



Carol's Corner - A message from the MNEA-Retired President



MNEA-Retired recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary and other successes at a luncheon during the Annual Meeting held April 21st at the Lodge of Four Seasons. Highlights of the day included written greetings from several members of the NEA and NEA-Retired Executive Officers; special guest presentations by John Jensen, NEA-R Vice President; our own Martha Karlovetz, NEA-R Secretary; and Ruthanne Phillips, past member of the NEA-Retired Board of Directors. Marie Theerman (one of the

founders of MNEA-Retired) shared memories from the early days of MNEA-Retired. She presented the association with a bell that had been presented by Boeing in recognition of the work that MNEA-Retired members had done for the "Homework Hotline" - one of the initial projects undertaken by MNEA-Retired members. MNEA-Retired member Ira Anders, State Representative from Independence, sent a Resolution from the Missouri House of Representatives commemorating the accomplishments of the association's 30-year history.



Past MNEA Presidents in attendance for the anniversary celebration included Pat O'Brien, Clarence Siebert, Martha Karlovetz, Donna Collins, Greg Jung and Chris Guinther. Past MNEA-Retired Presidents in attendance were Marie Theerman, Martha Karlovetz and C.T. Sharp.



Participants enjoyed a power point presentation featuring both past and present pictures and information about our association. A “Memorabilia Table” filled with fascinating bits of significant association history was also available for members to peruse.



Award Winners This year there were quality nominees from around the state for the two awards presented annually by MNEA-Retired. The “Volunteer of the Year” award was presented to Carol Klaus of the Ste. Genevieve Regional MNEA-R. The “Jim Coen Silver Citizenship Award” went to Henry Grubb of the Greater Kansas City MNEA-R. More information on the significance of these awards and the recipients will be featured in the MNEA-Retired article the upcoming *Something Better*.

Fundraising Success As always, the annual PAC auction was a highlight of the Annual Meeting. Members contributed eye-catching prizes, resulting in record-setting contributions to both the state and national political action funds. (Totals: MNEA-PAC -- \$2070; NEA Fund -- \$1715.) In addition, tempted by potted flowering plants, members contributed over \$1000 for the Ballot Issue Crisis Fund.



The generosity of MNEA-Retired members further extended to the CHEER Fund. To honor past staff liaisons Peggy Cochran and Karen Sholes, and lured by cookies provided by Greater Kansas City MNEA-R, members contributed over \$1000 to to extend "Caring Help for Education Endeavors by Retirees" -- grants of up to \$250 awarded to active members whose applications are sponsored by retired members.

National Retirement Security Advocacy Day Martha Karlovetz has led the NEA effort to advocate at the federal level for retirement security. Under her leadership, MNEA-Retired members wrote over 300 postcards and collected another 500 from active members, to send to Washington DC for NEA's National Retirement Security Advocacy Day. This

event, held on April 27th, informed the Missouri Congressional Delegation about the importance of the Social Security Fairness Act, an act that impacts teachers and other public workers in 15 states. MNEA-Retired sent a strong message about the need to repeal GPO/WEP, protect Social Security and preserve Medicare and Medicaid for seniors and people with disabilities.

Election of Officers and Delegates Running unopposed and re-elected to their current positions were Carol Weatherford, President; Terry Reger, Vice-President; Joyce Bluett, Historian. On the Executive Council, Nancy Copenhaver, JoWanda Bozeman, and Randy Weith were re-elected to serve two-year terms; Bev Vogt was elected to replace Shelley Hoffman who did not run for re-election.

Record-setting Membership Increase Thanks to the efforts of Terry Reger and the membership committee, MNEA-Retired qualified to send 6 delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly in Boston this summer. Those who will be attending are Carol Weatherford (automatic delegate), Martha Karlovetz, Terry Reger, Joyce Bluett, Alan Weatherford, and Nancy Copenhaver.

Special Presentations During the afternoon session of the Annual Meeting, Michelle Scott-Huffman, MNEA Legislative Consultant, shared an update from the current Legislative Session. She encouraged participation in upcoming Capitol Action Days.

Dearld Snider, Assistant Executive Director of PSRS/PEERS, presented current retirement information, reminding members of the importance of protecting our Defined Benefit contribution system from outside forces that suffer from "Pension Envy."

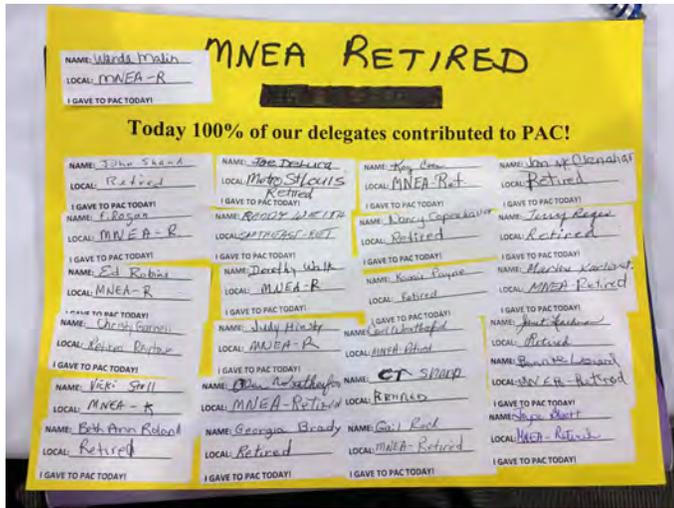


Dearld Snider, PSRS/PEERS, shared information on the status of our Retirement System



Friends gathered to renew friendships and celebrate 30 years of MNEA-Retired. Pictured (L-R) are Pat O'Brien (first MNEA President), Martha Karlovetz (Past MNEA-R President, Past MNEA President, Current NEA-R Secretary), Donna Collins (Past MNEA President), Greg Jung (Past MNEA President), Carol Weatherford (Current MNEA-Retired President), Chris Guinther (Past MNEA President); Ruthanne Phillips (Past NEA-Director for Retired)

Our Advocacy Continues...



MNEA-Retired delegates to the Spring Representative Assembly had 100% participation in political action.



MNEA-Retired members recently met at the Capitol to receive an update on legislative issues impacting public education, especially as related to the pending voucher legislation. Our members continue to advocate for our students and their public schools!

Upcoming Events

Presidents and Treasurers of the regional MNEA-R groups will come together at "The Egg & I" in Des Peres on May 23 for three-part training event. Member Benefits partners Jason Haldiman and Jerry Adzima will preview "Retire-Mentality" information for retired members; MNEA Director of Finance Karen Streumph will present relevant information to help regional treasurers; President Weatherford will encourage participation in the newly-revised "Regional Achievement Recognition" challenges.

The MNEA-R Executive Council will meet in June and plan the calendar of events for the 2017-18 year. MNEA staff will assist with planning a new budget and setting goals for events and other activities in hopes of increasing member participation and satisfaction.

**MNEA-Retired members - continuing our advocacy to make public schools great for every child...
retired from our positions, but not our profession!**

You, too, can help elect Friends of Public Education Those of us who will represent you at the NEA Convention this summer are charged with the challenge of collecting as much money as possible from friends back home for the "NEA Fund for Children & Public Education." Are you willing to help us?

We will gladly accept any amount, but since this is money designated for political action, there are stipulations required by the Feds. **Checks must be postmarked by May 27, 2017.**

- Checks must be *made out to* the **NEA Fund for Children & Public Education**
- Checks must be *dated* **June 3, 2017**, the date that the checks will be turned in to MNEA
- Checks should be *mailed to* **Carol Weatherford, 180 Gravois Circle, Eldon, MO 65026**

Important! You will be given individual credit for your contribution. In addition, the six elected MNEA-Retired delegates will share equal responsibility for having collected your contributions. Thanks in advance for your support!! MNEA-Retired members - continuing our advocacy to make public schools great for every child... retired from our positions, but not our profession!



2017-2018 MNEA-Retired Executive Council members who attended the 2017 Spring MNEA Representative Assembly meeting.

Pictured first row, left-to-right: Janet Leachman, Terry Reger, Nancy Copenhaver

Second row: Bev Vogt, Vicki Stoll, Judy Hinsley, Randy Weith, Martha Karlovetz, Jan McClenahan, Carol Weatherford

Back row: Joyce Bluett, CT Sharp, Frank Roqan, Tom Smith