

Greetings One and All...

Here we are once again approaching winter...oh, but it has already left its mark! Summer has come and gone aeons ago...fall, what there was of it, was pretty strange. We reconvened for our annual Fall Brunch...to meet and greet friends and former colleagues...just catching up and reminiscing summer activities and events. Twenty-four members and guests attended the Back-to-School Breakfast on August 31st at Vernon Diner. We extended a warm welcome to our newly-retired teacher/members!

To our great surprise a “spooky” early-Hallowe’en winter storm paralyzed the whole area. Journals should be shared to recount how creatively and bravely we weathered the storm and its aftermath.

Larry Olsen, Treasurer Reports, \$ 13,290.40 in the treasury.

On a sad note, we mention the passing away of Jennifer Tait, Betty Darna, and Caryl Stratton, and David Wiggins. Janet Forzley’s husband has also passed away.

There was a jump-shift for the October 11th Breakfast Buffet. Our presenter was Susan Ferrante from Woodland Gardens, a specialist in, arrangement design provided us with a new insight on the construction of arrangements from beginning to end.

Sixty members attended the November 29th Luncheon at the Cheney Dining Room at the college, Dr. Lauren Gouin, ND of Connecticut Natural Health Specialists, LLC in Manchester spoke, most informatively, “Aging Healthfully.” She is a licensed Naturopathic Doctor.

Our April 10th Luncheon will present The Manchester High School “String Quartet” under the direction of instrumentalist instructor, Mrs. Carol Maas.

Our Constitution/By-Laws Revision Committee had met several times this past spring/summer to recommend changes to the membership-at-large. These changes were presented at the October meeting, and were subject to the vote at the November meeting. The changes require us to have a President-Elect. The term of President will be three years. There will be a Program Committee and an Arrangements Committee. There are no Vice-Presidents. The changes passed unanimously.

A special ad hoc Nominating Committee was formed to nominate and fill the newly-created position of President-Elect. We are honored to announce and welcome Tom Alexander to fill this position. Thank you to Martha Larson, David Frost, and Michael Norman for serving on that committee.

John Bossidy, technology person at the computer, has been ill. This summer he had heart by-pass surgery. He has helped his wife, Barbara with Communications for years. And he even made labels for three mailings for this year. Thank you, John!

We are looking for volunteers to take over the Communications Committee. This entails the mailings...no writing or composing involved. Barbara Bossidy has served in this position for several years. We thank Barbara and her committee members for all they have done.

“Michelle Vadenais and Judy Rohlfis would like to thank everyone for making our raffles so successful. The past few years RTAM has donated \$1000.00 to the Manchester Scholarship Foundation. Our raffles offset the cost. Last year, we had a best year ever as we collected \$960.00 from raffles at our four meetings. This year we got off to a great start by raising \$243.00 at our October 11th Brunch and \$225.00 at the November 29th Luncheon. Thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets, made monetary donations, and/or donated items to be raffled.

“Members who have donated items recently are: Harriet Baskette, Carolyn Damarjian, Cathy Duna, Donna Indomenico, Judy Morganroth, Pat Nylin, Barbara Quinby, Nancy

Sampson, Nancy Donnelly, and Eleanor Hohenthal. While we are fortunate to have so many talented members make items, raffle donations do not have to be handmade.

“If you are not in the Manchester area and want to contribute to our scholarship fund, you can write a check made out to RTAM (put scholarship fund on memo line) and mail it to Larry Olsen, 117 Tumblebrook Drive, South Windsor, CT 06074.

“WE NEED HELP. Please consider being part of the Social Committee. There are a variety of jobs. We need people to prepare name tags, sell raffle tickets, greet members, count the raffle money, and make phone calls. It would be great if we called new members to remind them of our ‘Back-to-School-Breakfast’ the first day of school in Manchester.”

New members of the Social Committee are Carmel Patrizzi and Martha Larson. The Raffle will continue. Notify Judy Rohlfis or Michelle Vadenais of items you are planning to donate...plants, gift cards, crafts, wine, services...just to mention a few.

The Book-Swap and Books-to-Dreams chairpersons are Carroll Cowing and Gayle Carroll. Bring gently used books (\$2.00/hardbound, \$1.00/softbound) to swap. The Books-to-Dreams focus is geared to pre-school age children.

The Program Committee chaired by Nancy Donnelly, has added Eleanor Hohenthal and Mary Ann Hayward.

Marsha Gunther reports we currently have 310 members.

Our Insurance Committee chair, Pat Nylin reports, “I have spoken with Suzanne Michaud concerning Life Insurance, Medicare coverage, and the letter on Plan D. She surprised me by saying that group meetings at retirement are no longer scheduled. They encourage individuals to come in person or call and discuss benefits. First, the last group receiving \$4,000.00 life insurance paid-up policy from the Board ended June 30, 2007. New retirees can continue the current offering by paying the premium to the insurance company. I have change of beneficiary papers. If you need one, call me. “Second, the letter assuring Medicare recipients that our prescription plan is better than Medicare D usually comes in October. Just file it with your important papers!

“Lastly, upon retirement you received a packet from the Benefits Contact. Three months before turning sixty-five, you will receive a letter for Medicare. Some retirees, not eligible for Medicare, have had difficulty convincing Medicare that they are ineligible!

Pat reported as a reminder at the November Luncheon that there are two letters of import to us:

- The first letter indicates that our prescription plan is better than Plan D of Medicare...it is important to keep this letter!
- The second letter indicates that we would be getting Dental Cards...the Social Security number is no longer being used for identification.
- The third item is that the Dental Cards are issued with different numbers.

“If you would like to continue on the committee or would like to join now, please let me know now at [508.248.5674](tel:508.248.5674) or <pknynlin@hotmail.com> We will be updating the spreadsheet comparing Stirling Benefits from the TRB with Manchester Board of Education benefits.”

In the Legislative department, Neil Foster reports, “Lobby Day is April 11, 2012. The ARTC Legislative Committee has set the following goals for the 2011 – 2012 year.

Main Goals:

- Repeal the WEP/GPO provisions of Social Security. Teachers may go to the site www.SSFAIRNESS.com to sign on to support the reform, and;
- Monitor the HIPA (teachers’ health care account) as well as any new legislation which might be detrimental to the health/well-being of retired teachers.

Other Goals:

- Provide aid to non-Medicare teachers who are paying exorbitant local premiums.
- Secure full funding of the health care account.
- Exempt CT state pensions from CT income tax.
- Increase cost of Living payments for those retired after July 1992.

We need to increase ARTC membership rolls if we are to be an effective voice for CT’s retired teachers. Please join us. We need your support!

There should be at least two or three members to a committee in addition to the chairperson. The Committees are: Historian, Membership, Public Relations (Publicity), Legislative, Social, Communications (Newsletter Mailings), Civic (Volunteers), and Insurance. We need your help and thank you for your consideration.

Enjoy the Holidays...Happy Winter...See you in the Spring...Looking forward...

Lucy Shea Sweeney, President

Save these Tuesday Dates:

March 20, 2012 RTAM Executive Board Meeting

April 10, 2012 Manchester Country Club MHS String Quartet

May 8, 2012 Manchester Country Club Newly-to-be-retired Manchester Teachers

Wednesday, APRIL 11, 2012 LOBBY DAY