

# MEA-Retired Tribune

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March, 2022

## MEA-Retired (and a group of deserving students) need YOU next week!

I am excited about doing something next week for the first time and would love to have some of you join me. Curious? Read on...

Are you looking for an exciting, once-a-year opportunity to be part of one of MEA-Retired's favorite projects? MEA-Retired has long been the "daytime face of MEA," and one of the ways we show those faces is by offering our services as readers of applications for the annual MEA Scholarship Program. We thank our member and friend Dean Parling, who has been involved with the program for 15 years and currently spearheads it for us. He, along with other long-time volunteers for this project, finds the experience rewarding and enjoys the chance to connect with other members while giving back to both MEA and MEA-Retired.

All of these outstanding scholarship applicants are dependents of MEA or MEA-Retired members in good standing. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement, involvement in extra-curricular activities and community service. Funding for scholarships is provided by voluntary contributions of MEA and MEA-Retired members, MEA staff and friends of MEA. These scholarships may be offered on a renewal basis, limited to four times in a five-year period, so the chance for continued support is a possibility for these deserving recipients.

Would you please join us? This chance to read about the many contributions of students from around the state is last minute, but we're reaching out regarding the sessions. A decision was made that MEA will be having in-person scholarship reading sessions next Monday-Wednesday, March 7, March 8, and March 9 from 9AM – 4PM. You will be meeting in MEA's 1350 Building Board Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Mileage will be reimbursed at .585/mile and lunch will be provided each day.

Last year, our readers had the daunting task of reading the applications virtually, with Dean and what ended up being a "skeleton crew" spending days going through the online documents, which included not only applications but letters of recommendation and other relevant materials. ***Rest assured that this year's reading will be done with safety protocols, including required masking when moving about MEA Headquarters.***

We also want to thank MEA Human Resources Generalist Barb Hitchcock, who spends many hours with the project and last year scanned and electronically provided hundreds of pages of materials for the readers.

***We know this is short notice, but if you are available please email Barb Hitchcock at [bhitchcock@mea.org](mailto:bhitchcock@mea.org) by Thursday, March 3, 2022.***

# What teachers need to save public education

*Note: Our thanks to former MEA-Retired Vice President and current Region 14 Board member Dave Schopp for sharing the information below. This excerpt from a Facebook link is from a site called “We Are Teachers” and was written by Kelly Treleaven, a middle school English teacher, on her blog a couple of years ago. A link to the entire article can be found below.*

I write a lot about teachers and teaching. This is motivated by two things: One, I’m passionate about education, and two, I’m worried about education. Lately I’ve been writing a lot more about the latter.

Here’s what’s happening: Good teachers are leaving. States won’t address the reasons why teachers are leaving. Good teachers are being replaced by inexperienced and/or underqualified teachers. And (eventually) our children *will be taught by these teachers*.

***We should all be very, very worried about this.***

**This is what teachers need if we want to save public education:**

1. A living wage and competitive health care.
2. Smaller class sizes.
3. Shared accountability with parents and students.
4. Support and respect from the public.
5. Lawmakers who treat education as seriously as security.
6. For people in education reform to actually *listen* to teachers.
7. Highly qualified administrators.
8. Facilities that reflect that the people within them actually matter.
9. Counselors.

***To read the entire article, click on the link below:***

[https://www.weareteachers.com/what-teachers-need/?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook#Echobox=1645820051](https://www.weareteachers.com/what-teachers-need/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=1645820051)

## Sarah Says: From NEA-Retired President Sarah Borgman

As the old proverb goes, ...”when all is said and done...” too often turns into *more is said than done*. That is not how we get things done, and believe me, there is much to be done!!! Local elections are now or are about to be held in the near future for your state officers; that means volunteers are needed to step up and fill the gaps. You will have the opportunity to lead, to be a part of decision making, and to offer your creative ideas in what is happening in your state. Of course, it’s not just officer positions that need to be filled; there are always opportunities to serve. Just ask your president where help is needed. Surprise him/her to help build membership but equally important to reach out to all members. Involvement is first-hand information! Join your state team and move your agenda

forward. To accomplish much we all need to be part of the activities. Remember that sharing a job makes it easier for everyone!