

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Treena Murray, MNEA-R President*

Dear MNEA-R Members,

I'm honored to serve as your new MNEA-R President! Thank you for electing me to this position. I appreciate your confidence in me and will work tirelessly to fulfill my duties, representing the interests of MNEA's retired membership.



MNEA-R is a hybrid local with a unique structure. We-

- Pay dues to NEA for benefits similar to those we had as active educators
- Represent Missouri as delegates to the NEA-R Annual Meeting
- Receive our operating budget from MNEA, highlighting our close connection
- Send one of the largest delegations to the MNEA Representative Assembly each year

Our experience and voice matter. As retired educators, we're still changing lives. Together, we can make a difference. As a new hybrid local, the MNEA-R Executive Council is now responsible for-

- Budget creation and financial management
- Meeting planning and organization
- Membership drives and engagement
- Bylaw and policy updates
- Leadership and elections
- Advocating for MNEA-R interests

We're committed to-

- Being good caretakers of our duties and responsibilities as MNEA-R leaders
- Promoting and strengthening our MNEA-R to better serve our members
- Advocating for MNEA, NEA, and Public Education, recognizing the importance of these institutions in our lives and the lives of our members

We're working to develop new strategies and tools to-

- Enhance member engagement
- Improve access to information
- Foster participation and connection among members

By achieving these goals, we'll build a stronger, more connected community of retired educators who can advocate for public education and support one another.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to working with each of you!

Best regards,

Treena Murray  
MNEA-R President

## Historic Victory for Educators - REPEAL of GPO-WEP

In a landmark achievement, NEA and NEA-Retired members have successfully advocated for the repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), restoring retirement benefits for millions of educators. The following highlights the significance of this victory and its impact on educators.

For over 40 years, public employees, including educators, firefighters, and postal workers, have been subject to the GPO/WEP rules. These provisions reduced their Social Security benefits, resulting in significant losses to their retirement income.

After decades of advocacy, Congress voted to fully repeal the GPO/WEP provisions in December. President Joe Biden signed the **Social Security Fairness Act** into law on January 5, with NEA Vice President Princess Moss in attendance.

Shout out to MNEA-R's own Martha Karolovetz for her incredible work on the NEA-R GOP/WEP Cadre and her relentless work to lobby for the repeal of GOP/WEP! Her dedication and efforts played a key role in this monumental achievement, and MNEA-R is grateful for her commitment to advocating for all educators' rights. Thank you, Martha!

The repeal of GPO/WEP is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of NEA and its members. This achievement will positively impact the lives of millions of educators, providing them with the retirement income they earned. The NEA's advocacy efforts have made a tangible difference, showcasing the power of collective action.

The ***Social Security Fairness Act*** will make a substantial difference in the lives of educators. To learn more, visit the Social Security Webpage at-

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html?tl=0>

# Meet MNEA-R Leadership

## MNEA-R Officers

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

## Executive Council At-Large Members

- Subina Button
- Netty Doyle
- Holly Garrett, Communications
- Doug Hurst
- Wendy Kline
- Jane McPartland
- Susan Whitehead-Clark

## MNEA-R Past President

- Terry Reger



# 2025 NEA-R Annual Meeting and NEA RA (Portland, OR)

The MNEA-R delegation, consisting of Joyce Bluett, Judy Hinsley, Doug Hurst, Martha Karlovetz, Treena Murray, and Terry Reger, attended the NEA-R Annual Meeting and NEA RA. Key highlights include:

- **At the NEA-R Annual Meeting**, Mary Kusler, Senior Director, NEA Center for Advocacy and Political Action, updated delegates on the repeal of GOP/WEP. The ***Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law*** on January 5, 2025.
- NBI #8, submitted by Martha Karlovetz, was adopted, requesting NEA-Retired leadership to advocate for and assist state and local retired leaders in obtaining contact information for NEA-Retired members.
- Past MNEA-R President, Terry Reger, was honored for her service to MNEA-R and NEA-R and was presented a plaque by NEA-R President Anita Gibson at the NEA-R Annual Meeting.



- **At the NEA RA**, NEA President, Becky Pringle, emphasized the importance of protecting democracy and public education, and introduced guest speaker David Edwards, Deputy General Secretary of Education International.
- The delegation showed solidarity with educators around the world, chanting in support of global allies.
- Delegates participated in a day of learning, gaining tools and information to take back to their members.
- NEA General Counsel, Alice O'Brien, provided updates on key legal matters, including NEA's lawsuits against the Federal Government over education funding cuts.
- MNEA Retired delegation raised \$7,655, exceeding the NEA's challenge to raise \$1.00 per member.

***Thank you to all of the MNEA-R members who answered the call and generously donated to the MNEA-R Delegates NEA PAC Pages and provided support to the delegation's success!***

# NEA Awards MNEA-R An Organizing Grant

*Linda Innes, MNEA-R Vice President, Membership Chair*

In late November 2024, Vice President Linda Innes was informed that MNEA-R's application for a NEA Organizing grant had been approved. Starting in February, the MNEA-R Membership/Grant Committee began planning retirement seminars to be held statewide in the fall of 2025 and the spring of 2026.

The committee first created a survey to distribute to individuals who had recently retired (1-2 years ago) and those who are planning to retire in the next 1-5 years but have not yet joined MNEA-R. Over 114 people responded to the survey, which asked about the retirement topics they were interested in, preferred times for the seminars, and types of locations.

Based on the survey responses, the committee decided to hold retirement seminars in the following areas: Kansas City Metro, Joplin, Columbia, St. Louis, and St. Charles. The topics will include Health Marketplace, Medicare 101, Social Security, and PSRS/PEERS. Each seminar will take place on a Saturday morning and will begin with a box breakfast. Participants will then hear presentations on the four different topics listed above.

Retired Regional Presidents and group members are invited to attend the retirement seminar in their region. This will be a great opportunity to recruit new members for the regional group as well as for MNEA-R. Watch for dates and registration information from the MNEA-R Listserv and the MNEA-R Regional Webpage.

# MNEA-R PAC Update

We're proud to announce that **Missouri NEA-Retired** is now the **largest local in MNEA**, and our voice matters! As we face legislative attempts to compromise and undermine PSRS/PEERS, we must stand together to protect our retirement benefits and support strong public education.

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.

For every dollar you contribute as a **RECURRING** donation to MNEA-PAC, *MNEA-Retired will receive half* to help protect our PSRS/PEERS benefits. Your contribution can make a real difference in securing a strong future for Missouri's students and educators.

## Meet Our PAC Representatives

Nancy Copenhaver and Greg Meyer are our dedicated MNEA-R PAC Representatives, elected by MNEA-R every two years. They're committed to representing MNEA-R on the MNEA PAC Council and to supporting candidates who prioritize public education and retirement benefits.

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 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>

# CHEER GRANT

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>

# NEW MNEA-R Regional Webpage

Explore the New MNEA-R Regional Webpage!

Stay connected and informed with our brand-new regional webpage! Here, you'll find:

- Valuable information and resources
- Opportunities to connect with fellow members and volunteer
- Quick access to frequently used MNEA-R links
- A glimpse into MNEA-R's rich history

***Click the link to discover more and stay engaged!***

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS & 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](mailto: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.

## Check Facebook

Check the MNEA-Retired Facebook page for more information about upcoming events. Follow us at [www.facebook.com/mnearetired](https://www.facebook.com/mnearetired).



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



[www.facebook.com/MNEARetired](https://www.facebook.com/MNEARetired)

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Treena Murray, MNEA-Retired President

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Dr. Patrick Layden, MNEA Executive Director