



MCREA News



Morris County Retirees Education Association May 2019

2018-2019

Luncheon Meetings

April 12 Fundraiser Zeris Inn

May 8 Birchwood Manor

June 12 Meadowwood Manor

Executive Board Meetings

May 2

June 6

9:30 AM

Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains.
Speedwell Ave.
(Route 202) Morris Plains

MCREA News

Mailing Meetings

12:30 PM in Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

April 15 for May Issue

May 20 for June Issue

August 19 for Sept/Oct

MCREA ONLINE

www.mceea.com/mcrea

Save the Date



for the **100th Anniversary Celebration of the**

New Jersey Retirees' Education Association

Sunday, May 3, 2020 • 1-5 p.m.

Grand Marquis, 1550 U.S. 9 South, Old Bridge, NJ • \$50 per person

Next year is the 100th birthday of NJREA. To celebrate this momentous occasion, there will be a fabulous birthday dinner on May 3, 2020. The event will be held at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, NJ. The chairpersons of the Birthday Celebration are MCREA's own Betty Levine and Arlene Pepe. The planning committee is hard at work, over a year in advance, to prepare for this celebration. So, dust off your party hats and watch for news in the months to come. Check out the celebration logo on all of our future publications. We know Betty and Arlene will make us proud!

MCREA Executive Board

President: Susan Vigilante Williams **Treasurer:** Ronald Gounaud
1st Vice President: Susan Beekman **Secretary:** Rosemary McHugh
2nd Vice President: Marianne Dispenziere
3rd Vice President: Joan Jensen

The *MCREA News* is published five times each year: September, December, March, May, and June. *News* editor Sandra Wozniak can be reached at 973-786-5194 or by email at sanwoz@gmail.com

A Message from the President by Susan Vigilante

NJEA has done some revamping of the state regions, Morris County is now part of the Northwest Zone which includes Hunterdon, Somerset, Passaic, Sussex and Warren. As Ginny and Tim have reported, our members have been involved in statewide lobbying for three bills that are the focus of a huge campaign. Two are bills that will help our support staff members and one is seeking relief for Chapter 78 costs. Our active members and our newest retirees are paying for part of their health care costs, and the implications of this affect all members of the education community. Retirees should remember that Chapter 78 legislation is responsible for the loss of our cost of living adjustment (COLA) to our pensions. Across the state our members are wearing Red for Ed on Wednesdays and taking other actions to show their support for the campaign.

On April 29, there will be a special meeting for members at the Sheraton in Parsippany to share what has happened as a result of the campaign. It is a member activation meeting, and because retirees are heavily involved in lobbying the legislature, you are invited to attend. There will be more on this in our next email.

May 1st is the International Day of the Worker. In many countries, this special day is marked by celebrations for the hard work that people do each and every day. Counties across New Jersey are using May 1st as a Day of Action for the Campaign described above.

For those who question the relevance of their union, remember that it is our union that fought and got us our pensions and benefits and made the working conditions that we had in our careers possible and bearable. The right to bargain contracts was a hard-fought union effort. So, as you celebrate May Day with the deposit of your pension check, remember how and where it originated. Think about those members who continue to work to make New Jersey's schools among the best in our nation. And think about what you can do to support the campaign to help our ESP (Education Support Professionals) and bring about Chapter 78 relief. Restoring our COLA could be next!

MCREA on the Move

by Kay Laskoski

Looking for a last-minute spring getaway? Join us when we travel to **Boston, Providence and Hartford**, April 27-30. There are a few seats available for the trip; the cost is \$799 for a double, which includes transportation, hotels, most meals and attractions.

Want to spend a day at the **Jersey Shore** in the summer without having to drive down there? We are going Thursday, July 18 to visit the boardwalk enjoy a delicious lunch at a shore restaurant and follow it with a boat ride on the RIVER BELLEthen a stop at Delicious Orchards. The cost is \$99., which includes transportation, lunch and the boat ride.

In September we are off to the **Bluegrass State of Kentucky**; we depart September 21 and return September 27. The cost is \$1549 for a double.

Spain and Portugal are on the horizon in 2020 when we will cruise with AMA WATERWAYS, call for availability, as space is limited.

For additional information, call Kay Laskoski at 973-219-0738 or e-mail at klaskoski37@gmail.com.

Legislative Report by Tim McGrail and Ginny Osborne

NJEA has an ongoing campaign in support of three important pieces of legislation: S2606/A4352 to make healthcare more affordable; S296/A3185/A3395 to prohibit subcontracting during existing negotiated contracts; and S3089/A3664 to provide due process and binding arbitration for certain non-teaching school staff. To promote the enactment of these bills, the NJREA Government Relations Committee requested that each County Retiree Education Association send four or five of its members to Trenton to participate in NJEA Lobby Days. Morris County retirees stepped up to the plate on both March 18 and March 25. Our goal was/is to engage state legislators to support these issues and post them for a vote in each legislative chamber. We would like to thank all MCREA volunteers who joined us in Trenton for this action, Susan Beekman, Shirley Chamberlin, Becky Hull-Clark, Joan Jensen, Linda Marton, Tim McGrail, and Ginny Osborne. We encourage all our members to write and call their legislators in support of these bills. It is so easy to do if you go to njea.org, sign in, and click on the link to "Take Action." Here you will find two separate links for Job Justice and to Make Healthcare More Affordable. We thank you for every action you take. It does make a difference.

At the March MCREA Executive Board and General Membership meetings, MCREA members dug deep into their pockets and contributed \$460 to NJEA PAC. Since September 2018, you have donated \$1458 at our meetings. It is vital that we protect our pensions, benefits, Social Security, and Medicare. It is particularly disturbing to read about elected officials in Washington, DC who plan to make billions of dollars in cuts to these necessary programs. Your donations help promote these issues and elect state and national leaders who support these causes. Thank you for your generosity.

For the most updated GR information, go to www.njea.org



MCREA members lobby in Trenton! Susan Beekman, Shirley Chamberlin, Becky Hull-Clark, Tim McGrail, and Ginny Osborne (on left). Joan Jensen, GR Co-Chairs Tim McGrail and Ginny Osborne, Linda Marton, and Dalyce Boyer. (right)

MEMBERSHIP

Have you moved? Or Do you know of any members who moved, are ill or recently passed away?

Please let Marcia Heiden know so we can update your/their file. Call 973-425-0875 or email mrsheiden@gmail.com

Want to keep up with up-to-the minute MCREA news? Make sure we have your email address to receive news between the newsletters.

Marcia Heiden, MCREA Membership Chair (mrsheiden@gmail.com)

SPECIAL EVENTS *by Elaine Goldfisher*

The Lunch Bunch just met and had a wonderful get together. We have all made new friends by participating in our monthly luncheons. Please consider joining us at one of our future gatherings

May 15 Verde, Route 53, Morris Plains

June 14 Corner Bistro, Route 10 East, Randolph

Looking forward to seeing more of our members participate!

Anyone interested please call or e-mail me at efgoldie@optonline.net. Phone 973-625-2453

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY *by Gail Lingeran*

The Interfaith Food Pantry celebrated **25 years of “Neighbors Helping Neighbors!”** at their 25th Anniversary Gala held on April 5th. The pantry had been under the leadership of Executive Director, Rosemary Gilmartin who recently retired in December 2018. The newly appointed Executive Director Carolyn Lake has worked under Rosemary for at least half of those 25 years. The “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” program was Rosemary’s way of providing a way for all of us to help the food marginalized in Morris County with unlimited volunteer opportunities. Your donations of food and dollars enable this invaluable community agency to exist to help those in need. Food is not the only help found at the pantry. Free tax preparation, eye exams, dental exams, blood pressure screenings, help with utility bills, healthy cooking demonstrations, filled school back packs, monthly free farmers’ markets, as well as occasional Saturday morning cooking classes for children are some of the offerings during the year.

As we near the end of the school year, please remember that the children who receive both free breakfast AND lunch at school will need to rely on the home for these meals during the summer.

When you come to the May meeting, please give generously, either with food or dollars so that our food unstable families can find the food they need at the pantry. Thanks so much on behalf of the pantry and its clients.

Thank YOU!

by Marianne Dispenziere

Our Basket Bonanza/Tricky Tray was held on April 12, 2019 at Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes. As in the past, the event raised funds to support our scholarship program. Details of this event along with a list of the generous benefactors who provided baskets and gift cards will be published in the next newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the participants and volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make this event a success. First, I would like to thank all who came. Your participation helped us fund our scholarship program. We hope you had an enjoyable experience. Next, a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event possible. This includes those who helped at the event – the runners, apron ladies, greeters, ticket sellers, and announcers. I would also like to acknowledge those who participated prior to the event shopping for items and assembling the baskets. Basketeers, your efforts are greatly appreciated. Finally, I would like to thank all individuals and groups who donated money, items, and baskets on their own. All of the work prior to the event contributed to the huge success of this year's Basket Bonanza/Tricky Tray.

With SYMPATHY

The MCREA respects and honors these deceased members:

Dr. Edward F. Babbott, 98, life member, of Basking Ridge, NJ, on January 15, 2019

David L. Campbell, 72, life member, of Bennington, VT, on February 10, 2019

Colleen Flannery, 66, of Succasunna, on February 2, 2019

Anton Schulzki, 82, life member, of Colorado Springs, CO, on February 16, 2019

Irene F. Popkin, 75, of Whippany, NJ, on February 28, 2019

Pauline "Paula" Schlager, 89, life member, of Whiting, NJ, on February 28, 2019

Joseph Giardino, 87, of Morristown, on March 31, 2019.

If you are aware that an MCREA member has passed away, kindly inform Membership Chair Marcia Heiden (973-425-0875 / mrsheiden@gmail.com) and Friendship Chair Betty McConnell (973-895-2630) / (bmccconnell8@optimum.net).



MCREA Friendship* Report for May 2019

by Betty McConnell, Chair

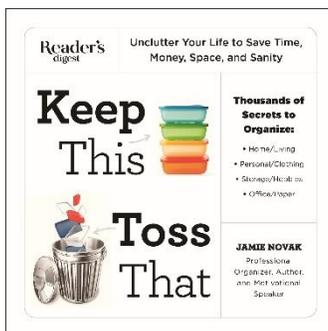


Expressions of sympathy were sent to the families of deceased MCREA members Dr. Edward F. Babbott, David L. Campbell, Anton Schulzki, Colleen Flannery, Pauline "Paula" Schlager, and Irene F. Popkin. Condolences were sent to Nan Grafton on the passing of her sister Liz, to Albert Smolin on the passing of his wife, and to Islin Johnson on the passing of her husband William. Get Well messages were sent to Bill Grier and Kathleen Lopes. Thinking of You cards went out to Esther Gilcher, Nancy Patterson, and Marilyn Plunkett. Shirley Chamberlin and Betty Deus received special congratulations on becoming New Grandmas. Barbara and Bud Satz received a "Happy Anniversary" message commemorating their 40 years of marriage.

Please inform Betty when someone needs a cheerful message, a get well thought, words of comfort, happy birthday wishes, or for any other significant reason. Send email to bmccconnell8@optimum.net or call 973-895-2630 with pertinent details. Thank you in advance for this assistance.

In May, the Bouquet Bunch will be creating and delivering "Forever Bouquets" to MCREA's Over-90 members who reside in Morris County. If you are or if someone you know is 90 or more years of age, let Betty know! Correct mailing/delivery addresses are needed, too. With that in mind, kindly continue to save mason jars, small glass jars of any shape or color, decorative stones, and marbles for us. Additionally, cards will be sent to those Over-90 MCREA members who live beyond the Morris County area of NJ and out-of-state.

**Please note that the MCREA Executive Board has approved the change of name for this Committee, formerly Sunshine.*



MCREA May 8th Luncheon Speaker

If you can't open your drawers, if clutter topples out of closets, and paperwork covers your tabletops then run don't walk to this laugh-out-loud de-cluttering program! Join Organizing Humorist and bestselling author Jamie Novak as she shares her laugh-out-loud funny approach for what to do with all the stuff – without getting overwhelmed. Wondering what to keep? What to toss? What to share or sell? And how to let it all go? Then run don't walk to this workshop! Organizing Humorist™ and bestselling author Jamie Novak travels between her offices in NJ and CA presenting programs on how to de-stress and de-clutter. When not on the road, Jamie is searching for a cure to her addiction to clipping recipes she never prepares. You may have seen her on QVC, HGTV, or have read her newest book Keep This, Toss That.

MCREA LUNCHEON Reservation Form

When: May 8, 2019 **Where:** The Birchwood Manor, Whippany, NJ
Meeting (Members Only): 10:30 A.M. **Luncheon:** Noon
Speaker: Jamie Novak, Author and Organizing Humorist
Mail your reservation form and check to: Cheryl Doltz, 23 William St., Mine Hill, NJ 07803.
Please use a separate form for each reservation.
Cost: Member - \$30, Non-Member (lunch only) - \$35
+++++++DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2019 (NO EXCEPTIONS)+++++++

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Choice (circle one) Grilled Salmon with Dill Prime Rib

Check Number _____ **Amount \$** _____

Please send separate checks for each luncheon.



MCREA June LUNCHEON Reservation Form

When: June 12, 2019 **Where:** Meadow Wood Manor, Randolph, NJ
Meeting (Members Only): 10:30 A.M. **Luncheon:** Noon
Program: Scholarship Presentations / Meet the Winners
Mail your reservation form and check to: Cheryl Doltz, 23 William St., Mine Hill, NJ 07803.
Please use a separate form for each reservation.
+++++++NEW PRICE+++++++
MEMBERS - \$35 NON-MEMBERS - \$37
DEADLINE : JUNE 1, 2019 (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Choice (circle one) Herb Crusted Salmon Chicken Marsala

Check Number _____ **Amount \$** _____

Please send separate checks for each luncheon