

Missouri
NEA
Retired

Focus

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

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Terry's Table Talk

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8. These are troubling times for America. Negative ads from candidates increase daily on the television and the radio. There is so much anger and hatred these days. As voters we have an obligation to do our own fact-checking about ad claims so that we can make informed decisions. Read your local newspaper, particularly the editorial or opinion pages. Check reliable cable news sources. Listen to political pundits who have good reputations and have no affiliation to any political party.

Most important, please do not be discouraged and stay home on November 8. If we are to overcome the hatred and anger in this country, every vote counts. Please encourage your children and grandchildren (if they are eligible to vote) to get out and vote, too. And one more thing: most Americans 65 and older are the best about getting out and voting. Thanks, retirees. You are terrific.



Your Vote Counts

Political Action Information

DeeAnn Aull spoke at our Executive Council (E.C.) meeting on Thursday, September 15, to explain PAC contributions from MNEA-Retirees and MNEA members.

The members of the Executive Council were told that the money that delegates give to the MNEA PAC Auctions at the MNEA Representative Assembly in November and April go to TISPE fund (Taxpayers in Support of Public Education) and/or ESPE fund (Educators in Support of Public Education). These contributions help elect both democrats and republicans in the Missouri State Legislature who support public education.

The money delegates give to the **MNEA-Retired PAC Auction at the Annual Meeting** may be designated to our state or national* organizations (at the discretion of the Executive Council). However, in most years we allow the members in attendance to give to either the state or national organization, or if they so desire, both organizations. The **MNEA-Retired Auction in November** (whether it is in St. Louis, Kansas City or Branson) goes to the C.H.E.E.R. fund only.

MNEA PAC supports state retirement issues, especially our pensions and fights any state issues that adversely affect public education and our retirees. The money delegates give to the * **NEA-Retired PAC Auction** supports and retirement issues, especially GPO/WEP. The money delegates give to **NEA PAC** helps elect national candidates that support public education and fights any issues that adversely affects public education and our retirees, like GPO/WEP.

The Executive Council were told why our two retired elected PAC members, Nancy Copenhaver and Greg Meyer, must share one vote (each getting one-half a vote). We may give more money than any other schoolteacher group, but the votes are based on the number of contributors that are given to MNEA PAC. We need more of our retirees to give small contributions (\$5 or \$10) to the MNEA PAC. Remember that the most votes any local group is allowed is two. It would be great if each of our delegates have one vote each.

MNEA stopped having the *PAC Awards* to yearly honorees who gave contributions to MNEA PAC in 2018 because of a law that changed the way members contribute and the amounts members contributed changed drastically

Items given to the state or national organizations' **auctions must fill out a form for the item.*

Focus Points . . .

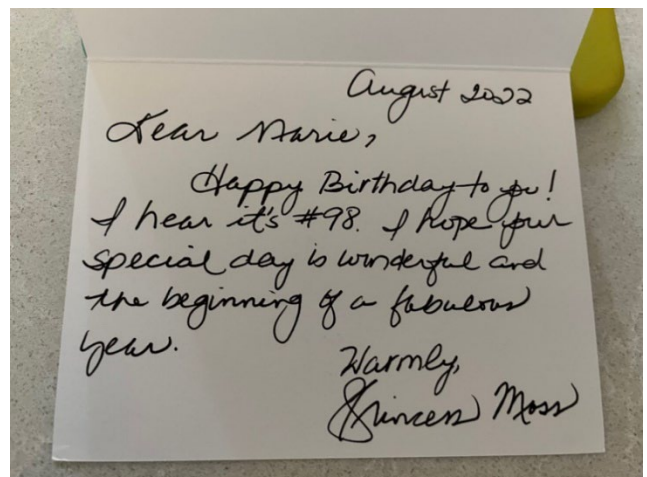
- ❖ Just wanted you to know that our own Charles Smith was a busy man at the NEA Convention in Chicago this past summer. NEA President Becky Pringle had asked him to serve as the Elections Chair for the convention. Congrats, Charles!
- ❖ The Regional MNEA-Retired presidents and officers, along with the Executive Council met in Jefferson City to share and receive ideas for engaging members and increasing membership.



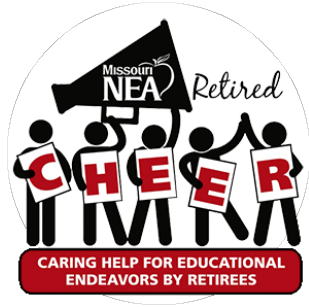
- ❖ Congratulations to MNEA member Christina Melly, graduate of Ritenour School District, English teacher at Ritenour High School, and Ritenour NEA President, who was named the Missouri Teacher of the Year by DESE!
- ❖ The gap between the ultra-rich and the middle class has returned to the Roaring Twenties level. The Forbes 400 list of wealthiest Americans rose a massive 40 % over the past year to \$4.5 trillion from \$3.2 trillion. The top twenty on the list are worth a stunning \$1.8 trillion. What hasn't increased much? The Forbes 400 members generosity. On a side note, MacKenzie Scott (Jeff Bezos' ex-wife) has donated \$12 billion to various causes and is outpacing any other modern billionaire.



- ❖ Special thanks to all who sent cards to Marie Theerman in celebration of her 98th birthday. She was thrilled to receive a card from NEA Vice-president Princess Moss.



- ❖ A very special thank you to Martha Karlovetz, former MNEA and MNEA-Retired President for establishing a scholarship for future teachers. Martha is doing this jointly in her name and in loving memory of her daughter Linda Favero, a former teacher from Mason Ridge Elementary school.



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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