

Missouri
NEA
Retired

Focus

MNEA-Retired is an affiliate of the
Missouri National Education Association
MNEA-Retired President Terry Reger, tpreger4@att.net
Editor Holly Garrett, holly.garrett4@gmail.com

Terry's Table Talk

With the death of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, I was reminded how things have changed in education. When women began their teaching careers in the 1970's or earlier, we remember having to wear dresses or skirts. What a welcome change when we were allowed to wear pant suits (no random slacks and tops)! We had no maternity leave! When we got pregnant, we had to quit teaching at four months and could not carry over our tenure (years of teaching). When we returned if we still had a position, we had to start over. Few positions were available for females or minorities as principals or upper level administrators. Slowly, we made progress through our new organization, Missouri NEA, by being aligned with NEA.



With the passage of time, we had made advancements, but always having to face obstacles that hindered our progress. Testing, testing and more testing began with the No Child Left Behind law in 2001. In Missouri our state legislature passed the onerous Paycheck Protection/Anti Bargaining bill two years ago. In addition, the Supreme Court ruled in the Janus v. AFSCME, with the help of the new Justice Neil Gorsuch, that public sector employees who are not members of a union cannot be required to pay agency fees to offset costs of collective bargaining even though they have the benefits of collective bargaining.

Once again, we are faced with possible changes that could be detrimental to public education, our families, and our country. Less money for public schools; more money for charter schools. Remember when we did not have health care opportunities if we retired and had to pay for our own insurance until we became Medicare recipients at age 65? There is serious discussions about reducing Medicare and social security payments.

We cannot be one-issue voters. We need to look at how changes may affect our families and our lives. What is at stake: the Affordable Care Act which prohibits insurance companies from charging higher rates for older people or those with pre-existing conditions (COVID 19 is a pre-condition), the right to join a union, climate and environmental issues, women's issues, sensible gun restrictions, consumer protections, LGBTQ rights, restoring the Voting Rights Act, funding the USPS, and eroding public education with increasing Charter schools and funding vouchers.

Please look at **ALL** the issues in the upcoming election and **VOTE**.

Fall MNEA-Retired Meeting and Awards Presentation

Thurs., Nov. 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

No-Cost

Join Missouri NEA Retired for the fall meeting -- **VIRTUALLY**.

The meeting will feature a **presentation by the PSRS/PEERS Executive Director, Steve Yoakum**. This is the last time that Steve Yoakum will be our speaker because he is retiring on December 1. Please join us at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate Steve's retirement. We will also honor our winners of the Jim Coen Silver Citizenship Award and the Volunteer of the Year Award.

More information, including the Zoom link will be emailed to everyone shortly before the meeting. Watch for it and plan to join us. You **DO** need to register at www.mnea.org/retired in order to get the link.

Fall Webinar Series

Missouri NEA Retired is offering a series of virtual trainings this fall. There is no cost for the trainings, but you must register prior to the training. Click on each session to learn more and register at www.mnea.org/retired.

Ben Franklin: Printer, Scientist, Diplomat

1:30 p.m. Tues., Oct. 27, 2020

Presenter: Bill Stewart

Perhaps our best-known founding father, Franklin is a fascinating figure from our nation's birth. This presentation will begin by discussing Franklin's early life, as well as his work as a printer in colonial Philadelphia. We will then take a look at his considerable scientific contributions and finally his indispensable work in creating the United States of America from a collection of diverse colonies.

Fall Reading List and Book Reviews

1:30 p.m. Tues., Nov. 17, 2020

Bev Vogt reviews "Where The Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

JoWanda Bozeman reviews "THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration" by Isabel Wilkerson

Susan McClintic reviews "Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek", by Kim Michele Richardson

Andrea Schoo reviews "Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes

Paul F. Reger reviews "The Splendid and the Vile" by Erik Larson

Joyce Bluett reviews "The Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead

Carol Weatherford reviews "GREAT SMALL THINGS" by Jodi Picoult with a quick reference to "JUST MERCY" by Bryan Stevenson

Focus Points . . .

All meetings at the local (regional meetings), state (MNEA) and national (NEA) levels will **NOT** be held **in person** because of COVID-19. NEA, NEA-Retired, MNEA, MNEA-Retired will have Virtual meetings to continue the important work of our organizations.

- ❖ The MNEA-Retired Executive Council will hold a **Virtual** meeting on November 20.
- ❖ If the Affordable Care Act is struck down, 20 million people will become uninsured and 135 million people will lose protection for pre-existing conditions.
- ❖ As of October 13, 2020, **217,594** Americans died from the coronavirus. This is more than all the soldiers who died in W.W. I (116,516); Vietnam War (90,220), Persian Gulf War (1,545) and the War on Terror (6,852), with a combined total of 215,133. This is still less than the deaths of the coronavirus.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

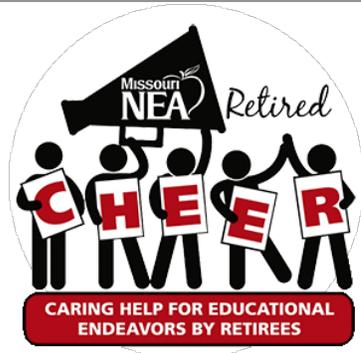
27 Ben Franklin:
Printer, Scientist,
Diplomat

November

17 Fall Reading List
and Book Reviews

19 Fall Meeting with
PSRS-PEERS Exec.
Dir. Steve Yoakum

20 MNEA-R Exec.
Council Meeting
Location



Contribute to CHEER

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

www.mnea.org/CHEER



Retirement PSRS/PEERS Watch

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.



1810 East Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-634-3202 / 800-392-0236
www.mnea.org/retired

Retired from our position, but not our profession!



Facebook.com/MNEARetired



Twitter.com/MNEARetired1



Pinterest.com/MNEARetired