

M.C.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION CENTER

Officers and contact people April 2011

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Open	secretary			
Dee Padwater	legislative rep.	860-635-3535	c: 860-478-3323	dpadwater@aol.com
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Louise Gordona	legis. Ambassador	860-563-5569		louisag@aol.com

Minutes of last meeting April 26, 2011

Call to Order: Margo Chase-Wells, President

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of new members, 12 in all!

1. **Secretary's report** - Jean Cushing - Minutes accepted; no changes or additions made.

2. **Treasurer's report** - Kathy Rodriguez

After contributing \$705 to the Henry Barnard Fund (\$200 from treasury \$505 from contributions), \$100 to breast cancer cure, printing & mailing expenses, holiday party expenses, ARTC affiliate dues, table decoration costs, and income from raffles, our subtotal is \$3379. We have \$734 in a CD so the bottom line is \$4113 in the treasury.

3. **Scholarship report** – Hazel & Esther

The ARTC Glenn Moon Scholarship committee meets twice in May. There were 22 applications from our county and Esther & Hazel chose the 2 best. These chosen 2 had to compete against the best 2 from the other 7 districts totaling 16 finalists. There will be one 4 year scholarship of \$2,000 and 4 scholarships of a onetime prize of \$1,500.

4. **Old business**

John Anderson turned 80.

Who is on the MCRTA book scholarship committee? (Grace, Hazel, Margo) Let's set up a meeting.

Please check out our article in the ARTC newsletter

5. **New business**

"Wine tasting for Breast Cancer Cure" report. Donated \$100.

Lobby day at the Legislative Office building scheduled for 4/14 was canceled. The legislators had to work into the wee hours the night before and no one would be coming in on the 14th.

We need a PAC volunteer (Robbie Avery volunteered)

Betty Tischio talked about an upcoming day trip to NYC.

Kathy McRae talked about an upcoming radio type show at "The Kate" in Old Saybrook.

Jean spoke about the ADK fundraiser.

6. **Speaker: Ken Gronbach**, professional speaker about Demographics....fascinating!

Raffle – 4 plants, 10 centerpieces, wine, 8 dinners from no-shows

Insurance April 2011

Read all about our insurance program on the ARTC website.

Legislative April 2011

We continue to work with the ARTC to fight for the GPO-WEP bill. Right now if you have enough quarters earned to collect social security CT will only pay you 60% of what you would get if you weren't a teacher. If your spouse collect social security then dies, only teachers cannot continue to collect their spouses benefits. Read all about our legislative Issues on the ARTC website.

Membership Dec. 2009

~ Membership renewals to ARTC are down, as are new signups. If you are not a member please consider joining. They do a lot of work on your behalf and have partnered with a few organizations that give great benefits. One is AMBA. Read about it on the ARTC website.

~Our membership is growing nicely each year. Here is a breakdown of our MCRTA members by the region or town they live in. Since this is not a protected site, no personal information is listed. If you need to contact someone, e-mail or call Margo. We are currently at 130! Thank you to all of you who have brought a new friend into the group.

MEMBERS BY REGION

130 as of Apr. 2011

BERLIN/CROMWELL

Doreen Messier
Margaret Mullen
Dee Padwater

CHESTER/DEEP RIVER/ESSEX

Linda Kiaffas
Shirley Malcarne
Bev Silver
Mary Weselcouch

CLINTON /GUILFORD/MADISON

Walter Conklin
Mary DeChello
Mary Jane Devlin
Terry Donati
Stephanie Drucker
Nadine Genesisus
Eleanor Gerretsen
Helene Gettenberg
Judith Jacobson
Kathleen Joanis
Arline Johnson
Nancy Maertz
Lydia McMinn
Elizabeth Mustaro
Tom Partridge

Judith Postemsky
Laura Powell
Freyda Rose
Lucy Saglio
Twila Skelly
Joanne Starr

COLCHESTER/PORTLAND

Robbie Avery
Muriel Barlow
Claudia McCutcheon
Ruth McGowan
Irene Negrelli
Kathy Ruef
Mary Ann Traska

DURHAM/MIDDLEFIELD

Irene angiletta
Jeannette Billeb
Shirley Brown
Julie Greeman
Kathy Hennessey
Eileen Kukish
Mary Ann Reynolds
Sandra Sievers
Bette Tischio

EAST HAMPTON/MOODUS

Fred Gagnon
Sharon Goodwin

Barbara Maloska
Lynne Wilks

HADDAM/HIGG/KILLINGWORTH

John Anderson
Esther Beierle
Margo Chase-Wells
Susan Dean
Marge DeBold
Suzanne Dineen
Mary Ann Griswold
Wayne Kensel
Hazel Kurlansky
Mary Ellen Larson
Linda Rigono
Janet Scranton
Harriet Strain
Carol Sturges

HADLYME/LYME/BOZRAH

Heather Montanile
Maureen Thornton
Marilyn Wilkins

MERIDEN/WALLINGFORD

Jean Dufrat
Genevieve Smith

MIDDLETOWN

Barbara Bartoli
 Nancy Bauer
 Eleanor Borkowski
 Phyllis Campisi
 MaryAnn Cannata
 Teckie Chapman
 Mary Chubbuck
 Joyce Conklin
 JoAnn DiModica
 Sandra DiPietro
 Doris Dooley
 Gay Fialko
 Bob Frederick
 Pat Frederick
 Jane Gibson
 MaryAnn Giufridda
 Barbara Hawkins
 Joan Harvey
 Jill Huie
 N.Gordon Johnson

Maureen Maley
 Kathy McRae
 Jeanne Mozdiesz
 Diane Petras
 Margaret Plosky
 Linda Polemsky
 Kathy Rodriguez
 Marie Serra
 Emaly Simone
 Eloise Skarb
 Rosemary Skoglund
 Paula Stevens
 Marie Termine
 Betty Tichy
 Nada Von Mahland
 Judy Walsh

NEWINGTON/WETHERSFIELD

Anne DiPietro
 Louise Gordona
 Ellie Jurczak

Grace Lineberry

NEW LONDON/NIANTIC

Bobbie Greenough
 Joanne Magner
 Barbara Spehar

OLD SAYBROOK/WESTBROOK

Ruth Armentano
 Jon & Carol Bayer
 Janet Card
 Peg Curran
 Mary Grace Eagle
 Cindy Owens
 Kathy Pass
 Margaret Radcliffe
 Virginia Torelli

Outreach April 2011

In the year 2011, our group has:

1. Collected over 300 cans of non-perishable food for the Amazing Grace soup kitchen
2. Contributed \$705 to the Henry Barnard fund for very needy teachers
3. Collected and filled 16 backpacks with school supplies for children at risk in Spencer School in Middletown

In the fall we will continue our collection of school items to support our Adopt-a-school project, although we are looking for a new school to help.

In the spring we will collect for the local food bank.

Social report April 2011

~The school year begins in August with our traditional "Not-back-to-school breakfast" hosted by president, Margo Chase-Wells at her home in Haddam. We like to invite new retirees to this, so we need you folks to supply Margo or Kathy with any names and contact information of newly retired teachers.

~In the fall of 2009 members attended our 5th annual "Progressive Lunch" organized by Bette Tischio. They visited three different restaurants in the downtown Middletown area, and enjoyed 1 course at each destination, with a short walk between their stops. We hope Bette will head that committee again in September.

~ We all enjoyed a terrific Christmas party with games , delicious food, an extensive raffle, and wonderful prizes at the Baci Grill in Cromwell in December.

~ We sponsor a day-trippers club for short trips. Any member who has suggestions are asked to share them at the luncheon meetings.

~We host a wine tasting event each year, usually held at a member's home and a local wine connoisseur presents.

~ We also would like to start a book club, facilitated by Mary DeChello (860-669-5158 marycontrary7F@aol.com) in Clinton, that would meet at a different member's home each month or every two months. All bookclub details will be made by interested parties at their first meeting.

Anyone who other social suggestions just send them to Margo.

Upcoming Events

- August 31** 9:00 – “Not-Back-To-School-Breakfast at Margo’s house. Sponsored by current members to welcome new retirees.
- October 12** MCRTA luncheon at Gelston House
- October 18** ARTC spring luncheon at the Aqua Turf
- December** date TBA. Holiday party at Baci Grill in Cromwell
- April** date TBA. Spring luncheon at Dock & Dine
- May 22** ARTC fall luncheon at the Aqua Turf

Notices from the president April 2011

MCRTA lost a good friend this spring with the passing of our loyal member and current secretary, Jean Cushing. She contributed much to our organization, being an active member and reporter for ARTC and serving on the executive committee with us, but most of all we will miss her humor. We will remember her kindly and with mirth.

We had two successful and entertaining luncheon meetings this past year. The fall event was at the Gelston House in East Haddam and the speaker was an actress who performed a one woman show. Our spring event was held at the Dock & Dine in Old Saybrook and featured a professional speaker who entertained and educated us about the importance and affects of demographics. It changes your whole way of looking at the population, immigrants and the economy.

An ARTC ambassador program that will liason our membership with our state legislators is in the works. Louise Gordona will our representative.

ARTC is also sponsoring a safe driver program for those over 55. If you take the course you get a discount on your insurance.

If anyone has teacher-friends or relatives who have relocated to Florida, the ARTC has met once on the west coast and once on the east coast to try to establish satellite organizations down there of CT retirees. Contact me to find out more.

Our MCRTA organization needs a **representative to send to the ARTC membership committee** meetings. You can check the meeting schedule on the ARTC website.

We also need a secretary for our local meetings.

Anyone who has a notice or information that should go on this affiliate page (that can be accessed on the artct.org website), please e-mail margochasewells@gmail.com or call Margo at 860-345-3282. This artct.org site is full of information about anything to do with retired teachers. Check the other drop downs!