



MARE Focus

JANUARY 10, 2024

FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEVIN SANDLIN, MARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENDORSEMENTS

- American Fidelity Assurance Co.
- Claim Care, Inc.
- Forrest T. Jones & Co.
- Hamlin Energy
- IMS Technology
- L.J. Hart & Company
- MASA MTS
- MEUHP
- Mike Keith Insurance
- MO. Consult. For Ed.
- MOCAAT
- M.U.S.I.C.
- SOCs
- Veregy (CTS)

MARE PARTNERSHIPS

- LEGAL HOTLINE: ED COUNSEL, GUIN MUNDORF, MICKES O'TOOLE, TUETH KEENEY
- EDPLUS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- GIRLS STATE
- MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

Superintendent Search Program – MARE has been retained to conduct the following Superintendent Searches:

Superintendent Search – St. Clair R-XIII – Mary Beth Scherer is the Search Consultant. Mary Beth may be reached at (660) 281-7678 or at mbscherer@ucmo.edu. **Updated terms! Closing (1/11/24)!**

Superintendent Search – Van Far R-I – Dr. Jerry Cochran is the Search Consultant. He can be reached at (660) 596-3184 or at cochranj115@gmail.com. **Closing (1/12/24)!**

Superintendent Search – Chadwick R-I – Dr. Paul Ricker is the Search Consultant. Paul can be reached at (573) 365-4703 or at paulricker1@charter.net. **Closing (1/26/24)!**

Principal/Superintendent Search – Kingston 42 – Dr. Maggie Anderson is the Search Consultant. Maggie may be reached at (816) 898-0005 or at mg2.anderson@gmail.com. **Closing (2/2/24)!**

Superintendent Search – Sherwood Cass R-VIII – Dr. Michael Jinks is the Search Consultant. Mike can be reached at (660) 441-7473 or at 19mj46@charter.net. **Closing (2/2/24)!**

Closed Searches – South Holt Co. R-I, Marion Co. R-II, North Andrew R-VI, La Plata R-II, Sullivan, Spring Bluff R-XV, Scott City R-I, Shelby Co. R-IV, Central R-III, Ralls Co. R-II, Spokane R-VII, Ash Grove R-IV & Kennett 39!

***** More Searches to be Posted Soon**

All Vacancy Announcements & Applications – www.moare.com!

Calculate & Communicate – Districts are encouraged to calculate how much of the grant money for the state minimum salary (\$38,000.00) they are drawing down and to communicate with your legislators what might happen should that grant program be phased out accompanied by a mandatory minimum teacher salary of \$38,000.00 or higher. It is important for your elected officials to understand what impact this would have on your district including possible program cuts, staffing reductions, delaying of facility improvements, unrealistic local tax levy burdens, etc. Now is the time to begin to prepare this information and have these conversations so that your legislators are informed and hopefully will look for ways to continue to fund an improved minimum teacher salary in our state.

Opportunity to Help One of our Own – Wade Schroeder

Please consider this opportunity to help one of our own!

I thought you might be interested in supporting this GoFundMe, <https://gofund.me/84af91be>. Even a small donation could help Natalie Burns reach their fundraising goal. And if you can't make a donation, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word. Thanks for taking a look!
Not sure it copied but this is on Wade Schroeder who has been battling cancer.

Save the Date - The 14th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 15th at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. We will accept the first 36 paid teams for this event. Last year's event raised over \$34,300.00 to be earmarked for scholarships for students interested in teaching in rural Missouri schools.

BIA-MO Free Concussion Education Seminars

Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers Seminars FREE Concussion Education

A concussion may result in cognitive, physical, sensory and emotional changes for youth. Staying current on information about concussions, helps reduce risks for your student athletes.

Mark your calendars to attend the
Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO)
***Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and
New Frontiers Seminar!***

There is **no charge** to attend, but **registration is required**.

Eastern
February 26, 2024

Western
February 27, 2024

Central
February 29, 2024

Live Stream
March 1, 2024

Archives On-Demand
March 20 - May 31, 2024

MARE Scholarship Information – MARE awarded a total of 52 scholarships last year including 22 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors, 29 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts and a \$2,500.00 scholarship in memory of Dr. Matt Bushey. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament are our primary source of funding for scholarships. Due to the generous support of many of our Associate Members and other donors, we will be awarding additional scholarships and increasing the HS Scholarship Awards to \$750.00 during 2024! (**\$211,500.00 awarded!**)

[2023 HS Senior Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)

[2023 MARE College Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)

Varsity Tutors for Schools Platform Access – Now Available!

- **Enabling Access to Varsity Tutors for Schools**
 - District-wide
 - No cost access for the Varsity Tutors for Schools platform
 - Easy Single Sign-On enablement (Clever, ClassLink, etc.)
 - No cost access to the Varsity Tutors for Schools platform will be available through 6/30/2027.

[Varsity Tutors for Schools Platform Access](#)

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is Available in Missouri!



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by delivering high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to the homes of registered children under age 5, at no cost to the family.

The Missouri Imagination Library was made possible by legislation (Section 178.694 RSMo) that identifies school districts as the local partner for this initiative. Full funding was included in DESE's Fiscal Year 2024 budget to establish and administer Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for all children in Missouri age 0-5.

There is no cost to schools for the books or the postage to deliver them.

Sign up your child for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

MOCAAT – What Can You Do For Me?

MOCAAT® | Local Values. Trusted Advantage.

The MOCAAT® Advantage: Missouri's Trusted Financial Management Resource for School Districts.

Our experienced team, with broad expertise in Missouri school budgeting, finance, and investments, thoroughly manages over \$2.5 billion in assets across 170+ member districts (as of June 30, 2023). Since inception in 2020, MOCAAT has provided a new level of service and performance to Missouri communities.

Our philosophy – Partnership. Maximize the potential of your reserve funds, tax revenues, state revenues, and bond proceeds with our professional guidance.

For financial support tailored to your district's unique needs, contact us:



John Jungmann
Vice-President
Investment Services
PMA Financial Network

(417) 228-4148

jjungmann@pmanetwork.com



Jason Hoffman
Vice-President
Investment Services
PMA Financial Network

(573) 212-6258

jhoffman@pmanetwork.com

NREA News – For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: **January 5, 2024 NREA Weekly Update**

DHSS Cessation Support Information/Programs

The Department of Health and Senior Services is pleased to announce the addition of new services available beginning January 1, 2024, to help Missourians quit using tobacco products (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, etc.).

Free and confidential telephone and web-based tobacco cessation services continue to be available to Missourians ages 13 and older 24/7, 365 days per year.

Additional cessation support services are available for pregnant and postpartum women, individuals with behavioral health conditions, American Indians, and adolescents (ages 13 - 17).

The provider fax referral number, web referral, and website URL will also change on January 1, 2024.

Please see the attached flyers for more information about Missouri Tobacco Quit Services changes, including the new My Life, My Quit teen cessation program!

Please click on the image below to register for a January 19, 2024 webinar to learn more about Missouri Tobacco Quit Services.

<<https://stateofmo.webex.com/weblink/register/r8897c1fd978015b59ca4625a3a9366d4>>
[cid:image002.png@01DA3258.B47F6690]<<https://stateofmo.webex.com/webappng/sites/stateofmo/meeting/register/48b58502326e4b95864da27ae03e5828?ticket=4832534b000000068fbd2dedebe262de168d81a45968dbe5f917bccf0321e1fbff9d2d5037fc804×tamp=1702997389858&RGID=r8897c1fd978015b59ca4625a3a9366d4>>

MARE Board Training Opportunities - MARE will provide Board Training in 2024 for newly elected or appointed BOE members according to this schedule:

Southeast Missouri - Poplar Bluff, MO – Holiday Inn – (573) 712-9021

- **Friday, May 31, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, June 1, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO – Quality Inn - (660) 747-3000

- **Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Northeast Missouri - Kirksville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 956-4682

- **Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**

Southwest Missouri - Bolivar, MO - Comfort Inn - (417) 326-6169

- **Friday, June 21, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, June 22, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Northwest Missouri - Maryville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949

- **Friday, July 12, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, July 13, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Lake Ozark, MO – The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Conference)

- **Wednesday, October 16, 2024 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**
- **Thursday, October 17, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons

- **Friday, December 6, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, December 7, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

***** Please share this information with any new Board member who has not completed the 18.5 hours of required training! MARE is an approved Board Training provider!**

To register, please complete the form found on our website and fax to (660) 747-8160, scan and email to ksandlin@moare.com, or go online (www.moare.com) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training.

Preparing for the Upcoming Fight for Public Education

The fight will continue in Jefferson City regarding Open Enrollment. It is anticipated that legislation similar to HB 253 will be on the floor of the House very early in the session. It is time again for public Missouri school districts to stand up and make their voices heard regarding this matter. Please review previous information that has been sent out, including the information contained in the links below and take action. Working together, we can defeat this legislation but it is going to take all of us! Please join the fight! If your district has passed a resolution in opposition, please share that with your respective legislators and share a copy of this with your local or regional newspaper!

[HB 253 Open Enrollment](#)
[Open Enrollment - Board Resolution in Opposition](#)
[Open Enrollment - Talking Points](#)

More updated information will be forthcoming. **Please make this a priority issue for your BOE at your November, December, January or February board meeting. Please provide me with an electronic copy of your resolution once approved by your BOE!**

MARE Board Elections for 2024 – MARE will be electing Regional Executive Board Members in Regions B, D, F, H and J this year. In addition, one member from a MARE member school district's BOE and a MO K-8 Representative will be appointed by the current MARE Board. More information on this will be shared soon!
Due to retirements, we are looking for a Region B and Region H MARE Board Representative. If interested, please let Dr. Cochran or myself know.

Representative Regions by Counties

Region B: Counties of – Gasconade, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Iron, Reynolds, St. Francis, Ste. Genevieve, Jefferson, Perry and St. Louis. **(Dr. Kruse retiring!)**

Region D: Counties of – Laclede, Camden, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Dent. **(Dr. Price wants to continue to serve!)**

Region F: Counties of – Jackson, Cass, Lafayette, Johnson, Henry, Saline, Pettis, Cooper, Moniteau and Morgan. **(Dr. Marnholtz wants to continue to serve!)**

Region H: Counties of – Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Clark, Lewis, Marion, Ralls, Pike, Montgomery, Lincoln, Warren and St. Charles.

(Mr. Troy Clawson is retiring!)

Region J: Counties of – Atchinson, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Platte, Clay, Worth, DeKalb, Clinton, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, Gentry and Harrison.

(Dr. Brian Robinson wants to continue to serve!)

Quote of the Week

"Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together." –Scott Hayden

MARE Welcomes Christy Groppe, Franklin Co. R-II BOE Member, to the MARE Executive Board!

Mental Health Survey Opportunity

In case you missed our brief 9-question survey before the holidays RE: mental health needs and resources for our students, the initial responses have been interesting. While we've had a good responses rate far, we always welcome more input, so wanted to extend the timeframe to complete just a little longer. We will share all results when complete.

I am sharing the information below from one of our Associates (SlateXP). They have crafted a short survey as they attempt to gather information on mental health needs and resources for our students. I would encourage you to take a few minutes to access the survey and complete it so that they can gather some informative data to help make decisions on possible programs or opportunities that might assist our students. If you have questions, please reach out directly to David MacLeod at dmacleod@slatexp.com. Thanks for considering this special request.

Mental Health Resource Capacity in K12 – Is It A Growing Concern?

There is an ongoing narrative across the country regarding the status of our student's mental health and the resources available to support their growing need. MARE has always been a champion for school districts and for students in need, so we want to make sure we are always aware of any developing issues that may be concerning to our members and if so, whether we need to develop a partnership that can provide assistance in some way. We have just (9) questions in our survey.

[Mental Health Survey Link](#)

Thanks for Making a Difference for Kids and Communities!

MARE Organization Staff

Kevin F. Sandlin -- Cell Phone: (660) 351-0596 -- Email: ksandlin@moare.com
Executive Director

Jerry L Cochran, EdD. -- Cell Phone: (660) 596-3184 -- Email: jcochran@moare.com
Assistant Executive Director

Ray V. Patrick, EdD. -- Cell Phone: (660) 909 – 5118 – Email: rpatrick@moare.com
Associate Director

Missouri Association of Rural Education
710 N College, Suite C
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093
(660) 747-8050
Fax: (660) 747-8160
Website: www.moare.com

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