

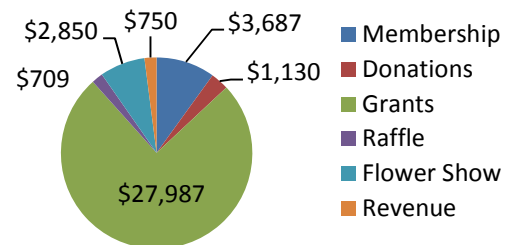


RIEEA's Accomplishments in 2016:

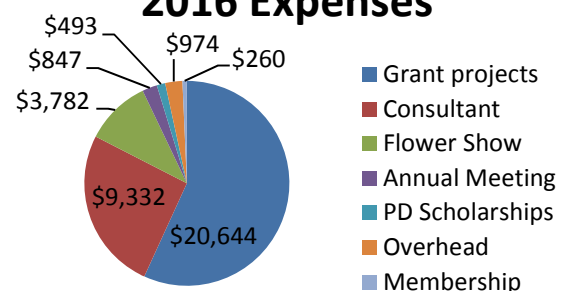
- RIEEA kicked off the year with our **Annual Meeting** at Rhode Island College on January 12. The gathering featured Welcoming Remarks by the new Commissioner of RI Department of Education, Dr. Ken Wagner, and an inspiring panel presentation with some of our state's most exemplary teachers who have successfully integrated environmental education into school day learning.
- RIEEA organized the fifth floor **Kids Adventure Zone** at the 2016 Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show in February. The RIEEA team designed another magical and interactive exhibit for families, coordinated all youth activities and presentations, and displayed the works of schools that participated in the Dream Outdoor Classroom Design Contest. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!
- With funding from US EPA Region 1, the New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) convened **Climate Change Education** events across New England. In RI, RIEEA worked with the RI Chapter of the US Green Building Council to deliver a dynamic, full day workshop for educators, architects, landscape designers, and others on March 16.
- RIEEA members participated again this year as "**Environmental Education Experts**" in ongoing professional and leadership development for RI teachers and principals through the University of RI's Guiding Education in Math and Science Network (GEMS-Net).
- On July 5 RIEEA hosted a fundraiser at **Flatbread Pizza Company** in Providence raising over \$700 to support RIEEA's ongoing efforts to advance environmental literacy in the State. Thank you to everyone who enjoyed delicious pizza that night!
- RIEEA received funding this year from the Albert I. Pierce Foundation to revive Rhode Island's **Project Learning Tree** program. Our new facilitators worked cooperatively to develop and conduct five workshops in which 94 teachers were trained in the curriculum. We were also able to offer funding to two elementary schools to attend a field trip at a nearby tree farm where students will engage in Project Learning Tree activities on the property.
- On July 13-15 RIEEA convened the **Environmental Literacy Assessment Planning Summit** with generous support from the Rhode Island Foundation and the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). The two-day workshop with expert advisors from the national EE field and local stakeholders helped RIEEA develop a strategic plan outlining four distinct and interwoven initiatives, each essential to the purpose of assessing and advancing the current state of environmental literacy in Rhode Island.
- An impressive and impactful **\$650 in professional development scholarships** were awarded to RIEEA members in 2016.



2016 Income



2016 Expenses



Strategic Plan Completed!

In 2016 RIEEA reflected on its achievements aligned with its recently completed strategic plan. While a few of the goals originally set forth in 2012 required flexibility as landscapes shifted internally, locally and nationally RIEEA successfully accomplished or took significant steps toward accomplishing almost every single objective through tremendously effective collaboration and a shared vision for widespread environmental literacy in our state. Here are some of the highlights:

Marketing and Communications

- ✓ RIEEA hosts a robust and active website and database providing EE resources for educators.
- ✓ RIEEA has an active social media presence and is making more friends every day. Join our conversations on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest!
- ✓ RIEEA's listserv is being used as a lively forum for information sharing and networking.
- ✓ RIEEA's participation in the RI Spring Flower & Garden Show has helped the organization's message reach a broader audience with over 25,000 people from all over the state attending the event each year.

Professional Development

- ✓ RIEEA's "Coffee & Conversation" series at the opening of each Board meeting provides meaningful opportunities for community building and peer learning.
- ✓ RIEEA has awarded over \$2,100 in professional development scholarships since 2012 for members to attend workshops and conferences across the country and to bring their new skills and experiences back to RI.
- ✓ RIEEA has been organizing the Dream Outdoor Classroom Design Contest for schools who participate in the Outdoor Classroom Design training with DownCity Design. Winners receive \$500 along with other goods and services to help them towards realizing their dream design!
- ✓ RIEEA continues to expand its partnership with University of RI's GEMS-Net program in a mutual effort to bring formal and non-formal educators together for strengthened learning opportunities in our schools.
- ✓ RIEEA organized the historic joint NEEEA Conference & Sustainable Schools Summit in 2013 bringing together over 300 people from adjacent but not yet overlapping sectors across New England to engage in cross-sector collaboration, share best practices, and cultivate leadership skills for widespread environmental literacy adoption and implementation in the context of sustainable, healthy schools.

Environmental Literacy Advocacy

- ✓ RIEEA forged a unique pathway for sharing and implementing the RI Environmental Literacy Plan by integrating the plan into school construction protocols with RIDE's School Building Authority (SBA). Through this collaboration schools engaging in major renovations or new construction demonstrate plans to use the school's new high performance features in school curriculum with support from RIDE approved EE specialists.
- ✓ RIEEA is an active partner with RIDE to oversee the Green Ribbon Schools program in RI.
- ✓ RIEEA has enjoyed an ongoing and active partnership with RIDE's Science and Technology Specialists over the years as the Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum develops strategies for strengthening effective relationships between formal and non-formal educators.

Organizational Development

- ✓ RIEEA's organizational budgets are established and approved by the Board on an annual basis.
- ✓ RIEEA has been steadily and sustainably expanding its budget and diversifying its funding sources.
- ✓ RIEEA has been able to continue to support Jeanine Silversmith's role as Coordinator to carry out each new project and ensure the organization's continued operation.

Thank you to all RIEEA members over the years for your energy and enthusiasm on our work committees and to everyone who has been part of this journey. We are looking forward to embarking on the next phase of our work to elevate environmental literacy and hope you will continue to be a critical part of that effort!

RIEEA's Mission: to promote high quality environmental education throughout the state that increases the environmental literacy of all children and adults.