In the last hours of the CT legislative session ending in June, after we had testified on our health insurance concerns, after we had all made calls to our legislators, after the Appropriations Committee made its recommendations, the final budget decisions were made. And they were made by a small number of key players behind closed doors. Their decisions adversely affect us now and in the future.

Despite the recommendation from the Appropriations Committee that the State continue its one third contribution to our Health Insurance Premium Account (HIPA), the back door negotiations approved the Governor’s proposed reduction to a one fourth contribution.

As you know, the State’s mandated contribution has been one third of the cost of the basic supplemental plan offered by the TRB through Stirling Benefits. Another one third came from HIPA and retired teachers paid the remaining one third. The State also paid one third of the $110 stipend for those retired teachers purchasing their insurance from their local boards of education. Because of the budget decisions made, now the State will reduce its contribution to retired teachers’ health costs from one third to one fourth.

In addition, the State is taking the federal reimbursement for prescription drugs, which was always allocated to the TRB as managers of our health insurance fund. Now the State is counting it towards its mandated contribution. Talk about robbing from Peter to pay Peter!

The good news is that no retired teacher will see an increase in premium costs for 2013. The increase will be paid from the HIPA fund. However, because of the changes, the fund will lose between $16 and $18 million. This is in addition to the $60+ million loss to the fund during the Rell administration, when the State failed to make its contribution.

If the State continues its contribution at the reduced level and continues to transfer the federal reimbursement monies, the teachers’ health insurance fund, HIPA, will likely be insolvent by 2017.

We cannot allow this to happen. We must all work tirelessly during this coming legislative year to demand the State make its full commitment to the fund. Teachers keep their commitment during their working years by contributing to the fund. Retired teachers keep their commitment paying increasing costs for their health insurance. The State must keep its commitment to the HIPA.

Continued - Page 2
I think it is appropriate to introduce myself to you as I begin my term as your newly elected president. I am a graduate of Trinity College and the U-Conn School of Social Work (MSW – 1969). In addition to working in Killingly Public Schools as school social worker and PPT coordinator for twenty-six years, I have worked at the State Welfare Dept., (now DCF) as a protective service worker, and the Dept. of Mental Retardation as Director of Community Services. I have also worked part-time at a child guidance clinic, and for the State Dept. of Education as a surrogate parent for DCF special education students. Much of my professional experience has involved child advocacy, crisis intervention, conflict resolution and working in teams to do problem solving. I am hoping I won’t have to draw on all of those skills during my term in office!

I have been attending ARTC board meetings since 2003 as Windham - Tolland RTA president (4 years). As President-Elect for the past four years, I have served as liaison to the AARP Advocacy Leadership Committee, and attended Executive Committee meetings as well as regular attendance at Membership and Insurance Committee meetings.

Valuable experience and working relationships have developed over the past ten years. Our officers and committee chairs, current and past, are highly dedicated, enthusiastic and hard working individuals who have endeavored to meet the challenges (pension and health insurance issues) so important to retired educators. Legislative advocacy is gritty work requiring patience, perseverance, a sense of humor and determination to see that the goals get accomplished. Your board and committee members have also been very supportive of our mission and you, the general membership, have responded with support of phone calls, letters and e-mails to your legislators. The current political and economic climate dictates the need to continue and to increase our efforts.

In the coming year, ARTC will continue to focus on maintaining the pension and health insurance benefits we have earned, and we will especially focus on restoring the Health Insurance Premium Account (HIPA), which was compromised last June, (please refer to the Legislative and Insurance Committee reports on this matter.) Another very important initiative we will undertake this year is a concerted effort to increase ARTC membership. A strategic plan has been evolving over the past year led by Diane Alverio & Company, our communications consultant. The goal of increasing membership is crucial to implementing our legislative agenda.

While the reality is that we need increased income to meet the expenses of advocating for our retirement issues, it is imperative that we accrue greater membership numbers and participation in the legislative process – ten to twelve thousand members who phone, text, e-mail and/or write letters and visit their legislators sends a very loud message to elected officials. Many of these legislators are new and/or uninformed about the specifics of our pension and health care benefits. Who better than retired teachers to educate them?!

I hope to be meeting many of you as I travel about the state to attend affiliate functions, and to listen to your concerns and/or suggestions. I am grateful for the talented and dedicated leadership team in place and the support of the Board of Directors in moving our agenda forward. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you in protecting your hard earned and well deserved retirement benefits.

Yours in service,
Tom Singleton, ARTC President
860-963-7229

As soon as Darlene Perez (TRB Administrator) is aware of the actuary information that ARTC has requested, she will meet with the ARTC Insurance Committee and any other interested members to discuss this matter and how it will impact our pensions and benefits for future years.

**SINCE ALL POLITICS HAVE LOCAL IMPACT, OUR MEMBERS NEED TO USE THE PROVIDED INFORMATION TO INFORM YOUR LEGISLATORS ABOUT THE CRITICAL NATURE OF OUR SITUATION REGARDING THE DEPLETION OF THE HIPA. THERE MUST BE AN ONGOING PROCESS OF EDUCATION TO ALL LEGISLATORS.**
One Voice ~ One Choice

ARTC has recently heard the following question being asked not only by members but by our affiliates representatives as well….How does ARTC serve us and why should we join as members?

There are many answers to this question. The MOST important of which is:

ARTC is the ONLY Connecticut organization that exists SOLELY to protect YOUR RETIREMENT RIGHTS! We represent you at the state and federal levels to protect and improve your pensions and health care insurance.

An additional important question ARTC is being asked by its members is…How can we help?

YOU can help…
By serving on ARTC committees. Call the ARTC office and find out which committees need you.
By paying your annual dues in a timely fashion.
By contributing to special appeals from ARTC or ARTC-PAC.
By supporting our semi-annual luncheons.

AND

By committing to secure fellow retired teachers as NEW ARTC MEMBERS!

We need you to reach out to the newly-retired and long-retired teachers who benefit from our efforts but are not members of ARTC! We need to see our membership grow to 11,000 or more this year to fully fund our efforts.

We cannot do this alone! Just one call to (or meeting with) a prospective member by each of you would push our membership drive over the top!

Won’t you commit to our cause?

Association Member Benefits Advisors

Your membership with ARTC gives you access to many member only benefits. Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) helps to make the following benefits available to ARTC members:

- Reverse Mortgages (NEW!)
- First Diagnosis Cancer Policy
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- Astrum Hearing Solutions
- Government Employee Travel Opportunities
- Vacations-to-Go Cruises
- La Quinta Inn & Suites Discount
- Rental Car Discounts (Budget, Avis, & Hertz)
- Dell Computer Discounts
- Apple Computer Discounts
- Identity Theft Solutions
- 1-800-FLOWERS Discounts
- Barnes & Noble Online Discounts
- AMBA TravelPERX Travel Deals

Please direct ALL questions to AMBA at 800-258-7041!

Benefit speakers are also available for your local meetings! To request a speaker, please contact ARTC Executive Director, Wayne P. Woodtke, at 866-343-2782, who will be happy to make arrangements with AMBA.
**BRISTOL**

The Bristol Area Retired Teachers (BART) will open our new “retiree” year with the Welcome Back Breakfast on Wednesday, September 12 at Nuchie’s Restaurant in Forestville. We will enjoy Nuchie’s breakfast buffet. We will socialize. We will greet the eleven new retirees from the Bristol Public Schools who are our guests. At the business meeting, we will decide how to allocate a substantial trust fund bequest we have received for our Scholarship Program. These funds will augment our annual award of two $1,500.00 scholarships, given to a recipient at BCHS and BEHS. In November, by popular request, we will sponsor another winey trip. On Friday, November 2 we have a bus ride to Saltwater Farm Winery in Stonington. We will have the winery tour and tasting and enjoy a Gourmet Box Lunch prepared by Mystic Market East. Our spring March meeting will have us going on Tuesday, March 19 for a morning guided tour at the New Britain Museum of American Art. We close the year with the Annual Meeting and Scholarship presentations at Chippanee Golf Club on Wednesday, May 8.

As a social service project this year, we will begin this year to support the Young Mothers and Infants Ministry of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church by donating gift certificates and baby items when we meet in Bristol. We do this in memory of Pat Duffy, who was a long-time Chair of our Social Services Committee, and who was very much committed to helping the ministries at that church. We have also been asked to help in various ways in a new Schools History Project sponsored by the Bristol Historical Society. We start the year with about 190 members, and hopefully that will increase. Last year’s attempted cut in the state’s share of our health insurance subsidy riled up many of our members. There was a renewed interest in joining ARTC. Be assured, I have a batch of ARTC membership forms ready for our opening meeting on September 12.

Bob Lewandoski, President
breezy_1@comcast.net (203) 879-9113

**HARTFORD COUNTY**

As some of you know, I have resigned as President of the Hartford County Retired Teachers’ Association effective December 31, 2012. I am pleased to announce that Second Vice-President, Barbara Brennan will succeed me as president. Barbara and I are now working together as co-presidents for the time being. First Vice-President, Pat Watrous, resigned her position early in the spring.

HCRTA is looking for officers for the 2013-2015 term. Barbara is the only officer we have on board right now. We need people to volunteer for both vice president offices, the office of secretary, and most of all, the office of treasurer. If you are a member of HCRTA, please consider taking one of these positions.

At our Spring Luncheon in April, Scholarship Committee Chairman, Roberta Parlin, presented $1,500.00 scholarships to two outstanding high school seniors. They were Katherine Katehis from Lewis Mills High School in Burlington and Kadahra Htoo from Buckley High School in Hartford. Katherine will attend the University of Connecticut in Storrs and Kadahra will attend Capitol Community College in Hartford. Congratulations to both girls!

The HCRTA Luncheon will be held later this year due to conflicts with religious holidays during the last week of September. This year’s luncheon will be on October 3rd at Testa’s in Southington. Roz Schoonmaker, a long time member of the Teachers Retirement Board (TRB) and ARTC will be our guest speaker and discuss current threats to our insurance and pension. We hope to have a large crowd.

Sandra Fitzgerald, President
sajune647@cox.net (860) 668-0547

At our Annual Spring Meeting and Luncheon in May, members were treated to a “stroll down memory lane” as our guest speaker, Jeff Williams, shared the unique story of the Ritz Ballroom through news articles and photos. Many purchased his signed book, Home of Happy Dancers, the story of Bridgeport, Connecticut’s Ritz Ballroom.

Thanks to the generous contributions of our members, two $500 scholarships were presented to two very deserving high school seniors who plan to pursue careers in education. Congratulations to Emily Austin and Erin Gartland, this year’s recipients.

Our first event for 2012-2013 is the “Welcome Back” all-you-can-eat breakfast to be held on September 14 at the Circle Diner in Fairfield when we honor Fairfield’s 28 newly retired educators.

Another tradition is the FEA (Fairfield Education Association) picnic at scenic Penfield II, where current and retired teachers have the opportunity to socialize. This fall it will take place on September 27.

Our Activities Committee has been hard at work selecting fall trips for our members to enjoy. The first is Oktoberfest at Wright’s Mill Farm in Canterbury, Connecticut, on October 7. On November 15, a trip to the Goodspeed Opera House to see “Something’s Afoot” with lunch at the Griswold Inn has been organized. The committee is searching for spring excursions. Our members look forward to the REF/FEA Holiday Social, which this year will be held on December 7 at Cinzano’s. An hors-d’oeuvres buffet will be enjoyed by all.

The year is off to a busy start!

Marilyn Feranec, Co-President
marilynferanec@ymail.com (203)254-2349

Lois Neville, Co-President
len52@sbcglobal.net (203) 876-8400

---

**FAIRFIELD**

As the new co-presidents of REF (Retired Educators of Fairfield), we are looking forward to a productive and fun-filled year. At our first Executive Board meeting on July 26, we reviewed our goals for 2012-2013 and planned future activities for the coming year.

---

**A teacher takes a Hand, opens a Mind and touches a Heart**
Affiliate Updates... (Opinions expressed by Affiliates are not necessarily the opinion of the ARTC Board of Directors as a whole.)

MANCHESTER
This being my first report to you, I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve you as president of the retired educators who gave their service to the Manchester school district. This office is a little different from when I served you as president of the MEA, but I welcome the chance to serve you again to help you in the golden years as a retired educator. I hope to be able to ‘fill the shoes’ of Lucy Sweeney, who served so well as president of RTAM for the past five years. I welcome her continued input and knowledge.

As you know, educators are still being the target of the social and economic scapegoats with local budgets. It is important to assist the active teachers in any way to help them be successful in carrying out their responsibilities in educating the future of this country despite what the critics claim. Legislators and the public need to understand the way to a successful educational system is not by dictating what the class room should be. Our expertise should be included to overcome the budgetary and teaching issues that face educators today.

This past year we have seen several proposals from the Governor on reforming education. Some would have affected increases in the retirees’ costs in health care. Fortunately, if you have coverage under the State’s plan with Stirling Benefits, there will be no cost increase due to the lobbying of ARTC’s efforts. I wish to thank Mike Norman and his ARTC Executive Committee in working to protect us with this issue on the State level. Also, a thank you to Lucy Sweeney and Neil Foster for all their efforts as well.

Debbie Borello has graciously stepped forward to work as editor of RTAM newsletter. Her expertise in technology will be greatly appreciated to assure you will all be kept well informed.

My thanks to Don Hogan who accepted to chair the committee that provides guest speakers at our meetings during the year. If there is a topic that you may want to be addressed at any of these meetings, or know of a speaker of interest, please let me know.

Please check out the ARTC website for important RTAM meetings, and locations for 2012-2013 at http://artct.org/Manchester.pdf.

Finally, if you as an RTAM member who has not joined ARTC, please plan on doing so.

The ARTC fights to protect our rights with the State legislature on pension and healthcare benefits.

Tom Alexander, President
meatre@aol.com (860) 568-5046

ARTC-PAC
Five members of the ARTC PAC- Legislative Committees met with lobbyist Randy Collins on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 to review the list of representatives and senators eligible for election in November. All 151 seats in the House and 36 seats in the Senate will need to be filled. It took a couple of hours to discuss the candidates’ positions towards retired teachers, but we did come up with a satisfactory list that ARTC-PAC will endorse. There are both Democrats and Republicans on this slate.

Afterwards, we traveled to Carbone’s in Hartford for a Democratic Caucus Reception. We were greeted by Governor Malloy, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Senator Martin Looney, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Congressman Chris Murphy, Congressman Joe Courtney, Congressman Jim Himes, Senator Don Williams, Congressman John Larson and others. Even Coach Jim Calhoun from U. Conn put in an appearance.

The committee consisted of Sandra Bove, Rick Cassar, Ellen Long, Patty McDonnell, and Tom Singleton. Also, please look to our website www.artct.org for the 2012 political endorsements of ARTC-PAC which will appear in the very near future!

Please note: The ARTC PAC is self-sustaining. Your contributions are its lifeline, so please send what you are able to:

“ARTC-PAC”
P.O. Box 718
Manchester, CT 06042-0178

WINDHAM-TOLLAND
WTRTA held its annual Spring Luncheon in May at Wrights Mill Farm in Canterbury. The business meeting included committee reports and election of officers. Laura Green, President of AARP of Connecticut, gave an informative talk on retirement issues. Entertainment was provided by the Plainfield High School Chamber Choir, and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Our summer trip was to the Goodspeed Opera House to see a lively performance of Mame. A luncheon afterward ended the enjoyable outing.

All our members are encouraged to attend our fall meeting/luncheon on October 16, 2012 at 10AM at Wrights Mill Farm in Canterbury.

Members will have the opportunity to meet and listen to ARTC lobbyist, Randy Collins, and learn more about how to help protect our pension and health insurance benefits.

Help us increase our voice in Hartford by encouraging a retired colleague to join us at the fall meeting!

Carol Taylor, President
dean@buvinotech.com

GREATER BRIDGEPORT AREA
The GBRTA is beginning its 61st year of service to retired teachers and administrators. With a membership of over 900, the Association welcomes retirees who reside in, or have taught in the Greater Bridgeport area, which includes Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Milford, Monroe, Shelton, Stratford, and Trumbull, and who receive pensions from the State of Connecticut Teachers’ Retirement Board.

In addition to its schedule of five yearly general membership meetings, the GBRTA sponsors a rich variety of day and overnight trips. The Newsletter, published three times yearly, updates members on legislative issues of interest to retired teachers, publicizes trips and activities, and contains information about volunteer opportunities available to retired teachers and their families and friends. The website, www.GBRTA.org, provides updated information of interest to our members.

In winter and spring, the Member Services committee visits members who are homebound or in nursing homes. A special Memorial Service in May remembers our colleagues who have passed away during the previous year.

The organization annually awards fifteen $1,000 scholarships to a graduating seniors in each of the public high schools in the GBRTA’s eight area towns. Selected by their schools, the awardees have all indicated an interest in teaching as a career.

Barbara Kmetz, President
BFKmetz@earthlink.com, (203) 268-8814
### WEST HARTFORD

The West Hartford Retired Educators’ Association is looking forward to another year of supporting and working with ARTC members to improve and protect retired teachers’ benefits. One of our major goals is to establish a strong e-mail base and e-mail notification system. This will be used to contact and encourage all members to renew or join ARTC, keep them abreast of legislative developments, and encourage wider participation in contacting legislators and friends.

Currently, the Board is busy soliciting new members to join WHREA and ARTC. Letters have been mailed to new retirees and will be followed up with phone solicitation. Our Membership Committee will be working hard to update our membership list so that we can know if a WHREA member is also a member of ARTC and/or CEA-R.

Our first banquet will be held on December 7, 2012 at the Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford, CT. It will feature lively entertainment, raffle, social time with fun and laughter, and a bountiful buffet.

For further information, contact me at 860-658-1560 or WHREA@comcast.net.

Ken Sopelak, President  
kensopekal@comcast.net  
(860) 658-1560

### NEW LONDON

The New London County Retired Teachers Association will hold the first of its five luncheons on September 19th at the Ocean Beach’s Port and Starboard Restaurant. We will have a speaker from the Thames Valley Council for Community Action who will talk about the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Items will be collected for our 8th annual NLCRTA Operation Troop Support, and a basket raffle will be held to raise funds for the three scholarships which we sponsor.

Jane Aarino, President  
jlaarnio@aol.com  
(860) 848-1097

### NEW HAVEN

The New Haven County Retired Teachers Association wishes to announce its Fall meeting will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2012 at the Country House Restaurant, 990 Foxon Road, East Haven. Our speaker will be Randy Collins, Lobbyist for ARTC, who will talk about the state legislative, issues affecting retired teachers and what we can do to protect our benefits. With a changing legislature, our representatives will need to be informed about our position on benefits.

On a lighter note, a bus trip is planned for Wednesday, November 12, 2012, to the Westchester Playhouse, featuring “Fiddler On The Roof.” Please contact Pat Schultz at 203-288-7576.

The NHCTA is looking for a member capable of using the Excel program to assist in keeping our membership records in good order for mailing purposes. Please call me, Carol Noble, at 203-671-4536 if you are interested in helping with this task, or e-mail me at cnoble335@aol.com.

Carol Noble, President  
cnoble335@aol.com  
(203) 288-6986

### WATERBURY

The Waterbury Retired Teachers Association held its annual scholarship luncheon on May 15, 2012 at the Watertown Country Club. Four scholarships of $3,000 each were presented to graduating seniors from the four public schools in Waterbury entering the field of education.

The 17th annual memorial service which recognized the 17 retired educators who passed away during the 2011-2012 school year was held at St. Peter and Paul church on June 20, 2012. The service planned and executed by members of the WRTA was attended by retirees, active teachers, political and school officials, and family members of the deceased. Flowers were also donated in memory of deceased educators from past and present years. A luncheon followed at the Hills Restaurant.

Meeting dates for the coming years are as follows: September 12, 2011 - Welcome to new members at Junipers Restaurant; November 13, 2012 at the Bella Vista Restaurant with a guest speaker; April 4, 2013 at Grand Oak Villa; and our scholarship luncheon on May 21, 2013 at a site to be determined.

The 18th annual memorial service for deceased members will be held in June, 2013 at a place and date to be determined.

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

### NAUGATUCK

Naugatuck Retired Teachers will hold its annual memorial service at the Naugatuck Congregational Church on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in Naugatuck with a luncheon in the church hall to follow. This service honors fellow retirees and others who worked for the Naugatuck Board of Education and passed away since September 2011.

During our June meeting, held at Jesse Camille’s Restaurant in Naugatuck, the following topics were discussed: our scholarship recipient, our new medical insurance provider, AARP driver’s education course, and ARTC which I enthusiastically encouraged others to join.

Debbie DeRienz, President  
debbied49@charter.net  
(203-263-3018)
Tuesday, October 23, 2012
Aqua Turf Club - South Rm.
Mulberry Street
Plantsville, CT

Registration and Coffee: 9:00 - 10:00
President’s Welcome: 10:00 - 11:00
Entertainment: 11:00 - 11:30
Keynote Speaker(s): 11:30 - 12:30
Social, Cash Bar: 12:30 - 2:00
Luncheon: 12:30 - 2:00

Our Featured Event!

“Decision 2012”

While ARTC attempts to set an agenda (by publishing deadlines) this very active political climate keeps candidates from setting their own agendas too early.

We promise you we’ll have an exciting speaker(s) to assist you in your voting “Decision 2012.”

President’s Welcome….....10:00 - 11:00
Entertainment ………….11:00 - 11:30
Keynote Speaker(s) ………11:30 - 12:30
Social, Cash Bar ………..12:30 - 2:00
Luncheon …………………..12:30 - 2:00

Directions

I-84 EAST from Waterbury:
Take Exit 27 to Rt. 691 E. Get off at Exit 3 and turn left onto Rt. 10 at the end of the ramp. Continue straight on Rt. 10 to the junction of the entrance ramp to I-84 on the left and Mulberry St. on the right (see Sliders Sports Bar & Grill). Turn right onto Mulberry St. and travel 1.5 Mi. Aqua Turf is on the right.

I-84 West from Hartford:
Take Exit 29 (left exit). Exit ramp is long; at end of ramp go straight onto Mulberry St. Travel 1.5 mi. Aqua Turf is on the right.

I-91 or Merritt Parkway:
(North of the Milford/Stratford bridge, it is the Wilbur Cross Parkway)... Take Rt. 691 West toward Waterbury. Take Exit 4, Southington Exit, and turn right at ramp. At foot of hill with McDonald’s on the left, turn right onto South End Rd. Follow this, passing a park on your left, until you reach Mulberry St., on the left. Turn onto Mulberry St., go one quarter mi. to Aqua Turf on the left.

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person. Thank You!

Please make your check payable to:
"ARTC Program Fund"

Send by October 19, 2012, to:
ARTC Program Fund
68 Loomis Street, Manchester, CT 06042 - 1911

Name:__________________________________email:_____________________________________
Street:______________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State _______ Zip __________________ Ph (_______)__________-

Final date for cancellations and refunds is October 19, 2012 by noon!

Please check choices:
NY Strip Sirloin (w/beef demi-glace w/ Madeira wine) $33.00 $_______
Roasted Turkey (w/stuffing) $33.00 $_______
Pan Seared Salmon (w/mustard/honey/ginger glaze) $33.00 $_______

Tax & Tip Included.
Scholarship Committee - Terry Barton & Judy Morganroth, Co-Chairs

The Glenn Moon Scholarship Committee is very happy to announce our 2012 winners!

$2,000 renewable award
Amber J. Dickey of Pomperaug High School, Southbury will be attending UCONN, majoring in Secondary Education.

$1,500 awards
Heather A. MacIntyre of Coginchaug High School, Durham will be attending CCSU, majoring in Secondary Education.

Peter Klouda, of Staples High School, Westport will be attending The Univ. of New Hampshire, majoring in Elementary Education.

The Scholarship Committee is deeply grateful for all contributions, large and small, to our fund. Checks should be made payable to “Glenn Moon Scholarship Fund” and sent to:

Dick Brigham, Treasurer
3 River Town Road
Windsor, CT 06095