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March 2023
Rishanda Richardson, Editor

Your NEA Member ID:



In the Loop

MNEA News | Professional Development | Member Benefits

VOTE APRIL 4



Who does your
local association
recommend for

**SCHOOL
BOARD?**

View a list of recommendations at
mnea.org/vote4education.



Plan to vote Tues., April 4

Missouri NEA local associations abide by a recommendation process that evaluates candidates based on their values, not party affiliation. Candidates are interviewed by the local association PAC committee that lives in your school district and knows the issues that are unique to your community.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES



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



Missouri Salary Reports

Where does your school district rank?

The 2022-2023 Salary Benchmarks & Rankings report is dedicated to the salary schedule structure of teachers and education support professionals. It details the minimum and maximum salaries, as well as the time it takes to reach the top of the schedule.

The Salary Rankings report details the average salaries in Missouri's school districts and charter schools for teachers, administrators, and superintendents.

Look for the NEA Rankings & Estimates report to be published in April 2023.

LISTEN & SUBSCRIBE

READ NOW



Last Session of the School Year
Beginning Teachers, Register for the April
"I Can Do It"

Wednesday Evenings in April
6:30-8:30 PM, April 5, 12, 19, and 26

Registration Deadline: March 29

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 and requires registrants to complete each component of the On-Your-Own tasks AND a virtual series of four 2-hour Wednesday-evening sessions.

Questions?

Contact Laurie Bernskoetter with the MNEA Teaching & Learning office at (573) 644-9623 or by email at laurie.bernskoetter@mnea.org.

REGISTER TODAY

Spring RA & 50th Anniversary Celebration

April 21-23, 2023

Lodge of the Four Seasons

The Spring Missouri NEA Representative Assembly will be held April 21-23, 2023, at the Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark. Local association delegates, Board of Directors, leaders, members, and staff attend the Spring RA to focus on the MNEA budget and Resolutions. MNEA RA's special guest speaker will be NEA President Becky Pringle.

This year the RA will offer something special—MNEA's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Register by **March 28** for the RA, RA luncheon (\$35), and 50th Anniversary Celebration (\$50). Book your room at the Lodge of the Four Seasons by March 28 to be guaranteed the MNEA rate.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Missouri NEA
Unite. Inspire. Lead.

50 YEARS Strong

Missouri NEA
REPRESENTATIVE
ASSEMBLY
& 50TH ANNIVERSARY

April 21-23, 2023
Lodge of the Four Seasons
Lake Ozark, MO

Registration Deadline: March 28

REGISTER

MNEA Declaration of Independence

We are teachers in Missouri. We care about our rights. We care about our students.

For too many years, we have felt helpless in our endeavors to fulfill our responsibilities as professional educators. There were always too few voices in the political arena and too many political decisions about education.

Teachers have virtually no influence on the politicians or the decisions that affect us. We ask only for the opportunity to substitute effective use of our collective power. The uses of that power are the job of the affected teacher group, whether it be local, state or national.

A new day has arrived for Missouri teachers. From all areas of the state, we are declaring our independence from our old facility, from groups of people who did not believe in the collective insistence of teachers on better salaries and better protection of teacher rights.

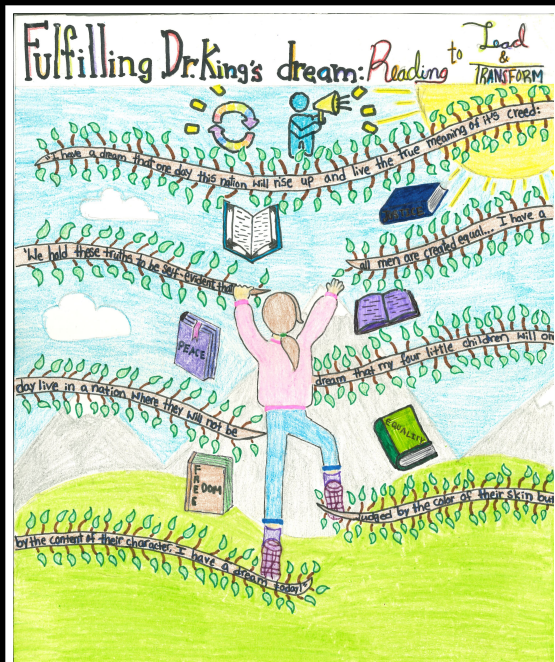
We make a dual pledge. First, to the teachers of Missouri: that organization will be built on the principles of justice, participatory commitment to the highest quality of education. Second, to the parents of Missouri: that the results of our active and concerned efforts will be manifold but will center on ending waste in school spending, the quality of teaching and decreasing the deprofessionalization and devaluation of Missouri schools.

Missouri schools aren't doing the job. There is no magic formula that, but we believe that classroom teachers, working together, are worth the change.

Teachers of Missouri, join us. Together, we are not helpless. We are at the beginning of a long journey for Missouri teachers education. We are sustained on this journey by our collective belief that it is possible in Missouri, something better for teachers, something better for students, something better for students.

We declare our independence from the helplessness of the past and forward to the days, months and years of this new journey.

www.mnea.org/springra



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

Missouri students draw their way to success in 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay-Poster Contest

The Missouri NEA Human Rights Committee sponsors the annual 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.



Missouri NEA members elect state delegates for the NEA RA in Orlando

During the month of February, Missouri NEA held an electronic election to allow members the opportunity to vote for the state delegates that will represent them at the National Education Association Representative Assembly in Orlando July 2-6, 2023.

The NEA Representative Assembly is one of the largest democratic bodies in the nation. With more than 8,000 delegates representing the state and local NEA affiliates, Aspiring Educators, retired members, and others from the united education profession, it is the best way to see the democracy of the NEA in action.

With a record number of electronic votes, MNEA members have elected **21 Category I delegates** and **one Category II delegate**. MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh will also serve as a state delegate as per the MNEA Bylaws.

[READ MORE](#)

UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.

State Board of Education Report

MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Samantha Hayes and MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh attend the State Board of Education meetings. Read the Feb. 7 meeting report, which includes a report on the 2024 Fiscal Budget, MSIP6, Social Emotional Learning standards, and other items of interest.

[READ MORE](#)

MACCE Report

MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Samantha Hayes and MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh attend the meetings of the Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators. The following MNEA members serve on the committee established by DESE:

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).

Read the Feb. 6 meeting report, which includes Teacher Workforce report, subject area certificate requirements, teacher development, and awards.

[READ MORE](#)

MNEA Human Rights Committee awards 2023 Gilbert Balderrama Minority Scholarship

The Gilbert Balderrama Minority Scholarship was created in memory of one of Missouri NEA's own. For more than 20 years, Gilbert Balderrama served MNEA and its members as a UniServ director. Gilbert received numerous degrees and certifications and strongly believed in furthering one's knowledge through education.

The MNEA Human Rights Committee awards the scholarship based on academic achievement, extra-curricular involvement, and letters of recommendation. To




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Horace Mann



Do you have a retirement savings gap?
Yes, you can overcome the retirement savings gap. For many, the retirement savings gap

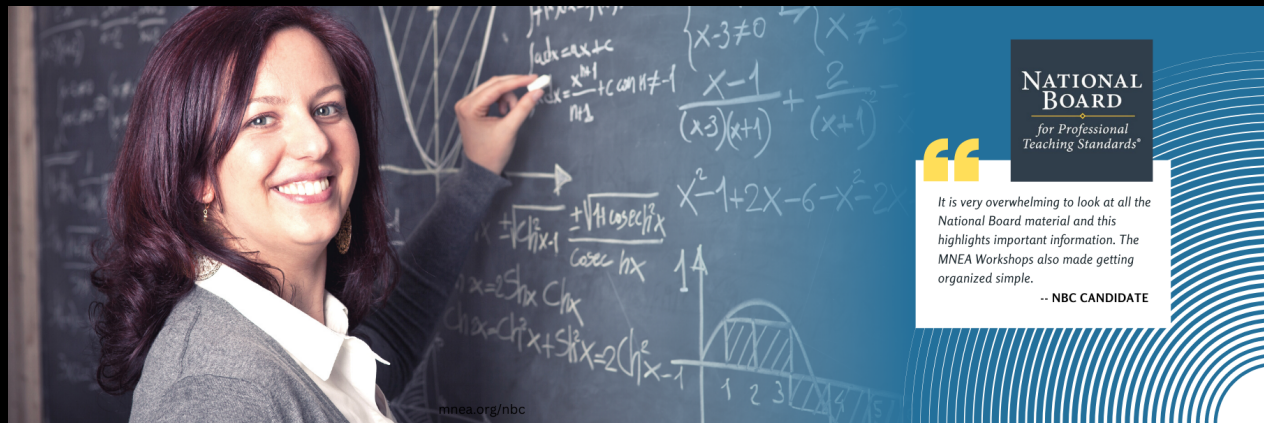
be eligible for this scholarship, the student must be a high-school senior of color, graduating from a Missouri public school, who has been accepted to pursue a degree at a college or university.

The MNEA Human Rights Committee is awarding the \$500 2023 Gilbert Balderrama Minority Scholarship to **Laila Saint Christopher, Parkway North High School, Saint Louis, MO.**

is a reality. The good news is there are steps you can take now to improve your prospects for a better-quality retirement.

[Read More >](#)

READ MORE



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., 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., 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

Attend Capitol

Action Days

One of the most important things that an educator can do, is share your experience with the elected officials who make the laws that affect schools, students, and educators in Missouri.

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 each Wednesday of the legislative session (February through May).

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



YOUR VOICE MATTERS
PUBLIC EDUCATION NEEDS ADVOCATES

- JOIN MNEA FOR CAPITOL ACTION DAYS
Sign up at mnea.org/CAD
- BECOME AN MNEA EDUCATION ADVOCATE
Sign up at mnea.org/edadvocates

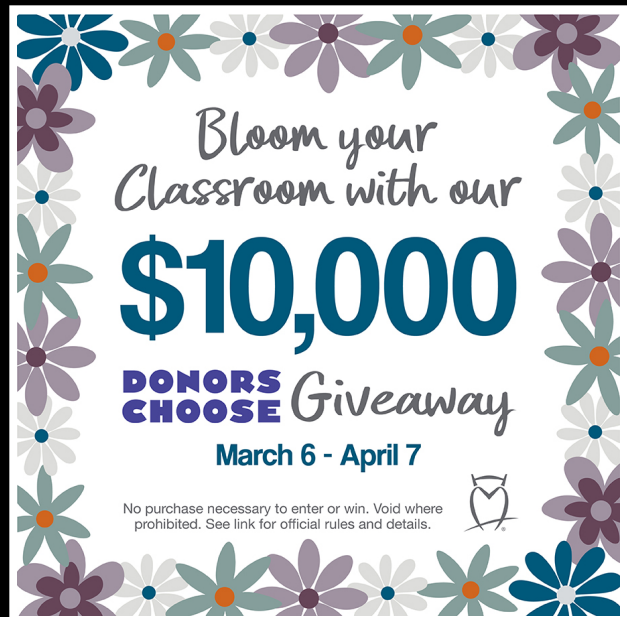
Missouri NEA
Unite. Inspire. Lead.

Donors Choose Giveaway

March 6-April 7, 2023


Bloom your classroom with Horace Mann's \$10,000 #DonorsChoose giveaway! Enter your Donors Choose project from March 6 – April 7 for your chance to win. Every day from April 3 – 7, Horace Mann will draw winners and fund at least \$2,000 in Donors Choose projects!

[ENTER HERE](#)



Bloom your Classroom with our
\$10,000
DONORS CHOOSE Giveaway
March 6 - April 7

No purchase necessary to enter or win. Void where prohibited. See link for official rules and details.



MNEA Member Benefits Save You Money.



MNEA Attorney Referral Program

Did you know that you receive two free 30-minute consultations with participating attorneys every year for personal legal matters? In addition to the two free 30-minute consultations, MNEA members and their immediate families are entitled to a **30 percent discount** in five core areas of the law.

1. Domestic relations.
2. Consumer protection.
3. Real estate.
4. Wills and estates.
5. Traffic violations.

[LEARN MORE](#)



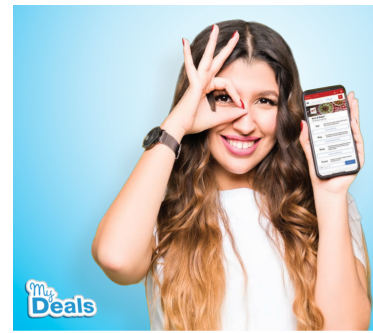
NEA Travel Dollars

Ready to get away? Use your Travel Dollars to save on car rentals, hotels, and more.

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



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