughout the state.

If you are interested please contact Ann Kalasky at affitybill@comcast.net

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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.*

Manchester area MAREA

Marcie Connare, Secretary, MAREA

The Manchester Area Retired Educators Association {MAREA} held it's Christmas banquet on December 7, 2023 at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester. Our president, Barbara DiVenuti, opened the meeting and welcomed the 84 members and guests. Sue Chretien gave the invocation prayer followed by a minute of silence for those members who are no longer with us.

We had a free will offering for a non-profit organization and this year we chose the Liberty House as the VID.

Several attendees went home with a door prize, the non-winners went home with fond memories and plan to attend another MAREA function.

Thank You

Throughout the year the NHREA receives donations. We would like to thank all of those members and families of members who donated to this worthy cause. As you will see in another article in the newsletter the Scholarship Committee is being updated and is looking for volunteers.

RESERVATION FORM

Luncheon is \$25 per person

Reservations must be received by
Monday May 6, 2024

Please complete this form and return
with a check for \$25 per person to:

Ann Kalasky, 14 Rosewood Lane,
Manchester, NH 03103

I (we) plan to attend the luncheon.

I am enclosing _____
to cover ____ reservations

OR

Email Ann Kalasky at
afiftybill@comcast.net.

State the number of people
that will be attending

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

NHREA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Please circle the amount enclosed.

Dues: 1 yr. = \$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



Take Care of Yourself

The cold and wet of the past winter is behind us. The sun is shining and it's warm enough to sit and enjoy the outside. Housing and food insecurity is a weather-dependent problem.

As teachers we took the role of surrogate parents in many instances. We made sure that our students were fed, clothed and taken care of, frequently going above and beyond the call of the job that we signed up for.

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.

Fall 2024 News Deadline

The NHREA newsletter is far less interesting without your news.

Candy Bailey
Newsletter Editor
Candy3499@aol.com

DEADLINE is August 9, 2024

NH Retired Educators Assn.
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DATED MATERIAL

Hope to See You

Please join us on May 15th at the Pope Memorial SPCA on Silk Road in Concord for our annual General Membership meeting

This meeting will be a chance to meet and welcome our new officers. It will also be a time to thank our outgoing president for her years of dedicated work for our NHREA members. We will also have Rebecca Rule, a remarkable story-teller with her tales of New Hampshire.

The general membership meeting is a time for each member to be heard. Please attend. Set a challenge for yourself. Introduce yourself to at least one person that you don't know. Let's share our stories. Let's keep the NHREA strong!

Directions to Pope Memorial SPCA

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.