

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

MNEA-Retired President Terry Reger, tpreger4@att.net

Editor Holly Garrett, holly.garrett4@gmail.com

Terry's Table Talk

As a Social Studies teacher and world traveler, I toured Ukraine in June 2010, with my husband. We were amazed by their love of democracy and their hatred of the Russians. When Stalin took over the U.S.S.R., he caused the death of millions of people in Ukraine through famine. Ukraine has 20 percent of the black soil in the world. They were considered the “breadbasket” of the Soviet Union. Stalin exported all the Ukrainian grain to the Soviet Union. Our guide told us if a Ukrainian had even a teaspoon of grain, they were murdered by the Soviets. We, in America, may well understand their love of Democracy and pray that they will not suffer further consequences by Russian. I want to share a beautiful poem that describes the spirit of the Ukrainian people.



Testament

by Taras Shevchenko

When I am dead, bury me
In my beloved Ukraine,
My tomb upon a grave mound high
Amid the spreading plain,
So that the fields, the boundless steppes
The Dnieper's plunging shore
My eyes could see, my ears could hear
The might river roar.
When from Ukraine the Dnieper bears
Into the deep blue sea
The blood of foes . . . then will I leave

These hills and fertile fields away -- I'll leave them all
and fly away
To the abode of God,
And then I'll pray . . . but till that day
I nothing know of God.
Oh, bury me, then rise ye up
And break your heavy chains
And water with the tyrants' blood
The freedom you have gained.
And in the great new family,
The family of the free, with softly spoken, kindly word
Remember also me.

From NEA President Becky Pringle

We watched the Russian invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine with disbelief and sorrow in the last few days. This premeditated war by Russia has resulted in a tragic loss of life, human suffering, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and massive displacement inside the country and across Europe.

NEA strongly condemns this horrific act of war and stands in solidarity with educators, students, and the people of Ukraine. Educators and students in Ukraine and around the world deserve safety, security, and access to education—and they deserve to inherit a world at peace. We applaud [Education International's statement](#) condemning Russia's grave and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine.

If you would like to help families in need of humanitarian assistance personally, please check the websites of [the UN Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](#) and [the United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) for some ways you can help.

Celebrating Our Past and Focusing on Our Future

The Annual Meeting this year is going to be really exciting. It's our 35th birthday and we have plans to celebrate! Have you registered yet? We'll be gathering at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, on April 22, 2022.

We will be celebrating our past and focusing on our future. Some of the events for the day include workshops, a motivational speaker, and a roast by Ed Wright. There will be a live auction during lunch, as well as the usual silent auction during the meeting. We are expecting many of our past MNEA-Retired presidents, MNEA presidents, and other retired MNEA leaders to attend. You come too.

Look for the registration form here in the Focus and a link to the Share a Story form to send in to MNEA for our booklet, and we'll see you on the 22nd!

Register online at www.mnea.org/retired-annualmeeting.

Share your story at www.mnea.org/form/mnea-retired-share-a-story-35th-.

Capital Action Days are Coming!

Mark your calendars for the following: April 13 and May 4. Register at www.mnea.org/CAD.

We will meet in the **Governor's Office Building -The Missouri School Board Association board room, NOT MNEA headquarters**. There is a side entrance located at 175 E. Capitol St. Jefferson City, MO 65109. We will meet in the MSBA board room at 9:30 for a short briefing and then walk two blocks to the Capitol.



Missouri NEA Retired
Annual Meeting, Luncheon &
35th Anniversary Celebration
Register by April 12.

Speakers:

- Kim Becking, Best-Selling Author & Motivational Speaker
- Dearld Snider, PSRS/PEERS Executive Director
- Dr. Paul J. Reger

Date
Friday, April 22, 2022

Time
09:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[Register Now](#)



Honoring Our Own

At halftime during the Mizzou-Alabama basketball game on January 8, the University of Missouri officially recognized the Whitten family for establishing a men's basketball endowment. In order to thank and recognize the family's generosity, the University has named the men's basketball head coaching position the "Dorothy D. and Charles E. Whitten, Jr. Men's Basketball Head coach."

The purpose of the endowment of the Head Basketball Coach at the University of Missouri is to recognize two extraordinary individuals, who were "exemplary parents, coaches, teachers, mentors, sponsors, and role models for so many in their beloved home state of Missouri for the last 75 years and counting. The gift will improve and enhance the student-athlete experience for men's basketball players at Mizzou and will be placed in an endowment to support such efforts in perpetuity," according to Athletic Director Desiree Reed-Francois. Attending the dedication were Peggy Cochran, Charles and Sherry Smith.



Focus Points . . .

- ❖ Congratulations to all those who have been vaccinated! 75 % of those above the age of 65 have had their shots.
- ❖ CHEER grants were given to 15 active teachers for a variety of needs this year. Thanks to MNEA-Retired members Carol Weatherford, Dianne Wallace, Jean Driver, Grace Clifford, Denice Ash, Monica Jefferson, Kathleen Libby, Susan McClintic, Sharon Giesler, Kassie Payne, Julia Todd, and Mary Gorman for sponsoring these classroom teachers and helping to fulfill their "wish lists." Watch the MNEA-Retired Facebook page for pictures of teachers receiving checks and what your donations helped provide.

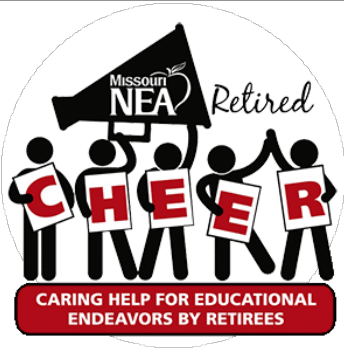


CHEER grant recipients for this year were:

Jesse Hentges, Blair Oaks R-II
 Mary Blackwell, Lindbergh
 Caroline Eberle, Mehlville
 Francine Hill, Francis Howell
 Katie Aubrey, North Kansas City

Jessica Tarka, Francis Howell
 Heather Knopfel, Francis Howell
 Susan Doering, Francis Howell
 Alexandria Libby, Lindbergh
 Erica Yawitz, Francis Howell

Kristen Burkemper, Columbia
 Ashley Gettinger, Ste. Genevieve
 Michell Delaney, Platte County
 Joe O'Neal, Raymore-Peculiar
 Madeline Harrington, Raytown



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.



1810 East Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-634-3202 / 800-392-0236
www.mnea.org/retired



Facebook.com/MNEARetired



Twitter.com/MNEARetired1



Pinterest.com/MNEARetired

MNEA-Retired 2022 Annual Meeting Registration

Celebrating Our Past ~ Focused on Our Future

April 22, 2022

Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark

Deadline to register: April 12, 2022

9:00 a.m. - Registration Opens - *Hallway outside Marbella Rooms*

Attendees will present Covid-19 vaccination proof upon arrival. Meal tickets, packets, and name tags will be provided at Registration until 10:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. - Workshops - *Seachase and Escollo Rooms*

- The Doctor is In - Information for Retirees*, Presented by Dr. Paul J. Reger
- PSRS/PEERS Q & A*, Presented by Dearld Snider, PSRS/PEERS Executive Director

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Annual Business Meeting & Election Results - *Marbella A*

- Please check all that apply: I am a first-time attendee I will attend the luncheon
- I will attend the MNEA-R Annual Business Meeting
 - I will bring guest(s) to the luncheon

12:00 p.m. - 4 p.m. Luncheon and 35th Anniversary Celebration - *Marbella B*

Cost per person: \$35 includes entrée selection, salad, roll, dessert, one (1) drink of choice

Special Guest Speaker - Kim Becking

*Auction to Benefit NEA Fund for Children and Public Education - **BRING AN ITEM TO DONATE!***

Cash Bar Available

- Honey-Garlic Glazed Salmon** - *baked Atlantic salmon in a garlic-chili sauce with lime*
- London Broil** - *6 oz. beef marinated in a tomato chimichurri sauce, thinly sliced*
- Chef's Choice Vegetarian Selection** (*list special requirements*) _____

If you have food allergies or other dietary needs, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Guest name: _____

Payment: Check enclosed or

Register and Pay online at: **mnea.org/retired-annualmeeting**

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Acknowledgment of Risk and Consent

The goal of Missouri NEA's safety precautions is to protect you and other members choosing to meet in person. We recognize that COVID-19 is a serious and highly contagious disease. With that in mind, for attendance, we are requiring proof of vaccination or a negative test within three days of the MNEA-Retired Annual Meeting, required masking throughout the meeting, and social distancing as much as possible in the space we have to work with. This survey is to confirm that you understand and accept the risks associated with this in-person meeting.

YES **NO** I knowingly and willingly consent to participate at the MNEA-Retired Fall Luncheon in person. I understand that the COVID-19 virus has a long incubation period during which carriers of this virus may not show symptoms and may still be highly contagious.

YES **NO** I will be prepared to show proof of vaccination, or a negative test secured within three (3) days of the function. I will wear a mask throughout the meeting and will socially distance as much as possible in the limited space provided.

YES **NO** I confirm that I have read and understand the notice above.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Guest Name (if applicable): _____

Guest Signature (if applicable): _____

Return completed form to:

Missouri NEA, Attn: Retired Program 1810 E Elm St, Jefferson City, MO 65101

or **Register online** at: mnea.org/retired-annualmeeting

Questions?

Contact Olivia Compton at olivia.compton@mnea.org or **417-569-1402**

Missouri NEA-Retired 35th Anniversary

Share a Story

2022 will be the 35th anniversary of MNEA-Retired! There will be a commemoration at the annual meeting luncheon in Spring 2022. Use this form to submit a story or memory about your experience in MNEA-R.

Attach additional paper to this form if needed.

Mail to MNEA-R President, Terry Reger, at 3 TALISMAN WAY DR,
FLORISSANT, MO 63034-1524

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Story submission: _____



