

May 2022

Rishanda Richardson, Editor

In the Loop

Missouri NEA's electronic newsletter



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Missouri Ranks 50th in Teacher Starting Salary

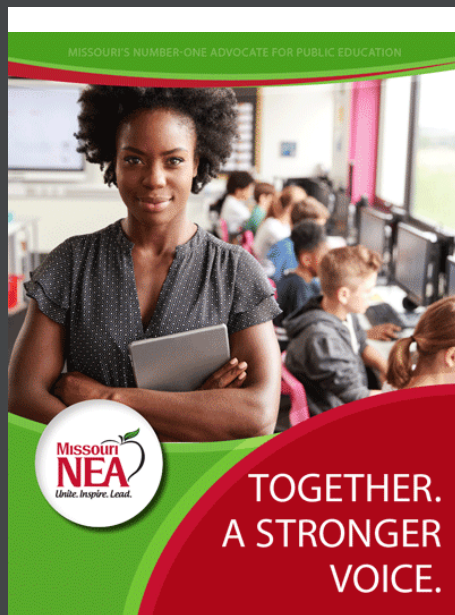
NEA unveils new nationwide data
on educator pay and school funding.

The average national teacher salary is lower today than ten years ago, contributing to the national educator shortage.

On Tuesday, April 26, the National Education Association unveiled findings from four national reports on educator pay and school funding. The reports cover multiple topics including school staff wages and college faculty pay, as well as state spending on students. The reports paint a dire picture about the state of public education in America.

The big takeaway? **Educator pay has failed to keep up with inflation.** In fact, U.S. teachers today are making \$2,179 less, on average, than they did 10 years ago.

[Read More >](#)



Together. A Stronger Voice.

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

As an educator, you are the expert on what is best for schools and students. That's why educators, not politicians and policymakers, should be making decisions about schools and students. Join Missouri NEA and fellow educators across the state

NATIONAL BOARD

for Professional Teaching Standards®

**Are you a National Board Candidate?
Attend National Board Jump Start this summer.**

MNEA National Board Jump Start is a comprehensive seminar designed to provide National Board candidates important information about the certification process, time to examine component and Assessment Center requirements, the opportunity to plan how to meet requirements, and time to collaborate, gather resources and information needed to pursue certification – all in a supportive, constructive, and



Summer Leadership
Kansas City: June 13-14
St. Louis: June 16-17
In-Person Participation

Missouri NEA will have two, in-person, 2-day Summer Leadership trainings in 2022. **Reserve your room by May 30, and register by June 5.**

It will focus on helping build strong locals with an emphasis on team building through strategic planning. Locals are encouraged to invite a team of leaders such as the local president, treasurer, membership chair,

and nation to make sure your voice is heard.

When you join, you will also be a member of the **National Education Association** and your **local association**. Three unions—local, state, and national—working for you.

[Read More >](#)

collegial environment.

This workshop is for first-time, returning, and advanced candidates who plan to submit any components of National Board Certification in the 2022-2023 school year.

Dates:

In-Person (St. Charles): July 11-13

Virtual: July 18-20

[Read More and Register >](#)

bargaining chair, and anyone who is interested in becoming more involved in the union. There will be special training for new local presidents and separate training for returning local presidents, skill-building training, ESP sessions, and many more trainings that would appeal to any new or experienced member or leader.

Special Guest Speaker: Kent Rader, Humorous Education Speaker and creator of the Laughter Matters Blog

[Register Today >](#)

Retiring from education? JOIN MNEA-RETIRED

Annual Membership: \$75 (teacher), \$61 (ESP)

Lifetime Membership: \$500 (teacher), \$380 (ESP)

Public education and educators face challenges that require the resolve and support of its members—all of its members, both active and retired. NEA needs your support, your wisdom, and your leadership to forge a path forward. Joining Missouri NEA-Retired gives you the opportunity to remain engaged on important issues facing students, education, and educators.

MNEA-Retired membership provides \$4 million liability protection when substituting, continued discounts in home, auto, long-term care and Medicare supplement insurance, discounts for dining, shopping and travel, and other member benefit programs, two free 30-minute consultations per year with participating attorneys, subscriptions to publications, and meet-up opportunities with other retired educators.

You have the option to join for either an annual fee of \$75 or a lifetime subscription for \$500, which can be paid as a one-time fee, split into 10 equal payments of \$50, or 20 equal payments of \$25. ESP members can can join for \$61 per year or one-time lifetime



Three ways to join

- 1) [Join Online](#)
- 2) [Print & Mail](#)
- 3) [Contact Us](#)

membership fee of \$380.

If you would like to talk to someone about membership, Olivia Compton would be happy to assist you. Please contact Olivia at (417) 569-1402 or by email at olivia.compton@mnea.org.

Beginning Teacher Assistance

MNEA's "I Can Do It" Classroom Management Program offers in-person or virtual options.

All teachers with a Missouri Initial Professional Certificate (IPC) must participate in a beginning teacher assistance program (BTAP) before upgrading their certificate. "I Can Do It" is designed for teachers in their first two years and any teacher who wants to improve their classroom management skills.



"I Can Do It" is highly interactive whether you choose the 4-day virtual series or one-day in-person program, and also requires registrants to complete each component of the On-Your-Own tasks.

Upcoming Sessions

North St. Francois County (in-person)

Tues., Aug. 9, 2022 (8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Lunch provided. Limit: 35 registrants

MNEA members: \$50, Non-members: \$85

Virtual (4-part series)

November 2022 (4 Mondays) and February 2023 (4 Thursdays)
(6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Lunch provided. Limit: 35 registrants

MNEA members: \$35, Non-members: \$70

Learn more and register at www.mnea.org/ICanDoIt.

PSRS-PEERS Board of Trustees Report

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

Legislative Session Ends

MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen represents MNEA values and resolutions during the Missouri General Assembly Legislative Session. The



Read the reports from the meetings held April 4 and May 2. The reports summarize investment returns, review of policies, officer and board elections, asset/liability study, disability policy, and legislative updates.

Two MNEA members—Jason Steliga and Allie Gassman—fill open board positions. The Board of Trustees unanimously elected Jason Steliga as chair and Beth Knes as Vice Chair to each serve one-year terms.

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regular session ended May 13. Read the weekly summaries online at www.mnea.org. Watch for the summer issue of Something Better for a complete summary of this year's session.

[Read More >](#)

MACCE Report

MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh attends the Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators meetings. Read reports from the April 4 meeting.

[Read More >](#)



What is financial literacy, and why is it important?

Getting a handle on your money and improving your financial situation. [Click here](#) to learn more, or contact your [local Horace Mann representative](#).

Mark your calendars for Consumer Workshops in August

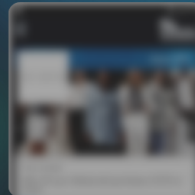
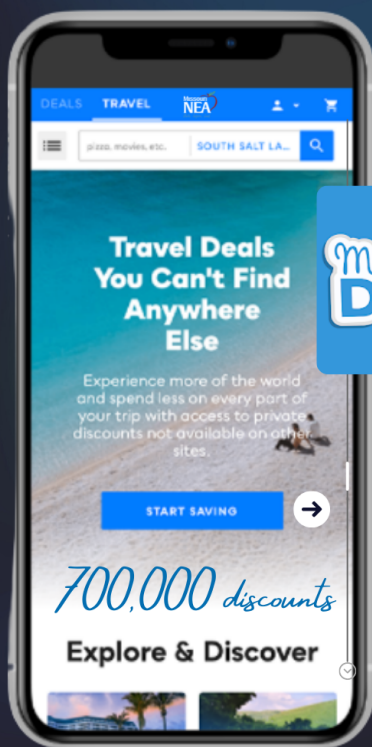
California Casualty, in partnership with MNEA and NEA Member Benefits, is offering 3 virtual workshops to help you know your way around home, auto, and renters insurance, and tips to keep your home in tip-top condition. Look for details on the MNEA website and social media this summer.

Aug. 2: Auto Insurance 101

Aug. 9: Home Maintenance & Inventory Tips

Aug. 16: Renters Insurance

NEA® Auto and Home Insurance Program



START SAVING TODAY

MY DEALS
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APP



www.mnea.org/mydeals

Members win tickets to Silver Dollar City in My Deals mobile app contest

Have you started using the My Deals mobile app yet? These members have, and it paid off. [Kara Hubecky](#), [Columbia MNEA](#) and

Amy Sampo, Parkway NEA are the winners of Silver Dollar City tickets. Congratulations! They won the MNEA My Deals mobile app ticket giveaway in April.

The My Deals mobile app is one of Missouri NEA's member benefits. By downloading the app, you will have access to more than 700,000 deals and discounts locally and nationwide. Find discounts at your favorite local restaurants, stores, and services. Find discounts on online purchases, hotels, condos, rental cars, entertainment, and other travel favorites.

Features include:

- No printing! Just show your mobile coupon and save.
- Multiple-use coupons. Save as often as you wish.
- GPS search. Find deals near you—wherever you are.
- Deals near home, the office, or wherever you travel in the U.S.
- Up to 50 percent off on your everyday purchases.

Only registered members can use this app and access these exclusive deals. Need help logging in to the app? Contact 1-800-331-8867.

Download Now: [Apple Store](#) | [Google Play](#)

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California Casualty awards \$1,000 grants to two MNEA members

Two MNEA members were surprised by California Casualty in April with BIG checks of \$1,000 each. Giuseppe Bommarito, Hazelwood NEA, and Cailin Collins, Jefferson City NEA were awarded the California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant to support their athletics programs. Giuseppe plans to use the grant to help fund the high school baseball and softball teams in Hazelwood. Cailin will use the grant to help the Capital City Cheerleaders.

Congratulations to you both!

Find out more about the TRB grant at www.mnea.org/grants_scholarships.



Educators Choose MNEA for Professional Development

MNEA offers educators 3 graduate courses per year (up to 9 credits) for **\$225!**



www.virtualeduc.com/mnea

Earn up to nine graduate credits for **\$225!** CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CREDITS

In partnership with Virtual Education Software, CMU and Missouri NEA are offering a special rate to MNEA members. For one low annual fee of **\$225** (valued at \$2,900), MNEA 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 **35+** self-paced, online courses for professional growth or salary advancement. Find out more and enroll at www.virtualeduc.com/mnea.



MNEA Human Rights Committee awards student-winners of the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay-Poster Contest

"Fulfilling Dr. King's Dream: Reading to Lead and Transform" was the theme for the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay-Poster Contest sponsored by the Missouri NEA Human Rights Committee, JoWanda Bozeman, Chair.

MNEA announced the student winners at the MNEA Spring Representative Assembly, where their artwork was displayed for the nearly 300 delegates. A certificate and gift card is awarded to each first-place (\$50), second-place (\$30), and third-place (\$20) winner in the five grade-level categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Teachers of winning students will receive a \$25 gift card.

View the winning artwork from the 2022 contest at www.mnea.org/MLKposterwinners_2022.

Questions? Contact Lisa Blaha, MNEA UniServ director and HCR Committee staff liaison at lisa.blaha@mnea.org.

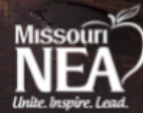
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MNEA COMMITTEES

2022-2023



Volunteer to serve on an MNEA state committee

Missouri NEA has seven standing committees and three advisory committees. Members of two of the standing committees must be elected. Each committee 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 >



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

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 MNEA, you can apply for a grant award of \$250 for a music or art need at your school.

Apply by July 2.

[Apply Now](#)



Taking a trip this summer? Don't forget NEA Member Benefits for summer savings

When you are ready to explore the world. Book your travel through NEA Member Benefits to get deep discounts. Choose from an adventurous, history-packed guided tour to locations like Rome, Machu Picchu, and Iceland; or book a romantic or family vacation on a cruise ship or beach resort.

Before booking with another vendor, use your NEA Member Benefits to search for your next big trip. Your tour guide will help you find the package that fits your budget and your adventure level.

Find budget-friendly trips with handcrafted itineraries. Tour with a group or keep it intimate. You might be surprised at how affordable travel can be with NEA Member Benefits.

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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 password 9461 followed by your NEA ID without the preceding zeroes.

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