



**If you have made any changes** to your contact and mailing information, please send your name, address, phone number and email to [iristonti@msn.com](mailto:iristonti@msn.com). **Especially** if you have updated your NJEA profile.

**OPT OUT**  
It's not too late .... if you are receiving both the printed and email versions of the newsletter, please consider switching to "Email Only". It will save printing & production costs, assembling time and more.

Email us at [iristonti@msn.com](mailto:iristonti@msn.com) and tell us you would like to OPT OUT of the print versions.

**MCREA Contact List**

Joe Santo, President  
609-532-3907  
[santo.mcrea.pres@gmail.com](mailto:santo.mcrea.pres@gmail.com)

-----

Pam Washington  
Send your news to:  
[pwashin429@aol.com](mailto:pwashin429@aol.com)

-----

Membership to:  
Iris Tonti  
[iristonti@msn.com](mailto:iristonti@msn.com)

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at:

<http://mercercountyretiredea.org>

**Save the Date... Details inside**

- \*Meet and Greet at Hamilton Library October 7, 2019.
- \*MCREA Fall Meeting/Luncheon, October 17, 2019 at Mercer Oaks.

MCREA Scholarship Inc. Fund DONATION FORM

"In Memoriam" or celebratory donations can be made to the MCREA Scholarship Fund Inc. at any time. Please make your check payable to: MCREA Scholarship Fund Inc. and mail to: Fran Whitworth, 196 Sparrow Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08690

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
I am an \_\_\_\_\_ Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Life member.  
PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
"In Memory Of": \_\_\_\_\_  
"In Celebration Of": \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU WISH US TO NOTIFY THE FAMILY OF THIS DONATION, PLEASE PROVIDE THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS.**



**Mercer County Retired Educators' Association**  
**Iris Tonti, Membership**  
**11 Salzano Dr. Hamilton NJ 08690**

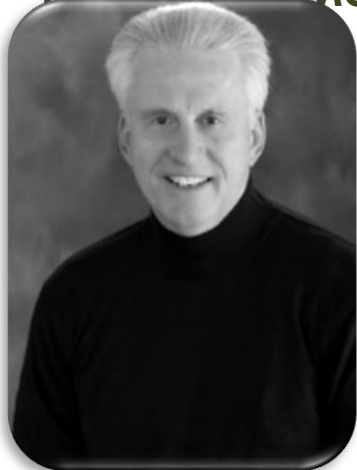


**MCREA News**

Fall Edition 2019  
Volume 12, Issue 1



## President's Message



Greetings. Hope everyone has had an enjoyable, healthy and safe summer.

We have had a busy summer planning activities, adding committee chairpersons to our Executive Board, attending meetings and workshops, lobbying for our causes including the return of our COLA, assisting members with their questions and updating our technology into what we hope will offer improvements and more ease of operation. Robert Pearson, our Website chairperson

Is undergoing training with NJEA to revise our system, and Susan Kadish our new Technology Chairperson is learning a new email system to help us communicate with our membership. There may be glitches along the way and we ask that you bear with us while we transition into what we hope will be improvements.

As you may be aware, the New Jersey budget was passed which did not include a millionaire's tax but avoided a government shutdown. As of this writing, there is no legislation regarding Senator Sweeney's Pathway to Progress (otherwise known as Pathway to POVERTY). That may change as the next legislative session begins and he tries to seek a constitutional amendment. We have concerns with much of his proposed plan, mostly his wish to reduce our health plans from what he perceives as platinum to a gold plan (which would be more costly with diminished benefits). Also, his hope is to change our pension plan for newer employees (5 years or less) which would reduce the amount that goes into the pension system thereby further depleting it. Another undesirable change in his plan is to terminate our participation in the School Employees Health Benefits Plan (SEHBP) and move us into the State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP). For a full report on his proposals you may find them at [www.pathtoprogressnj.org](http://www.pathtoprogressnj.org).

We are always seeking new ideas and member involvement. We look forward to meeting members on Monday, October 7 at our New Member Meet and Greet and at our general meeting/luncheon on Thursday, October 17 (see the flyers elsewhere in this newsletter). Hope to see you at these events!



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
NJREA/MCREA Membership	1
NJREA/MCREA Membership cont. from p. 1	2
News and Notes	2
Executive Board Membership	2
In Memoriam	2
October Luncheon/Meeting News	3
MCREA Scholarship	3
MCREA Meet and Greet Form	3
News and Notes cont. from p 2	3
Lynda Fonde's Memorial	4
Members Support Union Efforts	4
October Luncheon Form	5
Publication Dates	6
Members Personal Contact Update	6
Opt Out	6
Contact List	6
We're On the Web	6
Save the Date	6
<b>NJREA/MCREA Membership</b>	<b>6</b>
MCREA Scholarship Form for Donations	6

By Iris Tonti

### **Once you've retired, why keep your membership with NJREA and MCREA?**

Upon retirement, a retiree may continue to enjoy the benefits of NJEA membership by becoming a unified Annual or Lifetime NJREA member. Retired membership is limited to those persons, who, were eligible, are receiving a pension from the TPAF, PERS, or any NJ alternate benefits retirement program and maintains membership in NEA-Retired.

Basic county membership under the Guidelines of 9/1/2011 allows a member, although encouraged, to join NJREA, to maintain continuous membership in the county EA only.

Membership entitles an active dues paying Unified member to services defined as "member only" benefits. (I will list those in the next newsletter.) It allows those members to vote in any county association elections. It allows those to receive all NJREA, NJEA, NEA-R, and CREA publications. Members are invited to attend all association meetings. Members are able to continue their NEA-sponsored supplemental life insurance. Members are represented by NJREA delegates to NJEA, NEA-R, and NEA-RA conventions. They are also entitled to receive an annual membership card which entitles them access to Members Only websites, consumer discounts, and NJREA/NJEA conventions.

**Continued on page 2**

**Membership continued from page 2**

Members will have access to assistance with pension and health insurance benefits. They will also have assistance for survivors after the death of a spouse/member.

Our members have access to the NJREA's and MCREA's webpages.

Dues dollars are used for Member Advocacy, Administration & Business Services, Communications, Conventions, Governance, Legal Services, Legislative & Government

Relations, Organization Development, Organizing, Training, & Membership Development, and lastly Research & Economic Services.

If you or a colleague have not joined, now is the time. Do not allow your membership to end. Application forms are available from NJEA Membership Processing division at 609-599-4594, ext. 4123.

Once you are a member, please visit your MARS, (membership profile) by logging into the NJEA website and updating your information whenever changes take place.

**Please check the label of this newsletter** to verify for your current membership status. It will read Annual 2020, or Life xxxx, for those whose dues are paid. If yours says **Annual 2019**, you must make your dues payment as soon as possible.

MCREA would like to welcome new members:

Nancy Bauman; Sandra Jones; Una C Satchel-Jenkins; Wayne Conover; Mary Lou Byer; Mary Migliaccio; Jacqueline Garatva; Edith Ann Mrazik; Matthew Davis; Sharon Falitz; George McCormack; May Ann Sprenkle; Theresa Webb-Harrison; Giacinta Wortelman; Linda Potter; Margaret Eldridge. If I missed someone, I do apologize.

Anne Elaine Vallaster; Victoria Verrelli; Charles Gates; Karen Cordas; Vincent Vaccaro; Dorothy McGowan; Mri Carro.

Please let Iris Tonti know of their whereabouts at [tontii@niea.org](mailto:tontii@niea.org)

**News and Notes**

Affected by the Equifax breach?

In September of 2017, Equifax announced a data breach that exposed the personal information of 147 million people. The company has agreed to a global settlement with the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and 50 U.S. states and territories.

If your information was exposed in the data breach, you can file a claim at [Equifax Breach Settlement.com](http://EquifaxBreachSettlement.com) for free credit monitoring and Identity Theft Protection Services or a cash settlement. If you're not sure if you were affected by the data breach you can find out by going to the website listed above for directions or call 1-833-759-2982 for more information.

According to a recent newspaper article, millions of people visited the settlement website in its first week. The amount

**Continued on page 3**

**MCREA Executive Board  
2018 – 2020**

**President**  
Joe Santo

**Editorial**  
Pamela D. Washington

**1st Vice-President**  
Sue Karolkiewicz

**Government Relations**  
Johanna Capasso  
Thomas Harrington

**2nd Vice-President**  
Stacy Morgan Santo

**Historian/Public Relations**  
Jed Kadish  
Vanessa Richardson

**Recording Secretary**  
Nancy Greener

**Hospitality**  
Emily Conti  
Arlene Rogers

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Paul Everett

**Liaison**

Donna Carson  
Howard Crossland  
Corinne Egner  
Bill Tucker

**Treasurer**  
Gene Gray

**Past Presidents**  
Cindy Braddock  
Stacy Morgan Santo  
Gloria Sapnar  
Carmela DeMarco  
Joan Wright

**Membership**  
Iris Tonti

**Member Services**  
Terri Purcell

**Committee Chairs**  
**Affiliate Liaison**  
Lorraine Hall

**Scholarship**  
Mary Jo Klockner  
Fran Whitworth

**Budget/Finance**  
Beth Thompson

**Techology**  
Susan Kadish

**Community Service**  
JoAnne Bruno

**Website**  
Robert Pearson

**Constitution**  
Frank Harsanyi

**IN MEMORIAM**

Zessie M. Chambless  
Lynda Fonde  
Karen Lee Householder Gottlieb  
Patricia Sadley Harman  
Theresa S. "Terrie" Marciniak  
Mary Seamon  
Geneva Smith Williams  
Eudora Blanch Hardy Wright

## October Luncheon/Meeting News

By: Sue Karolkiewicz

An invitation to all MCREA members; newly retired and veteran retirees.

If you were not able to join us at the May Meeting/Luncheon, I hope you will consider joining us this October. With the state legislators considering changes to our health insurance, it is important to be aware of the latest information.

On hand will be representatives from NJEA bringing the latest news regarding Pension/Benefits and Legislation being considered.

Our agenda includes the Executive Board Meeting, Speakers, Social Time with those we haven't seen recently, Door Prizes and Luncheon.

The MCREA Fall Membership Meeting/Luncheon will be held at Mercer Oaks Country Club in West Windsor on Thursday, October 17, 2019. Registration begins promptly at 10:00 A.M. Registration forms and cost for attending can be found in this Newsletter.

Only MCREA members will be permitted to attend the union meeting which will end at approximately 11:30. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause. Guests are welcome to attend the luncheon.

## MCREA Scholarship

By Fran Whitworth and Mary Jo Klockner

With continued support of our members, the 2019 Anna Diehl Scholarship was awarded to three Mercer County high school seniors. Each received \$1500 and was introduced to the audience at our Spring MCREA Luncheon. Knowing financial support was given helps offset the challenges and obligations these young women encounter as they enter higher education.

MCREA gratefully acknowledges those members who believe in our mission of strengthening our commitment of financial assistance. Your gifting to our students is but a small measure of what an educator is and wholly believes in-the success of every child.

The 2020 Anna Diehl Scholarship will be awarded at our Spring Luncheon. Donations are being collected at our Fall Luncheon, Oct 17. Please make checks out to MCREA Scholarship Fund, Inc.

For your convenience, the donations form can be found on page 6.  
Thank you.

### News and Notes continued from page 2

Equifax set aside for the cash payment portion is finite and it is felt that there is simply not enough for full payments to everyone who files claims. The FTC is now encouraging everyone to choose the free credit monitoring (up to 10 years of free credit monitoring), although you can choose to file for the cash settlement. The claims process has started and if you were affected you must file a claim by the deadline which is January 22, 2020.

## MCREA NEW MEMBER MEET AND GREET Monday, October 7, 2019 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Hamilton Public Library (downstairs)

**All members who have** joined MCREA in the last two years are invited to attend a New Member Meet and Greet. The schedule is as follows:

11:00 – 11:20 a.m. – meet the MCREA officers and committee chairpersons and learn about your county organization.

11:20 – 11:40 a.m. – learn about your membership benefits as a unified member of MCREA/ NJREA/ NJEA/NEA and NEA/R. The presenter will be Phil LoMonico from NJEA.

11:40 – 12:00 p.m. – Q & A, socialize and enjoy some light refreshments.

Please send the form below by Monday, September 30, 2019 or email [stcysanto@yahoo.com](mailto:stcysanto@yahoo.com) with the information listed below.

### New Member Meet and Greet

I will attend the New Member Meet and Greet on Monday, October 7, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Township Library (downstairs), 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. Way, Hamilton 08619.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am an \_\_\_\_\_ annual or a \_\_\_\_\_ life member

Please RSVP by Monday, Sept. 30 by mailing this form to Stacy Santo,

**10 Buckalew Court,  
Hamilton, N.J. 08610**

or you can email your info to Stacy Santo at [stcysanto@yahoo.com](mailto:stcysanto@yahoo.com)



## In Memory of Lynda “Lynn” Fonde

By Kathi Eckert, Terri Purcell and Bette Kirk

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Lynda Fonde, an MCREA Executive Board member, and chairperson of our Membership Committee until her resignation in 2019. She died July 24, 2019 at the age of 78 after a tough illness.

A lifelong educator, Lynn taught home economics for 36 years



in the Trenton NJ Public School System. She often shared the good food from the home ec classes with her colleagues. She was always one to take a road trip to buy fabric whether she needed it or not.

Once, realizing that a student had removed something from her classroom, she chased him down the steps, down the length of the back hall and right into the boys' locker room. He handed it over!

She was an active member in

NEA, NJEA, MCEA and TEA for which she was a successful Grievance Committee Chair for many years. Rumor has it that the Trenton Board of Education was terrified of her when she represented grievants. The Board never liked to deal with her. She had the reputation of being the TEA lawyer. She was always over prepared and just stated the facts. She did her homework well and TEA was the recipient of many, many wins.

In addition to teaching, she enjoyed making costumes for the school productions and authored two family genealogy books. Her central hallway in her home was filled with the ancestral treasures of her family, and she loved explaining what each and every one meant to her. Fascinating stuff!

Lynn was well-known for being an expert seamstress, a creative crafter and a voracious reader. If you ever saw her library, you'd get the idea!

Hundreds of folks thronged to her home in early December to partake in her Holiday Boutique Craft Show where her beautiful creations and her friend Dee's delicious concoctions were available for purchase--at really crazy, thrifty prices.

She also volunteered with Meals on Wheels and taught sewing at HomeFront in their Lawrenceville Sewing Space location.

Lynn had a wonderful sense of self-deprecating humor and would do anything for you. Lynn was our staunch advocate, an endearing mentor, and most of all, our dear friend. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and colleagues.

## MCREA Supports Union Efforts

By Thomas Harrington

MCREA members attended three events in support of actives and retired members:

### 1. Joined CWA Rally



### 2. Attended the Lobby Day to support Gov. Murphy's budget.



# MCREA Fall Meeting/Luncheon

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Mercer Oaks Golf and Country Club

725 Village Road West Windsor, NJ 08550

Cost is \$27.00 per person

Join your fellow colleagues and hear the latest updates on your pension, health benefits and other important information from NJEA representatives and MCREA leadership.

Doors open at 10:00; registration until 10:30. Meeting will begin at 10:30. This meeting is open only to MCREA members. GUESTS ARE NOT PERMITTED to attend the meeting.

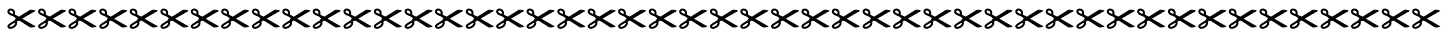
Lunch will begin at 12:00. A guest may attend the luncheon.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SATURDAY, October 5, 2019.**

Menu includes a Fall Salad, Pasta Alfredo and Rigatoni Bolognese, twice baked potato, vegetable du jour and a CHOICE of PRIME RIB, CHICKEN FRANCAISE or BROILED SALMON (sauce on the side). Chocolate Mousse for dessert. A CASH BAR will be available.

Please mail this form with a CHECK for \$27.00 payable to MCREA no later than October 3, 2019 to: PAUL EVERETT at 146 JULIA AVE., HAMILTON, NJ 08610

For questions, call Susan Karolkiewicz at 609.223.2570. Please print your email confirmation and retain.



Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am an ANNUAL \_\_\_\_\_ LIFETIME \_\_\_\_\_ Member of MCREA

**MENU CHOICE:**

PRIME RIB \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN FRANCAISE \_\_\_\_\_ SALMON \_\_\_\_\_

---

**LUNCHEON ONLY: GUEST Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**MENU CHOICE:**

PRIME RIB \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN FRANCAISE \_\_\_\_\_ SALMON \_\_\_\_\_