

The A-RE-NEWS

Newsletter of the Association of
Retirees of Eversource and
Northeast Utilities (ARENU)
PO Box 270 Hartford CT 06141-0270

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From the CT Chapter President

Dear Fellow ARENU Members:



Larry Levy

I hope you are in good health and enjoying this holiday season with family and friends. As I reflect on the past year at ARENU, we have had many good speakers at our monthly meetings on subjects of interest to retirees. Please consider attending our

meetings to hear presentations that are relevant to you and maybe a family member. Feel free to bring a friend or family member with you.

Running our chapter smoothly requires a lot of help from many individuals. In this final newsletter of 2017, I would like to thank and recognize these members who do so much for ARENU. I am grateful to the following who help make our volunteer organization run efficiently.

Everett Spencer, CT Chapter Treasurer, does a great job in keeping our finances in order year after year. He runs our 50/50 raffle at every meeting, which helps cover our annual expenses, so we do not have to raise our application fee, or seek additional funding. Thank you Everett for assisting with all our chapter activities.



Sandy Nesci does a fantastic job with publishing our quarterly newsletter. She takes our input and transforms it into an organized, professional looking newsletter, with funny clip art as well. Thank you Sandy for all your hard work throughout the year. It is much appreciated.



Doris Torrey works hard as our Secretary and Office Manager. She takes care of our correspondence with new members, keeps our data base up to date, and runs the ARENU office. Doris does an outstanding job, and we are fortunate to have her on our team.



Linda Yost, our Trip Chairperson, puts together many great trips throughout the year. She is always upbeat and develops many very interesting excursions for our members. Linda is always looking for feedback and ideas for upcoming trips. Thank you Linda for your perseverance, and for organizing trips that are interesting and fun for our members.



Rich Greene is our Golf Tournament Chairman. He and his committee run a very successful tournament every summer. Attendance has been excellent, and the attendees have a good time. Thanks Rich for running this great event every year.



Les Davison, former ARENU Chairman, is available to fill in if I cannot attend a meeting, and steps in for Doris when necessary. Les is also my advisor when issues arise that are not easily resolved. Thanks Les for your guidance and assistance.



Holiday Luncheon Volunteers – Thank you to our holiday luncheon volunteers who help make this a successful event. Thanks to our Registration Committee: **Johanna Kerr**, and **Linda Maher**, who welcome our luncheon attendees and distribute the name tags. Thanks to **Alice Kelly** who prints the name tags with a quick turnover during the Thanksgiving holiday period. Thank you to **Peter Sullivan** who collects the checks for the luncheon and keeps such an accurate spreadsheet year after year. Thank you to the Holiday Luncheon 50/50 Raffle Committee consisting of **Helen Wong**, **Karoll Wiater**, and **Everett Spencer**. This was the first year for Helen and Karoll, and we collected \$420 for our chapter!

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Finally, thank you to our members who make my job as President a worthwhile activity, and who appreciate the work that needs to get accomplished to make ARENU a viable and successful organization for the past 29 years.



The following articles were written by CzepigaDalyPope LLC.

We have had Paul Czepiga give several presentations at our CT Chapter meetings on legal issues affecting retirees.

When a Spouse Dies: One Reason You Must File With the Probate Court

Your spouse just passed away, and everything your spouse owned had a joint or beneficiary designation. All of your spouse's assets go to you without having to go through **probate** first. End of story, right? Not exactly.

Did you know that you still have to file paperwork with the probate court? **At the very least, a Connecticut estate tax return must be filed**, even if no tax is due. Not filing can cause problems for you down the road, and here's why.



All property have liens when one owner dies.

There are two invisible liens that the State of Connecticut automatically places on real property when one of the owners passes away: The estate tax lien and the probate fee lien.

1. **The estate tax lien** is placed on the property no matter if your spouse owed tax or not, and it stays on until any tax owed is paid or the Probate Court certifies that no tax is owed by issuing a Release.
2. **The probate fee lien** is relatively new, having been introduced in July 2015. Just like the estate tax lien, it is placed on the property of every decedent in the State of Connecticut, but it is removed once the statutory probate fee (based on a percentage of the gross taxable estate) is paid.

What makes these liens tricky is that you won't see them show up on the land records, but they will appear on a title search.

If a title search shows these liens, you will likely have problems trying to sell the property. It will show up as a defect in the title, raising a red flag for both the title insurance company and the prospective buyer. As a result, a buyer will likely not want to buy it, and for good reason:

why assume the risk that estate taxes or probate fees may still be owed?

The other problem with keeping the liens on the property is that your spouse's name will technically remain on the title until these liens are released.

How to remove the liens

Now that we've talked about the problem, how do we fix it?

Think about it this way: **The lien on the house acts like a lock that effectively prevents it from being sold.**

What you need is a key, and that key is the Release from the Probate Court. They will not issue this Release until the estate tax return is filed and any necessary estate taxes and probate fees are paid.

What if you never plan on selling the property?

It is true that you may continue living in your house for the rest of your days and never even notice the liens on the property (after all, they are invisible). But what happens when you pass away?



Let's say, for example, that your son inherits it and tries to sell it after you die. First, he has to file an estate tax return and pay the probate fee for your spouse's estate, and then he has to do it for your estate.

Why leave him with that headache?

To obtain the "key" to release the liens on the property, you may just need to file an estate tax return, or you may need to open a full probate estate. It depends on the amount and nature of your spouse's assets.



Beneficiary Designations: Don't Wait Any Longer

Assigning and updating beneficiary designations for your retirement plans, life insurance policies, and annuities are tasks that notoriously get ignored. While the process itself is usually pretty straightforward — putting someone's name on a form — the consequences of your choice can be fairly substantial. Don't wait any longer!

Who to choose as beneficiaries

You can name any of the usual suspects as a beneficiary — your spouse, children, or other relatives. You can also name friends, trusts, charities, and even various institutions like colleges, universities, libraries, and so forth.

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CT President's Letter (continued from Page 2)

There are some cases, however, in which it's best to take the additional step of setting up a [trust](#).

- **You should not name underage children or individuals with special needs as direct beneficiaries.** People who fall into these categories will most likely need guidance from a more experienced individual who can help them make financially sound decisions. In addition, if they are direct beneficiaries, individuals with special needs who are receiving a government benefit such as Supplemental Security Income ([SSI](#)) risk losing that benefit if their inheritance makes them financially ineligible. You may want to look into a [special needs trust](#).
- **In the case of young children** without the requisite experience handling money, simply assigning a trustee and designating an age at which the beneficiary gains rights over the assets is not always sufficient. In case after case, it has been shown that when someone who has only just achieved status as an adult (at somewhere between 18 and 21 years of age) is given a large sum of money, it usually ends badly. A better solution might be to set up some kind of lifetime trust that will help protect the assets while still making a portion of them available the heir.
- In a similar vein, **loved ones who have proven that they consistently make irresponsible financial decisions** should also not be named as direct beneficiaries, and should be designated only under terms similar to those described for an inexperienced child.

Finally, it's important to assign secondary or contingent beneficiaries in case your primary beneficiary dies before you do, or you die together. In such cases, if you failed to designate secondary beneficiaries, distribution of your assets will be handled as though you had not named a beneficiary at all.

Keep your beneficiary designations up to date

Designating beneficiaries is not a once-and-done task. [Life events](#) such as marriage, divorce, birth, and death can change your estate plans. It's important to review your beneficiary designations each year to ensure that they reflect your most current wishes.

Beneficiary designations typically become active immediately after death, and they override any instructions that may be in a Will regarding the distribution of assets. For this reason, it's very important to keep your various beneficiary designations up to date. You would not want, for instance, for a retirement account or life insurance policy to be distributed to an ex-spouse.

Consider tax liabilities

There are also, as is usually the case, several tax issues to consider. While individuals are typically able to inherit from their spouses without having to worry about estate taxes or forced payouts, other heirs may need to be protected from such situations.

To avoid unintentionally putting undue financial burdens on your beneficiaries, it's a good idea to talk with them about your plans so that you can discuss any potential liabilities and how to avoid them.

Designating beneficiaries for important assets is not a difficult task, but it is one for which due diligence and careful consideration are warranted.

It's worth it to take the time to get everything properly structured so that you and your heirs don't have to deal with negative consequences later on.



Recent Meetings

October 30, 2017 Our speaker was Lee Olivier, Executive Vice President, Enterprise Energy Strategy & Business Development. Lee is responsible for the company's energy policy, long range strategic plans, competitive position, and business development. Lee gave an excellent presentation on the direction Eversource is taking for the future.

November 29, 2017 Holiday Luncheon at the Aqua Turf. Our speaker was Denise D'Ascenzo from TV Channel 3 News. Denise was fantastic. She has a warm personality and is passionate about her job at Channel 3 News. The standing ovation she received at the conclusion of her presentation showed how much our attendees enjoyed and appreciated her presentation.

Upcoming CT Chapter Meetings

At this time I have not scheduled speakers for 2018, so **if you have any suggestions**, please forward them to me along with their contact information. It is not easy to find a known personality to give a presentation at our holiday luncheon (at no cost), so your input would be appreciated. I hope you will attend our informative monthly meetings, and show your support for ARENU.



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ARENU CHAPTER NEWS

CT President's Letter *(continued from Page 3)*

Dates for our 2018 meetings

Please mark your calendars with the following dates of our monthly meetings, which begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Eversource Berlin office:



- April 11
- May 16
- June 20
- September 12
- October 17
- Holiday Luncheon: November 28

Wishing you and your family a healthy and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Larry Levy

Connecticut Chapter President

E-Mail: LEVYL2@Yahoo.com

(860) 523-9570



OBITUARIES

Our sympathy to the family and friends of those listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>
Mary Hosmer	9/27/17	WMECO	1974
Edmund Bialaski	10/18/17	NU	11/1/94
George Evon	11/10/17	NU	10/1/88
Harold A. Sackett	11/12/17	NU	2/1/80
Joseph C. Mikulak	11/12/17	NU	2/1/85
Wayne Boulais	11/19/17	WMECO	5/1/93
John Fracasso	11/25/17	CL&P	4/1/89
Timothy O'Sullivan	11/27/17	NU	8/1/92
John J. Kelleher	11/30/17	NU	2/1/89
Donald Clark	12/10/17	WMECO	4/1/91
Howland Mueller	12/14/17	CL&P	12/1/86

ARENU CHAPTER NEWS

NEWS FROM LINDA YOST, TRAVEL COORDINATOR

Hello Fellow Retirees:

After enjoying a beautiful summer and a warm and pleasant fall, we have arrived at Wintertime which means snow, freezing rain and ice – not the kind of weather we want to be traveling in to celebrate the Holiday Season!

A Trip Presentation will be scheduled shortly for some time in January and will take place from **10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** in the **Eversource Cafeteria**. You will be given a much better opportunity to see what each trip consists of, offering you a much better opportunity to choose the trip most suited to your liking. Stay tuned for the date

Day Trips You Can Enjoy:

A Taste of Cape Cod, Thursday, June 14th

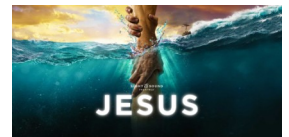
Exploring Our Past, Sunday, August 12th

The Colors of Autumn, Tuesday, September 25th



Other Trips that are showing a lot of interest are:

The 3-day trip to see **JESUS** at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, the biggest event in the Northeast in 2018: October 15-17th. I am half full already so **PLEASE** plan to register **ASAP!**



Iceland Inspired: We still have room on a second trip that has been scheduled. Please call **ASAP** – this will also fill quickly as they have the past two years – an incredible trip!



Europe's Special Christmas Markets, November 26-December 2.

Please see the trip list below. For more information about any trip, go to: www.arenu.org. This will enable you to click on any of the trips for additional information, cost, and how to book a trip. Registration forms are available to register for any trips you may be interested in. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions at (860-657-3407) or email me at (lgystct@cox.net).

I look forward to hearing back from you and also to share time together on any of these wonderful trips!

As you may well imagine, a lot of time and effort goes into selecting trips and assigning them dates. I ask you to voice **YOUR** opinion - that is the only way I can provide what you would like to see and do. Your feedback is greatly needed and appreciated.

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Travel & Entertainment (continued from Page 5)

May the **New Year** find you ready to share in new adventures and happy days with friends and loved ones.

God bless.

Fondly,

Linda Yost

Trip Coordinator
lgyostct@cox.net

860-657-3407

245 Georgetown Drive
Glastonbury, CT 06033



TRIP LIST: **WEBSITE:** www.arenu.org

- [Cruise to Bermuda | April 20-27, 2018](#)
- [Ireland Uncovered | May 9-16, 2018](#)
- [Tulip Time Festival – Holland, MI | May 8-15, 2018](#)
- [France’s Hidden Canals – Loire Valley | June 26-July 4, 2018](#)
 - Book by January 31, 2018 & Save \$200 pp
- [Cruising Adriatic’s Eastern Shore | July 15-22, 2018](#)
 - Book by December 31, 2017 & Save \$100 pp
- [Classic Cape May | September 17-19, 2018](#)
- [Wonderful Vietnam | September 20-30, 2018](#)
 - Book by January 31, 2018 & Save \$100 pp
- [3-Day JESUS at Sight & Sound Theatre – Lancaster, PA | October 15-17, 2018](#)
- [Tuscany to Amalfi | October 1-11, 2018](#)
 - Book by December 31, 2017 & Save \$200 pp
- [Iceland Inspired | November 2-9, 2018 – Limited Space/Top Destination 2018](#)
- [Europe’s Special Christmas Markets | November 26-December 3, 2018](#)

Day-Trips

- [A Taste of Cape Cod | June 14, 2018](#)
- [Colors of Vermont | September 25, 2018](#)
- [Exploring Our Past | August 12, 2018](#)

ARENU CHAPTER NEWS

2018 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA NU RETIREE LUNCHEON

(Combined Ft. Myers/Pinellas Park groups)

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

Noon – 3:30 p.m. (Lunch served at 12:30 p.m.)

Peridia Golf & Country Club, 4950 Peridia Blvd. E, Bradenton, FL *** (4 miles west of Exit 217 off I-75)



QUESTIONS?? Contact Donna Drasdis (239) 970-2076 (H) or (860) 597-2873 (C);
or Email at: ddras33@comcast.net

\$20 per person

Includes: Entree, Caesar Salad, Rolls & Butter, Spumoni, Coffee,
Tea, Iced Tea, Tax & Gratuity. (Cash Bar)

Please make checks payable to: Donna Drasdis

RSVP by: 2/15/18

Cut or tear here >>> -----

2016 S.W. FLORIDA NU RETIREE LUNCHEON

Mail this coupon & payment to:

Donna Drasdis, 795 Dove Ct., Marco Island, FL 34145

All meals are \$20 per person.



Name(s): (Please Print) _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Menu Choice: () Salmon Piccata* () Chicken Marsala*
 () Home-Style Pot Roast* () Pasta Primavera

* These entrees served with roasted red potatoes and buttered green beans.



Holiday Luncheon - The Massachusetts Chapter held their annual holiday party at the Carriage House in Storowton Village on December 5. Members and guests enjoyed a wonderful meal followed by caroling lead by **Michele Witowski**. Many attendees left with beautiful door prizes including holiday floral arrangements, gift baskets, chocolates, etc. The colonial buildings in Storowton Village were beautifully decorated in style for the holiday season.

CT Chapter Holiday Luncheon - 11/29/2017

Aqua Turf Country Club

