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Your NEA ID: 0004745853

April 2021

Rishanda Richardson, Editor

In the Loop

Missouri NEA's electronic newsletter



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CONVERSATIONS

ON

RACE

&



BELONGING

Join MNEA and Nebraska SEA for a interactive virtual program

Conversations about Race and Belonging

Missouri NEA partners with Nebraska State Education Association to offer this training, which builds a peer cohort through conversations, stories and racial literacy. It is led by national facilitators--Palma Joy Strand and Michele Chang.

Participants must be MNEA members. Space is limited to 22 participants for each program. Interested members must [download and complete this application](#), and email it to Laurie.Bernskoetter@mnea.org by the deadlines for each session. Applicants will be notified by email of their status before the program start date.

Cost: Free

Introduction: May 2 or May 4 **Deadline:** April 20

Series of six sessions: June 9, 16, 23, 30 and July 7, 14 **Deadline:** May 4

[Read More >](#)

UNITE.
INSPIRE.
LEAD. Join Missouri NEA

Unite, Inspire, Lead with MNEA

Invite a public school colleague to join Missouri NEA at www.mnea.org/5monthsfree.

Don't just join an organization. Get involved in a movement! Together, we can change the way public schools, students and employees are treated.

#MNEAunited



Ready? Set? Retire!
PSRS/PEERS, Reliant
Financial Retirement
Planning Webinar
6 PM | Tues., April 27

Are you getting close to retirement? Don't take the leap into retirement without the proper planning.

Register for this webinar to

MENTOR
INSPIRE Missouri NEA
EDUCATE
COACH 
Thank a Teacher MAY 4, 2021 NATIONAL TEACHER DAY **SHARE**
INFLUENCE
ENCOURAGE
Missouri National Education Association www.mnea.org

National Teacher Day
Tues., May 4, 2021
National Teacher

#MNEAinspires
#MNEAleads

Read More >

hear from PSRS/PEERS about how your pension works. Learn what you need to know and do before you retire to start receiving your pension. Hear about MNEA Member Benefits for retired members and more.

Read More >

Appreciation Week is May 3-7, 2021.

Great teachers make great public schools. On National Teacher Day, Tues., May 4, 2021, thousands of communities take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the crucial role teachers play in making sure every student receives a quality education.

#ThankATeacher

Download Now >



Advocacy by NEA leads to accelerated vaccine eligibility for all educators nationwide

As soon as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were approved by the Food and Drug Administration in mid-December, NEA immediately called on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and individual states to [prioritize the 5 million teachers](#), instructional support personnel, aides, food service and custodial workers, and principals who work in the nation's public schools.

Educators interested in receiving COVID-19 vaccination are eligible to do so now at pharmacies participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19. Use vaccinefinder.org to find locations and make an appointment.

In February, the Dr. Randal Williams, Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, predicted educators would receive vaccines as late as May with, "[no plan to move teachers to front of vaccine line.](#)" With districts increasingly expanding in-person instruction, waiting until May for vaccination was unacceptable. Missouri NEA Pres. Phil Murray took action, writing Gov. Parson, "Educators, students, and parents have done their part; our schools have been open since the beginning of the school year using hybrid or virtual instruction to support students while keeping them safe. Now, it is time for our state leaders to do their part by prioritizing the vaccination of teachers, school support personnel, and district staff."

As part of a national organization, Missouri NEA gives Missouri educators the unique ability to advocate at the federal, state, and local level with a meaningful voice. No other organization can offer 3-tiered advocacy expertise.

[Read More >](#)

MISSOURI NEA

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

April 24, 2021
VIRTUAL

REGISTER NOW

- Register online
- Download R.A. packet after March 24
- Attend a Pre-R.A. on April 19 or April 21

▶▶▶▶▶

Find out more at
www.mnea.org/SpringRA

The graphic also features a circular collage of video call participants, including Phil Murray, Paul Guess, NEA Director, Connie Steinmetz, Jane McPartland, Mark Jones, Patrick Layden, and Kelly Lauberth.

**REGISTER
NOW >**

Make plans for your local association to attend the MNEA Representative Assembly

Missouri NEA's spring Representative Assembly will be held virtually on April 24. Local association delegates, members of the MNEA Board of Directors, and staff attend the R.A. to focus on the budget, bylaws and resolutions.

PRE-RA DISCUSSIONS ARE APRIL 19 OR 21.

Questions? Contact Pam Koetting (pam.koetting@mnea.org) or Roxane Bly (roxane.bly@mnea.org) at (573) 644-9606.

PSRS-PEERS Board of Trustees Report

MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen attends the board meetings of the Public School Retirement/Public Education Employees System.

Read the report from the meeting Feb. 28 - March 1, 2021. The report summarizes investment returns during 2020, facility renovation, and member education. It includes legislative and CPI updates and the announcement that the PSRS/PEERS Board Chair will retire from Jefferson City Public Schools effective July 1, 2021. An election will take place to fill his position in the spring of 2022.

[Read More >](#)

Earn up to nine graduate credits per year for \$225 Valued at \$2,900.

For one low annual fee of \$225, Missouri NEA members may take one course each term (fall, spring and summer) to complete up to three graduate courses in 12 months. Or you may take two courses in the summer and skip either the fall or spring semester. Each course is two or three graduate credit hours, so educators can earn from six to nine graduate credits.

Choose from 17 self-paced, online courses for professional growth or salary advancement. MNEA partners with Central Methodist University and Virtual Education Software to offer these courses.

[Read More >](#)



MNEA Human Rights Committee announces 2021 winners



April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

This issue deserves your attention year round every single time you get behind the wheel. Distracted driving isn't just texting or talking on your cell phone. It's anything that diverts your attention from the task of safe driving. [Learn More >](#)

[Contact Horace Mann](#) for a rate quote on your auto insurance.



Educators this is for you!

In a world where you never know what tomorrow may bring, let California Casualty give a glimmer of hope with lots of CASH.

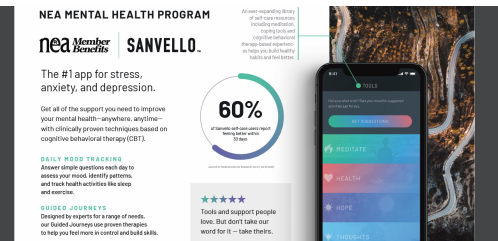
With our \$2,500 Educator Jackpot, members like you have a chance to win. Use the money for whatever you may need (or want)!

[ENTER NOW >](#)

The MNEA Human Rights Committee sponsors a contest and academic scholarship every year—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poster-Essay Contest and Gilbert Balderrama Minority Scholarship. The 2021 recipient of the scholarship is Lena Otto, Lincoln College Preparatory Academy, Kansas City Public Schools.

First-, second-, and third-place winners were chosen in each grade category (K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12) for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poster-Essay Contest.

[Read More >](#)



NEA Mental Health Program

This confidential, on-demand mobile app provides evidence-based tools that can help you learn to manage stress, relieve anxiety and feel happier over time. It has everything you need to feel better, anytime, anywhere.

[Learn More >](#)

#StrongerTogether

Sign up

for 2021-2022
MNEA Committees

Applications due May 7, 2021

www.mnea.org | 800-392-0236

Volunteer to serve on an MNEA state committee

Applications Due: May 7

Missouri NEA has seven standing committees and three advisory committees. Members of two of the standing committees must be elected, but each performs specific functions to help develop and/or carry out Missouri NEA's programs.

Committee members, committee chairs and board liaisons are appointed by the MNEA President with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. Most MNEA committees meet three or four times during the school year. Committee members will be notified of their appointment during the summer.

Contact the Governance Executive Administrative Assistant Roxane Bly (roxane.bly@mnea.org) with questions regarding the MNEA committees.

[Apply Now >](#)



**NATIONAL
BOARD**
*for Professional
Teaching Standards®*

National Board Jump Start 2021

Are you ready for the challenge of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher? Attend MNEA's Jump Start this summer. It is an intensive seminar geared for teachers pursuing National Board Certification, by designed by trainers who have worked with thousands of candidates. During the workshop, you will learn techniques that result in better components and how to organize your resources and time to be most efficient.

Choose which days to attend:

Foundations 1: Mon., June 7, 5-8:30 p.m.

Component 2: Wed., July 14, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

Component 3: Thurs., July 15, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

Component 4: Fri., July 16, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Component 1: Mon., July 19, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Foundations 2: Tues., July 20, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

[Register Today >](#)

Missouri NEA on Instagram



Apply for \$250 grant
Keep the creativity
flowing with a Music
& Arts Grant from
California Casualty.



Securus ID Protection Services powered by Experian

Missouri NEA has partnered with Securus ID powered by Experian to provide members access to high quality identity theft protection plans with a 100% success rate at a 60% discount. While you may take every precaution to keep your identity safe, sadly, almost daily we hear about data breaches from big



My Deals

The My Deals mobile app allows you to access discounts easily on your smartphone. All you need to do is download, register and save. Search for "My Deals" on either the Android Google Play store or Apple iTunes store. To register, use mobile

The California Casualty Music & Arts Grant was established to provide support for K-12 public schools negatively impacted by reduced budgets.

California Casualty has partnered with education associations for many years. We understand the importance of music and arts education for children. As a member of one of our partnering education associations, you can apply for a grant award of \$250 for a music or art need at your school.

Apply Now

businesses, which puts you at risk of fraud.

There are a range of packages that are designed to safeguard you and your family for as low as \$3 per month. All of the plans offer a total recovery solution, meaning that you don't have to lift a finger, except to get in contact with us.

For more information, [download a flyer](#), call 1-877-833-9041, or visit mnea.securusid.com.

More Details

password 9461 followed by your NEA ID without the preceding zeroes. (9461-0004745853)

Need help with My Deals?

Call (800) 331-8867

Install Apple App

Install Android App

Log in MNEA.org

If you have never logged in MNEA.org before, your password is your NEA ID number.

User Name: LastName+SSN4 (ex. Smith1234)

Password: 0004745853 (This is your NEA ID.)
(without the preceding zeros)

Having trouble?
Call (573) 634-3202.

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In the Loop is an electronic newsletter for Missouri NEA members.
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