



April 4, 2008

Contents:

- Administrator Openings
- Rural Update (Mary Kusler - AASA)
- Interlocal Purchasing Program (TIPS)
- VIRCO, Inc. (attachment)
- Wanting to Purchase a Kiln
- **Legislative Alert -- HJR 41**
- **Annual Election of MARE Executive Board Members**
- **New Tax Rule Affects School Employees**
- School Board Training Schedule
- Future Teacher Scholarships available
- Grant Opportunities
- Articles of Interest
- Quote of the Week

Administrator Openings: The following list of openings are listed on the MARE website including contact information.

**[MARE Home Page \(moare.com\)](http://moare.com)>>>>[Services](#)>>>>[Vacancies or Listings](#)
ALSO links on front page of the MARE Website Home Page**

School District	Position	Application Deadline
St. Joseph School District	Dir. of Special Services	Open Until Filled
Midway R-I	Dir. of Special Services	Open Until Filled
Midway R-I	K-12 Vocal Music Instructor	Open Until Filled
Midway R-I	9-12 English/Drama Instructor	Open Until Filled
Midway R-I	K-6 Elementary Principal	Open Until Filled
Macon Co. R-I	Area Vocational School Dir.	Open Until Filled
Tipton R-VI	7-12 Principal	April 11, 2008
Paris R-II	Superintendent	April 4, 2008
Junction Hill C-12	Superintendent	Open Until Filled
Doniphan R-I	Assist H.S. Principal	April 8, 2008
North Shelby	7-12 Principal	Open Until Filled
Eldon R-I	Superintendent	April 25, 2008

MARE will post your administrator openings on the website and in the MARE Focus at not cost. Just give us a call at (660) 747-8050 or email: rpatrick@moare.com.

[Click for link to form](#)

If the school district is conducting the search for the open position, MARE has available labels (\$10.00) with Missouri School District addresses. We also can provide a set of sample interview questions (no cost) upon request.

[Rural Update: \(Provided by Mary Kusler -- AASA\)](#)

[New Movement by Congress to Prevent Medicaid Cuts](#)

A positive development has come about in the fight to prevent the elimination of school-based Medicaid claiming. Reps. John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Tim Murphy (R-PA) introduced HR 5163, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. This bill would extend all of the existing moratoria, including school-based Medicaid claiming, until April 1, 2009.

HR 5613 is a critical piece of legislation and every representative should sign on in support. PLEASE push your member of Congress to get on record and support this piece of legislation by cosponsoring it. This is the clearest way to show strong support in Congress for school-based Medicaid Claiming.

It is expected that Sen. Rockefeller (D-W.V.) will introduce a Senate version of this legislation in early April.

[Free Resources Available from the National Endowment for the Humanities](#)

The National Endowment for the Humanities' new *Picturing America* initiative provides an innovative way for citizens of all ages to explore the history and character of America through some of our nation's greatest works of art. *Picturing America* is a free resource that can be readily used in every classroom and public library in the country.

Through *Picturing America* each school district will receive: a set of 40 high-quality reproductions (approximately 24" x 36") of American art and a teachers resource book. Detailed instructions and an online application are available through April 15 at the Picturing America website: <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/>

[New Federal Education Funding Website: Your Input Needed!!](#)

The Federal Education Budget Project, sponsored by the New America Foundation, has created a new website to not only inform educators and the public about federal education funding, but also to provide early district-by-district estimates of Title I and IDEA allocations. You can use the website to look up information state-by-state, or even district-by-district. This system will also allow you to compare your districts to those around you. For additional information go to: http://www.newamerica.net/programs/education_policy/federal_education_budget_project#programtabs-3

[Interlocal Purchasing Program \(TIPS\)](#)

The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) is sponsored by the Region VIII Education Service Center located in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. **This program is being marketed in Missouri School Districts by the Missouri Association of Rural Education.** About 80 Missouri districts are part of this purchasing program for your purchase of products/services. If you have not become a member, it is very easy to do. Please contact the MARE office for additional details. As your district

begins the process of placing orders for the next school year, please keep this program in mind. Some of the vendors doing business with TIPS includes: BIZ Supplies, Carolina Biological, Carrier Corp, Highsmith, KLC Video Security, MICO Industrial Corp, New System Carpet and Custodial Supplies (MO Company), Ramtech Buildings, SKC Communication, Xerox Corporation and **VIRCO, Inc** to name a few. Purchases made through any of the TIPS Vendors not only saves you money but also supports the services of MARE. This provides an excellent opportunity to help in construction programs your district may be getting ready to start. If you have questions about any of the other vendors, please contact MARE's Executive Director)

[VIRCO, Inc.](#)

School Districts that may be looking to purchase furniture for the next school year are encouraged to consider VIRCO, Inc. VIRCO's instructional furniture offering includes tables, chairs, storage equipment for offices, classrooms, auditoriums, libraries, etc. The VIRCO representative, that attended the MARE Conference, has asked that an attachment be included in this Focus to highlight some of the new furniture lines. The contact information is:

Adam Craddock
Tel: (816) 265-0361
Cell: (816) 645-2429
Voice: (800) 822-6692 ext. 1529
Email: AdamCraddock@virco.com

[Wanting to Purchase:](#)

Lisa Brooke with the Braymer C-4 School District is looking to purchase an **Electric Kiln**. Lisa may be reached at (660) 645-2284 or lisabr2@yahoo.com.

[Legislative Alert:](#)

HJR 41 - similar to last year's HJR 1 - was 3rd read and passed in the House on April 3, 2008. Not unlike last year's HJR 1, HJR 41 would create a chilling effect on the ability of Missourians to bring lawsuits against local and state governments. It would deny courts their rightful role in protecting civil liberties and individual rights afforded to all Missourians. For a summary of the bill:
<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/bilsum/commit/sHJR41C.htm>
Please contact your Representative and Senator and urging them to reject this measure!!

ANNUAL ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Missouri Association of Rural Education Executive Board Members shall serve two-year terms and are eligible for re-election. Elections or appointments shall be scheduled by the executive board with new executive board members taking office effective July 1, which is the beginning of the new fiscal year, and seated at the summer board meeting.

Members to be elected in **even** numbered years (2008) are:

Five (5) members, one from each of the determined regions of the state: B, D, F, H, and J

One (1) member from region "G" to complete one-year un-expired term (due to resignation).

One (1) member from the board of education whose school is a member of MARE. (One position for a one-year un-expired term.)

REGIONAL OFFICERS

Interested Candidates may file, in writing, with the Executive Directors office, or rpatrick@moare.com. All Regional Candidates' names will be listed on a ballot in the order received and mailed to the member schools in the counties making up that particular region. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected to a two-year term.

Mr. Yancy Poorman of the North St. Francois Co. R-I School District is completing two-year term in **Region "B"**.

Mrs. Geanine Bloch of the Stoutland R-II School District is completing two-year term in **Region "D"**.

Mrs. Joan Twidwell of the La Monte R-IV School District is completing a two-year term in **Region "F"**.

Mr. Larry Flanagan of the Elsberry R-II School District is completing a two-year term in **Region "H"**.

Dr. Francis Moran of the North Platte Co. R-I School District is completing a two-year term in **Region "J"**.

All are eligible for re-election with the exception of Region D and Region J representatives who will be retiring at the end of the current school year.

Candidates are being accepted to complete a one-year un-expired term representing Region "G".

OTHER OFFICERS

Interested Candidates may file, in writing, with the Executive Directors office, or rpatrick@moare.com. The ten board members representing the ten determined regions of the state will then meet as a selection committee and select a member for each position from the list of declared candidates.

Candidates are being accepted to complete a one-year un-expired term representing a board of education member (at large) on the executive board.

The MARE Executive Director has set the deadline for Interested Candidates to file for office on the MARE Board of Directors for **Friday, May 2, 2008, 12:00 noon.**

Representative Regions by Counties

Region B: Counties of – Gasconade, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Iron, Reynolds, St. Francis, Ste Genevieve, Jefferson, St. Louis

Region D: Counties of – Laclede, Camden, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski, Dent.

Region F: Counties of – Jackson, Cass, Lafayette, Johnson, Henry, Saline, Pettis, Cooper, Moniteau, Morgan.

Region G: Counties of – Wright, Douglas, Ozark, Texas, Howell, Shannon, Oregon, Carter, Ripley.

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

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

New Tax Rule Affects School Employees: (MSTA News)

Recent decisions by the federal Internal Revenue Service may have a big impact on your taxes. The IRS recently issued rules relating to the deferral of salary from one year to the next. Under the new rules, if school employees work less than 12 months a year but receive payment of their

salary over a 12-month period, the IRS now labels it as a deferred payment to the next tax year. Deferred compensation is subject to additional taxes, including a 20-percent income tax unless the taxpayer files an "election."

The new rules take effect for the 2008-09 school year. Before the first day of service in the upcoming school year, school employees must inform the district how they want their paychecks. They can still elect to be paid over a 12-month period but must make the election in writing. Districts are not required to offer a 12-month option. Once an employee makes an election, it is irrevocable for that school year. The election can be for a single school year or for all subsequent school years until changed.

For districts that require employees to be paid over 12 months, no election by the employee is required, but the district must create a specific notice of how 10-month employees are to be paid. The notice must contain the dates or schedule on which the school employees are to be paid and the total number of payments.

Who this impacts:

- Any school-district employee who works less than 12 months per year but is paid over 12 months, even if the employee can choose to take a lump-sum payment in June. Only the 12 month payment option creates the deferred-compensation arrangement.
- All employees in a district that allows employees to receive an "early" or "extra" paycheck in December that would normally be paid in January.

What you need to do before you begin work in 2008-09:

- Contact your superintendent or HR department for the appropriate election form.
- Complete the form and return it to your school district prior to your first day of work.
- If the district requires that an individual be paid over a 12 month period, may sure that a written description of how 10-month employees are to be paid. This notice should be distributed to all 10-month employees prior to the start of the 2008-09 school year.

[MARE Board Training Schedule:](#)

Location	Dates	Times
Chateau on the Lake Branson, MO (K-8 Conference)	April 16, 2008 April 17, 2008 April 18, 2008	6:00 – 10:00 p.m. 8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
Additional Spring dates will be available next week!!		

[Scholarship Applications Available:](#)

- Applications are now being taken for the Rural Missouri Scholarship provided by the Missouri Association of Rural Education. Only junior and senior-level college students qualify as scholarship recipients. Copies of the information and application have been sent to the teacher education departments in all Missouri colleges/universities. The goal of this scholarship is:
 - Attracting quality teachers to rural school districts
 - Improving the economic development of rural communities by upgrading the education system to provide well-educated, skilled work force
 - Attract intelligent, energetic individuals to furnish leadership skills in rural communities. **(Deadline: April 23, 2008)**

The application may also be downloaded from the MARE website or by contacting the MARE office.

- The Jack J. Isgur Foundation (1st time applicants and prior year applicants) scholarship is now available. This foundation provides funds for college students majoring in education at four-year colleges. The foundation provides funds to students who have indicated a desire to teach in the humanities (e.g., literature, dance, fine arts, music, art or poetry) at the elementary and middle school levels. The Foundation prefers to provide funds to students entering their junior (or subsequent) year of college, who are interested in teaching within the State of Missouri in rural rather than metropolitan districts. (Please contact the MARE office if would like to receive a copy(s) of the application.) **(Deadline: April 15, 2008)**

Grant Opportunities:

Project Ignition: Deadline May 16, 2008

Project Ignition invites students to create innovative safe driving awareness projects. Sponsored by State Farm and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council, Project Ignition provides student in grades 9 through 12 and their teachers with the opportunity to work together to address the issue of teen driver safety.

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15012098/prjctignit>

Target Stores Grants Program: Deadline May 31, 2008

Target Corporation's (<http://www.target.com/>) Local Store Grants provide funding support to "Target" communities in the areas of arts, reading programs, and family violence prevention.

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15012103/target>

Library of Congress' Teaching with Primary Sources Program: Deadline May 30, 2008

The Library of Congress' (<http://www.loc.gov/>) educational outreach program, Teaching with Primary Sources, is expanding across the United States. The mission of the Teaching with Primary Sources program is to build a consortium that fosters collaborations between the Library of Congress and the educational community to increase instructional use of Library of Congress digital primary sources within K-12 classrooms.

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15012101/waynesburgedu>

Articles of Interest:

Small Class Sizes Help, Regardless of Instructional Quality

According to a multi-national study from the American Educational Research Association, smaller class sizes help students, and in many cases improvements come in spite of what teachers do. A recent article in USA Today said that, while "two of the four studies were inconclusive, some of the results point to promising trends." To read more about what the research says about class size, visit: http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-03-24-small-classes_N.htm?csp-34

RAISE TEACHER STARTING SALARIES, ATTRACT BETTER TEACHERS?

The United States lags behind other countries in teacher compensation, which in turn adversely affects the ability to recruit high-quality candidates. A recent study by McKinsey and Company argues that good starting salaries are an essential ingredient for getting the right people to become teachers, writes Joydeep Roy for Economic Snapshots. Though people who enter teaching often cite a number of reasons for doing so, surveys find that unless school systems offer salaries commensurate with other career opportunities, the teaching profession will not

appeal to attractive candidates. The McKinsey study shows that starting salaries in the United States are much lower than in other Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. In fact, starting salaries for teachers in the United States are only 81 percent of per capita gross domestic product, while all other OECD countries pay their teachers a significantly higher relative starting wage.

http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/webfeatures_snapshots_20080402

Kid's Board Games:

A new study from Carnegie Mellon University suggests that certain board games may provide an inexpensive way to help teach children about mathematics. To read more about this study visit:

<http://www.post-gazette.com:80/pg/08086/867918-298.stm>

Quote for the Week:

"Tomorrow's illiterate will not be the man who can't read, he will be the man who has not learned how to learn."

-Herbert Gerjuoy (psychologist)

Have a great weekend!!!

Ray V. Patrick, EdD.
Executive Director
Missouri Association of Rural Education
201 South Holden St. Suite 202
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093
(660) 747-8050
Fax: (660) 747-8160
Email: rpatrick@moare.com

If you are the intended recipient but do not wish to receive communications through this medium, please so advise the sender immediately by a reply and your email address.