



# MCREA News



Vol 30 No 8

Morris County Retirees Education Association Sept-Oct 2019

## 2019-2020

### Luncheon Meetings

Sept 11 Birchwood Manor

Oct 10 Zeris Inn

December 11 Hanover Manor

March 11 Zeris Inn

April 24 Fundraiser Zeris

May 13 Birchwood Manor

June 10 Meadow Wood Manor

### NJREA Convention

November 6-7

### Executive Board

#### Meetings

September 5

October 3

December 5

March 5

April 2

May 7

June 8

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

November 18

February 18

April 14

May 11

### NEWS ONLINE

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

## A Message from the President by Susan Beekman

The "Dog Days" of summer are upon us, which means it is time to think about MCREA and the fall. In this issue you will find coupons for the September and October luncheon meetings. Send them back while you are thinking about it. Please note the new address and person to whom they should be sent.

Your officers and committee chairs have been busy since the last luncheon in June. There were 3 Lobby Days in Trenton to which many of our members went. There were Finance Committee; Trustees, and Fundraising meetings, with more to come in late August, both locally and in Trenton. The signatures at the banks were changed; some new committee chairs were selected, and programs finalized through November.

Although we were busy, we hope you had a relaxing, carefree summer and are ready to join us in the fall for fun-BUT for work as well. We will need to gear up to continue the fight for keeping our health insurance and pensions intact! We will be needed to support the active members as they once again fight for changing how they pay for insurance (Chapter 78), as well as getting fairness for our ESP members. We will continue to encourage our legislators in Trenton to step up to the plate and do what is right.

## MCREA Executive Board

**President:** Susan Beekman

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** Marianne Dispenziere

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Cheryl Doltz

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP:** Joan Jensen

**Secretary:** Rosemary McHugh

**Treasurer:** Ronald Gounaud

**Past President:** Susan Vigilante

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)

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

The summer of 2019 kept MCREA members engaged in several activities. On June 13, NJEA joined the CWA at a rally in front of the NJ State House in Trenton. Thousands of participants, wearing red, rallied for job justice and to pass a fair budget. More than 1,000 NJEA and NJREA members attended, including our own members from Morris County. Because the rally was so well attended, West State Street in front of the NJ State House had to be closed to traffic to accommodate the crowd. MCREA members were on double duty that day. Before the rally began, we entered the State House to make our presence known to legislators that we support job justice for school employees. We would like to thank our MCREA members who attended: Susan Beekman, Joseph and Sophia Bonadeo, Ruth Herr, Betty Levine, Tim McGrail, Arlene Pepe, and Susan Vigilante.

Our work continued throughout the month. NJEA held Lobby Days in Trenton on June 20, 24, and 27. Our members drove to Trenton and continued to lobby our legislators in the State House in support of Chapter 78 relief, Job Justice for ESP, and for a state budget that fairly funds public education, our pensions, and our medical benefits. The budget was passed before the June 30 deadline and it included a 7/10 payment toward our pensions and keeps us on a path to full funding in three more fiscal budget years. We thank our MCREA participants Susan Beekman, Joanne Belmonte, Shirley Chamberlin, Becky Hull-Clark, Tim McGrail, Christine Torre, and Lisa Worobetz.

Every MCREA member has an opportunity to promote pro-public education issues without driving to Trenton! We can make phone calls, send emails to our legislators, write postcards, send Tweets, and share our issues with friends, family, and colleagues. Every action we take, helps to promote public education and to protect our pensions and benefits. We must all take part in these actions to secure our future.

In July, we participated in the MCCEA's candidate screenings for Assembly seats in Legislative Districts 25 and 26. It gave us the opportunity to personally ask interested Assembly candidates from both parties questions about their positions which concern educators and retirees. The committee forwarded recommendations to NJEA for candidate endorsements. At the next NJEA PAC Operating Committee meeting in August, our recommendations for endorsement will be considered. If NJEA endorses our recommended candidates, our work will begin. In September we will send postcards to our members who Vote by Mail and in October send postcards to support our candidates at the polls in November. We will be seeking volunteers to help us with this task and more information will follow.

At the June Executive Board and General Membership meetings, \$303 was collected for NJEA PAC. It brings our total PAC collections at our meetings from September 2018 to June 2019 to \$2533. We ask each member to donate \$2 or more per month. Your contributions will be used to support NJEA PAC endorsed candidates.

These donations are essential to protect our pensions, benefits, Social Security, and Medicare. They will help us fight against Senator Sweeney's "Path to Poverty." Thank you for your activism and generosity. When we all work together, we achieve our goals.

NJEA and CWA rally outside the NJ State House in Trenton.



## *Tina Antalek Scholarship*

As most members know, Tina Antalek entered eternal life on December 16, while visiting with her son in South Carolina. To honor Tina's memory for her service to our profession and to the numerous associations in which she actively participated throughout her life, the Executive Board has established a scholarship in her name.

As a teacher in Lincoln Park, she was involved in her local association and went on to become President of that group. She also served the MCCEA as Secretary, Chair of the Instruction and Professional Development Committee, Vice President and President. She served on several NJEA Committees and testified in Washington, DC and actively lobbied on behalf of our profession. In retirement, she served for four years as President of MCREA.

A number of people have contributed to Tina's Scholarship fund. The Executive Board wishes to thank the following members and friends who have made contributions to date:

AMADORI, PATRICIA	KWONG, RAYMOND & LILLY
BEEKMAN, JOHN & SUSAN	LASKOSKI, KATHLEEN
BELMONTE, DOMINIC & JOANNE	LINGERMAN, GAIL
CALABRIA, ANGELA	LIPPER, JAY AND JACQUELINE
CALLAN, THOMAS & ROBIN	MAGLIOCCHETTI, CATHERINE
CAPIK, MARIA	MAIDA, GAIL
CASEY, EVE	MC GRAIL, TIM & JACQUELINE
CASEY, PHYLLIS	MCCANN, JOSEPH & WINIFRED
CATONA, LESLIE	MCCONNELL, JIM & ELIZABETH
CHAMBERLIN, SHIRLEY	MOONEY, DIANE
DEUS, MANUEL & ELIZABETH	O'BRIEN, EILEEN
DISPENZIERE, MARIANNE	PROTOPAPAS, ALEXANDRA
GARNIER, DENNIS & THERESA	RAO, THERESA & GOPAL
GOGO, WARREN & IVY	SATZ, BENNET & BARBARA
GOLDFISHER, ELAINE	SKOWRONSKI, FRANK & LAURA
GOUNAUD, RONALD	STEVENS, DREW & JOYCE
HEIDEN, KENNETH & MARCIA	STRUCKO, JOHN & CONSTANCE
HERR, RUTH	VANRIPPER, ELISA
KALYAN, ANITA	VIGILANTE, SUSAN
KAROSSEN, ALBERTA	WALSH, GEORGIANA
KEAT, ELIZABETH	WARNER, JOANN
KROL, KATHLEEN	

IN ADDITION, ANONYMOUS CASH DONATIONS OF \$400 WERE RECEIVED

If you wish to be part of this special memorial to Tina, checks may be made to MCREAP and sent to Ron Gounaud, our Treasurer at 333 Daniel Street, Dover, NJ 07801 or brought to the September meeting. Please indicate on your check that the funds are for the Tina Antalek Scholarship.

## ***Special Events*** by Elaine Goldfisher

Lunch Bunch has met in July and August. We all had a wonderful time eating and sharing stories. What a wonderful way to know your members

In September we are meeting on Wednesday the 18th at H2Ocean on Ridgedale Avenue in Cedar Knolls. In October we are meeting on Wednesday the 16th at Forte's which is on Route 10 West in Randolph. All lunches start at noon. We hope to see some new members join us .

Please contact me if you are interested at: [Efgoldie@optonline.net](mailto:Efgoldie@optonline.net) 973-625-2453

## ***Travel*** by Kay Laskoski

Tuesday, September 10....travel with us to see JESUS, a wonderful production at **Sight and Sound Theater** in Lancaster. A luncheon before the show at a Pennsylvania Dutch Restaurant is included as well as transportation and theater admission. The cost is \$149 per person.

September 21, we depart for our **Kentucky trip**; complete departure details, including luggage tags, will be sent in the mail. As of this date, there are two seats available for the six-day trip. The cost is \$1549 per person for a double.

Thursday, October 17, is a **MYSTERY TOUR** to who knows where? We depart for an unknown destination on an adventure (wear your walking shoes) enjoy lunch during the day. The cost is \$99.

Tuesday, October 29, join us to see **COSTUMING THE CROWN at Winterthur in Delaware**. In addition to the exhibit, our trip includes a tour of the 175-room mansion and a garden tram tour. Lunch is on your own at the café. The cost is \$79 per person. If you enjoyed our Downton Abbey trip, this one's for you!

Our holiday trip; **Christmas in the Berkshires**, December 7 and 8 has been sold out.....we do have a wait list.

The AMA WATERWAYS **cruise to Spain and Portugal** (May 22 to June 5) has some availability as of this date. Call Long's Travel directly (973-538-1700) for cabin availability and pricing. Any questions about the trips, call Kay Laskoski at 973-219-0738 or e-mail [klaskoski37@gmail.com](mailto:klaskoski37@gmail.com).

## With SYMPATHY

*The MCREA respects and honors these deceased members:*

Vince Butler, life member, of Morristown, NJ, on May 14, 2019

Harry Hamilton, over 90, life member, of Denville, in the past year

Ruth F. Hight, 87, of Whitehall, PA, on July 19, 2019

Martha Jones, 87, life member, of Boonton, on June 26, 2019

Dolores "Dee" Kojak, 89, life member, of Succasunna (Roxbury Twp.) on July 3, 2019

James Vance, 89, life member, of Morristown, in June 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 News Friendship Report

by Betty McConnell, Chair [bmccconnell8@optimum.net](mailto:bmccconnell8@optimum.net) or 973-895-2630

Expressions of sympathy were sent to the families of deceased MCREA members Vince Butler, James Vance, Harry Hamilton, Dolores Kojak, Martha Jones, and Ruth F. Hight. Get Well and Thinking of You messages were sent to Walter Krichling (NJREA officer), Kathy Gilbert, Sue Waagner, and Rosemary McHugh. A congratulations card was sent to new grandma Joanne Belmonte. Please inform Betty via email or phone call when someone needs a cheerful message, a get well thought, words of comfort, birthday wishes, or for any other significant reason. Thank you for your assistance. As usual, the Bouquet Bunch will meet in Spring 2020 to create our Forever

Bouquets for MCREA's Over-90 members who reside in Morris County. We deliver bouquets not only for the initial year when reaching 90 but also for each succeeding year. That includes members who have achieved 100. If you or someone you know is 90 or more years of age, please inform Betty! Correct mailing/delivery addresses are needed, too. Donations of mason jars and other small containers of any color or shape, flowers and greens, ribbons, marbles and stones, and "flowery" cards are gratefully accepted. Join us in this fun and friendly project.



# Thank you!



Thank you for supporting our MCREA Raffles, which benefit our Scholarship Fund. Pictured L-R at our Raffle table are Joyce Janowicz, 3rd Vice-President Joan Jensen, and Aldona Skrypa. Joyce donated that sweatshirt, which was created by her mother. MCREA requests Your kind donations, to be used as future Raffle prizes. Please consider donating a bottle or two of wine. Thank you!

## ***Interfaith Food Pantry*** by Gail Lingerman

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT!** Welcome back to a new school year and new opportunities to help children and families who are food unstable! We will again **collect non-perishable food items, hotel size bath items, and reusable grocery size bags** at our Sept. meeting. The food pantry provides 3 new reusable bags to each new client which they are requested to bring back each time they come to shop. This reduces the use of plastic and paper bags. With new clients always being added, the need for reusable grocery size bags is always there.

The food pantry is also seeking volunteers to assist with their Youth Education Program for the 2019-2020 school year. This involves teaching/presenting to large and small groups both on-site at the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains and off-site at local schools. Training and materials are provided. This is an excellent way for retired educators and parents of school age children to share the mission and goal of the pantry. For more information call the pantry Education Coordinator, Kiley at 973-538-8049 XT236 or by e-mail at [KPowell@mcifp.org](mailto:KPowell@mcifp.org).

As usual, we will collect food items at the Sept. meeting. The most needed items are low sodium canned soups/broth, whole grain pasta and sauce, canned beans (kidney, pinto, etc. NOT green beans), canned fish, calcium fortified milk alternatives (rice, soy, almond), low sodium/low sugar items, and sugar substitute. Monetary donations are always accepted as the pantry can use them to purchase items from the Community Food Bank at a lower cost and also to purchase items on which they may be low. Checks can be made out to MCIFP. "SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER" and thanks for your generosity!!

## **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 profile. Call 973-425-0875 or email [mrsheiden@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mrsheiden@gmail.com))



### **New Officers Installed: (l to r)**

**Treasurer:** Ronald Gounaud

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** Marianne Dispenziere

**President:** Susan Beekman

**Past President:** Susan Vigilante

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP:** Joan Jensen

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Cheryl Doltz

**Secretary:** Rosemary McHugh (not shown)



## **\$24,000 in Scholarships Were Awarded to Morris County Students**

The Morris County Retirees Education Association Philanthropic Fund (MCREAP) proudly awarded twelve \$2,000. scholarship to Morris County students at its annual luncheon which was recently held at Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph. The awards were presented to students who are pursuing a career in education. First year recipients of this award include: Anna Lengner, Chatham High School; Arianna Lee, Morris Knolls High School; Courtney Graf, Roxbury High School; Savannah Jenks, Chatham High School who received her MCREAP Scholarship funded by Visions Federal Credit Union and Avianna Miller, Whippany Park High School, who received her MCREAP Scholarship funded by the estate of Ann Korinda.

Second year recipients include undergraduate Hayley Graybush of James Madison University (Morris Knolls High School); Elizabeth Vex of the University of Delaware (Morris Knolls High School); Jocelyn Barmore of Centenary University (Roxbury High School); Margaret Harmon of Shippensburg University (West Morris High School); Liam Dugan of Moravian College (Morris Knolls High School); Jamie Ingling of The College of New Jersey (Morris Hills High School); and Kate Bernauer of Misericordia University (Parsippany High School) who received her MCREAP Scholarship funded by Visions Federal Credit Union.

*Save  
the  
Date*

**100**   
**njrea**  
for the **1920 • 2020**

**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*

**MCREA September Luncheon Reservation Form**

**When: September 11, 2019**

**Where: The Birchwood Manor**

**111 N. Jefferson Rd.**

**Whippany, NJ 07981**

**Business Meeting: Begins at 10:30 A.M. (Members Only)**

**Luncheon: Begins at 12 Noon (Members & Guests)**

**Guest Speaker: Jim DeLuca "From Suffrage to the ERA -NJ Women in Politics"**

**To make a reservation, mail this form and a check made out to MCREA to:**

**John Beekman, 158 Leeds Ct, Madison, NJ 07940.**

**If you have any questions, please call 973-514-1080**

**Reservations must be received by Sunday, September 1, 2019**

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**Cut Here**-----

**Member (\$35) or Guest (\$40)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle one: Prime Rib Grilled Salmon with Dill Sauce**

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Check** \_\_\_\_\_

**MCREA October Luncheon Reservation Form**

**When: October 10, 2019**

**Where: Zeris Inn**

**372 U.S. Highway 46 East**

**Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046**

**Business Meeting: Begins at 10:30 A.M. (Members Only)**

**Luncheon: Begins at 12 Noon (Members & Guests)**

**Member Benefits Fair 9:45 A.M. - 12 Noon**

**Guest Speaker - Fran Pfeffer, NJEA Associate Director in Government Relations - November Elections**

**To make a reservation, mail this form and a check made out to**

**MCREA to John Beekman, 158 Leeds Ct, Madison, NJ 07940.**

**If you have any questions, please call 973-514-1080**

**Reservations must be received by Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**Cut Here**-----

**Member (\$35) or Guest (\$40)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle one: Prime Rib Chicken with Wild Rice**

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Check** \_\_\_\_\_

## *Health & Member Benefits* by Barbara Satz

State law requires that a required member or dependent spouse(partner/child) who is eligible for Medicare by reason of age(65 or older) or disability must be enrolled in both Medicare Part A (hospital) and Part B (Medical) and maintain Medicare Part A and Part B coverage to remain eligible for state-paid, post-retirement medical benefits through the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP).

Acceptable proof includes a photocopy of your Medicare card showing Parts A and B enrollment or a letter from Medicare indicating the effective dates of both Parts A and B coverage. Send evidence of enrollment to the Health Benefits Bureau, Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 299, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0299.

If you are collecting Social Security, they will send you notification of Medicare approximately 3 months before the month you turn 65 and collect payment for Part B out of your Social Security check.

If you are not collecting Social Security, you must apply for Medicare yourself approximately 3 months before the month you turn 65 and make payments to Medicare for Part B yourself. Sign up online or call Social Security at 800-772-1213.

If you are retired from a board of education with 25 years or more of pension credit you will receive full Medicare Part B reimbursement. This reimbursement will be added directly to your monthly pension check.

**Retirees enrolled in SEHBP should not sign up for any alternate supplemental Medicare coverage. Enrollment in another plan would result in the loss of SEHBP.**

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REMEMBER THE MEMBER BENEFITS FAIR - OCTOBER 10 - 10:00 - ZERIS INN

This is the day of October luncheon. Learn about some of the benefits and services that are available to you with your NJREA membership.

### *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

