



WORCESTER, MA



Greetings!

As I write, we are journeying from the Amalfi Coast to Tuscany in Italy. Christmas decorations have begun to appear in the streets, and shops are full of colorful gift items. Experiencing the joys of travel with our many friends has made me think of the

great opportunities provided by the Retired Friends Club of Greendale.

Our team of experienced trip leaders study and research excursions that they think will provide our members with lifelong, positive memories. Our Project Committee considers, discusses and reviews each trip so that travelers will be assured a wonderful experience. Our Club's trip leaders are Dick Pinkes, George Barry, Dick Shea, Jim Hester, Ralph Shapiro, Wilson McLaren, John Kelly, Jim Gallagher, Cheryl and Rick Ferguson. My mentor and dear friend, Tom Cullinane, was a master of travel. Thousands joined him and he helped to ensure the very best practices every trip leader has developed.

December, being the last month of the year, is a good time to reflect upon our families, our experiences and to think about the many places locally, nationally and internationally available to all of you. I encourage each of you to travel with us and to create your own memories to share with your family and friends during the holiday seasons. A great Christmas gift to yourselves is to sign up for a trip. It just may be the most memorable gift you've ever given yourselves. From our family to yours we wish you a very happy and glorious Christmas.

— RICK FERGUSON, President



Check out this great line-up of Programs!

We invite our members, friends, and spouse to be our guests at ALL of these great programs held at the Greendale YMCA. Come at 8AM for Coffee & Donuts. Meeting begins at 9AM with our Color Guard followed by our Chorus and the Program.

Please join us for the annual Christmas/Hanukkah musical presentation by the **RFCG Chorus** directed by **Lee Bartlett.**

Dec 18 **FRIENDS CHRISTMAS PARTY – YMCA**

This annual event features a great buffet and holiday songs by the RFCG chorus, guest speakers and door prizes.

Starts at 10 AM (rain, snow or shine).

See Jim Hester for tickets.



Tickets Required for this Event

Dec 25 & Jan 1 NO MEETINGS

Jan 8 The King of Rock 'n' Roll



Mike Slater is a top booked Elvis Impersonator and has been called upon to sing throughout New England! We will be returned to the days of our youth when the "King" changed the course of music history! You'll be sure to have a fabulous time listening to "Elvis," and singing along!

Jan 15 **Public Education / Great Equalizer**

From her position on the Shrewsbury School Committee and years of service in Urban Education, **Sandra Fryc** has worked tirelessly to provide inclusion and a level playing field for all students. Sandra has decades of expertise as a Master teacher and is on the cutting edge of education today. She will



share with us why everyone (young and old) benefit when our public school system works well.

continued on page 2

More Upcoming Programs (continued)

Jan 22

Dennis the Magician

Dennis Pimenta has been performing magic since 1964. His unique shows consist of magic, comedy, live animals, audience participation and fun for all ages.



Jan 29

Landmark Supreme Court Decisions



We are pleased to welcome back our 2 favorite legal scholars: **The Honorable Martha Grace** who is the retired Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court, and **Atty John**

(Jack) Ross who practiced law for many years in Washington DC. He is now affiliated with WISE Program (Worcester Institute for Senior Education).

Feb 5

— Alzheimer's — Local Connection

Peter White is the Community Educator for the Mass/NH chapter of Alzheimer's Association. He will talk about Alzheimer's Disease and how its related to Dementia and its signs.



Chorus Group Activities Schedule

Our choral group will sing on meeting days, following practice. If you'd like to attend one or more of the following outside programs, call ahead to check space availability.

Jan 8 Wed.	1:30 p.m.	St. Mary's Health Care (508-753-4791) 39 Queen Street, Worcester		
Jan 22 Wed.	10:45 a.m.	Grafton Senior Center (508-839-9242) 30 Providence Road, Grafton N.B.: Pre-Register for Lunch		
Jan 29 Wed.	11:00 a.m.	Sutton Senior Center (508-243-0703) 10 Houth Road, Sutton N.B.: Pre-Register for Lunch		

Is there room for more in the chorus?

Of course. Just speak up to a singer at a meeting or show-up at a Wednesday, 7:30 rehearsal. The more the merrier!

Deceased Members

GERRY CONDON KENNETH F. MAHAN NORMAN R. MENARD CONRAD M. SWARTZ

We Invite You to Attend the Following Informative Trip Presentation

Thursday, Dec 19, 2024 - 1:00 PM at Immaculate Conception Church

353 Grove Street, Worcester (Parking in back) (The parish hall is in the basement of the church.)

The Seine Paris to Normandy

November 3 to 15, 2025 prices starting at \$4,345 pp/do



including Air from Boston

Enjoy this 13-day trip with 10 nights aboard the M/S Bizet cruising from Paris to Normandy. Your trip includes 30 meals (11B, 9L, 10D). There are 8 guided tours, 5 exclusive discovery series events, a French language session, a cooking demonstration and much more. Our stops include 3 days in Paris, then on to Conflans where you can take the "Path of Van Gogh tour. Next, we



cruise to Vernon and the village of Giverny. Day 7 finds us in Les Andelys and day 8 we are in Rouen, the Capital of Normandy. Rouen is where we will enjoy our "Home Hosted Visit". This is also the town where Joan of Arc was imprisoned. The following day while in Rouen, we will participate in a cooking demonstration and be treated to a French Cheese tasting before cruising on to our last port of Honfleur. Day 10 we arrive in Honfleur and a full day of D-Day discoveries, including Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach and the American Military Cemetery. Day 11 we will be treated to a walking tour of Honfleur in the morning with optional tours available in the afternoon. On day 12 we will disembark the ship and spend the day at the Peace Memorial Museum in Caen. After lunch, we will depart for Paris to prepare for our journey back home.

Please contact Trip Leader Ralph Shapiro to reserve a spot if you plan to attend this presentation or for more info.

(413) 537-2435 or ralphyshapiro@msn.com

If you know of any member who is ill, or has passed away, please contact the club secretary, Carol Bethoney at (508) 243-1204 or email cbitaly2@gmail.com

Do not contact the secretary for other issues.

For other issues please contact one our officers listed on our website

www.rfcg.info

or in person at one of our meetings.











Trip Descriptions

ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN

A TRIBUTE TO THE LEGENDS OF ROCK AND ROLL



April 10, 2025 \$134 pp (*Includes all gratuities*)

Highlights: Join us as we travel to West Springfield to the beautiful Carriage House. This modern banquet facility is part of the Storrowton Village – a reconstructed village of authentic 18th and 19th century buildings from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, assembled around a traditional town green. Our elegant dining area boast impressive chandeliers and plenty of room for dancing. Our entertainment today will be presented by Dave Colucci & Friends and features a musical tribute to rock and roll artists that left us far before their time – Buddy Holly, Big Bopper, James Joplin, Patsy Cline, Nat King and of course Elvis just to name a few. We'll hear hits that we know and love including: All Shook Up, Mack the Knife, That 'll be the Day, Pretty Woman, Time in a Bottle, Mary Lou, Crazy, Me and Bobby McGee, Close to You, Imagine and More. Our delicious luncheon, prepared by an efficient and friendly staff will include: Chicken Cordon Bleu, New England Scrod Au Gratin Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots and Ice Cream Puff. Call George with any questions and make your reservations earl for this exciting day.

Parking: Immaculate Conception Church

george.barry77@yahoo.com

LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE — LUNCHEON CRUISE



June 25, 2025 (Wednesday)\$150 pp

Highlights: Our destination today is Weirs Beach where we will board the MV Mount Washington for a two and a half-hour cruise on the crystal-clear waters, many coves and islands that make up the largest lake in NH. The captain will narrate our cruise on the lake. The boat has 4 levels each with its own bar and restroom facilities. Our captain will fill us in on the history of the lake and point out special landmarks as we take in the natural beauty of the lake as we sail between ports. During our cruise we'll enjoy a luncheon buffet featuring salads, several main courses, Dinner Rolls, Roasted Vegetables, Potatoes, and Dessert. Before returning home, we'll stop at the Kellerhause. Enjoy some ice cream or browse through the many rooms filled with gifts and souvenirs. This is truly a great location, and a great meal and cruise. This is a new trip for the club and there will only be one bus for this event.

Parking: Immaculate Conception Church

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes508-769-2913

rjpinkes1@verizon.net

NEWPORT PLAYHOUSE – IT'S YOUR FUNERAL

July 2, 2025 (*Thursday*)\$155

Highlights: We are off to Newport, RI for a driving tour of Ocean Drive and the mansions along Bellevue Avenue. We end our tour at the Newport Playhouse for their all you can eat buffet including coffee/tea and dessert followed by another hilarious comedy play in their theater – It's Your Funeral. This farce tells the story of George, who quit betting on the ponies a year ago after squandering his wife's inheritance nearly costing him their marriage. To make a fresh start, they open a funeral home and their first customer is the high profile funeral of a Senator's mother. But the plan falls apart when George faces bad news from his doctor, threats from his shady partners, a money laundering scam, suspicions from the Senator, and a visit from his former bookie. Let the laughter begin as spicy stand-up comedy routines provide a hilarious running comedy throughout this wickedly funny performance. But wait, there's more. We now return to our seats in the dining room where our pre-selected after show beverage and dessert awaits us while we enjoy a funny comedy cabaret to end our day at the Newport Playhouse.

Parking: Immaculate Conception Church

Trip Leader: Dick Pinkes508-769-2913 rjpinkes1@verizon.net

SONG, DANCE & ROMANCE — AQUA TURF



August 12, 2025 (*Tuesday*)\$122pp

Highlights: We'll be celebrating music through the decades at the Aqua Turf Club. We'll first enjoy a complimentary tray of donuts and coffee on arrival. This will be followed by a delicious luncheon served family style - includes a fresh green salad, Baked Cod, Chicken Marsala, Pasta, potatoes and vegetables. A Complimentary glass of beer or wine, Coffee, Tea, Decaf and desert are also included. This will all be followed by a fantastic show by Ritchie Mitnick on the Yamaha keyboard playing music through the days for your listening and dancing pleasure. Hear music from Kenny Rogers, Tim McGraw, Dionne Warwick, Dianna Ross and Roberta Flack to name a few. You'll enjoy every minute of this powerful tribute to these world renowned entertainers. Join your friends for a wonderful combination of great cuisine and entertainment. One more thing, they provide a free raffle for some great prizes. This is truly a great location, meal and show. Sign up early as these Aqua Turf shows sells out fast.

Parking: Immaculate Conception Church

Trip Leader: Rick Ferguson 508-688-4427

rwfergy@icloud.com

Day & Overnight Trips For The Years 2024–2026

	Day Tr	IPS			
DESTINATION	DATES	F/SALE	PRICE	LEADER(S)	TELEPHONE
Friend's Christmas Party – YMCA	12/18/24	NOW	\$10	Jim Hester	978-618-5422
St. Patrick's Luncheon and Show - Aqua Turf	3/11/25	NOW	\$122	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Rock & Roll Heaven - at the Carriage House	4/10/25	NOW	\$134	George Barry	508-799-0739
Ladies' Day Luncheon	5/8/25	TBD	TBD	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
* Lake Winnipesaukee - Luncheon Cruise	6/25/25	NOW	\$150	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* Newport Playhouse - "It's Your Funeral"	7/2/25	NOW	\$155	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Celebrate Italia - Aqua Turf	7/8/25	NOW	\$125	George Barry	508-799-0739
Lake Sunapee Luncheon Cruise	7/31/25	NOW	\$134	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
* Song, Dance & Romance - Aqua Turf	8/12/25	NOW	\$122	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Annual Corn Roast – SAC Park Shrewsbury	8/13/25	-	FREE		
* Fever 'N Chills Show - Aqua Turf	11/11/25	NOW	\$122	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
	Overnight	TRIPS			
Atlantic City at the Resorts	2/17-19/25	NOW	\$385	Wilson McLaren	508-869-2451
Exotic Repositioning Caribbean Cruise – Tampa to Boston	3/28-4/11/25	NOW	\$2,837/4,243	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Niagara Falls and Toronto	5/12-16/25	NOW	\$1,099	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
England, Scotland and Wales	5/15-30/25	NOW	\$5,545	Rick Ferguson	508-688-4427
Victorian Cape May	6/16-19/25	Wait List	\$1,485	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Amazing Longwood Gardens - with Fountain Lights Show	6/25-27/25	NOW	\$850	George Barry	508-799-0739
Newfoundland, Greenland & Iceland Cruise	7/12-27/25	NOW	\$4,849/6,189	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Discover Lancaster, PA	8/5-7/25	NOW	\$975	Jim Hester	978-618-5422
* Alaska & Denali – By Land and Sea	8/13-25/25	NOW	from \$4,499.99	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
Ogunquit, Kennebunkport & Portland	8/19-21/25	NOW	\$1,275	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
Norwegian Cruise Line - Boston to Canada and back to Boston	8/29-9/5/25	NOW	\$1,800/3,000	Jim Hester	978-618-5422
Upper Mississippi River - St. Louis to Minnesota	9/5-13/25	NOW	from \$5,609	George Barry	508-799-0739
* Cooperstown – Baseball Hall of Fame and more	9/16-18/25	NOW	\$751	George Barry	508-799-0739
Northern National Parks – Glacier, Yellowstone & Grand Tetons	9/19-28/25	NOW	\$5,629	Dick Pinkes	508-769-2913
* The Seine Paris to Normandy – River Boat Cruise and more	11/3-15/25	NOW	from \$4,345	Ralph Shapiro	413-537-2435
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All prices quoted are per person (Double Occupancy) - Refunds will be made per printed club policy. The first sale date was originated to make it possible for all members to have an equal chance to get in on any and all trips. Detailed trip flyers are available at Wednesday meetings (or by telephone) from the designated trip leaders.

5/5-16/26

* Danube Explorer - River Boat Cruise

Visit our website rfcg.info for detailed flyers on most of our trips.

\$5,285/7,839

Rick Ferguson

NOW

More Trip Descriptions

ST PATRICK'S LUNCHEON AND SHOW — AQUA TURF

March 11, 2025 (*Tuesday*)\$122 pp

Highlights: We'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the Aqua Turf Club. We'll first enjoy a complimentary tray of donuts and coffee on arrival. Followed by a delicious luncheon served family style – includes a fresh green salad, traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage, Pasta, Baked Schrod, potatoes and vegetables. A Complimentary glass of beer or wine and desert are also included. Coffee/Tea are also included. This will all be followed by a fantastic St Patrick's Show featuring Padraig Allen and the McLean Avenue Band who have their own sound with old Irish Celtic folklore and rock pop Celtic music for your enjoyment. You'll also enjoy the Irish Step Dancers. Join your friends for a wonderful combination of great cuisine and entertainment. One more thing, they provide a free raffle for some great prizes. This is truly a great location, meal and show. Sign up early as this sells out fast.

^{*} Symbols, represent NEW TRIPS this month.

BOSTON TO CANADA & BACK TO BOSTON CRUISENORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

August 29 to September 5, 2025\$1,800 / \$3,000 pp/do

Highlights: This is a delightful and relaxing trip to Canada with no flying and the best pricing of the year. Depart from Boston on the 29th with a day at SEA on the 30th to rewind and relax by the pool. This is also a day to enjoy all activities on the ship including GAMBLING. Day three will be at Charlottetown Prince Edward Island, Canada where you can take tours or an island drive /waterfront solar powered pedal bus food/drink tour or city highlight tour and many more tours. Day four at Sydney Cape Breton Island. Visit the Worlds Largest Fiddle, Cossit House Museum and more. Day five visit Halifax and have a tour of Peggy's Cove and Halifax Historic port/ Half-day Historical tour of Halifax or relax on the ship by the pool. Day six we are back in the States in Portland Maine where you can do a vintage fire truck sightseeing tour of Portland Maine / Sightseeing Charter on a vintage Lobster Boat or a two pound lobster lunch and more. Our final day will be in Bar Harbor, Maine in which you can discover Bar Harbor city and lighthouse tour / Donut tasting walking tour in Bar Harbor old port / Seafood lovers lunch and more. We will dock in Boston at 7am Sept. 5. This is a highly anticipated trip because you put your luggage on the Bus at Maironis Park and you don't see your luggage again until you are in your cabin. Also, you only have a short trip home from Boston.

Parking: Maironis Park

bevhester13@gmail.com

COOPERSTOWN

NEV

September 16-18, 2025\$751 pp/do

Highlights: The Village of Cooperstown is know for the Baseball Hall of Fame, but there are so many more things to see and enjoy. Upon arrival we will visit the Fly Creek Cider Mill, one of Cooperstown's 'best kept secrets'. Shop and enjoy the wide range of unique foods, drinks and artifacts and have lunch on your own. Afterwards, we will visit the **Fenimore Art Museum** which holds important collections of American Folk Art, fine photography and American Indian Art. We will check into our hotel for two nights - The Best Western Inn & Suites, to freshen up before dinner at the Lake Front Restaurant on the docks of Lake Otsego. On Day 2, we visit The Baseball Hall of Fame. Trace the history of our national pastime, view artifacts and learn the stories of the fabled players throughout the years. At lunchtime you can stroll Main Street and have a choice of a wide variety of venues, shop, catch some baseball at Doubleday Field or enjoy Lake Front Park. In the late afternoon we enjoy a Cruise on Lake Otsego aboard The Glimmerglass Queen. We return to the hotel and freshen up before dinner at the Brooks House of BBQ. On Day 3, we will check-out and visit and tour of The Farmers Museum, a living history museum that recreates rural life in upstate New York circa 1845. We follow this with a lovely wine tasting at the Montezuma Winery to savor the vineyards of upstate New York. Our final stop with be at the Otesaga Hotel on the lake where we will enjoy a sumptuous Buffet with spectacular views.

Parking: Maironis Park

Trip Leader: George Barry508-799-0739

george.barry77@yahoo.com

ALASKA & DENALI — BY LAND AND SEA

NEW

August 13-25, 2025 starting from \$4,499.99 pp/do

Highlights: Join the friends club on this exciting 14-day Alaska by land and sea adventure. This exciting journey begins with your arrival in Fairbanks where you will spend 2 days exploring Fairbanks including an afternoon cruise on the Chena River aboard a sternwheeler. Day 3 we spend at Denali National Park and the Denali Discovery Center. Day 4 we will travel deep into Denali National Park on the Tundra Wilderness Tour. After the tour, we will board our deluxe motorcoach taking us to the quaint town of Talkeetna where we will board the deluxe dome railcar for a scenic journey south to Anchorage. We spend day 5 in Anchorage and enjoy a city tour and a visit to the Anchorage Museum to learn about culture and history of Alaska. On day 6 we will continue our travels south to Seward. En route, we will visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center where we will get the chance to see Alaska's wildlife up close and personal. We then continue onto Seward to board the NCL Jade. We spend the next 8 days visiting the Hubbard Glacier, Icy Strait Point, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and cruising the inside passage.

Parking: Maironis Park

ralphvshapiro@msn.com

FEVER 'N CHILLS SHOW — AQUA TURF

NEW

November 11, 2025 (*Tuesday*)\$122pp

Highlights: We'll be celebrating music and show stopping hits from the 60's & 70's at the Aqua Turf Club. We'll first enjoy a complimentary tray of donuts and coffee on arrival. This will be followed by a delicious luncheon served family style – includes a fresh green salad, Roast Beef, Pan Seared Salmon, Pasta, potatoes and vegetables. A Complimentary glass of beer or wine, Coffee, Tea, Decaf and desert are also included. This will all be followed by a fantastic show by Jimmy Mazz accompanied by the fantastic Dawn Turlington. They'll sing all our favorites from the 60's and 70's. You'll enjoy every minute of this powerful tribute to many world renowned entertainers. Join your friends for a wonderful combination of great cuisine and entertainment. One more thing, they provide a free raffle for some great prizes. This is truly a great location, meal and show. Sign up early as these Aqua Turf shows sells out fast.

Parking: Immaculate Conception Church

"DANUBE EXPLORER" — RIVER BOAT CRUISE

NEW

May 5 - 16, 2026\$5,285 / \$7,839 pp/do

Highlights: Travel with us from Budapest to Prague for a grand river voyage on the beautiful Blue Danube! We have eleven days visiting Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic. We also have an optional exclusive Viennese Evening Concert with music from Mozart and Strauss. It will be a trip of a lifetime!

Parking: Maironis Park

Trip Leader: Rick Ferguson508-688-4427

rwfergy@icloud.com

The Retired Friends Club of Greendale, Inc.

Greendale Y. M. C. A. 75 Shore Drive Worcester, MA 01605 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** Worcester,MA Permit No. 46

Check out our Website: rfcg.info

TUESDAY Bowling League – (as of Dec. 3, 2024)

 $\begin{tabular}{lllll} \textbf{BAYBERRY LANES} & ...$

Place Team Captain & Team Member

- 1 #2 **G. Piscitelli**, F. Piscitelli, J. Cappabianca, Pam Masshardt
- 2 #7 C. Masshardt, L. Gouin, D. Casey, S. Dahlgren, J. Geneva
- 3 #11 J. Wondolowski, M. Karlon, G. Calimeris, C. Bromage, Blind

HA Joe Dooley II 99, Dave Meyers 95, Don Fair 91.9

HIT Dave Meyers 330, Joe Dooley II 322, Gerard Piscitelli 309

HIS Bille Plant, Joe Dooley II 125, Dave Flint 123

THURSDAY Bowling League - (as of Nov. 7, 2024)

Place Team Points Captain & Team Member

- 1 #6 42-22 **Gerard Piscitelli**, Jim Hester, Jack Geneva, Bob Donahue
- 2 #8 40-24 Carl Masshardt, Tony Neggers, Dave Daoust, Don Casey
- 3 #7 38-26 Jim Roy, Mike Mudd, Don Lindberg, Frank Visci

HA Joe Dooley II 99.2, Evan Plante 92.3, Jim Roy 90.5

HIT Joe Dooley II 338, Dave Meyers 323, Don Fair 312

HIS Joe Dooley II 139, Bob Donahue 118, Carl Masshardt 117

Winter Weekly Meetings Cancelation Policy Reminder

The club's weekly meetings will not take place whenever Worcester Public Schools are delayed or cancelled.



On November 18th, our President, Rick Ferguson, was recognized for his service in the Vietnam war, at half-time of the Patriot's game. He and other fellow veterans were presented with this special pin.

- The eagle represents courage, honor and dedicated service to our nation
- *The stripes represent the American flag*,
- The laurel wreath is a time honored symbol representing victory, integrity and strength.
- The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed and fought alongside one another during the Vietnam War. This includes Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United States.
- And finally the lapel pin bears the message, "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You." This message is embossed on the back, closest to the heart.

RFCG Remittance Form for New Members, Renewals & Life Members

Dues For NEW Members

(Men & Women - Age 55 & Over)

 $\square \text{ ANNUAL} = \frac{\$15/\text{yr}}{\text{or}}$

 \square **FOR LIFE** = $\frac{$150/1}{}$ ife-membership

- Complete Application Information.
- Pay at any meeting.
- \bullet If not possible, mail form and check to: RFCG

YMCA - 75 Shore Drive Worcester MA 01605

The monthly Newsletter is included in dues.

RENEWAL Dues

(For Current Members)

 \square ANNUAL = \$15/yr

☐ **FOR LIFE** = \$150/life-membership

- Note address, phone, etc. info changes.
- Pay at any meeting.
- If not possible, mail form, check and a pre-addressed postage-paid envelope AND prior Year's Membership Card

o: RFCG YMCA - 75 Shore Drive Worcester MA 01605

Application Information

Name	
Address	
CITY - STATE - ZIP	
Telephone	
Email	
Date of Birth	
RETIRED FROM	
	RAN [
RESERVED BY	

New or Current members paying after May 1st will be considered paid-up for the next fiscal year which starts on September 1st and ends August 31st.