



The Horseshoe Crab

The Newsletter of the Cumberland County Retired Educators' Association



Volume I No. 4

April, 2016

The Prez Says:

It seems that every message I have written this year deals with the same topic, however, it is so important at this time I feel we need to focus on our pensions. As you know NJEA/NJREA was successful in was successful in their effort to place a pension funding amendment on the November ballot. That is only one part of what has to be done. The next step will be getting the same legislation passed again in the new legislature. The law requires that be passed by two consecutive legislatures in order to be placed on the ballot. This amendment does not have to pass over the governor's desk, he cannot veto this!

The passing of the legislation for the amendment in this new legislature will require a lobby day sometime in either late March or April. We will need as many of you that are able to go to Trenton and the State House to assist in speaking to legislators. The CCREA will have an email account set up to send information out to those who have an email in their profile on the NJEA website. Information about the lobby day will be sent out to everyone through email. Remember this is your pension and we all need to work to preserve it.

In other news, our website has finally been launched on the Internet. If you go to www.cumberlandcrea.org you will be taken to the CCREA website. We began this process in August and now finally have given birth to this project. The website will have current news and information as well as a link to our current and previous newsletters.

It is almost Spring and I hope I will see you all in May at our regular meeting.

Charlie

GR UPDATE

By Sandra Zaccaria & Chuck Griffiths,
CCREA GR Chairpersons

CCREA's government relations team braved winter's lingering chill to make February a very active month. Our team attended NJREA's GR meeting in Trenton on February 16th to discuss several critical issues, the most important being the proposed constitutional amendment on pensions. Key provisions of the amendment would require quarterly payments, establish a responsible funding schedule, and protect the right of vested public employees to earn their pension benefits. The NJEA did extensive research on public support and found the results to be favorable. We also learned that our lawsuit to restore our COLA will be heard by the New Jersey Supreme Court in March. We again travelled north on Saturday, February 20th, to attend the NJEA's annual Legislative and Political Conference in Somerset. With over 500 people in attendance, the conference dealt with privatization, charter schools, federal issues, assessment, and health benefits. The conference concluded with a plenary session moderated by NJEA President Wendell Steinhauer. Panelists Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto spoke at length, offering their full support for the constitutional amendment on pensions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 15 - Electronic voting begins for the NJEA Election
- April 1-15 - Paper ballot voting for NJEA Election
- April 13 - CCREA Exec. Meeting
 - 10 a.m. at the CCCEA Office
- April 13 - CCCEA LAT Meeting
 - 4:30 p.m. at the CCCEA Office
- April 21 - NJREA Delegate Council Meeting
 - Scottish Rite Hall, Bordentown, NJ. See your NJREA Newsletter.
- May 3 - Sampson at Sight and Sound Trip
- May 3 - CCCEA Legislative Dinner
 - Greenview Inn at Eastlyn Golf Club, Vineland, NJ
- May 4 - CCREA Exec. Meeting
 - 10 a.m. at the CCCEA Office
- May 11 - CCREA Luncheon & Meeting
 - 11 a.m. at Centerton Golf Club

Member Benefits!

by Ruth Griner

NJEA Member Benefits and H&R Block have joined together to offer discounts and special pricing on tax preparation for NJEA/NJREA members. Log in to www.njea.org and click on **Member Benefits**. Then click on **Tax Preparation Services**. There will be a listing of tax preparation offices. Click on **H&R Block** and a coupon will appear to use for onsite services. To find an office near you, visit www.hrblock.com or call 1-800-472-5625. Take advantage of the special tax savings for members today. H&R Block can help make tax time less stressful.

Airport Parking!

Print a discount coupon for The Parking Spot at all NYC, Philadelphia, and Baltimore airports. The discounted rates are printed on the coupon. The coupon can be found on www.njea.org Member Benefits, Travel, Airport Parking

Don't forget to enter the monthly giveaway at www.njea.org

NJEA Member Benefits offers programs designed to save money and increase buying power.

IT MAKES CENT\$

By Bonnie C. Meyers

It makes cent\$ to

- remove your car keys from your key ring and give **ONLY** that key to the person who will be servicing your car while you wait.
- lock your car door the moment you get into the vehicle and **BEFORE** you look for your keys, turn on the radio, adjust the seat, buckle the seat belt, or put your handbag on the floor (never on the seat where it can be seen by someone looking in the window).
- be more creative when hiding a spare key outside your house - over the door, under the mat, or in a flower pot just won't do. Choose a spot in your backyard where people from the neighborhood can't watch you retrieve it (from under a brick in the garden or behind a drain pipe).

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.

The Power of PAC

Last fall, NJREA members helped celebrate the victories of four new pro-pension, pro-public education Assembly candidates elected to the Legislature. These victories were the direct result of countless hours of campaign work from NJREA members and the help of political contributions made by the NJEA Political Action Committee (PAC).

Political contributions to candidates come from active and retired members who understand the importance of contributing to PAC, a member-supported, member-led effort. The PAC Operating Committee's 125 members represent all segments of our organization, including retirees. These members meet with candidates, ask tough questions and decide which candidates' positions and values earn them the support of NJEA's 200,000 active and retired members. Endorsed candidates enjoy the benefit of our votes, volunteers, and, in some cases, financial assistance.

NJEA's robust PAC doesn't happen by accident; it depends upon the voluntary contributions of all of our members and cannot be sustained by a few individuals. Everyone must recognize that giving to PAC is a wise investment to ensure the right leaders are elected to protect the long-term availability of pensions and post-retirement medical benefits.

Now there is an even greater incentive to contribute. This spring, NJEA PAC is looking to reward those counties whose members step up to the plate and make a donation. From March 1 through June 30, the county that raises the highest dollar amount in PAC contributions and the county that averages the highest dollar amount per member will each be awarded a \$750 gift card to be used for county association purposes.

So, consider making a PAC donation today. Retirees need to continue to be heard, and that begins by making a contribution to ensure others will work to secure your future.

MAY LUNCHEON AND MEETING

The meeting will be at 11 a.m. on May 11, 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 Government relations.

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 \$21.00 Don't forget we will be collecting for PAC at this meeting.

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

_____ This month we will be serving Italian Wedding Soup and a choice of the following wraps:

	Roast Beef	Egg Salad	Chicken Salad
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 May 2, 2016. Make checks payable to **CCREA**. Reservations must include payment. Payment will not be accepted at the door.

NO REFUNDS



It's Finally Online!!!

It's been a long time coming but at least we can now announce that the **Cumberland County Retirees' Association** has a webpage. We'd like you to see it and make suggestions if you have any. Our web address is: **www.cumberlandcrea.org**

Save The Date!!

The Cumberland County Legislative Dinner will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at the Greenview Inn at Eastlyn Golf Club. The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. Presentations will be made by an NJEA officer and an NJEA representative to the National Education Association Board of Directors. Local and state legislators will be invited to attend, and you will have an opportunity to meet them. The cost will be \$20.00 per person. Members are encouraged to check our new website at **www.cumberlandcrea.org** for registration information or call Charlie Moses (609-774-6374) to attend.

Your Spring
meeting
Reservation form
is enclosed

Return Service Requested
Connie Cossaboom
96 Sentry Drive
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

CCREA

