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March 2022

Rishanda Richardson, Editor

# In the Loop

Missouri NEA's electronic newsletter



News

Training

Benefits

Take Action



WHO DOES YOUR  
LOCAL ASSOCIATION  
RECOMMEND FOR

# SCHOOL BOARD?

## VOTE APRIL 5

[www.mnea.org/vote4education](http://www.mnea.org/vote4education)



## MNEA Local Associations make recommendations for school board

MNEA members are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. The issues that unite them are protecting children and improving public education. These are the issues that drive MNEA's and NEA's candidate recommendation process.

How you vote is a personal decision; however, Missouri NEA leaders hope that, as you review the issues and positions of candidates, you will consider these recommendations. These pro-public education candidates have been interviewed by a committee that lives in your school district and knows the issues that are unique to your community.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Zerr at (573) 644-9610 or [elizabeth.zerr@mnea.org](mailto:elizabeth.zerr@mnea.org).

[Read More >](#)



neea Member Benefits savvi

March 9 | April 2 | April 20

**STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS WORKSHOPS**

Missouri NEA [WWW.MNEA.ORG/DEGREESNOTDEBT](http://WWW.MNEA.ORG/DEGREESNOTDEBT)

### Student Loan Debt Workshops April 2 | April 20

Find options to manage your student loan debt during this workshop with NEA Member Benefits Affiliate Relations Specialist, Darby Boyd. As an educator, you may be able to have part, or all, of your federal student loans forgiven. The NEA Student Debt Navigator can help you find and apply for money-saving programs.

[Read More >](#)



**NATIONAL BOARD**

for Professional Teaching Standards®

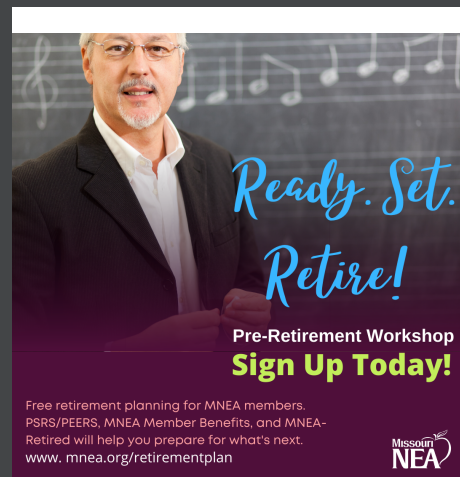
### National Board Certification Workshops

NBC Candidate Boost Day  
(VIRTUAL | Sat., April 9)  
These workdays are for candidates who plan to submit one or more components in 2022.

#### Exploring NBC (VIRTUAL | Mon., April 25)

This workshop is for educators who want information about the National Board Certification process and benefits. Free, online and open to all educators.

[Read More >](#)



Ready. Set. Retire!

Pre-Retirement Workshop  
**Sign Up Today!**

Free retirement planning for MNEA members. PSRS/PEERS, MNEA Member Benefits, and MNEA-Retired will help you prepare for what's next. [www.mnea.org/retirementplan](http://www.mnea.org/retirementplan)

Missouri NEA

### PSRS/PEERS, Reliant Financial Retirement Planning Workshop

VIRTUAL | March 14  
4:30-5:30 PM

Are you getting close to retirement? Don't take the leap into retirement without proper planning. Need some help planning for your future after working in public schools? Register for this in-person workshop to learn how your PSRS/PEERS pension works and what you need to know and do before you retire to start receiving your pension. Hear about MNEA Member Benefits for retired members from the financial

planners from Reliant  
Financial Services.

[Read More >](#)



# EDUCATOR ADVOCACY LEADS TO BIG WIN FOR STUDENTS

**MNEA member advocacy leads to a BIG WIN for education**  
The Missouri Legislature voted to send American Rescue Plan funds to our local schools.

For 11 months, students, parents, and educators have called on the Missouri Legislature to send ARP funds to our local schools. [MNEA Pres. Phil Murray wrote an open letter](#) explaining how detrimental it would be to our schools if the funds were not approved.

Missouri schools were at risk of losing millions of dollars if the legislators did not take action by March 24. Missouri is the **last state to authorize ARP funds**.

Finally, educators and our neighborhood schools will have the vital resources to help students overcome the challenges of disrupted learning during the pandemic.

# MUSIC+ ARTS GRANT

from California Casualty

Apply to receive  
**\$250.00**  
for your school's  
Music & Arts program.



NEA® Auto and Home Insurance Program  
**Missouri NEA** **nea Member Benefits**  
partnering with  
California Casualty



**Apply Today!**

## Apply for a California Casualty Music & Arts Grant

Apply to receive \$250 for your school's program. The California Casualty Music & Arts Grant was established to provide support for K-12 public schools negatively impacted by reduced budgets.

California Casualty understands the importance of music and arts education for children. As a member of MNEA, you can apply for a grant award of \$250 for a music or art need at your school.

**Applications are due July 2, 2022.**

[Apply Now](#)

### State Board of Education Report

MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh and MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Ann Jarrett attend the State Board of Education meetings. Read the Feb. 8, meeting report detailing:

- Riverview Gardens Report.
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention Blue Ribbon Commission.

### PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees Report

MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen ([otto.fajen@mnea.org](mailto:otto.fajen@mnea.org)) attends the PSRS/PEERS Board meetings. After each meeting, Otto writes a report and may issue alerts to staff and members about upcoming policy changes that may negatively impact educators. He also keeps members apprised of the financial health of the pension system, investment



### MNEA Legislative Update

MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen summarizes floor debate and the latest information on the action in the Missouri legislature relating to MNEA's Resolutions and other bills of particular interest. You can

- Gov. Parson's 2023 budget recommendations and supplemental budget bills.
- Three new career education certificates and updates to gifted children programs.
- MNEA Teaching & Learning Dir. Ann Jarrett recognized for retirement.

performance, and COLA increases.

[Read More >](#)

receive the Legislative Update by email or find it posted to the MNEA website each week.

[Subscribe Now](#)

[Read More >](#)

## Virtual Financial Planning with Reliant Financial Services

Landon Warmund with Reliant Financial Services will be hosting individual virtual lounge sits for all of those that have questions regarding financial planning **April 11-15, 2022.**

Landon is a Certified Financial Planner™ that works mainly with school district employees in the state of Missouri.

Reliant Financial Services is a 403b/457 retirement plan provider in many Missouri school districts.

Make a virtual appointment to sit down and discuss all the following with Landon during a personal quick 15-minute review:

- Your retirement plan options.
- General financial planning.
- Understanding your pension and PSRS-PEERS benefits.

If it has to do with money, Landon can be of assistance.

[Schedule Your Appointment >](#)



FINANCIAL SERVICES



**Lounge Sit With Landon!**  
 Certified Financial Planner™  
 Certified Student Loan Professional

Hey there! Excited to answer whatever questions you have during our virtual lounge sit. I can assist with helping you explore your 403b/457 options, student loan forgiveness, and anything else financial planning related.

If it has to do with money, I can probably help!

📞 816-256-0206

✉ [lsw@reliantfin.com](mailto:lsw@reliantfin.com)

🌐 [www.reliantfinancialservices.com](http://www.reliantfinancialservices.com)

**Advocate for education at MNEA Capitol Action Days**

Capitol Action Days are part of Missouri NEA's comprehensive Government Relations plan to promote positive policy for public education. MNEA's Capitol Action Days are held each Wednesday of the legislative session (February through May).

Plan now to make the trip to Jefferson City to attend your Capitol Action Days. Talk to other members about attending, too. If you are not able to attend on the designated days for your governance district, feel free to contact Sandy Smith ([sandy.smith@mnea.org](mailto:sandy.smith@mnea.org)) to arrange to attend a different Capitol Action Day.

Register at [www.mnea.org/CAD](http://www.mnea.org/CAD).

**Questions?** Contact MNEA Political Director Elizabeth Zerr by email at [elizabeth.zerr@mnea.org](mailto:elizabeth.zerr@mnea.org) or phone at (573) 644-9610.

Register Now >



## Missouri Salary Benchmarks & Rankings reports

### Check out where your school district ranks.

The Missouri Salary Benchmarks & Rankings Report details key points on each school district's teacher salary schedule and ranks their placement in the state, region and by student enrollment size. Back by popular demand are sections detailing hourly wages for select positions of ESP, paid leave benefits, and health insurance benefits for education staff.

The Missouri Salary Rankings Report details the average salaries for teachers, administrators, and superintendents at each school district.

You can find the reports posted to the Missouri NEA website at [www.mnea.org/research](http://www.mnea.org/research).

For more information, contact MNEA Electronic Communications and Research Coordinator Rishanda Richardson at (573) 644-9621 or [rishanda.richardson@mnea.org](mailto:rishanda.richardson@mnea.org).

[2021-2022 Salary Benchmarks](#)

| [2020-2021 Salary Rankings](#)



## Shop the MNEA Store

Looking for a new coffee tumbler, water bottle, tote bag, sticky notes, or key chain? Look no further. Shop the MNEA store to find office supplies and swag to show you are MNEA-proud.

[Shop Now](#)

## Spring MNEA Representative Assembly April 23-24

### Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark

The Spring Missouri NEA Representative Assembly will be held on April 23-24, at the Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark. Local association delegates, Board of Directors, leaders, members, and staff attend the Spring R.A. to focus on the MNEA budget and bylaws.

Find all the details at [www.mnea.org/springra](http://www.mnea.org/springra).

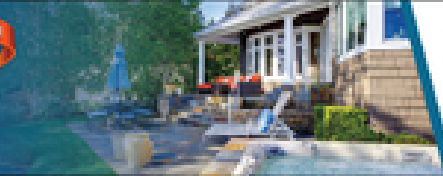


[Register by April 11 >](#)

[Order Luncheon Tickets by April 11 >](#)

Book Hotel Accommodations by March 31. [Book Online](#) for main lodge rooms or call (573) 365-3000 to reserve a condominium.

**\$10,000**  
**STAYCATION**  
*Giveaway!*



NEA Auto and Home Insurance Program



neA Member Benefits  
in partnership with  
California Casualty

**ENTER TODAY!**



## Attorney Referral Program For your personal legal matters.

The Missouri NEA Attorney Referral Program provides consultation and substantially reduced charges for **personal legal problems**. If the matter is **employment-related**, [consult your UniServ director](#) to see if it would be covered under the ULSP program.

All MNEA members and their immediate families are entitled to **two 30-minute consultations every program year** with any attorney participating in our referral program. In addition, you receive a **30 percent discount** for services that extend beyond the two free 30-minute consultations. During those consultations, any type of legal matter may be discussed including domestic relations, consumer protection, real estate, wills and estates, and traffic violations.

Find a participating attorney at [www.mnea.org/ARP](http://www.mnea.org/ARP).

[Read More >](#)

## NEA Auto & Home Insurance designed for NEA members

As part of your NEA membership, you have access to customized coverage through California Casualty. You are one step away from obtaining an exclusive, competitive insurance quote that is not available to the general public.

Save an average of \$423 and enjoy benefits like:

- Exclusive NEA rates.
- The option to skip your summer payments!
- Easy claims service with USA-based representatives available 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- Free ID theft resolution.
- \$3,000 personal property coverage while at school.

Get a free \$25 Amazon.com gift card when you complete an auto quote. Call [866-761-9132](tel:866-761-9132) or use the online form.

[Get a Quote](#)



## My Deals

The My Deals mobile app allows you to access discounts easily on your smartphone. All you need to do is download, register and save. Search for "My Deals" in either the Android Google Play store or Apple iTunes store. To register, enter your contact information and your affiliate (MNEA-Missouri NEA). You may need to enter your NEA ID if it asks you.

**Your NEA ID:**  
0004745853

**Need help with My Deals?**  
Call (800) 331-8867

[Install Apple App](#)

[Install Android App](#)

## Log into MNEA.org

NEA 10-Digit Member ID (with the leading zeros)  
Your NEA ID is 0004745853

Having trouble?  
Call (573) 634-3202.

[Log in Members Only](#)





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