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January 2023  
Rishanda Richardson, Editor

Your NEA Member ID:  
0004745853



# In the Loop

MNEA News | Professional Development | Member Benefits



## YOUR VOICE MATTERS

PUBLIC EDUCATION NEEDS ADVOCATES

JOIN MNEA FOR  
CAPITOL ACTION DAYS

Sign up at [mnea.org/CAD](https://mnea.org/CAD)

BECOME AN MNEA  
EDUCATION ADVOCATE

Sign up at [mnea.org/edadvocates](https://mnea.org/edadvocates)



## Attend Capitol Action Days

Join your fellow educators to advocate for resources and policies which empower student success and quality public schools.

Capitol Action Days are part of Missouri NEA's comprehensive Government Relations plan to promote positive policy for public education. MNEA's Capitol Action Days are **Wednesdays during legislative session** (February through May). Join your fellow educators to advocate for resources and policies to quality public schools for student success.

[SIGN UP TODAY](#)



## NEW Podcast

### MNEA Connects

Tune in to listen to the new MNEA Connects podcast. We are hardwired for connection—connection to others, connection to our community, and connection to a purpose.

MNEA believes education is one of the most crucial functions of our society and the greatest connector. This podcast, which is released weekly, will help you connect...

Policy to Practice  
Educators to Educators  
Professional Learning to Better Practice  
Missouri Communities to Missouri Education

[LISTEN & SUBSCRIBE](#)



## Retirement Preparation Workshops

5 PM | Feb. 7 or 5 PM | Feb. 8

Are you getting close to retirement? Need some help planning for your future after working in public schools? Don't take the leap into retirement without proper planning. Attend one of the free MNEA-endorsed retirement planning virtual workshops by PSRS/PEERS, Reliant Financial Services.

Before you commit, learn the "5 Things You Must Do Before You Retire" by registering for this workshop. Learn how your PSRS/PEERS pension works and 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!

[REGISTER 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.

[Register Now >](#)

**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



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**Online graduate courses anytime!**

Missouri **NEA**  
mnea.org/cm

## Graduate Credits

**Rate Reduced: Nine credits for \$200!**

Choose from 35+ self-paced, online, 2- or 3-credit hour, graduate-level courses for professional growth or salary advancement. MNEA partners with VESI to offer graduate credits backed by Central Methodist University.

For one low annual fee of \$200 (valued at \$2,900), MNEA members may take one course each semester (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.

[LEARN MORE & ENROLL](#)



MICRO-CREDENTIAL LIBRARY

**nea**  
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
nea.org

mnea.org/micro-credentials

## Micro-credentials

**Free to MNEA members**

Want to learn something new, get a refresher, or master a particular professional practice, but don't have a lot of time to dedicate to college courses? Browse NEA's Micro-Credentials Certification Library. Whatever your experience level, you will be sure to find a course to extend or refresh your professional practice skills.

Members have the option of one hour of graduate credit per micro-credential achieved for \$80 through Baker University.

[LEARN MORE](#)





## Why not celebrate NEA's Read Across America all year?

### Check out the NEA website for resources.

NEA's Read Across America takes place March 2, but why not celebrate reading all year? The NEA website has a number of free and low-cost options to help get young readers excited about picking up a book.

**Win A Year's Worth of inspiring reading!** Now thru 5 p.m. Jan. 31, text **"BOOK"** to **48744** and follow the directions. You will receive a list of book titles and be entered for your chance to win a year's supply of books. The drawing will be held Feb. 1. [Read More >](#)

**Tune into KidLit TV** Read Across America partner KidLit TV is a diverse group of parents, educators, librarians, kid lit creators, and award-winning filmmakers working together to create fun new ways to reinforce an appreciation of reading that children will carry with them for the rest of their lives. [Read More >](#)

**Free Materials** Need help finding free and low-cost materials to help engage students? Check out this page for print and online resources to introduce to your students. This link library has more than 20 suggested resources to explore. [Read More >](#)



UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.

# State Board of Education Report

MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Samantha Hayes and MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh attends the State Board of Education meetings. Read the Jan. 10 meeting report, which includes a report on Teacher Workforce, changes to literacy teacher preparation, Office of Childhood update, MOCAP Annual report, and other items of interest.

[READ MORE](#)

## Don't miss your chance for **EASY MONEY**

### CHEER Grant

Caring Help for Education Endeavors by Retirees was formed by Missouri NEA-Retired to be a public service by enhancing the learning conditions of Missouri's children. CHEER provides opportunities for MNEA-Retired members to reach out to public school district employees and provide financial and material resources. CHEER grants have helped purchase books and classroom supplies, fund field trips, renovate educator break rooms, and supply students with buddy packs. Need help finding a MNEA-Retired sponsor? Give us a call. Apply by **Feb. 1** for this grant of up to **\$400**.

[APPLY TODAY](#)

### Tuition Grant

If you are a probationary teacher or education support professional taking college courses in 2023, apply for the MNEA/Reliant Financial Services Tuition Grant by **Jan. 31**. A drawing will be held Feb. 8, and **ten \$500 grants** will be awarded to MNEA members who receive a "C" or above for any course taken to advance their career in education.

[APPLY TODAY](#)

## MUSIC+ ARTS GRANT

from California Casualty

Apply to receive  
**\$250.00**  
for your school's  
Music & Arts program.



NEA® Auto and Home Insurance Program  
   
in partnership with  


[APPLY TODAY!](#)

## Horace Mann



### Elevating your financial future

Do you know how your State Teachers' Retirement System works? Do you know how your pension is calculated? It's important to keep in mind that even if you do qualify for a pension (and Social

# ESP Peer Mentoring Pilot Program

Apply for this pilot program to build strong peer mentoring for education support professionals (ESPs).

1. Form your team of 3-5 members.
2. Complete the pre-learning path course.
3. Finish the application process by March 1.

If selected, your team may meet with other ESP mentoring pilot program teams from across the nation at a workshop May 27-28 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

LEARN MORE

Security), it may not be enough.  
[Read More >](#)



NATIONAL BOARD  
for Professional  
Teaching Standards®



It is very overwhelming to look at all the National Board material and this highlights important information. The MNEA Workshops also made getting organized simple.

-- NBC CANDIDATE

## National Board Certification

Teachers report obtaining National Board Certification is one of the most rewarding experiences in their careers. It is a journey filled with self-exploration and examining practices that leads to more success as an educator. Let MNEA help you with your journey. The offerings listed below are free to members and non-members.

### Exploring National Board (Virtual)

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

**7 PM | Mon., April 24**

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.

### National Board Candidate Boost Days

**Sat., Feb. 25**

**Sat., April 1**

These workdays are for all National Board Certification first-time candidates, advanced candidates, and renewal candidates submitting one or more

components during the 2022-2023 school year. Bring your component work and questions for this workday. Current NBCTs and mentors will be present to give you feedback.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

## The NEA Foundation Grants & Fellowships

MNEA members have the opportunity to receive funding for their innovative ideas that help students have successful outcomes. Your project could receive up to \$5,000. **The application deadline for this grant cycle is Feb. 1.** Don't be discouraged if you miss the deadline. There are three application cycles per year. [Learn More >](#)



## Submit your School Board Recommendations

Who is your local association going to recommend in the April School Board election? MNEA Political Director Elizabeth Zerr is ready to advise your local association on developing questionnaires, campaigns and PAC drives. Submit your local association recommendations for school board to MNEA by Feb. 20, at [www.mnea.org/schoolboardrecform](http://www.mnea.org/schoolboardrecform).



## MNEA Image Items

Shop the MNEA Image Item Store for MNEA-branded backpacks, totes, notebooks, pens, tumblers, and more. Order lapel pins for Read Across America, Teacher Day, Nurses Day, and other celebrations. #UniteInspireLead [Browse the store.](#)





MNEA  
Image  
Items

Shop the MNEA store for totes, cups, pens, and pins. Most items include free shipping.

[SHOP NOW](#)

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

## MNEA Member Benefits Save You Money.



### Protect Your Pet. Today.

Protect your four-legged family members with Pet Insurance. Plans are available to fit all budget and coverage needs—get reimbursed for up to 90 percent on eligible veterinary bills.

[GET A QUOTE](#)



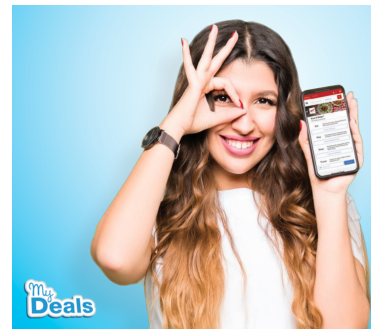
### Life Insurance

Affordable coverage for you and your family

### Life insurance. No Cost to you.

Eligible NEA members can get trusted life insurance protection for their families at no cost. Find out how to register your beneficiaries.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### My Deals App

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[START SAVING](#)





## Sign In MNEA

NEA Member ID: 0004745853  
Last Name: RICHARDSON  
Zip Code (5-digits): 65109-4900

### [MEMBER SIGN IN](#)

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



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