

Addison County Retired Educators Association Program 2025 – 2026



*Champlain Orchards - September Program
(photo used with permission)*

Officers

Co-Presidents – Teri Fitz-Gerald & Lauren Parren

Secretary – Anne Friedrichs, looking for assistant

Treasurer – Marilyn Needham

Membership – Susanne Slayton, assisted by Barbara Fitzpatrick

VREA Representative – Rita Smith, looking for assistant

Visit our website at www.acreavt.org

Program Schedule

This year we are trying to accommodate more members by meeting on days other than Wednesday sometimes and we have avoided any known early release days from the local schools. We hope you can make several of the programs planned and encourage other retired educators to join us as well! At the end of the packet is a one page schedule of events that you can print out for convenience.

Any program updates & sign-up (if needed) will be emailed prior to each event.

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Champlain Orchards Tour

Meet at 11:00 at the Orchard

3597 VT Route 74 W, Shoreham, VT

Champlain Orchards grows a large variety of fruits. Come tour and learn what all they grow and how their operation works. Of course we will be there during apple season and we will take a tour of the orchard - by small school bus to bring back those field trip memories! The tour costs \$16 and includes the tour, ride, donut, 5 pounds of PYO apples, and sweet cider tasting. Hard cider tasting is an extra \$5 (a flight equivalent to one regular size hard cider). They will also provide a menu of charcuterie boards and possibly tapas - we will get the menu once they know what is available in the fall and you will order ahead for anything from the menu or bring your own picnic lunch.

Lunch: Champlain Orchards offers a limited menu & the options will be sent with the sign up for the event & you can also bring your own picnic lunch

Chair: Teri Fitz-Gerald

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Banjo Dan - Songs of Vermont

10:00 a.m. at The Residence at Otter Creek

350 Lodge Rd. Middlebury, VT

Come meet and listen to Dan Lindner, song writer, musician, and singer. He will share his stories explaining the inspiration, development, and recording feats for his Vermont based songs as well as illustrate them by playing and singing some of his favorites. This event will also be open to the public, so be sure to reserve your spot when the sign up is sent out.

Lunch: Provided by The Residence

Chairs: Teri Fitz-Gerald and Marilyn Needham

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Turtles of Vermont

Molly Parren, Fish & Wildlife Technician

10:00 a.m. at Monkton Town Hall Community Room
92 Monkton Ridge, Monkton, VT

Vermont is home to seven species of turtles, four of which are species of greatest conservation need. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and its collaborators are working to learn more about these species and how best to protect them. This talk will introduce you to the species, their unique life histories, and the work being done around the state to conserve turtles and their habitats. Join Monkton resident Molly Parren, Vt Fish and Wildlife Technician, and Mt. Abe graduate, to learn about these amazing animals, and also what you and your family might do to protect them.

Lunch: TBD, local caterer or sandwich shop items in the same space
Chair: Lauren Parren

Friday December 12, 2025

Holiday Luncheon

11:30 a.m. Home of Anne Friedrichs, 1 South St., Middlebury

Anne has invited us to her home in Middlebury for our annual holiday luncheon again this year! Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for HOPE or place an order via their website. Watch your email for details of what is needed & how to order this year. RSVP via the Google Form that will be emailed a couple of weeks prior to this event.

Lunch: Main entree catered & sides/desserts by members
Chair: Anne Friedrichs

Tuesday March 10, 2026

Charlie Farrell, One Room Schoolhouses Across Vermont

10:00 a.m. at Monkton Historical Society Museum

In the Monkton Town Hall, lower level

92 Monkton Ridge, Monkton, VT

Charlie Farrell, the founder of the Vermont School House Project, will join us to tell the stories of some one-room school houses in Vermont. Since 2006 he has been creating an historical inventory of the schools that have served Vermont students. Each school is identified with a brief history of the building and photographs (when available) and he posts almost daily on FaceBook. 1300 people follow his posts. His talk with slides will evoke memories and appreciation for teachers of yore. Charlie is one of us: A retired educator!

Following his presentation we will also visit the one-room school exhibit in the new Monkton History Museum, downstairs from the room where we'll be meeting. Lauren Parren spent over a year putting it together and she'll be happy to answer any questions.

Lunch: TBD, local caterer or sandwich shop items at the Town Hall

Chair: Lauren Parren

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Matt Schlein, Camino de Santiago

10:00 a.m. Bixby Library, Vergennes

258 Main St, Vergennes, VT

Matt Schlein is a former actor, writer, and director, currently serving as Founder and Director of The Willowell Foundation. Matt was the director of the Walden Project at Vergennes Union High School for many years. He is also a world traveler. Today he will share a slideshow and talk about his walk on the Camino de Santiago from lower France, through Spain to the Mediterranean.

Lunch: Rucker's Pizzeria

Chairs: Susanne Slayton and Marilyn Needham

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Kara Griswold & Kathleen Scacciaferro, Sacred Healing

10:00 a.m. at The Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Rd. Middlebury, VT

Participants will learn what Healing Touch is as a practice. They will view and learn about Egypt through the chakra system that offers a unique spiritual and symbolic journey that aligns the seven chakras of yogic philosophy with major temples, gods and goddesses, and geographical locations of ancient Kemet (Egypt). Each chakra corresponds to a part of the Nile River, which ancient Egyptians saw as a sacred spine of the Earth, mirroring the human body's energy centers.

Lunch: provided by the Residence
Chair: Susanne Slayton and Marilyn Needham

Tuesday, June 2, 2026
(Raindate Wednesday June 3, 2026)
Annual Meeting & Picnic
Button Bay State Park Pavilion
11 a.m. at the day use area pavilion
5 Button Bay State Park Rd, Vergennes
Speaker TBD

As this date approaches we try to find a local legislator, senior advocate, or education spokesperson available for our date and time. We will announce the speaker and topic via email when we get closer to our meeting date.

Lunch: Picnic provided by ACREA
Chair: Teri Fitz-Gerald

ACREA Dues

If you wish to become a member or have new contact information, please fill out this form, enclose a check payable to ACREA for \$15. Send information to Marilyn Needham, 79 Halpin Rd., Middlebury, VT 05753 or bring it to the next meeting.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

VREA Dues

Please consider also joining the **Vermont Retired Educators' Association**. Your membership is critical to protecting your state benefits! Dues are \$12.00 per year. Either mail your membership directly, or add it to our group mailing in September. The annual VREA Meeting is scheduled for September

*Continue to support Vermont Education
As a Member of the*



Vermont Retired Educators' Association

Did you know that retiring does not mean you have to give up your activism and your advocacy on behalf of educators and students? The Vermont Retired Educators' Association continues those opportunities.

What does the VREA do for you?

- The VREA Board of Directors select two retired educators as a member and an alternate member of the VT State Teachers' Retirement Board of Trustees for a four-year term.
- VREA coordinates with VT-NEA to inform you of legislative efforts to protect your pension, health benefits and other issues that may affect you and your retirement security.
- VREA keeps you connected to fellow retired educators.
- VREA provides opportunities to share your expertise by volunteering and mentoring in your local community and recognizes your efforts at the state level.
- VREA sends you four mailings of the VREA Newsletter with reports from Officers and Directors of the state and local units.
- VREA supports four scholarships given to four graduating students of The Community High School of Vermont which is operated within the Vermont correctional system.

Membership Information (Print)

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____
Email: _____ Telephone number _____

Do you prefer to get your newsletter: (Circle One) **VIRTUALLY** **MAIL**

Dues **\$12** _____ Scholarship Gift: _____ Total _____ Payable to VREA: _____

Membership Year: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Effective 5/6/25 Mail Check to: Kyleen M. Martelle, 11829 Robert Way Dr., Rockford, MI 49341
Questions: kmmvrea@gmail.com (Subject Line) VREA

To learn more, go to: VREA.website

Volunteer Hours

Please keep track of your volunteer hours. The Vermont Retired Educators Association presents the total time volunteered by all retired teachers to the VT Treasurer to illustrate our continued contributions to our communities.

VREA YOUTH/COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HOURS JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026

Your Name: _____ Your

Unit (County): _____

Description of Activity Performed Number of Community Volunteer Hours

Total Community Volunteer Hours _____

Description of Activity Performed Number of Youth Volunteer Hours

Total Youth Volunteer Hours _____

Community Hours _____ + Youth Hours _____ = Total Hours _____

Please give this form to your unit president by the end of June so that s/he can get them to the unit director to take to the July state meeting. Thank you!

Past Presidents

1964-66 Mary Wood
1966-68 Ida Ufford
1968-70 Lois Burke
1970-72 Ada St. George
1972-75 Ruth Hesselgrave
1975-76 Gertrude Bicknell
1976-77 Margaret Baker
1977-78 Travis Harris
1978-81 Marie Farnham
1981-83 Myra Stetson
1983-84 Edna Tatro
1984-85 George Tyler
1985-87 Ruth Steadman
1987-89 Victoria Sappio
1989-92 Evelyn Dike

1992-94 Charlotte Hammond
1994-96 Alice Perine
1996-98 Jean Littlefield
1998-00 Mary Petrusich
2000-02 Helen de Courval
2002-04 George Tyler
2004-08 Stanley Berger
2008-10 Diana Cotter
2010-12 Stanley Berger
2012-18 Alice Maurer & Lenore Morse
2018-22 Carol Kress & Teri Fitz-Gerald
2022-23 Teri Fitz-Gerald & Anne Friedrichs
2023-current Teri Fitz-Gerald & Lauren Parren

ACREA 2025 - 2026 Calendar of Events

2025

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11:00 Champlain Orchards
3597 VT Route 74, Shoreham

Wednesday, October 8
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Dan Lindner
10:00 a.m. Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Rd, Middlebury

Wednesday, November 12
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Molly Parren
10:00 a.m. Monkton Town Hall
Community Room
92 Monkton Ridge, Monkton

Friday December 12
Holiday Luncheon
11:30 a.m. Home of Anne Friedrichs, 1
South Street, Middlebury

2026

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One Room Schoolhouses in VT
Charlie Farrell
10:00 a.m. Monkton Town Hall
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Thursday, April 9
Camino de Santiago
Matt Schlein
10:00 a.m. Bixby Library
258 Main Street, Vergennes

Tuesday, May 12
Sacred Healing
Kara Griswold &
Kathleen Scacciaferro
10:00 a.m. Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Rd, Middlebury

Tuesday, June 2
Annual Meeting & Picnic
Button Bay State Park
11:00 am at the Pavilion
5 Button Bay SP Rd, Vergennes
Speaker TBD, Rain date June 3

The full program with descriptions &
annual forms can be found at our
website: www.acreavt.org

Watch your email for updates
&
to RSVP when needed