



Terry's Table Talk

I wish I could have a happy article about our 35th Anniversary Celebration, but I need to talk about our students and our teachers who are at risk from the burgeoning number of guns in our country. I am not against the right to having a gun to hunt, for sport, or protect one's family, but do we need to have assault weapons?!

When our founding fathers wrote the second amendment to the Constitution, they were considering muskets (that required gunpowder, not bullets) and certainly not assault weapons that are considered war weapons. In America, civilians own over 393 million guns: that is more than one for every U.S. citizen.



Why do we allow 18-year-olds to purchase guns when they are not allowed to buy liquor until they are 21? How are 18-year-olds allowed to purchase these weapons without a background check or training? How are they able to buy hundreds of rounds of ammunition for their weapons without the seller asking why would they need so much ammunition?

These are military weapons! What is their use in the U.S.? They are not used for hunting since they would obliterate the animals. They would not be used for safety when people could use a gun or rifle. What need was there for an AK15 (a war weapon) that obliterates our children's faces and bodies so that they needed their family's DNA to be able to tell who was murdered?

How many times must this happen? First it was Columbine, Sandy Hook, Parkland and Robb – all schools. How many people must die in our schools, churches, synagogues, grocery stores, shopping centers and streets of America?

As a former history teacher, I wonder what would our founding fathers think about how the 2nd Amendment rights are interpreted by the courts of today? How 2nd amendment obliterates the "right to life,

liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” for so any of our children and citizens. Yet, our courts believe the 2nd amendment rights are more important than our rights to live in a peaceful country.

How many more mass shootings need to happen before our lawmakers step up, take responsibility for the carnage, and draft sensible gun laws, including a ban on assault weapons? **Please** write your Congressman and Senators Hawley and Blunt to urge them to enact and support sensible gun control laws.

MNEA-Retired 35th Anniversary Celebration

Retirees gathered at the Lodge of the 4 Seasons for the Annual Meeting in April. Workshops about PSRS/PEERS and everything you need to know about being your own medical advocate were offered to attendees. PSRS Executive Director Derald Snyder spoke about PSRS/Peers. Dr. Paul J. Reger presented a well-attended workshop called *The Doctor is In*.



President Terry Reger presides.



Members and guests.



The Dr. is In workshop



Raising money for PAC was extra exciting this year. We had the usual “drop your tickets” in the bag of the item you wanted, but we also had a silent auction for some lovely items. And GKC retiree Janet Leachman ran our live auction of some other posh items. We raised \$4,360 which included recurring donations. Congrats and thanks to those who donated and those who bid!

As you know, we are having an important election in November. We greatly appreciate the 56 attendees at our 35th Anniversary celebration who gave \$4,360 to the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. However, we have over 5,300 members strong. I will be sending you an email to tell you how you may contribute to the Fund for Children and Public Education soon. We need to be involved in our elections so that we elect local, state and federal officials who support public education and safeguard our school children.



Attendees had a sumptuous lunch in a ballroom decorated by hardworking staff and committee members. A special photo op spot was designed by Sherry Talbott for groups or individuals to take pictures.



A celebratory luncheon was shared by those in attendance. The luncheon speaker was Kim Becking. Entertainment was provided by Ed Wright and Sharon Swanson also known as Ed Wright and the Fly Girls.



Ed Wright and Sharon Swanson



Kim Becking

Attendee Photos



Metro



Southeast



GKC



Committee for 35th



Communications



CHEER Co-chairs

And on Saturday, your delegates attended the spring Representative Assembly proudly wearing their new MNEA-Retired T-shirts!

2022 Election Results

A total of 120 ballots were submitted out of the 155 registered voters.

Secretary -- Joyce Bluett: Uncontested, elected by acclamation

PAC Council – Greg Meyer: Uncontested, elected by acclamation



Executive Council Members at Large:

(4 positions, two year terms)

Holly Garrett	90	Tami Ensor	62
Bill Stewart	87	Tim Ema	40
Jim Ward	70		
Susan Whitehead Clark	64		

Delegates to NEA-Retired and NEA RA

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

Martha Karlovetz	87	Frank Green	42	(1 st alternate)
Nancy Copenhaver	84	Lorie Fox	35	(2 nd alternate)
Joyce Bluett	79	Margery Doss	34	(3 rd alternate)
JoWanda Bozeman	72	Tim Ema	33	(4 th alternate)
Judy Hinsley	62			

Delegates to MNEA RA

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

Janet Leachman	98	Rita Bohlen	54	(1 st alternate)
Nancy Copenhaver	93	Margery Doss	53	(2 nd alternate)
Judy Hinsley	92	Tim Ema	45	(3 rd alternate)
Martha Karlovetz	92			
Joyce Bluett	89			
Ed Robins	85			
Susan Whitehead Clark	84			
Jim Ward	79			
Greg Meyer	79			
Frank Green	79			
Mary Ellen Ladd	62			
Lorie Fox	57			

Honoring Our Own

As retirees, Jackie and her late husband, John Settlege, had been our biggest yearly donors for MNEA/NEA-Retired PAC contributions. Jackie has continued that legacy to become the largest contributor to our MNEA/NEA PAC each year. It was time for the MNEA-Retired to recognize Jackie via video at our 35h Anniversary celebration for the outstanding contributions she has made to our Political Action Committee.

Jackie received a beautiful gift from MNEA-Retired chosen by Carol Weatherford for Jackie's paperweight collection. Jackie sent the following message: "The gift is beautiful—sort of like the Ukrainian colors; the green is kind of yellowish." The most important words she said in her response to the gift were, **"When you believe in something, you fight for it."** Jackie embodies the spirit that all need to emulate.

Marie Theerman, the oldest president of MNEA-Retired, served from 1990 to 1994. She is 97 years old and is in an assisted living facility. She wanted you to know that she was so sorry that she could not be with us to celebrate our 35th Anniversary. She said she can no longer travel due to her age and some physical difficulties. But she wanted to say, "Hi and Congratulations on 35 more successful years!" She was excited to receive several celebration pamphlets.

Focus Points . . .

- ❖ Did you know that We have five MNEA-Retired members who are legislators in our Missouri Capitol building? Congrats to Paula Brown (D) from Hazelwood, Maggie Nurrenbern (D) from North Kansas City, Chris Brown (R) from North Kansas City, Raychel Proudie (D) from Riverview Gardens and Kathy Steinhoff (D) from Columbia is a Representative Elect.
- ❖ According to Elizabeth Zerr, 158 people from Missouri opened the email about GPO/WEP and 61 took action and sent a letter to their Federal representatives.
- ❖ The 50 richest Americans now hold almost as much wealth as half of the U.S. The 50 richest people in the country are worth almost \$2 trillion, according to the *Bloomberg Billionaires Index* – that's up \$339 billion since the beginning of 2020. While the top 1% of Americans have a combined net worth of \$34.2 trillion, the poorest 50% have just \$2.08 trillion (or 1.9%) of all household worth. Our population is approximately 331,893,745 as of the current census.

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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