



The Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut, Inc.

WWW.ARTCT.ORG



Pat McDonnell, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013

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Hugh McQuaid Photos - U.S. Rep. Chris Murphy and Linda McMahon

Retired Teachers Air Social Security Concerns With U.S. Senate Candidates

by Hugh McQuaid | Oct 23, 2012 3:16pm

<http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/ctnj.php/archives/entry/>

[retired teachers air social security concerns with u.s. senate candidates/](http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/ctnj.php/archives/entry/retired-teachers-air-social-security-concerns-with-u.s.-senate-candidates/)

Social Security concerns were at the top of a list of questions that [ARTC] a group of retired teachers had for the two U.S. Senate candidates at their fall luncheon on Tuesday, 10/23/12. Democrat Chris Murphy and Republican Linda McMahon, both running for retiring U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman's seat, spoke to the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. While Social Security seems like a natural concern for a group of retirees, the retired teachers asked both candidates what they would do about a retirement issue largely specific to them. They wanted to know what each candidate would do to repeal Social Security's Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. [WEP/GPO]

The first provision, the pension offset, impacts retired teachers' spousal benefits under Social Security by using their government pension to offset it, sometimes entirely. The other provision, affects teachers who have paid into a pension as a teacher, but also paid into Social Security through some other job. It reduces their Social Security benefits to avoid giving them a "windfall" of government retirement benefits.

But teachers maintain that because they paid into both programs, they should be eligible to receive both benefits just as anyone else would. Murphy, who spoke to the group first on Tuesday, said he's co-sponsored a bill to address the issue, but the bill, called the Social Security Fairness Act, was never passed by the House. He said he hopes 2013 will be the year it finally gets changed. But he told the teachers fixing it may be difficult to do because it would be expensive.

"I'm not going to lie to you, I'm not sure that even if we get it on the table we'll be able to take care of all of it. But even if you repair the penalty such that teachers got some portion of that lost money back, it would help," Murphy said. When the retired teachers asked McMahon if they could count on her support to repeal the two provisions, she said they could count on her to research the issue.

"I am a little bit confused about it, myself and I've read up on the issues and I'm really trying to understand the full impact of the government offset provision," she said.

What McMahon said did seem clear was that if someone has paid into Social Security and a separate pension, they should be able to get the benefits of both. The answer got her a round of applause out of the audience. "There are for me a couple issues that have me confused, but I can tell you my basics [understanding] is if you've paid into both, you should be entitled to both," she said.

Deborah DeRienz, a retired Naugatuck teacher of 37 years, (and President of our ARTC Affiliate, Naugatuck RTA) said after listening to the two candidates, she was still undecided as to who she'd vote for in two weeks. Both have good aspects about them, she said. DeRienz said Murphy, whose mother was a school teacher, focused on education issues during his roughly 15-minute address to the teachers. McMahon on the other hand talked more generally about her life story before spending a few minutes explaining her six-point jobs plan. Murphy seemed more familiar with the problems facing retired teachers, DeRienz said. "I think he understands us more. He's more knowledgeable of the issue. But it's a positive on her part in admitting she didn't know everything about it and would still look into it and learn more," she said.

DeRienz, whose husband died, has been directly impacted by the pension offset. She wasn't able to access spousal benefits because her teacher pension was larger. "I'm paying in full and I'm getting less back," she said. DeRienz and the other retired teachers got to hear some of the two candidates' thoughts on education and teaching in general.

During her prepared remarks, McMahon told the retired teachers that she first got involved in education issues when she reached out to former Gov. M. Jodi Rell regarding the state's achievement gap. Rell later appointed her to the state Board of Education, where she served for one year before retiring to campaign for the U.S. Senate in 2010.

"I can't tell you how passionate I am about education and know that it is the best tool that we have to lift our students out of poverty," McMahon said, adding that her plan will help students find jobs after they're educated.

Continued on page 3.

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!!!



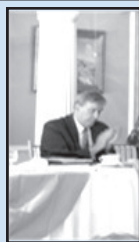
ARTC LOBBY DAY
@ The LOB
Tuesday, April 16, 2013
10:00am - 2:00pm



ARTC Spring 2013 Luncheon
@ The Aqua Turf
Tuesday, May 21, 2013
9:30am - 2:00pm

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



AS TOM SEES IT...

As you read this message, signs of spring abound with warm breezes and the hope that comes with new beginnings. There is growing optimism that our national economy is turning the corner and better times lie ahead. Then comes the realization that Connecticut's financial condition and state budget are a mess and we are once again being asked to "share the burden." You can read the details of this in the Legislative Committee Report found elsewhere in this newsletter.

It is time, well past time, for the legislature to honor its promise to retired teachers and active teachers (future retirees) who have been consistently keeping our part of this financial agreement for our entire careers. We will only be successful in protecting our pensions and health care benefits if we all become actively engaged in this effort. We need to contact our legislators and state office holders via the communication mode of your choice, (e-mail, letters, phone or in person). This campaign begins now, leads up to ARTC Lobby Day on April 16, 2013, and finishes with continued monitoring and meetings with legislators in May and June until a budget is finally passed.

Sadly, many retirees have chosen to stay on the sidelines and "let someone else do the work" of protecting our benefits. In fact, ARTC membership has decreased over the past few years. If this disturbing trend continues, we will not remain a financially solvent, viable advocate at the state legislature to protect retiree benefits. If you are reading this, you are probably not one of the "side line sitters," but everyone of you knows at least two other retired teachers who have not joined your affiliate and become dues paying members of ARTC. I am asking you to speak with these non-members to inform them of the threats to our long-term retirement benefits. Ask them to join our ranks and support their cause. Our future retirement security will depend upon their response!

I am heartened by the enthusiasm and work ethic of ARTC's board and committee members who work so hard on these issues. I am confident that our membership and retired teachers across the state will rise to meet the challenges ahead.

Yours in service,
Tom Singleton, ARTC President
860.963.7229

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



WE HAVE BEEN "ZEROED OUT!"

In the Governor's proposed budget for 2014-2015, our Health Insurance Premium Account (HIPA) will receive NO funding from the state. Sadly the state will not contribute one cent to the Fund. We have been "zeroed out."

As you may recall this is not new. Under the Rell administration for two years, 2010-2012, there was no contribution to our Health Fund, resulting in a loss of over \$60 million. Then for 2013 the Malloy administration reduced the state's contribution from one-third to one-fourth. This reduced funding and re-appropriation of the federal reimbursement monies for prescription drugs resulted in a loss of nearly \$18 million. Now the proposed budget returns to zero funding. **If this proposed budget is approved, the combined loss to our health fund over these last years will be over \$148 million. This is money forever lost to our fund.**

The proposal includes the stipulation that retired teachers will not individually bear the cost to their insurance premiums. Their share will remain at one-third. The loss of the state's contribution will once again be made up from the health fund (HIPA). But how long can the Fund sustain this loss? A continued loss of the state's share of contributions will eventually affect our health insurance costs. We cannot let this happen.

It is imperative that you contact your legislators in Hartford and let them know that the State must make its full commitment to the fund. Visit us at www.artct.org and use our Voter Voice to email your legislators. We have put a link on our WEB, "Get the Real Story on Retired Teacher Benefits," to educate legislators on our issues. You can share this information when you attend Lobby Day at the LOB on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. Make an appointment to meet and speak with your legislators in person.

Remind legislators that active teachers continue to contribute 1.25 per cent of their salaries to the Fund. Retired teachers pay the one-third cost for Stirling Benefits, their supplemental insurance. And those retired teachers who buy their insurance from their former boards of education continue to pay as much as \$500 - \$1,000 a month. The state must keep its commitment to our health fund (HIPA).

The Legislative Committee, along with our lobbyist and communication consultant, is working to preserve your retirement benefits. Tom, Sandra and Cathy, along with ARTC executive committee and PAC members hosted a "Meet and Greet" at the Capitol. We were able to discuss our concerns one-on-one with several legislators. Tom, Sandra and Cathy also met with Karen Buffkin, Deputy Secretary, Office of Policy and Management (OPM), to discuss the proposed zero funding of our HIPA. We will schedule additional appointments with key leaders of the House and Senate as well.

We cannot do it alone. Do your share today. Act now!



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.

Insurance Committee - Rick/Louise Follman

WHO'S WATCHING THOSE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING FOR US!

A quote from an unknown writer, but very relevant. ARTC is the only organization exclusively working for retired teachers. The basic facts relevant to the HIPA have been presented clearly on page two in the Legislative Committee article. Additional facts for your consideration and action are;

- The TRB meeting on 3-13-13 passed a resolution to communicate with the Governor and Legislators explaining the DIRE IMPACT of ZERO CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HIPA FOR THE BUDGET YEARS 2014-2015. By this action they show they are supporting active and retired teachers in the State. It also means that TRB board members can testify at legislative hearings on behalf of retired teachers.
- The insurance consultant to the TRB expressed his strong concerns regarding zero funding to the HIPA for 2014-2015. He clearly stated that the HIPA account may NOT survive during the year 2015.
- A little known impact on the HIPA account is a lack of funding to the account by active teachers during the months of July, August and September. This impact on the account is estimated to be between \$30 and \$35 million dollars. ZERO FUNDING IS CATASTROPHIC!

ACTION ALERT: To protect your health insurance account----which you paid for-- you need to act now! Contact the Governor's office and ALERT your Legislators using the information provided above/below to clearly state your strong OBJECTION to ZERO FUNDING of the HIPA ACCOUNT.

Contact:	Governor Malloy	1 - 800 - 406 -1527
	House Democrats	1 - 800 - 842 - 1902
	House Republicans	1 - 800 - 842 - 1423
	Senate Democrats	1 - 800 - 842 - 1420
	Senate Republicans	1 - 800 - 842 - 1421

Proposed ARTC By-Law changes to be voted on at the May 21, 2013 Spring Luncheon

These are the changes we propose and require member vote in our **Certificate of Incorporation/By-Laws**.

Under Certificate of Incorporation - Article V -

- 1a. Annual: Change the word "teacher" to "individual"
- 1b. Change "from the State of Connecticut" to "from the State of Connecticut Teacher Retirement Board"
2. Eliminate Life dues for all new members.
4. Associate: after the word teacher add "or any individual receiving a pension from another state's Teacher Retirement Board"

Under Bylaws - ARTICLE II - DUTIES - Section 3

- Last Sentence: change "Public Relations Officer" to "the Chair of the Legislative Committee"

Retired Teachers Air Social Security Concerns...

CONTINUED from Page 1...

Murphy told the group that the best and brightest students should be encouraged to become teachers, but that may not be happening anymore because there is too much negative energy being directed at teachers by politicians.

"Maybe it's just because of who I am and who I'm surrounded by and the fact that if I didn't stick up for teachers my mother wouldn't let me come home for Sunday dinner... But I'm going to celebrate who you are, what you've done and what those who have come after you can do," Murphy said.

Membership Committee

Bonnie Reimann & Roz Schoonmacher, Co-Chairs



Spring finds our membership numbers at 8,064 for the 2012 - 2013 fiscal year. Down over 2,000 members from 2 years ago! Factoring in our state-wide affiliate members we now count a grand total of approximately 15,000 retired teacher members who support ARTC in its efforts to represent ALL OF THE 30,000 RETIRED CONNECTICUT TEACHERS by educating and lobbying state legislators to preserve and protect our state pensions and medical benefits.

ARTC'S efforts on your behalf are becoming increasingly costly at a time when newly retired teachers seem less inclined to join our organization. Consequently, we have had to request of you, our loyal members, donations to keep ARTC fiscally sound. So far this year we have raised almost \$32,000 from a request that was mailed in February to our LIFE members. Additionally this year we sent donation request letters to our annual members in order to pay expenses for April, May and June. That request is just arriving at our annual members' homes as we go to press. Results of that March mailing will be reported at our Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, May 21.

We hope all of you responded generously to one of these appeals. Thank You to all who have already donated! Only by working together will we be a force to protect our pensions and health benefits!

ONE VOICE ~ ONE CHOICE!!!

ARTC Lobby Day will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at the LOB!!! Mark your calendars and make your appointments with Legislators TODAY! Appointments should be made for anytime between 11:00am - 12:00pm.

Affiliate Updates... *(Opinions expressed by Affiliates are not necessarily the opinion of the ARTC Board of Directors.)*

WATERBURY

The WRTA held its fall luncheon meeting on November 23rd at La Bella Vista restaurant in Waterbury. Our guest speaker was Waterbury's Superintendent of Schools, Kathleen Oulette. Her topic was "Moving Forward for Student Success."

On April 4, 2013, we will hold our luncheon at Grand Oak Villa in Watertown, CT. Entertainment will be presented by the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. The chorus of approximately 65 students will present musical selections under the direction of the school music staff.

Our annual scholarship luncheon will take place on May 13th at Junipers Restaurant in Middlebury, CT. We will be presenting four \$2,000 scholarships to seniors from the four public high schools who will be entering the field of education.

Our annual memorial service to honor teachers who passed away during the 2012-2013 school will take place on June 19th at SS Peter and Paul Church with a luncheon to follow at the Hills Restaurant.

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

NEW LONDON

The NLCRTA held its December meeting at the Port and Starboard in New London. The Griswold High School Chorus, under the direction of Ray Church, entertained us with holiday music. Raffles garnered \$300 for our scholarship fund. Food items were collected for the food pantries in Norwich and New London.

Our next meeting will be on April 16th at the Port and Starboard, and our speaker will be Eileen Kaplan, author of Laughter is the Breast Medicine. We will be collecting items for the Humane Society in Waterford.

At an executive board meeting in January, it was decided to offer a one-time only scholarship for someone interested in primary education in memory of the educators who lost their lives in Newtown.

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

WINDHAM-TOLLAND COUNTIES

All WRTA members are urged to save the following dates:

On April 16, a caravan of WRTA members will join other ARTC groups for Lobby Day. Help us demonstrate our strength in numbers to our legislators. Come be part of the team that heads to Hartford to remind our Connecticut senators and representatives to protect our pensions and healthcare.

On May 19, the WRTA semi-annual meeting will be held at Wright's Mill Farm in Canterbury. We will begin at 10 a.m. and learn more about our financial concerns with the legislators and enjoy a lovely social event with good food and entertainment. On September 5, jump on the bus headed to Goodspeed Opera House to see "Hello Dolly!" and eat a hearty lunch. Get reacquainted with former colleagues and enjoy a fun-filled day!

For more information on all three events, please call Carol Taylor (see below).

Carol Taylor, *President*
dean@buvintech.com (860) 774-0152

Affiliate Updates... *(Opinions expressed by Affiliates are not necessarily the opinion of the ARTC Board of Directors.)*

MANCHESTER

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, especially after our blizzard. Remember, we will have the opportunity to catch up and see each other at our April 9th luncheon at the Manchester Country Club.

Over the winter months, I have attended ARTC's meetings to discuss the need to increase membership. Many retirees join their local affiliates, but not ARTC. I am asking all RTAM members to join ARTC if you haven't as yet. Many members may think that by joining RTAM, they are already members of ARTC. You are not. You must join both separately. ARTC advocates exclusively for retired teachers in protecting our pension and health benefits for all retired teachers in Connecticut. But, we need all retirees to join to have our voices heard. Money is needed to fight for our protection against attacks that could deplete benefits and/or increase premiums. Dues paid to ARTC enables this action to occur.

Our pensions and health benefits are more than ever at risk in developing the State budget for 2014-2015. The governor wants to contribute ZERO (\$0.00) dollars toward health benefits which will lead to increased premiums for all of us.

Visit the ARTC website (www.artct.org) to review a good summary of what is at stake - Health Insurance Premium Funding - State reduction in contribution toward HIPA (Health Insurance Premium Account). This governor just does not want to put the \$70 million into the Retired Teacher Health Fund now. We contributed to this fund during our careers in order to

have it when we retired. Send your comments on zero funding for the STRB Health Care Fund to your State Senator and Representative. Also to Governor Malloy at <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?a=3998&q=479082>. Our legislators need to hear from us. Don't let them take away what we worked for our whole career.

According to our constitution, a slate of officers will be presented at April's meeting to fill the positions of officers of RTAM. I am pleased to announce that members have stepped forward to fill all positions. If you wish to serve in any of these positions, please submit your name to Charlie Vousden by the April 9th meeting. This slate of officers will be approved at our May meeting.

It is with sadness to inform you of the loss of RTAM members this past year : R. Pauline Burk, Mary Keenean, Penny Nason – Bowers; Theresa Zarbo – Highland Park & Nathan Hale; Anne Beechler – MHS .

Please remember to send your reservation and check for April 9th's luncheon to Judy Rohlfs, 48 Meadow Lane, Manchester, 06040.

Our guest speaker at this luncheon will be ARTC President Tom Singleton. Tom will address the members on political issues facing us in the upcoming legislature. He will also take questions from the audience.

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

BRISTOL

The members of the Bristol Area Retired Teachers (BART) met on Tuesday, March 19, at the New Britain Museum of American Art. The museum tour featured the special Toulouse-Lautrec Exhibit. At the business meeting that followed, we heard reports from the chairs of standing committees, especially about BART membership.

We also discussed how various bequests and memorial donations have made it possible for us to increase our two annual scholarships to \$2000.00 each. Tedd Johnson, our Legislative Committee Chair, organized our participation at the ARTC Lobby Day on April 16. The rest of the day was spent browsing at the museum and having lunch at the museum café or on our own.

The Annual Meeting of BART will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at the Chippanee Country Club for dinner and our Scholarship Awards presentations. A Scholarship Award of \$2000.00 will be presented to a recipient from Bristol Central High School and to a recipient from Bristol Eastern High School. Each recipient will speak about a special motivation "to want to be a teacher." In this odd-numbered year, we will conduct the Election of Officers for two-year terms and Chairs of the Standing Committees will be appointed.

We will also continue our Social Service project in support of the Young Mothers and Infants Ministry at Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church.

We do this in memory of Pat Duffy, a long-time Chair of the BART Social Services Committee, who was dedicated to helping at that church. Our social service project has members donating items and funds in support of that specific ministry.

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

DID YOU KNOW!!!

IF A PATROL CAR IS PULLED OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, YOU HAVE TO CHANGE TO THE NEXT LANE (AWAY FROM THE STOPPED VEHICLE) OR SLOW DOWN TO AT LEAST 20 MPH UNDER THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT. EVERY STATE EXCEPT HAWAII AND MARYLAND (AS WELL AS D.C.) HAS THIS TRAFFIC LAW.

Affiliate Updates... *(Opinions expressed by Affiliates are not necessarily the opinion of the ARTC Board of Directors.)*

FAIRFIELD

The Retired Educators of Fairfield (REF) has created a blog to keep our members across the country up-to-date about their retired colleagues. Members may post pictures and stories about their travel, grandchildren, accomplishments, relocations, to name a few examples, by creating an individual page. News is shared with hundreds of us in an instant! The blog is also used to remind us of upcoming activities such as monthly breakfasts, luncheons, and trips, and to inform us of the passing of any members. Our membership chair has worked tirelessly to create this.

Our goals are to provide information to our members and also to give back to Fairfield, the wonderful town in which we all taught. Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc on hundreds of families and their homes. Thanks to a connection with the principal of Roger Sherman Elementary School, we were able to provide holiday joy to two families who were in the hardest hit area of town. Additional donations were also made by our individual members to help purchase food and building supplies for the needy.

We are raising money for our scholarship fund for two deserving seniors at our high schools. The generosity of our members along with the half and half raffle at our Holiday Social is getting us closer to our \$1,000 goal.

Now that spring is really right around the corner, our focus is on finalizing plans for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon in May. The Social Committee is also organizing a June tour of New York's Grand Central Terminal in celebration of its 100th year anniversary.

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

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

NEW HAVEN

The NHCRTA will hold its Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at the Grassy Hill Country Club. Information will be forthcoming in our newsletter soon. The Scholarship Committee is working to select a recipient for the award to be presented at the luncheon. Our focus this year will be on increasing membership. The fiscal problems of the State will impact retired teachers. Joining ARTC and NHCRTA will provide the strength in numbers we need to support our position and maintain benefits. Lobby Day will be an opportunity for you to express your opinions. Join us on April 16th.

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

SOUTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Our fall membership meeting held in October at St. Mary's Church Hall in Norwalk was very well attended. Over 125 members came to listen to our guest speaker Jamie Sterling (Sterling Benefits). Our holiday luncheon featured Tom Singleton (ARTC President) and Mary Phil Guinan, ARTC Lobbyist.

We are pleased to announce that our spring membership meeting will be April 19 at St. Mary's Church Hall, West Ave., Norwalk at 10:00 a.m. Guest speaker: CT Representative Gail Lavielle (143 House District Norwalk, Westport, Wilton) will speak about Governor Molloy's budget and issues that will impact retired teachers.

It continues to be a volatile time for retired teachers in Connecticut. Under Governor Molloy's 2014-15 budget proposal, the state will once again not contribute its share to our HIPA fund. The projected 5 years cost to our HIPA fund is now **\$148 million**. This could seriously jeopardize the solvency of our accounts which provide the \$110 per month offset of local insurance premiums.

On a sad note, SFCRTA mourns the passing of Art Bleemer, longtime member of the SFCRTA Board of Directors. Art has influenced the lives of countless number of students, as well as fellow educators. He will be truly missed.

Frank Cooper, *President*
fcooper2@optonline.net (203) 576-6514

GREATER BRIDGEPORT AREA

Spring – finally! A new season with a variety of activities planned for GBRTA members. There are trips to exciting places, and the opportunity to renew friendships at our luncheons and picnic. Luncheon meetings are scheduled for April 11th and May 9th at Testo's Restaurant, Madison Avenue in Bridgeport. The May 9th meeting will begin with a brief Memorial Service for members who have died in the past year. Contact Barbara Chuga (203-268-4535) for luncheon information and reservations.

To end the year, enjoy a relaxing day with us at our June 12th picnic at Boothe Memorial Park in Stratford. Reservations for the picnic can be made with Alberta Caruso (203-375-9474.)

For details on the May 15th Broadway trip to see *Wicked* or *Nice Work If You Can Get It* contact Lois Hoyt (203-261-6693) or Pat Jacobson (203-367-9217.)

The GBRTA will again provide each of the 15 public high schools in its area with scholarships in the amount of \$1,100. to graduating seniors intending to pursue a career in education. Guidance counselors at each high school have received information regarding the scholarships and interested students should apply through their school.

Keep checking our website, www.gbarta.org for the latest details. In the meantime, celebrate the new season with us. We look forward to seeing and working with you.

Barbara Kmetz, *President*
BFKmetz@earthlink.com, (203) 268-8814

NAUGATUCK

We held our spring luncheon on Friday, March 22nd, at Jesse Camille's. The guest speaker was Michael Norman who spoke on behalf of ARTC. The scholarship committee will form and then meet with the high school guidance counselors to pick potential candidates for our scholarship. Back in September we had our Memorial service that was nicely attended and retirees had wonderful things to say about those that had departed. At our December meeting we gave canned goods and money to the Naugatuck Food Bank which was greatly appreciated.

Our June luncheon is still in the planning stages and will hopefully include many new retirees.

Debbie DiRienz, *President*
debbied449@charter.net (203) 263-3018

Tuesday, May 21, 2013
Aqua Turf Club - South Rm.
Mulberry Street
Plantsville, CT

Registration / Coffee.....9:00 - 10:00
Business Meeting.....10:00 - 11:00
Glenn Moon / Nirenstein Awards...11:00 - 12:00
Keynote Speaker.....12:00 - 12:30
Social / Cash Bar.....12:30 - 2:00
Lunch served.....12:30 - 2:00

Our Featured Events!

You will be hearing from important vendors supplying ARTC members with up to date benefit information such as:

- *Stirling Benefits*
- *AMBA*
- *Collette Travel*

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 no later than May 15, 2013, to:
ARTC Program Fund - Spring 2013
68 Loomis Street, Manchester, CT 06042 - 1911

Please check choices:

NY Strip Sirloin	\$ 33.00	\$ _____
Chicken Marsala	\$ 33.00	\$ _____
Baked Scrod	\$ 33.00	\$ _____

Tax & Tip Included.

Name: _____ email: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ Ph (_____) _____ - _____

Final date for cancellations and refunds is May 15, 2013!

ARTC Spring 2013

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

TEACHERS OF CONNECTICUT
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED



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

NON PROFIT
U S POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1020
HARTFORD, CT

Affiliate Updates... (Opinions expressed by Affiliates are not necessarily the opinion of the ARTC Board of Directors.)

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

First, let me thank all you retired teachers in my association for having a computer! Words cannot even describe how much easier this has made my job. It's funny because whenever someone does not own a computer because they think it's too much trouble and the convenience (they *know*) it provides is something they are willing to live without, they are the only ones who suffer. Au contraire! Every secretary or president whose job it is to make sure their members get the word is miserable thinking about the individual calls they need to make, or the postcards they have to purchase, address, stamp and send to the holdouts in their association to keep them informed. So, when we get a notice from ARTC or even another member about our pensions, or what is happening at the state level or even (ha ha) a bit of progress that has been achieved, we can forward that out to the (almost) entire group in 5 seconds. I love getting a message from our legislative chairs, or Wayne Kensel or Mike Norman about a new development in our fight to retain our rights so I can send it to my members instantly. And the response is very gratifying. If I forward a message, I swear there are 10 people sitting at their computers at that moment who respond with, "I already sent this to my legislator!" And at the risk of sounding like a Staples commercial - "Ya. It's that easy!" Needless to say, all these little messages, comments, and news feeds do not get passed on to the non-computer members. Every once in a while I'll be chatting with one of these folks and will make a comment about some new development of which they are unaware. In astonishment they ask, "Where did you hear about that? I didn't know that!!!" to which I reply, "I got an email." So, again, I just want to really, really, thank those of you who have made the effort to get a computer.

March 18 our group participated in a lovely wine tasting sponsored by a local package store. Hazel Kurlansky hosted it in her beautifully decorated home in Higganum. We sampled 3 reds and 3 whites including a (whoopee) bubbly! The food was scrumptious and the gals who came ended up sharing recipes as well!

On April 18 our group will meet for our spring (probably with snow on the ground) luncheon. We're trying a new restaurant in East Haddam which is always chancy. I could write a book about the bad experiences we've had in the

But I am optimistic and I *have* tried the entrees we're ordering. Magnificent! Our speaker is a retired detective from Middletown, Sergeant Craig Elkin who authored a book, [A Cop's Tale: Amusing Stories at the Expense of Others](#)". Just so happens he lives on my street! Anyone who reads this article is invited to attend. Just email me at mar'ochasewells@gmail.com (if you have a computer!)

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

WEST HARTFORD

On May 14, 2013, the West Hartford Retired Educators Association will hold their annual meeting at the Wampanoag Country Club, Wampanoag Road, West Hartford, CT. We are calling it *Retirees Spring Break, A Day of Fun and Relaxation*. We want our members to leave their worries at home and have a break from the pressures we are all experiencing. The meeting will start at 9:15 A.M. with our annual business meeting, legislative update, and election of officers. Following the business meeting, attendees will have a chance for socialization with old and new friends. During the socialization there will be an instrumental performance with soloists from the West Hartford High Schools. Next, guests will be entertained by Enzo Boscarino who will take us on an imaginary Spring Break trip through Italy with song, humor, laughter, and audience participation. Enzo is a retired West Hartford teacher and a well-known entertainer throughout New England. When we return from Italy, we will be treated to a delicious 3 course luncheon. If you would like to join us for *Spring Break*, please contact me at whrea@comcast.net or call 860-658-1560 for further information.

Our Board is working to increase our membership. We will distribute brochures at an upcoming retirement workshop, mail out letters to new retirees, and address retirees at the Teachers and Administrators Annual West Hartford Retirement Dinner.

We are looking forward to seeing our fellow ARTC members at the annual Lobby Day on April 16, 2013.

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

Some recent notes written to ARTC with donations...

"Thank you for all you do...Every retired teacher needs to support ARTCs efforts!"

"If every retired teacher who benefited from ARTCs hard work became a member...we would not be in!!!"

"Thank you so much...I'm proud to call myself an ARTC member! Keep up the good work."



Fold out for Luncheon Registration Form.

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

As stated last year, the Glenn Moon Scholarship Fund is now a fully-certified member of the electronic age via the ARTC website: www.artct.org.

Scholarship applications are now available **on-line only! No others will be accepted.** We are looking forward to a crop of gifted applicants. To date we have not received any complaints regarding the new application process.

Please remember ARTC's Glenn Moon Scholarship Fund in your will.

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*



**Check out our
website at:
www.artct.org**