



The Horseshoe Crab

The Newsletter of the Cumberland County Retired Educators' Association



Volume I No. 3

January, 2016

THE PREZ SAYS

The presents have all been opened, the champagne consumed and 2016 has begun. In the coming calendar year we are going to be faced with many challenges. We need to be ready for what is ahead of us. It will take all of us to accomplish what will be needed to assure our pensions are secure. I don't know about you, but I would be very happy to have that off the grid for a change.

What can we do? Our first hurdle will be getting the current state legislature and the incoming new state legislature to approve the State Constitutional Amendment to fully fund the pension each year. You, as an NJREA, NJEA, and CCREA member can help this by writing, emailing, or calling your legislators urging them to for them through the Assembly and Senate. Thank those legislators who have sponsored these bills and urge those who haven't to vote for them when they to the floor of both bodies. By the legislature passing the same amendment in two consecutive legislatures it can go to the voters in November, 2016. This only needs a simple majority in both houses and does not go to the governor for approval. Stay current by checking the NJEA webpage for the next Lobby Day. Then contact our GR chairs or me to sign up to go. We always car pool.

Once the amendment has to be approved by both sessions of the legislatures, you will be asked to talk to your family and friends to encourage them to vote for this amendment on the November, 2016 ballot. There will be lots of information as things progress on this, so watch your mail and the web for all that you need to know.

Have a great 2016, I hope to see you at the February meeting.

Charlie



GR UPDATE

By Sandra Zaccaria & Chuck Griffiths,
CCREA GR Chairpersons

The November elections were very successful. Around the state NJEA has been credited with playing an important part in that outcome. Our efforts made a big difference! But 2016 will be even more critical for the issues that matter most to us, especially, our pensions. So check out the facts below and be ready to mobilize again in the year ahead. Together, with one loud voice, we will continue to make a difference.

Let's take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments. Here are a few numbers to put it all in perspective.

4 The number of anti-pension incumbent legislators who were voted out of office through the hard work of NJEA & NJREA members, who put their heart and soul into electing pro-pension candidates. (A recount is expected in LD 16 but right now our endorsed candidate has won the most votes.)

50 The number of NJEA-endorsed Assembly candidates who won their Assembly races. Every last one of those candidates either voted to fully fund our pensions last June or pledged to do so if elected. Politicians who broke their promises paid the price at the ballot box this year.

237 The number of NJEA/NJREA members who ran for some elected office in this election. From the Assembly, to Freeholder candidates, to countless candidates for local councils and boards of education, our members stepped up as leaders and advocates in this election. And whether or not they won, the helped set the tone and change the conversation in NJ.

344 and 999 The number of additional votes we needed in LD16 and LD2, respectively, to win two or more seats and elect a veto-proof majority of pro-pension legislators in the Assembly. Even after a great result like we just had, those numbers make us determined to do even more next time.

939 The number of Legislative Action Team members who recruited volunteers, worked the phones, and promoted our candidates in their locals.

40,000+ The number of pension activists who committed to this work over the last several months. They were the front-line fighters in the election, knocking on doors, making phone calls, and doing whatever else it took to win this election in such a stunning way.

200,000 The total number of NJEA/NJREA members, every one of whom has the ability to make a difference for our profession and our future, as we proved in this election. We demonstrated that we can reward legislators who keep their pension promises and show promise breakers the door.

As a result of our collective effort, every NJEA/NJREA member is better off. If you haven't already stepped up to be part of the fight to save our pensions and preserve our profession, its time. In 2016 it will be up to us to make sure that our elected leaders keep their election promises. We've come a long way already, but we need YOU to help us achieve a real pension victory. Now is the time to become a pension activist! We are all stronger when we are all working together.

IT MAKES CENT\$

By Bonnie C. Meyers

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 8 - CCCEA Open House
 - ☐ 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. - at Dandelion Plaza, corner of Wheat & Delsea in Vineland
- Jan. 11 - Lobby Day in Trenton
- Feb. 3 - CCREA Exec. Meeting
 - ☐ 10 a.m. at the CCCEA Office
- Feb. 10 - CCREA Luncheon & Meeting
 - ☐ 11 a.m. at Centerton Golf Club
- Mar. 2 - CCREA Exec. Meeting
 - ☐ 10 a.m. at the CCCEA Office
- April 6 - CCREA Exec. Meeting
 - ☐ 10 a.m. at the CCCEA Office
- May 3 - Trip to see Samson - see insert
- May 4 - CCREA Exec. Meeting
 - ☐ 10 a.m. at the CCCEA Office
- May 11 - CCREA Luncheon & Meeting
 - ☐ 11 a.m. at Centerton Golf Club

It makes cent\$ to

- take a look at your will and other legal documents every few months to make sure they express your personal wishes and intentions.
- understand what a "codicil" (a document that adds or changes something in a will) is and how it may be useful to make small changes in your will.
- prepare a binder, that is available to alert your survivors, in case of your death, it should include where to find insurance policies, company phone numbers, your pension number, how to contact the Division of Pensions, and the Funeral Director. It might include where the deed to your home is located and where you have a safe deposit box and bank accounts. Duplicate the binder and give a copy to a trusted relative.

If you have suggestions or comments about the newsletter or anything else to do with the CCREA, you can direct them to Charlie Moses, either by e-mail (CCREAPres@gmail.com) or phone (609 774-6374).

DUES INCREASE PROPOSED

At the February CCREA Meeting the Executive Committee will be asking the membership for a dues increase of \$1 beginning the 2016-17 year. The background on this is there has been no dues increase of CCREA dues since 1992. In that time the cost of everything we use has gone up, for example the price of a postage stamp has gone from \$0.29 to \$0.49; the cost of paper has quadrupled from 1992, as we all know, food prices have skyrocketed. Please be aware that we don't ask for this increase lightly, however we feel we do need a slight increase at this time.

WHY DOES LUNCH COST SO MUCH?

You are probably asking yourself, "Why is the price of lunch so high?" As of January 1, 2016, the prices at the Centerton Golf Club have gone up. As mentioned in the article about the dues increase we have all seen grocery prices rise. The costs to the Centerton also have risen. The hot lunch you paid \$22 to have in October went up to \$30 with tax and tip. We hope you understand we didn't have a choice and the Executive Committee feels that we are getting a good lunch for our money. If you would like to be on a committee to investigate another location for our meetings please contact Charlie Moses.

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON AND MEETING

The meeting will be at 11 a.m. on February 10, 2016 at the Centerton Golf Club. Luncheon will begin at noon.

A legislative update will be given by Beth Schroeder-Buonsante, NJEA Assistant Director of

Please return this portion of the form with your payment. Thank you.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The new luncheon format will consist of Soup, Salad, a Wrap, and Dessert.

The cost is \$21

Guest's Name (Only people not eligible to be a member may be a guest at our events)

This month we will be serving a vegetarian vegetable soup and a choice of the following wraps:

	Turkey	Tuna Salad	Roasted Vegetable
Member's Choice:	()	()	()
Guest's Choice:	()	()	()

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Return this form with your payment to **Linda Ward, 6 Osborn Lane, Bridgeton, NJ 08302**, by February 3, 2016. Make checks payable to **CCREA**. Reservations must include payment. Payment will not be accepted at the door.

NO REFUNDS

Do You Go South For The Winter?



Membership Chair Irene Savicky wants you to notify her if you winter down south or anywhere else in the country. She can make sure you continue to get our newsletters and mailings while you are away. Remember to include the dates you are going to leave and return to our area.

Contact Irene at (856) 863-8424 or email her at isavicky@aol.com

Your Winter
meeting
Reservation form
is enclosed

Return Service Requested

Connie Cossboom
96 Sentry Drive
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

