



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Treena Murray, MNEA-R President



Dear MNEA-R Members,

One of the best parts of serving as MNEA-R President is having the opportunity to spend time with our members across the state. This fall, I enjoyed visiting several of our Regionals for their Not Back to School gatherings and meetings. While each Regional has its own traditions, I saw the same things everywhere I went—great fellowship, generosity, strong leadership, and a commitment to MNEA-R and our union.

Thank you to our Regional Presidents who welcomed members and led these gatherings: **Frank Rogan, East Central; Sharon Giesler, Southeast; Alice Ault, METRO; Joe O'Neal, GKC; and Nancy Bohle, JeffCO.** Each gathering was a little different, but the energy and fellowship were the same.

Our members also showed their generosity. **East Central collected \$740 for the MNEA HOPE Fund and donated canned goods to a local food pantry. Southeast collected donations for the CHEER Grant. METRO contributed to both the MNEA-R CHEER Fund and its Regional Scholarship Fund, while JeffCO collected for the CHEER Grant and continues to support its Regional Scholarship.**

At each gathering, I also held an **MNEA PAC Drive**, and I was pleased to see members respond at every stop with new commitments to the MNEA PAC. Thank you to those who chose to participate.

Throughout my visits, we talked about many of the same things—**membership, connecting with Active and Pre-Retired members, MNEA PAC, the MNEA Foundation, CHEER Grants, and what's ahead for MNEA-R.**

I hope you'll join us for the **MNEA Foundation Gala on November 14 at Stephens College in Columbia**, where our 2026–2027 CHEER Grant Awards will be presented. A special thank you to **MNEA Foundation Chair Phil Murray**, who joined me at each of these Regional gatherings to share information about the Foundation and the transition of our CHEER Grants.

And be sure to **save April 9, 2027!** Our MNEA-R Annual Meeting will include a very special celebration of **MNEA-R's 40th Anniversary—1987–2027**. I hope you'll be there to celebrate with us!

Everywhere I traveled this fall, I was reminded of the commitment our members continue to have to MNEA-R, our union, public education, and one another. Thank you to our Regional Presidents, officers, and members for all you do to keep MNEA-R strong across Missouri.

Treena Murray
President, MNEA-R

Meet MNEA-R Leadership

MNEA-R Officers

- Treena Murray, President
- Linda Innes, Vice President
- Kate Kraybill, Secretary
- Kassie Payne, Treasurer
- Lisa Kickbusch, Historian
- Brent Fullington, Budget Chair
- Beth Ann Roland, MNEA-R BOD



Executive Council At-Large Members

- Subina Button
- Pat McPartland
- Holly Garrett, Communications
- Doug Hurst
- Tim Ema
- Jane McPartland
- Susan Whitehead-Clark

MNEA-R Past President

- Terry Reger



NEA RA 2026 (Denver, CO)



MNEA-R was proudly represented in Denver this summer as our delegates attended the **2026 NEA-R Annual Meeting** and then joined thousands of educators and retirees from across the country for the **105th NEA Representative Assembly (RA)**.

MNEA-R Delegates:

Joyce Bluett, Judy Hinsley, Phil Murray, Treena Murray (MNEA-R President), Kassie Payne, and Terry Reger



NEA-R Annual Meeting: Organizing for Power

The theme of this year's NEA-R Annual Meeting was **"Organizing for Power."** Delegates elected officers, considered New Business Items, and discussed issues important to retired educators and our union.

One of the strongest messages of the meeting centered on the importance of **organizing, voting, and political action**. Mary Kusler, NEA Senior Director for the Center for Advocacy, spoke about protecting voting rights and increasing voter participation. Delegates were also reminded that **PAC dollars matter** and play an important role in supporting pro-public education candidates as well as legislative and legal advocacy.

Among the New Business Items adopted by delegates were support for removing the maximum earnings cap subject to Social Security taxes, support for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and exploring affiliation with the Alliance for Retired Americans.

From NEA-R to the NEA Representative Assembly

Following the NEA-R Annual Meeting, our MNEA-R delegates joined MNEA delegates for four days of business at the **105th NEA Representative Assembly**.

Delegates worked through New Business Items and adopted the **2026–2027 NEA Strategic Plan and Budget**, along with resolutions and policy statements that will help guide NEA's work in the coming year.

The Assembly also marked the closing of an important chapter in NEA leadership as **NEA President Becky Pringle** delivered her farewell remarks as she prepared to conclude her six-year term. The delegates elected **Princess Moss** as the new **NEA President** and she began her term on September 1, 2026.

MNEA-R Membership

Linda Innes, MNEA-R Vice President, Membership Chair



MNEA-Retired member recruitment is at an all-time high this year, with 12 new Pre-Retired members as of October 1. At each MNEA event, the MNEA-Retired's Membership table stands out as the place where active MNEA members congregate to pick up goody bags made just for them. We've switched our draw to join by giving the pre-retired snacks to enjoy at the event, making them feel like valued members of MNEA-R.

The challenge our Membership Committee faces is that the window to offer 10-month payments for the \$500 membership fee is limited to the fall semester. NEA's payment schedule follows the school year, so when the MNEA Fall Conference takes place in November, 6 months of school remain. In April at the MNEA Spring RA, there are only two months left, which means two hefty payments must be made if they join then. So this year, at both the Spring RA and MNEA Summer Leadership Conference, active MNEA members signed up to have me, email them on September 1, reminding them to sign up for pre-retired membership. Over 30 active members were emailed. Then those who signed up for Pre-Retired by October 1 were entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card from MNEA-R.

Also, MNEA-R reached out to 71 active local Presidents at Summer Leadership by providing packets that contained flyers for joining MNEA PreRetired, the CHEER Grant, and how to connect with MNEA-R to put out on their back-to-school tables in August.

Finally, in July, MNEA-R Regional Retired Presidents were emailed contact information for newly retired members in their regions, helping make those connections at the regional level.

CHEER Fundraising

Sabina Button, MNEA-R CHEER Fundraising Chair



Caring Help for Education Endeavors by Retirees was formed by Missouri NEA-Retired to be a public service by enhancing the learning conditions of Missouri's children. CHEER provides opportunities for MNEA-Retired members to reach out to public school district employees, particularly early career educators, who are MNEA members, to provide financial and material resources.

Contributions to the CHEER Fund can be made at any time during the year. You can choose to make a one-time or recurring contribution online with a credit/debit card.

Contribute to the MNEA Charitable Fund today! Your donation is tax-deductible, and it will help make a positive impact on education. Click the link to give:

<https://www.mnea.org/cheer-fund-contribution>

MNEA-R Communications

Holly Garrett, MNEA-R Director of Communications



Did you know that MNEA-Retired has a Facebook page? Most folks do, but for those who are unaware, you need to check us out. Pictures and summaries of daily activities at the NEA RA this summer scored a viewership of 241% over the usual views. We had an incredible response to the opportunities for voting in the primary elections. We had 31,754 views of the first posting of “Educators Say No!” We had over 481 shares of various informational items. Engagement (comments, likes, follows) was up by 534%.

Photos get more views, but that’s probably because folks like to see pictures of the events they attended. Regional groups get fliers of upcoming events posted on our page as well as reminders about events.

STAY CONNECTED WITH MNEA-R



Did you know that joining MNEA-R does **not automatically add you to the MNEA-R mailing list**? Our mailing list is voluntary, so **you must sign up** to receive MNEA-R emails with news, events, opportunities, and important information from MNEA-R and MNEA.

Don't miss out—take a minute to join the MNEA-R mailing list today!

MNEA Retired Mailing List (listserv) Scroll to the bottom and click on **MNEA-Retired (Members Only)**

<https://www.mnea.org/get-involved/follow-subscribe>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MNEARetired>

MNEA Retired Webpage

<https://www.mnea.org/retired>

MNEA Retired Regional Groups Webpage

<https://sites.google.com/view/mnea-r-regional-groups/home>



Missouri NEA's political action committee (PAC) pools funds to elect candidates who support the interests of retirees and public education. By giving to the MNEA-PAC, you're not just helping state campaigns – you're also supporting local efforts that impact our communities.

Together, we can make a difference. Contribute to the MNEA-PAC today and help us:

- Protect PSRS/PEERS benefits
- Support local campaigns for bonds, levies, and school board candidates
- Elect candidates who prioritize public education

Your voice matters, and your contribution can help amplify it. Let's stand together for a stronger future for Missouri's public education system.

Become a recurring donor(MNEA PAC Sustainer) to MNEA-R PAC by clicking the link! Your ongoing support will help us advocate for public education and protect the interests of our members.

<https://www.mnea.org/give2pac>

REMINDERS



Does MNEA have your home email address?

MNEA-R wants to make sure you are getting the information and invitations you need to stay involved. Send MNEA a note at mneaupdate@mnea.org to make sure we have your current HOME email address so that you receive information about the things your regional group is doing.

A poster for the MNEA FOUNDATION Gala. The top left features the MNEA FOUNDATION logo. To its right, it says 'Celebrating Public Education'. The main title 'You're Invited!' is in a large, bold, yellow font, and 'Gala' is in a large, cursive, gold font. Below the title, it says 'Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating education, excellence, and the work of the Missouri NEA Foundation.' The poster is divided into three columns. The first column has a calendar icon and says 'Saturday, November 14, 2026'. The second column has a location pin icon and says 'Stephens College, Lela Raney Wood Hall, Kimball Ballroom, Columbia, MO'. The third column has a clock icon and lists the event schedule: '6:00 PM - 7:00 PM VIP Reception (Pre-Party)', '7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Dinner and Presentations', and '9:00 PM - 11:00 PM After Party: DJ, Dancing and Ice Cream Social'. Below these columns is a yellow banner that says 'GALA PROGRAM INCLUDES:'. Under this banner are three star icons, each followed by a category of awards: 'MNEA Progress Awards', 'MNEA-R's 2026-2027 CHEER Grant Awards', and 'Friend of Education Awards'. Below the awards is the text 'Keynote Speaker: Wade Rouse'. At the bottom, it says 'Proceeds from the gala benefit the Missouri NEA Foundation. Guests are encouraged to dress in cocktail or formal attire and join us for a night of celebration, connection, and giving back.' The bottom left features the MNEA RETIRED logo. The bottom right has a yellow banner that says 'REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW! >>'.



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www.mnea.org/retired



www.facebook.com/MNEARetired

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Holly Garrett, MNEA-Retired Communications Chair

Dr. Patrick Layden, MNEA Executive Director

