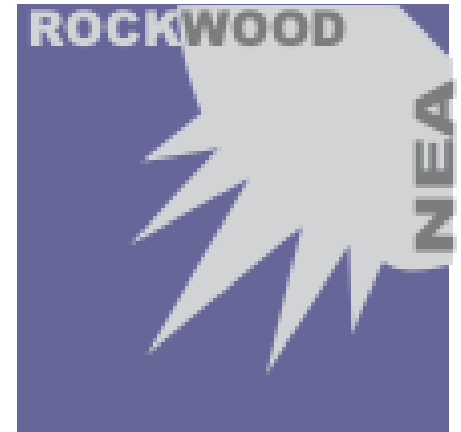
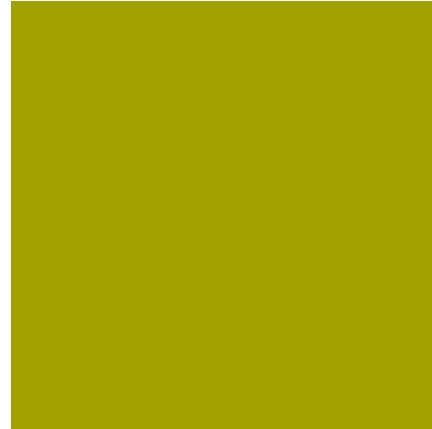




“If you don’t
do politics,
politics will
do you.”
-someone insightful



How YOU can contribute

Why should we give up our hard-earned cash?



Who decides?

Think about who you believe makes the following decisions.

Your salary

Teacher certification

NCLB policies

Course content

Tenure

Collective bargaining rights

Health insurance benefits

Textbooks

Curriculum

Class size

Length of school year

Retirement plans

Budget



+ The ultimate deciders

What do most of your answers have in common?

- The people making these decisions are elected or appointed by people elected by you.
- At the state level, you ultimately have the power.
- It is time for you to use that power to ensure your jobs and your children's education in Missouri.





2011 State legislative year in review

What passed

- Budget: formula funding remains flat and does not phase-in the new formula.
- School Safety: secures, information transfers, allows for dress codes, drug and alcohol testing for school construction employees.
- SB 54: protects children from grooming and other predatory acts.

What didn't

- Collective bargaining restrictions
- Formula Punt
- State Employee Retirement Legislation
- Teacher Pay
- Attacks on Public Education: tax credit vouchers, open enrollment, etc.





What's at stake

- Tenure. Although we defeated HB 628 and SB 391, some version of those bills will appear again in 2012.
- Teacher performance pay. Although we defeated HB 628/SB 372, some version of those bills will appear again in 2012.
- These issues will be debated on the state legislature's floors again in 2012.
- Missouri is 47th in teacher salaries.
- Missouri ranks 49th in state share for schools.
- Missouri already has the lowest corp. income tax.





MNEA and RNEA

We are talking state and local education issues

- It is important to know that neither MNEA or RNEA is affiliated with one party. MNEA recommends candidates based on where those candidates stand on **education issues**, just like the RNEA.
 - In 2011, the State House saw a record number of freshman legislators. Of 163 seats, over 75 were brand new to the legislative process.
 - Otto Fajen, MNEA Legislative Director, works closely with members of both caucuses to move forward MNEA's public education agenda.
 - He has worked closely with Representative Rick Stream (R) to defeat HB 628 and to work on funding issues.





What it takes

Unfortunately... money and time

- Our opponents have lots and lots of money. [Rex Sinquefield](#) spent \$20 million over the last four years attacking public education and is likely to spend another \$10 million by the 2012 elections.
- [Mike Geller](#) spent \$20,000 on his campaign for Rockwood Board of Education. RNEA spent \$1,550.
- We have tools beyond dollars, but we also need money. [Stephen Colbert](#) will tell you “Money=Speech.”





Feet on the ground

Your time

- Serve as an Education Advocate.
- We need one from each voting district. Your task is to meet your state senator and representative. Once you have established a relationship, the goal is to continue that interaction, inviting him/her to functions and events. You don't need to be a legislative expert, simply share your experiences as an educator.
 - Four state senators, two of which will be up for re-election in 2012.
 - Nine state representatives, all of which will be up for re-election in 2012.





Feet on the ground

Your time

- Vote your job. The state officials hold the future of your profession in their hands. In 2012, Missourians will elect their:
 - governor
 - lt. governor
 - secretary of state
 - treasurer
 - attorney general
 - senators
 - representatives

Know their positions on education issues and VOTE.





Feet on the ground

Your time

- Attend BOE meetings. Don't wait until a crisis. The time to get to know your board is now. Establish relationships before they are tested.
- Man the phones when we make calls. We have 1,678 MNEA members who live in the district. That is a sizable voting block even before you consider immediate family.
- Talk. To colleagues, friends, family and neighbors.
- VOTE!





RNEA's PAC goals

How we Compare to other Locals

- Currently, RNEA only has 20 members on PAC payroll deduction.
- Parkway NEA has 121, NKC has 125, Ferg-Flor has 137 and Pattonville has 139 members who have volunteered for PAC payroll deduction and their local PAC balances hover around \$10,000 annually for use in local school board and levy elections. Local PAC dollars can also be used in state legislative races for MNEA recommended candidates.
- Ferg-Flor just sent three incumbent school board members packing and got all three of their recommended candidates into office by spending \$5,000 on mailings and materials and recruiting 30+ members to volunteer at phone banks, canvasses and at the polls.





RNEA's PAC goals

The numbers

- Currently, RNEA only has 20 members on PAC Payroll deduction.
- 100 payroll deductions. We already had 20 join last spring. That leaves us 80 more to find. \$1 a paycheck is only \$24 a year.
- 400 PAC Check contributors. We have four already. \$10 already exists in the dues you paying. It is waiting for your permission to divert it to the PAC. All you have to do is complete a PAC Check form.
- 1 education advocate for each voting district in the district.
- 26 MNEA RA representatives for 1,392 members, a voting block second in size only to SSD. We need more people to be the voice of RNEA at the MNEA Representative Assemblies.

