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open

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**Website:**  
**AKREA.ORG**

**Anchorage and Mat-Su Areas: CARTA:**  
Shannon Jones, President  
CARTA meets 1st Saturday at 12:30 at the Anchorage Senior Center (Sept.-May)

Contact: Ronelva Peacock  
(907)349-1714

**Fairbanks (FRTA)**  
Ellen Ayotte  
1121 Coppett St  
Fairbanks, Ak 99709  
FRTA meets the 2nd Wednesday at 11:30

**Juneau/Douglas:** Barb Potter  
billstoy@aol.com  
JRTA meets on the 3rd Monday every month

**Seward:** Mary Daniel  
Box 593 , Seward, AK 99664  
[smdaniel@gci.net](mailto:smdaniel@gci.net)

**Kodiak:** Kathy Wischer  
Box 202, Kodiak AK 99615  
[kwischer@alaska.net](mailto:kwischer@alaska.net)

**Kenai** Virginia Walters  
214 Birch Street, Kenai, Ak 99611  
[vewalters@gci.net](mailto:vewalters@gci.net)

**Homer:** Ray Hillman  
(907) 235-2449  
[rhillman@ptialaska.net](mailto:rhillman@ptialaska.net)

**FALL 2014**

**Juneau Teacher Tales 1930s – 1950s.**

Revised and updated.  
Ready for sale!!!

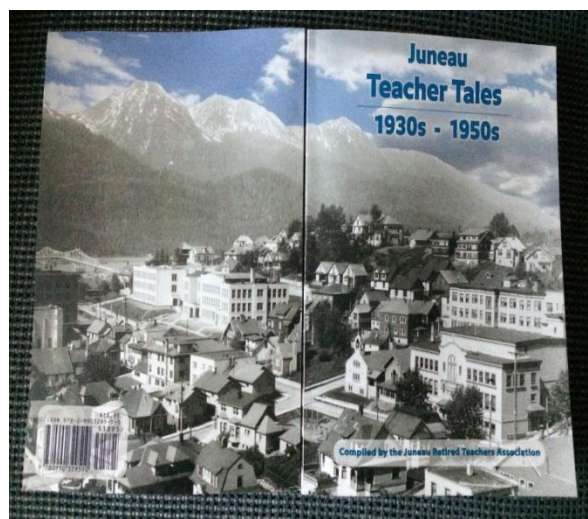
Juneau Teacher Tales was originally produced in 1993 as “Alaska Experiences by Juneau Teachers”, compiled by a very dedicated group of JREA members. Teachers either wrote their own stories or were interviewed. The original book was typed, run off on a copier, collated, holes punched, and bound with the magic help of a binder machine.

This is the new and improved version. It was put into Word, pictures of schools and teachers were included. A couple of stories were also added. The cover is a wonderful panoramic view of Juneau taken sometime after 1935. We know this because the bridge is in the picture.

The money earned from the sale of these books will be used to offer mini grants to teachers working throughout the State. Last year, AKREA gave out six.

Through the sale of these books, AKREA will be able to continue helping classroom teachers.

Leaders from your Units will be meeting in Anchorage in October. You can have them buy you one or order one from us. The cost is \$18.95. Checks made out to JREA. If we mail it to you, it will be an additional \$3.50 for postage.



Orders may be sent to:  
Barb Potter  
800 F. ST. Unit D – 3  
Juneau. AK 99801



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**Presents**  
**WASHINGTON,**  
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**April 1-7, 2015**

**Space is limited.**

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**Title:** *Alaska Retired Educators Association presents Washington DC*

**Date:** Tuesday, September 23, 2014

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM AKDT

OR Wednesday, September 24, 2014

7-7:30 EDT

Adjust for other times zones

You can also register on the website: AKREA.ORG under What's Happening.

**How To Join a Webinar**

Joining a webinar requires registration through an invitation link or email but no prior configuration to your computer.

**Note:** When joining a webinar, remember to also conference into the session using the conference call information provided by the organizer or using your computer speakers

**Step 1: Register for the Webinar.**

**To register for a webinar**

1. Click the link provided to register for the webinar.
2. Complete the Registration form.
3. Click **Register Now**.
4. You will receive a confirmation email providing you with a unique link to join the webinar as well as a link to add the event to an Outlook or Lotus Notes calendar.

**Step 2: Join the Webinar**

**To join a webinar from a confirmation or reminder email**

1. Click the link provided in the email to join the webinar.

2. If prompted, click **Yes, Trust** or **Always** to accept the download. If the automatic download does not occur, follow the instructions on the download web page to do it manually.

You will be entered into the Waiting Room. The Attendee Control Panel and GoToWebinar Viewer will appear when the organizer starts the webinar.

#### System Requirements

##### PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 8, 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

##### Mac®-based attendees

Required: Mac OS® X 10.6 or newer

##### Mobile attendees

Required: iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet

## **ALASKA EDUCATORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Kudos to Juneau Retired Educators on the publication of the revised and updated version of “Alaska Experiences by Juneau Teachers”. They have titled this version Juneau Teacher tales.” Publication was just in time for summer visitors.

AEHS has discovered another early book published by retired Alaska teachers in 1976 as part of the national Bi-Centennial project sponsored by NRTA: “Teaching in Alaska,” compiled by William Cashen and Fairbanks Retired Teachers Association. Apparently only six are available in the state. If you happen to own one that you would donate to AEHS, please contact Virginia Walters.

AEHS is calling for submissions for the next volume of Teachers Tales. Everyone has at least one story they tell their friends and family about teaching in Alaska, even today, when roads are plowed, electricity is constant and groceries are a phone call away. We’ve all had THAT student, THOSE parents, maybe even a crazy colleague. Send your story to Virginia Walters, 214 Birch Street, Kenai 99611, or e-mail [vewalters@gci.net](mailto:vewalters@gci.net) .

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## BARB'S BY-LINE



Summer (in Fairbanks we have had very little warmth or sunshine) is winding down and fall is definitely in the air. It is time to think of the new school year with Scholarships, mini-grants to schools, the new legislature coming in January, etc. These are all important to AKREA and we will keep you posted on the results. It was good to have the Governor allocate some money (\$2 billion) to our Pension funds. It would have been better if it went in all at once but at least it will get there eventually. We still need to work on a Defined Benefit or Hybrid plan for the newly hired. Many in the legislature are finally realizing new teachers, police, and other public employees have no benefits and they need something, so maybe we will see some kind of action. Went to a meeting where a fireman stated to a group that the newly hired were staying an average of 1.6 years. Maybe this information speaks to the fact that we are becoming a training ground for new retirees and when they get the experience and knowledge they leave. We need them in Alaska. We have a lot of work ahead to apprise the powers to be of some of these facts. We need everyone to talk to their legislators.

The web site has information about the legislature, health care, scholarships, and the units to mention a few of our issues. Hope you will visit it. Kathy Wischer is our Web Page Master and has been doing a great job. We keep it as up to date as possible [akrea.org](http://akrea.org)

With the new amendments to our health insurance as of January 1, 2014 we have had some problems. Hearings all over the state were well attended and many vented their anger; however, the amendments will stay. If you do not have a copy of the amendments this is the site

<http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/pdf/ghlb/retiree/retireePlanAmendment12312013.pdf>

The problems with Aetna are being somewhat resolved but if you are still having some please call the Division of Retirement and Benefits

Phone: (907) 465-3225

FAX: (907) 465-3086

Toll-Free: 1-800-821-2251

We have heard that RPEA (Retired Public Employees Association) has examined the changes and feels that many are a diminishment of benefits. They are going to file a lawsuit. To see where they disagree with the state go to

<http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/pdf/ghlb/retiree/draftRetireeBookletSideBySideAnalysis.pdf>.

Thanks to the members in Juneau for publishing the revised Teacher Tales book from Juneau. It is a wonderful book. Thank you to all in Juneau for all the hard work especially Barbara Potter and many other hard workers.

Most new retirees are not aware of our organization. Please if you know any or do substitute teaching please inform them of our organization. We put retirement issues first. Also if you do not get the newsletter by email and you have an email address it would sure help us financially as the newsletters are getting very expensive when mailed by snail mail. We also send alerts about meetings such as those on the health insurance that were held with the Division of Retirement. We send alerts on legislative issues when it would be good to contact your legislator. Congress is supposed to hold meetings on Social Security and the Windfall Elimination Program (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) will have a hearing. It is an issue important to many. We hope to help get these programs eliminated. It will really be a large benefit to many of our members.

Enjoy every day!! Have fun!!!

Barbara



## LETTER FROM LIZ

### Alaska News from the North

I recently attended a meeting of educators from various parts of the country. Sharing successes and challenges in our state organizations was an exhilarating experience. It reminded me, once again, that the reason AKREA exists is to enhance the quality of life for all of us as retirees. To deliver value through information, advocacy and service is what we are all about. Of course, we have fun along the way!

Looking Ahead.....AKREA is offering the Opportunity Award to Alaska classroom teachers again this year. The offer of \$200 for a classroom project was enthusiastically received last year and highly anticipated this September. We invite you to join other retirees in supporting the active teachers in a project that features their classroom, school, and/or community. We all remember being short of funds, right? Donate to Opportunity Award, check only. Send to: Virginia Walters, 214 Birch St, Kenai, AK, 99611. Thanks! We will send you news of applicants and projects as the year progresses.

AKREA is forming a strategic plan to help reinstate the Defined Benefit Plan in the next 2015 Alaska legislative session. Tom Nicholls, AARP Senior Legislative Representative, has volunteered to help us put together points and responses during the session. At our request, he is researching how hybrid retirement systems are doing across the country. Mark Guastella, Executive Director from Michigan, states that their hybrid system is doing quite well. Ken Helander, Alaska State Director of Advocacy, is, and will be, a great help. Here is where you come in: 1. Be aware of the bill before the legislature (we will keep you informed by alerts, website, etc.) 2. Letters of support to the editor 3. Articles in the newspaper 4. Watch Gavel to Gavel 5. Testify or contact the nearest LIO. *Stress economic benefit to the state! Choose at least one suggestion.....send in your thoughts on how to make the Defined Benefit bill happen.*

*Helpful Research/Background Material : Check out National Institute On Retirement, NIRS, at [www.nirsonline.org](http://www.nirsonline.org) . Look for the 2014 article, Pensionomics. Like stats? Take a peek at the NRTA/AARP/NIRS State Pension Fact Sheets....yes, Alaska is there!*

*Send your e-mail to Liz Lucas, [lizlucas@hotmail.com](mailto:lizlucas@hotmail.com) to receive the latest news of what is happening at the moment. I promise not to inundate you with an overload of e-mail!*

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN! THANKS.....**

*Liz Lucas, AKREA Executive Director*  
[lizlucas@hotmail.com](mailto:lizlucas@hotmail.com) phone: 907.789.965



# IN THE UNITS

## **FRTA--Fairbanks**

Fairbanks Retired Teachers Association met for our “No School Today!” lunch Aug. 20 with over 80 people attending this meeting. We start off with a delicious meal that the Carlson Center puts together for us. After lunch we started by introducing our Scholarship winners: Lois Meier scholarships: Danny, Kelly, and Patricia Eagan, triplets from West Valley H.S.; FRTA/Durrwachter scholarships: Kathryn Baum, Lathrop H.S., Jade Hajdukovich, Lathrop H.S., and Victoria Frank North Pole H.S.; DeWitt scholarships: Keegan Guigley, North Pole H.S. and Kirsten Whisenhant, West Valley H.S. Five recipients were present and gave a brief introduction about themselves including where they were going and what they planned to major in.

Then we welcomed and recognized the newly retired teachers and those new to FRTA. We then went through the list of previous and current schools in Fairbanks asking members to stand when the school they held close ties to or retired from and introduce themselves.

To end our meeting we had several drawings for many different “harvest” choices, fruit and vegetable, items along with baked goods

Each member received a school calendar with all meetings dates highlighted and a list of our programs for the 2014-2015 school year.

In May members are asked to list a topic of interest to them for a possible program along with a possible presenter. Marlin Collins, our Vice President, contacts these suggested presenters and people in the community to see if they could come and talk to us on one of these suggested topics.

Programs this year will be: September—How did FRTA get started?, October—What’s happening at the Ruth Burnett Fish Hatchery?, November—Ron Inouye to talk with us about one of his trips, December—A group of students will entertain us with their musical talents, January—What spice works with which body part?, February—Hospice and End of Life Issues, March—Downsizing: What is clutter, what is not?, April—Preventive Care—What we need to know?, May—Story Tellers (member stories are filmed and turned into DVD’s and sold with proceeds going to our scholarship fund).

## **KENAI PENINSULA**

Retired teachers in the Seward area got together for breakfast on Tuesday, August 19. For the last 20 years they have done the same on the first day of the new school year. Twenty-five retirees attended. Donations of school supplies and snacks were accumulated and divided up to be delivered to the three public schools in town.

There are 65 retired educators living in the Seward/Moose Pass area--some retired from KPBSD, some from AVTEC, and some moved here after teaching someplace else. There are 10 that live here in the summer. All together, that adds a lot of TRS money into the local economy.

In December volunteers from this group will review applications and select the recipient of the AK-REA scholarship.

A reception for former School Superintendent, Dr. Fred Pomeroy will be held at the Kenai Senior Center on September 9, 5-7 pm. Retired teachers and other school personnel from around the district have been invited to come visit with Dr. Pomeroy and renew connections with colleagues from around the area.

### **Juneau Retired Educators Association**

JREA started off the 2014/2015 school year with our back to school brunch on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Four boxes of school supplies were collected and distributed to Mendenhall River Elementary School. They were very appreciative of the extra crayons, markers, notebooks, etc. We are all aware of the tight school budgets around the state.

Again this year, our meetings will be held at the Juneau Senior Center until December. We meet for a potluck and program starting at 5:30. At our December meeting, we will be collecting warm socks to be given to the Glory Hole. In January and February, we will have lunch meetings. Some of our members would rather not drive in the evening during the winter months.

We are still finalizing our programs for our fall gatherings.

During the coming year, we will also be working on selling our Teacher Tales Books. We will need your help in this project. Remember, the profits from the sale of this book will benefit teachers across the state.

### **CARTA**

CARTA is looking forward to another exciting year! Returns on investments indicate the probability of awarding three \$2500 scholarships again this year to students majoring in Education. Funds are also available for at least five \$750 philanthropic grants. Donations are given at each meeting to community non-profit organizations including the Pat Rapp Summer Fund for activities for children at the AWAIC shelter. (CARTA won national recognition from NRTA for this program.) CARTA meetings are held the first Saturday of every month, September -May at the Anchorage Senior Activities Center with a 12:30 luncheon catered by the Center and followed by a program. Contact 907-349-1714 for more information.

### **NO PROBATE--Transfer on Death Deed**

Governor Parnell has signed House Bill 60 which allows the transfer of real property in Alaska to heirs or others without going through probate. The Transfer on Death Deed must provide the names and addresses of the persons transferring and receiving the property, legal description of the property and must be signed before a notary public. The deed must be recorded prior to the transferor's death in the recording office where the property is located. If the owner should change his or her mind, the deed can be revoked. This new law only governs land in Alaska but death deeds are now permitted in 24 states and the District of Columbia. If the estate is large or complex it may be wise to consult another expert or an attorney. Contact your local representative for more information.

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALASKA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

**ALASKA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

**NAME (Please Print)**

**Last**\_\_\_\_\_ **First**\_\_\_\_\_ **M.I.**\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**\_\_\_\_\_

**City:**\_\_\_\_\_ **State:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Zip**\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:**\_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail**\_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive the newsletter via  e-mail  USPS

**Dues: \$15 per year 4 years/\$50**

**Make Check Payable to ALASKA RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

**mail to: Virginia Walters**

**214 Birch Street**

**Kenai, Ak 99611**

The AK-REA dues year is January –December. Any dues received after September 15 each year will cover the next year