

## M.C.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION CENTER

### Officers and contact people Dec 2009

Margo Chase-Wells	president	860-345-3282	c: 860-301-2403	margochasewells@gmail.com
Bette Tischio	vice president	860-349-3065		johntischio@prudentialct.com
Kathy Rodriguez	treasurer	860-316-5305	c: 860-301-6263	k.rodriguez@comcast.net
Gay Fialko	secretary	860-347-0669	c:860-614-3038	mgayfialko@aol.com
Dee Padwater	legislative rep.	860-635-3535	c: 860-478-3323	dpadwater@aol.com
Esther Beierle	scholarship co-chair	860-345-2835		jebeierle@aol.com
Hazel Kurlansky	scholarship co-chair	860-345-8479	c:860-301-0224	hazeyk@sbcglobal.net

### Minutes of last meeting Oct 6, 2009

Call to Order: Margo Chase-Wells, President

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of new members, 15 in all!

I. Treasurer's Report : Kathy Rodriguez

Total assets for October 2009 stand at \$3, 637.11,

II. Secretary's Report: Gay Fialko

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

III. Legislative Report: Dee Padwater: ARTC news

A. TRB (teachers' retirement board) is solvent

B. Discussion of Pension Offset is a federal discussion.

C. New insurance for medicines. Medco ends. State interviewing new providers.

IV. Outreach:

A. Adopt-a-school. Margo talked about backpacks donation. We've adopted Spencer School in Middletown.

B. Glen Moon Scholarship Fund – no report

C. Henry Barnard Fund – Ellie Jurczak

1. Basket passed for donations. Motion made to donate \$200.00 from our treasury for the Henry Barnard Fund. Passed.

V. Old Business

A. Newsletter. We had a full page in ARTC newsletter.

B. Book Club meeting discussed. Mary De Chello – October 13, 2009

C. Day Trippers Meeting- October 19, 2009

VI. New Business

A. Aqua Turf ARTC Fall luncheon is October 20, 2009

B. October 29, 2009- Progressive Lunch

C. Jean Cushing- Breast Cancer Research

1. Discussed the auction on line. [www.Biddingforgood.com](http://www.Biddingforgood.com)

D. Vote on theme for our basket for May ARTC meeting (auction). Chocolate is the choice. Members should give items to Dee Padwater.

E. Christmas Party: Baci Grill

F. Raffle

VII. Speaker: Rick Billeaud from AMBA, a member benefits company which recently partnered with ARTC. Explanation of benefits.

Respectfully submitted by Gay Fialko

### **Financial Report Dec. 2009**

After paying our affiliate dues, reimbursements, and all bills from the luncheons and Christmas party, our treasury holds about \$3,000. We also have a CD worth approximately \$800 that we plan on investing the next time it matures.

### **Insurance Jan. 2010**

For those age 65 or more, the insurance available to us is through Sterling & Sterling and costs about \$65/month, or \$165 if you get the Rx, dental, hearing and vision plan as well. The new prescription carrier is CVS Caremark. You should have already received your new card this month. Everything will carry over – your prescriptions that are due to come in the mail, your co-pay, your already-paid deductible. Nothing changes. We do know that CVS does not cover 3 cholesterol drugs, (vitorin and lipitor are two of them) but if your doctor writes a letter (you will receive the form when you receive your card in Jan.) stating that ONLY these drugs will work for you and not generic ones, then CVS will cover them at the regular co-pay price.

### **Legislative Dec. 2009**

Our breakfast at Denny's and postcard writing session to our legislators has been put on hold. Although it continues to be a concern, the social security offset and spouse exception, *and* the state income tax on teachers over 65, is not the prime issue right now. According to our legislative rep, Dee Padwater, the ARTC legislative committee overwhelmingly agreed that this is NOT the right time to be asking for money, either state or federal. Some felt that it might even have a negative effect and be remembered later and work against us.

Our main focus for the last few months has been the Rx coverage. After much hard work we have been able to get the state to allow the teachers to piggyback on the retired state employees Rx plan. In the next few weeks we will be receiving a letter explaining the details to our new carrier, CVS Caremark.

### **Membership Dec. 2009**

~ Membership renewals to ARTC are down, as are new signups. If you are not a member please consider joining.

~Here is a breakdown of our MCRTA members by the region or town they live in. Since this is not a protected site, no personal information is listed. If you need to contact someone, e-mail or call Margo. We are currently at 106! Thank you to all of you who have brought a new friend into the group.

**MEMBERS BY REGION**

**107 Jan. 2010**

**BERLIN/CROMWELL**

Doreen Messier  
Margaret Mullen  
Dee Padwater

**CHESTER/DEEP RIVER/ESSEX**

Linda Kiaffas  
Shirley Malcarne  
Bev Silver  
Mary Weselcouch

**CLINTON /GUILFORD/MADISON**

Walter Conklin  
Mary DeChello  
Mary Jane Devlin  
Terry Donati  
Stephanie Drucker  
Nadine Genesisus  
Helene Gettenberg  
Judith Jacobson  
Arline Johnson  
Nancy Maertz  
Lydia McMinn  
Tom Partridge  
Judith Postemsky  
Laura Powell  
Freyda Rose  
Lucy Saglio  
Twila Skelly  
Joanne Starr  
Maureen Thornton  
Marilyn Wilkins

**COLCHESTER/PORTLAND**

Robbie Avery  
Muriel Barlow  
Ruth McGowan  
Irene Negrelli  
Kathy Ruef  
Mary Ann Snyder  
Mary Ann Traska

**DURHAM/MIDDLEFIELD**

Jeannette Billeb

Shirley Brown  
Julie Greeman  
Kathy Hennessey  
Eileen Kukish  
Mary Ann Reynolds  
Bette Tischio

**EAST HAMPTON/MOODUS**

Fred Gagnon  
Barbara Maloska

**HADDAM/HIGG/KILLINGWORTH**

John Anderson  
Esther Beierle  
Margo Chase-Wells  
Susan Dean  
Marge DeBold  
Suzanne Dineen  
Wayne Kensel  
Hazel Kurlansky  
Mary Ellen Larson  
Linda Rigono  
Janet Scranton  
Harriet Strain  
Carol Sturges

**HADLYME/LYME**

Maureen Thornton  
Marilyn Wilkins

**MERIDEN/WALLINGFORD**

Jean Dufrat  
Genevieve Smith

**MIDDLETOWN**

Barbara Bartoli  
Eleanor Borkowski  
Phyllis Campisi  
MaryAnn Cannata  
Teckie Chapman  
Marlene Cockfield  
Mary Chubbuck  
Joyce Conklin  
Sandra DiPietro  
Doris Dooley

Gay Fialko  
Bob Frederick  
Pat Frederick  
Jane Gibson  
MaryAnn Giufridda  
Barbara Hawkins  
Jill Huie  
N.Gordon Johnson  
Maureen Maley  
Kathy McRae  
Jeanne Mozdiesz  
Diane Petras  
Margaret Plosky  
Linda Polemsky  
Kathy Rodriguez  
Emaly Simone  
Eloise Skarb  
Rosemary Skoglund  
Paula Stevens  
Betty Tichy  
Nada Von Mahland  
Judy Walsh

**NEWINGTON/WETHERSFIELD**

Jean Cushing  
Anne DiPietro  
Louise Gordona  
Ellie Jurczak  
Grace Lineberry

**NEW LONDON/NIANTIC**

Bobbie Greenough  
Joanne Magner  
Barbara Spehar

**OLD SAYBROOK/WESTBROOK**

Ruth Armentano  
Jon & Carol Bayer  
Janet Card  
Peg Curran  
Mary Grace Eagle  
Cindy Owens  
Kathy Pass  
Margaret Radcliffe  
Virginia Torelli

## **Outreach Jan. 2010**

In the year 2009, our group has:

1. Collected over 300 cans of non-perishable food for the Amazing Grace soup kitchen
2. Contributed \$615 to the Henry Barnard fund for very needy teachers
3. Collected and filled 16 backpacks with school supplies for children at risk in Spencer School in Middletown
4. Collected 1564 diapers in a campaign headed by Eleanor Borkowski

In the spring we will continue our collection of school items to support our Adopt-a-school project.

## **OCTOBER DIAPER DRIVE RESULTS**

Eleanor Borkowski, a retired second grade teacher from Snow School in Middletown went back to the Snow School community to host a diaper drive. Donations came in from current and retired staff and families, and staff held a Dress Down Day to support this cause. The Dress Down Day alone brought in 9 packages of diapers and \$80.00 cash which was used to purchase sizes needed and a package of baggies.

The GRAND TOTAL collected was 1,564 individual diapers, 2 packages of wipes, and 1 package of baggies to distribute the wipes. The diapers were delivered to a distribution center run by Middlesex Hospital and United Way and will be distributed through the W.I.C. Program.

A handwritten thank you from Maria Demarest of Ct. United Way was received. It reads:

“Dear Eleanor,

On behalf of Middlesex United Way and the needy babies of this area I want to thank you, Snow School staff and families as well as the Middlesex County Retired Teachers Association for the donation of over 1,500 diapers and wipes. As you know, the diaper storage area's inventory is very low at this time, but your efforts in collecting diapers & wipes have made a huge difference. There will be a lot of happy babies! Again, thank you for taking the time to organize this very successful diaper drive. You truly do LIVE UNITED.

Sincerely,

Maria Demarest

Volunteer Center & Special project coordinator- Middlesex United Way”

## **Social report Dec. 2009**

~The school year begins in August with our traditional “Not-back-to-school breakfast” hosted by president, Margo Chase-Wells at her home in Haddam. We like to invite new retirees to this, so we need you folks to supply Margo or Kathy with any names and contact information of newly retired teachers.

~In the fall members attended our 5<sup>th</sup> annual “Progressive Lunch” organized by Bette Tischio. They visited three different restaurants in the downtown Middletown area, and enjoyed 1 course at each destination, with a short walk between their stops.

~ We all enjoyed a terrific Christmas party with games , delicious food, an extensive raffle, and wonderful prizes at the Baci Grill in Cromwell in December.

~ We are trying desperately to start a day-trippers club for trips within CT. The first trip will be to the CT Science Museum in Hartford in the spring. Date TBA. Contact person is Kathy McRae (860-346-8157 kbmcr@aol.com)

~Maureen Maley will be organizing a wine tasting trip in the spring, too, at the Wallingford Winery. It's a BYO appetizer deal where we can sit outside and enjoy the view. (860-347-8709 maureen.maley@snet.net)

~ We also would like to start a book club, facilitated by Mary DeChello (860-669-5158 marycontrary7F@aol.com) in Clinton, that would meet at a different member's home each month or every two months. All bookclub details will be

made by interested parties at their first meeting.  
If you have any questions call the contact person for each event.

### **Upcoming Events Jan. 2010**

April 15 - Lobby day at the Legislative Office Building. We'll meet somewhere and carpool.

May 10 - MCRTA spring luncheon at Dock & Dine Old Saybrook. Speaker is Scot Haney from channel 3. More details later when the menu is confirmed.

May 18 - The ARTC spring luncheon will be held again at the Aqua Turf and the main speakers will be the prominent Republican candidates for governor. This is especially important since Gov. Rell is not running again. There will also be a mini auction *during the coffee hour*. The auction may be on the small side but the items offered will be spectacular (Dee is the auction chair and has some inside knowledge.)

### **Notices from the president Jan 2010**

1. We had two successful and entertaining luncheon meetings this year. Our spring event was held at the Dock & Dine in Old Saybrook and featured a professional jeweler as our speaker. The fall event was at the Gelston House in East Haddam and the speaker was a representative from AMBA, our new member benefit company. (Membership is free with an ARTC membership)

2. Earlier in 2009 many of you sent me your volunteer activities. I turned them in to the ARTC as well as wrote an article in the ARTC newsletter about all of our community service. Now the ARTC social services chairman would like to document volunteer hours for each affiliate. I have a record of the volunteer activities you gave me last year, but could you send me approximately how many hours a month you put in? That would be great. And if you never turned in your volunteer activity or hours do that, too. Thanks!

Anyone who has a notice or information that should go in our affiliate page (that can be accessed on the [artct.org](http://artct.org) website), please e-mail [margochasewells@gmail.com](mailto:margochasewells@gmail.com) or call Margo at 860-345-3282. This [artct.org](http://artct.org) site is full of information about anything to do with retired teachers. Check the other drop downs!