



# The Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut, Inc.



Pat McDonnell, Editor

# NEWSLETTER

**Spring 2011**

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



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**PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!!!**

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**ARTC Lobby Day**  
**@ The LOB**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2011**  
**10:00am - 2:00pm**

◆

**ARTC Spring Luncheon**  
**@ The Aqua Turf**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**  
**9:30am - 2:00pm**

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

**A**RTC and the other fourteen state teacher retirement associations have been working to eliminate the WEP/GPO from Social Security. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) penalize people who have dedicated their lives to public service by taking away benefits they have EARNED.

This year we have begun an out-reach program in Florida. (see photo, right) We have started two groups - one on each coast to keep our members there informed of our issues and to create an additional lobby group that can keep a different set of Congressmen/women informed about the WEP and GPO. In January I met with CT retired teachers in Naples, Florida and in March I met with a second group in Port St Lucie. Florida is a long state, second only to Alaska for its coastline. I was fortunate that **Gayle Fazzalaro, [gfazz@verizon.net](mailto:gfazz@verizon.net), 941-484-0066** made all the arrangements for the meeting. This meant sending out several emails. Unfortunately, many messages could not be received because our retirees have not kept ARTC informed of their email address changes. A word to the wise **"Does ARTC have your present address?"** Please send Wayne Woodtke, ARTC Executive Director, your changes so you can be kept in the loop.



Port St. Lucie - January 2011

It took longer, but we finally put a group together in March in Port St. Lucie thanks to **Joseph Bazzano, [JCL2MZAB@AOL.COM](mailto:JCL2MZAB@AOL.COM), 772-595-5944**. My message was well received! There were excellent questions about our health care and Social Security. For those of you living in Florida, I've included Gayle's and Joe's phone numbers and email addresses above. They agreed to be the contact persons.

Now that we have begun the initiative in Florida, we ought to have an outreach program in Arizona, the Carolinas, and Georgia - all places that we have large CT retiree populations. If you would like to start something in your state. let me know. I will get you a list of our members in that state. What better way to work for the removal of the WEP and GPO!

**CT's Governor Dan Malloy has kept his word** as far as putting the state's health benefit contribution back into the budget. He also has promised that the TRB will not be melded into any other agency. Unfortunately the TRB is still undermanned. Another note - though Connecticut is not attempting to eliminate collective bargaining or change our pension benefits, we must stand with our fellow teachers nationwide and show our support. If we are not together on this, then at some future date our freedoms will be weakened also.

As our membership numbers approach 11,000 our voice becomes stronger. If you know an active or retired teacher who is not a member, or if you have a spouse, family member or friend that is not member of ARTC, I hope that you will urge them to join our ranks.

Sincerely,  
 Michael D. Norman, ARTC President  
 (860) 508-2742  
[mdnorman@cox.net](mailto: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.)*

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



The Legislative Committee continues to focus on our two priority goals: the liquidity of our Health Insurance Fund and the Repeal of the WEP/GPO. We need to be vigilant on both fronts.

As we write this report we are working with our lobbyist and members of our committee to ensure that the Legislature makes its mandated appropriations to our Health Insurance Premium Account (HIPPA). The Legislative committee, along with the Insurance Committee, met with Darlene Perez, TRB administrator, and Dr. Joe Fields, insurance consultant, at our February meeting to discuss the liquidity of the fund. Following this meeting, our Committee sent letters to the TRB to ask for their endorsement of our efforts to secure the promised appropriation to the Insurance Fund. We have also requested a meeting with the TRB. As of the printing of this newsletter, per Clair Barnett, TRB Chairperson and ARTC member, the TRB is drafting a letter to the Governor to thank him for resuming the states contribution to the Health Fund in his 2012-2013 budget, his contributions to health care in general, and his promise to increase TRB staff.

Just as we must be attentive in pursuing our state goals, we must continue to remind our US Senators and Representatives of the unfairness of the WEP/GPO. In early April, both of us will be attending the National Retired Teachers Association Advocacy Conference in Washington D. C. We hope to meet with our Senators at that time. The focus of the conference is the preservation of pensions and Social Security. A strategy meeting is also planned for the fifteen states affected by the WEP/GPO.

We urge members of ARTC to meet with their Legislators locally to advocate for the preservation of our Health Fund. In addition, it is imperative to attend **LOBBY DAY on WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011**. (An informational session will be presented along with distribution of "talking points".) We need large numbers present to make a difference.

## Tanger Outlets in Westbrook – A new partner of ARTC!

We have a new benefit/partner for you! Simply mention that you are a member of the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut in the Tanger Shopper Services center to receive your Tanger Outlets savings booklet filled with valuable discount offers from brand name retailers such as Old Navy, Eddie Bauer, Easy Spirit, J. Crew, Nine West, Dressbarn, Petsense, LOFT Outlet, Vitamin World and many more!

314 Flat Rock Place, Westbrook, CT 06498 (860) 399-8656

<http://www.tangeroutlet.com/westbrook>

## Scholarship Committee - Terry Barton & Judy Morganroth, Co-Chairs

***Please go to the ARTC website in June - [www.artct.org](http://www.artct.org) - for our 2011 Glenn Moon Scholarship winner announcements!***

As always, we welcome all contributions to the scholarship fund, large and small. Checks may be sent to:

**Dick Brigham, Treasurer**

**3 River Town Road**

**Windsor, CT 06095**

## Spread the Word About Stroke Awareness Month

May has been designated by the National Stroke Association as Stroke Awareness Month. The first thing you can do to STOP STROKE is through risk factor management. Controllable Medical Risk Factors include: high blood pressure, atrial fibrillation, high cholesterol, diabetes, atherosclerosis, and circulation problems. Controllable Lifestyle Risk Factors include: smoking, alcohol use, physical inactivity and obesity. Uncontrollable Risk Factors include: Age, Gender, Race, Family History and previous stroke.

Learning the many warning signs of stroke can also help lessen the impact of the stroke's effect:

**Face – Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?**

**Arms – Ask them to raise both arms over their head. Does one arm drift downward?**

**Speech – Ask the person to say a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?**

**Time – If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately!**

Remember, as a member of ARTC, you and your family members can take advantage of your Life Line Screening member benefit. For a reduced member price of \$135 you can be screened for stroke, peripheral vascular disease, atrial fibrillation and abdominal aortic aneurysm. Call **1-866-964-5845** to find the next event in your community. Please mention Priority Code: **CSMS- 008**.

**As always, ARTC recommends you consult your physician for ALL health related decisions!**



## Your Membership Has Benefits!

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.



## Membership Committee - Bonnie Reimann & Roz Schoonmaker, Co-Chairs



### THANK YOU!!!

The ARTC Membership Committee, on behalf of the ARTC Board of Directors, wishes to thank EVERYONE who donated to our association over the last few months. We've received over \$75,000!

to aid us in our important legislative push this year to reverse a decision made by Connecticut Legislators. They voted to cease the state's contribution of over \$61 million to our Health Insurance Premium Account (H.I.P.A.) fund over the next 2 years! This will leave our fund dangerously low! 2010 - 2011 has been an ambitious year thus far with a total membership goal of 11,000! As of March 31st we have just over 10,000 paid memberships.

*We must continue to increase ARTC membership with your help! The more members we have the more powerful our voice!*

Finally, please come to our spring luncheon at the Aqua Turf in Southington on Tuesday, May 17th. *Make new friends and renew old acquaintances! Hope to see you there! A Luncheon Registration form can be found on page 7.*

## HAVE YOU INCLUDED ARTC IN YOUR WILL OR OTHER ESTATE PLANS?

For more information, please contact ARTC Financial Officer, Mary Gracyalny at: 866-343-2782 or via email at: [mlg@artct.org](mailto:mlg@artct.org)

## ARTC-PAC Report - Rick Cassar, Chair



The recent events in Wisconsin have shown us that we must be vigilant in protecting the benefits retired teachers have earned and in supporting the rights of active public school teachers. It is vital that

there is solidarity among our ranks to elect legislators who hold the teaching profession sacrosanct.

By the events in Wisconsin and several other states, we now understand that it's not just about money. It's also about the destruction of collective bargaining and unions, things for which our forefathers in the early 20th Century fought and sometimes died.

Unfortunately, the demonizing and misrepresentation of public employees is well financed by huge funds of money that have been "openly" unleashed by last year's Supreme Court ruling that allows corporations to freely contribute to politicians who will support their goals. These goals are often at the expense of the middle class, as seen in higher medical fees, energy costs, groceries, and every other uncontrollable aspect of our lives.

As retirees we may be out of the "trenches", but as the elimination of the state's contribution to our HIPA fund illustrates, we are still targets in the line of fire. We have to be sure that our educators in Connecticut do not have to endure the same unfair derision that our colleagues in Wisconsin are experiencing.

When asked to contribute to ARTC-PAC, please do what you can. When asked to contact your state representative, senator, or Governor, please do so. When asked to rally on Lobby Day (May 4th), please try to be there. Let us unite to protect what was earned by workers in the 1920's and what we teachers fought for in the 1970's in Connecticut.

*ARTC-PAC is self-sustaining. Your contributions are our lifeline, so please send what you are able to:*

**"ARTC-PAC"  
P.O. Box 718  
Manchester, CT  
06042-0178**

## ARTC, Inc. Receives Favorable Audit Report - Mary Gracyalny, Financial Officer

The ARTC Board of Directors contracted with Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C. to audit the organization's financial records for the fiscal year of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Upon completion of the audit, ARTC received a favorable opinion in the independent auditors' report. The report stated "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to below present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities, and net assets of the Association of Retired Teachers of CT, Inc. as of June 30, 2010, and its revenues, expenses and change in net assets for the year then ended."

The Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2010 indicates that ARTC has total assets of \$338,904. Under the prudent and vigilant guidance of Financial Secretary Ed Messina, the investments have rebounded well from market losses in 2008 and 2009.

The Statement of Expenses and Revenues shows a year end surplus of \$16,065 for the fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the generous donations of our members, ARTC was able to cover its operating expenses for the year.

Copies of the complete audit report are available to members. Please contact the ARTC headquarters by phone or email if you would like a copy.

ARTC, Inc. Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2010			
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents			\$28,434
<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<b>\$28,434</b>
Noncurrent assets			
Marketable securities			\$310,470
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>\$338,904</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payroll taxes withheld			\$1,638
<b>Net assets</b>			
Unrestricted			\$305,983
Permanently Restricted			\$31,283
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>			<b>\$338,904</b>
<b>ARTC, Inc. Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Assets</b>			
For the year ended June 30, 2010			
<b>Support and revenue</b>			
Contribution income			\$38,785
Dividend & interest income			\$9,711
Membership dues			\$165,893
<b>Total support and revenue</b>			<b>\$214,389</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Board of directors			\$6,094
Committees			\$18,130
Membership renewal			\$10,505
Contributions			\$2,400
Honorarium			\$5,200
Newsletter			\$22,585
Office expenses			\$17,046
Payroll & benefits			\$84,028
Professional services			\$31,265
Travel			\$1,071
<b>Total expenses</b>			<b>\$198,324</b>
<b>Total change in net assets from operations</b>			<b>\$16,065</b>
<b>Other changes in net assets</b>			
Net realized (loss) on sale of investments			(\$5,670)
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>			<b>\$326,871</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>			<b>\$337,266</b>

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

The continued fallout of the 2008 financial crisis has placed many state and local budgets into the "red ink" category. Connecticut has one of the highest state deficits, per capita, of any in the USA at \$3.67 billion! Organizations within our state are fighting to keep the status quo regarding financial stability.

The focus of ARTC during this budget cycle is to preserve the financial integrity of HIPA (Health Insurance premium Account). We are all well aware of the fact that the state reneged on funding its share during the 2010 – 2011 budget years which amounted to almost \$61 million. If that should be the case for the 2012 – 2013 budget the HIPA would lose an additional \$70 million!

We as retired teachers, along with active teachers, have contributed our share. We believe that when legislators, voted in by us, pass a bill they are in effect signing a contract with the people the bill is affecting.

Governor Malloy has been quoted countless times in the media that "shared sacrifice" is the operative form to overcome one of the largest deficits in state history! Teachers, both retired and active, have shared in the sacrifice and pain! How?

- **WE have paid the entire cost of HIPA payouts for two years!**
- **WE have NOT received an increase in the subsidy to local districts since 1996, while healthcare costs have risen 150%!!!**
- **WE pay 2/3 of our healthcare costs!**
- **WE (unlike state retired/active employees) pay for our own Dental/Vision!**
- **WE are 1 of the only 5 states that taxes pension monies over the age of 65!**
- **WE are unfairly affected by the WEP/GPO!**
- **WE have NOT received an increase in our COLA in 2 years!**

**"WE" have shared in the sacrifice!**

## Affiliate Updates...

### HARTFORD COUNTY

The Hartford County Retired Teachers Association will be holding its annual Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27th at the Wethersfield Country Club. Highlights of the luncheon will be the election of officers and the presentation of scholarships to two Hartford County high school seniors by Roberta Parlin, Scholarship Chairman.

Richard Rodriguez of the Social Security Administration will be our guest speaker. He will make a 45 minute presentation on Social Security and Medicare as well as touching on WEP-GPO. The repeal of WEP-GPO is one of the goals of the ARTC's Legislative Committee.

HCRTA will again provide a bus to transport both HCRTA members and ARTC members to the LOB Building in Hartford on Lobby Day which is May 4th. The cost of the bus will be split between the two groups. There will again be two pickups this year. The first one will be in New Britain off New Britain Ave. at the commuter parking lot across from Target. The second pickup will be at the state's commuter parking lot at the Hartford- Wethersfield town line.

It will be necessary for you to make a reservation with me beforehand. This will be on a first come-first serve basis. Please call or E-Mail me if you would like this transportation. I hope many of you will join us and meet with your state reps to discuss our issues with them.

Sandra Fitzgerald, *President*  
[sajunefi47@cox.net](mailto:sajunefi47@cox.net) (860) 668-0547

### MIDDLESEX

Each year, the retired teachers of Middlesex County end their winter hibernation with a gala wine tasting event. They have previously scheduled field trips to professional vineyards, but the most popular tastings are those held at private homes with wine connoisseurs being brought in. One such wine expert, Teri Everett, had been asked to return for another tasting due to her candidness, wine knowledge, wit, and unique presentation style. This

year when I called to schedule her, I discovered that Teri would be making the presentation – in between chemo treatments. Unbeknownst to Ms. Everett, after an emergency consultation with her board, it was announced to members that this wine tasting was just turned into a breast cancer fundraiser! All funds are staying right in CT via the “Lynn and Teri” Coman fundraising organization and 100% of the day’s profits will be donated. All attendees were asked to wear pink. It was an inspiring success and the joy on Teri’s very stunned face was well worth it!

The Middlesex County RTA will hold its annual spring luncheon at the Dock and Dine restaurant in Old Saybrook on April 26, 2011. Renowned international speaker and author, Ken W. Gronbach, will be the honored guest. Ken is president of KGC Direct and author of three bestselling books; The Age Curve: How To Profit from the Coming Demographic Storm, Common Census, the Counter-Intuitive Guide to Generational Marketing, and Decades of Differences, Making it Work, a comprehensive guide to coping with three generations in the workforce that was just released by HRD Press. Mr. Gronbach also writes for the CNBC Guest Blog.

Ken is an internationally respected demographer who has been able to forecast societal, commercial, economic, cultural and political phenomena with uncanny accuracy. He entertains his audiences with his own special brand of wit, humor and clear communication and makes the science of shifting demography come alive with real life examples.

The event is open to all retired teachers and their guests from CT. Tickets for the event are \$22 and are available from president, Margo Chase-Wells. Deadline for reservations is April 15. Please contact Margo via the below email or telephone number.

Margo Chase-Wells, *President*  
[margochasewells@gmail.com](mailto:margochasewells@gmail.com) (860) 345-3282

### WEST HARTFORD

Our recent efforts to increase our exposure to active teachers are starting to show results. We have been contributing articles to *Retirement Corner* which is a column in the West Hartford Education Association’s newsletter. The first three columns have resulted in several inquires about the West Hartford Retired Educators Association, ARTC, and requests for help! To further acquaint active teachers with our organization, one or more Board members will be present at all district retirement and financial planning workshops. We will also be in attendance when the Human Resource department meets with new retirees to explain their insurance and benefit options. Our Annual Meeting and Banquet will take place on May 11, 2011 at the Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford. James Stirling will be our featured speaker and will discuss the new health laws and how they affect retirees. Annual election of officers and board members will be held. Guests will be treated to some outstanding entertainment by an award-winning guitarist. The meeting will conclude with a wonderful sit-down dinner. For more information contact Joyce or Claudia at [dycus.kulak@comcast.net](mailto:dycus.kulak@comcast.net).

Ken Sopelak, *President*  
[kensopelak@comcast.net](mailto:kensopelak@comcast.net) (860) 658-1560

### NEW LONDON

The final meeting of the year for the New London County Retired Teachers Association will be on June 21st at the Port and Starboard Restaurant at Ocean Beach Park in New London. We will be honoring our two scholarship winners who will each receive \$1,500. Many thanks to the generosity of our members who take part in basket raffles at our meetings. At this occasion we will also be voting in new officers for 2011-2013.

New members are encouraged to join us then, also for Lobby Day on Wednesday, May 4th. Call me for further information or to carpool to Hartford.

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

## Affiliate Updates, cont...

### BRIDGEPORT

Wow! What a winter! I am eager for spring and eager to see you all at our April and May meetings, when several important events are on the agenda. As some of you may know, a committee has worked on changes to our by-laws that will affect the membership and officer duties. These changes will be presented at the April meeting. Please be prepared to listen and voice your opinion. A vote on the proposed changes will be taken in May. The Nominating Committee's new slate of officers will also be presented at the April meeting and voted on at the May meeting.

Our annual Memorial Service, at which we honor members who died during the past year, will immediately precede the May general meeting. The Memorial Service will begin promptly at 10:00am. As you can see, with the election of officers and a vote on the changes to the by-laws, our meeting in May will be a very important one. Please try to attend. Remember you can always attend a meeting without staying for the luncheon. A special table will be reserved for members who are not staying for lunch. In June our annual picnic at Boothe Memorial Park offers us a day to enjoy lots of good food and pleasant company—and hopefully lovely weather that will make us forget this winter. In anticipation of the next several months, I would like to express my appreciation for all the support you have given me. I would especially like to thank my fellow officers and the committees who have worked long and hard in all the endeavors we have pursued.

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

### **Editorial Correction to Winter 2011 Newsletter "From Michael's Desk...To yours..." article:**

- 5 states "fully" tax teachers' pensions.

### WATERBURY

The spring meeting of the Waterbury Retired Teachers Association was held on Wednesday, March 16th, at the East Street Eatery in Wolcott, CT. Our guest speaker was Jane Sirignano who spoke on the topic of "Food for Life." Jane is a member of the Cancer Project and speaks extensively on nutrition. She is an original presenter for the Osher Foundation and a presenter at the OLLI program at Waterbury UConn. Donations of food supplies were collected and presented to local food banks.

Our scholarship meeting and luncheon will be held at Junipers Restaurant in Middlebury on Thursday, May 19th. At this meeting, four \$2000 scholarships will be presented to graduating seniors from the local high schools who will be pursuing a major in education. Election of officers will also take place at this meeting. We are looking for candidates willing to serve as officers and executive board members.

June 16, 2011 will be the date for our sixteenth annual memorial service. At this service, which will be held at Sts. Peter and Paul's Church in Waterbury, we will honor the memory of those retired teachers who passed away during the current school year. Both members and non-members will be remembered. Family and friends, along with local educational and political persons, are invited to attend. A luncheon will follow the service.

Our special interest groups continue to provide entertainment as well as educational and social opportunities. Monthly programs are held which include a book club, and opera club and a dine-around group. We are also planning day trips and New York theater experiences.

Our sunshine fund continues to remember our members in convalescent homes with gifts of gratitude for their service letting them know that they have not been forgotten.

Michael Ieronimo, *President*  
[operall1@comcast.net](mailto:operall1@comcast.net) (860) 283-9677

### BRISTOL

Bristol Area Retired Teachers (BART) held its spring luncheon meeting on March 22nd at the American Watch and Clock Museum in Bristol. John Reardon, a BART member and a retired Bristol social studies teacher and administrator, was our docent. John opened his remarks with anecdotes about how his son John as a young person developed a relationship with the people and the workings of the Museum. This led the young Reardon to develop a life-long interest in watches and clocks, which complemented his career work and relationships, even on an international level.

The hundreds and hundreds of clocks and watches on display in the museum represent the whole historical range of time keepers, to include: sand glasses, wood geared and metal movement clocks, floor standing, wall-mounted, and mantel clocks. A full range of historical styles is on display: colonial, federal, Baroque, Victorian. Novelty pieces are also on display such as banjo clocks, Mickey Mouse watches, and even electric clocks, evoking kitchen wall nostalgia.

A day's trip to the American Watch and Clock Museum is well worth the "time spent!" The Museum is at 100 Maple St. in Bristol, 06010. Phone: 860-583-6070, [www.clockandwatchmuseum.org](http://www.clockandwatchmuseum.org). Hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM seven days a week, April 1 to November 30. Adults \$5.00, Seniors/AAA \$4.00, Children 8-12 \$2.00

Following the tour and lunch, during the business meeting, it was reported that our affiliate membership stands at 172. At the Annual Meeting on May 4th, two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded to recipients from the two public high schools in Bristol. Much time was devoted to a discussion of current issues facing the State of Connecticut, especially as they relate to retired teachers. The group began to mobilize for participation in the ARTC Lobby Day on May 4.

Bob Lewandoski, *President*  
[breezy\\_1@comcast.net](mailto:breezy_1@comcast.net) (203) 879-9113

# ARTC SPRING 2011 LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**  
**Aqua Turf Club - South Rm.**  
**Mulberry Street**  
**Plantsville, CT**

Registration and Coffee.....9:00 - 10:00  
Business Meeting.....10:00 - 11:30  
Entertainment.....11:30 - 12:00  
Keynote Speaker.....12:00 - 12:30  
Social, Cash Bar.....12:30 - 2:00  
Luncheon.....12:30 - 2:00

## Our Featured Events!

*The Avon Old Farms School Chorale*

**-AND-**



*An inspirational visit from*  
*John Pogson, as the prolific (and*  
*very sardonic) author Samuel*  
*Clemens, or*

**MARK TWAIN!!!**

### Directions

**I-84 EAST from Waterbury:** **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 May 11, 2011, to:**  
**ARTC Program Fund - Spring '11**  
**68 Loomis Street, Manchester, CT 06042 - 1911**

*Please check choices:*

Roasted NY Sirloin \$ 33.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Valdestone\* \$ 33.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Baked Scrod \$ 33.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\* breaded/baked w/mozzarella in a Marsala demi glace*

**Tax & Tip Included.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ph (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

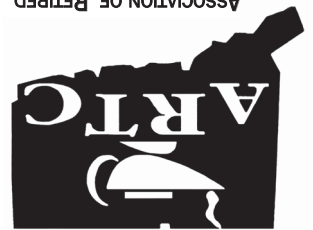
**Final date for cancellations and refunds is May 13, 2011!**

**Don't forget...**  
**ARTC Lobby Day is on**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2011,**  
**from 10am—2pm**  
**(Lite Lunch provided)**  
**Please join us at the**  
**"Legislative Office Building"**  
**in Hartford.**  
**Contact your Affiliate President for**  
**ride-share information!!**

*April 2011*

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
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MANCHESTER, CT

111 South Road  
Farmington, CT 06032-2560  
Tel.: 860-284-9760





## Affiliate Updates, cont...

### FAIRFIELD

After a long snowy winter the Retired Educators of Fairfield have resumed their monthly informal breakfast socials at the Circle Diner in Fairfield. It is always nice to see old friends again.

Combining our annual meeting and spring luncheon has been very successful in the past; therefore we are planning the affair at Cinzano's Restaurant in Fairfield this year. It will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> with a featured speaker, Bill Stansfield, a former Fairfield teacher and docent at the Fairfield Historical Society. He will be sharing his expertise in the field of genealogy with the group.

One of the group's favorite activity is day-tripping. Our first trip will be at Goodspeed Opera House to view the musical *My One and Only* on May 25<sup>th</sup> with lunch at the Gelston House. Food and entertainment is always a crowd pleaser! The social committee continues to search for possible trips in the summer. A trip to the Westchester Dinner Theater is planned for the fall. Everyone enjoys old favorites and the production of *My Fair Lady* on November 9<sup>th</sup> is no exception.

The REF continues to support the activities of ARTC and we encourage our members to attend Lobby Day on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the "LOB" (Legislative Office Building). Our participation will demonstrate to our Legislators our commitment to the issues facing retired educators. We will continue to foster our members to attend the ARTC annual meeting and spring luncheon on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Aqua Turf in Southington.

#### *Co-Presidents*

Lou Cubelli, (203) 261-2921  
Richard DeZeno, [richdez@aol.com](mailto:richdez@aol.com)  
(203)261-0872

### MANCHESTER

Greetings One and All...Has "SPRING" officially arrived, or in name only? We shall soon have the answer as the crocuses poke their heads upward toward the sun and the robins appear...harbingers that they have arrived along with daylight savings. Arrangements have been completed by Nancy Sampson for the April

Luncheon Buffet at the Manchester Country Club. Please note the time. It has been moved to 10:45am to allow more time for meeting and greeting friends prior to the business portion of our meeting. Nancy Donnelly has engaged our presenter who is to be Mary Ellen Fillo, Java Columnist of The Hartford Courant and of the Fox CT morning program.

The final event of the year is to be on May 10, 2011, 12:00pm at Manchester Country Club. This luncheon is designed to welcome the "newly-to-be-retired" teachers from Manchester.

Speak to Judy Rohlfs or Michelle Vadenais if you plan to donate items to be raffled. The proceeds are designated for the Manchester Scholarship Fund.

If you have some computer expertise and are interested in promoting RTAM on the ARTC website ([www.artct.org](http://www.artct.org)) please contact me. Thank you!

As of February 28, 2011, the RTAM treasury reflects a balance of \$12,438.29.

Marlane McKenzie sends out cheer and sympathy cards. If you know of a situation, please contact Marlane. Our many hours of volunteering last year totaled 11,561 according to Honey Wood. We thank Cheri Bertus for all that she has graciously done for the "Books to Dreams" and the "Book-Swap" projects. She is stepping down from that position. Please call Cheri or me if you can help in this area. Meanwhile, Ginny Rogala is the keeper of the Historian's scrap books (volumes). Events involving members with pictures and articles about them would be greatly appreciated.

Once again, we thank Barbara Bossidy for the herculean efforts in mailing the newsletters.

Our nominating committee consists of Joe Mazzotta, Sally Balukas, and Larry Olsen.

#### ***SAVE THE DATES:***

May 4, 2011 - ARTC Lobby Day

May 10, 2011 - RTAM Luncheon

May 17, 2011 ARTC Luncheon

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

### NORTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

NFCRTA will be having our Spring Luncheon on May 18, 2011. At this luncheon we will present two scholarships- the Mary Edgett Scholarship and the new Memorial Scholarship to two deserving area high school graduating seniors who plan to major in education.

Please be vigilant in staying in touch with your Connecticut Legislators to prevent changes in Connecticut laws comparable to what happened in Wisconsin. We must protect our health insurance benefits to insure they are fully funded each year.

Also, I would encourage our members to pay close attention to articles on the Web and in newspapers when they talk about state employees. Often, that may not refer to retired teachers. The Governor has stated publicly that all items pertaining to the state's budget are all on the table. We do have in place a covenant until 2032 that protects our pension fund. We hope that bonding will continue to be honored by our legislators in the future.

I have been asked to present a workshop to Delta Kappa Gamma about the importance of belonging to retired teachers' organizations. At this presentation, your president will emphasize the necessity for belonging to ARTC and its affiliates. I strongly feel we should appeal to future retirees to join forces, thus strengthening our numbers. More importantly, get involved with these organizations to protect all of our futures. Maintain an awareness of teacher retirement issues.

Please keep in your prayers our members who are in poor health and those who have passed away.

Don't forget the ARTC Luncheon on May 17th at the Aqua Turf and Lobby Day on Wednesday, May 4th in Hartford.

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

***Don't forget...Lobby Day is on Wednesday, May 4, 2011!!!***

## Affiliate Updates, cont...

### SOUTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

An old proposal to raise the group-rate-percent of gross income from 1.25% to 1.50% (and one year later to 1.75%) is back and must fail again as it did two years ago. What benefit is there when the State's contribution to reduce our retirees' insurance is \$36.70 a month or \$434 a year. Our teachers presently contribute \$46,000,000 this year alone to the Health Insurance Premium Account. That is \$15,000,000 more than the required cost of \$30,000,000 for 2010-11. Raising the teachers' percent cost would take an additional \$18,000,000 from our teachers' salaries for a total of \$63,000,000 if in place today.

Remember that our group rate for retirees ranges from over \$5,000 a year to almost \$11,000 a year in Connecticut today. Other state employees do not pay a dime to help reduce the retired state employees' health costs. WHY? They are free!

The economy is in bad shape and we have people who want to raise taxes on our citizens. Our retirees' support should come from the very law that created the Health Insurance Premium Account which has tens of millions of surplus in it today. Direct the Teacher Retirement Board to apply the fund to our neediest retirees for the next two years until our economy returns.

It would cost our teachers \$18,000,000 and would add \$15.80 a month to the \$36.70 presently given. This would make a total of \$51.00 a month or a little more than \$600 a year. Fourteen years ago the State gave its employees \$600 a month or \$7,200 a year and we are the educators!

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

### NEW HAVEN

A luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at Laurel View Country Club in Hamden. Flyers will be sent out early in April.

Our focus this year will be on the following: Social Security legislation and its effect on retirees, sizable participation on Lobby Day, May 4th in Hartford, and frequent bus trip offerings.

After this unusual winter, we look forward to seeing everyone at the luncheon to celebrate Spring!

Carol Noble, *President*  
[cnoble335@aol.com](mailto:cnoble335@aol.com) (203) 288-6986



"How long is it now to your retirement, Potter?"

## **WATERMARK UNIVERSITY**

The Watermark at 3030 Park Ave, Bridgeport, is offering a range of programs for adults 55 and older through its Watermark University. The continuing education program is designed with interesting topics and activities to keep seniors' minds and bodies fit. Among the offerings are "Cocktails and Culture", "Hands-On Literature", and a variety of fitness classes including Pilates, Splash fitness (Yes! They have a beautiful Therapy Pool!) and Yoga. Cost for non-Watermark residents is \$25 for the semester, which covers the majority of the 70+ course offerings. For details or a catalog, call 203-374-5611.



*Please watch future ARTC Newsletters for additional opportunities at The Watermark!*

