



MCREA News



Vol. 30 No. 1

Morris County Retirees Education Association

April/May 2018

2017-2018

Luncheon Meetings

10:30 AM/Noon

May 9 Birchwood Manor

Whippany

June 13 The Mansion

Mountain Lakes

Scholarship Fundraiser

April 20

Zeris Inn Mountain Lakes

Executive Board

Meetings

9:30 AM

Note Change:

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

March 3 – April 5

May 3 – June 7

MCREA News

Mailing Meetings

1 PM in Presbyterian Church of
Morris Plains

April 9 for May issue

May 21 for June issue

Aug. 20 for Sept/Oct. issue

Online Posting of News

same dates as the News
mailings -- go to:

www.mccea.com/mcrea

A Message from the President by Susan Vigilante

Good things come to those that wait...

Our newsletter deadline for this issue is the second day of Spring. As I sit at the computer with the snow coming down during the so-called "four-easter," I am reminded that it matters not what the calendar says, the snow will come or the sun will shine, and we can do nothing to control it. How wonderful! There is so much we try to control, or schedule, or become anxious over, but sometimes, we just have to stop and wait for the weather to do its thing.

Hopefully, all of our wonderful retirees have weathered the storms this March just fine. Hopefully, you have all stayed safe and warm and just waited for the weather to cooperate so that you can return to your tasks at hand.

We missed our March meeting, but Charlie Haas has agreed to come in October. All good things come to those who wait, and Charlies' presentations are truly worth waiting for.

The Constitution and By-laws that we were supposed to vote on at the March meeting will take place in May. Postings of the documents on our website are complete, and printed copies remain at the MCCEA office. At the May meeting, we shall be privileged to hear a message from Gary Melton. Shirley Chamberlain, our Human Rights Chairperson, has a special announcement about him and his message included in this newsletter. You won't want to miss Gary. His humor is contagious.

Good things come to those who wait. But sometimes waiting is not an option...

[continued on page 2]

MCREA Executive Board

President: Susan Vigilante Williams

Treasurer: Ronald Gounaud

1st Vice President: Susan Beekman

Secretary: Rosemary McHugh

2nd Vice President: Marianne Dispenziere

Past-President: Tina Antalek

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

[President's Report: cont'd from page 1]

Consider the educators in Jersey City who waited a long time for their district to do something to relieve their loss of pay because of Chapter 78. They waited for years. They worked without a contract for over a year, waiting for their Board to really hear their issues and come up with a plan for relief. Finally, they did something they did not want to do, but they felt they were forced to do. They went on Strike. Their strategy paid off, and although, as of this writing, their settlement has not been made public, their leaders felt confident enough to end the Strike and return to work. Enough was enough.

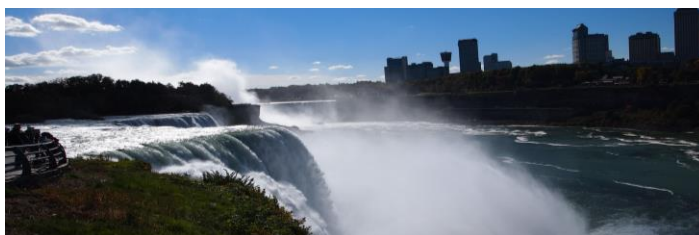
Tim has done an excellent job pointing out just some of the issues affecting us as educators that are being dealt with in Trenton. We waited through the Christie years and are hopeful that under Phil Murphy as Governor, the promised changes will take place. We have waited for years for our pensions to be fully funded. Now is the time.

And speaking of time, the Time's Up movement is well underway. Something we have waited for far too long.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the massacre at Parkland, FL at the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. The students there are doing something about the gun issue that we have also waited far too long to see addressed. For those of us who remember the 60's and 70's, the actions of the students are reminiscent of the youth movement of that time. Were you a part of that movement? Did you march for justice? I, for one, applaud the spirit of those students and adult supporters across this nation who participated in the memorial walk on March 14 and will march on March 24. They are not waiting.

We live in interesting times. The snow may come, but the sun will come out tomorrow, and I am looking forward to seeing you at our April Fundraiser and our May meeting. Happy Spring!

MCREA on the Move with Kay Laskoski



If a trip to Niagara Falls is on your "bucket list" then join us September 25-28 for a trip to the Canadian side of the Falls. We will also visit Niagara-on-the-Lake and take a cruise on the Erie Canal. There is limited availability for this trip. The cost is \$679 for a double and \$879 for a single. The price includes transportation, three nights' accommodations and most meals. Insurance is available. Contact Kay Laskoski at klaskoski37@gmail.com, or call her at 973-288-1545 for complete details and a flyer. Please note that a passport is required for this trip.

Legislative Report by Tim McGrail and Ginny Osborne

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy recently presented his first budget proposal to the NJ Legislature and the residents of our great state. A close examination of this proposal gives school employees a reason to hope for the future of public education, students, and its retirees. Also included in his proposal are other areas of increased funding that were cut during the Christie administration. NJEA supports this budget proposal. Listed below are ten reasons why this budget benefits the residents of our state:

- \$3.2 billion is planned for payment to the state pension funds. This amount is 6/10 of the required dollars needed for full payment. The dollar amount is expected to increase each year by 1/10 until full payment is finally achieved.
- There will be an increase of \$283 million in K-12 school aid. It is the first year of a four-year phase-in of the School Funding Reform Act. Most districts will receive more state aid and no school district will receive less aid.
- \$57 million will be allocated to school districts to expand Pre-K education.
- Higher education funds will also increase with this budget proposal. It was announced that \$50 million will be available for tuition-free community college for low- and moderate-income families. An additional \$7.5 million is allocated for Tuition Aid Grants and \$1.5 million toward the Educational Opportunity Fund.
- Murphy's budget includes \$7.5 million for women's health care centers and family planning.
- A \$15 per hour minimum wage phase-in will begin. Education Support Professionals will certainly benefit from a higher minimum wage in our state. With time, it will likely push low ESP wages higher.
- \$22 million is allocated for the Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC is a federal and state tax benefit for individuals and families who earn low to moderate incomes in NJ. It is a tax credit that may reduce the amount of taxes you owe, or provide you with a refund, even if you don't owe any taxes.
- Murphy plans to use state funds for clean energy. It restores state funding to this area of cuts.
- Murphy promised common sense gun safety laws to keep our schools, students, families, and communities safe.
- Significant funding increase is proposed for NJ Transit.

By June 30, the NJ State Assembly and Senate will need to pass a new budget for our state. It is unsure in what form it will eventually be signed by the governor. It is certainly expected to be an improvement over the last eight years. Thanks to the efforts of our members, we are optimistic about the future of public education in NJ. We will continue to monitor events in Trenton.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Spring is that time of year when invoices for membership are sent out to our annual paying members. The MCREA Executive board voted for changes in membership for the MCREA portion of the annual dues. The fee will be \$25 for the year beginning September 1, 2018 (up from \$20 per year). There will no longer be a graduated dues scale, except for those annual direct payers who were over 80 as of August 2017, they are grandfathered at the same rate as before. Bills will be sent out to annual members in early June. Life membership for MCREA portion of the dues remains at \$250.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please inform me of address changes. I will update your information with NJREA and our records so that you continue to receive publications. Also, if you know of a member who has passed away or moved to a nursing facility please let me know. You may write, e-mail or call me. Marcia Heiden, 56 Primrose Trail, Morristown, NJ 07960
mrsheiden@gmail.com Phone: 973-425-0875

SPECIAL EVENTS *by Elaine Goldfisher*



We had a wonderful lunch this month at Cinders in Mine Hill. Some new members joined us for the first time. A great time was had by all!

May 11 we will be meeting at Gusto on Route 46 West in Mine Hill. New members are always welcome. It's a fun get together!

Efgoldie@optonline.net

Sewing for Heroes *by Cheryl Doltz*

For the past few years we have been working with Operation Jersey Cares to make "comfort pillows" for our wounded warriors, honored veterans, and deploying active duty soldiers. So far, we have made over 150 pillows. A knowledge of sewing is not necessary. While we do need sewers, we also need "stuffers" and "finishers." We are happy to teach anyone who is willing to help.

I have chosen dates in April, May, and June. Hopefully, one of these dates will fit into your schedule. The dates are as follows:

Thursday, April 19 Friday, May 18 Monday, June 4

We meet at 1 P.M. at my house. The address is 23 William St., Mine Hill. My cell is 973-818-1353. Feel free to call if you have any questions. Thank you for helping with this project.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

by Arlene Pepe and Betty Levine, Co-Chairs

The Scholarship Committee will meet on Thursday April 5, 2018. The Committee will review the applications and select the scholarship winners for 2018.

Substitutes Wanted

Substitute Teaching Positions: Far Hills Country Day School in Far Hills is looking for substitute teachers for PreK through Grade 8. You can work within your preferred age group with small class sizes and very well-mannered children. Continental breakfast and delicious, healthy lunches included. Certification is not required but relevant and applicable experience is. Interested? Please visit <http://www.fhcfs.org/about/employment>

With SYMPATHY

The MCREA respects and honors these deceased members:

Ann Denise Korinda, 91, of Boonton, NJ, on February 6, 2018

Nan Harrington, of Morris Plains, NJ, on March 19, 2018

Vivian Lowther, 103, of Morristown, NJ, on February 9, 2018

Sophie Smith, 93, of Kathleen, GA, on February 19, 2018

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 Member Benefits

by Barbara Satz

NJEA/NJREA/NEA Unified members have lots of benefits for goods and services available to them.

1. Visit www.NJEA.org
2. Log in with 6 digit PIN (located on the front of your membership card), then create a password.
3. Go to Membership, scroll down to Member Benefits
4. Everything that Member Benefits offers is listed and linked to this page including Theme Parks and Ticket Discounts, airport parking, limo service, etc. and much more.

For savings on appliances, cars, etc. log on to www.BuyersEdgeinc.com with username 3386 and password NJEA

Visit www.neamb.com create username (e-mail address if you want) and create a password. Site lists offers in finance, insurance, discounts, travel and professional resources.

Find discounts on LifeLock, car rentals, Trafalgar Guided Vacations, and many more.

Interfaith Food Pantry Donations by Gail Lingerman

We will be collecting both food and monetary donations at the May meeting. Low salt and low sugar items are always needed. We don't usually collect items at our June meeting which is dedicated to our scholarship winners. However, I would never turn down monetary donations! Please make checks out to Interfaith Food Pantry. Thanks for all you do to help the clients have a healthier life.



FYI April/May Report

Betty McConnell, Sunshine Chair



Expressions of sympathy were sent to the families of deceased MCREA members Nan Harrington, Vivian Lowther, Sophie Smith, and Ann Denise Korinda. Condolences were sent to Jayne Bender on the passing of her brother and to Nan Grafton on the passing of her sister. Gay Grier, Lillian Bohne, Janet Bataille, Bonnie Van Stone, and Gail Lingerman received get well wishes. A Thinking of You message was sent to Rosemary McHugh. Friendly notes were sent to Jim Vance, George Kelley, Carolyn Schwartz, Bernice Lawson, and Sally Gilbert. Thank-you cards were received from the Norris family and Nan Grafton.

SPECIAL MESSAGE: I am sending a giant THANK YOU to the "Bouquet Bunch" – the MCREA members met to assemble 30 flower arrangements that will be delivered soon to our Over -90 members who live in Morris County. The Bouquet Bunch met on April 11th, most feeling a bit apprehensive and not terribly confident in their artistic talents. Yet ... within a few hours, beautiful bouquets had been arranged. It was fun, creative, and even exhilarating. Additionally, cards have been sent to the 50 Over-90 members who reside out-of-state. *Thanks a Bunch!*

Human Rights *by Shirley Chamberlin*

The guest speaker for the May luncheon will be **Gary Melton**, Associate Director in the Executive Offices of NJEA. Gary previously served as an NEA Director, the president of Atlantic County Council of Education Associations, and chairperson of the NEA Black Caucus. Gary is very experienced in community organizing, political issues and their impact on education, and social justice in today's classrooms. He is a dynamic speaker and is preparing a talk that will be memorable and relevant to the current times.

May MCREA Meeting & Luncheon Reservation Form

When: May 9, 2018.

Business meeting begins at 10:30 A.M.

Luncheon is served at 12:00 Noon

Where: Birchwood Manor, 111 N. Jefferson Rd., Whippany, NJ

Program - Speaker: Gary Melton; Topic - Social Justice

CUT HERE -----

To make a reservation. Complete this form and mail it to Cheryl Doltz (973-818-1353) at 23 William St., Mine Hill, NJ 07803-2437. Include a check made out to MCREA for the total amount due. The deadline for reservations is May 2, 2018. Circle your meal choice.

Member (\$30) _____ Phone _____
Prime Rib Salmon with Orange/Ginger Glaze

Member (\$30) or Guest (\$35) _____
Prime Rib Salmon with Orange/Ginger Glaze

Member's email address: _____

Check # _____ Check Amount _____ Date of check _____

June MCREA Meeting & Luncheon Reservation Form

When: June 13, 2018.

Business meeting begins at 10:30 A.M.

Luncheon is served at 12:00 Noon

Where: The Mansion at Mountain Lakes, 90 Rt. 46 E., Mountain Lakes, NJ

Program - Scholarship Presentations

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To make a reservation. Complete this form and mail it to Cheryl Doltz (973-818-1353) at 23 William St., Mine Hill, NJ 07803-2437. Include a check made out to MCREA for the total amount due. The deadline for reservations is June 6, 2018. Circle your meal choice.

Member (\$30) _____ Phone _____
Stuffed Chicken Baked Cod

Member (\$30) or Guest (\$35) _____
Stuffed Chicken Baked Cod

Member's e-mail address: _____

Check # _____ Check Amount _____ Date of check _____