Carol’s Corner - From the MNEA-Retired President

When Should We Be Concerned about Legislative Issues?

When the Missouri Legislative Session begins in January, hundreds of bills are filed... but relatively few are assigned to a committee, and even fewer actually become law. One such bill, HB 864, has struck a chord with public education retirees because it appears to threaten the security of our retirement system. However, as of this writing, the bill is not moving.

In my years of working in the State Capitol, I learned that over-reacting to a bill in its earliest stages can often backfire. Legislators are swamped with issues demanding their immediate attention, and tend to ignore other issues — or at least put them on their back burner. When their computers are bombarded with messages concerning a bill that is in its earliest stages, it creates a backlog of work for them and their staff... an irritation that can backfire on the best-intended message from a constituent.

My message to our members is the identical message that I've shared in the past. Read Otto Fajen's "Legislative Update." When you see the words, Action Alert! you'll know it's time to contact your state representative or senator. Until then, do not panic.

Finally, remember that just because we're retired, we are not excused from focusing on bills that affect public education. Every bill that cuts funding or in any way minimizes the importance of public education is a bill that has a negative impact on our retirement system. Unfortunately, there are a significant number of those bills currently moving through the Legislature, so stay tuned to alerts from Otto and follow his requests to communicate with your legislators... and plan to attend our MNEA-R Capitol Action Days on April 10 and May 1!

Contact: alancarol.w@sbcglobal.net
It’s time to register for the Annual Meeting!

If you’ve not yet registered for the MNEA-Retired Annual Meeting (April 26, Tan-Tar-A) you can find all of the details on the schedule, luncheon, registration and important activities at the following site: https://www.mnea.org/Missouri/NEARetired.aspx

Important elections for MNEA-R President, Vice President, Budget Chair, Historian, Board members-at-large and delegates will be held, and now is the time to declare your intention to run for these offices if you haven’t done so already.

Don’t forget to bring your cash or checkbook! You’ll have many opportunities to contribute to our CHEER Fund, the Ballot Issue Crisis Fund and political action at this meeting.

Questions about the MNEA-Retired Annual Meeting and Luncheon should be directed to Tracy Flaherty (tracy.flaherty@mnea.org) at (314) 584-1305.

Success! Educators and students will benefit from the more than 20 CHEER grants that were approved for 2019!

“MNEA-Retired” is on Facebook! You can find us (and like us) at “MNEA-Retired” and keep up with all of our regional celebrations and gatherings!

Check out the “Events” calendar to find MNEA-R activities in your region.
Pictured below are MNEA-Retired Executive Council Members at the Fall (2018) Representative Assembly, held in Branson, Missouri last November. MNEA-Retired -- “Retired from our Position, but not from our Profession!”