



The Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Winter Edition 2008

From the President's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to compliment and thank all members of the Association of Retired Teachers for your collective efforts in making the passage of HB 6141 the success that it is. So important is this bill that the ARTC saw fit to recognize three leaders for their individual roles and present them with plaques at the Fall Luncheon to express our appreciation. The leaders included Governor Jodi Rell, for signing HB 6141 into law; Denise Nappier, CT State Treasurer, who has long been a supporter of retired teachers and instituted the ideas behind the bill; and Jim Amann, Speaker of the House, for providing the leadership in the Legislature. Thank you to all who made phone calls, wrote letters to state legislators and sent e-mails. Another positive note regards the office of the TRB (Teachers Retirement Board). For years we have heard complaints about the location of the TRB on Grand Street in Hartford. The area has very poor parking and many thought the neighborhood unsafe. In November we received word that a move was planned to 75 Asylum St. in the Hartford Insurance Building. This will provide improved office space and increased parking.

The membership committee is making a super effort to contact retired teachers. A new brochure has been printed and mailed explaining what the ARTC organization does to protect retirees' benefits. The committee has also made a special effort to reach newly retired teachers. Names and phone numbers, from the TRB's list, have been given to local affiliates and telephone committees have been formed to contact them. If you know of a retired teacher who has not yet become a member of ARTC, encourage them to join us! Many of our retirees are denied full Social Security benefits as a result of the Governmental Pension Offset of 1977. This is commonly referred to as the Social Security Offset. Senator Collins (CA) and Senator Kerry (MA) have spoken strongly in favor of repealing the bill. A new bill is expected to come out of committee by March 2008. Presently, 35 Senators and 333 Representatives are in favor of repeal. Letters to your congressman would have a positive impact!

The insurance committee is working very hard to have our monthly subsidy from the State increased from \$110 to \$220 per month with an added COLA. There has been no additional contribution from the state since 1996 while health care costs have soared more than 75%! We consider our insurance needs to be our highest priority.

In closing, I want to announce that effective Jan.15, 2008, I will resign my position as President of ARTC on the advice of my doctors. I will continue in the role of past president to serve the organization. Thank you, everyone, for all of your help and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Alfred E. Cipriani, *President*
Association of Retired Teachers

UPCOMING EVENTS

ARTC Lobby Day

April 9, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m.

Legislative Office Building

ARTC Spring Luncheon @ Aqua Turf

May 20, 2008 @ 9:30 a.m.

Table of Contents

■ President's Desk	p. 1
■ Legislative Report	p. 2
■ Membership Report	p. 2
■ Dr. Cynthia Barnett	p. 3
■ Social Security	p. 3
■ Affiliate News	p. 4 - 7
■ AARP Turns 50!	p. 8
■ PAC Report	p. 8
■ Bd. Of Directors List	p. 9
■ Glenn Moon Scholarship	p. 10
■ President Report	p. 10
■ Insurance Report	p. 11

As of February 2008 the ARTC is relocating its headquarters to:

111 South Road

Farmington, CT 06032-2560

Contact the ARTC Office by:

Phone: 860-284-9760

Toll Free Phone: 866-343-ARTC

Email: info@ctretiredteachers.org

Also visit the ARTC Website:

www.ctretiredteachers.org

**The ARTC office will be staffed from
9:00am—4:00pm starting in February 2008**

Legislative Committee Report

Cathy D'Agostino & Sandra Bove, Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

The Legislative Committee has had an exciting and eventful fall.

In September, Co-Chair Cathy D'Agostino and PAC Chair Rick Cassar attended a luncheon in Hartford honoring US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. At the luncheon they met with Speaker Pelosi and shared their concerns about the detrimental effects of the Social Security Offset on Connecticut retired teachers. They also spoke with Representatives John Larsen, Joe Courtney and Chris Murphy who were in attendance, urging them to eliminate these offsets.

In October, the Legislative Committee took special pride in seeing their hard work to secure the Pension Obligation Bond culminate at the ARTC Fall Luncheon where Governor M. Jodi Rell, Speaker of the House Jim Amann and State Treasurer Denise Nappier were honored. The honorees all spoke positively about retired teachers and reiterated their support of the Pension Obligation Bond. The Bond Committee met and approved the pension Obligation Bond.

Our committee's primary focus at the state level remains insurance, specifically the doubling of the monthly subsidy to local boards of education. Co-Chair Sandra Bove has met with the Insurance Committee to gather information so that we will be able to educate our state legislators on our insurance needs. We have met Representative Brian O'Connor and he has agreed to sponsor our bill.

Nationally we remain committed to eliminating the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. In November we sent written testimony on behalf of our Legislative Committee members to the Senate Sub-Committee on Social Security, chaired by Senator John Kerry. We explained the hardships placed on Connecticut retired teachers. Notices were sent to the presidents of all our affiliates to urge them to encourage their members to write to their Senators as well. In addition we have contacted the presidents and executive directors of the other New England States affected by the offsets (MA, RI, ME) in order to coordinate our efforts to petition Congress to remedy this injustice. We held our first meeting in January.

Finally we would like to welcome the new members to our Legislative Committee: Jane Aarnio, Frank DeMatteis, Phyllis Krom, Barbara Lee, John Luning, Fran Marcusse, Ed Messina, Dee Padwater and Charlotte Renna. We have expanded our membership and are enjoying their active participation.

We welcome your support and remain dependent on an active and increased membership in our organization. Your letters emails and phone calls to our state and national legislators make a difference. For updated information and access to your legislators, visit the ARTC website. (www.ctretiredteachers.org)

Membership Committee Report

Bonnie Reimann, Membership Committee Chairperson

2007 was an ambitious year for the membership committee. We have been working on an intensive campaign to recruit new members, both from newly retired teachers and those who have been retired a few years but have never joined ARTC.

We are happy to report that of teachers retired in 2007 we have enrolled 137 new members, or 8.54%. Our non-member retired teachers mailing resulted in 1,107 responders, or 7.00% of the targeted veteran retiree group. This brings our total current membership to 8,912. We continue working hard to reach our goal of 12,000 members by June 2008. We are presently following through with a personal telephone call to those teachers who retired in June 2007 but did not respond to our letter campaign.

Meanwhile, welcome aboard to our new members! Please come to our spring luncheon at the Aqua Turf in Southington on May 20th. Make new friends and renew old acquaintances. See you there!



From l to r: US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and ARTC Legislative Committee Co-Chair Cathy D'Agostino at the September luncheon in Hartford honoring Ms. Pelosi.

Dr. Cynthia Barnett is coming!

Attention, everyone! Please save this date - **Tuesday, May 20, 2008**- at the Aqua Turf in Southington. The ARTC Spring Luncheon is featuring Dr. Cynthia Barnett as the guest speaker. Dr. Barnett is an author, teacher and life coach. She is a "refired" educator who has reinvented her life, moving from the schoolhouse to an entrepreneurial venue.

After 30 years experience in the Norwalk Public Schools - last position being Assistant Principal at Brien McMahon High School- she decided not to "retire" but "refire"!

Her "refirement" message has been featured in US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, local papers, and TV shows. She was recently featured in TIME Magazine for its lead article about women in mid-life who have reinvented themselves. Dr. Barnett's mission in life is to teach people "50 plus" how to create happier, more meaningful and fulfilled lives.

In addition, the ARTC plans to have several vendors on hand to help us "refire". So save the date. More information will be sent in the Spring edition of the Newsletter.

Social Security

Helen Bucior, Chairperson

Have you tried to collect your full benefits from Social Security and been unsuccessful? Be aware that others know of this situation and are working to come up with a solution. The National Educational Association (NEA) sponsored a conference in Washington, D.C. with the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. Congress on January 16th to discuss the Social Security Offset.

Senator Kerry from Massachusetts also recently organized a hearing. Many members wrote him describing their particular problem with the Social Security Offset. It is an unfair bill to Republicans and Democrats alike. Fortunately, all of the CT Legislators are on record as supporting the repeal, except for Senator Lieberman.

Please keep writing and phoning our legislators, thanking those who support repealing the Offset and urging Senator Lieberman to "rethink" his views.

Upcoming Events:

Please join us at this important event:

Lobby Day

April 9, 2008 @ 10am

Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Meet in the lobby in Hartford



From l to r: David Mulholland, ARTC Secretary, Governor, Jodi Rell, Michael Norman, ARTC President and Al Cipriani, Past ARTC President at the ARTC Fall Luncheon held at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville on Tuesday, October 16, 2007.

NEWS FROM AFFILIATED GROUPS

HARTFORD

Hartford County, like ARTC, meets with its members twice a year; once in the fall and once in the spring. We try to alternate our programs; a speaker in the fall followed by springtime entertainment or vice versa. Last fall we were fortunate to get Deputy Treasurer Howard Rifkin to speak to the group about House Bill 6141 which will use bonds to pay down the unfunded liability on our pensions. Howard Rifkin is most knowledgeable with the contents of the bill since he authored parts of it. After his talk he answered all questions concerning the bill. As to my knowledge, the bill has been placed on the Bond Commission's agenda by Governor Rell.

The members of Hartford County's Executive Board are hardworking individuals. Our Scholarship Chair, Roberta Parlin has already sent applications to various county high schools. She then rates the applications on scholarship need and community school services for the members of the committee who will meet in early spring. We plan to give scholarships to two students whose goal is to teach. Another hardworking pair is our Legislative Co-Chairs Phyllis Krom and Barbara Lee who represent Hartford County at ARTC legislative meetings. They are working on getting a bus for Lobby Day to be held at the LOB in Hartford on April 9th.

Marilyn Neri and Fran Callipari have diligently represented Hartford County at the ARTC membership meetings and have followed through with all the ARTC initiatives. Last but not least is Wes Vandervliet who chairs the Insurance Committee and attends all ARTC insurance meetings. He is one of the most thorough and knowledgeable individuals in this particular area. I feel it's important to recognize individuals for the time and effort they expend. Remember we are all volunteers and united we make quite a formidable force!

Hartford County's spring meeting will be held at the Aqua Turf Club on Wednesday, April 2nd. We will have entertainment arranged by our program Chair, Dave Wolansky. Our scholarship recipients and their parents will be guests at this luncheon. We're looking forward to a great turn out of county members.

Ellen Long, *President*
ellenwlong@aol.com
(860) 529-8738

WINDHAM-TOLLAND

Our fall luncheon was held at the Harvest Restaurant on October 22, 2007 with 80 attendees. Congressman Joe Courtney, Dem., 2nd District covered a wide range of subjects on the federal agenda before responding to questions from the audience. Also in attendance was State Senator, Denise Merrill, who spoke briefly about her role and responsibility as co-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. She was introduced by Jackie Abbott who thanked Ms. Merrill for her outstanding effort and cooperation with ARTC in getting HB 6141 passed last spring. Co-chairs of our social committee, John Adamo and Annette Murphy, did an excellent job planning and implementing a trip for 40 retired teachers/spouses to Radio City Music Hall for the 75th annual Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes on 11-28-07. After dining at Spanky's BBQ, we had some free time to enjoy the sights and happenings in Times Square before taking in the show. It was a great day for all and we are all looking forward to our next adventure. Our nominating committee co-chairs, Julia Brown and Mary Phelps are beginning the task of filling the slate of committee chairs and officers to be elected at our Spring luncheon at Zenny's on May 28, 2008. We already have a new scholarship committee chair, Linda Picciarelli and a new interim treasurer, Mary McCarthy. Linda has replaced Eleanor Duhnkrack who moved to Fairfield County and Mary takes over for Rocco Cancellaro (health issues). Many thanks to Eleanor and Rocco for their long years of service to WTRTA. We are also missing Gloria Cutler, WTRTA's all everything, but most recently chair of our membership and insurance committees. Gloria served several terms as WTRTA president and has been very active with ARTC over the years. Thank you for almost 20 years of service on behalf of retired teachers.

Despite an increase of almost one third in our membership since last April (192 to 275), Windham County retirees still outnumber Tolland County retirees more than 2 to 1 (168 to 67) with about 15% living out of area. We are still seeking input from Tolland County retirees around the issue of becoming an independent affiliate. The Executive Committee of WTRTA will continue to meet over the winter months to organize Lobby Day activities and to plan the Spring luncheon program and scholarship presentation.

Tom Singleton, *President*
tomsmsw@sbcglobal.net
(860) 963-7229

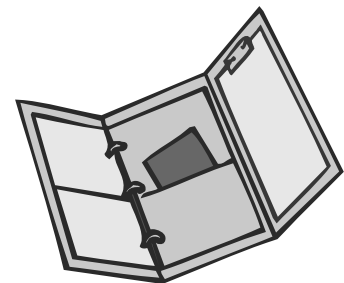
FAIRFIELD

As 2007 drew to a close once again, the Retired Educators of Fairfield and the Fairfield Education Association held their annual Holiday Party on November 30th. It was very successful due to the continued support of our members and the efforts of our co-chairs Carol Jennings and Cissy Hudzik. Cinzano's Restaurant out did themselves with delicious appetizers and Milt Jacoby, an REF member, completed the party with his holiday music. Toys and donations were collected for needy children in Fairfield and Marilyn Jamgochian, FEA member, coordinated the collection and distribution of the toys. Everyone was pleased with the response.

Looking forward to 2008, we again need to be aware of the goals of the ARTC Legislative Committee. Retired teachers are deprived of their Social Security spousal and survivor benefits (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that reduces the Social Security income of those who have taught and have worked to earn quarters under Social Security. We need to continue to write, call and e-mail our legislators. We made a difference in the past and I am confident that these inequities will be rectified.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2008!

Amy DeZenzo, *President*
richdez@aol.com
(203) 261-0872

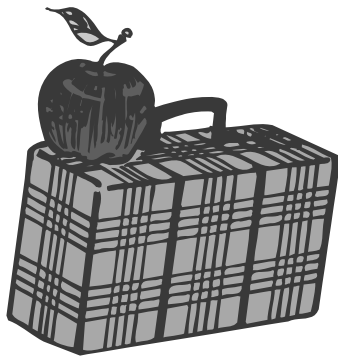


NEWS FROM AFFILIATED GROUPS

BRIDGEPORT

Once again, we find ourselves trying to maintain our efforts in the area of protecting our pension and enhancing our benefits. We need to have a united, strong and vocal membership in order to achieve these two goals. GBRTA cannot seem to drive home the fact that retired teachers need to be informed, organized and willing to act. If we begin to divide our membership into several small groups, we will never accomplish our goals. The GBRTA has always tried to generate new membership (which includes new and old who have never joined any teacher retirement group) to become active and to participate. However, this task is not easy due to the Teacher Retirement Board's (TRB) inability to provide accurate information that is timely. No one faults them as our State government has never fully funded, staffed, or provided the TRB with the proper tools to accomplish its goals. I seriously urge all retired teachers to write, call, e-mail, and make appointments with their own House of Representative member and State Senator to correct this oversight. The TRB is a major link to our success in providing valuable information and enhancing our system of teacher retirement. Let us act and do it now!

Michael C. Ward, *President*
yankeeward@netzero.com
(203) 261-3457



WATERBURY

The first meeting of the Waterbury Retired Teachers Association was held on September 12, 2007 at the Villa Rosa Restaurant. This breakfast meeting was a meet and greet for newly retired teachers. The guest speaker was Mayor Michael Jarjura, who updated the membership on events which affect both retired and active teachers. Nine newly retired teachers and administrators were invited guests at this breakfast. The meeting on November 15, 2007 was a luncheon meeting. It was held at the Grand Oak Villa. Entertainment was presented by the comedy vocal group, Age to Perfection. A raffle was held to benefit the scholarship and good cheer fund. On January 16, 2008, a planning meeting will be held to begin arrangements for the Memorial Service to be held in June, at a date to be announced. This memorial service is held to honor the memory of those educators in the Waterbury School System who died during the present school year. On March 19, 2008 a breakfast meeting will be held at the Villa Rosa Restaurant. The meeting and breakfast will be followed by a talk on genealogy. The Scholarship Luncheon will be held on May 15, 2008. Four \$1,500 scholarships will be presented to graduating seniors of local high schools who will be entering the teaching field. The Waterbury Retired Teachers Association has special interest groups which meet monthly in order to provide social and creative activities for its members. These groups include the Book Club, the Opera Club, and the Dine Around Club. In addition, activities are also arranged by the Local Travel and New York Theater Groups.

Michael R. Ieronimo, *President*
opera11@comcast.net
(860) 283-9677

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

I'll admit it. We are a social group of retired teachers. Ask us to call, write letters, or attend a legislative rally and we will gladly do it, but we *really* like to have fun. Ever notice how we seem to gravitate toward other teachers? Unfortunately, our organization paid tribute to two colleagues who had passed within the year. It's so sad when you have seen them come to all the activities, even though they had to struggle. We will miss Eleanor O'Connell and Carol Anne Lepo.

Our new officers – Dee Padwater, replacing Bob Frederick on *Legislation*, and Jon Bayer replacing Arlene McNeil on *Insurance*, have been keeping us updated. Dee, a former Hartford art teacher, is a regular spitfire and has lots of innovative ideas for promoting membership in ARTC as well as for raising money. She is a real asset to this organization. Our treasurer, Ruby Schrimmer has plans to retire and move south to be near the grandchildren. Looks like Kathy Rodriguez will slide into that job, unless someone comes out of the woodwork.

What an awesome speaker we had for our fall luncheon! After 31 years as a state police officer, Major Dan Stebbins – ret. came to us from the Dept. of Justice where he works for the United States' Attorney's office as the district office security manager. He also schedules and staffs the Anti-terrorism Advisory Council. He spoke to us about his experiences, his cases and convictions and started to touch on personal security but we were too interested to let him go.

The Christmas party was a success. We actually had as many people attend as for the fall luncheon meeting! (what a surprise) The members participated in a holiday decoration-making activity, sang "Retired Teacher Christmas Carols" and competed in a "So You Think You're Smarter Than a 5th Grader" contest. That opened some eyes! The raffle brought in some incredible hand made and hand painted items, and raised about \$75 for our association. What talent we harbor!

Margo Chase-Wells, *President*
margochase-wells@sbcglobal.net
(860) 345-3282

NEWS FROM AFFILIATED GROUPS

LITCHFIELD

The Association of Retired Teachers of Litchfield County held its Fall Meeting on October 23rd at the Cornucopia Banquet Hall in Torrington. Our program featured two speakers, Bonnie Reimann, ARTC Membership Chairperson and John Kane, President, So. Fairfield County.

Bonnie spoke on the effectiveness of having lobbyists for the past several years and the new membership brochure that is being published this year. There will be two mailings, one for newly retired teachers and a general mailing to approximately 17,000 retired teachers who are not members of ARTC. "Membership is the key to success," she said, "the larger the number of members the more influence you have on the political process."

John Kane emphasized the need for teachers to assert their right for the benefits to which they are entitled. He also spoke of the significance of the change in the retirement COLA, (unique in the nation), the Social Security Fairness Act, and the ARTC's proposals to the Retired Teachers Insurance Commission.

In regular business, Alex Zubrowski, Insurance Committee, said the ARTC is seeking information on the amounts of premiums teachers are paying for their insurance through local boards of education. The information will help the ARTC legislative proposals. Andrea McCormick reported that two on-going scholarships were given this spring for \$500 each. Betty Anderson reported that 55 new lifetime memberships were added between 2000 - 2007.

President Lunning said that, in accordance with by-laws, there will be elections of officers and appointment of committee chairs at the ARTC Spring Luncheon on May 20, 2008. He also added that he and Betty Anderson will not seek reelection and appointment to their current positions.

John Lunning, *President*
jandjluning@snet.net
(860) 435-0124

SO. FAIRFIELD

Our membership has exceeded 1,400 and will hopefully rise to 2,000 this year. The funds made available to us through this membership gain has enabled us to produce a Social Security Benefits Protection flyer.

We have reached out to similarly impacted groups such as police, fire, postal and civil servant groups to enhance the possibility of success in eliminating the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision.

Over 100 retirees from this affiliate attended our holiday luncheon at the Continental Manor in Norwalk on December 11th. \$1,000 was raised for the Henry Barnard Fund to assist fellow Connecticut retirees that are in need at this time.

Insurance issues will take the major part of our time for the remainder of this year. This topic has become the most contentious matter because of the broad impact it has on retired educators and the lack of a positive plan promised by our legislators in Hartford or from our Teacher Retirement Board.

Our efforts must include:

- An opportunity for all retirees to participate in Medicare Part A
- Substantial increase in covering costs of insurance by our state and local governments
- Establishing control over the runaway increased costs of our insurance

John Kane, *President*
kanejhn@sbcglobal.net
(203) 348-2304

NO. FAIRFIELD

The Northern Fairfield County Retired Teachers Association held its fall luncheon on September 27, 2007 at the Stony Hill Inn in Bethel. Our guest speaker was our own Rick Follman! Rick spoke about our health insurance subsidy from CTRB to local boards of education retirees which has been stagnant since 1996 at \$110 per month!! ARTC will introduce legislation to double it to \$220 plus a medical COLA.

NFCRTA launched a phone campaign this fall contacting recent retirees who have not joined our group. This will be followed up with a mailing urging new retirees to join ARTC and NFCRTA.

The telephone callers stated our accomplishments this past year and the direction we are headed in in 2008 and beyond!

We emphasized the importance of joining these two organizations and cited specifics as to why they should join.

Bob Scalzo, *President*
sre6603@sbcglobal.net
(203) 744-5157



NEWS FROM AFFILIATED GROUPS

WEST HARTFORD

On December 4th the WHRTA held their yearly holiday party at Zabarra's Restaurant located at the Stanley Golf Club in New Britain. This holiday party has become popular and we had 75 retired teachers, some with spouses, at the party. We are very lucky to have a good working relationship with our local school district. As a result, we were delighted to have 2 musical groups from Conard High School serenade us before lunch.

The response from the retirees was terrific! Also, a recently retired VP of the WHRTA, Ken Sopolak, surprised the group by performing a short magic show. Ken is a professional magician. What a wonderful surprise to see a retired colleague with so much talent! Our program chairs, Joyce Dygus and Claudia Kulak always go the "extra mile" to see that we have entertainment along with the delicious luncheon.

We will be having our spring business meeting/luncheon in May at the Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford. Hopefully, we'll add to our luncheon guest list! These parties are a big hit with retirees!

Ann Anderson, *President*
ana289@aol.com
(860) 827-1934

MANCHESTER

We in Manchester have had an intriguing year, so far . . . with more to come.

September 4th, the first day of school in Manchester, found forty-seven RTAM's enjoying an informal breakfast at the Vernon Diner.

Then in October, Wally Lamb, well known Connecticut Literateur, addressed our group of one hundred ten at the Manchester Country Club luncheon. Among other aspects of writing, he spoke about his book of essays, *Couldn't Keep It to Myself*, comprised of works created by women who have participated in his writing workshops at the York Correctional Center for Women in Niantic.

The next meeting, in November, with seventy-seven in attendance, was held in the Cheney Dining Room of Manchester Community College. The luncheon was provided by the culinary students under the guidance of Sandra Jenkins, director. Bob Beuttner of Beuttner Florists in East Hartford demonstrated "floral designing."

The Executive Board consists of:

President - Lucy Shea Sweeney
Vice Presidents - Cheri Bertus and Nancy Sampson
Recording Secretary - Judy Morganroth
Corresponding Secretary - Marlane McKenzie
Treasurer - Larry Olsen
Historian - Nancy Donnelly
Past President - Mary Ann Hayward
Membership - Marsha Gunther
Public Relations - Rhoda Senteio
Legislative - Michael Norman and Barbara Murphy
Social - Judy Rohlf's and Michelle Vadenais
Communications - Barbara Bossidy
Civic - Sue McInerney
Insurance - Pat Nylin

Reminder: We continue to collect books for the "Books to Dreams" foundation at each of our meetings.

The next RTAM executive board meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2008 . . . reminders will be sent.

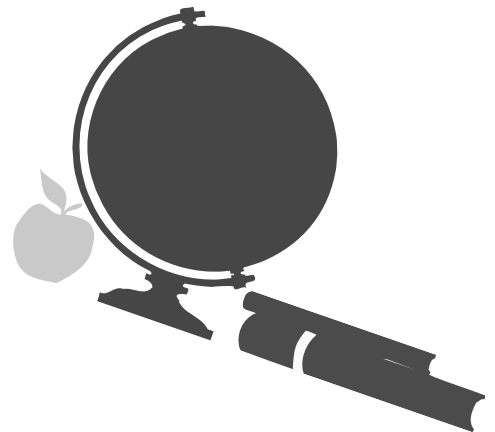
SAVE THE DATES . . . the future meetings for the year are Tuesday, April 8, 2008 and Tuesday, May 13, 2008. NOTE . . . each of those luncheons will take place at Manchester Country Club.

Have a great winter . . . Stay Warm and Healthy. See you in April . . . looking forward . . .

Lucy Shea Sweeney, *President*

lassweeney@cox.net

(860) 649-0966



ARTC JOINS AARP IN OBSERVING 50 YEARS!

Several ARTC members have been working with AARP in Connecticut to help celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary this year. AARP's founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, dedicated nearly 30 years to educating young people as a teacher and as California's first female high school principal. Ahead of her time, Dr. Andrus established the nation's first group health insurance policy for older people and opened a pharmacy service that offered prescription drugs at discount prices.

Today AARP is still fighting for lower prescription drug costs, and offers health insurance products that promote prevention and reward people for staying healthy. While principal of Lincoln High School in Los Angeles, Dr. Andrus involved students in after school community activities, a practice really unheard of at that time.

To kick off the 50th anniversary this year, AARP offered the Andrus Innovation Award with a \$10,000 grant to one public high school in each of 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The award recognizes and supports a school innovation that fosters strong ties to the community and among the generations.

Connecticut's winner should be announced by March. Two ARTC members sat on the committee that helped send applications to high schools across the state and choose the winning Connecticut High School. ARTC also has members on a committee to suggest events to celebrate the 50th anniversary in the state throughout the year.

Another \$700,000 in total awards went to schools in seven major cities in the nation. When you do the math, that's \$1.2 million in high school grants distributed in the name of Dr. Andrus. To honor its founder, AARP launched a Performing Arts curriculum at Lincoln High School in California, where she was principal. With AARP's help, the school will get the teachers, musical instruments and theatrical equipment they need to support a quality performing arts program.

Five decades ago, Dr. Andrus championed a cause that grew into something bigger than she ever could have imagined. Last year we marked the NRTA's 60th anniversary and this year is AARP's 50th.

PAC Report

Rick Cassar, PAC Chairperson

It has been a productive year for PAC. With the passage of HB 6141 our pensions will be secure for at least 25 years. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is distributed the bond will be out of committee for immediate funding. Our gratitude to State Treasurer Denise Nappier, House speaker Jim Amman, Gov. Jodi Rell and above all to you, our ARTC membership, for your letters, calls, emails and financial support that kept 6141 on the front burner!

PAC funds supported meetings this year between members of both Legislative and PAC committees with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, John Larson, Joe Courtney, Chris Murphy, Christopher Shays, Rosa DeLauro, and numerous Connecticut state representatives.

There were attempts to have legislation passed to increase the state's \$110 contribution to our insurance stipend, and to support the Social Security Fairness Act that would eliminate WEP and GPO. So far 333 Representatives and 35 Senators have signed on to support this legislation. Connecticut is one of only 14 states where teachers are losing over 60% of their earned social security. FYI—Senator Joe Lieberman has not signed on!

For 2008 PAC will once again be working for passage of the Social Security Fairness Act on the national level, and increasing the monthly stipend to our health insurance. In addition, this year ARTC will be pushing to eliminate the taxing of the pensions of state workers over 65. Connecticut is one of only 4 states that does this!

Letters will be sent shortly asking for your financial support that is crucial in helping those who help us. Under Dee Padwater's direction PAC is looking into holding an auction as a fun thing to do and raise more funding.

Thank You,
Rick Cassar, PAC Chairperson



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

OFFICERS

President—Michael Norman, 275 Timrod Rd., Manchester, CT 06040 (860) 643-6223 mdnorman@cox.net, 860-508-2742

President-Elect— TBD

Financial Secretary—Louis DePaul, 14 Auburn St., Danbury, CT 06810 (203) 743-7845

Secretary—David Mulholland, 46 Grahaver Rd., Tolland, CT 06084 (860) 875-5785

Public Relations Officer—Patricia McDonnell, 98 Stratfield Rd, Fairfield, CT 06825 203-366-2417 pattymcd2001@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President—Alfred Cipriani, 27 Indian Head Rd., Danbury, CT 06811 (203) 746-3239

CHAIRS, STANDING COMMITTEES

Auditor—Ellen Long 52 Ridge Rd Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (860) 529-8738 EllenWlong@aol.com

Historian—John Kane, 183 Stamford Ave., Stamford, CT 06902 (203) 348-2304 kanejhn@sbcglobal.net

Insurance—Richard/Louise Follman, 20 Algonquin Rd., Norwalk, CT 06851 (203) 846-1931 Phone/Fax

Legislative—Sandra P. Bove P. O. Box 259 Dayville, CT 06241 (860) 774-3862 sbovel@aol.com

Cathy D'Agostino 6 Barrett Hill Rd Brooklyn, CT 06234 (860) 774-1871 catherinedagostino@charter.net

Membership—Bonnie Reimann, 11 Walton Dr., West Hartford, CT 06107 860-521-1873 bonnie_r_reimann@sbcglobal.net

Nominating—Tom Singleton, 43 Hebert Lane, Woodstock, CT 06281 (860) 963-7229 tomsmsw@sbcglobal.net

Program—Helen Bucior, 189 Ox Yoke Dr., Wethersfield, CT 06109 (860) 529-8438

Scholarship—Terry Barton, 580 Stafford Ave. Apt 16C, Bristol, CT 06010 (860) 583-9553 tebe55@sbcglobal.net

Social Service—Paul Davis, 335 Smith Farm RD Orange, CT 06477 (203) 799-7285

AARP/ARTC Real—Brenda Kelley, 21 Oak Street Suite 104, Hartford, Ct 06106-8003

CSTRB Representatives—Marion Jewell, 829 Scofieldtown Rd., Stamford, CT 06903 (203) 322-2283 emares829@aol.com

Rosalyn Schoonmaker, 95 Curt Smith Rd., Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 264-9161

Area, County, and Local Presidents

Bridgeport—Michael Ward, 38 Pemberton Dr., Trumbull, CT 06611 (203) 261-3457 yankeeward@netzero.com

Bristol—

Fairfield—Amy DeZenzo, 35 Red Barn Rd., Trumbull, CT 06611 (203) 261-0872 richdez@aol.com

Hartford County—Ellen Long 52 Ridge Rd Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (860) 529-8738 EllenWlong@aol.com

Litchfield—John Luning, 36 Pettee St., P.O. Box 1742, Lakeville, CT 06039 (860) 435-0124 jandjluning@snet.net

Manchester—Lucy Sweeney, 83 Kennedy Rd, Manchester, CT 06042 (860) 649-0966 lasweeney@cox.net

Middlesex—Margo Chase-Wells, 374 Plain Rd., Haddam, CT 06438 (860) 345-3282, margochase-wells@sbcglobal.net

New Haven—Carol Noble, 9 Shepard Hill Rd., Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 288-6986 cnoble335@aol.com

New London—Trenda Caron, 110 Park Avenue., Uncasville, CT 06382 (860) 848-3219 cctrenda@aol.com

Northern Fairfield—Robert Scalzo 41 Tamarack Ave. #104, Danbury, CT 06811 (203) 744-5157 sre6603@sbcglobal.net

Southern Fairfield—John Kane, 183 Stamford Ave., Stamford, CT 06902 (203) 348-2304 kanejhn@sbcglobal.net

Waterbury—Michael Ieronimo, 386 Lake Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, CT 06782 (860) 283-9677 operal1@comcast.net

West Hartford—Ann Anderson, 150H Brittany Farms, New Britain, CT 06053 (860) 827-1934 ana289@aol.com

Windham-Tolland—Tom Singleton, 43 Hebert Lane, Woodstock, CT 06281 (860) 963-7229 tomsmsw@sbcglobal.net

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Myron Boyajian 165 Sherman Rd, Enfield, CT 06083, 860-749-7406, myboyajian@cox.net

CONSULTANTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Phil Guinan, Guinanassociates@snet.net (860) 241-8990

Patty McQueen, 28 Rundelane Bloomfield, CT 06002 (860) 243-2724

ARTC OFFICE—Mary Gracyalny, Exec. Director, 68 Loomis, Manchester, CT 06042-1911

(866) 343-2782 mlg@ctretiredteachers.org

STR BOARD—1-800-504-1102 or (860) 241-8400

Retirement Division (860) 241-8413

Health Insurance (860) 241-8414

West Hartford RTA— Peter Zikowitch 46 Sunnybrook Dr., Avon, CT 06001 860-673-9459 p.ziko@sbcglobal.net

Political Action Committee (PAC)—Richard Cassar, 11 Bonnie Vue Lane, New Milford, CT 06776 860-350-4678, kricks1@charter.net

GLENN MOON SCHOLARSHIP

When the scholarship committee met on May 1, 2007 to select the scholarship winners it intended to follow its published plan to award one \$2,000 renewable scholarship and three \$1,500 one-time awards. Members knew immediately they were in trouble because the candidates were so outstanding. (One of our early top ten choices was awarded \$40,000 by Trinity College.) Dick Brigham, our treasurer, came to the rescue, assuring us that because of the generosity of ARTC members and the good behavior of the stock market we were financially able to give four \$1,500 scholarships instead of three.

Our winners were Bakari Pace of Wilby High School, Waterbury, who will attend Moorehouse College, \$2,000 renewable; Carissa Eckhart, Torrington High School, who will attend CCSU, \$1,500; Jacqueline Gray, Wolcott High school, who will attend ESCU, \$1,500; Mark Montalvo, Sports and Medical Sciences, Hartford, who will attend the UCONN, \$1,500; and Rebecca Nadeau, Terryville High School, who will attend CCSU, \$1,500.

In the past, the board has been very generous in paying for the luncheons of the winners and their guests. We realize what a burden this places on the luncheon budget and so we paid for all the luncheons this year and plan to continue the practice as long as we can.

The number of applications is a bit lower than last year's total. Those who want a career in teaching are firmly committed to their goals, but the numbers are dwindling. Teaching as a career needs a big public relations boost!

Please let the record show that no scholarship would be possible without the quiet and steadfast commitment of the committee members who are:

Marianne Grace, Jean Baklik, Hazel Kurlansky, Esther Beirle, Robert Sulick, Dick Brigham, Andrea McCormick, Marguerite Fuller, Annabelle Curran, Trena Caron, Laurence Tiven, Patricia Kelly, Elaine McCabe, Judy Morganroth and Eleanor Duhnkrack.

Terry Barton, *Chairperson*

President Report - *Michael Norman*

It is old news now that our push to get the Teachers Retirement Pension unfunded liability out from under the spending cap was successful. However, I thought that you might like a little background information. For several years ARTC and several active teachers organizations were striving for a constitutional amendment to guarantee full funding of the pension. It was really going nowhere. The Legislature did not want its hands tied by a constitution. It was at this point your ARTC leadership went to the Treasurer, Denise Nappier and the Speaker of the House, James Amann with a proposal to remove the unfunded liability from under the spending cap.

Denise Nappier saw a way that this could be done by bonding two billion of the unfunded liability and placing the remaining amount under a covenant that would guarantee the full payment of the fund for the next twenty-five years. She also decided at the same time that C.O.L.A. should then be fully guaranteed. **The bill passed the Bonding Committee and now our Pension is secure.**

Your support through e-mails, letters, and phone to your legislators and the Governor determined the final outcome.

ARTC is not finished. Now that retired teachers pensions are secure, we must fix the problems of our health benefits. There are 169 towns and cities in Connecticut and there are at least that many plans governing the health benefits of retired teachers. Those retirees under sixty-five pay anywhere from zero dollars to \$14,000 a year with most in the upper brackets. The states subsidy to the towns of \$110 per person has not changed since 1996 when that payment would have covered 70% of insurance costs. Now it covers a mere fraction of the ever escalating insurance premiums. This is not right! We believe that doubling that subsidy with an annual medical C.O.L.A. based on the medical price index would improve the situation. We realize that it would not totally solve the problem, but would make things better.

ARTC is an affiliate of the NRTA (The National Retired Teachers' Association) as such it is part of the AARP educational community. AARP has agreed to support our drive for improved health benefits as part of their "Divided We Fail Campaign." This means in Connecticut instead of the voices of almost ten thousand ARTC members. We have the backing of 600,000 Connecticut AARP members and their support to get our program passed.

Connecticut is only one of five states that taxes state pensions of those over sixty-five. California, Indiana, Rhode Island, and Vermont are the other four. That is just not right! We want this to change, and we will be striving to do that in the next session of the legislature.

The AARP Foundation will be giving about one hundred scholarships to women over forty who need help to get an education that will help them have a more financially secure life. I was privileged to serve, this past December in Washington, on one of the committees to review applications of hundreds of women who were impoverished, many were severely abused, who wanted an opportunity to improve their lives.

Speaking of scholarships, members of ARTC were on a committee to help select a Connecticut high school to receive a \$10,000 award for a program at their school that has made a significant difference in their community. The scholarship is the Andrus award named after the founder of the NRTA and the AARP. At least one such award will be given in each of the fifty states.

Insurance Committee Report, Co-Chairs, Richard and Louise Follman

On behalf of all the members of the insurance committee we would like to wish you and your families a very Happy and Healthy New Year. May we be so bold as to wish for Peace in 2008...

To us as retired teachers, the word "healthy" means affordable and comprehensive health insurance. As many of our colleagues can verify to this has been our main concern for at least a decade. Increases throughout the country, since 1996 to date, have topped 35%. For the 18,000 retired teachers and spouses who must purchase health insurance from their local school boards this has become a very serious burden with no subsidy increase in 12 years! The current \$110 subsidy does not cover (in many cases) 20% of the monthly costs.

The legislative session starts on February 9, 2008. ARTC is proposing a doubling of the \$110 to \$220 and thereafter a medical indexed COLA to try to keep the costs in perspective.

We propose, over the two year period, to increase the subsidy by \$55 per year with a medical indexed COLA to the \$220 subsidy payment for this plan. It will be paid for with one third of the cost coming from state monies and two thirds coming from active teachers. The cost to active teachers now is 1.25%; an increase of .25% the first year and .25% the second year should pay for the plan and keep the TRB insurance trust fund viable.

Just as we joined together to implement the bill (HB 6141) to guarantee our pension we need to do the same for the health insurance bill. We will be contacting all members with the number of this bill ASAP. The second most important part of a retired teachers existence is health insurance. We need to work together to obtain an appropriate subsidy for our fellow retired teachers who do not have Medicare.

We believe our motto should be "It's A Tough Pill to Swallow!"

You can help by filling out this form and returning it to:



To: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Follman
20 Algonquin Road
Norwalk, CT 06851

Name: _____ Tel. # : _____

Name of District: _____

Typed of Policy (HMO, PPD, ETC.): _____

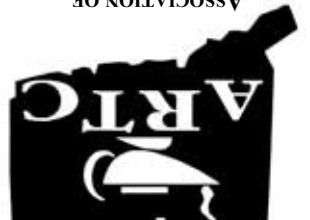
Cost per month (without Subsidy): \$ _____

Cost yearly: \$ _____

How many in your household are covered? _____

WINTER 2008

ASSOCIATION OF
RETIRED
TEACHERS OF
CONNECTICUT



111 South Road
Farmington, CT 06032-2560
Tel.: 860-284-9760
(866) 343-ARTC

STANDARD
PRESORTED
US POSTAGE
PAID
COVENTRY CT
PERMIT NO 19