



### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

During the months of August and September many hours are devoted to membership development activities, both in terms of recruitment of new members and also the retention of existing members. As of September 1, 2005, we have approximately 7,919 active memberships and 590 honorary members. On September 1<sup>st</sup> of 2004, we had 7,185 active members. This is 9.1% increase in our membership. This is a great accomplishment but I am personally challenged to grow the organization even more, not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of political strength and the value we offer to our members.

Only one in every five retired teachers is currently a REAM member, I know we can change that number if we all work together. I have recruited new members over dinner in the North End, in my backyard and in line at stores. Through these efforts it has become obvious not only to me but also to those around me that REAM is the best organization for retired educators to join. Here are a few of the reasons:

- We are the only organization that solely represents retired educators. As a result of this our strategy is clear and focused.
- We work collaboratively with the Legislature, the MTRB and other interest groups to enact legislation that will enhance the livelihood of our members. We are not afraid to push for more when more is needed for retirees. For example, the fight to fix the cost of living adjustment problem.
- We have established partnerships with businesses that offer benefits to our members that far exceed, in savings, the cost of membership.
- We are committed to providing timely information through pre-retirement seminars, our website and the Educator's Voice. This allows people to make informed decisions about issues that affect their quality of life.
- We provide a link for members to the Edith Stewart Chase Foundation. In return, the Chase Foundation often provides much needed assistance that would otherwise be unavailable.
- Local chapters provide a social network and



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Heather L. Hartshorn  
Executive Director

connection for people to stay active and involved.

Person-to-person contact is essential for the continued growth of our organization. If every current REAM member could recruit one new member this year, imagine what we could accomplish. With more resources to draw upon, we can strengthen our political leverage at the Statehouse, devote more time to finding business partners that provide quality services to our members and actively recruit new members earlier. To those of you that continuously support and promote REAM among your former colleagues, thank you.

I am inspired every day by the stories I hear about your service in the classroom and the passion that people feel about the work they have done. I am also encouraged by my conversations with people who are not only concerned about their own situation but also about the circumstances of those who have preceded them into the ranks of the retired. It is this selfless concern that has brought people to public service in the first place and continues to drive their involvement on behalf of all of those who gave during their career and are struggling now. It is to this end that REAM will continue to thrive in the years to come.

My first year as your Executive Director has been wonderful. As your first Executive Director who comes from an organizational development background, I have been able to turn a fresh eye to our systems and make significant improvements in many areas of the organization. I am confident that we can continue to increase membership as we have this past year.

Heather L. Hartshorn  
Executive Director

# REAM ANNUAL MEETING – OCTOBER 20, 2005

The Cape and Islands local chapter of REAM is hosting this year's annual meeting on October 20, 2005, at the Coonamessett Inn in Falmouth, MA. This year's meeting will feature guest speaker Dave Gallo from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Mr. Gallo's address entitled "Beyond the Edge: Unlocking the Mysteries of the Deepest Sea" will also feature a video presentation on the past accomplishments and future technological challenges of the institute. Mr. Gallo is the director of special projects for WHOI. The award winning student chorus from Mashpee High School will provide entertainment for the meeting.

Registration and coffee begins at 9AM and the business meeting will begin promptly at 10AM followed by our guest speaker at 11 AM. Lunch will be served at Noon-time and the entertainment will be at 1 PM.

As is custom, REAM will be sponsoring a raffle of the table centerpieces to benefit the Edith Stewart Chase

Foundation. This a major fundraiser for the Foundation and we hope that the tradition continues.

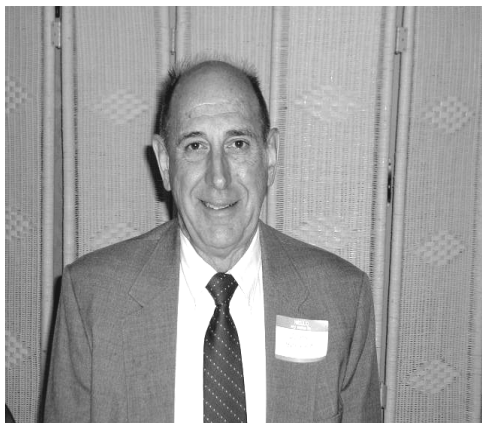
A registration form is located on the last page of this edition of the newsletter. Please review the details on the registration form and return it to Lorna Larson by October 13.

Attendees interested in making overnight accommodations can contact the Coonamessett Inn directly at (508) 548-2300 or other area hotels which include the Holiday Inn Cape Cod or the Falmouth Inn.

Directions: From Route 495 S to Route 25 crossing the Bourne Bridge to Route 28 towards Falmouth. At the first light take a left on Jones Road. At the next light turn left. The Inn is located on the corner of Gifford Street and Jones Road.

From Boston take Route 3 to Route 28 crossing the Bourne Bridge...then follow above.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I write this at the end of August, I realize by the time many of you read this the month of September will be well underway and summer will be over! Our annual meeting date has been set for October 20<sup>th</sup> and it marks the end of my first year as President of REAM. This past year has been one of transition for our organization and I am happy to report that we have been very successful during this time and we have come very close to staying within budget.

A big part of the transition we have undergone as an organization has included a new direction in our attempts to recruit new members. On behalf of the entire organization, I would like to personally thank Kay Doherty and Lou Cardoni for their many years of dedicated service as co-chairs of the membership committee.

I would also like to thank REAM's Executive Director Heather Hartshorn and congratulate her on a successful year. Heather has worked many extra hours in an attempt to bring the organization into the current century in terms of business practices and legislative policies. Heather has also reached out to the 6000 past retirees as well as stayed close to our ever-growing list of current members. These endeavors have proved successful for REAM and I hope that success continues in the coming years.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Daniel O'Connor for agreeing to join Paige Rowden on the legislative team. Dan has attacked this new task with his usual energy and has done a marvelous job of shepherding our legislative issues through the hurdles of Beacon Hill. As a result of Dan and Paige's hard work, the REAM name is now well known among many Representatives and Senators. The communication and coordination with our chapters regarding legislative matters has also never been better.

Unfortunately space does not allow me to thank everyone by name but I do wish to thank the entire REAM officers, board of directors, committee chairs and staff. Rest assured that I do appreciate all of your help, dedication and diligence and look forward to the continuing the progress we've started through the coming year.

John Hooper  
President, REAM



## NEWS FROM THE STATEHOUSE

Legislative Co-Chairs Daniel O'Connor and Paige Rowden and Executive Director Heather Hartshorn continue to stay abreast of the many legislative initiatives that REAM has undertaken this session. Below is an update on some of the bills we are tracking. Please feel free to contact the REAM office if you want further information.

### **H270 – Purchasing Power Bill**

A major step in protecting the purchasing power of your pension took place on June 28, 2005. The Joint House and Senate Public Service Committee heard testimony on H270 and REAM was well represented at the hearing by Executive Director Heather Hartshorn, REAM legislative co-chairs Daniel O'Connor and Paige Rowden, several local chapter presidents and legislative chairpersons as well as Minutemen and Minute maids.

Daniel O'Connor and Paige Rowden presented the bulk of the testimony made on behalf of retired educators. However, key testimony in support of H270 was also provided by Sean Neilon, Assistant Executive Director for the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Board; PRIM Trustee Robert Brousseau; Jack Flannagan from the Massachusetts Teacher's Association and Representative Rachel Kaprielian. Written testimony from Loretta Frissora, Executive Director of the Edith Stewart Chase Foundation was presented to the Committee as well.

According to Sean Neilon, "This is the number one priority for the MTRB this legislative session."

Following the hearing, House Chairman Jay Kaufman and Senate Chairman Stephen Bouniconti reported that the Committee would give H270 full consideration and, prior to the Committee's vote on the bill, REAM would be invited to participate in a retreat regarding pension issues. Although this is excellent news for us, there is still much more work to be done.

### **S2042 – Reimbursement for Medicare Part B**

We are making significant progress on returning retirees reimbursement for Medicare Part B that was taken away in 2002 by then Governor Jane Swift. Even though the House Budget Conference failed to pass the original bill that addressed this issue, the Senate has attached language in S2042 to rectify this issue.

REAM is very proud to be working with Senate President Robert Travaglini along with Senators

Richard Moore, Theresa Murray and Harriette Chandler on this bill. The bill, which is sixty-four pages in length, seeks to provide health care that is accessible, affordable and accountable.

During a recent visit to Senator Moore's office, REAM representatives were encouraged by the news that this bill has attracted support from many legislators in both the House and Senate. This gives REAM great hope that the legislation will be enacted and the reimbursement will return to retirees.

REAM's position on this issue is that state law requires retirees to enroll in Medicare once they become eligible thereby saving the state millions of dollars each year in health care costs, therefore, monies paid to enroll in Part B should be reimbursed to the retiree as was the case prior to 2002.

Please continue to support our efforts by calling your local representative and senator and encouraging them to pass S2042.

### **S2057 – Credible Service for Certification Work Experience for Vocational Educators**

Senate Bill S2057, which amended S1555, has passed in both the House and the Senate, however, it has been vetoed by Governor Romney. The Legislature is expected to take up the override of this veto when they return from their summer recess.

This bill, if enacted, would provide for up to three years of creditable service added to the pensions of vocational educators who were required to gain certification in given areas.

### **WPO/WEP Advisory**

REAM has continued to track the progress or lack thereof in the repeal of the WPO/WEP feature in the Social Security law. The National Retired Teacher's Association (NRTA), a division of the AARP, has been very active on this issue and Executive Director Heather Hartshorn has attended numerous meetings with officials from other states that are affected by this provision.

Please continue contacting your US House Representative and US Senators on this issue, thanking them for their support but encouraging them to pressure the leadership for a floor vote.

# REAM DELEGATION ATTENDS NRTA CONFERENCE

A three-person delegation from REAM represented the organization at the NRTA's national leadership conference in San Francisco, CA from August 14 –16, 2005. The meeting, with over 200 attendees, gathered with the AARP's president-elect Erik Olsen and other key NRTA officials to discuss strategies for aiding state associations in their attempts to attract and retain members. The theme of the meeting was "The Treasured Member: Finding and Keeping the Gold" and sessions explored pathways to successfully recruit, engage and retain members. Representing REAM at this meeting was Communications Coordinator Hillari Wennerstrom, REAM 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jean-Louis Clapin and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pelino Masciangioli.

Many sessions featured information on the interests and behaviors of new retirees to help participants identify new, and/or sharpen existing efforts to offer a compelling and satisfying member experience. Among the featured speakers were Jeri Sedlar, the author of Don't Retire, Rewire!, Ellis M.M. Robinson, the author of the Non-Profit Membership Toolkit and Dr. Michael Spendolini, the author of The Benchmark Book.

There was also plenty of networking opportunities with

other state education associations. Several state associations were given the opportunity to make presentations regarding membership trends and successful techniques in organization growth.

Many excellent resources were available at this conference, such as the NRTA's "A Lifetime of Living and Learning" video, various NRTA publications and newsletters and brochures from other state REAs.

Copies of this information can be available to individual chapters at their request through the REAM state office.



**NRTA's Leadership  
Conference in San Francisco  
August 14–16, 2005**

It was a privilege for me to attend the meeting and gain a better understanding of the needs of our future members and also to gain valuable insight in how to effectively reach our current members both now and in the future.

Hillari I. Wennerstrom  
Communications Coordinator

## LOCAL CHAPTERS HOST FALL MEETINGS

The following local chapters of REAM are sponsoring meetings during the coming months.

**Hampden East** will hold its October meeting at the Wilbraham Country Club on October 19, 2005. Coffee and registration will be at 9:30 AM with brunch served at 10 AM. Al DiPietro will entertain attendees with music and singing. More information will be sent to Hampden East members in HEREAM September newsletter.

Other REAM members who may

have an interest in attending this meeting can contact Jean Finnegan at (413) 525-6178 or via email at [jeanfinnegan@webtv.net](mailto:jeanfinnegan@webtv.net).

**The Middlesex North and Worcester North Chapters** are planning for a combined fall banquet on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at the new conference center at Devens. PRIM Board Member Bob Brousseau will provide a keynote address and entertainment provided by the professional duo of violinist Hilary Walther Cumming and pianist Duncan J. Cumming.

Contact Middlesex North President Jane Walker at (978) 692-8646 or Worcester North President Ken Gerkin at (978) 597-8862.

**Hampshire County REAM** will hosts its fall meeting on October 12 at the Hickory Ridge Country Club in Amherst. The meeting will begin at 10:45 AM and will be followed by a program and luncheon. Our speaker of the day will address the subject of identity theft.

Contact Kathleen Tudryn at (413) 549-4733 for more information.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE SURVEY RESULTS

As an insert to the March edition of our newsletter, a community service survey was sent to REAM members. To date 171 responses have been returned reporting that our members have volunteered 48,877 hours during the calendar year 2004.

These valuable hours have been spent in a variety of venues ranging from schools to public libraries to political organizations to senior service organizations and religious organizations. The approximate value of these hours is \$857,779.35.

Thank you to those of you that returned the survey as requested. This is important information for us to know as we seek to better understand and promote the services that our members are giving back to local communities.

Don Adams

## THE EDUCATOR'S VOICE

You may have noticed that our newsletter now has a name. REAM Board of Directors voted to officially name our quarterly newsletter publication the Educators' Voice. This is part of an effort to recognize the excellence and the benefit that this publication provides. It is not simply a newsletter but an opportunity for us as retired educators to speak to each other, the Legislature and the other interested parties.

Thank you to everyone who submitted names for consideration. Over 50 different names were submitted and the Board carefully considered each one.

## FEEDBACK FORUM

From time to time and as space permits, the Educators' Voice would like to feature feedback that has been given by REAM members about the services being provided. The intended purpose of this section of the newsletter is to highlight some of the recent accomplishments of REAM that has been noticed by our members. If you would like to provide feedback of any nature, please contact either Executive Director Heather Hartshorn or Communications Coordinator Hillari Wennerstrom at the REAM Office.

**From Jean Maffei of Reading, MA:** "Daniel O'Connor and Paige Rowden have set a high standard of representing our organization in the Legislature and have worked tirelessly on important educational reforms."

**From Eleanor O'Brien of Kennebunkport, ME:** " My compliments on the REAM newsletter! The design and content are excellent."

Thank you Jean and Eleanor for acknowledging our efforts with positive feedback. All feedback is encouraged and welcomed!

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The quality of our newsletter is very much dependent upon the submissions we receive from our members. If you are interested in submitting articles for publication, meeting notices, or chapter updates please contact Communications Coordinator Hillari Wennerstrom either through the REAM Office or via email at [ebwhiw@comcast.net](mailto:ebwhiw@comcast.net).

Deadlines are as follows:

November 10—Winter Issue (December)  
February 10, 2006—Spring Issue (March)  
May 10, 2006—Summer Issue (June)

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

REAM has been contacted by the following organizations asking for support in their efforts to recruit quality people for the following opportunities. If any of these opportunities are of interest to you, please contact the organization directly.

**EDITH STEWART CHASE FOUNDATION** is looking for part-time office assistance. This is a paid position with flexible hours. Responsibilities include general office tasks.

The Edith Stewart Chase Foundation is located in Waltham, MA and provides assistance to REAM members who are in need of financial assistance with various life circumstances.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Executive Director Loretta Frissora at (781) 893-5308.

**EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS LITERACY COUNCIL** is seeking volunteers who are willing to serve as English literacy tutors.

For more information about EMLC, visit the EMLC Web site: [www.emlc.org](http://www.emlc.org) or 781-395-2374.

**NEWTON COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER** offers a variety of volunteer programs for seniors that are a part of SOAR, an RSVP program and part of the National Senior Service Corps. This is a network of federally sponsored programs helping Americans over the age of 55 find opportunities to address community needs through volunteer service.

SOAR provides older adults with the

opportunity to explore how their skills and interests can help local non-profit and civic organizations. SOAR volunteers help meet needs in Newton, Framingham, Wayland, Wellesley, Weston, Natick and Ashland.

For further information regarding the programs offered at NCSC, please visit their website at: [Http://www.nscsweb.org](http://www.nscsweb.org). You can also reach by phone at (617) 969-5906.

**LIFE AFTER TEACHING** is an organization that has published several books on the subject of retirement and making the most of your retirement experience. A web based survey has been set up for individuals wishing to share their experiences for use in future publications.

You can access this survey at <http://www.afterteaching.com/survey>. Alan Roadburg is the author of the book Life After Teaching, Road Map to Retirement Happiness.

**THE NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM** has a volunteer program for retired persons. A program of particular interest is the Aquarium Guide program. Aquarium Guides are ambassadors to the public at the Aquarium, answering questions to visitors about marine life and aquatic animals, and giving presentations at our various exhibitions from the Giant Ocean Tank to the Aquarium Medical Center to Amazing Jellies.

Individuals interested in this or other volunteer programs offered at the New England Aquarium are encouraged to visit the aquarium's website at <http://www.neaq.org/>

[community/vol/index.php](http://community/vol/index.php) and click on "position descriptions." There is also an online application on our website.

You can also contact Joanna Rothman at 617-973-5235 or [jrothman@neaq.org](mailto:jrothman@neaq.org).

Several other paid and volunteer opportunities are also posted on our website [www.ream1951.org](http://www.ream1951.org) under the volunteer/ job opportunities section.

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL—ITS NEVER TOO LATE OR TOO EARLY TO RENEW

Membership renewals have been mailed to all current members as well as a separate mailing to recent retirees and past retirees who have never joined REAM.

If you have yet to mail in your renewal, please take a moment now to do so. Your membership and continued support of REAM is vital to the success of our organization. Membership is open to all retired educators and school nurses. Associate memberships are available to educators who are within 5 years of retirement. Nonagenarians are honorary members.

The cost of membership is \$25.00 for all chapters except Suffolk which is \$23.00. Associate membership is \$25.00 and honorary members pay no dues. Checks should be made payable to REAM and mailed to the state office at 169 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA 01752-4527.

Membership information is also available on our website—<http://www.ream1951.org>. If you have a specific question regarding membership, please contact Executive Director Heather Hartshorn at (508) 624-0230.

## Registration Form—Annual Meeting, October 20, 2005

Please use the following registration form to register for statewide annual meeting on October 20, 2005 at the Coonamessett Inn in Falmouth, MA. Checks should be made payable to REAM Cape Cod Chapter for \$20.50. Registration includes all meeting materials, morning coffee and lunch.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Options: *please choose one*

\_\_\_\_\_ Broiled NE Scrod

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Piccata

Return Registration forms by October 13 to:  
Lorna Larson  
PO Box 830  
N. Eastham, MA 02651

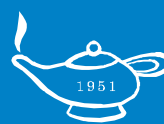


**REAM**

Retired Educators Association  
of Massachusetts

# Educators' Voice

Fall 2005 | Volume 1 | Issue 4



## REAM

Retired Educators Association  
of Massachusetts

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# Educators' Voice



## REAM

Retired Educators Association  
of Massachusetts

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Website: <http://www.ream1951.org>

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