Sign up for a stop on the Read-On Missouri Tour

Deadline: Jan. 2, 2022

Since 1999, MNEA has sponsored Read Across America tour to help inspire reading in Missouri’s youth. MNEA Pres. Phil Murray and Vice Pres. Rebeka McIntosh will engage with students about the connection between reading and success in life. We encourage MNEA local affiliates to organize assemblies that promote lifetime reading habits and use skits, parades, games and other activities that celebrate reading and how reading opens doors to opportunities to learn and grow in our diverse world.
The official tour is Feb. 28—March 4, 2022.

To apply for a stop on the Read-On Missouri Tour, complete the short online application no later than **Jan. 2, 2022**.

Questions? Contact Mark Jones at (573) 644-9609 or mark.jones@mnea.org.

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**CHEER, not just a holiday expression**

Donations are tax-deductible.

Are you an MNEA member in need of a little financial boost for a classroom project? Apply for a CHEER grant by **Feb. 1**. Grants of up to $250 each will be awarded to MNEA members for worthy projects. Applications should be submitted by the MNEA active member with the sponsorship of an MNEA-Retired member.

Set up a recurring or one-time tax-deductible contribution to help fund CHEER.

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**$500 Tuition Grant for probationary teachers and education support professionals**

Sponsored by Reliant Financial Services, MNEA members who are probationary teachers or Education Support Professionals who are taking a course to advance their career in education are eligible to receive a $500 tuition grant toward the cost of a three-hour course.

Applications must be received on or before Jan. 31. The drawing will be held on Feb. 8, 2022.

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**Run for state delegate to 2022 NEA RA**

**Candidacy deadline: Jan. 15**

The NEA Representative Assembly is scheduled for July 2-6, 2022. MNEA is currently seeking candidates for state delegate. If you are interested in meeting members from other state affiliates, witnessing the largest democratic body in the nation in action, and representing Missouri NEA, submit your declaration for candidacy by **Jan. 15, 2022**.

Candidates will need to submit a headshot and 100-word statement to appear on the ballot. The election will take place in February.
Get the MNEA mobile app TODAY

Missouri NEA's mobile app will help keep you posted about NEA Today and MNEA news, events, and training happening in our state. Search for “Missouri NEA” in the Apple App Store or Android's Google Play Store or download the app at www.mnea.org/mobileapp.

MNEA Human Rights Committee fuels creativity and dreams with contest and scholarship.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poster-Essay Contest
The Missouri NEA Human Rights Committee is
sponsoring the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay-Poster Contest for K-12 public school students. "Fulfilling Dr. King's Dream: Reading to Lead and Transform" is the theme for the 2022 contest.

Winners are determined in five grade-level categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. A certificate and gift card is awarded to each first-place ($50), second-place ($30), and third-place ($20) winner in the five categories. Teachers of winning students will receive a $25 gift card.

All final entries must be received by MNEA no later than Jan. 15, 2022. Late entries will not be judged.

Questions? Contact Lisa Blaha, MNEA UniServ Director at lisa.blaha@mnea.org or (636) 614-7501, Roxane Bly at roxane.bly@mnea.org or (573) 644-9606.

Learn more at www.mnea.org/mlkcontest.

Gilbert Balderrama Minority Scholarship
Do you know high school seniors who plan to attend college in fall 2022? Encourage them to apply for the Gilbert Balderrama Minority Scholarship. Applicants will need to include letters of recommendation and respond to the following question:

“What qualities do you possess that make you uniquely deserving of this scholarship?”


Learn more at www.mnea.org/GBMS.
State Board of Education Report
The Missouri State Board of Education met Dec. 7, 2021. MNEA Vice Pres. Rebeka McIntosh and MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Ann Jarrett attend the meetings. At the last meeting, the SBOE discussed new officer and appointments, MU and UCM ending sponsorship of charters, Riverview Gardens and Normandy re-establishing local governance, 2022 legislative priorities, and DESE’s ongoing guidance to COVID-19.

MACCE Report
The Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators met Dec. 6, 2021. MNEA Vice Pres. Rebeka McIntosh and MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Ann Jarrett attend the meetings. At the last meeting, MACCE discussed TeachMO.org used for teacher recruitment, revisions to elementary education assessment, certification updates, and the Path Forward initiative.

$500 Educators Rising Scholarship
Sponsored by the MNEA, Educators Rising-Missouri is giving one deserving future teacher a $500 scholarship to pursue their college degree. Applicants must be a member of their high school Educators Rising chapter, ranked in the top 20 percent of their class, entering the Educators Rising-Missouri state competition in spring 2022, and if 18-years-old, registered to vote.

Application Deadline: Jan. 31, 2022

$500 Cochran Scholarship
Applicants must be pursuing a degree in education and a member of MNEA Aspiring Educators.
husband Paul were both teachers. Both come from families of teachers. Two of their children are teachers in the St. Louis area. They believe that teaching is the most rewarding career anyone can choose. To encourage people to become teachers, they created a $500 scholarship in support of one of these individuals each year.

Applicants must currently be in their freshman, sophomore or junior year at a Missouri college or university and a member of Aspiring Educators. Apply by Jan. 31, 2022.

Four financial goals to strive for before retirement
Everyone looks forward to the day they can retire. But there's a difference in retiring with confidence and retiring with worry about your financial situation. No matter when you are looking to retire, consider setting these money goals to achieve before the big day.

Educators Rising-Missouri Conference & Competition
High-school and middle-school students come together with the common goal of becoming educators.

VIRTUAL
March 8-9, 2022 (Competitions)
March 9, 2022 (Keynote and Sessions)

Deadline to Register: Jan. 25

Fee: $15 per person (student or advisor)
All payments or purchase orders are due by March 3.

Students who do not compete are encouraged to participate in the sessions Wed. March 9. In addition to competitions, the program offers:

- Keynote speaker
- Table talks with professional educators in a variety of professional roles and topics
- Information on educator preparation programs in Missouri
- All competitions closed to spectators
The agenda will be scheduled based on the competition entries received. Thus, the final agenda will not be published until after March 3. Learn more at [www.mnea.org/edrising](http://www.mnea.org/edrising).

**Competition Details >**

**Conference Registration >**

Questions? Contact Ann.Jarrett@mnea.org ((573) 644-9625) or Laurie.Bernskoetter@mnea.org ((573) 644-9623).

MNEA offices will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1.

If you need help during this time, please call the MNEA office at 1-800-392-0236 and leave a voicemail. Someone will return your call as soon as possible. You can also email MNEA staff using the directory found on [www.mnea.org/directory](http://www.mnea.org/directory).

#winterbreak
#teacherbreak
#enjoy
#happyholidays

Conversations About Diversity and Belonging

We've all been there, that uncomfortable moment when you must decide whether to engage in a conversation about equity and belonging or let the moment pass. Such conversations can quickly trigger defensiveness and even aggression, which is not helpful and something none of us wants. Educators possess the skills for meaningful conversations; however, talking about equity and belonging can open a minefield. Few of us have sufficient experience and knowledge to be comfortable with the topic.

Now is your chance to begin taking part in those discussions. Join MNEA for *Introduction to Conversations on Diversity and Belonging* (Jan. 18), and decide if you would like to take part in the 6-part program (Feb. 8 and 22, March 8 and 29, April 12 and 26).
Learn more at [www.mnea.org/belonging](http://www.mnea.org/belonging).

If you have questions about the program, please contact MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Ann Jarrett ([ann.jarrett@mnea.org](mailto:ann.jarrett@mnea.org)) or Teaching & Learning Assistant Laurie Bernskoetter ([laurie.bernskoetter@mnea.org](mailto:laurie.bernskoetter@mnea.org)) at (573) 644-9623.

## Learn with MNEA

Mark your calendars and participate in professional development offerings.

**"I Can Do It" Beginning Teacher Assistance Program (VIRTUAL)**

"I Can Do It" is designed for teachers in their first two years and any teacher who wants to improve their classroom management skills. Missouri NEA partners with Maryville University to offer a meaningful program that meets the beginning teacher assistance program certification requirement.

Register at [www.mnea.org/ICanDoIt](http://www.mnea.org/ICanDoIt).  
Mondays 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 21, 28, March 7, and 14

### National Board Certification Workshops

**NBC Candidate Boost Days (VIRTUAL)**

These workdays are for candidates who plan to submit one or more components in 2021-2022. Register Feb. 26 and April 9 at [www.mnea.org/nbc](http://www.mnea.org/nbc).

**Exploring NBC (VIRTUAL)**

This workshop is for educators who want information about the National Board Certification process and benefits. Free, online and open to all educators.

Mon., Jan. 24 or Sat., April 9
The NEA Discount Marketplace, powered by Rakuten, enables members to earn Cash Back when they shop and save on brand-name merchandise from over 2,500 top

Identity Theft Protection
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 businesses that puts you at risk of fraud.

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” in either the Android Google Play store or Apple iTunes store. To register, enter your contact information and your
Check out the following member-exclusive deals in March at neamb.com/marketplace:

**H&R Block:** Free online filing

**Turbo Tax:** Assistance through TurboTax Live

**EveryPlate:** Meal kit dinners $4.99 each, 58% lower than other meal plans

**Lenovo:** 70% off laptops, 0% financing

**Reebok:** End-of-season sales on shoes and apparel

It's quick and easy to get started on the NEA Discount Marketplace. Plus, spend $25 or more at any qualifying Rakuten store, and receive a $10 Welcome Bonus... just for joining!

There is 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.

Your NEA ID:
0005611698

Need help with My Deals?
Call (800) 331-8867

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