

# I am Missouri NEA



Missouri NEA and NEA deliver the support you need to be successful in your career. Whether your interest is professional development, education policy, legal protection, or national discount programs, you are covered through your MNEA membership. Don't take our word for it. Read what MNEA members have to say.



**Michael Kuhn,**  
teacher, Lindberg NEA

"Missouri NEA scaffolds my professional growth and development. Strong local, state and national support networks provide important legislative action and information, while ongoing direct UniServ contact empowers my local to directly support teachers."



**Deanna Jurkowski,**  
teacher, Kingsville NEA

"I am proud to be a member of Missouri NEA because I believe education is the key to changing the world. Being a member of MNEA means knowing that I am not alone in my stand to achieve something better for students and teachers across my district, my state, and my nation. MNEA provides an overwhelming

number of resources to help me grow as an educator. This helps me give my students what they need to be successful in life."



**Jane Ann McWilliams-Sykes,**  
school nurse, NEA St. Louis

"I am proud to be a member of Missouri NEA because for so many years I made a salary that I considered below my education. I promised to join MNEA the day that nurses were put on the teachers' salary schedule and not until then. On the day MNEA was able to represent nurses, I got a call from a long-term member who told me it

was time to do what I promised to do. So I filled out the paperwork that day and joined. MNEA has elevated nurses to the level of professionals, and for that I will forever be grateful!"



**Chris Holmes,**  
teacher, Hazelwood NEA

"It is comforting to know that the NEA has our backs while we focus on ensuring the best education possible for our students."



**Megan Jallas Baker,**  
ELL specialist, Ritenour NEA

"What do I love about the NEA? I love the idea that while I am working so hard every day in my classroom in Saint Ann, MO, to ensure that my students' diverse needs are being met, there are people simultaneously representing teachers' voices in the Missouri legislature and on the national level who are standing up for

public education. As a building representative for Ritenour NEA, I value my role as an advocate for my colleagues and a steward for my district. I am proud to be a part of 'something better' for children and public education."



**Katie Ramel,**  
teacher, Center EA

"I joined the NEA for the usual reasons: legal protection and buying power. (You really can get your dues money back. It's all in the vacation planning savings programs.)

"Three years ago I was asked to think about leadership within our local association. Within a year I was working as a building representative. It was empowering to see the resources available to assist teachers serving students. Last year I attended my first Missouri NEA Representative Assembly and saw the power of teachers all over the state connecting and discussing problems and possible solutions. I began to see common issues that needed to be addressed across the state. In a huge room with hundreds of teachers and education support professionals of all political affiliations, we brought together a legislative platform to begin to address these issues.

"After that, I attended the NEA Convention in Washington D.C. After my awe at the sheer numbers of humans in one legislative body following Roberts Rules, I realized something that will forever color my world view. These people are passionate about their work with children and have their finger on the pulse of our community issues. Politicians sitting in their ivory towers making policy have no idea what is going on within our schools and how their decisions are affecting kids. It is through our unified voice that our community concerns can be addressed. Our local affiliate is where it all starts.

"NEA and MNEA are more than just protection: they are our vehicle for change."

## UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.



**Colleen Malone,**  
teacher, Affton NEA

"I am a Missouri MNEA member because teachers need a voice. NEA is that voice. NEA provides resources and support to teachers no matter where they are in their careers. NEA fights for the rights of educators and works hard to protect the integrity of education professionals."



**Mark Abbot, PhD.,**  
professor, HHSU/NEA past president

"A few years ago, HSSU faculty affiliated with MNEA and negotiated our first contract. The changes that followed have been transformative. Not only has MNEA benefitted the faculty, but also MNEA affiliation has made the university a much stronger institute. Never let anyone tell you that NEA does not belong in higher education."



**Carol Weatherford,**  
MNEA-Retired president

"As president of Missouri NEA Retired, I am more aware than ever that it is OUR association that is the true protector of our retirement system. Although it is vitally important for legislators to hear from their constituents, our MNEA staff does a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work to assure protection of the PSRS/PEERS.

Whether through coalitions with other groups, personal contact with legislators, private conferences with bill writers, or daily contact with members through the MNEA Legislative Update, our professional staff is working diligently to make sure that our defined-benefit plan is protected."



**Ken Holzapfel,**  
teacher, Special School District NEA

"For over 25 years, Missouri NEA has had my back as I have advocated for my students. Beyond salaries and benefits are the futures of the students we teach. MNEA is always there as a partner as we fight for the resources and support we need to teach all children as if they were our own. I am proud to be a public school

teacher, and I am proud to be a member of an organization dedicated to supporting public education. That is why I am a member of MNEA."



**Camille Falconnier,**  
teacher, Fox NEA

"I switched my home owners and auto insurance to California Casualty. It was an easy, over-the-phone quote. No sales person or adjuster had to come out to my house. I saved just over \$500 a month on home and auto insurance! I always check out the restaurant deals, especially in other places when I am planning on going out of town. There are great digital gift certificates and CHEAP! I got a \$25 Chicago Steak House gift certificate for \$5. I also love to get my free magazine every year."



**Carmen K. Hill,**  
school nurse, NEA St. Louis

"I have been a member for approximately 15 years. The benefits have been phenomenal. As a member, you can receive discounts on car purchases, hotels, travel, and so much more. You also have comfort in knowing if you need legal representation due to job-related incidents, it's available to you at no additional cost. There are also programs available to you in case of life crisis.

"I could go on and on about the benefits of being a member of MNEA. I made a GREAT decision and invite all educators and education support professionals to join me."



**Erin Cramer,**  
teacher, Hazelwood NEA

"My first weekend at an MNEA Representative Assembly was eye-opening for me. I'd never been in a room full of so many people who were passionate about education and passionate about standing up for what is right for kids and teachers. Prior to that, I'd paid my dues, and I'd known that, theoretically, there were people in the wings waiting to help me if I got in trouble. That weekend, I found out that NEA and MNEA are real people donating their time and money and expertise advocating for my students and me."