



# In the Loop

MNEA News | Professional Development | Member Benefits



## Delegates gather in Branson for business, learning, fun

MNEA President Phil Murray welcomed delegates and leaders to the Fall RA and began his remarks by recognizing MNEA's 50th anniversary, charter locals, and founding members. He praised the Back-To-School organizing events and recruitment successes around the state and celebrated the bargaining wins in multiple locals. He reminded delegates that MNEA would continue to create new ways to "engage, grow, and stay connected—we will keep working to build connections with locals and members all around Missouri."

READ MORE



## CHEER Grant

Need a little financial boost to assist with a classroom or school project?

Apply for a CHEER grant by **Feb. 1**.

Grants of up to \$400 each will be awarded to MNEA members for worthy projects.

Applications should be submitted by an MNEA active member, sponsored by an MNEA-Retired member.

LEARN MORE



## Tuition Grant

Are you a probationary teacher or school employee?

Are you taking college classes in 2023?

Are you a member of Missouri NEA?

If the answer is YES to all three questions, apply for the \$500 Tuition Grant sponsored by Reliant Financial Services.

Applications are due **Jan. 31, 2023**.

APPLY NOW



# Educators Rising Missouri State Conference and Competitions

Wed., March 15, 2023

Westminster College, Fulton, MO

Registration Deadline: Jan. 25

Educators Rising encourages **students in grades 7-12** to explore careers in education, which is an important step in preparing quality teachers for tomorrow's schools. PDK International is the national sponsor of Educators Rising and Missouri NEA is the state coordinator.

The state Educators Rising Conference will be at Westminster College on March 15. [Registration will open soon.](#)

**Share your knowledge:** MNEA is currently accepting Session Proposals  
[Submit a proposal >](#)

**Volunteer to be a judge or timekeeper:** MNEA is enlisting the help of our members. We need judges, room monitors, and timekeepers for the student competitions.  
[Volunteer now >](#)

## Questions?

Contact Laurie Bernskoetter with the MNEA Teaching & Learning office at (573) 644-9623 or the Educators Rising Coordinator Ann Jarrett at [JarrettEdAct@gmail.com](mailto:JarrettEdAct@gmail.com).

LEARN MORE

**NATIONAL BOARD**  
for Professional Teaching Standards®

“  
I thought I could just figure this all out, but after diving into each component and standard, I realized I couldn't navigate this half as easy without the expertise of the awesome MNEA/NBC facilitators.  
-- NBC CANDIDATE

mnea.org/nbc

Missouri NEA

# Exploring National Board Certification

**7 PM | Mon., Jan. 30**

This 1.5-hour virtual session is free and meant for educators who want more information about the National Board Certification process. You will hear about what it takes to achieve this gold standard of teaching certification; what benefits you may be entitled to as an NBCT; and the support MNEA will provide to help you with the process. Attend this session to experience thinking like a candidate and evaluate if the timing is right for you to begin the process in 2023-2024.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

**Missouri DELEGATION**

Missouri NEA

**NEA Representative Assembly**

# NEA RA: Run for state delegate

**Deadline: Jan. 15**

The NEA Representative Assembly will be in Orlando, Florida July 2-6, 2023. If you are interested in meeting members from other states, witnessing one of the largest democratic bodies in action, and representing Missouri NEA values, submit your declaration of candidacy for one of the 23 state delegate positions. You will need to complete the declaration form by Jan. 15, which includes a 100-word statement and headshot, school photo, or selfie.

If elected you will receive a stipend to help pay for your travel expenses.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay-Poster Contest

**Entries Due: Jan. 15**

The Missouri NEA Human Rights Committee is sponsoring the 2023 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 2023 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 (\$75), second-place (\$50), and third-place (\$25) winner in the five categories. Teachers of winning students will receive a \$25 gift card.

**Questions?** Contact Lisa Blaha ([lisa.blaha@mnea.org](mailto:lisa.blaha@mnea.org), 636-614-7501) or Roxane Bly ([roxane.bly@mnea.org](mailto:roxane.bly@mnea.org), 573-644-9606).

**ENTER TODAY**

**Missouri NEA** UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.

# Don't miss these scholarship deadlines

Through the generosity of past MNEA/NEA leaders and Educators Rising Program, MNEA is able to offer the following scholarship opportunities for high school seniors and college students. Share the flyers and information with your students, children, grandchildren, and college students aspiring to become educators.

## Scholarship Application Deadlines:

Jan. 15 - Gilbert Balderrama Minority Scholarship

Jan. 31 - Cochran Scholarship

Jan. 31 - Educators Rising Scholarship

Jan. 31 - Karlovetz-Favero Scholarship

April 15 - Jack Kinnaman Scholarship

[READ MORE](#)

# Last chance for **FREE BOOKS**

## Sign up for the MNEA Read-On Missouri Tour Feb. 27 - March 3.

MNEA Pres. Phil Murray and Vice Pres. Rebeka McIntosh will inspire students on the MNEA Read-On Tour, connecting reading with success in life. They will come bearing gifts—a stack of books to enhance your diversity, equity, and inclusive section of your classroom or school library.

To celebrate **NEA's Read Across America**, MNEA encourages educators to organize classroom activities that promote lifetime reading habits and use skits, parades, games, and other activities that celebrate reading and further the message that reading opens doors to opportunities to learn and grow in our diverse world. **Need**



**TEAM UP**  
WITH **CALIFORNIA CASUALTY**

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

NEA® Auto and Home Insurance Program  
**Missouri NEA** | **nea Member Benefits**  
in partnership with  
California Casualty

[Apply Today](#)

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**We're feeling festive**

We're grateful for our clients, colleagues, family and friends this

ideas? Contact MNEA Communications Director Mark Jones (mark.jones@mnea.org).

READ MORE

## NEA's Digital Divide Report: Where does Missouri rank?

NEA's Report on Digital Equity: It may not surprise you that Missouri is ranked in the bottom ten states regarding student access to broadband Internet and devices. Follow the link to read more.

READ MORE

holiday season. From all of us at Horace Mann, connection and joy in the year to come.

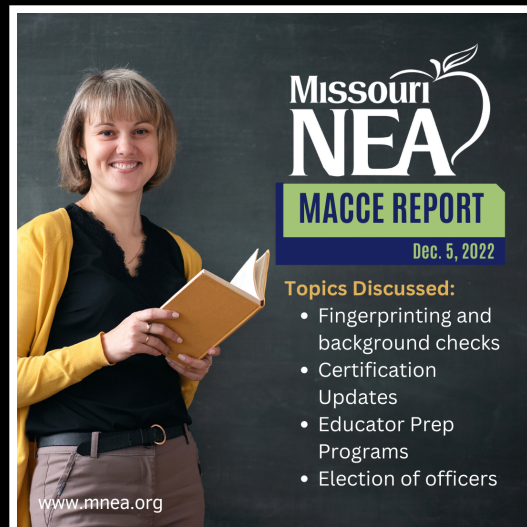
Horace Mann and your local representative are here to help and always [just a click away](#).

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## MACCE Report

The MNEA representatives on the Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators are Paul Aubrey (North Kansas City NEA), Lisa Baldwin (North Kansas City NEA), Francine Hill (Francis Howell NEA), Jacqueline McGill (Hazelwood NEA), Cary Sikes (Springfield NEA), and Dr. Alexander Tai (Columbia MNEA).

MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh and MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Samantha Hayes attend the meetings as observers and prepare the reports. [Read the latest report from the Dec. 5 meeting.](#)



Missouri NEA  
MACCE REPORT  
Dec. 5, 2022

Topics Discussed:

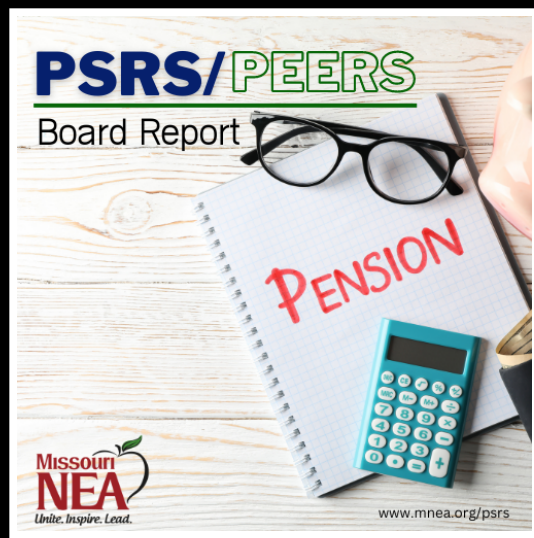
- Fingerprinting and background checks
- Certification Updates
- Educator Prep Programs
- Election of officers

[www.mnea.org](http://www.mnea.org)

## PSRS-PEERS Board of

# Trustees Meeting Report

MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen attends the Board Meetings of the Public School Retirement System-Public Education Employee Retirement System. The report gives updates on audits, investments, the health of the pension system, staff growth and expenditures, legislative news, and CPI-U index. [Read the report from the Dec. 5 meeting.](#)



# It's Time for Winter Break!!!

The MNEA staff and leaders sincerely hope you have a wonderful winter break. Take time to relax. Enjoy your family. Snuggle up with a good book.

The MNEA offices will be closed Dec. 23-Jan. 2.

If you need assistance during winter break, please call 1-800-392-0236, and leave a message. The general voicemail will be checked daily.

[MNEA Staff Directory](#)



# MNEA Member Benefits Saves You Money.

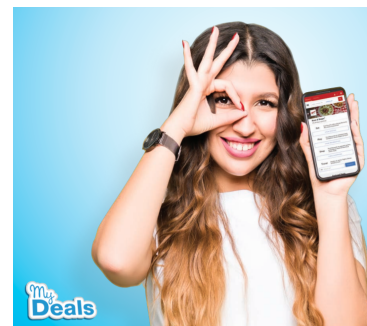


## NEA Savings at COSTCO

Costco's got everything you need. NEA members



2X CASH BACK



My Deals App



purchasing a new Costco membership will receive a \$30 Costco shop card! To receive your shop card and join Costco: visit

[www.neamb.com/costco](http://www.neamb.com/costco), sign into your NEA Member Benefits account, and click "Join Now" to purchase your Costco Membership Activation Certificate. You will receive an email confirmation that includes your certificate, which you can then redeem at any Costco location.

[LEARN MORE](#)

**NEA Discount Marketplace**  
**There's always room for green this holiday season!**

The NEA Discount Marketplace, powered by Rakuten, enables members to earn CASH BACK when they shop and save on brand-name merchandise from over 3,500 top retailers and online stores.\* Check out the member-exclusive deals.

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Access discounts easily on your smartphone with the My Deals mobile app.

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Register using your NEA Member ID:

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Call (800) 331-8867

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## Sign In MNEA

NEA Member ID:  
Last Name:  
Zip Code (5-digits):

[MEMBER SIGN IN](#)

Having trouble logging in? Call (573) 634-3202.



In the Loop is an electronic newsletter for Missouri NEA members. It is published monthly September through May.

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