

MNEA-Retired is an affiliate of the
Missouri National Education Association

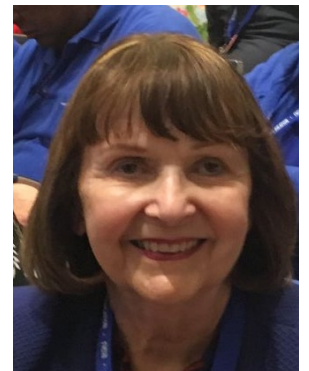
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Terry's Table Talk

A professor at the University of Illinois told us, as students, to join our local, state, and national teacher organizations because teachers did not have the respect or rights every teacher deserves. As Missouri NEA nears its 50th birthday, I thought about how far we have come as an organization, particularly through my own experiences.

In 1971-72, my first year as a teacher in the Ferguson-Florissant School district, I joined the Ferguson-Florissant Community Teachers' Association. In March, I was asked to run for Secretary of the organization as I was outspoken. I was assured that I wouldn't win because I was up against a 20-year-old veteran, but the Association wanted two candidates for every position. In April, I became the Secretary of FFCTA. During the 72-73 school year, one of my duties as secretary was to arrange the new teachers' breakfast. Ruth Keeling was our speaker.



In March of 1973, MSTA was disaffiliated by NEA. Shortly thereafter, on March 16, 1973, the new MNEA was affiliated by NEA.

FFCTA spent much of the 1973-74 school year getting teachers to join MNEA. In April of 1974, I became the president-elect. The president and president-elect attended the first MNEA-RA at a hotel in Jefferson City. The size of the RA was determined by the numbers of local members. Due to budgetary expenses, small locals got one delegate; larger locals got two delegates. As two delegates we each had one-half of our total local membership. It was exhilarating having the ability to cast so many votes on every issue.

I assumed the role of president in April of 1975. In May, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Kinloch School District and ordered the merger of the Ferguson-Florissant, Berkeley, and Kinloch school districts.

The three districts had three sets of officers, 3 insurance companies, 3 salary schedules, 3 sets of district policies, and 3 telephone-book-sized **regulations** from the court. We formed a committee of the three district officers. **Fortunately, we had two important organizations –MNEA and NEA –to assist us.** MNEA hired UniServ Directors. Pat Gladsen became my district’s UniServ Director. NEA sent an Integration expert for seven days to give us guidance on the merger. The merger committee spent most of the summer working on how to integrate the three school districts. I was appointed the president, the VP and secretary came from Berkeley, and the treasurer was from Kinloch.

If you’re wondering why I am telling you this story, let me clarify. If Ferguson-Florissant had not become a part of the new MNEA organization, we would not have had a UniServ director nor the support of NEA. Without these two organizations, we would not have been successful in our efforts to merge three districts seamlessly into one organization – the Ferguson-Florissant NEA.

In closing, I want to say, thank you, MNEA for realizing how important it was for our state association to become affiliated with NEA fifty years ago. Happy anniversary!



Annual MNEA-Retired Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on Friday, April 21, at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks. Election results were announced at the Annual Meeting. They are included here, as well.

The luncheon was a wonderful Italian buffet. A variety of fundraisers for PAC were conducted. There were items in a silent auction, the regular random drawings for donated items, and for the second year in a row, we had a live auction conducted by the inimitable Janet Leachman – auctioneer extraordinaire.

And here’s what we raised:

T-Shirt Money from Georgia Brady - \$88
 CHEER Fund Donations Turned in from Various people totaled - \$502
 NEA Fund Donations in Envelopes - \$1,990
 Build the Base Donations in Envelopes - \$350
 NEA Fund Donations Using QR code - \$200
 MNEA PAC Donations Using QR code - \$175

Total Money toward PAC Funds: \$ 2715





Committee reports to the membership included CHEER, Board of Directors, and Communications, among others.



Lunch photos – there are more on the MNEA-Retired Facebook page. Take a look.



Guest speaker Dearld Snyder, Executive Director of PSRS/PEERS, enjoys lunch, too.



Attendees gather for a photo before heading home or to dinner!



Voter registration for this election was open from Feb. 10 through April 12. Online voting was open from April 14 through noon April 20. MNEA-Retired members who registered to vote in this election received up to three email notifications containing instructions with an individual ballot link. This Online election meets the OLMS secret ballot voting standards.

Registered voters: 203

Ballots cast: 160

President -- Terry Reger:	Uncontested, elected by acclamation.
Vice President – Linda Innes – 127	Tim Ema – 26
Historian – Janet Leachman:	Uncontested, elected by acclamation
Budget Chair – JoWanda Bozeman:	Uncontested, elected by acclamation

Executive Council Members at Large:

(4 positions, two year terms)

Kassie Payne	91	Wendy Kline	47
Georgia Brady	91	Netty Doyle	45
Beth Ann Roland	74	Margery Doss	44
Jane McPartland	66	E. Gail Rock	33
Treana Murray	64		

Delegates to NEA-Retired and NEA RA

(5 positions - Those that are not elected as delegates will serve as alternates.)

Martha Karlovetz	136	Netty Doyle	72
Joyce Bluett	126	E. Gail Rock	70
Judy Hinsley	118	Tim Ema	61
Wendy Kline	100		

Delegates to MNEA RA

(12 positions - Those that are not elected as delegates will serve as alternates.)

Peggy Cochran	132	Joe DeLuca	86
Carol Weatherford	125	Wendy Kline	80
JoWanda Bozeman	122	Beth Ann Roland	75
Lisa Kickbush	111	Jane McPartland	70
Don Schulte	99	Pat McPartland	70
Kassie Payne	97	Netty Doyle	69
Kay Coen	95	Tim Ema	55
Dorothy Walk	90	E. Gail Rock	52
Sharon Giesler	90		

PSRS/PEERS Update

At the Annual Meeting, our guest speaker was Dearld Snyder who is the Executive Director of PSRS/PEERS. Missouri public school teachers and support staff are fortunate to have an excellent retirement system. It is one of the best in the United States.

In 2022, our members received a 5% COLA (cost of living allowance). In 2023, the economy (as indicated by the Consumer Price Index) was strong enough for us to receive another 5% increase. The anticipation for 2024 is that we will receive 2%. Wow!



Focus Points . . .

- ❖ Please contact US Congresswoman Cori Bush and ask her to support HB82 – known as the GPO/WEP bill.
- ❖ The Lorna Bottger Award for Individual Excellence in Political Action was given to our own Dorothy Walk. Congratulations!
- ❖ The five most dangerous cities in the United States include St. Louis (#1), Mobile, Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama, Baltimore, Maryland, and Memphis Tennessee.
- ❖ Guns are the number one killer of our children.
- ❖ There are now six members of Missouri NEA-Retired serving in the Missouri House of Representatives.
- ❖ 83% of the recommended candidates by MNEA for election (including school boards), were elected.
- ❖ Eleven percent of NEA membership is made up of NEA-Retirees.

Missouri NEA celebrates 50 years of working for education in Missouri.

50th Anniversary



Missouri NEA Staff



MNEA President Phil Murray, Treena Murray, Chastity Young, MNEA-R President Terry Reger, and MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh.

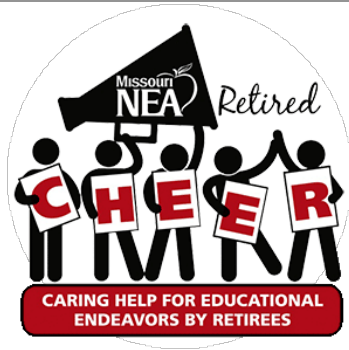


MNEA-Retired attendees





Pictures, memorabilia, and catching up with old friends was the order of the day.



Contribute to CHEER

Lend a hand to our colleagues working in the classroom and by making a contribution to help fund future grants.

www.mnea.org/CHEER.



Retirement PSRS/PEERS Meeting Report

Missouri NEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen represents MNEA and MNEA-Retired members at the meetings of the PSRS/PEERS Board. Read the report of the latest meeting at www.mnea.org/PSRS.



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