



Terry's Table Talk

May 1 was Capitol Action Day for the MNEA Retirees. We had nineteen members in attendance at the Capitol. Otto Fagan and Liz Zerr had a Capitol Action Day schedule. The priority bill was SB 727, which expands the existing tax credit voucher enacted in 2021. All the retirees were asked to swing by the Governor's office to let him know that we appreciate many of the investments in public education that the bill provides, but we were asking him to veto bill SB 727 because the bill authorizes the establishment of school vouchers and charter schools. Since the Governor signed bill SB 727, MNEA and MNEA-Retired are concerned that future funding by the state will diminish monies to our public school districts.



A group of the retirees visited the Democrat that voted in favor of SB 727. Her reasoning was flawed. She felt that the public school in her district was not meeting the needs of the children. Instead of talking to the superintendent and school board about ways to improve the school district, she decided that the residents should be allowed to send their children to a charter school or be given vouchers to attend another school.

We visited two of our former teachers who are representatives of the House: Kathy Steinhoff and Paula Brown. As Paula Brown retires, we hope that Connie Steinmetz will be elected to take her place.

National News: General Counsel Alice O'Brien gave an update on the harmful effects of our current Supreme Court with adverse decisions to unions, affirmative action, OSHA regulations, allowing businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ+ for religious objections, stripped reproductive rights, hamstrung common sense gun regulations, and blocked \$400 billion for debt release.

Annual Meeting Highlights



Members welcomed.



Keynote speaker Derald Snyder from PSRS/PEERS.



Presidents Reger and Murray.

It was a small gathering at the Lodge of the Four Seasons for the Annual Meeting, but the enthusiasm was boundless. The traditional silent auction was held. MNEA-Retired also had its second live auction. Items ranged from a signature lady's handbag to a Waterford vase. We raised \$2,007.00



Connie Steinmetz wins!



Auctioneer Janet Leachman is assisted by Georgia Brady.



Members socializing.

Committee reports and awards were also part of the day. VP Linda Innes shared membership information with everyone. Jim Ward, former Executive Council member, was selected as the Jim Coen Silver Citizenship award winner. Holly Garrett, MNEA-Retired Executive Council member and Communications chair, was surprised with the Volunteer of the Year Award.



Linda Innes reports.



Jim Ward accepts.



Holly Garrett is speechless.

MNEA-Retired Votes



Voter registration for this election was open from March 5 through April 3. Online voting was open April 11 through noon April 17. MNEA-retired members who registered to vote in this election received up to three email notifications containing instructions with an individual ballot link. This Online election meets the OLMS secret ballot voting standards.

Registered voters: 77

Ballots cast: 62

Secretary -- Pat McPartland:

Uncontested, elected by acclamation.

Board of Director – Beth Ann Roland - 52

Tim Ema – 7

Executive Council Members at Large:

(4 positions, two year terms)

Holly Garrett 53
Wendy Kline 51

Sabina Button 23
Tim Ema 9

Brent Fullington	41
Nettie Doyle	37

Delegates to NEA-Retired and NEA RA

(5 positions - Those that are not elected as delegates will serve as alternates.)

Judy Hinsley	49	Netty Doyle	33
Joyce Bluett	47	Lori Fox	31
Martha Karlovetz	44	Tim Ema	15
Wendy Kline	44		

Delegates to MNEA RA

(12 positions - Those that are not elected as delegates will serve as alternates.)

Joyce Bluett	51	Mary Ellen Ladd	43
Nancy Copenhaver	50	Greg Meyer	41
Wendy Kline	50	Netty Doyle	40
Janet Leachman	49	Jane McPartland	40
Judy Hinsley	49	Pat McPartland	39
Ed Robins	45	Lori Fox	37
Frank Green	45	Tim Ema	17

And the winners are . . .



2023-2024

45 CHEER Grants Awarded, Totaling \$14,018.41!

Congratulations Recipients!

Grace V. Burgos	Kaycee Capps	Melissa Manie	Robyn Heimburger
Susan Doering	Lara Stephens	Tereasa Gassel	Bianca Mayfield-Miller
Mary Blackwell	Jennifer Williams	Lauren Kinzie	Stacey Frey
Nicole Gordon	Juli Raymond	Jamie Davis	Alexandra Libby
Stephanie Sulser	Jesse Hentges	Whitney Hilbert	Donald Gibson
Kimberly Duvall	Lisa Ross	James Akins	Amber Stevens-Hibdon
Amy Rogers-Johnson	Marcy Schrage	Tu Wana Williams	Crystal Koenig
Dana Palmer	Dana Bell	Rainah Pray	Abby Bextermueller
Tina Rumsey	Stephanie Roland	Stefanie Herzog	Kerrie Kelley
Ashley Gettinger	Francine Hill	Rachel Mazzocco	Dina Sanders
Megan Hosty	Brenda Saye	Barbara Sanchez	Susan Godier
Tonya Longmore			



Here's how the grant process works. Winners purchase the items they asked for in their grant applications. Receipts are sent to MNEA-Retired moderator, Olivia Compton. Checks are issued to the MNEA-Retired sponsors who then arrange for a time to present them. Watch the MNEA-Retired Facebook page for pictures of the winners, their purchases, the kiddos enjoying them, and the presentations. Thanks to ***all*** who donate to the CHEER fund.

Committee Openings

There are openings on all retired committees. If you would like to serve, please let President Terry Reger know. We have had a name change: the Elections Committee will now be the Credentials Committee. We need volunteers for this committee since no officer or member of the Executive Council may serve on this committee. We are also establishing a new Policy Committee. Members of this committee will help to interpret the new MNEA-Retired Bylaws and establish policies for implementing them.

Finally, the Legislative Committee has been renamed and is now called the Advocacy Committee.

Capitol Action Day



On May 1, MNEA-Retired and MNEA Student members joined forces to advocate for students, teachers, schools, and education in Jefferson City. It was an exciting day for MNEA-R members who went to Capitol Action Day in Jefferson City. The day was spent talking with legislators about public education and retirement issues, as well as meeting with members of the Aspiring Educators program.

One MNEA-R member, Connie Steinmetz, was especially excited because she hopes to join the legislators next year as the representative from House District 87. The current representative, MNEA-R member Paula Brown, is not running for re-election due to redistricting, and she tapped Connie to run as her replacement. Connie jumped at the opportunity and has been busy hitting the campaign trail since November. Connie taught in Hazelwood for 37 years and finished her career by serving 6 years as president of Hazelwood NEA. She has been endorsed by Missouri NEA because of her strong commitment to public education, working families and unions, and safe communities. Connie doesn't have a primary opponent in August, but she will face an opponent in the November general election and is working hard to raise money for her campaign. Please support Connie and her

campaign by going to conniesteinmetz.org—we need the 87th to stay pro-public education with one of our members in the seat!



Members attended an update from MNEA staffers prior to lobbying representatives and senators.



Contribute to CHEER

Lend a hand to our colleagues working in the classroom and virtually by making a contribution to help fund future grants.

www.mnea.org/CHEER.



Retirement PSRS/PEERS Meeting Report

Missouri NEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen represents MNEA and MNEA-Retired members at the meetings of the PSRS/PEERS Board. Read the report of the latest meeting at www.mnea.org/PSRS.



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