

Educators' Voice

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greetings –

It is my distinct privilege to be writing to many of you for the first time as executive director of REAM. My transition into this new role has been almost seamless thanks to the efforts of a few key people. In particular I would like to thank Pelino Masciagioli, Jim O'Donnell and Dan O'Connor for their steadfast commitment to making REAM the best membership organization and for their personal support of me. Each of these individuals devotes so much of their time and talents to REAM that their "retirement" status is questionable. I also owe a great deal of thanks to Doris Burke, John Hooper and Ed Stuhr. Each of these individuals has continuously supported my efforts as both communications coordinator and now as executive director. The time and effort each one has invested is immeasurable. To that end, I look forward to all that we can accomplish together for REAM in the coming years.

I also need to thank Amy McIntire, REAM's office assistant, for her continuous effort in making sure members' needs are met. Not only did Amy hit the ground running when she started last fall, but she has maintained order in the office when things have gotten turned upside down on more than one occasion.

I must take a moment to thank Heather Hartshorn, the former executive director, as well. Heather has a heart for public service and her efforts on behalf of REAM were most clearly visible on the legislative front. She used her many connections in local and state government to further the cause of REAM and represented its members to the best of her abilities wherever she went. I personally wish Heather well and thank her for her service.

As has been alluded to over the past few months in both the *Educators' Voice* and other correspondence from the state office, many changes are on the horizon for REAM. New officers have been elected by ballot for the first-time in REAM history. I am happy to welcome both Bruce Willard and Jay Harmon to the operating committee and wish a fond farewell to John Hooper and Ed Stuhr. Other members are also stepping up to serve on the board of directors as many new directors have been elected from the local chapters. To those of you who have so ably served REAM in the past, thank you. Your time and talents have served the organization well. To those who are stepping up for the first



I am committed to improving our communications both within and outside of REAM. I welcome your comments and hope, working together, we can achieve some lofty goals.

Hillari I. Wennerstrom
Executive Director

time this year, thank you for continuing to give of yourself to help better the lives of others. I look forward to working with all of you.

Another significant change in the organization is the hiring of a paid professional lobbyist. Change often breeds apprehension among some but I view change as a good thing – especially some of the changes that have occurred within REAM.

I am honored to be working with Charles Stefanini, the lobbyist hired to represent REAM. Charlie brings with him a wealth of knowledge from his previous public service with the retirement board and service as a union representative for AFSCME. Charlie has also served as a paid professional lobbyist for the Massachusetts Nurses Association and was quite successful in bringing their issues to the forefront of the legislature.

Charlie is a welcome addition to our small staff and will work very closely with the board of directors and myself along with the chapter legislative designees. Please join me in welcoming Charlie aboard.

In closing, I want to reiterate to all of you my commitment to making REAM a strong membership and advocacy organization. I am committed to improving our communications both within and outside of REAM. I welcome your comments and suggestions and hope that, working together, we can achieve some lofty goals.

HILLARI I. WENNERSTROM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Educators' Voice



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NEWS FROM THE STATE OFFICE

HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the Hampshire County Chapter of REAM will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. The location is the Hickory Ridge Country Club at 191 Pomeroy Lane in Amherst, MA. Coffee will be available beginning at 10:45 AM. The business meeting will be held at 11:00 AM followed by a program at 11:30 AM. Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM. Hampshire Chapter members will receive more detailed information by mail.

Others interested in attending should contact Hampshire County President Kathleen Tudryn at (413) 549-4733 or at jmkt45@earthlink.net.

OFFICE NEWS

The REAM office has a new address.

The City of Marlborough has assigned a new street address for our offices. Please note that our office now has a street address of 165 Lakeside Avenue. Mail addressed to our office with the old address will be automatically forwarded for up to a year but could be significantly delayed. Please make sure to address all correspondence to REAM, 165 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA 01752 to ensure a timely delivery.

If you need to reach the office staff, please contact us during normal business hours which are 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. If you receive the voicemail during those hours you are encouraged to leave a message. All phone messages will be promptly returned at our earliest convenience.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the ides of August approached I was faced with preparing this, my last president's column. Although I had no grand scheme for REAM, I did think were poised to move forward and accomplish some progress, especially in the area of membership. I am disappointed that we didn't accomplish more. I was surprised at how outside events, resignations and software glitches dictated how our time and resources were spent. I am encouraged however, that both our software and personnel issues have been resolved and that now we are able to move forward with some of the initiatives that have been in place for the past two years.

I am confident in the abilities of both Pelino Masciangioli and the new members of the operating committee, Bruce Willard and Jay Harmon. I know that together with Doris Burke and Jean-Louis Clapin, they have the energy and dedication to advance the ideals of REAM and its members. Likewise the new make-up of the board of directors and the desire of many chapter presidents to become more involved bodes well for the organization. Our new approach to how we deal with legislative efforts also has the potential for great success.



I am grateful for the dedicated efforts of the elected officers whose help has been invaluable.

I am grateful for the dedicated efforts of the elected officers whose help these last two years has been invaluable. To each member of the other elected officers - Pelino, Jean-Louis, Doris and Ed, I thank you for your tireless service on behalf of REAM. To Hillari Wennerstrom, I thank you for your past service to REAM and know you will continue to excel as executive director. To Amy McIntire, thank you for stepping in as office assistant at a very difficult time last fall and quickly and effectively restoring order to a most chaotic situation.

I'll close with a thank you to the Board of Directors, Local Chapters and all individual REAM members who continue to support the Chase Foundation. Without your continued efforts at fundraising, we could not do what we do to help REAM members in need.

One more thank you is in order. To Paul LaPlante, Bob Jackowicz and Dan O'Connor - thank you for blazing the trail and lighting the way.

John Hooper
President

STATE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Annual Fall Meeting—Thursday, October 26, 2006

Lombardo's Restaurant
9 Billings Street (Route 28)
Randolph, MA
(800) 986-5030

Agenda:

9:30 AM—10:00 AM

Registration: Danish/Coffee available

10 AM—10:20 AM

Norfolk Reports, Presentation of REAM Officers and Business Meeting

10:20 AM—11:40 AM

Pelino Masciangioli, REAM President
Charles Stefanini, REAM Legislative Lobbyist

11:40 AM—12:00 PM

Break—setup for lunch

12:00 PM—12:45 PM

Lunch

12:45 PM

Presentation by Kenneth Gloss, Brattle Book Club
"Treasurers in Your Attic—Old and Rare Books"

Attendees should bring one or two books for evaluation and appraisal.

Directions to Lombardo's are printed on page 3. Please use the registration form attached to register.

Registration Form REAM ANNUAL FALL MEETING

Please return this registration to Frank Cassani by October 19, 2006. The cost of \$23.00 per person must be included with the registration, payable to REAM Norfolk.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Lunch Options: *please choose one option per person attended*

_____ Chicken

_____ Fish

Return Registration forms to:
Frank Cassani
58 St. Anne Road
East Weymouth, MA 02189
(781) 335-0148

NEWS FROM THE STATEHOUSE

Educators' Voice

Although the legislative session has officially ended for this term, there is a slight chance that state legislators will be called back into session to vote on some of the many bills that were left in limbo when the session was adjourned on July 31. REAM stands to benefit if legislators are called back as the majority of our bills passed through the various committees and were awaiting votes from the entire House and Senate.

Our efforts cannot simply be measured in the number of bills that were passed into law but rather by the successful effort to educate legislators and being the leader of meaningful discussions on COLA reform. While we recognize that our members only truly benefit when action is taken, we are proud of the efforts we have made to make the legislators aware of the very important needs of retired educators.

REAM has been one of the biggest advocates for COLA reform over the past two years and will continue to do so until meaningful reform is passed. This includes not only raising the COLA base but also seeking a guaranteed minimum pension and protection for the purchasing power of a pension. With your continued support, we are hopeful that the discussions we started this session will continue in the new session and eventually will lead to real reform that is vital to the majority of our members.

We are proud to report the successful passage of the following bills:

S1505 (H4424) – This bill was redrafted by the Joint Public Service Committee to include other language referencing pension calculation choices Option B and Option C. REAM was a chief proponent of the original bill.

The redraft of the bill appears not to have addressed our original intent, however the passage of this bill provides for any person who retired

under chapter 32 of the General Laws between July 1, 2004 and December 27, 2004, inclusive, or the surviving spouse of any such person who is deceased, who elected option (a) or option (b) of this section may change such selection to option (b) or option (c) of said subdivision.

H4469 – an act establishing “The Welcome Home Bill” for Massachusetts Service Members,



Veterans and their Families. Along with language that redefines the qualification of a WWII veteran, WWII and Korean War veterans and their survivors have been granted access to a high school diploma. Also provided in this bill are various benefits for the families of those serving in Iraq as of September 11, 2001. REAM was not the chief sponsor of this bill, however, we did provide support for its passage.

S1591 – an act granting creditable service to vocational teachers. The provisions of this bill allow for vocational teachers to buy up to three years of creditable service for any period or periods of work experience in the occupational field in which the member teaches, and which was required as a condition of the member's employment pursuant to regulations of the department of education. REAM graciously provided support for this bill.

The following bills are ones that we are closely monitoring and will continue to

advocate for:

H270 – legislation that would provide for the purchasing power protection for certain retiree benefits. This bill was reported favorably by the Joint Public Service Committee and is currently before the House Ways and Means Committee. This issue is certain to remain a top priority for REAM in the coming legislative session. REAM wishes to thank Representative Bini-enda's office for their continued efforts on behalf of this bill.

H468 – an act to extend maternity benefits to retired teachers. This bill was grouped together with several other bills before the Joint Public Service Committee. The language of the bill is included in a new bill H4800 and is currently waiting to be reported. We anticipate pursuing this issue again in the coming session.

COLA Study – to provide meaningful reform not only in the area of COLAs and how they are applied but also to pension reform in general. REAM will continue to stand behind its belief that our pension system is in desperate need of reform. The issue of a minimum pension and the COLA base are two very strong positions REAM has taken over the past two years and will continue to do so.

On a federal level, REAM is continuing to band together with the twelve other states that are adversely affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision/Government Pension Offset (WEP/GPO). We will continue to advocate for the repeal of this federal law.

Editorial Note: Many thanks go out to Daniel O'Connor, Jim O'Donnell and the deceased Paige Rowden for their tireless efforts on behalf of REAM this past legislative cycle.

REAM ANNUAL FALL MEETING—OCTOBER 26, 2006

The annual fall meeting for REAM members is being hosted by the Norfolk Chapter on Thursday, October 26, at Lombardo's Restaurant in Randolph, MA. Special guest speakers include Kenneth Gloss of the Brattle Book Shop, REAM Lobbyist Charles Stefanini and REAM President-elect Pelino Masciangioli. The meeting will begin at 9:30 AM with a coffee time and the business portion of the meeting will begin promptly at 10 AM. Following lunch at 12 Noon, Mr. Gloss will speak on “Treasures in your Attic – Old and Rare Books.” Attendees are encouraged to bring one or two books for evaluation and appraisal by Mr. Gloss.



Photo of Ken Gloss © by Jared Charney

The cost of the meeting is \$23 payable to REAM Norfolk. For more information, please contact Frank Cassani at (781) 335-0148. Registrations for the meeting must be completed by October 19. A registration form is available on page 8 of this edition of the *Educators' Voice*.

Directions to Lombardo's: located at the intersection of Route 128/93 and Route 28 in Randolph.

From North of Boston: Take I-95/128 South, which becomes I-93 North (do not take exit I-95 South to Providence, RI) to exit 5A. Take a right at the first set of lights on to Scanlon Drive. Lombardo's will be on the right.

From Cape Cod: Take Route 3 North to Route I-93 South (Route 128 North) to exit 5A. Take a right at the first set of lights on to Scanlon Drive. Lombardo's will be on the right.

From Boston: Take the South East Expressway/I-93 South, at the Braintree split stay on I-93 South

(Route 128 North) to exit 5A. Take a right at the first set of lights on to Scanlon Drive. Lombardo's will be on the right.

HISTORY OF THE BRATTLE BOOK SHOP

The Brattle Book Shop was founded in the Cornhill section of Boston in 1825 and has been in the hands of the Gloss Family since 1949. Over the years George and his son Kenneth built this shop into one of the largest antiquarian bookshops in the country.

Housed in a three-story building in the heart of Downtown Boston, The Brattle Book Shop carries an impressive stock of over 250,000 books, maps, prints, postcards and ephemeral items in all subjects. In addition to its general used and out-of-print stock, The Brattle Book Shop also maintains an inventory of collectibles, first editions and fine leather bindings in its rare book room.

Ken Gloss is the current proprietor of The Brattle Book Shop. He is a past President of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America's New England Chapter. He also sits on the Associate Board of the Boston Public Library. Ken Gloss appraises books and libraries for Harvard, Boston University, Boston College, Northeastern, Simmons, Suffolk, Tufts, Babson, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the FBI and others. He

lectures on the antiquarian book field to library groups, historical societies and other book-interested groups throughout the New England area. Ken Gloss has appeared on numerous local and National television and radio programs talking about books and their values. He also has written many articles on appraising books, book collecting and selling.

You never know what treasures might be in your own attic!

If you have an item of interest for publication in the *Educators' Voice*, please contact Executive Director Hillari Wennerstrom at the REAM Office.

Articles will be printed as space permits. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

ELECTION RESULTS

On behalf of the nominating committee, I wish to thank those members who took the time and effort to vote for the association's officers in the first-ever ballot election. The recent changes to REAM's bylaws called for the election of officers via ballot instead of a voice vote at the annual fall meeting of the state-wide association. Ballots were distributed in the summer edition of the *Educators' Voice* and over 700 ballots were returned by the voting deadline of August 15.

Although no individual position had a contested race, ballots were counted and certified by John Sullivan, a member of the nominating committee. Each of the positions will officially take office on October 26, 2006, at the annual fall meeting and will serve for a term of two years.

List of officers for 2006-2008:
President: Pelino Masciangioli
First Vice President: Jean-Louis Clapin
Second Vice President: Bruce Willard
Secretary: Doris Burke
Treasurer: John Harmon.

*Daniel O'Connor, Chair
REAM Nominating Committee*

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Several exciting travel opportunities are available for REAM members during the 2007 calendar year. Trips are being sponsored by the North Suburban Chapter and include travel to both foreign and domestic locations. More specific information is available through Harolyn Bresnick at (978) 535-4194 or Ann Donovan at (617) 625-3998. Informational flyers are also available upon request. A complete list of trips is also listed on REAM's website – <http://www.ream1951.org>.

Destinations include the Greek and Turkish Isles; US National Parks and Canyon Country; Ireland; British landscapes; Vancouver and Calgary; and Florence, Venice and Rome. Prices vary by trip and include the cost of travel, lodging and associated taxes. The duration of each trip as well as the cost of the trip varies, however, each trip does provide for certain meal costs.

These trips are a must for members who love to travel and enjoy the companionship of others.

*Ann Donovan
Director
North Suburban Chapter*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

REAM membership is annual from October 1 to September 30. Many thanks to those of you that renewed your membership through the summer edition of the *Educators' Voice*. This will be a great savings to the organization in printing and postage costs.

To date we have received about 1350 renewals. Please check the date printed with the address portion of your newsletter to see if your renewal has been processed. For those with a September 2006 date, you should be receiving a renewal notice in the mail within the next month. If you feel there is an error in your membership date, please contact the office.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Chapter Updates and meeting notices are an important part of our publication. If your chapter has a meeting notice or would like to update others on what's been happening within your local chapter, please forward your information to the REAM Office, Attn: Newsletter. Copy can be sent electronically to hillariwennerstrom@ream1951.org

Deadlines for future editions are:

- November 10, 2006—Winter edition (December)
- February 10, 2007—Spring edition (March)
- May 10, 2007—Summer edition (June)

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

REAM is very fortunate to have so many of its members involved in community service around the Commonwealth. A list of volunteer opportunities has been compiled on our website – <http://www.ream1951.org> and from time to time we are able to highlight a few of the opportunities in our newsletter.

Each of the opportunities provides various means for REAM members to volunteer not only their time but to also put their talents to work for organizations in need of help. REAM gladly supports the efforts of its members to give back to their community and/or other non-profit organizations.

Below is just one of the many volunteer opportunities for REAM members. Please contact the REAM office or check our website for a complete list of volunteer opportunities.

Habitat for Humanity - If you think that Habitat volunteers only swing a hammer, think again. Eighty percent of the work done by Habitat volunteers is accomplished long before the first nail is driven. Volunteers work with families, staff the office, locate land for future homes, work to

bring Habitat to their towns, mentor Habitat Campus Chapters, and a whole lot more.

Habitat for Humanity of North Central Massachusetts serves 23 communities: Acton, Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Bolton, Boxborough, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Leominster, Littleton, Lunenburg, Maynard, Pepperell, Princeton, Shirley, Sterling, Stow, Townsend and Westminster.

To learn how you can make a difference, call 978-348-2749 or visit our website to complete a volunteer application at www.ncmhabitat.org. To learn about Habitat volunteer opportunities in other areas in Massachusetts or throughout the country, visit www.habitat.org.

*Donald Adams, Chair
Community Service Community
NRTA/AARP Liaison*

REAM HIRES PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST

The REAM Operating Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of Charles Stefanini as the professional lobbyist representing REAM for the coming legislative session.

Charlie comes to REAM with a long-standing public service record. He has more than a decade of government relations, strategic campaign and public affairs experience. He has a proven track record in issues management, multi-faceted public affairs and government relations including strategic planning, presentation, message development, communications, lobbying and

grassroots organizing.

Most recently he developed and implemented a multi-faceted public affairs effort to support the Massachusetts Nurses Association's primary piece of legislation, the Patient Safety Act. This work built a 106-member Coalition to Protect Massachusetts Patients to support the campaign, conducted poll-tested leaflet drops, radio campaign and statewide signature collection drive, collecting over 80,000 signatures during 'Nurses Week'. The signature drive culminated in ambulances collecting

and delivering the signatures in a caravan to the State House. Mr. Stefanini's efforts have made the Massachusetts Nurses Association PAC one of the top performing in the state.

Charlie has advised political candidates for state and local office and has coordinated field and get out the vote efforts at the local and national level. REAM is fortunate to have Charlie's dedication and experience working on our behalf on Beacon Hill.