



2025 MNEA-R Election Candidate Statements

Statements are listed as the candidate submitted, except in the case of submissions over 150 words, which have been truncated as per the guidelines. The candidates are listed in the order in which they declared their candidacy.

PRESIDENT



Treena Murray

I am Treena Murray, and I'm running for President of MNEA-R. I was a NEA member my entire 30-year career beginning in 1983 at Fort Stewart, Georgia to Poplar Bluff, Missouri where I retired in 2018. I am a second-generation MNEA member. My mother, Trudy Stone, and cousin, Robert Myers were instrumental in bringing MNEA to Poplar Bluff. Inspired by their efforts, I served as Secretary and President of PBMNEA. I have attended MNEA and NEA RA's, NEA Leadership, and served as chair of Summer Academy. I currently serve you on the MNEA-R.

Executive Council and MNEA Credentials. I am on the Executive Council's Budget and CHEER Committees. I taught math and technology in Poplar Bluff which has been useful in helping me collaborate with fellow council members in transitioning from a MNEA Program to MNEA's largest local. I'd appreciate your vote and the opportunity to move MNEA-R forward.

VICE PRESIDENT



Linda Innes

Linda Innes lives in Belton, MO. She retired in 2019 from the Center School District, in Kansas City, MO after teaching 31 years. Her teaching career began as a 7th-grade English teacher and ended as a teacher of English as a Second Language. Linda joined MNEA as a first-year teacher and was a career member. She served her local as secretary for 7 years and president for 4 years. While president, her local won a district-wide vote for collective bargaining. Once retired, Linda joined the Greater Kansas City MNEA-R Regional group and serves as their treasurer. For MNEA-R, she served 2 years on the MNEA Board of Directors and 2 years on the Executive Council. Currently, she is completing her second year as Vice President of MNEA-R and would like to continue as we build a foundation for our organization now that we are considered a local.



Tim Ema

I'm Tim Ema and I'm running for mnea office of vice president. I would appreciate your vote.

During my time at FFNEA I have served FFNEA locally as a building rep and was elected as district president-elect in 2000 to 2001, and as president 2001 to 2002 and served up to graduation when I was called to deploy to Afghanistan as a medic. I have been active in district negotiations as a team member and leading the team as president and I have served on MNEA board of directors for region 7 representative since 2005 until my retirement in 2011. I have been appointed to serve MNEA on MACCE and from 2003 served also till 2011.

As a retired member I have joined on lobby days and Capital action day for many years and look forward to this year's capital action activities.

I have also served in our military as a USAF medic since 1986 ...

HISTORIAN



Lisa Kickbusch

Since retiring from the Pattonville School District I served one term on the MNEA-R executive committee and I have been a MNEA-R delegate to the MNEA RA for the past four years. Before retiring I served as NEA Director for 6 years and was on the MNEA Board of Directors for 4 years. Currently I am a member of the Pattonville Board of Education.

BUDGET CHAIR



Brent Fullington

My name is Brent Fullington, I am seeking the office of Budget Chair. As past vice president I chaired the MNEA Budget Committee. My responsibility as chair was to bring a viable budget to the MNEA Board for recommendation to the MNEA Representative Assembly. I also explained the budget, answered question, and gave pertinent information regarding revenue and expenses to the RA. I worked with the president on budget revisions and expense control. After retirement I became the property chair of my church. I developed a line item property budget so the church Board and congregation would have a complete understanding of the cost and monies needed for each line item to properly maintain the church and make needed repairs. I have the experience necessary to chair the Budget Committee and I would appreciate your vote.

Thank you
Brent Fullington

TREASURER



Kassie Payne

My name is Kassie Payne, and I am running for the position of Treasurer for MNEA-Retired and as a delegate to the MNEA RA. The treasurer position is a new position in MNEA-R, and I have been serving in this position since October of 2024. I have served on the Executive Council for MNEA-R for 4 years and have served as president of the Greater Kansas City region for 6 years. I have also served as a delegate to the MNEA RA since 2016.

I taught middle school math for 32 years and enjoy the detailed work that is needed to be a treasurer. I have also worked closely with those on the Executive Council and feel that I am able to communicate effectively with the council members and others within the association. I would appreciate your vote for treasurer and for a delegate for the MNEA RA.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MEMBER AT LARGE

(4 POSITIONS)



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Doug Hurst

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At the local level, I served as Bargaining Chair, Faculty Employment Relations Committee Chair, Vice-President, and President from 2010-2014. From 2010-2015, I served as a national trainer in the Emerging Leaders Academy, serving Higher Education faculty. From 2018-2023, I was a member of the MNEA State Board of Directors-representing Higher Education. I was also a member of the MNEA State Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee. Starting in 2017, I served as a state delegate to five national RAs.

Dedication to public education doesn't end in retirement. I am committed to advocating for retired members. I ask for your support in representing MNEA-Retired and public education. Thank you.



Jane McPartland

I am a proud member of MNEA Retired, after serving in leadership positions in Hazelwood NEA and on the MNEA Board of Directors. I would like to continue to serve as an at large member of the Executive Committee, helping us continue our transition to a full fledged local. There is amazing untapped potential in our members that I believe can be brought out to serve our active members and the students, schools and communities of our state. I would appreciate your vote.



Sabina Button

My name is Sabina Button, and I currently live in Independence, Mo. In 2018 I retired from Blue Springs School District where I taught Art, Reading and English Language Arts at the middle school level. I continue to work part time as a teaching artist at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. As an active, I was building rep and often attended Capital Action Days. In 2002-04 I was a STARR (Select Teachers as Regional Resources) teacher, and I came to realize how much our elected officials rely on us to advocate for education. Since retiring, I've been active with the regional, planning enrichment events and helping with logistics. I've attended RAs (as a guest) and last year attended the National in Chicago. Both of my parents were proud IBEW members, and I'm honored to be a daytime voice for MNEA.



Susan Whitehead-Clark

I'm a retiree from Ft Zumwalt SD in St Charles. I was very active in my association on a local, state and National level. I am interested in the two offices checked above.

DELEGATE TO NEA-R AND NEA-RA

(5 POSITIONS)



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Theresa (Terry) Reger

Our NEA 2025 National Convention delegates and State RA delegates will be faced with the political issues of public education: the financial support on how students and teachers will be funded at state and national levels and the impact of the removal of the Department of Education.

My experience working actively at the local, state and national levels has helped me keep in tune with the adverse sentiments of the those who are opposed to fully funding public education. Any monies given to private and religious schools will be budget cuts to our public educators and public schools. As local, state and national associations, we are facing possible detrimental changes and cuts to public education.

Serving as president and vice-president of my local and state affiliates and being the first MNEA member to serve on the PSRS/PEERS Board, I would appreciate representing you at the NEA 2025 Convention.



Doug Hurst

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Judith Hinsley

As an MNEA-Retired member, I'm often reminded how rewarding it is to stay connected with our profession.

For Metro-Retired I am the current secretary, while also serving on the Advocacy and state CHEER grant selection committees. Previously, I was on Executive Council for six years and served as a state/national RA delegate.

Teachers today face unique challenges that I did not face. They need more support to manage classrooms as they see fit to meet student goals. It's hard to focus on those goals when asked to do more at a time when needs are greater but resources are strained.

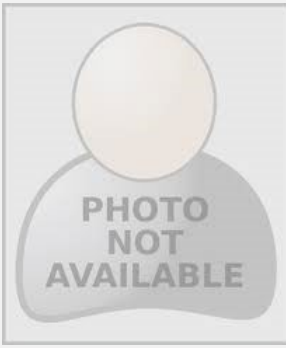
Various community voices increasingly insist on more influence over curriculum and public education funding. Experienced voices like retired teachers help lessen distractions for current teachers by speaking out in legislative halls and board meetings.

I'd be honored by your vote to be one of your delegates this summer.



Netty Doyle

Hi my name is Netty Doyle and I would like to be your delegate to the MNEA RA, as well as the NEA RA in Portland Oregon. I have learned so much from my previous experience at the RA's, and I would like to continue to advocate for public education and teachers in general. I have appreciated your help in the past to raise money for PAC and to educate our government leaders about the real life of public education and what is needed. I would appreciate your vote so that I can continue to learn from other retirees across the nation and communicate with teachers on how best we can help them in the classroom. Thank you for considering me for this position.



Joyce Bluett

I am active on all levels of the Association. I serve as the Missouri Representative on the NEA-Retired Legislative Committee, I am Missouri NEA's Women's Issues Committee Chair, and I serve as Vice President of Metro St. Louis MNEA-Retired. As a result of these responsibilities. I must be vigilant and stay informed on all matters that affect the education community (such as the Social Security Fairness Act). I would like to represent you at the NEA Representative Assembly. It is the largest democratic, deliberative body in the country. What happens at the RA really does matter. I would like to be your voice during the discussions and when the important decisions are being made.

I am Joyce Bluett a retired teacher of elementary school aged children. I seek and sincerely appreciate your support. Thank you very much for your vote.



Martha Karlovetz

While I hadn't planned to run again as a delegate, the passage of the Social Security Act has given me a new incentive. We must be proactive in seeing the provisions of the Act implemented, especially with the current administration who would like to reduce or eliminate Social Security altogether it seems. We also need to capitalize on this bipartisan Congressional victory for increasing membership in MNEA-Retired and NEA-Retired.

DELEGATE TO MNEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

(12 POSITIONS)



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Jennifer Clossum

I have been a member of MNEA since 2001 and an active retired member since 2023. During my teaching career, I spent 15 years as a PNEA Executive Board Member. In addition, I was a member of the Parkway negotiation team, serving on the finance committee for five contracts.

For over twelve years, I have been an active member of the HOPE Committee and have brought in several members to join.

I have been a Delegate for over fifteen years and a state delegate. My goal is to continue to serve the teaching profession and serve as MNEA Retired Delegate.

I believe in public education and service. Now more than ever I need to be involved.



Joe O'Neal

Joe O'Neal, retired educator and a former President of the Raymore-Peculiar National Education. I have participated in numerous MNEA representative assemblies. As President, I chaired the screening and recommendation for school board candidates. I was a high school math teacher at RPHS for 26 years. As a member of MNEA-Retired, I would like to become more involved in the retired association. This would be a great opportunity for me to offer my services and support. I appreciate your time and support.



JoWanda Bozeman

I would appreciate your support and vote to continue serving as a delegate to the MNEA Representative Assembly. When I retired from my position in the Parkway School District, I made a commitment to continue my involvement in my PROFESSION. I know how important it is to be at the table and to be a voice for those we represent. I know how important it is to listen to our members. All of these things are vital to help us move forward to make the best decisions for kids and to grow our Association. I currently serve on the Retired Executive Council and chair the MNEA Human Rights Council.

A vote for JO WANDA is a vote for your voice! THANK YOU!



Joseph DeLuca

Hello, my name is Joseph DeLuca and have been attending MNEA RAs since the 1970s representing Hannibal Education Association for 18 years and Parkway Education Association until I retired.

After retiring I also taught at Forest Park Community College in the City of St Louis. I grew up in the city of St Louis. I am aware of rural, suburban and urban issues.

I believe it is helpful to have some members present who have long continuous service and know our history.

In 2024, I received the Lorna Bottger Award for individual excellence in political action.



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Don Schulte

I love our Association! Helping advance our agenda is core to my professional life. Please vote for me to continue working for something better in our schools!



Carol Weatherford

During the six years I served as MNEA-Retired President, I faithfully attended and participated in the NEA and NEA-R Representative Assemblies. Since then, I have not run for this position, believing in the importance of giving others this opportunity. This year, however, I am horrified to see the anti-public education movement that's taking place in this country and I want very much to a voice of reason for our profession. After 18 years of serving MNEA-Retired, I would appreciate the opportunity to represent our state one last time as a voice of knowledge, experience, and support for public education.



Lisa Kickbusch

Since retiring from the Pattonville School District I served one term on the MNEA-R executive committee and I have been a MNEA-R delegate to the MNEA RA for the past four years. Before retiring I served as NEA Director for 6 years and was on the MNEA Board of Directors for 4 years. Currently I am a member of the Pattonville Board of Education.



Sabina Button

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Sharon Giesler

Sharon Giesler retired from the Ste Genevieve School District as an MNEA Pre-Retired member. She quickly joined the Southeast MNEA-Retired Regional where she has been very active. She served as Vice-President for two years and is now serving her ninth year as President. She is the liaison for the SGNEA at the Ste Gen School District.

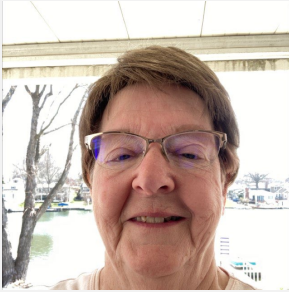
Sharon has also been serving as a delegate to the MNEA Representative Assemblies (RAs). She feels it is important to have representation for our retired members at the MNEA RAs. As a delegate, Sharon has been there to speak up for all retired members, along with supporting our active members, our public education system and our awesome retirement system.

Sharon is ready, willing and able to again take on a role of delegate for the MNEA Representative Assembly! A vote for Sharon Giesler is the right choice!



Martha Karlovetz

While I hadn't planned to run again as a delegate, the passage of the Social Security Act has given me a new incentive. We must be proactive in seeing the provisions of the Act implemented, especially with the current administration who would like to reduce or eliminate Social Security altogether it seems. We also need to capitalize on this bipartisan Congressional victory for increasing membership in MNEA-Retired and NEA-Retired.



Kay Coen

I am a retired member from Greater Kansas City. I am co-chair of the Jim Coen Silver Citizenship Award Committee. I have served on GKC regional executive committee as well as on the State Retired Executive Council and as Secretary of that body. I am current serving on the Blue Springs R-IV School District Board of Directors.



Susan Whitehead-Clark

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