



# MARE Focus

OCTOBER 9, 2019

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

## ENDORSEMENTS

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Claim Care, Inc.

CTS Group

Forrest T. Jones & Co.

IMS

L.J. Hart & Company

MASA MTS

MEUHP

Mike Keith Insurance

M.U.S.I.C.

MO. Consultants for Ed.

Patron Insight

Pro Solutions, LLC

Show-me-State Virtual Ed., LLC

SOCS

## MARE PARTNERSHIPS

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

**MARE Administrative Search Services** - MARE has been retained to conduct the following Administrative Searches:

**Superintendent Search - Wellsville Middletown R-I** – Dr. Paul Ricker is the Search Consultant. He can be reached by phone at (573) 365-4703 or by email at [paulricker1@charter.net](mailto:paulricker1@charter.net). **Application deadline - Friday, November 1st!** Information is posted on the MARE website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com).

**High School Principal Search - Canton R-V** - Dr. Paul Ricker is the Search Consultant. He can be reached by phone at (573) 365-4703 or by email at [paulricker1@charter.net](mailto:paulricker1@charter.net). **Application deadline is Wednesday, November 27th!** Information is posted on the MARE website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com).

**Superintendent Search -Strasburg C-3** - Dr. Mike Jinks is the Search Consultant. He can be reached by phone at (660) 441-7473 or by email at [19mj46@charter.net](mailto:19mj46@charter.net). **Application deadline - TBA (late November)!** Information will be sent out and posted on or around October 16th!

## Top Eight (8) Reasons You Should Attend the Conference

It is hard to believe that we are just six (6) weeks away from the annual MARE/MO K-8 Conference. The 2019 MARE/MO K-8 Annual Conference will be held Wednesday, October 23rd (12:00 noon - Pre-Conference Session) through Friday, October 25th (11:00 a.m. - Closing Session) at the beautiful Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri. The theme of this year's joint conference is "Working Together Toward Tomorrow." Click here [2019 Conference Planner at a Glance](#) to see the conference schedule! **So, why should you and/or Board members from your school district take time out of busy schedules to attend this year's event! Here are the Top 8 Reasons Why You Should Attend:**

1. The conference is focused on the following topics - DESE Presentations (Data and Finance), Legal Topics, School Showcase Topics, Legislative News, Technology and Student Safety Topics. Every "Small Group Session" round features both a legal topic and a DESE presentation. The information presented in each session is up-to-date and pertinent for Missouri school district leaders.
2. The conference kicks off at 12:00 noon with a 45 minute presentation by Learning Blade. This company was awarded a contract with DESE to offer middle school students more opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Computer Science (CS) career awareness at no cost to the school district. Come and see how this program may be of great benefit to your school district!
3. The conference officially kicks off at 1:00 p.m. with "A Conversation with the Commissioner." Dr. Margie Vandeven, Missouri Commissioner of Education, will spend time with those in attendance providing updates on current state education activities. She will also answer questions and engage in casual conversation with attendees.
4. As part of our conference this year, we will be offering "Refresher Board Training" for Board members who have previously completed the required 16 hours of Board Training. This "Refresher Training" will include training required under HB 604 regarding the prevention of sexual abuse of children. We will also be providing the 18.5 hours of training required for newly elected or appointed Board members that also includes the 2.5 hours

required under HB 604 regarding the prevention of sexual abuse of children.

5. The conference is structured to provide numerous opportunities to visit with colleagues and collaborate during sessions, between sessions and during receptions and meals in a more relaxed environment.

6. During the luncheon on Thursday, October 24th, Missouri Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019, Shelly Parks, will share a message. This will be followed by the presentation of several "Outstanding Rural Education Awards", including Rural Teacher, Rural Administrator, Rural Support Staff Member and Rural School District. There will also be a presentation of a "Friend of Rural Education" award!

7. Many of the rural DESE Area Supervisors will be our guests during the conference thus providing you an opportunity to visit with them in a more relaxed, informal setting.

8. In addition to all of the above, the conference will provide you with great food, great fun and the opportunity to visit with numerous business organizations that provide products and services for and strongly support rural education. You will also have the opportunity to register for a number of prize drawings to be held throughout the conference!

[2019 Conference Registration Form](#)

[2019 Board Training Registration Form](#)

If you have questions regarding the conference, please do not hesitate to call (660) 747-8050 or email at [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com). See you in October!

**MARE Board Training Program Update** - As most of you are aware, one of the provisions of HB 604 added additional training requirements for school board members who serve in Missouri. MARE's new Board Training Program will now consist of eighteen hours and thirty minutes of training including two hours and thirty minutes **"that provides up-to-date and reliable information on identifying signs of sexual abuse in children and danger signals of potentially abusive relationships between children and adults"**. Additionally, the law now requires those currently serving as school board members to participate in one hour of annual refresher training that **shall address concepts covered in the initial training including, but not limited to, the prevention of sexual abuse of children**. We are currently working on creating these additional training materials (Presentations, Videos, etc.) and will make these available in the near future. The MARE Board Training scheduled on October 23rd and October 24th as part of the Annual MARE/MO K-8 Conference will include the 2.5 hours of additional training for new board members. It is likely that we will schedule some area training events or workshops to help provide this new content during this upcoming school year! Please stay tuned for more information on this training.

**\*The Board Training Program offered by MARE has been approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.**

### **MASA Benefit Solves Issues Brought to Light in NPR Story**

This past weekend, National Public Radio featured a story regarding air ambulance services in rural Kansas. The story featured the life-saving benefits that air ambulance companies provide every day. The story centered on Fort Scott, where the hospital closed last year, and how the air ambulance service has become an important part of the health delivery system in that city. The NPR story can be found at

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/09/14/760680901/air-ambulances-wo-rural-consumers-with-memberships-that-may-leave-them-hanging>

The article also brought to light the complexities of air ambulance company subscription programs. Since these membership programs are only applicable when you fly on a helicopter owned by the ambulance service offering the subscription, consumers who believed they were covered for air ambulance usage have found out that this is not always the case.

MASA Medical Transport Solutions, the preferred provider for emergent air and ground services of the Missouri Association of Rural Education, provides the solution to this issue. Since MASA does not own any domestic air ambulances, federal law allows them to cover the cost of services on ALL air ambulance providers. Plus, their plan also offers coverage for emergent ground ambulance services.

To learn more about how MASA can be implemented as an employee benefit at your hospital, contact Andrew Zink ([azink@masamts.com](mailto:azink@masamts.com)) at 314-540-5729.

## **MARE Welcomes CSD Retirement Trust as Associate Member**

MARE is pleased to welcome CSD Retirement Trust as our newest Associate Member.



### What is the CSD Retirement Trust?

#### An Educated Choice for School Districts and Their Employees

The Trust was created **for educators by educators** to provide the best Supplemental Retirement Program, 403(b) & 457(b), for K-12 Employees. The Trust is a consortium of school districts that have joined together to improve retirement planning and outcomes for their employees and to reduce employee fees. As the plan sponsor, the Trust also saves districts time and money while ensuring compliance with 403(b) and 457(b) regulations. Over 6,800 active and retired employees from 54 districts/charters with \$160M in plan assets make up the Trust.

Since launching in January 2010 through December 31, 2018:

- Investment options have outperformed their peer benchmark in 100% of investment categories
- Investment management fees have decreased in 94% of the Trust's investment options
- Participant fees have decreased 63%...annual fees for a participant with a \$10,000 account balance have decreased to \$52 from \$140

For more information, please contact [skeyser@csdretirementtrust.com](mailto:skeyser@csdretirementtrust.com).

**Outstanding Rural Education Awards** - MARE will be presenting the following awards at the conference on Thursday, October 24th during the Awards Luncheon. Award recipients will be posted soon!

- Outstanding Rural Support Staff - Laura Orr, Kelso C-7
- Outstanding Rural Teacher Award - Kerry Eidson, High Point R-III
- Outstanding Rural Administrator Award - Angela Hanlin, New Madrid

Co. R-I

- Outstanding Rural School District Award - Hickory Co. R-I

Please join me in congratulating these award recipients!

**MARE Associate Members** - Our organization simply could not do the work that we do or provide the services and programs that we offer without the generous support of our Associate Members. Please click here to access a list: [..\Associate Members\2019-2020 Associate Members.docx](#)

**School Board Training Dates** - MARE will provide trainings as follows:

**Central Missouri - The Lodge of the Four Seasons - Lake Ozark, Missouri (573-365-3000)**

- Wednesday, October 23, 2019 (12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 24, 2019 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

To register, go online (<http://www.moare.com/>) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training or contact Kevin Sandlin at [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com).

**Legal Articles** – Check out the various legal articles posted on our website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com). Special thanks to our partners at EdCounsel, Mickes O’Toole, Guin Mundorf, and Tueth Keeney for providing these articles

**News from NREA - The Rural Educator**

The future of rural communities can be bright despite current narrative, according to researcher. Written By: David Olson | Oct 1st 2019

<https://www.inforum.com/incoming/4691174-The-future-of-rural-communities-can-be-bright-despite-current-narrative-according-to-researcher>

**Videos: Rural Report Findings and Discussion With Community Leaders**

<https://www.americancommunities.org/chapter/videos-rural-report-findings-and-discussion-with-community-leaders/>

**New Mexico Gov. Grisham to speak at November workshop in Santa Fe for Reimagining the Rural West Initiative:**

<http://westgov.org/news/new-mexico-gov.-grisham-to-speak-at-november-workshop-in-santa-fe-for-reimagining-the-rural-west-initiative>

**2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools:**

[https://nationalblueribbonsschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/reports/2019/all\\_2019\\_national\\_blue\\_ribbon\\_schools.pdf](https://nationalblueribbonsschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/reports/2019/all_2019_national_blue_ribbon_schools.pdf)

**As Rural Groceries Fade Away, Lawmakers Wonder Whether to Act**

**STATELINE ARTICLE** October 2, 2019

By: [April Simpson](#)

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/10/02/as-rural-groceries-fade-away-lawmakers-wonder-whether-to-act>

**MARE Membership** – I often get asked what benefits does a district receive as part of MARE membership. I can assure you that the nominal membership dues pale in comparison to the benefits that members enjoy. Annual membership dues provide support for:

1. Free Legal Hotline Service – Representatives from EdCounsel, Guin Mundorf, Mickes O'Toole and Thomeczek and Brink provide answers to your questions on minor legal issues.
2. Collaborative Lobbying Efforts – MARE is a member of the School Administrators Coalition (SAC) that works collectively with many of the school organizations to lobby on behalf of Missouri public education.
3. National Advocacy – MARE is part of the National Rural Education Association and actively participates in advocacy in Washington on behalf of rural schools across the nation.
4. Superintendent Searches – MARE provides a very affordable and well structured search program for school districts in need of Superintendents and Building Administrators.
5. Annual Conference – MARE partners with MO K-8 to provide an annual fall Conference. Sessions planned focus on education matters important to rural and small schools.
6. Saves districts money with various Associate Member products and services including Lease Purchasing (L.J. Hart), Natural Gas Consortium (Pro-Energy Solutions), Cooperative Purchasing (Education Plus), Record Scanning/Storage (IMS), Website Support (SOCS) and others.
7. Coordinates two scholarship programs that focus on providing money for students interested in pursuing education degrees. This year alone the programs provided \$25,500 dollars to thirty-six(36) students majoring in education.
8. Executive Board is made up of ten (10) practicing rural School Superintendents, two (2) at-large school Board members, one (1) K-8 representative, and one (1) Higher Education Representative.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list as we have many other MARE Associate Members who provide services for school districts.

### **Quote of the Week**

**“You can't lead the people if you don't love the people. You can't save the people if you don't serve the people.” - Cornel West**

## **MARE Organization Staff**

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