

MNEA Virtual Spring Representative Assembly April 25, 2020



President Phil Murray gavelled Missouri NEA's first virtual Representative Assembly to order on Saturday, April 25. Delegates from around the state joined the meeting online and by telephone. President Murray reported on the unprecedented circumstances and thanked MNEA members, leaders, and staff for their work during recent months. He also reported on MNEA's current reality and efforts to support students and stay in close contact with members. He recognized MNEA staff for working remotely and continuing full service to members. He outlined the association's communication plan that uses calls, web conferencing, and emails to provide resources and information to our members--creating a strong pipeline of information and resources for leaders and an opportunity to connect and develop support councils around the state. President Murray shared a video from our partner, KCTV, about reaching, teaching, and feeding students during the COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged delegates to share their stories and connect with the association at: <http://www.mnea.org/coronavirus>.

Thank you for your generous donations to the MNEA HOPE Fund:

Park Hill NEA

North Kansas City NEA

Ferguson Florissant NEA

Francis Howell NEA

Fort Zumwalt NEA

Hazelwood NEA

Columbia MNEA

Troy NEA

Blue Springs NEA

Many locals are supporting hometown charities and community funds. Thank you to our members for supporting families and students in whatever way they can.

Vice President Rebeka McIntosh highlighted association work since the Fall RA: Legislative Forums, Read-On Missouri, and victories at the state level. She recognized many MNEA members and locals for their work during the pandemic. McIntosh presented the current financial snapshot and outlined the proposed budget for 2020-21, presenting a balanced budget for next year. Delegates considered the motion closely and adopted the proposed budget.

Our NEA Directors updated delegates on NEA work. Paul Guess shared many NEA resources to support members teaching and working remotely. He encouraged delegates to access www.nea.org/coronavirus for a growing library of tools as well as Facebook groups including *NEA Educators Navigating COVID-19 Together* and the 360 edCommunities group, *Coronavirus Help For Members*. Information regarding justice in education issues around coronavirus can be found at: www.neaedjustice.org and NEA Foundation grants related to COVID-19: www.neafoundation.org.

Andy Slaughter shared detailed information about the federal CARES Act monies designated for public education and student loan relief. He outlined the legislative priorities that NEA has established: additional stabilization fund money, protecting school staff, supporting remote student learning and equity, and making voting safe and accessible.

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