

December 2021
Rishanda Richardson, Editor

In the Loop

Missouri NEA's electronic newsletter



News

Training

Benefits

Take Action

**Applications due
Jan. 2, 2022.
mnea.org/read-on**

Read-On
Feb. 28-March 4, 2022
Missouri Tour
Let your imagination soar.

**Read
across
America**
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Celebrating A Nation Of Diverse Readers

**Missouri
NEA**
Unite. Inspire. Lead.

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.

[Read More >](#)



**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.

[Read More >](#)



\$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.

[Read More >](#)



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.

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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.

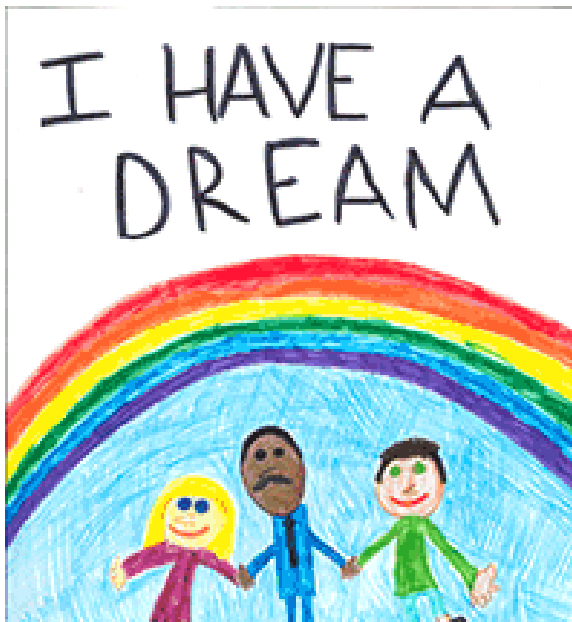
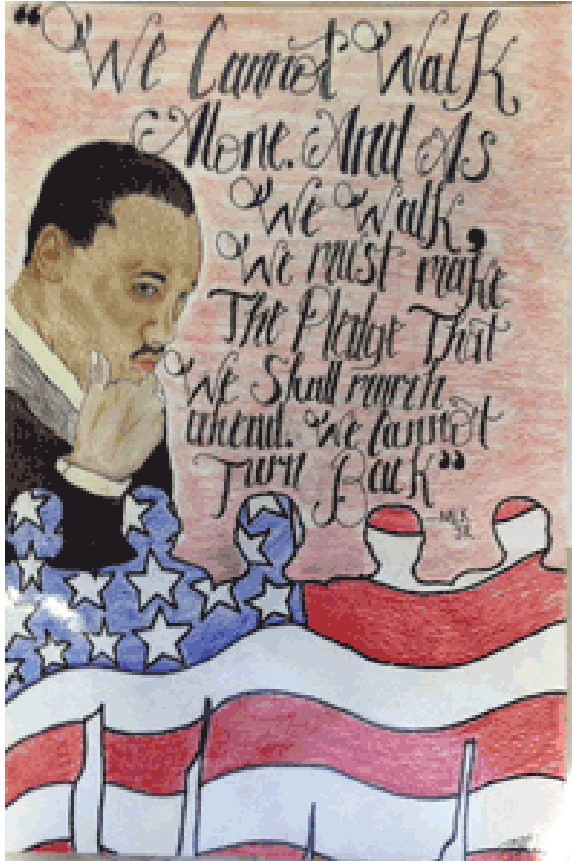
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**MNEA Human Rights Committee
fuels creativity and dreams
with contest and scholarship.**

**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?”

Applications are due **Jan. 15, 2022**. Return to Missouri NEA Human Rights Committee, 1810 E Elm Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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.

[Read More >](#)

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.

[Read More >](#)

EDUCATORS RISING Scholarship

[Apply Now](#)



www.mnea.org/scholarships

\$500 Educators Rising scholarship for high school seniors

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

[Apply Now](#)

Apply Now



\$500 Cochran Scholarship

Applicants must be pursuing a degree in education and a member of MNEA Aspiring Educators.



Former Missouri NEA Executive Director Peggy Cochran and late

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.

[Read More >](#)



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.

[Read More >](#)

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

Missouri
**Conference
& Competition**
March 8 & 9, 2022

Fee: \$15 per person
Registration Deadline Jan. 25

Register Today >>>

Missouri NEA www.mnea.org/edrising

EDUCATORS RISING

[Register Now >](#)

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.

[Competition Details >](#)

[Conference Registration >](#)

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



We all know
EDUCATORS
are the real ones
excited about
**WINTER
BREAK!**

MNEA OFFICES CLOSED
DEC. 24-JAN. 1

800-392-0236

Missouri
NEA
Unite. Inspire. Lead.

WWW.MNEA.ORG

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.

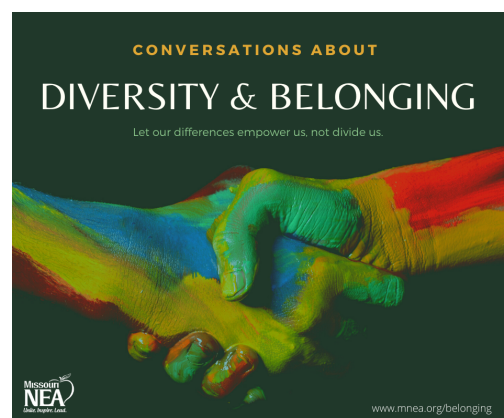
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Conversations About Diversity and Belonging

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.

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

Register Today >

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.

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.

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

TEAM

WITH CALIFORNIA CASUALTY

Apply to receive **\$1,000**
Thomas R. Brown Athletics
Grant for your school's team.



California Casualty
AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE

Apply Today



NEA Discount Marketplace Exclusive Offers for Members

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

retailers and online stores.

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!

[Shop Now](#)

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.

[Check it out](#)

affiliate (MNEA-Missouri NEA). You may need to enter your NEA ID if it asks you.

Your NEA ID:
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Need help with My Deals?
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