

Missouri
NEA
Retired

Focus

MNEA-Retired is an affiliate of the
Missouri National Education Association

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Terry's Table Talk

Welcome to all the new retirees! The first year you retire is a little bittersweet, especially when August rolls around and you don't have meetings to attend or classrooms to get ready or lessons to prepare. But we do have events to help ease that change. Regional retired groups have planned Not Back to School gatherings. If you aren't a member of your regional group, please consider joining and enjoying our activities. **One final request:** if you haven't sent your home email address to MNEA, please do so. Once you retire, your school email goes away!



For veteran retirees, bring a new retiree to your regional gathering.

“Not Back to School” Activities

Metro St. Louis NEA Retired – picnic on August 16, 11:00 a.m. at Kirkwood Park
 Southeast - breakfast on August 22, 9:00 a.m. at Mimi's
 East Central – on August 24, noon, at Pacific Eagles
 GKC – picnic on September 21, 11:00 a.m. at Burrus Old Mill Park in Blue Springs
 Mid-MO - TBD
 Jefferson County - TBD

Convention Roundup

NEA-Retired and NEA were finally able to host annual Representative Assemblies in person this year. We met in Chicago and spent a busy eight days doing the work of the Association. We're including brief reports from the delegates.

At the **MNEA Caucus meetings** each morning during the NEA Convention in we were able to accomplish many of the tasks necessary to understand the discussions on the Convention floor. This was due to the great leadership roles of Phil Murray, president of MNEA, Rebecka McIntosh, VP, our NEA Board of Directors, Paul Guess and Andy Slaughter, and Monica Miller. The delegates were able to get through many of the new business items, Legislative Amendments, NEA Resolutions, Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules.

The retirees would also like to give a shout out to Michelle Shepard, Convention Committee Chair, for her willingness to answer questions and help Pam Koetting in making sure we followed vaccination protocols each morning. In addition, we had a superb NEA Fund leader, Tresina Alvested, who worked on our Retired NEA Funds given by many of our retired members. The retired delegates appreciated the kindness and helpfulness of the Missouri delegation.

-- Terry Reger, MNEA-Retired President

I was extremely impressed by the efficiency of the RA on-line, the ease of voting, and the fact that it really seemed like I could be part of it while sitting in front of my computer at home. I probably actually heard the details of everything and followed the debate better on line than I sometimes have in person. I did miss the socializing with Missouri and other delegates and the excitement of the whole thing and the exhibits but felt like it was a successful experience. Our amazing leaders and staff are always impressive.

-- Nancy Copenhaver

Having attended previous RAs certainly helped me to follow the business of the RA. There was a great mix of business and informational items to keep my interest high. Discussions were easy to follow on NBIs, Resolutions and Legislative items. I especially enjoyed seeing Vice President Harris!

-- Jo Wanda Bozeman

After two years of NEA virtual RA's, spending six days at my dining room table, it was an honor to represent you at the in-person RA this summer in Chicago. There were so many changes-covid testing at home before going and then a test every three days plus wearing a mask for twelve hours a day minus lunchtime. I truly missed our usual voting for NBI's by voice-yelling yay or nay. Instead this year everything was done on our phones. That took longer and there were the usual glitches but overall I feel we had a successful RA. A big part of the budget we approved was for safety for children and staff which included issues concerning guns. With so many teachers retiring due to the climate in education today, there is great concern for who will fill these positions. Going into the new school year soon, the number of vacancies open is a worry.

Having in-person and virtual representation was a challenge for NEA this summer, and costly, but the staff in Washington DC managed to make it work. A definite highlight was the return of the Human and Civil Rights dinner. The work that members and nonmembers do across the country to help children and communities thrive is heart-warming. You can't help but shed a few tears when you hear their stories. Finally, getting to see and hear our Vice President Kamala Harris talk about the current conditions in education and the changes that need to happen in the future was encouraging. All of our children and their teachers deserve the best learning environment in order to be successful!

-- Judy Hinsley

Finally . . . Action on Repeal of the Social Security Offsets (GPO & WEP)

For me, one of the highlights of the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting was the news presented by NEA's dynamic Director of Government Relations, Mary Kusler, that we might finally see some action on repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), an NEA Legislative priority for over 20 years. While education employees in Missouri and 14 other states are impacted, policeman, fireman and federal employees in all 50 states are impacted by the GPO/WEP.

The Social Security Fairness Act (currently S.1302/H.R. 82) has been re-introduced in Congress but has never gotten past square one. For years we've been told that the best chance of getting these unfair and inequitable provisions repealed was when (and if) Congress takes up Social Security reform. New legislation, the **Social Security 2100 Act (S.3071/H.R. 5723)** has the potential of getting past this stalemate but not without our help and our action.

Currently, the Social Security Fairness Act (H,R. 82) has four Missouri Congressional co-sponsors: Hartzler, Graves, Cleaver and Luetkemeyer. The Social Security 2100 Act has only two Missouri Congressional co-sponsors: Cleaver and Bush. It probably comes as no surprise that neither of Missouri's Senators has signed on as co-sponsors for either bill. That makes it even more important that they hear from constituents.

Here's what you can do to help: Go to: www.nea.org, click on "take action" and scroll down to "Repeal the GPO-WEP" to send a message to your representative. Be sure to thank the ones that have already signed on. The full URL is: nea.org/advocating-for-change/actioncenter/repeal-gpo-wep.

The NEA Representative Assembly also took action on this issue. NBI #2 created a lobbying cadre of one (1) Active and one (1) Retired member from each impacted state, recommended by state presidents, focused solely on the repeal of the GPO-WEP.

-- Martha Karlovetz



MNEA-Retired Delegates and MNEA President Phil Murray, Vice President Rebeka McIntosh in Chicago at the NEA Representative Assembly.

Focus Points . . .

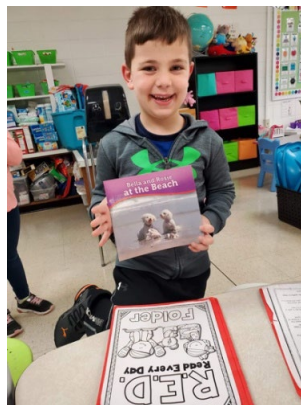
- ❖ NEA-Retired has a new membership award. It is called the “Spirit of Membership Award.” MNEA-Retired received an “Honorable Mention” for the “Spirit of Membership Award,” for 2021-2022. Thank you to Vice President, Georgia Brady for her work in increasing our membership that allowed MNEA-R to receive this special recognition.
- ❖ In the 2020 Census, California, New York, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia lost one congressional seat. Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina and Oregon gained one congressional seat. Texas gained two congressional seats.
- ❖ The 2020 Census listed these cities having the largest populations: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia and Phoenix.

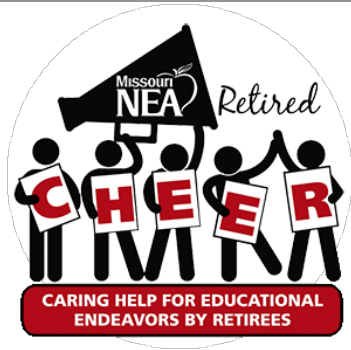
CHEER Grants

Let your local presidents know that CHEER grants are available for our colleagues in the classroom. Maybe a teacher needs help arranging a field trip or funds to set up a classroom library. Applications are available on the MNEA [website](#) and need to be submitted by Feb. 1. Last year, fifteen grants were awarded. All of these were made possible by your generous contributions to the CHEER fund.



Some 2022 CHEER grant recipients from around the state.





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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