

**Maine Association of Retirees, Inc.**  
**Executive Director's Report**  
 September 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 (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 (72.7%)	\$409.20	Real Hebert Peter Edgecomb Mabel Desmond	Carol Fitzherbert Clayton Belanger
II – Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, Washington	34	29 (85.3%)	\$640.04	Claudette O’ Connell Marilyn Burrill Maureen St. Denis	Charles Boothby Stan Burodko Jim Butler
III –Kennebec, Somerset, Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, Sagadahoc	61	57 (93.4%)	\$918.83	Rossi Rowe Gene West Nancy Seigars	Gerry Nault Joan Hallowell Diane Bailey
IV- Androscoggin	31	29 (93.5%)	\$ 659.83	Arthur Allard Fred Bockus Charles Berube	Rita Melendy Richard Guay Richard Lee, Jr.
V –Cumberland York	34	34 (100%)	\$ 1170.56	Nancy Goddard Elwyn Walker Andy Anderson	Isabella Thurston Norma Virgie 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