



October 2025

THE CLARION

The Newsletter for Retired Educators
Maine Education Association Retired Vol. 137, No.1

74th MEA-Retired
Annual Meeting
and
Convention
April 30, 2026
Plan to attend!

From our MEA-Retired President Molly Smith

It has been four months since the installation of officers took place at the Annual Meeting and Convention on May 1st. Many things have transpired since that time. Being entrusted with the leadership of the Association I have come to know the other officers and have regular meetings with them. We continue to learn how to fulfill the responsibilities of our offices. So far, I think we are doing an effective and respectable job as a team. There is often something to learn at every turn.

Our MEA-Retired delegates have represented you well at both the MEA Representative Assembly (RA) held in May in Portland and at the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting (RAM)

in June in Portland, Oregon. Next was the NEA RA also in Portland, OR.

The Executive Committee comprising of officers, committee chairs, liaisons, trustees, and representatives have met once. While conducting regular association business, this group is also participating in the tasks of the Association Review Initiative Committee (ARIC) discussing and identifying the needs and direction of our Association.

The other body, the Board of Directors, has met twice. The Board of Directors includes the Executive Committee and leadership from affiliates, usually the President and Vice President from each of our 16 affiliates. If one of them is unable

to attend a they are encouraged to send a designee in their place as a voting member at the Board meeting.

At our last Board of Directors meeting we had excellent representation from affiliates. Attendance for our most distant affiliates is challenging, requiring one-way drives of 4 to 5 hours. The Association does offer overnight lodging for those members.

Affiliates have also been participating in ARIC identifying the needs and direction of the Association. Foremost, the affiliates have started working together identifying their successes and challenges while sharing possible solutions to those challenges. In the next Clarion we will be sharing

more specifics on the work being done by these two groups.

What I want you, the members, to know and understand is that these individual leaders collectively are an amazing group who represent you, your needs and interests, and those of the association.

I feel very privileged to be associated with such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of people. When I observe these two groups in action I feel a sense of pride listening to the sharing of ideas and opinions done with insight and respect. These are groups who have embraced the task of actively reviewing who we are, how we accomplish our work and defining the things we value.

Gearing Up For our Annual Meeting and Convention By Rheba Michaud– Chair of the Convention Committee

Plans for our convention and annual meeting are well underway. The date has been set and there are many items finalized. Our committee consists of Chair Rheba Michaud, Kay Grindall, Susan Grondin, Rena Kearney, and Bob Jean. President Molly Smith will be invited to join our meetings when she is available.

Our theme for this year is: Many Hats of MEA-Retired.

A variety of breakout sessions will be offered in the morning. Attendees will be able to choose 2 sessions they want to attend. The breakouts include: Jan Kosinski, our MEA Government Relations Director, Medrhythms, Axe

Throwers, and a representative from the Military Museum. Bios and details to come.

Our keynote will be a group of ladies from Dover-Foxcroft named the Q-Tips. They entertain at local hospice fund raisers.

The usual favorites will return for another year with the popular book and puzzle swap, vendor displays, affiliate displays, PAC raffle, Honorary, President, and Leadership Awards, a Memorial Ceremony, and awards for exercise and volunteer hours.

Save the Date: April 30, 2026
Augusta Civic Center

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Legislative Report By Crystal Ward

Hello MEA-Retired,
Vote NO on Question #1

This 28-page document is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Masquerading as a Voter ID law, hidden inside are pages or rules and restrictions that could harm the 40% or Maine voters who rely on absentee and early voting to cast their ballots.

Here are some problems: -
-Harder to receive and return absentee ballots

-Harder for town clerks to deal with or have drop boxes

-No requesting a ballot over the phone or on the internet

-Negatively impacts the elderly, disabled, and people in nursing homes and assisted living

-Mainers without reliable transportation to the polls would be harmed.

NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and NEA RA

July 1—July 7, 2026
Denver, CO

June 29—July 5, 2027
Indianapolis, IN

June 29—July 5, 2028
Washington, D.C.

June 29—July 5, 2029
Kansas City, MO



Ballot Question #1

“Do you want to change Maine election laws to eliminate two days of absentee voting, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members, end ongoing absentee voter status for seniors and people with disabilities, ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, limit the number of drop boxes, require voters to show certain photo ID before voting, and make changes to our elections?”

Vote YES on Question 2

Maine Question #2, the **Extreme Risk Protection Orders to Restrict Firearms and Weapons Access Initiative** aims to add a red flag law to Maine's legal framework. This law would allow courts to temporarily prohibit individuals from having dangerous weapons if law enforcement, family, or household members show that the individual poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to themselves or others. The

initiative would enable judges to issue extreme risk protection orders more easily, allowing for the confiscation of firearms if an individual is deemed a threat by law enforcement or family members. The Maine Yellow Flag law was a complete failure in Lewiston. The family tried for months to get the police to confiscate his guns, but they did nothing and blamed it on the Yellow Flag law requirements. Many people DIED or were injured. A Red Flag law could have prevented this mass shooting.

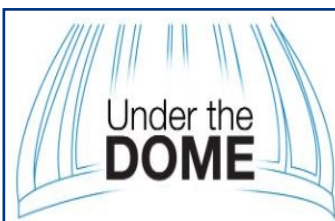
Ballot Question #2

“Do you want to allow courts to temporarily prohibit a person from having dangerous weapons if law enforcement, family, or household members show that the person poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to themselves or others?”

Please vote on November 4, 2025 or before by absentee and early voting.

“Like every election, November's elections are critical with over 200 school committee and municipal seats in contest. Please be sure to consider pro-public education, pro-labor candidates.”

~Jesse Hargrove~
MEA President



Members are invited to sign up to receive “up-to-the-minute” legislative news and updates from MEA Government Relations Director John Kosinski. Send an email to him at jkosinski@maineaa.org.

From our new Clarion Editor, Bob Jean

You may have noticed that this issue of the Clarion is a little thinner than usual. The December Clarion should be back in its normal 12-page format as I continue to learn all the ins and outs of the platform. Articles, photos, and general questions should now be sent to me:

Bob Jean

vegas04861@yahoo.com

PO Box 821

Rockland, ME 04841

(207)-593-6597

Thank you for your patience as I transition into this role!

The Clarion is published bimonthly by Maine Education Association Retired. Readers are encouraged to submit feature stories, news articles, notices of events and activities, and opinions of statewide interest by the fifth day of the month preceding publication. Please send articles to vegas04861@yahoo.com. Call Bob Jean with questions at (207) 593-6597

We pay 70 cents for every *Clarion* returned due to “incorrect address.” Please send address changes to Lisa Collins at 800-281-3191, Ext. 2400 or 207-888-3856 or via email at lcollins@maineaa.org.

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MEA-Retired is here for you!

October 6, 9 a.m.
Executive Committee
MEA Headquarters, Augusta

November 3,, 9 a.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Best Western Hotel, Waterville

December 1, 9 a.m.
Executive Committee
MEA Headquarters, Augusta

Meet/greet begin at 9 a.m.
Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.
Contact affiliate leaders
with ideas and concerns.

NEA RA and NEA-Retired Annual Meeting Report by Bo Zabierek

The 2025 NEA Retired Annual Meeting (RAM) was held in the ballroom of the Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel in Portland, OR on June 29-30. Hundreds of delegates from throughout the country represented retired educators across the spectrum of the educational landscape including education support, higher education, and K-12 classroom teachers.

Twelve New Business Items were presented for our consideration, debated, and voted on by the body.

PAC auction items livened up the room as prominent NEA officers auctioned off contributions from fine liquors to colorful quilts. Baseball card fans had some choice cards to consider. The silent auction on the second floor continued with contributions from retired members from all over the country. All bids at the silent auction exceeded suggested market values. NEA Retired is known for raising a lot of money to contribute to the NEA PAC. They are a generous group.

Candidates who were running for office were present in the PAC room with information tables strewn with literature, candy, and swag. Supporters were there with the candidates to greet you and ask for your support.

Voting for the NEA-Retired offices took place on Monday morning. The ballots also in-

cluded NEA-Retired Bylaw Amendments.

Four breakout sessions were offered over the course of the two-day RAM:

- Strengthening the Foundation of NEA-R
- NEA-Retired Leaders: A Commitment to Service
- Advancing the Programmatic Work of NEA-Retired
- Future Focused: Planning for the NEA-R's Success

On to the NEA RA and Annual Meeting

The 163rd NEA Annual Meeting and RA took place from July 2-6. Over 7,000 delegates from all fifty states, territories, and international schools attended.

New Business Items were categorized into six areas sharing similar goals. These categories outline the areas where NEA directs its efforts and resources:

Member Engagement
Educator Voice & Leadership
Racial Justice Culture
Coalitions & Partnerships
Dynamics Alignment
Enterprise/Affiliate Health

All new business items were passed by the RA.

Higher Ed, ESP, and Teacher of the Year were all recognized and celebrated with awards. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Late Sunday night NEA Legal Counsel gavelled the meeting adjourned.

Next Year—Denver!



Portland, OR hosted the 2025 NEA RA and the NEA-Retired RAM

My Thoughts on the RAM and NEA RA By Julie Gomez

Wow! Where do I begin? I have attended the MEA Representative Assembly many times, but I could never have imagined the experience one gets from attending the Retired Annual Meeting and the NEA RA.

I was inspired by the speakers and what they had to say. NEA-Retired President Anita Gibson said, "We will take every opportunity to ensure that our current and future retirees are assured of the ability to retire and live life with dignity...it is not only our right, but also our responsibility, to educate others about the injustices that plague our profession and force many of our colleagues to struggle in what should be their golden years."

I learned a lot about my role

as PAC Captain. In that role one can lead affiliates to work to elect friends of public education at the local level. Litigate, Educate, Organize, Mobilize, Elect... This is what PAC is all about!

The NEA RA was inspirational. It was breathtaking to walk into a convention hall and see close to 7,000 educators working together to better the lives of ALL educators in the country. Six out of the eighteen Maine delegates were from MEA-Retired! We all worked together to be informed and vote in a responsible manner.

Thank you to all who made my attendance at the RAM and RA possible. This event will always be a treasured memory.

Julie Gomez— Pres. Elect MEA-R

MEA-Retired Delegates Needed For
MEA –Retired will need 6 delegates and
11 alternates for the MEA RA May 2026, Portland
MEA-Retired will need 4 delegates and alternates
for the NEA Retired Annual Meeting and NEA RA
July 1—July 7 in Denver, CO. Will you consider?

From Our Affiliates

Piscataquis Regional Retired Educators Assn.

Article by Jane Conroy



Traveling to various locations throughout our county has become a tradition. July is our outdoor adventure to the Moosehead area. Nine members of the Piscataquis RREA met in Greenville to tour all three of the Moosehead Historical Society's lovely facilities.

Starting off at the Center for Moosehead History, the group met with President Luke Muzzy who described the recent transformation of the first building. The Community House under the care of the Ready Workers Society of the Union Evangelical Church for many years, it was acquired by the Moosehead Historical Society in 2005. Luke along with three volunteers were busy greeting

visitors, answering questions and sharing a wealth of information with visitors.

On the second level, you are greeted by the radiate renewed elegance of refinished walls, ceilings, and floors. And tucked into one corner of the upstairs exhibit hall is a dedicated room for the Moosehead Aviation Exhibit and poignant B-52 Plane Exhibit. From art exhibit to school programs, the building continues to be a space for community engagement.

Off to a waterfront picnic lunch at the Greenville Junction wharf as The Katahdin circled into the West Cove. She gave a toot and headed back out into the lake for a Tuesday tour.

Next stop was the Eveleth-Crafts-Sheridan Historical House for an absolutely amazing guided tour! The house is in magnificent shape and the displays were authentic and tremendously interesting! We marveled at the antique highchair, the brightly polished silver serving set and the glorious paintings by Monson's Seth Steward.

Upon the completion of our time at the house, we visited Bob at the Lumbermen's Museum. His knowledge of lumbering in the Moosehead area is exceptional and quite entertaining. We are seriously considering returning next May for their annual Mother's Day Tea Party, held the Saturday before Mother's Day. Mark your calendars and dig out the hats and gloves!



Affiliate news is always welcome. Send articles and photos to email:

vegas04861@yahoo.com

Or— Bob Jean— PO Box 821
Rockland, ME 04841

Mid-Coast Retired Educators Association

Submitted by
Corley Anne Byras

Mid-Coast Retired Educators Association Spring Trip

The Mid-Coast Retired Educators Association is pleased to announce another spring trip to the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area with **Diamond Tours**. The trip departs from Brunswick at 8 a.m. on **April 20–24, 2026**.

Highlights include: **Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre** – Experience *Joshua*, an inspiring stage production bringing one of the redemptive stories of the Bible to life. **Magic and Wonder Theatre** – Enjoy an uplifting performance filled with illusion and variety. Guided Tour of Lancaster with time for shopping. **Philadelphia** – Celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding with a guided tour of this historic city. **Hershey's Chocolate World** – A sweet adventure at one of Pennsylvania's most famous attractions.

The cost for this trip is \$780 (double room occupancy) which includes the transportation, four nights lodging in the Lancaster area, four breakfasts and four dinners, the admission to the shows and the guided tours as well all gratuities are included.

To reserve your spot for this tour, mail a \$75 deposit check payable to MCREA to Corley Anne Byras, 72 Smith Street, Unit 4, Augusta, ME

Disabilities and Aging Rights And Services

By Molly Smith

These days much of my attention is drawn to the issue of disability rights and services, especially as a concern for the members of the Maine Education Association Retired. I want to bring to light the wealth of services available Maine's older adults with disabilities and the organizations providing those services.

By federal law, legal rights are guaranteed to individuals with disabilities. Those federal laws with particular focus on the rights of older adults include, [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) and the [Fair Housing Act \(FHA\)](#) protect the rights of people with disabilities by prohibiting discrimination and ensuring access to employment, housing, and public services. The ADA is a comprehensive civil rights law, and the FHA prohibits discrimination in housing.

Key Federal Laws

[Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#): A civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability in everyday activities including employment, public accommodations, and state and local government services. It ensures that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else.

[Fair Housing Act \(FHA\)](#): Prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on disability. It also requires accessibility in newly constructed, multi-family homes and ensures that zoning laws don't prevent individuals with disabilities from choosing their homes.

[Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#): Section 188 of this law prohibits discrimination in any program receiving federal funds.

Title IV of the ADA: Requires telecommu-

nications companies to establish relay services (TRS) to allow people with hearing and speech disabilities to communicate with others.

[Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act \(CRIPA\)](#): Empowers the Attorney General to investigate and correct widespread deficiencies in institutions that threaten the health and safety of residents with disabilities.

In the early 1970s, as a young college student working on the Bachelor's Degree and certification as a special education teacher, I experienced the ground-shaking implementation of IDEA. No longer would I be required to work with students in an institutional setting. My career would now extend into the public school or publicly funded programs, and that it did for my 43 years in the classroom.

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#): Ensures that children with disabilities have access to a free, appropriate public education and related services. It supports the states and school districts in providing these services and ensures that special education programs are designed to meet the unique needs of each child.

Many of us older adults find ourselves benefitting, or will benefit, from the above laws.

Maine protects elders with disabilities through both federal and state anti-discrimination laws, specifically the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) and the [Maine Human Rights Act](#) which cover employment, housing and public accommodations. The [Adult Protective Services Act](#) and related laws criminalize and provide services to prevent abuse, exploitation, and neglect of vulnerable adults including elders with disabilities. The state also funds programs such as [Elder Service Connections](#) and supports [Legal Services for the Elderly](#) to provide advocacy, assistance, and legal aid.

There are five Area Agencies on Aging in

Maine. They serve as 'one-stop'. The agencies have experts at answering questions about in-home care services and other types of long-term support.

Maine's five Area Agencies are also Aging and Disability Resource Centers that:

- provide information and assistance to individuals needing either public or private long-term care resources.
- Serve professional seeking assistance on behalf of the clients' long-term care needs.
- Serve individuals planning for their long-term care needs.
- Serve as the entry point to publicly administered long-term supports funded under Medicaid, the Older Americans Act and state-funded programs.

Maine's Aging & Disability Resource Centers are designed to serve all older adults, people with disabilities and their partners who have long-term care needs. To see which center serves your area visit the Office of Aging and Disability Services website.

This is a lot of information to digest. It is my hope that with the introduction of these provisions and services that our members and their families will be able to plan for and to access appropriate resources that will assure a respectful and dignified passage into the world of aging.

Day of Caring

Send articles and pictures to the Clarion highlighting your Day of Caring efforts to vegas04861@yahoo.com
Our members are always interested in the variety of projects affiliates have undertaken! Thank you!

AARP

News You Can Use

Joyce Bucciantini— Community Outreach Volunteer

On August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law stating, "...we have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." Social Security created a system of earned retirement income for American workers to avoid the dire poverty experienced during the Great Depression. I remember getting my first real paycheck and seeing the Social Security deduction. My father explained that paying into Social Security now creates an income benefit paid to us later. Being 17, later seemed a long way away. Like me, Social Security has seen a

few changes over the years. Social Security has changed from just supporting retired employees to also providing benefits to eligible spouses, children, people with disabilities and their families. According to AARP, over 69 million Americans are receiving some type of Social Security. In Maine, 95% of people over age 65 receive Social Security benefits and rely on them to pay their everyday bills. Social Security benefits are not gifts; they are our own hard-earned money being paid back to us. Full retirement age for Social Security depends on your age. For people born before 1958 the age is 65. For those youngsters born between 1958 and 1960, full retirement age is between 66 and 67. AARP and Social Security websites have information about Social Security eligibility. Anyone can create an account at mysocialsecurity.gov to monitor their Social Security benefits. Part of our Social Security benefit is

taxed based on our overall income. However, the newest federal budget bill allows eligible seniors over 65 who earn less than \$75,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers) to deduct \$6,000 per individual (\$12,000/couple) from their overall taxable income. This tax deduction could reduce overall taxes for many older Americans. A qualified tax preparer can explain how this deduction impacts individual taxpayers. Social Security is a promise between workers and our government; employees pay into Social Security during their working years and receive an income based upon their earnings after retirement. For 90 years, Social Security has kept that promise providing a crucial income source for retirees. AARP is committed to making sure our government keeps that promise whatever changes the next decades may bring. Happy Birthday to Social Se-

curity! As always, check out the AARP Maine website for an AARP event near you. I hope to see you there! Joyce Bucciantini is a retired middle school educator. She currently coordinates Delta Kappa Gamma's Read to Me program, is a tutor with Literacy Volunteers-Androscoggin, and is an active AARP Maine volunteer. She enjoys her gardens, being outdoors and traveling. Please use the following QR Code or web address to find more information about AARP Maine and events near you: aarp.org/me · me@aarp.org · @aarpmaine · 866-554-5380

Affiliate Leaders

Who are your Leadership Award winner?

Deadline: December 1

Contact Julie Gomez

Christmas is around the corner—give a retirement gift!

Maine Educator



Retired



Long-sleeved Denim Shirts @ \$47

Short-sleeved Denim Shirts @ \$42

Navy Blue Hats @ \$25

Red, Iris Blue Tee Shirts @ \$23

Red, Ultramarine Golf Shirts @ \$37

Lapel Pins @ \$10

Prices include tax and postage/handling

Name _____ Email _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Tel. _____ Affiliate _____

Qty.	Item	Size	Color	Unit Price	Total Cost
	Sizes S. M. L 1X or 2X: Add \$2 3X or 4X : Add \$4				
	Total Remittance				

Questions? Contact Rena Kearney at rkearney@ainop.com or 207-429-9041. Prices include tax and postage/handling.

Make checks payable to MEA-Retired and mail to Rena Kearney, PO Box 377, Mars Hill, ME 04758.

(Items produced by Cushman's Embroidery, Presque Isle, ME)

Jack Kinnaman Scholarship

The NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of Jack Kinnaman, vice president and former Advisory Council member of NEA-Retired.

Jack represented NEA-Retired on The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. He promoted numerous active and retired local, state, and national association positions. He is mostly remembered as NEA's *Cat in the Hat*.

Jack cared about students, especially those who were financially impacted and needed a helping hand, and it is his family's wish that the scholarships created in Jack's honor go to such students.

Scholarships of \$3,500 will be awarded, and only students who are members of the NEA Aspiring Educator Program are eligible to apply. Information about the NEA Aspiring Educators Program is available here: <https://www.nea.org/about-nea/our-membership/aspiring-educators>

The Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship application must be submitted online. The portal will be open for submissions of applications from December 1 thru 5 p.m. EST on April 15. It will be available online at the NEA-Retired and MEA-Retired websites.

Instructions for the scholarship application process is online. Applications are to be submitted electronically—no more mailing packets to NEA in Washington, DC. Everything is to be done online and sent online to the designated

arena.

Requirements contain the following items: Descriptions of the NEA Aspiring Educators Program activities in which the applicant has participated at the local, state, and national levels. They are to choose an AE activity and write an essay (up to 200 words) explaining how the program activity has helped to prepare them to teach.

Additional requirements include scholarship application must be submitted as one package—application, letters of recommendation, description of financial need, and official university/college transcript.

Sheehan & Ritter Grants

MEA-Retired offers a scholarship in memory of Anne Sheehan—a retired educator, member of MEA and MEA-Retired Board of Directors and MEA Representative Assembly.

Anne was also chairperson of the MEA Government Relations Committee for 15 years, a delegate to the NEA-RA, and a member of the NEA Resolutions Committee. After she passed very suddenly in 2009, her family created a memorial fund honoring her long-term commitment to education, MEA, and political activities.

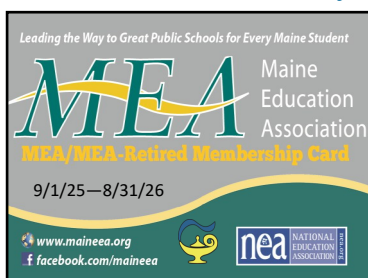
This “honor grant” in her memory is for active teachers pursuing further education. Applicants must be full-time educators practicing in Maine and be enrolled in a humanities program leading to a graduate degree in the arts, sciences, or education.

The teacher must demonstrate financial need. Grants may cover expenses incurred

in attaining advanced degrees.

Applications are distributed at the September Board meeting or emailed to affiliate presidents. They are also on the MEA and MEA-Retired websites and available from all affiliate presidents. Further questions may be sent on email to:

alohaleejudy@gmail.com



MEA-Retired gives grants to affiliates up to \$300 from a bequest from Past MEA-Retired President Jane

Ritter. Monies must be designated to projects that make a difference for members with special needs. Projects include providing transportation to attend meetings, visiting shut-ins, sending flowers,

RESOURCES: Sheehan Grant Kinnaman Scholarship

buying and mailing greeting cards, postage stamps, etc. Funds cannot be used to pay for routine association business.

Our Legacy Committee will meet to determine which county affiliates qualify to receive the funds for the 2025-2026 year. Ritter grants will be presented to affiliate leaders at our annual convention on April 30. Ritter applications must be submitted by Feb.1 to Judy Cabana, 18 Prospect St., Waterville, ME 04901

Pre-Retirement Seminar Schedule for 2025-2026

Attendees must be MEA members and should plan to attend both nights of each seminar from 5:00-6:15 P.M.

Fall Seminars

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 MEA Benefits Trust
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 MEA-Retired and MainePERS

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 MEA Benefits Trust
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 MEA-Retired and MainePERS

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 MEA Benefits Trust
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 MEA-Retired and MainePERS

Winter Seminars

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 MEA Benefits Trust
Wednesday, January 6, 2026 MEA-Retired and MainePERS

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 MEA Benefits Trust
Wednesday, January 28, 2026 MEA-Retired and MainePERS

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 MEA Benefits Trust
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 MEA-Retired and MainePERS

To register contact Lisa Collins at lcollins@maineea.org





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Augusta, ME 04330

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National Education Week November 17-21

MEA-Retired Member- ship Committee report By Kay Grindall, Chair

The MEA-Retired Membership Committee has been busy getting organized: A special "Thank you" to four Cumberland County Retired Educators Association members who served at the MEA Summer Camp held at the USM campus. Frank Maguire and Roberta Morrill served on July 28 and Linda Hussey and Gisele Bougie on July 29.

A special word of appreciation goes to our committee members who have already been busy contacting affiliates and helping with membership initiatives. They are as follows:

Aroostook, Franklin,

Knox: Paul Bouchard,
paulj@roadrunner.com
207-436-1215

Androscoggin, Mid-Coast,

Waldo: Linda Prescott
lightybug1@yahoo.com

207-754-6827

Higher Ed., Penobscot, Piscataquis: Mike Smart
mdsmart8@gmail.com
207-945-4129

Cumberland, Oxford, York: Rosie Smith
rosietomorrow25@gmail.com
207-680-0342

Hancock, Kennebec, Somerset, Washington:
Kay Grindall
kay_grindall@yahoo.com
207-512-0027

Affiliates are reminded that if they need resources, answers to questions, or help in any way, please get in touch with these members who are so willing to help.

We discussed how to proceed with providing incentives for recognizing membership growth. It was agreed that we shall continue with Roger Roy's plan for reporting membership growth and presenting award incentives at the annual spring convention. Essentially, each affiliate shall compute as

follows:

Beginning member tally **PLUS** new members **MINUS** deceased members. The difference in this final number and the beginning number is the percentage that is used to determine recognition. We remind you that deceased retired educators are not always affiliate members.

This process deals with only the actual affiliate members.

We ask that affiliates continue to keep track of new and deceased members during the year so that accurate records can be used to compute recognitions.

We also discussed unified membership and the fact that many affiliate members are not also members of MEA, MEA-Retired, and NEA-Retired. Our recruitment membership brochure and MEA membership applications are available on the MEA-Retired website.

We received the list of July retirees from MEA on August 18. The list was very long and kudos to Lisa Collins for her work in verifying names and contact information for 397 new retirees.

All affiliate membership chairpersons and presidents received the lists. They were to contact and invite them to attend meetings and join the affiliates and become unified members.

**Invite a retiree to
join MEA-Retired!
Direct them to our
website @
mearetired.org
THANK YOU!
MEA: \$31
MEA-Retired \$21
NEA-Retired \$35**