

Missouri  
NEA  
Retired

# Focus

MNEA-Retired is an affiliate of the  
Missouri National Education Association

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## Terry's Table Talk

Whenever you begin a new venture, there is apprehension as well as euphoria. I am excited about being the president of MNEA-Retired. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. A University of Illinois professor told our class of future educators that we will never change the plight of education, until women teachers believed teaching was a profession, not one to augment family incomes. We needed to fight for better working conditions and higher salaries for teachers. It seems as if we are still fighting the same battles along with our ESP members.

When I began teaching in the Ferguson-Florissant School District, I immediately joined the teacher organization. In March of my first year in the district, a fellow teacher asked me to put my name in for FFNEA secretary because I was outspoken on educator issues. Even though I ran against a twenty-year veteran, I was elected and that began my career in FFNEA and MNEA. I have always been known as a "fighter" for public education, but we cannot make strides if we do not have the members and member involvement to support MNEA-Retired issues.

I am open to new ideas and will work as a team with retirees in our regionals, the executive council, retired state delegates and our retired educator members. Help me make MNEA-Retired a force on behalf of public education.

### *Focus Points*

- ❖ John Stock, retiring Executive Director of NEA, visited the



Missouri Delegation to speak about retiring MNEA President Charles Smith's effect on Stock's perspective regarding race. As he spoke of their close relationship, Stock was moved to tears.

- ❖ MNEA NEA Director and newly elected Vice President, Rebeka McIntosh was awarded the Carol Watcher Award for being an ally of the LGBTQ+ caucus.
- ❖ MNEA and MNEA-Retired raised a total of \$46,085 for the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. MNEA- R members raised \$13,304 of this total or 29%. Thank you, retirees!
- ❖ Despite the smaller number of delegates attending, everyone dug deep into their pockets and raised an additional \$11,650 for the NEA Fund. We came in second place among all the states for highest average per RA Delegate.



## NEA Representative Assembly

At the NEA Representative Assembly in Houston this July, President Lily Eskelsen Garcia presided over a candidate forum for the top 20 Democratic candidates. These are the people who met the criteria established by the DNC along with a questionnaire provided by NEA. Of the 20 invited, 10 completed the questionnaire and attended the forum. The two Republican candidates, President Trump and William Weld, were invited but did not reply. The delegates were able to hear from Joe Biden, Juan Castro, Bill de Blasio, Kamala Harris, Jay Inslee, Amy Klobuchar, Beto O'Rourke, Tim Ryan, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren. The candidates shared their vision for what education under their administration would look like. They responded to questions written by educators from across the country.



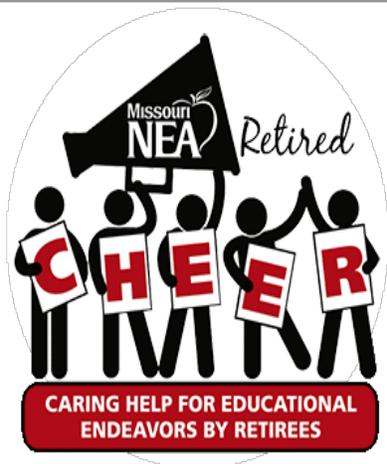
*Left: MNEA-R delegates Martha Karlovetz, Judy Hinsley, Terry Reger, Carol Weatherford, Alan Weatherford, and Joyce Bluett.*

*Right: Retiring President Charles Smith at the HCR Ceremony receiving the Rosena J. Willis Memorial Award given to Missouri NEA.*



*Below: the Missouri Delegation at the HCR Ceremony.*





## Contribute to CHEER

**CHEER** (Caring **H**elp for **E**ducation **E**ndeavors by **R**etirees) was established in 2014 at an MNEA-Retired Annual Meeting. This charitable fund has helped educators all over the state with additional funds via a grant process. The application process is simple: educators find an MNEA- Retiree to sponsor their grant. They write the proposal asking for funds up to \$250, and submit it.

## CHEER Grants



*A trip to the St. Louis Zoo for early education students was funded by a CHEER grant.*

*Below, funds provided books for a classroom library and other students can read with headphones provided by another CHEER grant.*



# PSRS Meeting Report



Missouri NEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen represents MNEA and MNEA-Retired members at the meetings of the PSRS/PEERS Board. Read the report of the latest meeting at <https://www.mnea.org/Missouri/PSRSMeetingMinutes.aspx>

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
MNEA-Retired Luncheon  
November 22, 2019  
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Spazio Westport  
12031 Lackland Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63146

## MNEA-Retired 2019-2020 Executive

**President . . .** Terry Reger  
**Vice President . . .** Georgia Brady  
**Secretary . . .** Joyce Bluett  
**Historian . . .** Janet Leachman  
**Budget Chair. . .** Vicki Stoll  
**MNEA Board . . .** Frank Rogan  
**Past President. . .** Carol Weatherford

**Members at Large:** Jo Wanda Bozeman, Jan McClenahan, Susan McClintic, Bill Stewart, Joan Storey, Lisa Sunblad, Bev Vogt, and Randy Weith.

## Meet Your Editor

Holly Garrett is a retired Communication Arts teacher from the Ferguson-Florissant School District. She has served as local president, Professional Negotiations team member, and on the MNEA Board of Directors for Governance District 7. Currently, she edits the monthly e-newsletter, JOLT. She asks that you send MNEA your home e-mail address so that you don't miss out on any communications and publications.



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