



APRIL 21, 2018

9:00 P.M.

Cash bar and group pictures

8:30 P.M.

Dinner and program

Presiding: Charles E. Smith, MNEA President

Welcome and recognition of special guests
 The blessing – Brent Fullington, MNEA Vice President
 Comments and introduction of keynote speaker – Charles E. Smith
 Keynote – Lily Eskelson Garcia, NEA President
 Closing – Charles E. Smith

8:30 P.M.

Candidate hospitality rooms



UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.

MNEA OFFICERS

- Presidents**
 1973-1974 Pat O'Brien – Crystal City
 1974-1975 Harold Austin – Mehlville
 1975-1976 Ron Bruch – Hickman Mills
 1976-1977 Judy Behnke – Hickman Mills
 1977-1978 Clarence Siebert – Hazlewood
 1978-1979 Tony Rollins – Center
 1979-1980 Lona Lewis – Parkway
 1980-1981 Ron Boehl – Pattonville
 1981-1985 Lona Lewis – Parkway
 1985-1986 Shirley Cromer – North Kansas City
 1986-1995 Martha Karlovetz – Parkway
 2001-2007 Greg Jung – Ritenour
 2007-2013 Chris Gunther – Francis Howell
 2013-present Charles E. Smith – Center
- 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 Gunther – Francis Howell
 2007-2013 Charles Smith – Center
 2013-present Brent Fullington – Springfield

- NEA Directors for Missouri**
 1973-1974 Pat O'Brien – Crystal City
 1974-1981 Ruth Keeling – Normandy
 1981-1984 Harold Austin – Mehlville
 1984-1990 Greg Jung – Van Far, Ritenour
 1990-1993 John Stauffer – Springfield
 1993-1994 Chris Gunther – Francis Howell
 1994-1999 Ben Simmons – Independence
 1999-2002 Bill Gunther – Parkway
 2002-2004 Charles Smith – Center
 2004-2008 Jack Williamson – Rockwood
 2008-2011 Don Schulte – Pattonville
 2011-2013 Julia Todd – Raymore-Peculiar
 2013-present Brent Fullington – Springfield
 2017-present Phil Murray – Poplar Bluff
 2013-present Lisa Kikbusch – Pattonville
 2017-present Rebeka McIntosh – Grandview
- Executive Directors**
 1973-1974 Bruce Ambts
 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 Moeckl
 1991 Interim: Earl Jones, NEA Staff
 1991-2005 Peggy Cochran
 2005-2014 Ben Simmons
 2014-2016 Peggy Cochran (Interim)
 2016-present DeEAnn Aull

CHARTER LOCALS

- Afton EA
 Bayless EA
 Belton NEA
 Center EA
 Crystal City CTA
 Ferguson Florissant NEA
 Francis Howell CTA
 Fort Zumwalt EA
 Hancock Place CTA
 Hazelwood NEA
 Independence NEA
 Jennings EA
 Joplin NEA
 Kirkwood NEA
 Lindbergh NEA
 Maplewood/Richmond
 Mehlville NEA
 Heights EA
 Wentzville NEA

Beginning with these 36 charter locals and affiliates in 1973, MNEA has grown into a statewide organization with 193 active local affiliates and members in 516 school districts 40 years later.

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 **Pat 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 *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
 St. Charles EA
 St. Joseph EA
 University City EA
 Valley Park NEA
 Wellston NEA
 Wentzville NEA
- Pat O'Brien – Crystal City
 Harold Austin – Mehlville
 Ruth Keeling – Normandy
 Greg Jung – Van Far, Ritenour
 John Stauffer – Springfield
 Chris Gunther – Francis Howell
 Ben Simmons – Independence
 Bill Gunther – Parkway
 Martha Karlovetz – Parkway
 Shirley Cromer – North Kansas City
 Donna Collins – Grandview
 Greg Jung – Ritenour
 Chris Gunther – Francis Howell
 2001-2007
 2007-2013
 2013-present

UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.

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 had virtually no influence on the politicians or the decisions. Now, we seek to change that. We ask only 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.

1970s

1973

- NEA disaffiliates the MSTA and recognizes the new Show-Me State NEA affiliate, the Missouri National Education Association.
- MNEA organizes its PAC, and political training of staff and members begins.

1974

- MNEA membership grows to more than 11,000 members in 128 school districts.
- MNEA PAC issues its first recommendations for political office.

1975

- The Lorna Bottger Political Action Award is created to recognize "individual excellence in political action" and is presented the first time to its namesake, Lorna Bottger.

1980s

1980

- MNEA develops an ERA action plan and receives NEA assistance to implement it.
- The Special Education Employees Association, representing teacher aides and assistants in St. Louis County's Special District, becomes MNEA's first local affiliate of support professionals.
- MNEA initiates an attorney-referral program for members.
- Hazelwood teacher and MNEA member Beverly Bimes is named National Teacher of the Year.
- MNEA introduces an easy-pay program for dues payment.

1981

- 6,000 MNEA members and friends rally at the Capitol in response to the governor's message that there would be no state aid this year to raise

teachers' salaries.

- MNEA posts a 17 percent membership growth and receives NEA recognition as the state affiliate with the largest percentage increase in the nation.
- MNEA offers a toll-free phone number for the Jefferson City headquarters.
- The St. Louis firm of Schuchat, Cook and Wiener becomes MNEA's general counsel.

1982

- The MNEA Minority Affairs Committee conducts the first MNEA Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.
- MNEA establishes the Soar with the Eagles leadership award to recognize outstanding local leaders and presents it for the first time to Ruth Keeling.
- MNEA holds its first Education Lobby Day, bringing members from around the state to Jefferson City to lobby their state legislators.

1983

- *Something Better* becomes an award-winning publication, winning two "best" awards from NEA's

State Education Editors. This is the beginning of a the publication's ongoing award-winning reputation.

- MNEA-backed legislation creates the Missouri Advisory Council for Certification of Educators (MACCE).

1984

- With NEA support and business partners in the St. Louis area, MNEA kicks off its Homework Hotline, which fields calls from students in Missouri and Illinois.

1985

- The MNEA-supported "Excellence in Education Act" brings professional development committees, career ladders and a minimum teacher salary of \$15,000 to Missouri's public schools.

1986

- The MNEA Membership Recognition Program is established to recognize locals for successful membership efforts.

1976

- MNEA and NEA co-sponsor the first minority-involvement seminar in the state.
- MNEA headquarters moves from a rented office to its own building at 612 Eastland Drive in Jefferson City.

1977

- MNEA member Ron Bruch is elected to the NEA Executive Committee.
- The MNEA headquarters is connected to NEA's computer network.

1978

- MNEA conducts its first women's leadership training for nearly 100 members.
- St. Louis Suburban Teachers Association and MNEA win the \$6 million lawsuit MSTA filed against the court. It took three more years before the appellate court upheld the circuit court decision, finally settling the lawsuit over who owned the SLSTA office.

1979

- The MNEA representative assembly approves MNEA's first million-dollar budget.
- Five MNEA members attend a White House ceremony as Pres. Jimmy Carter signs the bill creating the U.S. Department of Education.

1987

- Missouri NEA-Retired is organized, providing an NEA affiliate for retired members of the association.
- MNEA establishes the Shirley Comer Leadership Award to honor exemplary leadership and the memory of MNEA Pres. Shirley Cromer, who died while serving as MNEA president.

1988

- MNEA created the Membership Incentive Program, a reduced-dues program to introduce MNEA to new members.
- NEA-Retired elects MNEA-R co-founder Ruth Keeling as secretary.

1989

- MNEA moves into a new headquarters building at 1810 East Elm Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.
- In collaboration with the Get Ahead Foundation, MNEA raises funds to build a school in Mbotji, South Africa. MPO Tutu, daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu is a guest at the fall representative assembly celebration of the accomplishment.

1990s

1990

- MNEA membership reaches 20,000, qualifying MNEA for a second NEA director.
- Terry Regier becomes the first MNEA member elected to the Missouri Public School Retirement System Board of Trustees.
- MNEA and the Missouri Bar partner to sponsor the first Law Day Essay Contest.
- MNEA hosts the NEA representative assembly in Kansas City and receives the Rosaena J. Willis Human & Civil Rights Award.

1991

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

1992

- MNEA members and MNEA PAC work to elect Gov. Mel Carnahan to office.
- MNEA member Steve Stoll is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

1993

- MNEA efforts lead 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.
- MNEA creates HOPE, MNEA's charitable fund, distributing donations to school districts and members who were victims of the flood of 1993.

1997

- MNEA and school administrators in the St. Louis area launch a collaborative win-win bargaining.

1998

- Gov. Mel Carnahan and First Lady Jean Carnahan, along with other state officials, participate in the first Read Across America observance on Dr. Seuss's birthday.

1999

- MNEA membership reaches 30,000.
- MNEA purchases and moves into three regional offices.
- The office of MNEA vice president becomes a full-time release position.
- MNEA receives NEA's Rosaena J. Willis Human and Civil Rights Award for the second time.

2000s

2000

- MNEA-Retired member Nancy Copenhaver is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

2001

- MNEA offers new Educator ACCESS discount program to members and adds a "members only" section to the MNEA website.

2002

- MNEA releases an independent evaluation of the Missouri Assessment Program with 19 recommendations for strengthening the MAP.

2003

- MNEA airs its first radio spots promoting teacher quality.
- MNEA wins a million-dollar judgement against the Normandy School District in a salary-compliance lawsuit.
- 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).
- MNEA begins its No MORE Bullying program.
- The MNEA Human Rights Committee raises funds to build a school in Kosovo.

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.
- MNEA members participate in the "Kids First Rally" to tell legislators that Missourians must put kids first.
- MNEA members and students across the state celebrate "Seusscentennial" – the 100th birthday of Dr. Seuss.

2005

- MNEA launches the "I Can Do It" support program for beginning teachers.
- Independence NEA retirees win judgment against the Independence School District for payment of retirement incentive benefits.
- MNEA holds its first statewide ESP Conference.
- MNEA establishes and awards the Quality Local Association Gold Award for the first time to Ferguson-Florissant NEA, Independence NEA, MNEA-Retired, Park Hill NEA and Special District NEA. (The name of the award is later changed to the Leila Medley Quality Local Association Award)

2006

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

2007

- On Feb. 21, the Missouri Supreme Court hears oral arguments in the Independence NEA et al. vs. Independence School District case.
- On May 29 the Missouri Supreme Court grants collective bargaining rights to all public employees due to MNEA's 2003 lawsuit. This decision was a major victory for all public employees and changed the bargaining landscape.
- Rockwood NEA has the first ratified collective bargaining agreement in Missouri following the Supreme Court ruling.
- MNEA holds the groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Charles Regional Office Nov. 9. The office opened July 1, 2008.
- MNEA's *Something Better* magazine receives the State Education Editors' "Best of Show" award for the best affiliate magazine among all state affiliate publications.

2008

- More than 1,000 MNEA members attend Capitol Action Days and hold back anti-public education attacks and an MSTA anti-bargaining bill in the legislature.
- MNEA website wins first place in MNEA's membership category in the NEA State Education Editors competition for "Best Website" and "Most Improved Website."
- MNEA launches its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MissouriNEA.
- MNEA-Retired membership reaches 4,000.
- MNEA membership hits 35,000 in MNEA's 35th year.
- MNEA launches a Flickr photo archiving site, which now features more than 11,000 photos that provide a visual record of MNEA's work.

2009

- MNEA begins "tweeting" its MNEA twitter feed from www.twitter.com/MissouriNEA.
- MNEA leader Margo McNeil is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.
- MNEA convenes a Charter School Task Force and the representative assembly adopts the task force position paper on charter schools.
- MNEA now owns four regional office buildings: St. Louis, St. Charles, Kansas City and the headquarters building in Jefferson City.
- MNEA initiates the FLIP campaign to increase the use of bank draft for payment of dues.
- Tenure continues to be under siege in the Missouri General Assembly, and MNEA members continue intensive talks with legislators to hold back threats to eliminate tenure.

2010

- MNEA-Retired member Ira Anders is elected to the Missouri House of Representatives.

2011

- The MNEA representative assembly approves MNEA's Education Transformation Task Force Report, which MNEA then shared throughout Missouri.
- MNEA launches the Education Advocates program with the hope of involving more members in grassroots political action.
- Columbia MNEA member Kathy Steinhoff receives NEA's highest teaching honor—The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education Award for Teaching Excellence.
- MNEA members and staff participate at the Wisconsin Capitol in rallies and work supporting WEAC's efforts to defend collective bargaining rights for members.
- Led by the MNEA Teaching and Learning Department, MNEA members work to help influence the MSIP-5 policy.
- MNEA launches a professional development online series.
- MNEA launches www.youtube.com/MissouriNEAtube.

2012

- MNEA-Retired celebrates its 25th anniversary and establishes the Jim Coen Silver Citizen Award to recognize political action and involvement of retired members.
- MNEA initiates Summer Association Leadership Training (SALT)— a regional summer leadership training.

2013

- For the third time, MNEA receives the NEA Rosaena J. Willis Human and Civil Rights Award.
- MNEA launches Pinterest social networking site to promote parenting resources, recommended children's books and teaching resources at www.pinterest.com/MissouriNEA.
- MNEA celebrates 40 years of "Something Better."

2014

- MNEA convenes an ESP Task Force, and the representative assembly adopts the recommendations to more fully engage ESP members.
- MNEA convenes a fact-finding committee on School Privatization and Outsourcing and presents its findings to the spring representative assembly.
- MNEA leads the education coalition that successfully defeats Constitutional Amendment 3, which would eliminate tenure, tie student test scores to teacher evaluations and diminish local control of school districts.
- MNEA completes the renovation of the Kansas City regional office.
- MNEA's nomination of PBS receives the NEA Friend of Education Award at the NEA Convention in Atlanta.

- MNEA successfully leads the state education coalition to reduce the number of required state tests.

2015

- In partnership with KCTV 5, MNEA begins Read to Achieve, an award allowing the public to recognizing teachers advancing reading strategies in their classrooms.
- The Back-Home Visit program begins urging MNEA Education Advocates and their state legislators to interact in their districts.
- MNEA launches the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.
- MNEA establishes the Racial and Social Justice Program and trainings.
- MNEA hosts two years of Summer Academy for First Timers (newer members) to develop future local leaders.

2016

- Led by the MNEA Teaching and Learning Department, members provide significant input to the revisions included in MSIP 6.
- MNEA, in partnership with the Missouri High School Activities Association, creates the two-year public relations program—Teacher Words Matter—with Missourians recognizing educators who have positively influenced their lives.
- MNEA establishes legislative forums to provide members an increased opportunity to directly ask questions of legislators and for legislators to have time to share their views.
- The Reach Out program is piloted in Wentzville with a team of early educators reaching out to support other early educators.

2017

- MNEA Summer Leadership is designed to align with NEA's leadership competencies.
- The Take Control Campaign, moving an additional 7,500 members to bank draft and credit card for dues payment, becomes a necessity because of proposed legislation.
- MNEA renovates the St. Louis regional office.
- The MNEA HOPE Fund, with additional member funding, contributes to the victims of hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.
- MNEA re-establishes the Women's Issues Committee.

2018

- MNEA completes renovations, including the addition of an elevator, at its headquarters.
- MNEA holds Winter Leadership, follow-up leadership training to activate a spring membership renewal program, promote early enrollment campaigns and activate Reach Out programs statewide.
- MNEA launches NEA 360, an interactive membership platform.
- MNEA celebrates 45 years of uniting, leading and inspiring educators.