

2023 NEA RA Category I State Delegate Candidates

(In the order as they appear on the official ballot.)

Chris Renner, COLUMBIA MNEA



Hello! My name is Chris Renner. I ask for your support in my campaign to serve as a Missouri state delegate for this year's National RA. I currently serve on the board of directors for Governance District 6. I am committed to promote policies and platforms that improve the learning conditions of students. In my local, I work to promote student participation in the poster essay contests for social justice. I serve as a building representative at my school. I would appreciate your vote to serve as a Missouri state delegate to our 2023 national RA.

Katie Smith, FORT ZUMWALT EA



I am Katie Smith, and I would be honored to have the chance again to represent FZEA and MNEA at the National Representative Assembly this summer. At my local level, I am on the executive board as our membership chair. I have attended local and National Representative Assemblies for the past 5 years and I was elected to be a Missouri State Representative last year as well. I am passionate about advocating for the rights of my fellow union members and will continue to use this opportunity to make sure the voices of MNEA are heard.

Joy Banks, GRANDVIEW NEA



My name is Joy Banks, President of the Grandview NEA, and I am asking for your vote to allow me the privilege of representing our fellow MNEA members at the National RA. This is my 7th year as an MNEA member. I desire to continue my growth as a leader and participate in more MNEA/NEA opportunities as I lead my local. This opportunity would help me to continue my development as an educational support professional and assist in the progress of making my local better and stronger. Thank you for your support.

Eric Hucker, RITENOUR NEA



Eric Hucker currently serves as the Treasurer for Ritenour NEA in St. Louis, Missouri. He has been a social studies teacher for seven years working in Normandy Schools Collaborative, Jefferson City Schools, and Ritenour School District. During his career, he has remained an active member of NEA taking his first leadership role last year. Eric has never before had the opportunity to attend the National Representative Assembly and would be honored to attend on behalf of the educators of Missouri. Eric has a deep interest in NEA's policy-making processes and would use this chance to learn more about it.

Tresina Alvested, ODESSA MNEA



My name is Tresina Alvested. I am an educator in the small district of Odessa. I enjoy volunteering to help others. I am the treasurer of my local. I am currently serving on the Missouri Teaching and Learning Committee and the MNEA Board of Directors. At the national level, I am a member of the NEA Special Education CADRE. I believe that it is imperative that our Missouri educator voices are heard at this Representative Assembly. It would be my honor to represent you and all Missouri Educators at the RA. Please vote for me.

Stacey Frey, RITENOUR NEA



Hello! My name is Stacey Frey, and I hope to serve as a State delegate in 2023. I'm proud to have been training this year as our RNEA recruitment chair and will take over next school year. I have always been interested in NEA and helping our local educators. I hope to bring all our members' voices to the table from a newer involved perspective. Thank you for considering me as an advocate for Missouri educators in 2023!

Emanuel Grimes, SPECIAL ED EMPLOYEES



Emanuel Grimes currently resides in St. Louis, MO and has 7 years of experience working in the Special School District. He works as a paraprofessional and is very involved in the NEA efforts to instill equity. He currently facilitates a 6 week virtual learning course on "Awareness of Current Institutional Inequities" for the NEA. He is an author and motivational speaker that strives to be a role model for his students. He has a Bachelor's degree from The University of Missouri-St. Louis in Sociology. In his free time, Emanuel loves to work out and watch sports documentaries on Netflix.

Michelle Shepard, COLUMBIA MNEA



Hello! My name is Michelle Shepard and I am a special education instructional aide (an ESP) from Columbia. I currently serve as the CMNEA Treasurer, CMNEA Social Chair, CMNEA Scholarships and Awards Chair, and previously served as a NEA Leader for Tomorrow. I love advocating and empowering students and all educators. I have been privileged to attend twelve NEA National RA's and I would be honored to represent MNEA again in Orlando. Thank you for your consideration.

Moira McCracken, PARKWAY NEA



I have been an educator for 21 years, teaching theater at both middle and high school levels in the Ritenour and Parkway School Districts. I'm a state delegate to the Missouri RA and serve on the MNEA Women's Issues Committee. I've been an active member of Parkway NEA for many years. I have served as building Association Representative, Secretary to the AR, and Vice-President. I am currently in my first term as President of Parkway NEA. I hope to attend the National RA to advocate for the needs of Missouri schools and learn more about supporting public education employees everywhere.

James Mueller, FOX NEA



It would be my honor to represent Missouri educators at the 2023 NEA RA. I currently serve as President-Elect of the Fox Education Association and represent Governance District 1 on the MNEA Board of Directors. I also serve on PAC Council and the Resolutions Committee. I have always advocated for all educators to be respected, valued, and have a voice. I humbly ask that I be given the opportunity to represent you at RA. I promise to do so with the same passion and dedication that I have represented members at the state and local levels.

Lindsey Weatherby, SPECIAL DISTRICT NEA



While I have been an active member for years, I have never attended a National RA. I would love to be able to attend the National to keep learning and growing. Education is hard right now. However, being an active part of NEA makes it a little easier. My ultimate goal is to become more active with the organization and help change education for the better. Please help me continue my journey by electing me to be a Missouri State Delegate. Thank you!

Experience:

- 10 year member
- SDNEA Communications Chair
- MNEA Resolutions Committee Member
- PAC Executive Council Committee Member Elect

Lisa Baldwin, NORTH KANSAS CITY NEA



I have been an active member of NEA for 25 years. I have served on the Board of Directors, served on multiple state committees, attended national conferences and attended 10 national RA's. On the local level I am a building rep, member of our negotiations team and chair the assessment committee.

Brendan Kearns, ST CHARLES EA



I'm beginning my second two year term as president of my local, the St. Charles Education Association. Last year, at the Spring RA, I was chosen as a representative for Governance District 10 on MNEA's Executive Board. I've been an NEA member since the beginning of my career in 2008 because of advocacy for educators at the local, state and national level. By serving as a delegate to the National RA, I hope to deepen my knowledge of our organization and bring back what I learn to our state chapter as well as my Local.

Ashleigh Bertrand, BLUE SPRINGS NEA



Ashleigh Bertrand is a National Board Certified Teacher in the Blue Springs School District where she teaches dual-credit English 100/200, AP Lang and Comp, and Leadership. Since 2017, she has held leadership positions in Blue Springs MNEA, but this is her first year as president. She is also an AP exam reader, a National Writing Project Teacher Consultant, a National Endowment for the Humanities summer program participant, and a former district Teacher of the Year. Most importantly, she is a firm believer in the power of a public education. This is her 22nd year in the classroom.

Stephanie Blake, SPRINGFIELD NEA



I've been an educator and NEA member in Missouri's largest school district for 22 years, with the last 8 at an alternative school. My children and I have spent hours canvassing locally for NEA to repetitively defeat Right to Work. We've canvassed for Charlie Norr, Derek Newlon, Crystal Quade, and my former student Betsy Fogle. We've protested for various civil rights, and we're working to elect pro-educator members to our local BOE. I'm ready to step up my grassroots efforts. My youngest child graduates this May, and I intend to spend my new free time advocating for NEA.

Jane Sykes, NEA ST LOUIS



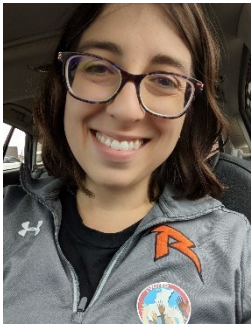
I am again asking for your vote to send me to the NEA RA. Health care continues to be an important issue in our schools and I am sure it will be an issue for years to come. Please consider sending me as a school nurse to the NEA RA so that the health care of Missouri students, Missouri school staff and students and staff thru out our association will remain on the forefront of our association. Thanks for your consideration!

Jenny Stogsdill, MERAMEC VALLEY NEA



As a Special Educator and an active member of my Local and Missouri NEA, I feel prepared to become a delegate for the NEA Representative Assembly. In my Local, I have served as our Vice President, chair of negotiations, and representative. At the state level, I am currently on the Board of Directors, have completed Future Leaders Academy, chaired the state Membership Advisory Committee, and attended the MNEA Representative Assembly for many years. It would be an honor to serve as a Missouri Delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.

Christina Andrade Melly, RITENOUR NEA



Hello! My name is Christina Andrade Melly, and I hope to serve as your State delegate in 2023. I'm proud to serve as President of Ritenour NEA, chair of the MNEA Resolutions/Legislative committee, and delegate on the national Resolutions Committee. I am also honored to represent Missouri as our current Teacher of the Year. 2023 is going to bring new conversations about education on the national level, and I hope to bring all our members' voices to the table. Thank you for considering me as an advocate for Missouri educators in 2023!

Lori Fisk, PATTONVILLE NEA



MNEA changed my life. Starting at a very young age, I fought for the underdog, but I often felt alone in standing up for what I thought was right. However, in joining MNEA, I was able to meet with, be inspired by and learn from colleagues and friends who share many of the same ideals that I do - most notably, that an equitable education is the best way to bring justice into this world. As President of Pattonville NEA and a member of MNEA's Board of Directors, I know I will bring quality representation to the NEA RA.

Francine Hill, FRANCIS HOWELL EA



My name is Francine Hill. I am the Second Vice President of the Francis Howell Education Association. I enjoy being involved in the important business of MNEA. If selected to represent Missouri at the national level, I will work to make decisions beneficial to Missouri. It was my honor to serve on the MNEA Board as one of the Governance 10 directors for 7 years. I serve on the state Human and Social Rights committees and LGBTQ+ Caucus. I am a member of the ELL Caucus and being at the RA allows me to attend their meetings. Thank you.

Carrie Begemann, ODESSA MNEA



Please consider me, Carrie Begemann, as a representative to the NEA Representative Assembly. As a member of a small, rural local located near Kansas City I have gained valuable experience. I am local President of Odessa MNEA. I am the chairperson for West Central Governance District and have served on the State Credentials, Membership Advisory Committee, and currently the MNEA Board of Directors and Women's Issues Committee. I have greatly enjoyed all the experiences that NEA provided me at the local, state, and national levels and would be honored to serve MNEA while I expand my knowledge as a delegate.

Hunter Wood, FORT ZUMWALT EA



My name is Hunter Wood and I am a seventh grade Special Education teacher in the Fort Zumwalt School District. I currently am involved in our local as a building rep for my school. I also help support our local by helping with screening prospective board members, the negotiation process, attending capital action at Jefferson City, and attending the state level RA. Previously, I have attended MNEAs summer leadership opportunities and I aim to make a difference in my own local and on a larger scale at the state and national level.

Monica Miller, COLUMBIA MNEA



Hello! My name is Monica Miller and I humbly ask for your vote to serve our association as a state delegate to the NEA RA this summer in Orlando. As a leader in Columbia, I served as the president who rebuilt CMNEA. I currently serve as local PAC Chair, serve on our MNEA PAC committee, and chair our MNEA Bylaws committee. The knowledge I gain at the NEA RAs have been valuable as we strengthen our locals and our state. I'd like to continue my education at the RA, while I continue to serve you in leadership. Thank you.

Vickie Haynes, SPECIAL ED EMPLOYEES



My name is, Vickie Y. Haynes. I am a Paraprofessional with Special School District of St. Louis County. This school year, I was granted the position of the first ever Full-Time Release ESP President of Special Education Employees Association, (the largest ESP local in Missouri). I am also an MNEA Board member, and am currently serving my second term as ESP Director. I am declaring candidacy for the 2023 NEA RA, and would appreciate your vote. Attending the RA for the first time last year, was a lasting learning experience. Therefore, I would LOVE another opportunity to expand that growth.

Dennis Tabb, FERGUSON FLORISSANT NEA



My name is Dennis Tabb, serves as an At-Large member of the NEA Board of Directors (2021-2023) on my local (Ferguson-Florissant) Executive Board. Also held offices on the MNEA PAC Executive Council and Employee Rights Committee, attended the NEA National Leadership Summit, and the "recipient" of The Missouri NEA Horace Mann Award 2022. I formally submit my candidacy for MNEA State Delegate and appreciate your support.

Doug Hurst, ST LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



My name is Doug Hurst. I am a Professor of Communications and Legal Studies at St. Louis Community College-Meramec. I am a past president of the local and continue to serve on the executive council.

I am currently a member of the MNEA Board of Directors-representing Higher Education. I also serve on the MNEA State Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee.

I have been a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly for the past five years.

I would be honored to serve as a Missouri state delegate at the 2023 Representative Assembly in Orlando.

Alexander Tai, COLUMBIA MNEA



I, Dr. Alexander Tai, declare my candidacy as a state delegate for the NEA RA. On state-level governance, I serve as the Native People and People of Color board director and one of the Governance District 6 members of the MNEA Executive PAC Council. Locally, I serve as the First-Vice President for Columbia MNEA. This past RA, I decided to become a lifetime member of the NEA-LGBTQ+ Caucus, which is a crucial part of being a BIPOC educator. I would greatly appreciate your vote to serve our association as a state delegate to bring the BIPOC perspective to decisions.

Justin Smith, NORTH KANSAS CITY NEA



I am a long-time first grade teacher from the North Kansas City School District. I have been my building rep for about ten years and have been elected twice to the State RA. I love collaborating with colleagues to solve issues at the building level and working behind the scenes with NKC-NEA. I help to screen school board candidates and want to get even more involved to assure positive outcomes for our students and staff. I would love the opportunity to help you stand up for your rights. Thanks for voting!

Megan Burns, NORTH KANSAS NEA

NO PHOTO PROVIDED

Megan Burns is a preschool teacher in the North Kansas City School District. She has been on NKC-NEA Executive Committee since 2019, a MNEA RA delegate since 2017, and has attended the national RA since 2020. Serving as a representative for previous national RA's was an incredible opportunity to unite with others advocating for education and advancing the work of the association. Megan would love the opportunity to continue this as a Missouri delegate to this year's RA.

DeNae' Bush, PARK HILL NEA



DeNae' Bush is a Special Education Instructional Coach and Elementary ESY Coordinator in the Park Hill School District. She has served as a Building Rep in Park Hill for 4 years and the Membership Chair for 3 years. DeNae' also serves on the MNEA Board of Directors. She consistently attends state RAs and NEA Conferences in efforts to become more knowledgeable, grow as a leader, and enhance her involvement within the Association. DeNae' would love to be a state delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly 2023 and thanks you in advance for your consideration!

