



The Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut, Inc.



Pat McDonnell, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010 Edition

From Michael's Desk... To yours...



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PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!

ARTC Lobby Day
@ The LOB
April 14, 2010 @ 10:00am

◆

ARTC Spring Luncheon
@ The Aqua Turf
May 18, 2010 @ 9:30am

ARTC's mission is to continue to maintain a high level of service for our members, as well as bring you new programs to enhance your life style.

One of our life members recently contacted me asking why we find it necessary to ask for donations in addition to our membership dues. We have over 10,000 members, but more than 4,600 are life members and many of those became life members when life membership was only \$75. Since then the price for life membership has steadily increased so that we now charge \$500. The bulk of our membership is annual at \$35 but there is a tier system. Those who retired prior to 1987 only pay \$10 a year. Consequently, even though our membership continues to grow, our expenses keep rising. In order for us to keep up with all that is happening to our pensions and health insurance and to keep our membership informed, our budget requires an infusion of money that comes to us in the form of donations.

What are some of the issues we are facing?

The State of Connecticut has cut its contribution to the Teachers' Retirement Board's health fund. This amounts to about sixty-two million dollars. The state claims that this cut will only be for two years. TRB says that nothing will change if it is only for one year. We will monitor this situation.

The TRB had a special meeting Monday, November 23, 2009, and asked Tom Woodruff from Nancy Weiman's Comptroller's Office to speak. He explained that they were able to add an addendum for TRB to the state contract with CVS/Caremark and the contractual/legal issues have been worked out. Moreover, he stated that the TRB would be benefiting from the State's retail pharmacy pricing and that the State would benefit from TRB's high mail order usage and pricing. The Retirement Board has voted to accept CVS/Caremark as the new Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM). It is expected to be effective February 1st. The meeting went smoothly and the Board members seemed assured by Tom's comments.

There will be no COLA increase for Social Security recipients this year. That means that those of you who retired after 1992 will also lose your pension COLA increase, because your COLA is determined by the Social Security COLA.

What is ARTC doing for you now?

We are working for the repeal of the taxes on your pensions (Connecticut is one of five states that tax public pensions), fighting to repeal prop-

erty tax increases on those of you over 65. We are joining with other state groups, such as; AFT, CEA, postal workers, policemen, firemen, and federal government employees who find themselves in the same situation on Social Security. On the regional level we are working with RI, MA, ME to eliminate the offsets from S.S. And on the national scene we have joined forces with all of the states that are presently affected by the GPO and WEP. I am confident that soon we will see some remarkable changes that will affect all our lives for the better. I am hopeful because it has been my experience that when we needed support our members were forthcoming.

What can you do to help us?

Maintain your membership, join one of our various committees such as; membership, legislative, PAC, social services, insurance, scholarship, publicity, and program. Communicate with your legislator, both federal and state and let them know your concerns. Be sure to tell them you are a member of ARTC.

Your ARTC membership has just brought you new perks. ARTC has joined with 27 other states' teacher and other retirement associations under the umbrella of AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors.) Some of these benefits are Long Term Care/Home Health Care Insurance, Identity Theft Solutions, Dell and Apple Computer Discounts, car rental discounts, and many travel programs. Some are cost free.

In a short time you will receive an AMBA mailed brochure describing these new benefits more fully.

On a personal note, I want to thank all who were kind enough to send "Get Well" cards to me during my recent illness.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Norman, ARTC President
(860) 508-2742
mdnorman@cox.net

(Michael may be reached anytime Sunday through Thursday, on Friday up until one hour before sundown, and on Saturday one hour after sundown.)

(All photos courtesy of Wayne Kensel.)

Have you taken advantage of our new benefits yet?

Direct ALL questions to AMBA at 1-800-258-7041!

Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) is a nationwide full-service agency focused on plan design, negotiations, and implementation of benefits for associations. AMBA provides expertise in evaluating benefits and providers to assist ARTC in obtaining quality benefits with flexible choices for their members. ARTC recommends the new member benefits listed below.

Long Term Care / Home Health Care Insurance
Tax Deferred Annuity
Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
Astrum Hearing Solutions
Government Employee Travel Opportunities (GETO)
Vacations-to-Go Cruises
La Quinta Inn & Suites Discount
Rental Car Discounts
Dell Computer Discount
Apple Computer Discount
Identity Theft Solutions
1-800-FLOWERS
Barnes & Noble Online Discounts
AMBA TravelPERX
Discounted Insurance Coverage

Membership in ARTC is required in order to obtain these benefits.
Visit www.artct.org to download a membership application TODAY!

ARTC Lobby Day

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

10:00am – 2:00pm

10:00am – 11:00am	Presentation by; MP Guinan Associates Legislative Office Building
11:30am	Visits with Legislators <u>Please make your appointments NOW!</u>
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Light Lunch Old Judiciary Rm., Capitol Building

For more information please contact planning committee co-chairs:

Ellen Long 860-529-8738 or ellenwlong@aol.com

Pat McDonnell 203-366-2417 or pattymcd2001@yahoo.com

Editorial Note: Apologies to Ellen Humphrey whose name was misspelled in our Fall 2009 newsletter.



Membership Committee Report—Bonnie Reimann & Roz Schoonmaker, Co-Chairs



The Membership Committee is happy to announce our members now exceed 10,000 and we are approaching our goal of 11,000 members. We thank all those who have contributed donations! We especially want to thank those who donated \$50 or more! This helps defray our ever increasing expenses in protecting your benefits!

Please join all of us in welcoming Naugatuck as our fifteenth affiliate! Naugatuck Retired Teachers have chosen to join with ARTC. After a brief talk by ARTC President Michael Norman and encouraging support from their president, Dottie Daniels, the Naugatuck Retired Teachers voted unanimously to become part of the ARTC Family!

ARTC recently endorsed a tribute to Moe Nierenstein, former president of ARTC and former trustee on TRB. Moe was instrumental in getting two retired teacher members as trustees on the board. He spoke constantly with our state legislators on behalf of teachers. The award will be given to a retired teacher who is both a member of their local association and the state ARTC. The retiree must be an active volunteer contributing to the local community and the state. If you wish to be considered for this award (to be given at the annual Spring meeting), please send your resume to Rosalyn Schoonmaker, 95 Curt Smith Rd, Southbury, CT 06488-2322. A committee will decide the winner.

Special Note; If you've noticed a recent \$\$ increase on your TRB statement recently it reflects a Federal Mandate to CUT withholding taxes. This is NOT a COLA. Our members need to evaluate this change on an individual basis. If you desire to change your withholding deductions you should state this in writing to the TRB. This change will take effect for the New Year. You may write to the TRB at:

CT Teachers Retirement Board 765
 Asylum Avenue
 Hartford, CT 061051

Insurance Committee Report— Rick / Louise Follman, Co-Chairs

Yes, a crisis has been averted! The Teacher Retirement Board was able to replace Medco Health Benefits, our Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) by “piggy backing” on the state employees PBM contract. Our 16,000 retired teachers who subscribe to the TRB Pharmacy plan are now covered by CVS/Caremark, effective February 1, 2010.

The TRB was forced to open bids for a new PBM when Medco’s legal department refused to sign the contract because of the aggressive “Safe Harmless” clause & 16 other concerns in the contract.

The TRB then opened the bidding process utilizing state guidelines. Twelve companies met the guideline stipulation for a PBM. However, nine companies refused to continue negotiations because of the aggressive “Safe Harmless” clause required in all state contracts. To resolve this devastating situation, Darlene Perez, TRB Administrator, initiated a meeting with the state controller’s office and her health benefits people. She was able to work out the “piggy back” situation.

The benefits of the plan remain the same as with Medco; deductible, maximum payout, co-pays, etc. Your yearly deductible will be transferred to CVS/Caremark in February. Please look for the letter being sent out in January from the TRB for more information. And, keep the new membership card. It will be needed to fill prescriptions.

Also, worth noting at this time:

- All information regarding present script(s) on file with Medco will be transferred electronically to CVS/Caremark.
- If you take what the law considers a controlled substance, you will need a new script for renewal. See your doctor.
- The cost of the plan could be reduced because of the “larger pooling” with 250,000 State employees.

This move gives us coverage but we need time to evaluate the CVS/ Caremark over the next year. Some questions do exist...

1. How did the State employees circumvent the legalities we faced?
2. If this PBM agreement does NOT meet retired teachers’ requirements, where do we go? It seems the same legal requirement exists.
3. Can we stay “piggy backed” and independent?
4. **Does our consultant on health benefits have any voice regarding our needs? The ARTC Insurance Committee is addressing these questions.**

PAC Report—Rick Cassar, Chair



The PAC is pleased to announce the hiring of Diane Alverio as our new Communications Consultant. Her familiarity with the media and the workings of the Capitol should promulgate ARTC-PAC’s mission of supporting you.

Several locals have taken advantage of funding from PAC to help advance retired teachers’ political agenda via mailings to support issues, or for affairs to support ARTC friendly candidates. If you have an idea to help that could use a bit of extra funding, please contact us at kricks1@charter.net with your proposal. In addition, PAC is sponsoring meetings with Congressional leader-

ship in order to express concerns regarding recent actions that the legislators have taken.

By Connecticut state law, ARTC dues may not be used for PAC. Consequently, the only money available to PAC is via your generosity. Members of PAC volunteer much time and effort to influence and support legislators that help retired teachers. ARTC-PAC will be conducting a fund drive shortly.

Please send contributions to:

ARTC-PAC

P.O. Box 718

Manchester, CT 06042-0718

Legislative Report— Sandra Bove & Cathy D’Agostino, Co-Chairs



As you are probably aware, the Legislative Committee has had to deal with a number of issues as a result of the state budget cuts. Sadly, this has meant realigning some of our goals for the year and fighting instead to maintain what we have.

First and foremost, we asked you to contact the Governor and legislators to make them aware of the consequences of the decision to withhold the mandated one-third contribution to our Health Fund (HIPA) for the next two years (a loss of approximately \$60 million dollars from the Fund). We thank those of you who did contact your representatives. As you may have learned, many of them were not even aware that this withholding of the one-third contribution was in the budget, nor were they aware of its impact. We believe we have convinced many representatives that withholding the state’s contribution cannot and must not continue beyond these two years. However, we must remain vigilant. You need to frequently remind your representatives of the need to meet their commitment to our Health Fund.

One occasion to do this is on ARTC Lobby Day, April 14, 2010. Strength is in numbers. Our goal is to have many retired teachers lobby our legislators and the Governor on that day. When legislators associate their constituents with the ARTC, they are more apt to remember us during tough budgetary times.

In addition to the Health Fund issue, we faced another problem concerning health insurance. MEDCO informed the TRB that it would not continue to be its drug provider because of contractual issues with the state. Again we asked that you contact the Attorney General and the state legislators to resolve this issue. We thank those of you who did as our voices were heard. Although a number of tense moments passed in trying to resolve the problem, a solution was reached with CVS/Caremark being our new Pharmaceutical Benefit Manager.

Continued on page 4...

ARTC Financial Report as of June 30, 2009 – Mary L. Gracyalny, Financial Officer

The Association of Retired Teachers' (ARTC) financial report as of June 30, 2009 shows a positive profit and loss statement with a year end surplus of \$10,815. This was due to two main factors. One was the reduction in total committee expense versus the budgeted amount and the second was the generous member donations of \$37,535. Annual membership dues were substantially less than budgeted, despite an increase in the number of paid members. The difference was due to having a large number of pre-paid members from prior years and because more than twenty percent of our members are eligible for the \$10 annual dues rate.

Overall actual expenses were \$193,025 which was \$6,675 less than the budgeted amount. Revenues were \$203,840 which was 2% more than the budgeted amount. ARTC had a strong year both financially and in membership retention and growth. Headquarter operations, under the management of Executive Director Wayne Woodtke, have provided more and better support to ARTC's membership than ever before!

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

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The good news through all these trying times is that we have been assured that our pension is secure. Nevertheless we must continue to be concerned about the social security injustice to Connecticut retired teachers. We need to be aggressive in supporting federal initiatives to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Please continue to contact Senator Lieberman who does not favor repeal. Let him know your concerns. We also need to thank Senator Dodd and all our House Representatives who support the repeal and remind them to remain committed.

As retired teachers in Connecticut, unlike state employees, we do not have a bargaining unit to negotiate with the legislature for our benefits. The ARTC continues to be your eyes and ears in Hartford. We are only as strong as our membership. The legislative committee can only achieve its goals if all retired teachers take the time to become active.

	Jul '08 - Jun 09	Budget	\$ Over/Under
Income			
Donations	37,535	0	37,535
GRANTS	0	10,000	(10,000)
Interest	9,517	12,000	(2,483)
Members Dues			
Affiliate Membership Dues	480	480	0
Annual Membership Dues	138,425	166,270	(27,845)
Life Membership Dues	11,900	10,500	1,400
Total Members Dues	150,805	177,250	(26,445)
Newsletter Advertising	2,900	0	2,900
Special Events	3,083	0	3,083
Total Income	203,840	199,250	4,590
Expense			
Board of Directors	5,837	6,600	(763)
Total Committees	14,501	23,200	(8,699)
Contributions	2,400	2,400	0
Honorarium	5,200	6,000	(800)
Membership Renewal	12,469	20,000	(7,531)
Newsletter	29,131	22,000	7,131
Office Expenses	13,778	11,000	2,778
Payroll Expenses	77,264	80,000	(2,736)
President's Expenses	176	500	(324)
Professional Services	30,943	28,000	2,943
Silent Auction Expenses	1,206	0	0
Special Mailings	120	0	0
Total Expense	193,025	199,700	(6,675)
Profit/Loss	10,815	(450)	11,265

Affiliate Updates...

NORTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

The NFCRTA continues to encourage members to stay politically aware by using e-mail to receive information affecting benefits, pension fund information and changes. We must continue to lobby our governor and legislators to honor their commitments and preserve our benefits.

We also will be asking those retirees living out of state to join both NFCRTA and ARTC. We are looking for strength in numbers on important issues. We also will be encouraging members to attend ARTC Lobby Day in Hartford on April 14, 2010.

Our local association will be looking into obtaining a non-profit mailing permit to offset the increasing costs. Also, we are planning to establish an NFCRTA website. We have a volunteer webmaster and will try to piggyback onto the ARTC website.

On November 11, 2009, our esteemed Mary Edgett (for whom our NFCRTA Scholarship is named) turned 107 years old!



We have learned she is the oldest living retired teacher member of ARTC! Several of our members visit her throughout the year. She is still so vibrant and engaging that it is a truly uplifting experience.

Many of these retired visitors were once her students!

For the next two years CT post-1992 teacher retirees will not receive cost-of-living allowances from the state as well as social security colas. The state also will NOT contribute their one third portion to the health insurance fund during this time, resulting in an increase in premiums to our retirees not on Boards of Education health plans.

That lack of contribution by the state will save the state \$60,000,000+ at the expense of eighteen thousand teachers!

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

Affiliate Updates, cont...

WATERBURY

The Waterbury Retired Teachers Association held its last meeting on October 20th at Junipers Restaurant in Middlebury, Ct. Our guest speaker, Christine Ieronimo, spoke on the topic of Ethiopia, its history and living conditions. Mrs. Ieronimo, who recently adopted a young child from Ethiopia, illustrated her talk with scenes of the country and its needs. She has written a book which compares and contrasts her daughter's life now and then.

The next meetings of the association will be held on March 30th and May 20th. The March 30th meeting will be held at the Farmingbury Inn with a guest speaker from the local newspaper. The May 20th meeting will be our annual scholarship meeting to be held at the Grand Oak Villa.

Our executive board voted to increase the amount of our scholarships to local students. Four \$2000 scholarships will be presented to graduating seniors from the local high schools who will be pursuing a career in education. The students who receive these awards are required to submit an essay regarding their career choice. These essays are presented to the membership by the students, who together with their guidance counselors, are guests at the scholarship luncheon.

At Christmas time, our members visited convalescent homes to bring gifts to retired teachers from our organization as part of our *good cheer fund*. Other activities are being planned in order to increase participation at our meetings.

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

GREATER BRIDGEPORT

Our luncheon meetings in October, November, and December 2009 were a huge success both attendance and information wise.

We heard from a health expert on how to avoid the flu, and a local police officer on how to stay safe during the holiday season.

Remember that nothing is ever "free." Never send money to those who promise you something or say that you have won a car or a million dollars. It just isn't so.

During our December social, we were fortunate to hear from the Trumbull High School choir. They were superb as usual. We also collected non-perishable food items for the Thomas Merton House in Bridgeport which clothes, feeds and houses the needy.

Many gave us checks and household supplies for them which were very beautiful gestures from the retired teachers in our group.

We also had a raffle and were successful in adding a little more to our scholarship fund. As always, we give 15 scholarships to area high school students with an interest in teaching at graduation time. Also, poinsettia plants were distributed to volunteers for our homebound members.

Pasqualina "Pat" Yacovacci, *President*
patsy5366@aol.com (203) 371-7158

NAUGATUCK

Naugatuck Retired Teachers are pleased to join with ARTC as a local affiliate. At our December meeting, we voted unanimously to join ARTC following guest speaker Mike Norman's presentation convincing us to be a part of the organization.

The meeting was held at Jesse Camille's Restaurant in Naugatuck with 48 members and guests attending. It was a festive gathering and we enjoyed socializing with former colleagues and friends. We remembered members who are ill and announced that nominations for officers will be made and voted upon at the next meeting.

Bylaws and Articles of Association have been prepared for our new organization and have been adopted by the officers and representatives. Present officers are Dorothy Daniels, President; Fred Pappano, Treasurer; Karen Streeter, Secretary. Representatives for the high school, intermediate/middle schools, elementary and special services are Kathy Diatelevi, Ed Paige, Nikki Yanarella and Sharon Choquette.

Our first scholarship was granted in June to Sara Johnson, a Naugatuck High School graduate, who is majoring in education. In September a Memorial Service was held at St. John of the Cross Church, Middlebury, for deceased Naugatuck teachers. Lunch was served in the church hall following the service.

Our Spring meeting will be held on March 4th.

Dottie Daniels, *President*
dott2hld@comcast.net (203)729-5664

MANCHESTER

Greetings-- WINTER HAS ARRIVED ! Thoughts go back to a warm September day when thirty of the retired teachers of Manchester reconvened at the Vernon Diner for

our annual BACK TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST. For the future, Nancy Sampson and Nancy Donnelly, our vice-presidents, have prepared a quartet of meetings for the fall and spring...Bruncheons and Luncheons alike, with delightful speakers and presenters who inspire us as we enjoy "delectable comestibles" in the company of friends.

The first meeting on October 27, 2009 found us at Manchester Country Club for a Breakfast Buffet. Our speaker was our own retired Manchester teacher, Jim Harriman...a renown story-teller, playwright, and actor. His topic, "The Art of Storytelling" kept us spellbound throughout...both making us laugh and bringing tears to our eyes. Amazing!

Next, on November 17, 2009, a delectable Middle Eastern luncheon was prepared and served in the Cheney Dining Room of Manchester Community College's Culinary Institute...an outstanding preparation! The energetic and inspirational Yoga instructor, Marina Haksteen, shared with us, "Secrets for Healthful Living through Yoga." She very gracefully made it look so easy...and rewarding, which it is.

Since scholarship fund-raising is a part of our "raison d'etre", the BOOK SWAP of gently used books is in place. (\$1 for paperbacks and \$2 for hardbound) Another important component of scholarship fund-raising is the RAFFLE with its many intriguing items. Beautiful quilts, paintings, greeting cards, plants, and gift certificates only name a few of the marvels available at each meeting. It is also our plan to continue with the BOOKS TO DREAM program

As was reported by Marsha Gunther, Membership chairperson, RTAM membership is at 303 - Excellent! Marsha has sent out her BOO-HOO reminders for membership renewal. Also, on membership, it is very important that each one of us is a member of the ARTC. With so much going on in the legislature, they NEED us. Issues pertaining to pensions and taxation thereof, social security off-sets, and health insurance remain in high profile. These issues are of concern to each and every one of us! Let us be supportive through Lobby Day, letters, e-mails, and telephone calls to our legislators.

Congratulations to Barbara and John Bossidy, the proud parents of Mary Walsh, Music Teacher at Bennett Academy - Manchester's TEACHER of the YEAR!

REMEMBER! The first spring meeting is on April 13, 2010, at the Manchester Country Club. Our guest speaker will be Maureen Haseley-Jones and her topic is "Healing Our Planet, One Garden at a Time."

Our last meeting will be at the Manchester Country Club on May 11, 2010, featuring harpist, Wilda Wyse.

Lucy Sweeney, *President*
lasweeney@cox.net (860)649-0966

Affiliate Updates, cont....

SOUTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

We introduced an insurance concept to the ARTC where a retired educator would pay 20% of the total of the group rate cost. Retirees younger than 65 and those over 65 and not eligible for Medicare from Social Security would be included. Our present system of payment is a disgrace! There are 8,671 retirees under 65 that pay 100% of the Group Rate cost and 8,019 retirees over 65 (including their spouses) that have to pay the full insurance cost to their local boards of education. Figures show 13,920 retirees on the Medicare Supplemental Plan that would see a reduction of cost from 33% to 20%. (Figures from page C-3 Connecticut State Teachers Retiree Health Care Plan.) Retirees from our local pay between \$6,000 - \$9,000 per person. Six of our communities have Anthem Blue Cross, which on November 11, 2009 received permission from the State Insurance Dept. to increase their fees by 20% as of January 1, 2010! If you are one of thousands negatively affected, contact us at kanejhn@sbcglobal.net.

On the social side, SFRTA presently has 1,500 members. About 140 retirees attended our last luncheon where Darlene Perez, administrator from the Teachers Retirement Board, spoke about the new prescription plan beginning February 1, 2010. Among the guests were the county heads of Fairfield, Northern Fairfield, Bridgeport, and ARTC PAC.

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

HARTFORD COUNTY

HCRTA held its annual fall luncheon at the Wethersfield Country Club on September 23, 2009. Darlene Perez, the Administrator of the STRB, was the guest speaker. She discussed the Legislature's decision to not fund the one-third cost of our health insurance in the current budget as well as the loss of the Medco Drug Program.

HCRTA will be sponsoring a bus for Lobby Day on April 14, 2010 between the hours of 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. The bus will take retired teachers from a commuter parking lot in West Hartford to the LOB. Those teachers attending can make an appointment ahead of time to speak with their reps. This will probably be our last chance to ask the legislators to restore the funding of our health insurance. The trip will be open to HCRTA-ARTC members on a

first come, first serve basis. Please contact me by March 15, 2010 if you are interested in this service. We will make our decision as to how many pickups we will have based on your response. To make a reservation, you may contact me at sajunefi47@cox.net or 860-668-0547. Please leave your name, eMail address and the name of the town you will be coming from. I will contact you about the final arrangements.

This newsletter is the only way in which this trip will be advertised. so if you know of any HCRTA members who do not receive this mailing, please tell them about the trip!

Sandra Fitzgerald, *President*
sajunfi47@cox.net (860) 668-0547

WINDHAM – TOLLAND

The Windham Tolland Retired Teachers Association held our Fall Luncheon Meeting at the Harvest Restaurant in Pomfret on Thursday, October 15, 2009 with about 75 members in attendance. Following a brief business meeting, WTRTA members had the opportunity to meet with a panel of legislators from our districts. Sandra Bove, WTRTA and ARTC Legislative Co-Chair, served as the moderator for the panel discussion. The panel included Senator Donald Williams, Jr. (D), Senator Tony Guglielmo (R), Representative Denise Merrill (D), and Representative Mae Flexer (D). Thank you to Jackie Abbott and Nola Hoss, Program Chairs, for organizing another successful luncheon meeting and to Sandra Bove for being an excellent moderator for the panel discussion.

A bus full of WTRTA members, along with family and friends, started the holiday season with a trip to New York to enjoy this year's Radio City Music Hall's Holiday Show. A great time was had by all. Our members thank John Adamo and Annette Murphy for organizing another great "Roads Scholars" trip. As a number of our officers and committee chairs complete their terms, we need new members to step-up and volunteer for leadership roles. We have a number of important roles to fill, including president, vice-president, insurance chair, and co-membership chair, before our elections this spring.

We have a very hardworking Executive Board, but we need new people to fill some important positions in the organization. We are looking forward to hearing from new colleagues who want to join the board and continue the good work of WTRTA.

Dan Coughlin, *President*
danielcoughlin@charter.net (860) 974-0383

NEW LONDON

The New London County Retired Teachers Association has had a wonderful beginning for the 2009-2010 year. Our members have been extremely generous this fall benefiting food banks, needy children and our troops overseas, in addition to adding to our scholarship fund.

We continue to meet on the third Tuesday of September, November, December, April and June. We would love to welcome new members and guests to our meetings. Feel free to contact me for further information.

Trenda Caron, *President*
cctrenda@aol.com (860) 848-3219

FAIRFIELD

As the snow falls and the winter chill is upon us it's hard to believe that 2009 is over. It's time to reflect upon our past accomplishments and look to our future goals. We have succeeded in building our membership to nearly three hundred and increasing our social activities this year.

We began the year with our Welcome New Retirees Breakfast in September. We looked forward to seeing many of our old friends who have now decided to join the ranks of the retired educators.

In November the group boarded a 9:00 A.M. train into New York City. Our scheduled tour guide met us for an historic tour of Grand Central Terminal. He revealed many unusual and interesting facts concerning the symbols that are built into the structure. The acorn and oak leaves which form the Vanderbilt crest can be seen in the ceilings and walls throughout.

Our December event was our annual Holiday Party, which was hosted by the active teachers' group (FEA) and the retired teachers' group (REF) at Cinzano's Restaurant. As always, the group enjoyed the delicious buffet and a wonderful opportunity to begin the holiday festivities with colleagues. We also contributed toys and a generous donation for the needy children of Fairfield.

Special thanks to John Kane for inviting us to his Holiday Luncheon which featured Darlene Perez from the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement Board.

We look forward to continuing our support for legislation that will benefit the active as well as the retired teachers.

Our sincerest wishes to all ARTC members for a happy and healthy New Year.

Richard DeZenzo, *Co-President*
richdez@aol.com (203) 261-0872
Lou Cubelli, *Co-President* (203) 261-2921

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009 - 2010 www.artct.org

Updated: December 2009

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