

50 YEARS *Strong*

Missouri
NEA
Unite. Inspire. Lead.



In the spring of 2023, the Missouri National Education Association celebrates 50 years as Missouri's leading advocate for education employees and the students they serve. We are pleased to present this book, which highlights the victories, challenges, growth, leadership, unionism, perseverance, inspiration and change that made Missouri NEA the force that it is today. We extend congratulations and gratitude to the members and staff who contributed along the journey.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Phil Murray'.

Phil Murray
MNEA President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DeeAnn Aull'.

DeeAnn Aull
MNEA Executive Director

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Missouri NEA Headquarters
1810 East Elm St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101



The passion that drives the educators who lead the Missouri National Education Association springs from the union's rich roots and the struggles Missouri NEA's founders endured to overcome the status quo and charge down a new path, armed with the commitment to build something better for all education employees and the students they serve and to give educators a real voice in their union, in state and national government, and in their school districts.



MISSOURI NEA'S STORY

MISSOURI'S TEACHER ASSOCIATION JOINS THE NATIONAL UNION

The movement to begin a national union for educators began in 1857 when 10 state teacher associations issued the call to invite other state associations to Philadelphia for a meeting of the National Teachers' Association, which changed its name when the United States Congress chartered it in 1906 as the National Education Association. At the 1857 national meeting, 43 educators met in Philadelphia to establish a national organization to elevate the character and advance the interests of the teaching profession, and to promote the cause of education in the U.S. The Missouri Teachers Association, which later became the Missouri State Teachers Association was among the 43.

NEA BEGINS THE AFFILIATE-UNIFICATION MOVEMENT

In 1920, NEA began the unification movement by amending its charter to provide for affiliation of local and state associations. Unification provided an opportunity for educators to wield influence and strength through membership at the local, state and national levels.

MSTA's delegate assembly attempted to unify Missouri educators in 1968 without success.

FOR DECADES,

the Missouri State Teachers Association, the Missouri affiliate of NEA, subscribed to NEA's program objectives. NEA's program objectives derive from NEA's values of an independent, united teaching profession; professional excellence; economic security for all educators; significant legislative support for public education; human and civil rights in education; and leadership in solving social problems that affect public education. MSTA was the NEA affiliate in good standing until 1973, when MSTA leaders willfully violated NEA bylaws, an act that resulted in NEA disaffiliating the Missouri organization. A group of MSTA leaders who held the values of the NEA then founded the Missouri National Education Association.

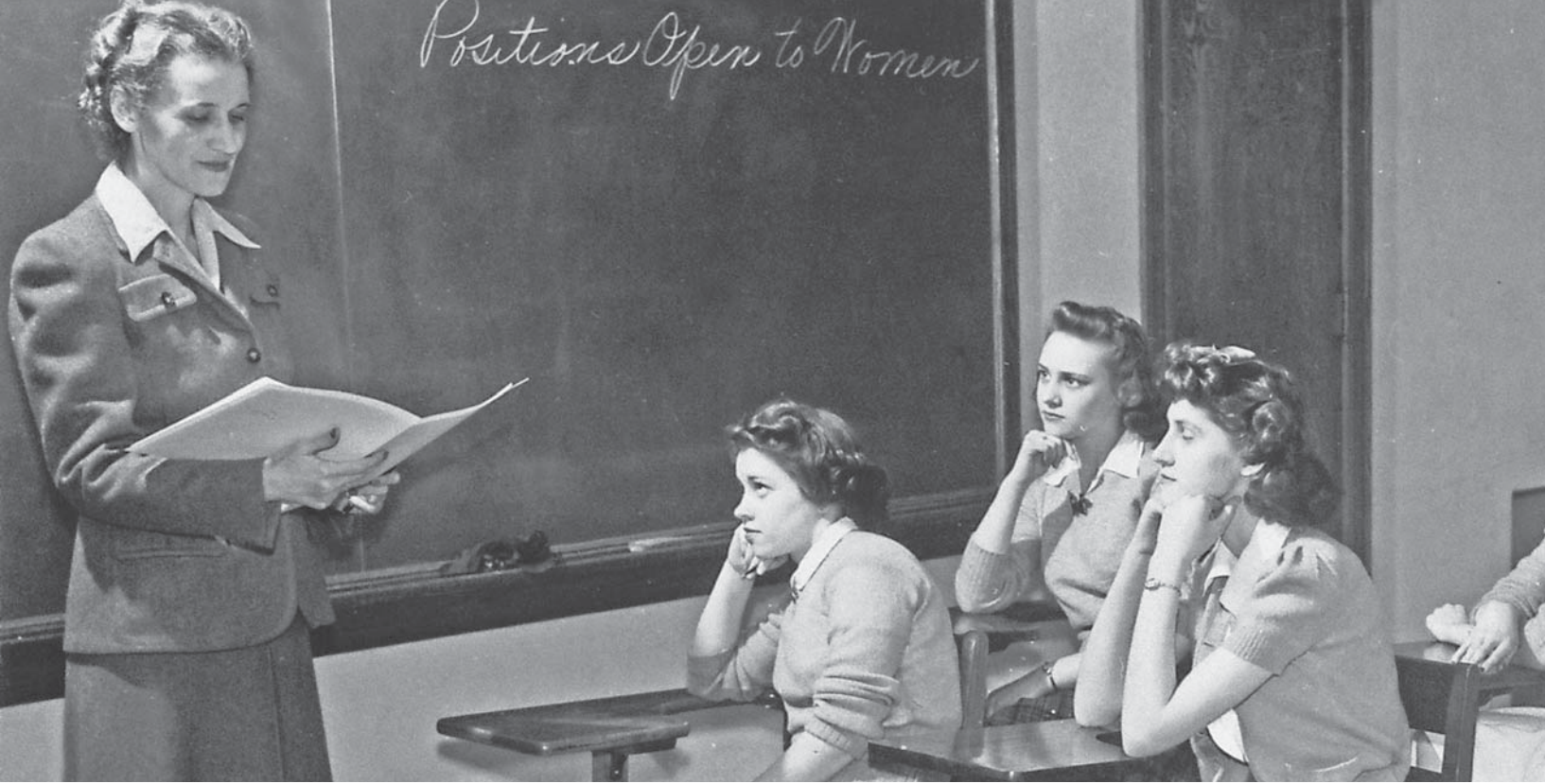
Founding members Ruth Keeling (left), NEA director, and Patricia O'Brien (right), Missouri NEA's first president, participate in the ceremonial groundbreaking for Missouri NEA's first headquarters office in Jefferson City.

In response to failed state efforts to unify, the NEA Representative Assembly in 1969 adopted a procedure for disciplining affiliates in cases where the affiliation would be prejudicial to the best interest of the NEA.

NEA DELEGATES IMPLEMENT UNIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Leaders from state NEA affiliates, including seven members representing Missouri, gathered in July 1971 for first NEA Constitutional Convention, which occurred in Detroit, MI. Delegates drafted an amendment to the NEA bylaws that declared that each state affiliate should be unified or have an acceptable plan for unification by Sept. 1, 1972. The second NEA Constitutional Convention occurred the next month to finalize the proposed new document.

By June 1972, at NEA's 110th annual meeting, held in Atlantic City, NJ, delegates approved a new NEA Constitution and Bylaws, which then needed to go to the full membership for a vote in November. To be ratified, the document needed a majority approval vote from more than half the states as well as a majority approval vote from NEA members overall. Included in the new organizational documents was Bylaw Article IX, which required that all state affiliates adopt the policy of unified professional membership or a plan for the implementation of such a policy. Unification requires that the national association and its state and local affiliates share common membership, purpose and programs.



NEA NOTIFIES MSTA OF INCOMPLIANCE

By September 1972, NEA notified MSTA that the MSTA affiliate had not complied with the requirements of Bylaw Article IX and requested a statement outlining the state's progress toward unification.

MSTA leaders requested a meeting in October to discuss the overall situation in Missouri. NEA leaders did not waiver.

MSTA DELEGATES REJECT UNIFICATION

At the MSTA Assembly of Delegates' November 1972 meeting, delegates did not elect the pro-NEA officer candidates and passed an amendment stating MSTA would not require NEA affiliation. The NEA unification constitutional amendment failed. Furthermore, the MSTA leadership denied NEA President-Elect Helen Wise the privilege of addressing the delegation.

St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association President Vito Maniaci, according to MSTA's reporting of the convention, "threatened the Assembly of Delegates with a new state association.... It seemed apparent to the Assembly that St. Louis and St. Louis Suburban were more intent on control of MSTA than unity." Pro-NEA MSTA members sent a telegram to NEA with this message: "It was apparent that the overriding issue of the delegate assembly today was to support or not to support the United Teaching Profession."

Despite the low wages, excessive work, and other challenges of the profession, female teachers had more autonomy than practically any other group of women in the 19th century, although many states still had laws barring married teachers. Discrimination against married female teachers in the U.S. did not end until 1964 with the passing of the Civil Rights Act.

This photo, taken in the mid 20th century, tells its own story with the chalked words "Positions Open to Women" on the board. Pearl Yocham, an NEA member teacher and a school principal who retired in 1965, spoke openly about choosing teaching over marriage.

In 1869, just three years after the National Teachers' Association membership was opened to women, Emily Rice became vice president of the association and the first woman elected to NTA office.

“Two St. Louis local units from the St. Louis Teachers Association and the St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association have been caught up in the controversy. As of Friday, they have, in effect, been ousted from the state association. Delegates at a Missouri State Teachers Association meeting last week in Kansas City voted to make the local associations choose between membership in the state organization and the NEA.”

– The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “State Teachers Group Ousts City, County Units,” Nov. 5, 1972

The NEA membership in Missouri was at a critical point. Members had to exercise one of two choices: to de-unify and affiliate with the MSTA as non-unified locals or to affiliate as unified locals with the NEA, if the NEA should disaffiliate MSTA.

MSTA PRO-NEA LEADERS SEEK SUPPORT FROM NEA

The pro-NEA leaders of MSTA who chose to continue with unified local associations believed that their past efforts indicated their strong support of the United Teaching Profession, but they knew they could not continue their association work without financial, legal and moral support from the national affiliate. They requested that the NEA executive committee commit to supporting the NEA membership in Missouri. Here’s what they requested from NEA:

- Place the Missouri NEA Steering Committee on the agenda of the NEA Executive Committee in November.
- Begin procedures for MSTA disaffiliation.

⋮ **1973**

- NEA disaffiliates the MSTA and recognizes the new Show-Me State NEA affiliate, the Missouri National Education Association.



⋮ **1974**

- MNEA membership grows to more than 11,000 members in 128 school districts.

Patricia O'Brien, Julius Giebler, Jim Dalton, Eleanor Krumbiegel, Jim Kirkham, Jerry Abernathy, Mitch Bean, Karol Finley, Bob Graham, Harold Austin, Keith Zeka, Judy Behnke, Ruth Keeling, Vito Maniaci, Bob Creacy, Rich Elmore, Roger Bogle, Mildred King, and Don Morrow signed the letter. O'Brien, NEA director from Missouri, assembled teacher leaders to strategize. This group was later known as the "600" and then became the "600 Plus."

NEA soon arranged a meeting with MSTA and the group that would eventually become Missouri NEA. Vito Maniaci, president of the St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association, assembled SLSTA leaders, who spelled out the organizational crisis facing Missouri. The SLSTA "delegation" offered the following options:

- Comply with the MSTA Constitution and de-unify.
- Don't comply with MSTA requirements, which would result in expulsion from MSTA.
- Create a new state association affiliated with the NEA – after the NEA disaffiliates MSTA.
- Create an autonomous organization affiliated with neither the MSTA nor the NEA.

1975

- More than 200 members attend the first Leadership Conference.



1977

- A U.S. District judge awards reinstatement damages to three Leadwood teachers for violation of First Amendment rights.

1976

- MNEA headquarters moves from a rented office to its own building at 612 Eastland Drive in Jefferson City.

PRO-NEA LEADERS FILE CHARGES, REQUEST MSTA DISAFFILIATION

Patricia O'Brien filed charges with the NEA against MSTA and requested NEA disaffiliate MSTA. She notified all NEA members in Missouri that "NEA does not intend to desert its members during this troubled time."

The next step in the process was the Show Cause Hearing in Washington, D.C. in January 1973 at the NEA Headquarters. MSTA representatives would have the opportunity to appear before the NEA Executive Committee to respond to formal charges as to why the MSTA should not be disaffiliated from the NEA due to conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the national organization.

: 1978

- St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association and MNEA win the
- \$6 million lawsuit MSTA filed against them. It took three more years
- before the appellate court upheld the circuit court decision, finally
- settling the lawsuit over who owned the SLSTA office.



Following are the charges brought against MSTA by O'Brien and Allan M. West:

- MSTA does not assist locals in negotiations.
- MSTA does not have an adequate program of teacher defense.
- MSTA does not promote a teacher advocate program.
- MSTA does not provide for instructional improvement programs at the local level.

The hearing lasted from 9:30 a.m. Jan. 17 until 1 a.m. Jan. 18.

The hearing resulted in the disaffiliation of MSTA as a Missouri affiliate of the NEA.

A major focus of the hearing was the unification policy, which specified that any educator who chooses to join an NEA affiliate must join as member of the local, state and national organization. During the testimony, the MSTA executive director stated that MSTA had no plans for implementing a unified membership requirement. At that time, Missouri was the only state that had not complied with the NEA Bylaws.

During the testimony, one leader noted that there appears to be “an active effort to submerge the NEA name, to disassociate it with those things positive and to associate us with those things negative.” Prior to the charge brought against MSTA, the MSTA representative body had rejected unification 12 times.



• 1979

- Five MNEA members attend a White House ceremony as President Jimmy Carter signs the bill creating the U.S. Department of Education.

• 1979

- MNEA organizes the Student MNEA program for college students studying to become teachers.

30 LAUNCH NEW ORGANIZATION

Between the January 1973 NEA hearing and the March decision by the NEA executive committee, 30 concerned educators from throughout Missouri met in Columbia to lay the groundwork for a new state affiliate in Missouri (in the event that NEA would decide to disaffiliate MSTA). Patricia O'Brien, NEA director for Missouri and a teacher from Crystal City, called the meeting, which resulted in an interim charter for an alternative organization. The 30 individuals established the Organizing Committee, which received recognition from NEA as the new state affiliate.

The 30 educators came as individuals, not as official representatives of local associations or school districts. The group established operating procedures, which were later used as part of the presentation for the affiliation request to the NEA executive committee. Following are the names of the original 30, which included O'Brien, who then served as the Organizing Committee chairperson:

Jerry B. Abernathy, St. Louis
Mitchell Bean, Joplin*
Judy Behnke, Hickman Mills*
Doris Cagle, St. Charles
Carol Cooley, Park Hill
Tom Dykstra, Bayless
Richard T. Elmore, St. Louis
Karol Filey, Lindbergh
J.E. Giebler, University City
Betty Goldman, St. Charles
Robert L. Graham, University City
Jim Groetsch, St. Louis STA
Doug Guthals, North Kansas City
Etta Harl, Hazelwood
Janet Henley, Columbia
Mary Lou Holmes, Springfield

Virginia L. Hurt, Parkway
Lloyd P. Jorgenson, Columbia
Ruth Keeling, Normandy
Mildred King, Springfield*
Vito Maniaci, St. Charles *
Donn Morrow, Pattonville
Robert Myers, Poplar Bluff
Anna E. Scott, Ritenour
Dave Tarver, North Kansas City
Leroy Walters, Parkway
Cheryl Wheeler, Park Hill
Keith O. Wilson, Wellston
Bud Young, Rockwood

*members of the Organizing Committee

"It must be asked now of every NEA member in Missouri, and hopefully of every MSTA member as well, are the NEA members being told 'Leave – there is no room for you in our organization' by the MSTA? ...Our subsequent actions have to be based on this lesson we have just painfully learned."

– St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association MSTA Convention Special Report, Nov. 7, 1972

Additional Organizing Committee members:

Ron Bruch, Independence
Jim Dalton, Poplar Bluff
Harry Murray, Kirksville
Jim Richmond, St. Louis City
Larry Whitlock, Riverview Gardens



NEA AFFILIATES MISSOURI NEA

NEA affiliates Missouri NEA in March 1973. Missouri NEA President Patricia O'Brien (Crystal City) led the new association with a governing committee of nine members, known as the organizing team. Organizing team members were Vito Maniaci (SLSTA), Larry Whitlock (SLSTA), Jim Richmond (St. Louis City), Jim Dalton (Poplar Bluff), Harry Murray (Kirksville), Mildred King (Springfield), Mitchell Bean (Joplin), Judy Behnke (Hickman Mills) and Ron Bruch (Independence). O'Brien then notified the 600 Plus of "our new state association." She concludes her letter with the following words:

"It is our intent that this is a NEW DAY for us; truly, it is just that. It should be a time of intense interest and action. Success depends on all of us and just how completely we believe that we have SOMETHING BETTER FOR TEACHERS AND SOMETHING BETTER FOR STUDENTS."

Following this announcement, O'Brien and the Organizing Committee adopted MNEA's operating procedures.

Advocacy for public education, students and education employees is a longstanding theme for Missouri NEA. The organization grew out of a deep passion to achieve "something better" for public education and the education profession, and that commitment has never wavered.



MISSOURI NEA SETS UP SHOP

The initial physical establishment of the new organization called for a full-time release Organizing Committee chairperson, full-time executive director, rental of a full-time office in Jefferson City, staffed by a full-time support person, and production of a member newsletter.

Michigan NEA affiliate staff person Bruce Ambs served as the first Missouri NEA executive director. He worked out of the first office, which the organization rented at 1304 Southwest Blvd in Jefferson City. The title of the new publication for Missouri educators was "Something Better."

The group established a legislative council, which would serve as the ultimate authority for the new association. The council's duties were to elect members to the Organizing Committee on a regional basis, to review and direct actions of the Organizing Committee and to establish the Bylaws Committee, which was to complete its work by May 30, 1973.

"Teacher advocacy now has breathing room in Missouri and now has a state association to sustain it. We are, indeed, 'free at last' to do what we must to make Missouri a better place in which to teach."

– Missouri NEA's organizing literature, spring 1973

MNEA MISSION, VISION, VALUES

MISSION

To serve as the united voice to promote, advance, and protect public education and to advocate for the rights and interests of students and our members

VISION

To keep the promise of a quality public education through a great public school for every child

CORE VALUES

Democracy, professionalism, partnerships, collective action and advocacy, fairness/a just society, equity, dignity, and respect for all

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (2017-PRESENT)

Increase membership

Build local power and capacity through recruiting and retaining members.

Improve engagement with locals

Strengthen relationships between the state association and local associations through active and effective engagement.

Build influence

Increase local and state association influence through strong grassroots action.

Enable effective communication

Ensure members and leaders have access to avenues of both internal and external association-related communication.

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NEA'S STORY

EDUCATORS CALL FOR A NATIONAL UNIFIED VOICE

On a summer afternoon in 1857, 43 educators gathered in Philadelphia, answering a national call to unite as one voice in the cause of public education.

At the time, learning to read and write was a luxury for most children—and for many children of color, learning to read and write was a crime. But more than 165 years later, the voice of the fledgling association has risen to represent more than 3.2 million educators, and what was once a privilege for a fortunate few is now a rite of passage for every American child.

Over the years, NEA has played an increasingly vital role in improving the conditions under which teachers work and children learn. In the turbulent 1960s, the historic merger of the NEA and the predominantly Black American Teachers Association promoted the human and civil rights of educators and students of all ethnicities.

Today, public schools guarantee every American child a free education, regardless of race or gender, religion or spoken language, social class or disability. And when this diverse group heads to school each morning, dedicated NEA members are there to teach, drive, feed, counsel, nurse—and inspire.

THE CALL

THE 1857 INVITATION TO FORM THE NATIONAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION:

Believing that what has been accomplished for the states by state associations may be done for the whole country by a national association, we, the undersigned, invite our fellow educators throughout the United States to assemble...for the purpose of organizing a National Teachers Association.... We cordially extend this invitation to all practical teachers in the North, the South, the East, and the West, who are willing to unite in a general effort to promote the general welfare of our country by concentrating the wisdom and power of numerous minds, and distributing among all the accumulated experiences of all; who are ready to devote their energies and their means to advance the dignity, respectability and usefulness of their calling; and who, in fine, believe that the time has come when the teachers of the nation should gather into one great educational brotherhood....

– Thomas Valentine, president of the New York Teachers Association

• 1980

- The Special Education Employees Association, representing teacher aides and assistants in St. Louis County's Special School District, becomes MNEA's first support professional local affiliate.



SG&W

• 1981

- The St. Louis firm of Schuchat, Cook and Werner becomes MNEA's general counsel.

SPIRIT OF EGALITARIANISM CHANGES THE PROFESSION

Ironically, even though the NTA had been open to minority educators from day one, women had been barred from joining. With the end of the Civil War, however, came a new spirit of egalitarianism that led NTA members in 1866 to open membership to “persons,” rather than just “gentlemen.”

Despite the low wages, overwork, and other challenges of the profession, female teachers had more autonomy than practically any other group of women in the 19th century, although many states still had laws barring married teachers. In 1869, just three years after NTA membership was opened to women, Emily Rice became vice president of the association—the first woman elected to NTA office.

NTA BECOMES NEA

The very next year, NTA became the National Education Association by absorbing three smaller organizations: the American Normal School Association, the National Association of School Superintendents, and the Central College Association. As a new century began, the growing association would have a profound impact on education in America.

At the turn of the century, teachers were still struggling with perennial issues: salaries remained under \$50 a month in most places, and women were still paid less than men. Within their classrooms, teachers often had to educate more than 60 students with little support. At the 1903 NEA convention, fiery Margaret Haley, a Chicago teacher, led a demonstration to

A hundred years

before the birth of NEA, education was largely informal—the main requirements for teaching were the ability to read, write, and stay out of trouble. By the mid-1800s, however, widespread education reforms had led to an emerging public school system and professional training for teachers.

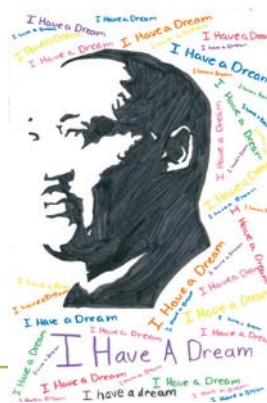
Despite reforms, many teachers continued to work in lonely isolation in one-room schoolhouses with scanty teaching materials, uncertain public support, and salaries of less than \$100 a year—sometimes the “salary” was food and lodging.

Teachers needed a voice. State education associations existed in 15 of the 31 states in the Union, but there was no national organization to serve as a single clear voice for America’s teachers...until one day in 1857, when 10 state associations sent out “The Call,” an invitation to the nation’s educators to unite.

Although membership in the new National Teachers Association was restricted to “gentlemen,” the two women who answered the call were made honorary members and permitted to sign the constitution. This restriction would last for nine years.

1981

- A non-tenured teacher from Republic wins a \$15,000 back-pay award in a sex discrimination settlement.



1982

- The MNEA Minority Affairs Committee conducts the first MNEA Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.

bring attention to the need for improving the lot of classroom teachers. In response, NEA created a national committee and allocated funds to work on improving teacher salaries, tenures and pensions.

By the time NEA celebrated its 50th birthday in 1907, the association had grown to represent 5,044 educators across the nation. Members were preoccupied by an internal debate about administrators playing too large of a role in the organization's leadership. As classroom teachers began to dominate the membership, they pushed for a greater voice within the association and in the workplace. In a speech that year, Ella Flagg Young, who would become NEA's first female president, said, "If the public school system is to meet the demands which 20th century civilization must lay upon it, the isolation...of teachers from the administration of the school must be overcome.... Can it be true that teachers are stronger in their work when they have no voice in planning the great issues committed to their hands?"

AMERICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION GROWS OUT OF SEGREGATION

In the post-Reconstruction era, segregation permeated life in the North and South, sanctioned by law or local custom. Then, in 1896, the Supreme Court, in *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, upheld legal segregation of schools, which forced Black teachers into a desperate struggle to provide "equal" resources for Black students. The rise of Jim Crow laws would set back the cause of Black education for nearly a century. In 1904, J.R.E. Lee, a prominent Black educator, founded the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools (NATCS) to offer Black teachers a national forum for discussing and addressing their concerns. NATCS would later become the American Teachers Association.

1983

Something Better becomes an award-winning publication, winning two "best" awards from NEA's State Education Editors. This is the beginning of the publication's ongoing award-winning reputation. By 2023, MNEA Communications earned more than 90 national awards for writing, photography, campaign design, marketing materials, website development, visual effects and issue development.



1984

Teachers receive needed pay raises resulting from the passage of Prop C, a ballot initiative MNEA supported.

NEA, ATA JOIN FORCES

NEA and ATA started working together as advocates for Black education in 1926, forming a Joint Committee to focus on the evaluation and accreditation of Black schools. The partnership was successful, and by the time the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, the Joint Committee had spent four decades fighting gross inequities in the treatment of Black schoolchildren and their teachers. Even the Brown vs. Board of Education victory proved to be a two-edged sword: When school districts in 17 states used court-ordered desegregation as an excuse to dismiss hundreds of Black teachers, NEA established a \$1 million fund to “protect and promote the professional, civil, and human rights of educators.” This fund and the Joint Committee helped support Black teachers who were fired for participating in the voter registration drives that were central to the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. In a yearlong drive, NEA asked each member of the organized teaching profession to contribute at least one dollar to the fund, and teachers across the country came to the aid of their colleagues.

NEA, ATA MERGE

The Joint Committee first discussed a plan to unify NEA and ATA in 1945, but there was adamant opposition from some affiliates and a lukewarm reception from others. At the time, 16 states and the District of Columbia had separate associations for Black and White teachers. Only four states merged affiliates over the next two decades, and in one last effort to unify the remaining affiliates, delegates at the 1964 NEA Representative Assembly passed a resolution requiring racially segregated affiliates to merge. Finally, after years of intense negotiation, NEA and ATA agreed to merge at the 1966 NEA Representative Assembly.

• 1987

- MNEA retirees organize
- MNEA-Retired to provide an
- NEA affiliate for retired MNEA
- members.



• 1987

- MNEA legislative agenda
- includes requiring school
- districts to offer health
- insurance to retirees at the
- active employee rate.

• 1989

- MNEA moves into a new
- headquarters building
- at 1810 East Elm St. in
- Jefferson City, MO.





NEA'S MISSION, VISION, VALUES

We, the members of the National Education Association of the United States, are the voice of education professionals. Our work is fundamental to the nation, and we accept the profound trust placed in us.

VISION

Our vision is a great public school for every student.

MISSION

Our mission is to advocate for education professionals and to unite our members and the nation to fulfill the promise of public education to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world.

CORE VALUES

These principles guide our work and define our mission:

Equal opportunity – We believe public education is the gateway to opportunity. All students have the human and civil right to a quality public education that develops their potential, independence, and character.

A just society – We believe public education is vital to building respect for the worth, dignity, and equality of every individual in our diverse society.

Democracy – We believe public education is the cornerstone of our republic. Public education provides individuals with the skills to be involved, informed, and engaged in our representative democracy.

Professionalism – We believe that the expertise and judgment of education professionals are critical to student success. We maintain the highest professional standards, and we expect the status, compensation, and respect due all professionals.

Partnership – We believe partnerships with parents, families, communities, and other stakeholders are essential to quality public education and student success.

Collective action – We believe individuals are strengthened when they work together for the common good. As education professionals, we improve both our professional status and the quality of public education when we unite and advocate collectively.

NEA also believes every student in America, regardless of family income or place of residence, deserves a quality education. In pursuing its mission, NEA has determined that we will focus the energy and resources of our 3.2 million members on improving the quality of teaching, increasing student achievement and making schools safer, better places to learn.



EVOLUTION OF MISSOURI'S K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

1808

The "Territorial Legislature of Louisiana" passes an act incorporating St. Genevieve Academy. This is the first legally organized school in what is to become Missouri Territory.

1853

By this time, about 2,500 school districts have formed, typically covering six to nine square miles, with nearly 125,000 students in attendance.

1878

The number of school districts has grown to about 10,000, but of this number, not more than 100 are doing work above the elementary level.

1895

The first legislation permitting school district mergers passes.

1900

The number of school districts reaches 10,499.





1901

The first basic consolidation law is passed. In 1902, the Hickman Mills elementary and high school district in Jackson County is the first to be formed under this new law.

1911

Legislation provides for transportation of school children living more than two miles from school, and the School Consolidation Law is passed.

1918

The annual report of State Superintendent Uel W. Lamkin notes that 2,633 districts have an average daily attendance of less than 15; 3,713 districts average between 15 and 25; 1,820 average between 25 and 40; and 1,441 average more than 40.

1931

As a result of the 1931 School Law, districts not maintaining an approved high school are responsible for paying the tuition of resident pupils attending an approved high school.



1944

Missouri ranks third in the nation in the number of one-room rural schools in operation, with 5,321 districts reporting fewer than 15 pupils in average daily attendance.

1948

Legislators pass the School District Reorganization Law. More thorough and far-reaching than any previous law concerning consolidation, it provides for county boards, which are required to submit plans for reorganization of school districts in each county. By 1952, the number of districts in the state is reduced from 8,422 to 4,573. By 1958, the number declines to 2,629.

1969

The 75th General Assembly enacts a bill requiring three-director rural districts to combine with other districts within a three-year period.

1975

The number of local school districts totals 565.



A lady bought 4 yds of
ribbon at 37 cts a yard, 3 yds
of muslin at 19 cts a yard, 3
yds of flannel at 35 cts a yard,
3 yds of lace at 46 cts a yard,
and a belt for 75 cts, what
was her bill?

At 8 cts a pound, how
many pounds of sugar can
I buy for 72 cts.

Science. - What
is in the kettle?
What happened when the
kettle was placed over the
flame? What was seen coming
out of the kettle? What
does heat do to the water? What
does heat do to the water?
What does heat do to water?
Where did we hear
it? What was the
sound when we took heat
away? What did the cold

1993

The Outstanding Schools Act provides that school districts that are not accredited for two successive years shall lapse and attach to another district.

1994

Missouri has 530 school districts.

1998

The Missouri Charter School Law establishes public charter schools in only two school districts: Kansas City 33 and St. Louis City. Charter public schools are independent public schools. The first charter school opened in Kansas City in 1999. The law was expanded in 2016, and the first charter school outside of Kansas City and St. Louis school districts opened in 2022.

: 1993

- MNEA efforts led to the passage of the Outstanding Schools Act, which provides a new school funding formula and
- funding improvements and increases funding for professional development, new student standards and assessments.



1991

- MNEA holds its first annual statewide meeting for student MNEA members.



1993

- MNEA leads efforts to defeat Hancock II, a ballot measure that would have severely curtailed state funding for schools, highways, prisons and other services.



1993

- MNEA becomes the first affiliate in the nation to adopt a differentiated dues structure, which sets lower dues for members in lower-paying districts.

1993

- MNEA creates a charitable fund, which begins its charitable work through donations to school districts and members who were victims of the flood of 1993.





2022-2023

Now, 37 charter public schools (local education agencies) operate in 76 buildings serving 25,269 Missouri students.

Missouri's K-12 public school system comprises 70 elementary school districts and 449 districts maintaining high schools—a total of 519 total school districts serving 863,282 students. In addition, more than 35,000 preschool students attend public preschool programs.

Kindergarten attendance is still not mandatory but does exist in every school district and does receive per-pupil funding through the school foundation formula. Preschool programs do not exist in every school district. Although some state funding is available, tuition is required to supplement and sustain many local preschool programs.

Sources—Education in Missouri: An Informal History, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Outstanding Schools Act, 1993



IMPORTANT MILESTONES THAT CHANGED MISSOURI EDUCATION

UNFUNDED MISSOURI SCHOOL FINANCE LAW

The Missouri school finance law of 1931 should have provided the money schools needed, but the deepening Depression prevented the Missouri General Assembly from meeting its financial obligations, and the bill was not fully funded until 1942. The bill included progressive provisions such as tax equalization, transportation aid, a guaranteed minimum salary and an eight-month school term.

WORLD WAR II

During the first half of the 1940s, many Missouri teachers left the classroom to go directly into battle against Hitler and the Axis forces. Others contributed to what was to become a critical teacher shortage by seeking higher paying defense jobs. Those who remained in the classroom helped with the war effort by selling defense bonds, aiding in sugar rationing, teaching first aid and serving on neighborhood defense councils.

1940s EDUCATION LEGISLATION

Despite the war, the 1940s was a banner decade for public education legislation. Teachers met a long-time goal by passing a teacher retirement bill in 1945. Teacher representatives also participated in writing a new state Constitution in 1945, supported a bill in 1948 that established state aid for

Columbia Missouri NEA members, in the fall of 2020, like many members across the state, managed to reach out to members safely during the COVID-19 pandemic with a parade of drive-by back-to-school greetings, materials and lunch.

special classes for the handicapped, and succeeded in passing a sweeping school district reorganization bill in 1948, which provided for a county board of education, thus opening the door for school consolidation.

BIPARTISAN-APPOINTED STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The new state constitution also created a bipartisan-appointed State Board of Education with the authority to appoint the Commissioner of Education. Prior to this, the Commissioner of Education was an elected position that turned over every two to four years because many viewed the post as a steppingstone to other statewide political offices. The 1945 revision brought stability to the Commissioner of Education post and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Only seven people have served as commissioner since 1945.

POST-WAR ERA FEAR

In the 1950s many teachers responded to the country's post-war era fears by showing students a filmstrip entitled, "How to Lessen Chances of Injury from an Atomic Explosion." The film dramatized situations at school where students would move to the hallway or get under their desks in a crouched position during bomb drills.

A period of social upheaval marked the post-war era, including the long overdue decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 that separate is not equal. The Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka decision required school systems across the U.S. to integrate all students and teachers into a single system.

The launch of Sputnik, the first Russian satellite, contributed to a political outcry for more focus on teaching of physics, chemistry, mathematics

1995

- MNEA lobbying and coalition organizing leads to success in providing "25 and Out" as a retirement option for teachers.



1996

- MNEA launches its website, www.mnea.org.

and modern foreign languages. In July 1961, the State Board of Education determined that a bachelor's degree would be the minimum certification requirement for all new teachers.

TEACHER TENURE

Obtaining some form of teacher tenure was the story of the 1960s. An educator-sponsored tenure bill failed in the 1967 Missouri General Assembly, but teachers did not give up and planned to push again for the strongest tenure bill possible in the 1969 General Assembly. House Bill 120 passed that spring, providing not only tenure, but also sick leave, leave of absence, sabbatical leave, military leave and maternity leave. The law became effective July 1, 1970.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF STUDENT NON-ACCIDENT INJURY, NEGLIGENCE

Another significant piece of legislation that same session mandated that any teacher or school nurse shall report to the county welfare office or juvenile officer any case of injury or neglect, other than by accident, of a student under age 17.

BASIC ESSENTIAL SKILLS TEST

Notable legislation in the 1970s included the 1978 creation of the Basic Essential Skills Test, a statewide competency test. Although countywide and districtwide assessments had existed for years, the BEST was used to report statewide results and encourage statewide curriculum standards to help ensure higher results.

1998

Gov. Mel Carnahan and First Lady Jean Carnahan, along with other state officials, participate in the first Read Across America observance on March 2, Dr. Seuss's birthday, marking the beginning of an annual campaign to promote reading among Missouri students.



1999

MNEA purchases and moves into three regional offices.

1999

The MNEA vice president's role becomes a full-time-release position.

EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT OF 1975

In 1979, schools changed to accommodate the passage of Public Law 94-142, which required that all children, regardless of handicap, had the right to education, least restrictive alternative, individualized programming and due process.

A NATION AT RISK REPORT

The 1980s spurred a movement of reform in public education when the National Commission on Excellence in Education released its report, "A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform." Reform became the watchword of the 1980s, culminating in the Excellence in Education Act, which the Missouri legislature passed in 1985. The act called for "a revolution in expectations in schools, with expanded testing (the Missouri Mastery and Achievement Test), a \$15,000 minimum starting salary for teachers, performance-based teacher evaluation and the trend-setting Parents as Teachers Program.

PROPOSITION C

November 1982 brought significantly more funding to implement programs in schools as a result of the initiative petition drive that came to known as the Proposition C one-cent sales tax for education. The total estimated revenue increase for the 1983-1984 school year was \$272.6 million.

DESEGREGATION LAWSUITS

Desegregation lawsuits involving both Kansas City and St. Louis dominated statewide headlines in the 1980s. Segregation laws were on the books in Missouri until 1974, and that is just one reason Judge William Hungate

2003

MNEA airs its first radio spots promoting teacher quality.



2003

MNEA wins a million-dollar judgement against the Normandy School District in a salary-compliance lawsuit.

2003

MNEA sues Independence School District for violating bargaining rights of support employees and seeks to overturn the 1947 Springfield vs. Claude Supreme Court decision, which held that the right to bargain does not apply to public employees. MNEA won this historic case in 2007, allowing all public employees, including teachers, the constitutional right to bargain collectively.

in St. Louis ordered the state to pay half the future costs in an area-wide desegregation plan involving 23 suburban districts. The plan began in the fall of 1983. The state legislature would grapple with financial and political solutions to the settlement costs resulting from necessary remedies for more than a decade.

1993 FLOODS

In 1993 flooding of both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers brought devastating flooding to schools in nearly a dozen school districts.

AMENDMENT 7

In 1994, educators from across Missouri averted a near financial disaster when they defeated Amendment 7, also known as Hancock II. Educators got the word out with lapel pins, T-shirts, bumper stickers, yard signs and walked door to door sharing flyers and urging citizens to “get out the vote” against this destructive proposal that would have destroyed financial support for public schools. Amendment 7, known as Hancock II, was soundly defeated.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS ACT

A meaningful response to Missouri’s school funding crisis didn’t come from Jefferson City until an equity lawsuit prompted the legislature in 1993 to pass the Outstanding Schools Act, which included more than \$350 million in new money for schools. It also included a reform package with performance standards and new assessments. Educators around the state were charged with writing the standards, curriculum frameworks and assessment items for the new MMAT. Results from this assessment would be used in a new consequential school district accreditation program called the Missouri School Improvement Program.

: 2004

- MNEA members win a lawsuit in the Sherwood School District with a judge’s ruling that the district’s practices violate Missouri’s Teacher Tenure Act.



: 2005

- Independence NEA retirees win judgment against the Independence School District for payment of retirement incentive benefits.

: 2005

- MNEA launches the “I Can Do It” support program for beginning teachers.

The 1990s saw the minimum teacher's salary increase from \$15,000 to \$18,000 with a bachelor's degree and the addition of \$24,000 with a master's degree. Nearly one decade later, this would be modified to \$25,000 and \$32,000. In 2022, it was increased for one year to \$38,000 if the local school district applied for the supplemental funds available.

SCHOOL FUNDING RESPONSIBILITIES, CERTIFICATION CHANGES

During the 2000s, legislators modified the school foundation formula to lower the state's financial responsibility to schools and increase the local school district financial burden. Teacher certification standards also deteriorated, but the number of course hours increased for much-needed counselor certification. Passing an assessment became a requirement to receive full certification regardless of college GPA, student teaching success or other demonstrations of adequate preparedness for the classroom.

EXTREME RIGHT INFLUENCE

Billionaire Rex Sinquefeld returned to Missouri in 2004 and began spending his fortune to attack teacher rights, local control of schools, and the taxes required to support public schools. A supporter of voucher schemes, charter school expansion, and other privatization of public education efforts, his forces continue working to break down the public school system. Educators have joined forces for the last two decades to push back and defeat both ballot initiatives and legislation put forward by the Show Me Institute, a think tank he funded to push his agenda. He and his supporters, however, have made progress on their regressive agenda and continue to be a threat to public education.

BARGAINING RIGHTS FOR TEACHERS

In 2007, Missouri NEA won a lawsuit before the Missouri Supreme Court against the Independence School District. The lawsuit clearly established the constitutional right of public employees, including teachers, to bargain collectively. This cleared the way for Missouri NEA locals that had not previously engaged in collective bargaining to exercise their right as the exclusive representative at the local bargaining table.

EXTREMIST ANTI-UNION LEGISLATION

Anti-union legislators wrote and passed House Bill 1413 in 2018. This far-reaching extremist legislation made joining Missouri NEA and maintaining Missouri NEA membership, bargaining and contributing to political action committees to support pro-public education candidates more difficult. Missouri NEA filed a lawsuit stating the law was unconstitutional based on



the 2007 court decision establishing public employees' constitutional right to bargain collectively. In May of 2021, MNEA won its lawsuit, rendering every component of H.B. 1413 null and void.

Through collective action, members' voices continue to lead to positive change for the education profession, students and public education.

COVID-19

On March 13, 2020, Gov. Mike Parson declared a COVID-19-related State of Emergency for Missouri. This world-wide pandemic claimed more than 20,000 Missouri lives by the time Parson lifted the State of Emergency on Dec. 31, 2021. During the State of Emergency, schools and business were closed, and educators delivered instruction virtually. Educators delivered meals to students and families on school buses, which also frequently served as internet hotspots for families without internet access. District employees sanitized buildings and implemented extensive measures to stop the spread of the virus and limit exposures. Masks for lowering the spread of the virus and vaccines to lower the chance of death from infection became the subjects of great controversy. The federal government poured \$1.8 billion into Missouri education for student safety, continued employment of school staff during lockdowns, instructional delivery, student food stability, and other needs while at home learning.

By the fall of 2022, all Missouri school districts were fully back to in-person teaching and learning, but COVID-19 exposures and precautions persisted. Educators continued to grapple with student learning loss, emotional repercussions and other trauma resulting from the secondary effects of the pandemic.



HISTORY OF MISSOURI NEA AND THE EVENTS LEADING TO ITS INCEPTION

1857

Ten state education associations, including the Missouri State Teachers Association as the representative of Missouri, form a national organization.

1920

NEA amends its charter to provide for local and state affiliation.

1944

Oregon becomes the first state to become fully unified at all three levels (local, state and national).

1968

By October, 14 states are fully unified, and 15 states are committed to unify. Missouri is not in either category.

At the November MSTA Assembly of Delegates, a group of delegates tries, without success, to unify.

This timeline, prepared for the Missouri NEA 50th Anniversary Celebration, comprises an accumulation of milestones reported in previous anniversary celebration documents, research, current events, and recollections of past presidents, executive directors and other staff members.

1970

NEA Representative Assembly delegates in San Francisco, CA, approve the "Enabling Act," a blueprint for the preparation for a Constitutional Convention.

1971

NEA held its first Constitutional Convention in Detroit, MI. The delegates, with seven representing Missouri, passed an amendment to the NEA bylaws calling for each state to unify or have a plan to unify by Sept. 1, 1972.

1972

NEA holds its annual convention in Atlantic City, NJ, in June. Delegates approve the new constitution and bylaws and send the documents out to all states for ratification. The documents are ratified by a majority vote in more than half the states as well as by a majority vote of all NEA members. MSTA does not meet the required Sept. 1 deadline for implementation of the unification. MSTA leaders receive a letter on Sept. 27 from NEA informing them that they have not met the deadline for implementation of unification and asking them to show progress by Oct. 8 in moving toward implementation.

At the Nov. 1 convening of the MSTA Assembly of Delegates, delegates vote repeatedly not to unify and deny Helen Wise, president-elect of NEA, access to speak. Vito Maniaci, president of the St. Louis Suburban Teachers



Association, threatens MSTA with the formation of a new association if MSTA leaders will not comply.

MSTA NEA supporters send a telegram to NEA President Catherine Barrett on Nov. 1 to inform her that MSTA passed its own Amendment 9 declaring that unification was not required. The letter asked for support from NEA and a commencement of procedures to disaffiliate MSTA.

On that same day, Patricia O'Brien, one of the two NEA directors for MSTA, calls together a group of 600 teacher leaders to advise her on what to report to NEA about MSTA's stand against unification.

On Nov. 2, NEA leaders send a telegram to O'Brien informing her of the NEA's commitment to unification and recognizing its obligation to implement the directive concerning state unification. NEA leaders request to meet with both the MSTA and the pro-NEA group from Missouri.

On Nov. 5, the St. Louis Post Dispatch announces that MSTA has ousted the St. Louis Teachers Association and the St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association.

O'Brien requests on Nov. 14 that NEA leaders proceed with disaffiliating MSTA for failure to comply with unification.

Within days after receiving the charges, NEA notifies MSTA leaders that they are to appear in a show-cause hearing to respond to formal charges.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of educators in the early 1970s who believed in NEA's mission, NEA affiliates Missouri NEA March 16, 1973.

1973

On Jan. 17-18, NEA hosts a show-cause hearing in Washington, D.C. at NEA Headquarters. The records note that MSTA was the only state association that did not file a plan to unify and that the MSTA executive secretary stated that MSTA did not plan to do so. In addition, the record states the following:

- MSTA does not assist locals in negotiations.
- MSTA does not have an adequate program of teacher defense.
- MSTA does not promote a teacher advocate program.
- MSTA does not provide for instructional improvement programs at the local level.

On March 11, NEA disaffiliates MSTA.

Missouri NEA is affiliated by NEA on March 16, with O'Brien serving as organizing chairperson, along with a committee of nine— Vito Maniaci (SLSTA), Larry Whitlock (SLSTA), Jim Richmond (St. Louis City), Jim Dalton (Poplar Bluff), Harry Murray (Kirksville), Mildred King (Springfield), Mitchell Bean (Joplin), Judy Behnke (Hickman Mills), and Ron Bruch (Independence). O'Brien soon was named first president of Missouri NEA.

On March 21, O'Brien sends a letter to the "600 Plus," which is the group of more than 600 leaders who assembled to develop a strategy on how to build the new union. She informed them of Missouri NEA's progress and states, "Success depends on all of us and just how completely we believe that we have SOMETHING BETTER FOR TEACHERS AND SOMETHING BETTER FOR STUDENTS."

Missouri NEA PAC is organized along with political training.

PAT O'BRIAN (CRYSTAL CITY) IS ELECTED AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1973).



2006

- Delegates to the MNEA Representative Assembly establish the Ballot Issue Crisis Fund and approve a \$1 per member per month special assessment.

2005

- MNEA holds its first statewide ESP Conference.

2007

- MNEA holds the groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Charles Regional Office, Nov. 9. The office opened July 1, 2008.

1973-1974

Bruce Ambbs serves as Missouri NEA's first executive director.

1974

Missouri NEA PAC issues its first political candidate recommendations.

MNEA membership grows to more than 11,000 members in 128 school districts.

HAROLD AUSTIN (MEHLVILLE NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1974-1975).

1975-1979

James Ferguson serves as Missouri NEA executive director.

1975

Missouri NEA leaders create the Lorna Bottger Political Action Award to recognize individual excellence in political action and present the award for the first time to its namesake, Lorna Bottger.

More than 200 members attend the first Missouri NEA Leadership Conference.

RON BRUCH (INDEPENDENCE NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1975-1976).

2008

- MNEA launches a Flickr photo archiving and sharing site, which now features more than 11,500 photos and provides a visual record of MNEA's work.

flickr



2011

- MNEA launches YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/MissouriNEAtube.

You Tube

2009

- MNEA begins "tweeting" on its MNEA Twitter feed, www.twitter.com/MissouriNEA.

1976

Missouri NEA and NEA co-sponsor the first Minority Involvement Seminar in Missouri.

Missouri NEA headquarters moves from a rented office to its own building at 612 Eastland Drive in Jefferson City.

JUDY BEHNKE (MEHLVILLE NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1976-1977).

1977

Missouri NEA member Ron Bruch is elected to the NEA Executive Committee.

A U.S. District judge awards reinstatement damages to three Leadwood teachers for violation of First Amendment rights.

Missouri NEA organizes the Student Missouri NEA program for college students studying to become teachers

CLARENCE SIEBERT (HAZELWOOD NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1977-1978).



1978

Missouri NEA's first Women's Leadership Training is conducted for nearly 100 members.

St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association and MNEA win the \$6 million lawsuit MSTTA filed against them. Three years later, the appellate court upholds the circuit court decision, finally determining that the St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association owned the SLSTA office.

TONY ROLLINS (CENTER EA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1978-1979).

Missouri NEA leaders have always been committed to creating a diverse leadership. In its first 50 years, Missouri NEA has received NEA's prestigious Rosena J. Willis Human & Civil Rights Award three times.

1979

The Missouri NEA Representative Assembly approves its first million-dollar budget.

Five Missouri NEA members attend President Jimmy Carter's ceremony to create the U.S. Department of Education.

1979-1984

James Seibert serves as Missouri NEA executive director.

LONA LEWIS (PARKWAY NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1979-1980).

1980

Missouri NEA membership reaches 10,000.

With NEA's assistance, Missouri NEA develops an Equal Rights Amendment action plan.

The Special Education Employees Association, representing teacher aides and assistants in St. Louis County's Special District, becomes Missouri NEA's first support professional local affiliate.

Missouri NEA initiates an attorney-referral program.

Hazelwood NEA teacher Beverly Bines is named National Teacher of the Year.

A non-tenured teacher from Republic wins a \$15,000 back-pay award in a sex discrimination settlement.

RON BOETH (PATTONVILLE NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1980-1981).

1981

6,000 Missouri NEA members rally at the Missouri Capitol in response to the governor's message that there will be no state aid this year to raise teacher salaries.

Missouri NEA experiences 17% membership growth and receives NEA recognition as the largest percentage membership growth in the nation.

2011

- MNEA launches the Education Advocates Program with the hope of involving more members in grassroots political action.

2011

- MNEA launches a professional development online series.

2014

- MNEA leads the education coalition that successfully defeats Constitutional Amendment 3, which would have eliminated tenure, tied student test scores to teacher evaluations and diminished local control of school districts.



2014

- MNEA completes the renovation of the Kansas City regional office.

The St. Louis firm of Schuchat, Cook and Werner becomes Missouri NEA's general counsel.

LONA LEWIS (PARKWAY NEA) IS ELECTED SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1981-1985).

1982

Missouri NEA sponsors its first Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.

The "Soar with the Eagles" award is established and is awarded to Ruth Keeling.

Missouri NEA hosts its first Education Lobby Day in Jefferson City.

1983

"Something Better" becomes an award-winning publication, winning two "best" awards from NEA's State Education Editors. This is the beginning of the publication's ongoing award-winning reputation. By 2023, Missouri NEA Communications had earned more than 90 national awards for writing, photography, campaign design, marketing materials, website development, visual effects and issue development.

Missouri NEA advocacy leads to legislation that creates the Missouri Advisory Council for Certification of Educators.

2015

- In partnership with KCTV 5, MNEA begins Read to Achieve, a recognition program allowing the community members to recognizing teachers for their work to advance reading strategies in their classrooms.



2015

- The Back-Home Visit program begins.
- The program prepares Education Advocates to interact with their state legislators in their districts.

2015

- MNEA hosts its first Summer Academy focused on first timers learning to be future local leaders.





The first Missouri NEA ESP local was established in 1980 by aides and assistants in Special School District. Today, 35 Missouri NEA ESP locals have negotiated collective bargaining agreements.

1984

Missouri NEA begins a “homework hotline” with business partners and NEA support.

Teachers receive needed pay raises resulting from the passage of Prop C, a ballot initiative MNEA supported.

1984-91

Phil Moeckli serves as Missouri NEA executive director.

SHIRLEY CROMER (NORTH KANSAS CITY NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1985-1986).

1985

Missouri NEA advocacy leads to the “Excellence in Education Act,” which establishes professional development committees, career ladders and a minimum teacher salary of \$15,000.

Missouri NEA Board of Directors adds a nonvoting retired member. Ruth Keeling is the first to serve in that position. President Shirley Cromer appoints a steering committee to investigate the feasibility of organizing a retired affiliate.

MISSOURI NEA VICE PRESIDENT MARTHA KARLOVETZ (PARKWAY NEA) ASSUMES PRESIDENCY AND THEN IS ELECTED FOR A FULL TERM (1986-1995).

1987

MNEA legislative agenda includes requiring school districts to offer health insurance to retirees at the active employee rate.

Missouri NEA-Retired members work to pass Senate Bill 264 to require school district insurance companies to offer insurance to retired teachers at the same rate as the insurance offered to active teachers.

Missouri NEA-Retired is officially recognized as an affiliate in June.

The Missouri NEA-Retired position on the Missouri NEA Board of Directors becomes a voting seat in December.

The "Shirley Cromer Leadership Award" is established to honor the memory of Missouri NEA President Shirley Cromer, who died while in office.

1988

Missouri NEA creates the Membership Incentive Program (MIP), a reduced-dues program to introduce the association to new members.

NEA-Retired elects Missouri NEA-Retired co-founder Ruth Keeling as secretary.



1989

Missouri NEA builds new headquarters at 1810 East Elm St. in Jefferson City.

In collaboration with the Get Ahead Foundation, Missouri NEA raises funds to build a school in Mbotyi, South Africa. Mpho Tutu, daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu is a guest at Missouri NEA's fall Representative Assembly celebration of the accomplishment.

1990

Missouri NEA membership reaches 20,000, qualifying it for a second NEA director.

Missouri NEA partners with the Missouri Bar to sponsor the first Law Day Essay Contest. MNEA coordinated the annual contest for 30 years.

Missouri NEA hosts the NEA Representative Assembly in Kansas City and receives the Rosena J. Willis Human and Civil Rights Award.

1990-1994

Terry Reger (Ferguson-Florissant NEA) becomes the first Missouri NEA member elected to the Missouri Public School Retirement System Board of Trustees.



1991-2005

Peggy T. Cochran serves as Missouri NEA executive director.

Kansas City Regional Office
(Missouri NEA offices are located upstairs, and the five offices on the lower level are rented to other businesses to generate revenue.)

1991

Missouri NEA holds its first annual statewide meeting for students.

Missouri NEA's "Something Better" feature "Adopt A Student" wins Best of Show Award for best feature among all NEA affiliate publications in the NEA State Education Editors competition.

1992

Missouri NEA members and Missouri NEA PAC work to elect Mel Carnahan as Missouri governor.

Missouri NEA member Steve Stoll (Festus NEA) is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

1993

MNEA becomes the first affiliate in the nation to adopt a differentiated dues structure, which sets lower dues for members in lower-paying districts.



St. Louis Regional Office

Missouri NEA leads support for passage of the Outstanding Schools Act, which provides a new school funding formula and increased funding for professional development and new student standards and assessments.

Missouri NEA creates a charitable fund, which begins its charitable work through donations to school districts and members who were victims of the flood of 1993.

1994

Missouri NEA membership tops 25,000 members.

Missouri NEA leads effort to defeat "Hancock II," a ballot measure that would have severely curtailed state funding for schools, highways, prisons and other services.

Missouri NEA becomes the first state affiliate to adopt a differentiated dues structure, setting lower dues for members in lower-paying districts.

DONNA COLLINS (GRANDVIEW NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (1995-2001).

1995

A Missouri NEA-led coalition is successful in passing "25 and Out" as a retirement option for teachers.



1996

St. Charles County Regional Office

Missouri NEA launches its first website, www.mnea.org.

1997

Missouri NEA and school administrators in the St. Louis area launch a collaborative win-win bargaining project.

Missouri NEA and Reliant Financial team up to offer classroom mini-grants to members.

1998

Missouri NEA establishes the Humanitarian Outreach Project for Education (HOPE) Fund.

Gov. Mel Carnahan and First Lady Jean Carnahan, along with other state officials, participate in the first Read Across America observance on March 2, Dr. Seuss's birthday, marking the beginning of an annual campaign to promote reading among Missouri students.

1999

The Missouri NEA vice president's role becomes a full-time-release position.

Missouri NEA membership reaches 30,000.

Missouri NEA elects Charles Smith (Center EA) to the NEA Board of Directors. Smith is the first minority from Missouri to be elected to the NEA Board.

Missouri NEA receives NEA's Rosena J. Willis Human & Civil Rights Award for the second time.

Missouri NEA purchases and moves into three regional offices.

2000

NEA-recommended candidate for U.S. Senate Gov. Mel Carnahan is killed in a plane crash and wins the election posthumously. First Lady Jean Carnahan is appointed to fill the position.

Missouri NEA adds in-house legal counsel to staff.

Missouri NEA-retired member Nancy Copenhaver (Moberly NEA) is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

GREG JUNG (RITENOUR NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (2001-2007).

2001

Missouri NEA offers new Educator ACCESS discount program to members and adds a members-only section to its website.

Missouri NEA's "Something Better" magazine wins first place in Missouri NEA's membership category in the NEA State Education Editors competition for "Best Magazine."

: 2016

MNEA, in partnership with the Missouri High School Activities Association, creates the two-year public relations campaign—Teacher Words Matter—with Missourians recognizing educators who have positively influenced their lives.



: 2016

MNEA establishes legislative forums to provide members an increased opportunity to ask questions directly to legislators and for legislators to have an opportunity to share their views with MNEA members in their respective districts.



2003

Missouri NEA airs its first radio spots promoting teacher quality.

Missouri NEA wins a million-dollar judgment against the Normandy School District in a salary-compliance lawsuit.

Missouri NEA sues the Independence School District for violating bargaining rights of support employees and seeks to overturn the 1947 Springfield vs. Claude Supreme Court decision, which held that the right to bargain does not apply to public employees. MNEA wins this historic case in 2007.

Missouri NEA begins its No More Bullying program and later teams up with the Missouri School Boards' Association for Bully Check webinars.

Missouri NEA Human Rights Committee raises funds to build school in Kosovo.

2004

Missouri NEA members win a lawsuit in the Sherwood School District with a judge's ruling that the district's practices violate Missouri's Teacher Tenure Act.

Missouri NEA members participate in the "Kids First Rally" to tell legislators that Missourians want them to put kids first.

Missouri NEA members and students across the state celebrate "Seusscentennial"—100 years of Dr. Seuss.

2018

MNEA spearheaded and won a statewide ballot initiative called "Clean Missouri" to end legislative district gerrymandering and add some ethics reforms regarding legislators interaction with lobbyists. It was overturned in 2020.



2018

MNEA sued the State of Missouri to overturn H.B. 1413—a bill to make it difficult to join MNEA, bargain collectively, and contribute to PAC.

2005-2014

Ben Simmons serves as MNEA executive director.

2005

MNEA launches the “I Can Do It” support program for beginning teachers.

Missouri NEA lawsuit results in teachers, including Jennings NEA member Donna Hall, winning back their jobs.

Independence NEA retirees win judgment for payment of retirement-incentive benefits.

Missouri NEA holds its first statewide ESP Conference.

Missouri NEA establishes the Quality Local Association Gold Award—later changed to the Leila Medley Quality Local Association Award.

2006

Missouri NEA Representative Assembly delegates establish the “Ballot Issue Crisis Fund” and approve a \$1 per month per member special assessment.

Missouri NEA elects the first person of color (Charles Smith, Center EA) as a state officer (vice president).



CHRIS GUINTHER (ST. CHARLES NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (2007-2013).

2007

Missouri Supreme Court grants collective bargaining rights to all public employees after Missouri NEA files (and wins) a lawsuit for Independence NEA.

Missouri NEA hosts groundbreaking ceremony for its St. Charles County Regional Office.

Missouri NEA forms Bargaining Assessment Team (BAT) to move collective bargaining forward in Missouri NEA member districts.

Missouri NEA's "Something Better" magazine receives the State Education Editors "Best of Show" award for the best affiliate magazine among all state affiliates.

2008

MNEA launches a Flickr photo archiving and sharing site, which now features more than 11,500 photos and provides a visual record of MNEA's work.

More than 1,000 Missouri NEA members attend Capitol Action Days and hold back MSTAs anti-bargaining bill in the legislature.

Someone added an uplifting sentiment to the Joplin High School sign after an EF5-rated tornado takes 158 lives, injures more than 1,000 and puts 22 Joplin NEA members out of their homes. Missouri NEA and NEA members and staff pitched in to help members, students and the community in the recovery effort. The Missouri NEA HOPE Fund contributed \$35,500 toward recovery.

Missouri NEA's website wins first place in Missouri NEA's size category in the NEA State Editors competition.

Margo McNeil (Ferguson-Florissant NEA) is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

2009

MNEA begins "tweeting" on its MNEA Twitter feed, www.twitter.com/MissouriNEA.

Missouri NEA Friend of Education Award recipient Dr. Chris Nicastro becomes Missouri Commissioner of Education and the first woman to hold that position.

Missouri NEA convenes a Charter Schools Task Force, and the Missouri NEA Representative Assembly adopts the Position Paper on Charter Schools.

2010

Missouri NEA members continue intensive talks with legislators to hold back threats to eliminate teacher tenure.

Ira Anders (Independence NEA) and Genise Montecillo (Special District NEA) are elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

2010–2015

Susan McClintic (Columbia MNEA) is elected to the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees.

2020

MNEA offices and schools react quickly and close due to the governor's COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration on March 13, 2020. Teachers quickly adapted to the crisis, and learning continued online for the remainder of the school year.



2020

MNEA Leadership Academy is virtual for the first time.

2021

Representative Assemblies for both NEA and MNEA are virtual for the first time, MNEA Leadership Academy is virtual again.

2011

MNEA launches www.youtube.com/MissouriNEAtube.

The Missouri NEA Representative Assembly approves Education Transformation Report and releases it to the public.

Missouri NEA launches Education Advocates program to involve more members in grassroots political action.

Columbia MNEA member Kathy Steinhoff receives NEA's highest teaching honor—The NEA foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.

22 Joplin NEA members lose their homes when an EF5-rated tornado hits. Missouri NEA and NEA members help members, students and the community as they begin recovery efforts. The Missouri NEA HOPE Fund contributes \$35,500 toward recovery.

Missouri NEA launches a professional development online series.

2012

Missouri NEA-Retired celebrates its 25th anniversary and establishes the "Jim Coen Silver Citizen Award" to recognize political action and involvement of retired members.

Missouri NEA meets NEA Bylaw 3-1(g) goals for participation of people of color at the NEA Representative Assembly for the 17th year and for the Missouri NEA fall and spring Representative Assemblies the third year.

Martha Karlovetz is elected as NEA-Retired secretary and is re-elected in 2015.

2021

MNEA members and students opened the school year with online virtual instruction as COVID-19 continued to spread. Even when the governor lifted the State of Emergency on Dec. 31, 2021, the majority of school districts maintained a virtual format for several months.

2021

Upon return to in-person learning during the pandemic, mask mandates and vaccination requirements became extremely controversial and posed challenges in creating a safe teaching and learning environment.

2021

MNEA wins the H.B. 1413 lawsuit, and member rights are restored.

2021

MNEA lobbied and passed legislation requiring school districts to provide accommodations for nursing mothers.

2013

For the third time, Missouri NEA receives the Rosena J. Willis Human & Civil Rights Award.

Missouri NEA celebrates 40 years of “Something Better.”

MISSOURI NEA ELECTS ITS FIRST PERSON OF COLOR PRESIDENT, CHARLES SMITH (CENTER EA) (2013-2019).

2014

Missouri NEA convenes an ESP Task Force, and the Missouri NEA Representative Assembly adopts its recommendations.

Missouri NEA convenes a fact-finding committee on School Privatization and Outsourcing and presents its findings to the spring Missouri NEA Representative Assembly.

MNEA leads the education coalition that successfully defeats Constitutional Amendment 3, which would have eliminated tenure, tied student test scores to teacher evaluations and diminished local control of school districts.

Missouri NEA completes the renovation of its Kansas City regional office.

A Missouri PBS affiliate, nominated by Missouri NEA, receives the NEA Friend of Education Award at the NEA Representative Assembly in Atlanta.

Missouri NEA successfully leads the education coalition to reduce required state testing.

2015–PRESENT

Jason Steliga (Center EA) is elected to the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees. Steliga is re-elected in 2022 and currently serves as the chairperson of the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees.

2015

In partnership with KCTV 5, Missouri NEA begins presenting the Read to Achieve award of \$1,000 to recognize teachers who advance reading strategies.

Missouri NEA initiates the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Missouri NEA establishes its Racial and Social Justice Program and trainings.



Missouri NEA's Back-Home Visit program begins—adding a new lobbying component for communicating with legislators in their respective legislative districts.

Missouri NEA focuses Summer Academy on first timers learning to be future local leaders.

Although members' educational needs change with the times, Missouri NEA responds to those needs with ample opportunities to learn and network with other education employees across the state and nation.

2016–PRESENT

DeeAnn Aull serves as Missouri NEA executive director.

Missouri NEA begins the Early Educator Reach-Out program to support early educators and build membership.

Tommy Pierson, Jr. (Hazelwood NEA) is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

Missouri NEA, in partnership with the Missouri High School Activities Association, creates the two-year public relations campaign—Teacher Words Matter—with Missourians recognizing educators who have positively influenced their lives.

Missouri NEA establishes legislative forums to provide members an increased opportunity to ask questions directly to legislators and for legislators to have an opportunity to share their views with Missouri NEA members in their respective districts.

2017

Missouri NEA establishes four long-range strategic priorities for annual review: increase/retain members, build strong locals, increase influence and advocacy, and improve internal and external communication.

Missouri NEA launches the Take Control Campaign to move an additional 7,500 members to bank draft or credit card deductions.

Missouri NEA renovates the St. Louis regional office.

The Missouri NEA HOPE Fund, with additional member funding, contributes to the victims of hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Missouri NEA re-establishes the Women's Issues Committee.

2018

Paula Brown (Hazelwood NEA) and Raychel Proudie (Riverview Gardens NEA) are elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

Missouri NEA creates, spearheads and wins "Clean Missouri," a statewide ballot initiative to end legislative gerrymandering and add ethics reforms on how legislators interact with lobbyists. The legislature overturns the initiative in 2020.

Missouri NEA completes renovations, including an elevator, at its headquarters building.

Missouri NEA launches Winter Leadership Follow-Up Trainings to activate Reach-Out and Early Enrollment campaigns.

Missouri NEA launches NEA 360, an online interactive membership platform.

Missouri NEA celebrates 45 years of "Something Better."

Missouri NEA sues the State of Missouri to overturn House Bill 1413. This far-reaching extremist legislation made joining and maintaining MNEA membership, bargaining and contributing to political action committees to support pro-public education candidates more difficult.

2019

Missouri NEA, in coalition with others, passes legislation that increases the foundation formula funding to include at-risk eligible 3- and 4-year-olds attending district pre-kindergarten programs.

Missouri NEA successfully amends legislation for teacher-business externships that can be recognized for credit on the salary schedule.

Missouri NEA launches the morning Bus Stop weather reports with KCTV 5 in the Kansas City area.

PHIL MURRAY (POPLAR BLUFF NEA) IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI NEA (2019-PRESENT).

2020

North Kansas City NEA members Maggie Nurrenbern and Chris Brown are elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

Missouri NEA lobbies for, and the legislature approves, full funding of the foundation formula and maintains higher education funding during a legislative session truncated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Missouri NEA offices and schools react quickly and close due to the March 13 State of Emergency declaration by the governor. Teachers quickly adapt, and teaching and learning continue online for the remainder of the school year.

Missouri NEA Leadership Academy is virtual for the first time.

2021

Missouri NEA members and students open the school year with online virtual instruction as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread. Even when the governor lifts the State Emergency on Dec. 31, most school districts maintain a virtual option for several months.

Upon returning to in-person learning during the pandemic, masks for lowering the spread of the virus and vaccines to lower the chance of death from infection become the subjects of great controversy, thus creating obstacles for maintaining a safe teaching and learning environment.

NEA and Missouri NEA Representative Assemblies are virtual for the first time.

Missouri NEA Leadership Academy is virtual again.

Missouri NEA offices reopen for staff Aug. 1 and to members by appointment. CDC protocols are observed for all people entering Missouri NEA offices.

Missouri NEA wins the lawsuit against the State of Missouri regarding House Bill 1413, and member rights are restored.

Missouri NEA lobbies for, and legislators pass, a bill requiring that school districts provide accommodations for nursing mothers.

2022

The school year opens with teachers and students in classrooms for in-person learning.

Columbia MNEA member Kathy Steinhoff is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

Missouri NEA-recommended candidate Allie Gassman (Columbia Parents as Teachers ESP) wins her election for the Public Education Employees Retirement System trustee position on the seven-member PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees.

Missouri NEA launches the Teacher Heroes Awards with public recognition at Mizzou football games.

Missouri NEA lobbies with successful passage of a bill that establishes pilot recovery high schools for students with substance-abuse disorders and also contributes to the passage of a requirement, along with the funding to support it, to remove lead from school drinking water.



2023

Missouri NEA launches the Missouri NEA Connects weekly podcast covering important reports and issues regarding instruction, best practices, policy, legislation, and news of interest to members.

Missouri NEA launches Missouri NEA Learns, an online hub for interactive learning opportunities for members, leaders, staff and others.

Missouri NEA celebrates its 50th anniversary during its spring Representative Assembly at The Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark.

Missouri NEA members are passionate about providing quality public schools for all students. Not even the COVID-19 pandemic could shut down their efforts. Educators delivered meals and supplies to families, made house calls, and served as resources to families in need—all while continuing to deliver public education services virtually.

Missouri NEA Declaration of Independence

We are teachers in Missouri. We care about our rights. We care about what goes on in the classroom.

For too many years, we have felt helpless in our endeavors to fulfill our responsibilities as professional educators. There were always too few dollars, too many arbitrary and counterproductive rules and too many politicians making political decisions about education.

Teachers have virtually no influence on the politicians or the decisions. Now, we seek to change that. We ask only for the opportunity to mobilize teachers for effective use of our collective power. The uses of that power are the prerogative of the affected teacher group, whether it be local, state or national.

A new day has arrived for Missouri teachers. From all areas of the state, we are declaring our independence from our old futility, from groups dominated by people who did not believe in the collective insistence of teachers on better schools, better salaries and better protection of teacher rights.

We make a dual pledge. First, to the teachers of Missouri: that our new organization will be built on the principles of justice, participatory democracy and commitment to the highest quality of education. Second, to the present and future parents of Missouri: that the results of our active and concerned teacher action will be manifold but will center on ending waste in school spending, increasing the quality of teaching and decreasing the depersonalization and overcrowding in Missouri schools.

Missouri schools aren't doing the job. There is no magic formula to change that, but we believe that classroom teachers, working together, are the best hope for worthwhile change.

Teachers of Missouri, join us. Together, we are not helpless.

We are at the beginning of a long journey for Missouri teachers and Missouri education. We are sustained on this journey by our collective belief that something better is possible in Missouri, something better for teachers, something better for parents, and, most important, something better for students.

We declare our independence from the hopelessness of the past and look forward to the days, months and years of this new journey.

*Patricia L. O'Brien
Larry A. Whitlock
Mitchell D. Bean*

*Mildred O. King
Quincy Beckner
James Datta
James E. Richmond*

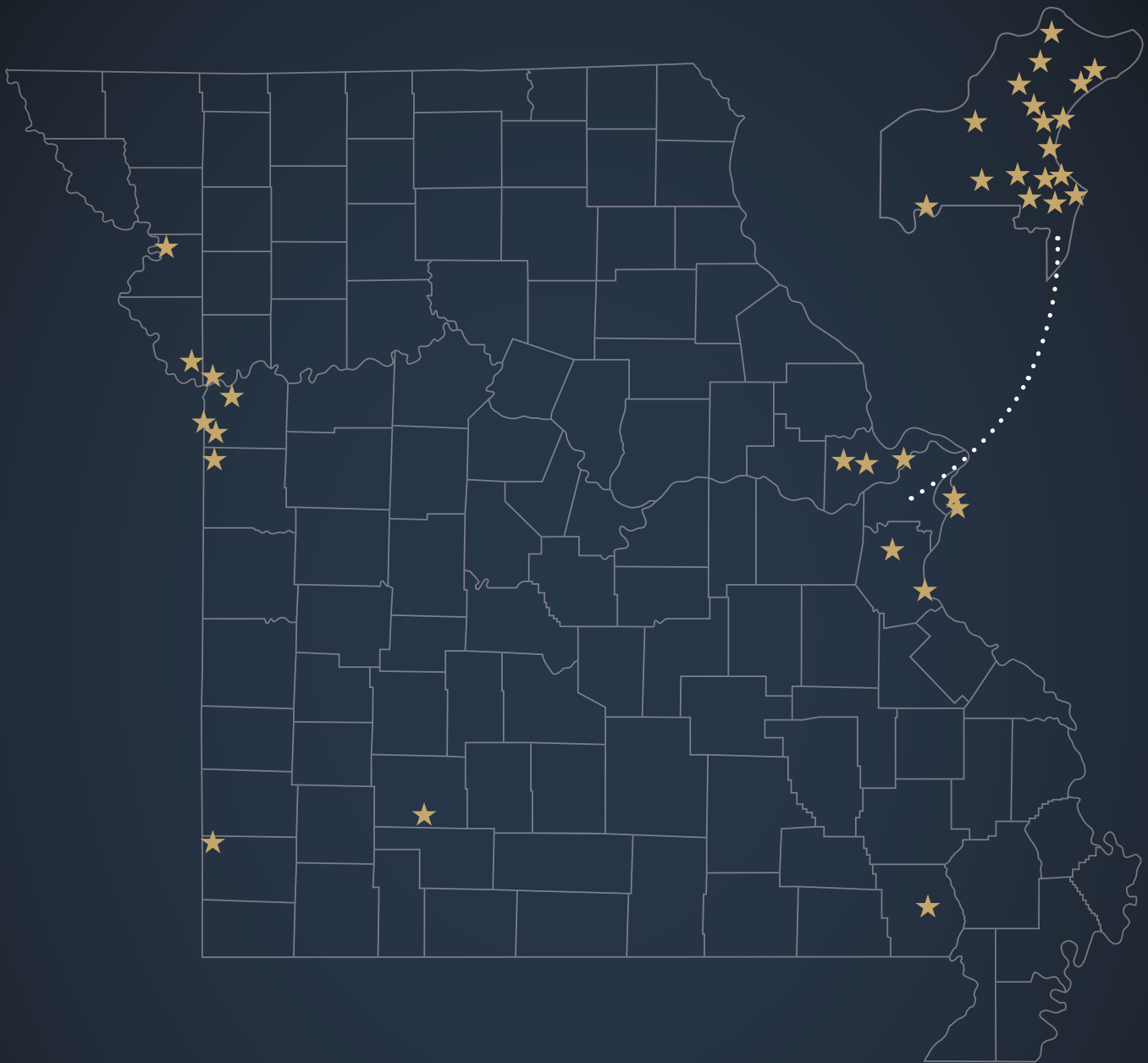
*Henry E. Murray
Vito Monicci
Ronald G. Bruch*

MISSOURI NEA FOUNDING MEMBERS

In February 1973, the following concerned Missouri educators met to begin the process of creating a new NEA affiliate in Missouri in the event that MSTA was disaffiliated. The meeting, called by **Patricia O'Brien**, NEA director for Missouri, resulted in an interim charter for a new organization, which became Missouri NEA. Of these 35 courageous leaders, the 10 whose names appear in **bold** signed the *Missouri NEA Declaration of Independence*.

Jerry B. Abernathy, St. Louis
Mitchell Bean, Joplin
Judy Behnke, Hickman Mills
Ronald Bruch, Independence
Doris Cagle, St. Charles
Carol Cooley, Park Hill
James Dalton, Poplar Bluff
Tom Dykstra, Bayless
Richard T. Elmore, St. Louis
Karol Finley, Lindbergh
J.E. Giebler, University City
Betty (Goldman) Graham, St. Charles
Robert L. Graham, University City
Jim Groetsch, St. Louis Suburban
Doug Guthals, North Kansas City
Etta (Harl) Mertens, Hazelwood
Janet Henley, Columbia

Mary Lou Holmes, Springfield
Virginia L. Hurt, Parkway
Lloyd P. Jorgenson, Columbia
Ruth Keeling, Normandy
Mildred King, Springfield
Vito Maniaci, St. Charles
Donn Morrow, Pattonville
Harry Murray, Kirksville
Robert Myers, Poplar Bluff
James E. Richmond, St. Louis
Anna E. Scott, Ritenour
Dave Tarver, North Kansas City
Leroy Walters, Parkway
Cheryl Wheeler, Park Hill
Larry Whitlock, Riverview Gardens
Keith O. Wilson, Wellston
Bud Young, Rockwood



36 CHARTER
LOCALS
1973

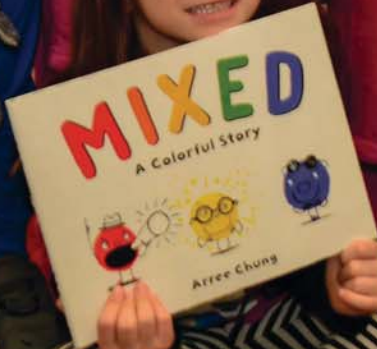
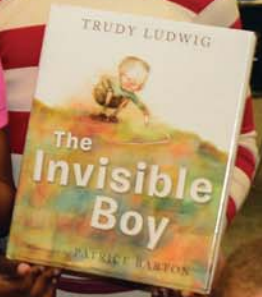
193 ACTIVE
LOCALS
TODAY

MISSOURI NEA CHARTER LOCAL AFFILIATES

Affton EA	NEA St. Louis
Bayless EA	Normandy NEA
Belton NEA	North Kansas City EA
Center EA	Northwest EA
Crystal City CTA	Park Hill NEA
Ferguson-Florissant NEA	Parkway NEA
Francis Howell CTA	Pattonville NEA
Fort Zumwalt EA	Poplar Bluff MNEA
Hancock Place CTA	Ritenour NEA
Hazelwood NEA	Riverview Gardens NEA
Hickman Mills NEA	Rockwood NEA
Independence NEA	Springfield NEA
Jennings NEA	St. Charles EA
Joplin NEA	St. Joseph EA
Kirkwood NEA	University City EA
Lindbergh NEA	Valley Park NEA
Maplewood/Richmond Heights EA	Wellston NEA
Mehlville NEA	Wentzville NEA

Beginning with these 36 charter locals and affiliates in 1973, Missouri NEA has grown into a statewide organization with 193 active local affiliates 40 years later.

Missouri NEA's tie to its national affiliate means that members enjoy the resources and power that comes from the collective voice of more than 3 million educators across the country. Missouri NEA leaders regularly visit with their national lawmakers in Washington, D.C. to help them understand the needs of Missouri educators and how to support them and their students. No other education organization in Missouri has the presence and advocacy structure that NEA brings to public education.



MISSOURI NEA LEADERSHIP

Missouri NEA is a true grassroots organization governed by its members. Holding membership at the local, state and national levels, Missouri NEA members have influence at every level where important education decisions are made.

Missouri NEA's top policy-making body is the Representative Assembly, a group of more than 350 locally elected members who meet in November and April.

Between R.A. meetings, the MNEA Board of Directors sets policy. The state is divided into 11 governance districts. Each district has one or more representatives, elected by delegates in their district meetings at the spring R.A. The board also includes elected at-large representatives.

Missouri NEA's presidents, vice presidents and NEA directors are Missouri NEA members elected by the R.A. The president and vice president, on leave from their school districts, work full time for Missouri NEA at this time, but that has not always been the case.

Missouri NEA local affiliates are governed by locally elected leaders. In some areas of the state, local affiliates within a geographic area meet periodically in governance councils.

Members serve on statewide standing committees and task forces that research important education issues such as school safety and charter schools.

Missouri NEA President Phil Murray and Vice President Rebeka McIntosh annually travel the state inspiring young readers through Missouri NEA's Read Across America celebration.

PRESIDENTS



1973-1974

Patricia O'Brien — Crystal City



1974-1975

Harold Austin — Mehlville



1975-1976

Ron Bruch — Independence



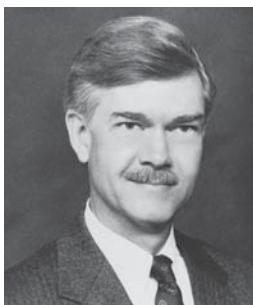
1976-1977

Judy Behnke — Hickman Mills



1977-1978

Clarence Siebert — Hazelwood



1978-1979

Tony Rollins — Center



1979-1980 & 1981-1985

Lona Lewis — Parkway



1980-1981

Ron Boeth — Pattonville



1985-1986

Shirley Cromer — North Kansas City



1986-1995

Martha Karlovetz — Parkway



1995-2001

Donna Collins — Grandview



2001-2007

Greg Jung — Ritenour



2007-2013

Chris Guinther — Francis Howell



2013-2019

Charles Smith — Center



2019-present

Phil Murray — Poplar Bluff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



1984-1991
Phil Moeckli



1991-2005 & 2014-2016
Peggy Cochran



2005-2014
Ben Simmons



2016-Present
DeeAnn Aull

1973-1974	Bruce Ambs
1974-1975	Interim – Dale Robinson, NEA staff
1975-1979	James Ferguson
1979	Interim: John McCoy, MNEA staff
1979-1984	James Siebert
1984	Interim: Ann McLaren, NEA staff

1984-1991	Phil Moeckli
1991	Interim: Earl Jones, NEA staff
1991-2005	Peggy Cochran
2005-2014	Ben Simmons
2014-2016	Peggy Cochran (Interim)
2016-present	DeeAnn Aull

VICE PRESIDENTS

1980-1981	Wayne Ward – Excelsior Springs
1981-1983	Felicia Bamer – Rockwood
1983-1985	Shirley Cromer – North Kansas City
1985-1986	Martha Karlovetz – Parkway
1986-1995	Donna Collins – Grandview
1995-2001	Greg Jung – Ritenour
2001-2007	Chris Guinther – Francis Howell
2007-2013	Charles Smith – Center
2013-2019	Brent Fullington – Springfield
2019-present	Rebeka McIntosh – Grandview

NEA DIRECTORS FOR MISSOURI

1973-1974	Patricia O'Brien – Crystal City
1974-1981	Ruth Keeling – Normandy
1981-1984	Harold Austin – Mehlville
1984-1990	Greg Jung – Van Far, Ritenour
1990-1995	John Stauffer – Springfield
1990-1993	Ruthanne Phillips – Independence
1993-1999	Chris Guinther – Francis Howell
1995-1999	Ben Simmons – Independence
1999-2002	Bill Guinther – Parkway
1999-2007	Charles Smith – Center
2002-2004	Jack Williamson – Rockwood
2004-2008	Don Schulte – Pattonville
2007-2013	Julia Todd – Raymore-Peculiar
2008-2011	Brent Fullington – Springfield
2011-2017	Phil Murray – Poplar Bluff
2013-2019	Lisa Kickbusch – Pattonville
2017-2019	Rebeka McIntosh – Grandview
2019 - present	Paul Guess – North Kansas City
2019 - present	Andy Slaughter – Meramec Valley



SCHOOLS NEED
YOUR HELP!

LEGISLATE
TO
EDUCATE

First Aid
Kit
For Educators

Aurora
Teachers
for Better
Education

Control
My Job
The Union

EDUCATION -
YOUR BEST INVESTMENT
NASCORE NEA

MISSOURI'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

THE STORY BEHIND THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE PUBLIC EDUCATION EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE CHANGES THAT LED TO WHAT THEY ARE TODAY

In 1935, after years of trying to pass legislation, Missouri educators successfully executed an initiative petition drive to revise the state constitution to allow for a teacher retirement system. Voters passed the measure on Nov. 4, 1936. The state legislature, however, failed to pass enabling legislation until almost a decade later.

Despite the challenges of World War II and the teacher shortage caused by men and women leaving the classroom to help with the war effort, teachers met a long-time goal in 1945 by finally passing enabling legislation to establish a teacher retirement system.

The first retirement check was paid to 75-year-old Ben F. Rea of Buffalo in the amount of \$31.45. More than 200 teachers retired that first year. The oldest was George Henry Green, born in slavery in 1856. He had taught a total of 73 years.

Today, more than 66,080 educators (and their beneficiaries) draw a pension from PSRS.

In 1965, the Missouri legislature created the Public Education Employee Retirement System, a retirement system for non-certified school personnel. Currently, more than 34,600 school employees draw a pension from PEERS. The employees who participate in PEERS also participate in Social Security; whereas, the PSRS participants do not.

Missouri NEA leaders have taken pride over the years to have successfully elected members to the seven-member PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees.

**Today, more than
100,680 educators
(and their beneficiaries)
draw pensions from
PSRS and PEERS.**

The board comprises four trustees elected from the active membership to serve four-year terms. One of the elected positions must be a member of the PEERS system, and three must be members of the PSRS system. In addition, three gubernatorial appointees round out the seven-member board. Following are the Missouri NEA members whom Missouri NEA worked to elect to this important board.

Terry Reger, PSRS trustee, 1990-1994
Ferguson-Florissant NEA, teacher

Susan McClintic, PSRS trustee, 2010-2015
Columbia MNEA, teacher

Jason Steliga, PSRS trustee, 2015-present
Current chairperson of the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees
Center EA, teacher

Allie Gassmann, PEERS trustee, 2022-present
Columbia MNEA, parent educator

PSRS DEVELOPMENTAL TIMELINE

1948–1957

The contribution rate (the amount employees pay into the PSRS system to fund retirement benefits) is 8% of salary, with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer.

1948

A retiree can collect full benefits at age 65 with 30 years vested. The benefit is calculated on a 10-year final average salary (FAS). Members are eligible for the full benefit formula factor when they meet both the required age and years of service. The initial full benefit formula factor is \$50 per month and .5% of 10-year FAS for each year after 30 years of service.

1950

The full benefit formula factor increases slightly (50 cents) for years served above the 30 years required for vesting. Only those with 30 years of experience or more draw a benefit.

1953

The legislature establishes a minimum benefits formula for retirement at age 65 with 25 years of service.

1954

The benefit formula increases to 1.25% of FAS with 55 cents for each year of service above 30.

1957

The benefit formula increases another 1.9% of FAS with 70 cents for each year of service above 30, and vesting is lowered to 20 years.

1958–1968

The contribution rate increases to 12% of salary, with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer.

1960–1967

The full benefit formula factor is 2.5% of the 10-year FAS, now available at age 60, with slight increases for additional years of service beyond 30.

1969–1976

The contribution rate is now 16% of salary, with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer.

1972

PSRS adds a flat dollar amount to every retiree's benefit based on years of service.

1975

The full benefit formula factor changes to 2% of five years FAS multiplied by years of service with 10 years vesting.

1977

A COLA program begins on the fourth January following retirement and allows for up to 2% annually thereafter. The full benefit formula remains the same but begins at age 55 with 30 years of service.



Missouri NEA members' involvement in legislative action has always been key to Missouri NEA's advocacy for public education. Missouri NEA-Retired members (pictured here) have a longstanding reputation for their collective work in monitoring and advocating for retirement benefits.

1977–1987

The contribution rate is now 19% of salary, with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer.

1979

The full benefit formula remains the same but may begin at any age after 30 years of service.

1980

The annual COLA max increases to 4%.

1986

The full benefit formula factor increases to 2.1% of five years FAS multiplied by years of service.

1987

PSRS establishes minimum benefits of \$300 per month for 20 years of service and \$600 per month for 30 years of service. The lifetime COLA cap is increased to 40%.

1988–1995

The contribution rate is now 20% of salary, with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer.

1988

Employees are vested after five years.

1990

The COLA cap increases to 52%.

1991

Employees receive full benefits at age 55 after 25 years of service.

1992

The annual COLA max increases to 5%.

1994

The full benefit formula factor increases to 2.3% of five years FAS multiplied by years of service.

1995

The contribution rate is now 21% of salary with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer. All retirees receive a flat dollar amount increase per year of service, and the lifetime COLA cap is increased to 65%.

1996

The legislature passes a modified version of "25 and Out." The minimum benefits are increased to \$600 for 20 years of service and \$1,200 for 30 years of service.

1997

The lifetime COLA cap increases to 75%.

1998

The full benefit formula factor increases to 2.5% of five years FAS times years of service. Legislature extends "25 and Out." Retirees received an 8.7% increase in their benefit outside of the lifetime COLA cap.

1999

Legislature establishes "rule of 80." Employees receive full benefits when the sum of the number of years of service and age is 80. The final average salary used in the full benefit formula changes to 2.5% of three years of FAS times years of service. Retirees receive a \$5-per-year-of-service increase in their benefit outside of the lifetime COLA cap.

2000

Retirees receive a 3.5% ad hoc increase in their benefit outside of the COLA cap, and the legislature extends "25 and Out."

2001

Retirees receive a \$3-times-years-of-service increase in their outside of COLA cap. The first COLA can now begin in the third January after retirement. Lifetime COLA cap increases to 80%.

2002

Anyone with 31 or more years of services receives 2.55% formula factor of a three-year consecutive FAS. The first COLA can now begin the second January after retirement.

2003

The legislature extends "25 and Out."

2005

The contribution rate for retiree benefits is 22% of salary, with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer.

2007

The legislature extends "25 and Out."

2011–2012

The contribution rate is 28% of salary, with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer.



2011

The legislature establishes a stabilization policy, which affects annual COLA. The Stabilization Policy states that if the change in the Consumer Price Index is between 0 and 5%, retirees will receive a 2% COLA. If the CPI exceeds 5%, the retirees will receive a 5% COLA.

Legislative forums, which began in 2016, bring opportunities for more members back home to engage in conversations with legislators and provide legislators opportunities to visit with educators about current issues in their respective districts.

2012–2023

The contribution rate is 29% of salary, with contributions split evenly between the employee and employer.

2013

"25 and Out" becomes permanent.

2014

The 2.55% formula factor expires for more than 31 years of service.



CULTURE AND EVENTS OF THE DECADES

1970s

U.S. presidents

Richard M. Nixon (1969 – 1974)

Gerald R. Ford (1974 – 1977)

James Earl Carter (1977 – 1981)

Your wallet

Gallon of gas – 36 cents in 1970 and 86 cents in 1979

Gallon of milk – 49 cents in 1970 and \$1.03 in 1979

Loaf of bread – 25 cents in 1970 and 40 cents in 1979

Top singles

1. You Light up my Life – Debby Boone (1977)
2. Tonight's the Night – Rod Stewart (1976)
3. Le Freak – Chic (1978)
4. How Deep is Your Love – Bee Gees (1977)
5. I Just Want to be Your Everything – Andy Gibb (1977)
6. Silly Love Songs – Wings (1976)
7. Let's Get it On – Marvin Gaye (1973)
8. Night Fever – Bee Gees (1978)
9. Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree – Tony Orlando and Dawn (1973)
10. Shadow Dancing – Andy Gibb (1978)

Top movies

1. Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope (1977)
2. Jaws (1975)
3. The Exorcist (1973)
4. Enter the Dragon (1973)
5. Grease (1978)
6. Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977)
7. Superman (1978)
8. Smokey and the Bandit (1977)
9. The Godfather (1972)
10. Saturday Night Fever (1977)

Top TV shows

1. MASH
2. Happy Days
3. All in the Family
4. Charlie's Angels
5. Saturday Night Live
6. The Brady Bunch
7. Mary Tyler Moore
8. The Carol Burnett Show
9. Mork & Mindy
10. Laverne & Shirley

Super Bowl champions

Super Bowl IV

Kansas City Chiefs vs. Minnesota Vikings (23–7) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl V

Baltimore Colts vs. Dallas Cowboys (16–13) Miami, FL

Super Bowl VI

Dallas Cowboys vs. Miami Dolphins (24–3) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl VII

Miami Dolphins vs. Washington Redskins (14–7) Los Angeles, CA

Super Bowl VIII

Miami Dolphins vs. Minnesota Vikings (24–7) Houston, TX

Super Bowl IX

Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Minnesota Vikings (16–6) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl X

Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Dallas Cowboys (21–17) Miami, FL

Super Bowl XI

Oakland Raiders vs. Minnesota Vikings (32–14) Pasadena, CA

Super Bowl XII

Dallas Cowboys vs. Denver Broncos (27–10) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl XIII

Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Dallas Cowboys (35–31) Miami, FL

World Series champions

1970

Baltimore Orioles vs. Cincinnati Reds (4–1) MVP Brooks Robinson

1971

Baltimore Orioles vs. Pittsburgh Pirates (3–4) MVP Roberto Clemente

1972

Oakland Athletics vs. Cincinnati Reds (4–3) MVP Gene Tenace

1973

Oakland Athletics vs. New York Mets (4–3) MVP Reggie Jackson

1974

Oakland Athletics vs. Los Angeles Dodgers (4–1) MVP Rollie Fingers

1975

Boston Red Sox vs. Cincinnati Reds (3–4) MVP Pete Rose

1976

New York Yankees vs. Cincinnati Reds (0–4) MVP Johnny Bench

1977

New York Yankees vs. Los Angeles Dodgers (4–2) MVP Reggie Jackson

1978

New York Yankees vs. Los Angeles Dodgers (4–2) MVP Bucky Dent

1979

Baltimore Orioles vs. Pittsburgh Pirates (3–4) MVP Willie Stargell

Historical events

The U.S. celebrates the first Earth Day.

Tobacco ads are banned from television and radio.

The Beatles break up.

Disney World opens.

VCRs enter the electronics scene.

Pocket calculators are introduced.

HBO launches its cable television network.

The U.S. pulls out of Vietnam.

The World Trade Center is completed.

An Italian organized crime ring kidnaps Paul Getty III.

The Sears Tower is built.

Patty Hearst is kidnapped.

The federal government prohibits speed limits higher than 55 miles per hour.

Girls are allowed to play in Little League baseball.

Microsoft is founded.

Betamax VCRs are released.

Computerized supermarket checkouts become popular.

Francisco Franco dies.

Red dye #2 is banned.

Apple Computer is launched.

The first Star Wars movie is released.

Atlantic City's first casino, Resorts International, opened.

New York City experiences its most notable blackout.

Elvis dies.

Love Canal in New York is declared a federal disaster.

John Paul II becomes Pope.

A nuclear accident occurs at Three Mile Island.

Sony introduces the Walkman.

ESPN starts broadcasting.

1980s

U.S. presidents

James Earl Carter (1977 – 1981)

Ronald Reagan (1981 – 1989)

George Bush (1989 – 1993)

Your wallet

Gallon of gas – \$1.19 in 1980 and \$1.00 in 1989

Gallon of milk – \$1.12 in 1980 and \$1.17 in 1989

Loaf of bread – 48 cents in 1980 and 65 cents in 1989

Top singles

1. Physical – Olivia Newton-John (1981)
2. Bette Davis Eyes – Kim Carnes (1981)
3. Endless Love – Diana Ross & Lionel Richie (1981)
4. Eye of the Tiger – Survivor (1982)
5. Every Breath You Take – The Police (1983)
6. Flashdance...What a Feeling – Irene Cara (1983)
7. Another One Bites the Dust – Queen (1980)
8. Say Say Say – Paul McCartney and Michael Jackson (1983)
9. Call Me – Blondie (1980)
10. Lady – Kenny Rogers (1980)

Top movies

1. E.T. (1982)
2. Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980)
3. Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi (1983)
4. Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989)
5. Batman (1989)
6. Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)
7. Back to the Future (1985)
8. Top Gun (1986)
9. Rain Man (1988)
10. Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

Top TV shows

1. Cheers
2. The Cosby Show
3. The Golden Girls
4. Magnum, P.I.
5. Saturday Night Live
6. Miami Vice
7. Dallas
8. MacGyver
9. Saved by the Bell
10. Family Ties

Super Bowl champions

Super Bowl XIV

Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Los Angeles Rams (31–19) Pasadena, CA

Super Bowl XV

Oakland Raiders vs. Philadelphia Eagles (27–10) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl XVI

San Francisco 49ers vs. Cincinnati Bengals (26–21) Pontiac, MI

Super Bowl XVII

Washington Redskins vs. Miami Dolphins (27–17) Pasadena, CA

Super Bowl XVIII

Los Angeles Raiders vs. Washington Redskins (38–9) Tampa, FL

Super Bowl XIX

San Francisco 49ers vs. Miami Dolphins (38–16) Stanford, CA

Super Bowl XX

Chicago Bears vs. New England Patriots (46–10) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl XXI

New York Giants vs. Denver Broncos (39–20) Pasadena, CA

Super Bowl XXII

Washington Redskins vs. Denver Broncos (42–10) San Diego, CA

Super Bowl XXIII

San Francisco 49ers vs. Cincinnati Bengals (20–16) Miami, FL

World Series champions**1980**

Kansas City Royals vs. Philadelphia Phillies (2–4) MVP Mike Schmidt

1981

New York Yankees vs. Los Angeles Dodgers (2–4) MVPs Ron Cey,
Pedro Guerrero, Steve Yeager

1982

Milwaukee Brewers vs. St. Louis Cardinals (3–4) MVP Darrell Porter

1983

Baltimore Orioles vs. Philadelphia Phillies (4–1) MVP Rick Dempsey

1984

Detroit Tigers vs. San Diego Padres (4–1) MVP Alan Trammell

1985

Kansas City Royals vs. St. Louis Cardinals (4–3) MVP Bret Saberhagen

1986

Boston Red Sox vs. New York Mets (3–4) MVP Ray Knight

1987

Minnesota Twins vs. St. Louis Cardinals (4–3) MVP Frank Viola

1988

Oakland Athletics vs. Los Angeles Dodgers (1–4) MVP Orel Hershiser

1989

Oakland Athletics vs. San Francisco Giants (4–0) MVP Dave Stewart

Historical events

The Winter Olympic Games are at Lake Placid, NY.

The U.S. Olympic Committee, responding to the request of President Jimmy Carter, votes to withdraw its athletes from participation in the Moscow Summer Olympic Games, due to the continued involvement of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

Pac Man is introduced.

CNN is launched.

John Lennon is shot outside his New York apartment.

The first launch of the Space Shuttle from Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center occurs as Columbia begins its STS-1 mission.

MTV (Music Television) is launched.

IBM introduces the IBM personal computer, the IBM 5150.

The Internet begins.

Michael Jackson releases his second adult solo album, Thriller.

Astronaut Sally Ride becomes the first American woman to travel into space.

The opening ceremony of the Los Angeles Olympic Games is held.

The first music CD is pressed in the U.S.

Martin Luther King Day is officially observed for the first time as a federal holiday in the U.S.

The Challenger Space Shuttle explodes after lift off at Cape Canaveral, FL, killing seven people, including Christa McAuliffe, a New Hampshire school teacher.

The Exxon Valdez crashes into Bligh Reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound, dumping 11 million gallons of oil, which extended 45 miles.

Motorola introduces the world's smallest mobile phone, the Motorola MicroTAC Personal Cellular Telephone.

Walt Disney opens MGM Studios at Walt Disney World.

The 1989 Batman film, based on a DC comic book, becomes the highest grossing film until 2008's The Dark Knight.

Nintendo launches GameBoy in North America.

1990s

U.S. presidents

George Bush (1989 – 1993)

William J. Clinton (1993 – 2001)

Your wallet

Gallon of gas – \$1.15 in 1990 and \$1.17 in 1999

Gallon of milk – \$1.18 in 1990 and \$2.86 in 1999

Loaf of bread – 69 cents in 1990 and 90 cents in 1999

Top singles

1. How Do I Live – LeAnn Rimes (1997)
2. Macarena (Bayside Boys Mix) – Los Del Rio (1996)
3. Un-Break My Heart – Toni Braxton (1996)
4. Foolish Games/You Were Meant for Me – Jewel (1997)
5. (Everything I Do) I Do it for You – Bryan Adams (1991)
6. I'll Make Love to You – Boyz II Men (1994)
7. Too Close – Next (1998)
8. One Sweet Day – Mariah Carey & Boyz II Men (1995)
9. Truly Madly Deeply – Savage Garden (1998)
10. Candle in the Wind – Elton John (1997)

Top movies

1. Titanic (1997)
2. Jurassic Park (1993)
3. Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace (1999)
4. The Lion King (1994)
5. Independence Day (1996)
6. Forrest Gump (1994)
7. The Sixth Sense (1999)
8. The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997)
9. Men in Black (1997)
10. Armageddon (1998)

Top TV shows

1. Friends
2. Seinfeld
3. X-Files
4. ER
5. Buffy the Vampire Slayer
6. Beverly Hills, 90210
7. The Simpsons
8. Frasier
9. Married with Children
10. Everybody Loves Raymond

Super Bowl champions

Super Bowl XXIV

San Francisco 49ers vs. Denver Broncos (55–10) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl XXV

New York Giants vs. Buffalo Bills (20–19) Tampa, FL

Super Bowl XXVI

Washington Redskins vs. Buffalo Bills (37–24) Minneapolis, MN

Super Bowl XXVII

Dallas Cowboys vs. Buffalo Bills (52–17) Pasadena, CA

Super Bowl XXVIII

Dallas Cowboys vs. Buffalo Bills (30–13) Atlanta, GA

Super Bowl XXIX

San Francisco 49ers vs. San Diego Chargers (49–26) Miami, FL

Super Bowl XXX

Dallas Cowboys vs. Pittsburgh Steelers (27–17) Tempe, AR

Super Bowl XXXI

Green Bay Packers vs. New England Patriots (35–21) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl XXXII

Denver Broncos vs. Green Bay Packers (31–24) San Diego, CA

Super Bowl XXXIII

Denver Broncos vs. Atlanta Falcons (34–19) Miami, FL

World Series champions

1990

Oakland Athletics vs. Cincinnati Reds (0–4) MVP Jose Rijo

1991

Minnesota Twins vs. Atlanta Braves (4–3) MVP Jack Morris

1992

Toronto Blue Jays vs. Atlanta Braves (4–2) MVP Pat Borders

1993

Toronto Blue Jays vs. Philadelphia Phillies (4–2) MVP Paul Molitor

1994

No World Series held due to players' strike

1995

Cleveland Indians vs. Atlanta Braves (2–4) MVP Tom Glavine

1996

New York Yankees vs. Atlanta Braves (4–2) MVP John Wetteland

1997

Cleveland Indians vs. Florida Marlins (3–4) MVP Liván Hernández

1998

New York Yankees vs. San Diego Padres (4–0) MVP Scott Brosius

1999

New York Yankees vs. Atlanta Braves (4–0) MVP Mariano Rivera

Historical events

The 1990 Hubble Space Telescope launches during a Space Shuttle Discovery mission.

In Los Angeles, four white policemen are videotaped as they beat Rodney King, an African American man, during a traffic violation arrest.

Hurricane Andrew, a category five hurricane, hit the Bahamas, southern Florida, and southwest Louisiana with winds up to 175 mph and a 12-day storm that caused approximately \$26.5 billion in damage.

Bill Clinton is elected as the 42nd president of the U.S.

River Phoenix dies of a drug overdose at Johnny Depp's Hollywood club.

During the Rwandan genocide, members of the Hutu ethnic majority in the east-central African nation of Rwanda murder as many as 800,000 people, mostly of the Tutsi minority.

Theodore John Kaczynski, also known as the "Unabomber," is arrested for bombing numerous areas and for the murders of three people.

TWA Flight 800 is headed to Paris, France, when a fuel tank explosion splits the plane in half and kills all 230 passengers.

The first NASA rover, Sojourner, lands on Mars.

Diana Frances Spencer is killed in a limousine crash after being chased by paparazzi.

Two high school students from Columbine High School in Littleton, CO, in a shooting rampage at their school, killing 12 students, one teacher, and themselves.

A rumor leads people to believe a Y2K Bug is going to strike all computers and cause such chaos that the "bug" would destroy civilization.

2000s

U.S. presidents

William Clinton (1993 – 2001)

George W. Bush (2001 – 2009)

Barack H. Obama (2009 – 2017)

Your wallet

Gallon of gas – \$1.51 in 2000 and \$2.35 in 2009

Gallon of milk – \$2.79 in 2000 and \$3.11 in 2009

Loaf of bread – 93 cents in 2000 and \$1.40 in 2009

Top singles

1. We Belong Together – Mariah Carey (2005)
2. Yeah! - Usher Featuring Lil Jon & Ludacris (2004)
3. Low - Flo Rida Featuring T-Pain (2008)
4. I Gotta Feeling – The Black Eyed Peas (2009)
5. How You Remind Me – Nickelback (2001)
6. No One – Alicia Keys (2007)
7. Boom Boom Pow – The Black Eyed Peas (2009)
8. Let Me Love You – Mario (2005)
9. Gold Digger – Kanye West featuring Jamie Foxx (2005)
10. Apologize – Timbaland featuring OneRepublic (2007)

Top movies

1. Avatar (2009)
2. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)
3. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006)
4. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001)
5. The Dark Knight (2008)
6. Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007)
7. The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002)
8. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007)
9. Finding Nemo (2003)
10. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009)

Top TV shows

1. Breaking Bad
2. The Office
3. The Sopranos
4. Lost
5. 24
6. Mad Men
7. Sex and the City
8. How I Met Your Mother
9. The West Wing
10. 30 Rock

Super Bowl champions

Super Bowl XXXIV

St. Louis Rams vs. Tennessee Titans (23–16) Atlanta, GA

Super Bowl XXXV

Baltimore Ravens vs. New York Giants (34–7) Tampa, FL

Super Bowl XXXVI

New England Patriots vs. St. Louis Rams (20–17) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl XXXVII

Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Oakland Raiders (48–21) San Diego, CA

Super Bowl XXXVIII

New England Patriots vs. Carolina Panthers (32–29) Houston, TX

Super Bowl XXXIX

New England Patriots vs. Philadelphia Eagles (24–2) Jacksonville, FL

Super Bowl XL

Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Seattle Seahawks (21–10) Detroit, MI

Super Bowl XLI

Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears (29–17) Miami Gardens, FL

Super Bowl XLII

New York Giants vs. New England Patriots (17–14) Glendale, AZ

Super Bowl XLIII

Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Arizona Cardinals (27–23) Tampa Bay, FL

World Series champions**2000**

New York Yankees vs. New York Mets (4–1) MVP Derek Jeter

2001

New York Yankees vs. Arizona Diamondbacks (4–1) MVPs Randy Johnson,
Curt Schilling

2002

Anaheim Angels vs. San Francisco Giants (4–1) MVP Troy Glaus

2003

New York Yankees vs. Florida Marlins (4–1) MVP Josh Beckett

2004

Boston Red Sox vs. St. Louis Cardinals (4–1) MVP Manny Ramirez

2005

Chicago White Sox vs. Houston Astros (4–1) MVP Jermaine Dye

2006

Detroit Tiger vs. St. Louis Cardinals (4–1) MVP David Eckstein

2007

Boston Red Sox vs. Colorado Rockies (4–1) MVP Mike Lowell

2008

Tampa Bay Rays vs. Philadelphia Phillies (4–1) MVP Cole Hamels

2009

New York Yankees vs. Philadelphia Phillies (4–1) MVP Hideki Matsui

Historic events

George W. Bush is sworn in as the 43rd president of the U.S.

Terrorists attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The United Nations passes the Iraq resolution, which begins the search for weapons of mass destruction.

NASA rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, find evidence of water on Mars.

Ronald Reagan dies at age 93.

President George W. Bush is re-elected.

Hurricane Katrina hits the Gulf Coast.

The Virginia Tech massacre leaves 32 dead.

John McCain picks Sarah Palin as his running mate for the presidential election.

Barack Obama wins the presidential election and is then sworn in as America's first African-American president.

The World Health Organization declared the swine flu or H1N1 virus to be a global pandemic.

2010s

U.S. presidents

Barack H. Obama (2009 – 2017)

Donald J. Trump (2017 – 2021)

Your wallet

Gallon of gas – \$2.79 in 2010 and \$2.60 in 2019

Gallon of milk – \$3.26 in 2010 and \$3.04 in 2019

Loaf of bread – \$1.36 in 2010 and \$1.29 in 2019

Top singles

1. Party Rock Anthem – LMFAO Featuring Lauren Bennett & GoonRock (2011)
2. We Found Love – Rihanna Featuring Calvin Harris (2011)
3. Somebody That I Used To Know – Gotye Featuring Kimbra (2012)
4. Rolling In the Deep – Adele (2011)
5. Blurred Lines – Robin Thicke Featuring T.I. and Pharrell (2013)
6. Call Me Maybe – Carly Rae Jepsen (2012)
7. Happy – Pharrell Williams (2014)
8. Royals – Lorde (2013)

9. Dark Horse – Katy Perry Featuring Juicy J (2014)
10. Moves Like Jagger – Maroon 5 Featuring Christina Aguilera (2011)

Top movies

1. Avengers: Endgame (2019)
2. Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens (2015)
3. Avengers: Infinity War (2018)
4. Jurassic World (2015)
5. The Lion King (2019)
6. The Avengers (2012)
7. Furious 7 (2015)
8. Frozen II (2019)
9. Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015)
10. Black Panther (2018)

Top TV shows

1. Game of Thrones
2. Stranger Things
3. Big Bang Theory
4. The Walking Dead
5. Orange is the New Black
6. Downton Abbey
7. American Horror Story
8. This is Us
9. Modern Family
10. Parks and Recreation

Super Bowl champions

Super Bowl XLIV

New Orleans Saints vs. Indianapolis Colts (31–17) Miami, FL

Super Bowl XLV

Green Bay Packers vs. Pittsburgh Steelers (31–25) Arlington, TX

Super Bowl XLVI

New York Giants vs. New England Patriots (21–17) Indianapolis, IN

Super Bowl XLVII

Baltimore Ravens vs. San Francisco 49ers (34–31) New Orleans, LA

Super Bowl XLVIII

Seattle Seahawks vs. Denver Broncos (43–8)

Super Bowl XLIX

New England Patriots vs. Seattle Seahawks (28–24) Glendale, AZ

Super Bowl L

Denver Broncos vs. Carolina Panthers (24–10) Santa Clara, CA

Super Bowl LI

New England Patriots vs. Atlanta Falcons (34–28) Houston, TX

Super Bowl LII

Philadelphia Eagles vs. New England Patriots (41–33) Minneapolis, MN

Super Bowl LIII

New England Patriots vs. Los Angeles Rams (13–3) Atlanta, GA

World Series champions

2000

New York Yankees vs. New York Mets (4–1) MVP Derek Jeter

2010

Texas Rangers vs. San Francisco Giants (1–4) MVP Edgar Renteria

2011

Texas Rangers vs. St. Louis Cardinals (3–4) MVP David Freese

2012

Detroit Tigers vs. San Francisco Giants (0–4) MVP Pablo Sandoval

2013

Boston Red Sox vs. St. Louis Cardinals (4–2) MVP David Ortiz

2014

Kansas City Royals vs. San Francisco Giants (3–4) MVP Madison Bumgarner

2015

Kansas City Royals vs. New York Mets (4–1) MVP Salvador Perez

2016

Cleveland Indians vs. Chicago Cubs (3–4) MVP Ben Zobrist

2017

Houston Astros vs. Los Angeles Dodgers (4–3) MVP George Springer

2018

Boston Red Sox vs. Los Angeles Dodgers (4–1) MVP Steve Pearce

2019

Houston Astros vs. Washington Nationals (3–4) MVP Stephen Strasburg

Historic events

A BP oil rig, Deepwater Horizon, explodes and sinks in the Gulf of Mexico, causing the largest oil spill in the history of marine oil drilling operations.

President Barack Obama announces the official end to combat operations in Iraq.

The social media site Instagram is founded.

The Arab Spring begins leading to mass protests in Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Bahrain.

A tornado devastates Joplin, MO, killing 158 and injuring more than 1,000, making it the deadliest single U.S. tornado since the advent of modern weather forecasting.

The Space Shuttle Atlantis touches down at Kennedy Space Center, ending the 30-year shuttle program.

“Occupy Wall Street” protests income inequality.

President Barack Obama is elected to a second term.

Black Lives Matter emerges as a political movement, with protests against widespread racial profiling, police brutality, and racial inequality in the U.S. criminal justice system.

Edward Snowden, a U.S. intelligence officer leaks thousands of documents highlighting domestic surveillance programs of the U.S. and allies.

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappears.

Russian invasion leads to the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine.

Protests over the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, draw national attention.

The Supreme Court strikes down the Defense of Marriage Act, which banned the federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

The U.K. leaves European Union in “Brexit” vote.

Donald Trump defeats Hilary Clinton to become the 45th U.S. president.

The Me Too movement, founded by American activist Tarana Burke, explodes with the New York Times and New Yorker investigation of Harvey Weinstein.

The first image of a black hole is taken.

Fire at historic Notre-Dame Cathedral destroys the spire and most of the roof of the 850-year-old cathedral. At the time, the cathedral was the most visited historic monument in Europe.

The U.S. women’s national soccer team is most successful in international women’s soccer, winning a record fourth Women’s World Cup title.

Simone Biles becomes the most decorated gymnast in world championship history.

The U.S. House of Representatives impeaches President Donald Trump for high crimes and misdemeanors.

2020s

U.S. presidents

Donald J. Trump (2017 – 2021)

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (2021 – present)

Your wallet

Gallon of gas – \$2.17 in 2020 and \$3.49 in 2023

Gallon of milk – \$3.32 in 2020 and \$4.44 in 2023

Loaf of bread – \$1.40 in 2020 and \$1.88 in 2023

Top singles

1. Blinding Lights – The Weeknd (2020)
2. Levitating – Dua Lipa (2021)
3. Heat Waves – Glass Animals (2022)

Top movies

1. Avatar: The Way of Water (2022)
2. Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021)
3. Top Gun: Maverick (2022)
4. Jurassic World: Dominion (2022)
5. Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (2022)
6. Minions: The Rise of Gru (2022)
7. The Battle at Lake Changjin (2021)
8. Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (2022)
9. Hi, Mom (2021)
10. No Time to Die (2021)

Top TV shows

1. Equalizer (2020)
2. Yellowstone (2021)

Super Bowl champions

Super Bowl LIV

Kansas City Chiefs vs. San Francisco 49ers (31–20) Miami, FL

Super Bowl LV

Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Kansas City Chiefs (31–9) Tampa, FL

Super Bowl LVI

Los Angeles Rams vs. Cincinnati Bengals (23–20) Los Angeles, CA

Super Bowl LVII

Kansas City Chiefs vs. Philadelphia Eagles (38–35) Glendale, AZ

World Series champions

2020

Tampa Bay Rays vs. Los Angeles Dodgers (2–4) MVP Corey Seager

2021

Houston Astros vs. Atlanta Braves (2–4) MVP Jorge Soler

2022

Houston Astros vs. Philadelphia Phillies (4–2) MVP Jeremy Peña

Historic events

The first patient in the U.S. is diagnosed with coronavirus.

President Donald Trump declares a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, freeing up \$50 billion in disaster relief funds. The U.S. Senate approves a federal emergency aid package in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

22 million Americans file for unemployment within a single month due to COVID-19 lockdowns and marks the worst unemployment crisis since the Great Depression.

The U.S. Pentagon releases three UFO videos.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies.

Joe Biden is elected as the 46th U.S. president. Large voter turnout requires days of counting in several states.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is signed into law, marking the largest single public education investment in U.S. history.

The first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are given out in the U.S.

Rioters supporting President Donald Trump storm the U.S. Capitol, forcing Congress to evacuate and interrupting the Electoral College vote count that certified Joe Biden's victory.

Juneteenth National Independence Day Act is passed, making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

The U.S. withdraws its remaining troops from Afghanistan, ending its 20-year involvement in the war in Afghanistan.

Star Trek actor William Shatner, age 90, becomes the oldest person to go into space on board the Blue Origin NS-18.

Russia Federation invades Ukraine with the expectation of a quick military victory. Ukrainian defenses stall the Russian advance.

President Joe Biden signs the Inflation Reduction Act.

Liz Truss is appointed as U.K. Prime Minister and is forced to resign 45 days later.

Artificial Intelligence goes mainstream with release of ChatGPT-3, a large language model A.I. designed to interact in a conversational way.

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