



After School Views..



Volume 21 Number 4

Mon. Sept. 20, 2021 10 AM
Zoom Meeting

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June 2021



President's Message

I want to thank every SCREA member for their help and support during my term as president. It was just two years ago, in September 2019, that your present officers were installed for a two-year term. During this time, we have had challenges that no one could have imagined. During the past 24 months, we should have held eight luncheons, but we have only been able to have two. We all adapted to learning ZOOM and I am happy to say that NJEA/SCREA has continued to be strong and grow during this difficult time.

The board was hoping to have a luncheon in the fall, but we are governed by NJEA's advisement and their insurance will not permit in person meetings at the present time. However it will be an opportunity for all members to attend the September 23rd, Calorie Free Virtual Meeting or a Summer Leadership workshop, without a two hour drive to the middle of the state. (Editor's comment: Workshops given by the communication staff are inspiring. This is from experience. G. Lewis).

We are hoping to be able to meet in person for the December holiday and our Second Vice President is looking for input and ideas.

I am so appreciative of my executive board who helped me run SCREA. I am happy to say that our organization is in good hands as our new officers take over in the fall. Thank you, Sharon, Linda Adams, Terry, Ann, Georgie, Gail and Linda Bruno for your energy and hard work in making SCREA shine. To our new officers, Sharon, Elaine, Linda and Barbara, and workers Georgie, Gail and Linda Bruno. I wish all of you a very successful term in office. Our webpage has been updated by Mary F. Soccio. Please visit it at www.screa-njea.org.

Thank you, Pam Raynor

The SCREA is affiliated with the New Jersey Retirees'

President: 973-383-8575
Pam Raynor

First Vice Pres. 201-874-8603
Sharon Mullen

Second Vice Pres. 973-714-1646
Linda Adams

Treasurer/Membership 973-209-4129
Ann C. Lane

Secretary 973-209-8731
Theresa Boscia

Necrology 973-271-4318
Gail Baum

Travel: 973-714-1646
Linda Adams

Editor: 407-443-4247
Georganna Lewis

SCREA Scholarship Awards



Celia Reynolds



Emily Shefferman



Amanda Nelson



Hannah Kolonoski



**Celia Reynolds Recipient of the
Warren D. Cummings Award 2021**

Celia Reynolds graduates ranked 18th, out of a class of 160 from Newton High School, having taken honors classes during her entire high school career.

Celia exhibited leadership and consistency in many areas-throughout her four years, she participated in choir, drama club, Pass It Along, student council, and served as a class officer. In addition she volunteers at Newton Medical center and is a member of the National Honor Society.

What impressed the scholarship committee most were her own words. Celia wrote, "I love children and am inspired to help them blossom into the people they are meant to be. Each of my teachers has provided me with a safe and comfortable space to be myself. Each is responsible for teaching me lessons that make me the person I am today. I look forward to providing my students the safe space they need to influence their future successes."

Congratulations to Celia! We wish her the best as she furthers her studies in Elementary Education at Susquehanna University.

Philanthropic Committee Report

By Sharon Mullen

Thank you to all our members who have generously donated to our philanthropic fund. Our scholarships are funded by your donations, never dues money. Also a thank you to Visions Credit Union for their generous contribution. Our committee, Pam Raynor, Debbie Gorin, and Elaine Freda did a wonderful job once again in selecting the award winners. They will receive their checks at their Senior Awards Night ceremonies. These very deserving young women will make us proud as they pursue a career in education.

The winner of the lovely painting by Linda Adams is Mona Pettinger, from the Kittatinny district. Congratulations and thank you again to all who have donated to our scholarship fund!

Next year, Elaine Freda will take over as Chairwoman for the Philanthropic Committee.



**Emily Shefferman Recipient of the
Fred Aug scholarship**

Emily Shefferman ranks near the top of her class at Lenape Valley Regional High School with a GPS of 4.3. Service and leadership to school and community are her strengths. Emily has served as treasurer and president of the student council. She has participated in DECA, distributive education club of America, peer leader, yearbook, literary magazine and FBLA. She is a member of the National Honor Society as well as French Honor Society. In addition, she has taught religious education and has served as a camp counselor through Pass It Along.

Emily, herself, wrote, "I've always wanted to teach and from a young age, I've practiced this passion, confirming it as my life's work. Teaching is beyond a career choice."

Congratulations Emily as you pursue your studies at Fairleigh Dickenson University to pursue a career in Psychology and Special Education.



Amanda Nelson Recipient of the Warren D. Cummings Award 2021

Amanda Nelson graduates ranked 33rd out of a class of 213 from High Point Regional High School, having taken honors classes during her entire high school career.

Amanda exhibited leadership and consistency in many areas-throughout her four years, she participated in cheerleading, and is this year’s captain, Lacrosse, Pass It Along, and served as a High Point ambassador, a peer mentoring group. In addition she is a member of the National Honor Society, and both Foreign Language and Art Honor Societies.

Math teacher Justine Riegel writes, “Hard-working, determined, perseverance-these are the words that come to mind when thinking of Amanda. She truly understands the value of hard work and applies this work ethic to all aspects of her life. She will always give 100 percent to any endeavor.”

Congratulations to Amanda! We wish her the best as she furthers her studies in English secondary education at Sussex County Community College.

Hannah Kolonoski Recipient of the Fred Aug Scholarship 2021

Hannah Kolonoski ranks 16th in a class of 250 at Vernon Township High School. Hannah’s strength lies in her service and leadership to school and community. Hannah was an all-league player and captain for Soccer and Track and Field, treasurer of Thespian Society and a high school ambassador. She is a member of the National Honor Society as well as Mathematics and Spanish Honor Societies. In addition, she has earned her Gold award, the highest award in Girl Scouting with a project called “Alert today, alive tomorrow,” a project to promote driving safety.

Hannah, herself, wrote, “I aspire to become a math teacher on the high school level, and look forward to making math interesting and fun as I teach important concepts to my students. I look forward to continuing to influence others through my actions in my career.”

Congratulations to Hannah, as she pursues her studies as a presidential scholar at Moravian College to pursue a career in Mathematics secondary education.

For Donations to the SCREA Philanthropic Fund (scholarship)

Name: _____ Amount _____

Date: _____ Phone Number or email _____

Address: _____

(Optional) In memory of _____

(Optional) Name & Address to send acknowledgement to _____

Please write check to **SCREA Philanthropic Fund** and mail it to

SCREA Philanthropic Fund, PO Box 502, Augusta, NJ 07822



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SCREA MEMBERSHIP

Prepared by Ann Lane, Membership Chair

For June 2021 meeting/ newsletter

Please remember that any dues paid during the school year go toward that year's dues (September 1-August 31) not a year from your payment.

Membership bills/forms have been mailed for next year's membership. The forms went out early so payment is received in a timely fashion so as not to disrupt receiving your publications. If you are not receiving your publications you may not have paid your annual dues. You can always contact me to check your membership status.

*Please make sure that you add webmaster@screa-njea.org to your email contacts so that you are assured you receive the quarterly SCREA newsletter and it doesn't go into your spam folder.

*NJREA Life members that do not have unified membership and want to add a county life membership should send their \$250 life membership to the address below or \$10 for 2021-22 membership made payable to SCREA.

*Please let any recent retirees who you know that they will probably receive their unified membership bills as soon as NJEA realizes they are no longer on their active lists (in the fall) . If they want, they can call NJEA at 609.599.4561 to pay their dues with a credit card prior to that time frame.

If any of you have lost or misplaced your current membership form you can contact me to receive a replacement.

If you have **any** questions/problem about membership or your membership status, or receiving the county newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, email or snail mail. (973.209.4129, laneac9999@gmail.com, or 21 Aspen, Hamburg NJ 07419).

2020-2021 SCREA Treasurer's Report



For the June Newsletter

Prepared by Ann C. Lane, Treasurer

General Checking Account

Balance 1/27/2021 \$28,932.78

Income 704.92

Debit 364.83

Balance 5/27/2021 \$29,272.87

As of 3/31/2021

Visions Regular CD (Matures 10/11/2022) 2,224.32

Visions Primary Share 40.32

Lifetime Visions CD (Matures 10/10/2022) 13,700.75

Lifetime Lakeland 15,156.43

Philanthropic/Scholarship 3/31/2021

Lakeland 5,978.17

Visions Non-profit checking 6,427.86

Visions (Main Shares 01) 25.67

Visions (Main Shares 02) 25.31

Visions CD (Matures 10/10/22) 2,855.30



www.screa-njea.org

Mary F. Soccio joined our executive board as webmaster last month. She has been working diligently on updating the format and the information contained there. We invite you to have a look, it is very easy to find on your computer. Past issues of this newsletter will be posted and contact information of our committee chairs.

Necrology by Gail Baum

April 12, 2021 to June 6, 2021

We are sad to report the loss of one of our members.

Patricia Swistak from Stanhope has passed away. She taught 2nd grade in Bryan, retiring in 1999.

Please contact me if you hear of the demise of one of our members at 973-271-4318 or baum.gail@yahoo.com



Secretary's Minutes

By Theresa Boscia

President Raynor introduced 1st VP Sharon Mullen who reported that all four scholarship recipients were here today prior to the meeting. The awards ceremony began at 10:05 AM. Sharon explained that this year four scholarships would be awarded since last year it was necessary to suspend the awards. Visions Federal Credit Union has been extremely generous in sponsoring 2 scholarships. Pam will send a thank you letter to Liz at Visions and to their headquarters. Sharon mentioned that dedicated teachers are needed more than ever and that the girls were true examples of service and enthusiasm. She thanked the scholarship committee (Pam, Debbie, Elaine and Sharon) for their work. A short bio of each winner's high school achievements was given. The recipients thanked the SCREA and said how much they were looking forward to studying education in college. The winners were:

Hannah Kolonoski - Vernon - Fred Aug Scholarship
 Amanda Nelson - High Point - Warren Cummings award
 Celia Reynolds - Newton - Warren Cummings award
 Emily Shefferman - Lenape Valley - Fred Aug award
 Recipients will receive their \$1,500 checks at their awards night. Sharon thanked all who donated to the philanthropic fund. She gave special thanks to Linda Adams for her beautiful painting which is the prize for our raffle. Today's winner was Mona Pettinger. Pam will make sure she receives her painting.

The June 7, 2021 Virtual Zoom meeting was called to order by President Raynor at 10:20 AM. President Raynor read the NJEA "closed meeting" notice. Following the Flag Salute and the singing of God Bless America, she gave the invocation. Executive committee members, not giving reports, were introduced.

President's Report: President Raynor reported that our September meeting will also be a Zoom meeting due to safety concerns, NJEA will not be able to send any staff to county meetings. If a contract is made with a restaurant, they can hold us to it, if we cancel. The NJREA newsletter has an article on the new NJREA President-elect Joan Wright, the first person of color to hold this position.

NJEA's PAC (Political Action Committee) works to support candidates who have the interests of students, schools, teachers, and retirees. PAC has collected \$99,217 in donations. Our dues cannot be used for this purpose. Government Relations will be reaching out to retired members to man the phone banks. PAC GR Committee has made an early endorsement of Phil Murphy for Governor.

Some members asked about a postcard from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The class action lawsuit is a national one and NJEA is not involved.

Committee Reports

1st VP Sharon Mullen reported that everyone should have received their reimbursement check for their copays. Call Aetna to get information about NJWELL rewards for healthy activities. The phone number is on the back of your card. (1-866-816-3662) Sharon thanked the executive committee for mentoring her for the last number of years.

2nd VP Linda Adams had a few ideas for day trips, (such as Shawnee on the Delaware) using car pool caravans. Buses are just beginning again to go to the Wind Creek casino.

It's almost time to look into a holiday luncheon venue. Most members enjoy a larger Dec. lunch. Perhaps our Apr. meeting could be smaller, with a soup and ½ sandwich lunch. We will have to find out when NJEA will support in person meetings.

Treasurer/Membership: Ann Lane reported that membership forms were sent out and 50% of members have already sent in their dues. Treasurer and membership reports are in the newsletter.

Necrology: Chair Gail Baum reported on the passing of Patricia Swistak, who had taught in Byram

Budget: The budget was in the April newsletter and is basically the same as what we've had in the past. We have been frugal with our monies. To vote, members went to the "reaction" icon and click on "thumbs up" for "yes." There is also a "no" option. Since there was no opposition, the budget passed.

New Business: President Raynor thanked each member of the executive board by name. She was proud of all we did during an especially difficult year, like learning about zoom meetings. Members were asked if anyone wanted to submit their name for an office.

The slate of officers for 2021-2023 is:

- President Sharon Mullen
- 1st VP Elaine Freda
- 2nd VP Linda Adams
- Secretary Barbara Henderson
- Treasurer/Membership Ann Lane
- Editor Georgeanna Lewis

The slate was elected. Linda Bruno will continue to help Ann and Georgie, as proofreader for the newsletter. There are always openings for members to work on our committees.

Pam congratulated our new webmaster, Mary Soccio, who has only been on the job for one month. She has already made the website come alive. It's now inviting with color and purpose. Our newsletters will be on the website. The website address is www.screa-njea.org. This meeting is being recorded to cloud. Some kind of code may be necessary to access. We will find out from NJEA if it's legal to record and if we can send it out. The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 with a motion by Ann Lane, seconded by Linda Adams.

Second Vice President's Report

By Linda Adams



We had an encouraging turnout for our June meeting on Zoom. Our first "In Person meeting should be our December Holiday meeting on December 6, 2021. This meeting is currently in the planning stage. I need your input about food for our luncheon and a venue. Choices might be:

Choices might be:

- 1) A sit down full course meal (soup, salad, entrée, dessert, coffee)
- 2) a simple soup, half sandwich or salad, ice tea, dessert or
- 3) pasta, salad, bread, dessert.

Places that can seat a group of 50 plus also are needed. We can be flexible. Please email your suggestions at lin150@ptd.net.

Travel Report



Linda Adams is researching trips that you may like, however, no organized trips will be planned until later in the year. You can, however, look into trips that may interest you and your friends and plan your own trip. Here are some venues you might find enjoyable.

** Ms. Lotta on Nolan's Point Road in Lake Hopatcong is up and running. Fantastic luncheon cruises, dinner cruises, bird watching cruises and historical cruises. They have wonderful skilled historian talks about the hotels of the 1800's. Check them out. Call 973-663-5000 or purchase tickets online. Lhcruises.com

** Penn's Peak is also a lovely venue which is nice if a small group wishes to participate. Here is the website for upcoming shows. [The Lehigh Valley and Pocono Mountains Premier Entertainment Venue | Penn's Peak pennspeak.com](http://TheLehighValleyandPoconoMountainsPremierEntertainmentVenue|Penn'sPeakpennspeak.com)

** Shawnee on the Delaware is near Stroudsburg, PA; only a one hour or less drive. [Poconos Theater | The Shawnee Playhouse](http://PoconosTheater|TheShawneePlayhouse)

** Silver Birches is located at 205 Route 507, Hawley PA 570-226-4388. They have live by-the-lake events scheduled for this summer. Find our more at Silverbirchesresortpa.com

** St. Jude's Church in Hamburg has a trip planner, Robin Elmo. She has many innovating trips planned. To get in touch with her to find out the schedule, dates and availability, call 201-317-6435.

SCREA Tentative Calendar

- Wed. June 23, 2021 NEA-Retired Virtual meeting
- Mon. Aug. 16, 2021 SCREA Executive meeting
- Mon. Sept. 20, 2021 SCREA Virtual general meeting
- Thurs. Sept. 23 2021 NJREA Virtual meeting
- Mon. Oct. 18, 2021 SCREA Executive meeting
- Weds. Nov. 3, 2021 NJREA Virtual Convention
- Mon. Dec. 6, 2021 SCREA General meeting
- Mon. April 4, 2022 SCREA General meeting
- Mon. June 6, 2022 SCREA General meeting

Meeting places to be announced

Virtual Meetings

If you've never attended our state and national meetings due to the long drive to get there, here is your opportunity. Why not attend on your computer.



Page 11 in the June issue of the NJREA Newsletter describes the September 23rd Fall "Calorie Free" luncheon. Meet the new 2021-2023 NJEA officers including our liaison Petal Roberson. Kimberly Scott-Hayden, NEA and NJEA ESP of the Year will share her vision for ESPs. You must register in advance at njea.org/njrea.

The annual NJREA Convention will also be virtual on Wednesday, November 3 at 10 am. Government Relations will report on the November 3rd elections. Research and Economic Services will report on pension and health benefits. There will be four comedians following the afternoon session. At this time, it is still undetermined whether the NJEA Convention will be in-person or virtual.

The NEA-Retired Annual Meeting will be held virtually on June 23 and 24 from 1:30 PM to 6 PM. The instructions on how to are:

* Go to nea.org/retired

*Scroll down to "Our Leaders & Governance"

*Click on the 3rd bullet, (Annual Meeting)

*Click on "register here" under the photo

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Your Sussex County Retired Educator Association needs some committee chairs and representatives. The NJREA president expects each county president to name members to general committees of the NJREA such as Government Relations, Health Benefits and Member Benefits. The SCREA president can suggest names to be on Elections, NJREA Scholarship, Editorial etc. For example: member JoAnn Horvath has chaired the NJREA Scholarship committee and member Gary Wikander has chaired the NJREA Budget committee. Linda Bruno and Georgeanna Lewis have been on the State Editorial Board. The opportunity is there. We need more people to fill these rolls and they can be held by co-chairs. Contact Pam at raynorpam@gmail.com or Sharon at smullen214@gmail.com or call them at the numbers on page 1.

Government Relations: Keeps our members informed of what is happening with the state and federal legislatures by giving a short report at meetings and writing a short report for the newsletter. GR members can go to Trenton to speak to the legislators, lobby during the day on issues that involve students, schools, actives and retirees. Co-Chairs for Sussex County and committee members are needed.

Member Benefits: Informs our county members of benefits they may receive from NJEA. Needed

Health Benefits: Informs our county members about the latest changes. Needed

Membership: Keeps information about our members and their dues payments. Committee members recruit new members. Ann Lane is chair but assistance is needed.

Constitution: The chair makes sure our Constitution and Bylaws are in line with NJREA. Shirley Smith is chair of this committee

Scholarship: Promotes donations to this fund, sends applications to our public high schools, chairs the selection committee and introduces the awardees. Elaine Freda has consented to do this but others are needed on this committee.

Necrology: Reports on the deaths of our members, writes quarterly reports and conducts a yearly necrology service. Gail Baum is chair.

Newsletter: Collects information and edits it into an on-line and snail mail newsletter. G. Lewis is now doing this, but needs a volunteer photographer to take photos at in-person meetings. Contact her at ga3lewis@hotmail.com.

Budget: Assists the treasurer in preparing the yearly budget. Linda Bruno is chair.

Travel: Plans and promotes trips for our members. Linda Adams is chair but would welcome a co-chair and/or suggestions.

Important Contact Information

NJEA/ NJREA Headquarters 609-599-4561

Aetna [866-816-9662](tel:866-816-9662)

NJEA Confidential Helpline 866-243-6532

Aetna Medicare Rewards 866-816-3662

NJ Division of Pensions/ Benefits 609-292-7524

Medicare 800-633-4227

NJEA Member Benefits 800-637-4636

Horizon 1-800-355-2583

MBOS Member Benefits Online System– access your pension information at

[www. NJ.gov/treasury/pensions/documents/pdf/mbos-flier.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions/documents/pdf/mbos-flier.pdf)



**Returns to
PO Box 502
Augusta, NJ 07822**

First Vice President Report

By Sharon Mullen

This is my last report as First Vice President as I am assuming the presidency in September. I would like to thank the entire Executive Committee for mentoring me in my role as VP and for all of their years of dedicated service to SCREA.

All SCREA members should have received your reimbursement for co-pays from last year. If you did not receive it, please call Aetna at **866-816-3662**. The number is on the back of your card. Also please remember to report your Wellness Activities to Aetna to receive your gift cards. This includes a home health visit, flu shots, vision exam, colorectal screening, mammogram and exercise classes. The purpose is to promote a healthy lifestyle. That number is **855-255-5435**.

Recently it came to our attention that some home and auto insurance companies give a discount on their policies to retired teachers. Please call your provider to determine if you qualify under your policy.

Have a great summer!



Meet Incoming SCREA President Sharon Mullen

Sharon has been our First VP and chair of the Scholarship committee. She retired from Lenape Valley High School after teaching Spanish for 40 years. She was the sponsor of the National Honor Society and Membership chair of her local. Sharon is the President of the Sussex County branch of AAUW. She and her husband David have a daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters who live in Delaware.