



# MCREA News



Morris County Retirees Education Association June 2019

**2018-2019**

**Luncheon Meetings**

June 12 Meadow Wood Manor

**Executive Board Meetings**

**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

**May 20 for June Issue**

**August 19 for Sept/Oct**

**MCREA ONLINE**

[www.mccea.com/mcrea](http://www.mccea.com/mcrea)

## Writing a Swan Song....

Let me start by wishing the new officers of MCREA sincere congratulations and a pledge of support as they take office in June. The future of MCREA is strong, and our new leaders will represent us well.

The past four years have flown by, and as I sit writing my final article as your president, I cannot help but reflect on the great things taking place with MCREA. We are growing in our membership again. We have legally become two separate associations, one serving members as a union, and one serving as a 501(c)(3). With the MCREA Philanthropic Fund, we are diligently protecting our endowments for the future and fundraising for our scholarships. We have successfully invested funds to grow our endowment to maximize our future scholarship endeavors.

More members than ever are participating in our online newsletter and enjoying Constant Contact messages to keep current. We even have an active Facebook presence. By using technology, we are saving postage and printing costs. MCREA continues to collect food and money for The Interfaith Food Pantry. Two of our members were invited to attend the recognition ceremonies for the effort of our association. Our members also continue to support Operation Jersey Cares by volunteering to make pillows, to donate and to pack boxes for the troops.

*(Cont. p2)*

### MCREA Executive Board

**President:** Susan Vigilante Williams    **Treasurer:** Ronald Gounaud  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Susan Beekman    **Secretary:** Rosemary McHugh  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Marianne Dispenziere  
**3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:sanwoz@gmail.com)

## A Message from the President by Susan Vigilante

(cont. p 1)

MCREA has become more active with NJREA as well. As the daytime face of NJEA, more members than ever are helping to lobby to protect our benefits and push for pro public-school legislation to bring relief to our active members and fairness for our support staff members. We are working with MCCEA, and NJEA PAC to help elect pro-education legislators. We have become the leader in NJREA in this initiative. I could not be prouder of our hardworking members and thank those who have shown their concern for others.

Our MCREA Executive Board is the biggest, and to my mind, the best out of all our counties. Thirty executive board members meet seven times a year to keep MCREA moving like a well-oiled machine. I truly appreciate the work that each one has done during my tenure as your president. The brief description below hardly does justice to their dedication and importance in MCREA.

**First Vice President – Susan Beekman** – organizes all programs and attends meetings when the president is unable to attend. (Did you know that in addition to our meetings, the president must attend several meetings a year in Trenton and serve as a member of the NJREA Delegate Council?)\***Second Vice President – Marianne Dispenziere** – runs the Tricky Tray Fundraiser for Scholarships \* **Third Vice President – Joan Jensen** – runs the meeting raffles and assists with Fundraising\***Secretary – Rosemary McHugh** – takes and maintains minutes and association records\***Treasurer – Ron Gounaud** – handles all finances for MCREA and MCREAP. Prepare all records for the accountant for taxes, audit and LAFAP\***Archives – Theresa Garnier** – maintains our scrapbooks as our historian\***Arrangements – Charlotte Bayley** – organizes the venues for our meetings/luncheons\***Finance – Carolyn Gallagher**- chairs budget preparations and watches spending\***Friendship - Betty McConnell**- sends greetings /flowers to our members as needed\***Health/Member Benefits – Barbara Satz** – responsible for aiding members with their benefits – serves three counties with her expertise\***Hospitality – Cathy Magliocchetti/Anita Kalyan** – organize refreshments for meetings/help with seating\***Human Rights – Shirley Chamberlin** – educates us about human rights concerns\***Legislative – Ginny Osborne/Tim McGrail** – handles government relations and member involvement\***Membership – Marcia Heiden** – maintains membership files/works with NJEA Membership\***Membership Recruitment – Joanne Belmonte** – helps recruit and greet new members\***Newsletter and Constant Contact – Sandra Wozniak** -creates and sends newsletter information/keeps us up to date\***Nominations – Sylvia Abdelsalam** – handles nominations and elections\***Parliamentarian – Linda Marton** – our Robert’s Rules expert\***Publications – Maria Capik** – provides materials for publications\***Publicity – Betty Deus** – publicizes events and works with NJEA Communications\***Reservations – Cheryl Doltz**- handles all meeting and luncheon reservations\***Revisions – Ruth Herr** – organizes Constitution and By-laws records and revisions\***Scholarship – Betty Levine/Arlene Pepe** – organize and carry out our scholarship program\***Social Media – Alexandra Protopapas** - maintains our Facebook presence\***Special Events – Elaine Goldfisher** – creates and organizes membership events\***Travel – Kay Laskoski**- handles MCREA travel opportunities

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with these members and with all of MCREA. It has been a privilege to serve as your president, and while my service as your president may indeed be over, I look forward to continuing my service to MCREA as your past president. I look forward to seeing you at our scholarship meeting in June and wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer.

With gratitude,  
MCREA News

## ***Legislative Report*** by Tim McGrail and Ginny Osborne

NJEA has been conducting a long-term campaign for three important legislative items:

- 1.) To support Chapter 78 relief (S2606/A4352);
- 2.) To protect ESP members from privatization (A3185/A3395/S296); and
- 3.) To secure due process for ESP members (S3089/A3664).

NJREA/MCREA members have been actively involved in supporting this campaign. We make phone calls to our legislators, write emails, sign petitions, send text messages, write postcards, send Tweets, attend Lobby Days in Trenton, wear Red for Ed on Wednesdays, participate in Mall Walks, join the 10K Challenge, and share information with our colleagues, families, neighbors, and communities about supporting these bills.

All of these actions have brought a great deal of attention to these three issues, and support is growing in the legislature. We must continue our work to #FixtheUnfairness until these bills are signed into law by Governor Murphy. We ask all of our members to choose the way(s) they can participate and keep at it. We thank you for all you do.

Each year, to keep the state government open, the State of NJ must pass a budget by June 30. It is an annual event that retirees need to watch closely and to become actively involved in. Not only are we interested because of school funding issues, but because the budget includes the funding of our pensions and health benefits.

Senate President Sweeney and others are working to reduce our health benefits and oppose the Governor's budget proposal which is supported by a millionaire's tax. Our voices need to be heard if we expect to keep our pensions and benefits intact. We need to support the governor's budget because it supports public education, its students, its employees, and its retirees.

MCREA continues to collect for the NJEA Political Action Committee. At the April 4 Executive Board meeting and the April 10 NJREA Spring Luncheon, we collected \$119. It brings our total collection from our meetings this year to \$1838 since September.

You should have received an envelope in the mail from NJREA asking for a donation to NJEA PAC. Please make sure you indicate your membership in Morris County REA when you fill out the form. That way our county association will receive credit for your donation. NJEA PAC donations are strictly voluntary and are used to support political candidates who are endorsed by NJEA. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**To read the most up-to-date legislative information, go to [www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org).**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Membership notices go out soon--look for the application in the mail. Remember that your membership runs from September 1, 2019-August 31, 2020. Mail the application with your check by the end of July to prevent missing out on a newsletter or other information! If you have an address change include that in your application. Any questions call 973-425-0875 or email [mrsheiden@gmail.com](mailto:mrsheiden@gmail.com)**

**Enjoy your summer--see you in September!**

## **Health & Membership Benefits** *by Barbara Satz*

### **USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION**

**NJDPB-** New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits

<http://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions>

Pension inquiries-including those related to health benefits: 609-292-7524

Call center hrs. 7:00AM-4:30PM M-F 6:45PM on Thursdays, call early for less wait time.

Automated Information System: 609-292-7524 (24hours /7days a week)

Can also send an e-mail, go to contacts on website and fill in form

Mail address: Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08625-0295

**Medicare:** 800-633-4227

**Social Security:** 800-772-1234 or online at <http://www.SSA.gov>

**OptumRX:** 1-844-368-8740 [www.optumrx.com](http://www.optumrx.com)

**OptumRXMedicare:** 1-844-368-8765

**NJDirect/Horizon Plans:** 800-414-7427

**Aetna Member Services:** 1-877-782-8365

**Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO or HMO for SHBP members** (state and local govt)

1-866-234-3129

**Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO or HMO for SEHBP members** (education)

1-866-816-3662

**NJEA/NJREA website:** <http://www.njea.org> (sign in information on back of membership card)

**NJEA/NJREA Headquarters:** 609-599-4561

**NJEA Confidential Helpline:** 866-AID-NJEA (866-243-6532)

**NEA Member Benefits:** [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) or 800-637-4636

## **SPECIAL EVENTS** *by Elaine Goldfisher*

Lunch Bunch had a wonderful time in April at Bruno's restaurant. May at Verdes was also a lot of fun. Try to join our group in June at the Corner Bistro. We meet on Friday the 14th for our July and August lunches please call or email me at [efgoldie@optonline.net](mailto:efgoldie@optonline.net) or 973-625-2453 Our **walking group** will be getting together. For information please call or e mail me

## **INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY** *by Gail Lingeran*

**HERE'S YOUR LAST CHANCE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR TO HELP THE FOOD PANTRY!!!** We don't usually collect food items at our June meeting, but I will ALWAYS take the monetary donations to help buy the items on which the pantry may be running low. I will have a basket out for checks or cash at the June meeting. Please make checks out to MCIFP. Don't forget to save the hotel soaps, shampoos, lotions, etc. when traveling this summer (or any time) as the pantry makes up bags of these items for a monthly special when they have enough. You can bring these to ANY meeting. Thanks for all your support of the pantry this year. You have greatly helped the clients who are so very grateful.

## *With SYMPATHY*

*The MCREA respects and honors these deceased members:*

Elaine D. Burbridge, 90, life member, of the Dominican Republic, formerly of Mine Hill, NJ, on April 4, 2019.

Dr. John Heintjes, 74, life member, of Cedar Grove, NJ, on April 14, 2019.

*If you are aware that an MCREA member has passed away, kindly inform Membership Chair Marcia Heiden, Archives Chair Theresa Garnier, Sunshine Chair Betty McConnell, and/or News editor Sandra Wozniak.*



## MCREA Friendship Report for May 2019

*by Betty McConnell, Chair*

Expressions of sympathy were sent to the families of deceased MCREA members Joseph Giardino, Elaine D. Burbridge, and Dr. Jon Heintjes. Condolences were sent to Trish Chambers on the passing of her husband and to Phil Lomonico on the passing of his wife Janet. Get Well and Thinking of You messages were sent to Gay Grier, Barbara Satz, Rosemary McHugh, Joy Jenkins, Jim Vance, Vince Butler, George Kelley, and Carolyn Schwartz. 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 with pertinent details. Thank you in advance for this assistance.

Thank you, thank you! The Bouquet Bunch created 35+ "Forever Bouquets" for MCREA's Over-90 members who reside in Morris County. "Sincere thanks" to those MCREA members and additional members who personally delivered the bouquets. At the June business meeting, I will announce the names of the MCREA members who participated in this annual endeavor. Super special thanks to Susan Waagner who made the special 90+ greeting cards which accompanied the deliveries. Additionally, cards were mailed to about fifty Over-90 MCREA members who live beyond the Morris County area of NJ and out-of-state. 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. Your donations of mason jars and similar small jars of any color or shape, ribbons, marbles and stones, and cards are gratefully accepted at any luncheon meeting.



## *MCREA on the Move*

*by Kay Laskoski*

Thursday, July 18 we journey to the Jersey shore for some rest and relaxation. After a stop at the boardwalk, we will have lunch at The Shrimp Box and follow it with a cruise on the Mississippi-style boat. A stop at Delicious Orchards will be made on the ride home. The cost of the trip is \$99 and just a few seats remain.

Kentucky is our destination in September when we visit the Bluegrass State. The trip departs September 21 and returns on September 27. A few spots remain; the cost is \$1549 for a double.

Our AMA Cruise to Spain and Portugal will depart in May of 2020. A few cabins remain.....call for further information and availability of cabins.

See you at the June meeting to see what is on the travel agenda for the fall season. Any questions, please e-mail [klaskoski37@gmail.com](mailto:klaskoski37@gmail.com). or call 973-219-0738

## 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**

## Our retirees are busy!



- \*The Mall Project
- \*Legislative Action
- \*Visiting Boston
- \*Raising money for Scholarships....and of course...spending time with the grands!

