

**Maine Association of Retirees, Inc.**  
**Executive Director's Report**  
 October 2014

**Total MAR Member is 14,896**

|                                | State | Teacher | PLD | Total                    |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|-----|--------------------------|
| <b>New Members</b>             | 7     | 32      | 8   | 47                       |
| <b>Deceased Members</b>        | 21    | 15      | 10  | 46                       |
| <b>Members Resigned</b>        | 70    | 130     | 38  | 238<br>(233 non-payment) |
| <b>Total Membership Change</b> | -84   | -113    | -40 | -237                     |

Membership packets sent to:

| Month       | Total | State | Teachers | PLD | Legislature/Judiciary |
|-------------|-------|-------|----------|-----|-----------------------|
| July 2014   | 661   | 45    | 556      | 59  | 1                     |
| August 2014 | 118   | 47    | 41       | 30  | 0                     |

New Members by month

| Month          | Total | State | Teachers | PLD | Legislature/Judiciary |
|----------------|-------|-------|----------|-----|-----------------------|
| July 2014      | 24    | 11    | 6        | 6   | 0                     |
| August 2104    | 62    | 10    | 46       | 5   | 0                     |
| September 2014 | 47    | 7     | 32       | 8   | 0                     |

**Personnel**

Staffing is stable and the Benefit Specialist has returned to full time (30 hours/week).

**Operations**

- Over 11,000 cards were sent to members regarding MAR's elimination of the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance as a benefit.
- Sent reminder cards to MAR members of their Regional Meeting date and location.
- Continued to implement and adjust the new data base
  - Verifying and correcting MAR members addresses, social security numbers, email addresses, etc.;
  - Collecting and imputing the expanded elements (Veterans, SS recipient, birth year, benefit level);
  - Updating the system with the information from the MAR member cards.
- Closed 233 Annual members for lack of payment

**Building**

- Peter Pietroski has been working on the electrical system
- Contractor will be starting the removal of the chimneys the week of October 6, 2014.
- Contractor will be starting the cellar brick removal the week of October 6, 2014.
- Blown insulation has been completed in the attic.
- Outside painting of the steps, bulk head and sill plates are being worked on.

## Public Relations/Local Activities

- Regional Meeting were held in all of the Regions

| Region   | Number Signed Up | Number Attended | Meeting Room and Meal costs | Regional Director  | Alternates                                       |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| I =Aroostook   | 23               | 16<br>(72.7%)   | \$409.20                    | Real Hebert<br>Peter Edgecomb<br>Mabel Desmond               | Carol Fitzherbert<br>Clayton Belanger            |
| II – Penobscot,<br>Piscataquis,<br>Hancock,<br>Washington            | 34               | 29<br>(85.3%)   | \$640.04                    | Claudette O’ Connell<br>Marilyn Burrill<br>Maureen St. Denis | Charles Boothby<br>Stan Burodko<br>Jim Butler    |
| III –Kennebec,<br>Somerset,<br>Knox, Lincoln,<br>Waldo,<br>Sagadahoc | 61               | 57<br>(93.4%)   | \$918.83                    | Rossi Rowe<br>Gene West<br>Nancy Seigars                     | Gerry Nault<br>Joan Hallowell<br>Diane Bailey    |
| IV- Androscoggin   | 31               | 29<br>(93.5%)   | \$ 659.83                   | Arthur Allard<br>Fred Bockus<br>Charles Berube               | Rita Melendy<br>Richard Guay<br>Richard Lee, Jr. |
| V –Cumberland<br>York  | 34               | 34<br>(100%)    | \$ 1170.56                  | Nancy Goddard<br>Elwyn Walker<br>Andy Anderson               | Isabella Thurston<br>Norma Virgie<br>Debby Olken |

## Committees and Task Group

- Legislative Committee met with Jack Nicholas, Chris Gianopoulos and Cab Howard to discuss history of the COLA and pension benefits, Actuarial Unfunded Liability in the pension and health insurance.
  - Proposal for the Executive Committee is to have a piece of legislation that codifies the current COLA and pension;
  - Second piece of legislation to return the maximum COLA up to 4%;
  - Third is to support a “resolve” regarding the Social Security Windfall and Government Pension Offset.
- Met with Senator Katz regarding the lawsuit loss. Generally supports retirees but questioned where the financing would come from for any increase.
- Met with Speaker Eves’ Chief of Staff, Ana Hicks, regarding the general ideas for retirees needs and generally supportive of the issues.
- Health Care Ad Hoc Group has not met
- MCOA-several board meetings, workforce task force meetings, and Money Minder meetings.
  - Connected several MAR members with Money Minders;
  - MCOA met with Maine’s Congressional delegation regarding the four work areas: Aging in place, health care, workforce, higher education.

Respectfully Submitted By:  
Barbara J. Van Burgel  
Executive Director  
October 6, 2014