



MARE Focus

AUGUST 19, 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
- ED TECH PARTNERS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

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.**

MARE Superintendent Search Services - One of the services that MARE provides is a professional, yet affordable Superintendent or Building Administrator Search Service Program. Our team of Search Consultants includes Dr. Mike Jinks, Dr. Paul Ricker and Dr. Craig Eaton. If you are retiring or moving to another location, we would welcome the opportunity to put together a search proposal for your school district. More information regarding this program can be found on our website at www.moare.com.

Medicaid Alert

As of August 1st, over 90,000 children in Missouri have lost their health insurance coverage through MO HealthNet. Many families are not even aware that their coverage has been terminated. Yes we are seeing this and have been for the past year but it is continuing to worsen with students who were previously eligible with MO HealthNet switching to ineligible due to paperwork/processing issues.

We are currently running eligibility more frequently than normal due to this and advocating to our schools that they need to be informing parents if they notice kids who were previously eligible switching to ineligible.

This matters to schools and school-based health programs for five critical reasons:

- 1) school attendance drives school revenue
- 2) achievement suffers when students are sick
- 3) Medicaid revenues are critical for schools and programs

4) sick children spread disease to other children and staff

5) lack of MO HealthNet coverage may affect students' ability to enroll

We have created documents that you may share with your staff, partners, and your families. one is a Medicaid Alert document that can be printed, made into posters and shared school or program wide. We need to spread the word and work together to help our families re-enroll or maintain their coverage.

Here are the documents:

[MEDICAID ALERT - as of 8-9 FINAL.pdf](#)

[MEMO Medicaid general.docx](#)

[Call to Action Final .docx](#) This document is specific for schools on how they may support.

MARE Welcomes Learning Blade as New Associate Member

MARE is very pleased to welcome Learning Blade as our newest Associate Member. See below for more information on this company and the amazing product that they provide "free"!

[Lesson Outline](#)

MO

Introduce Students to STEM and Computer Science Careers through Learning Blade®

Start the school year right by exposing students to high-demand STEM and Computer Science careers. At no charge, use Learning Blade's 200+ hours of interactive STEM and Computer Science activities to show your students how these careers and technologies solve human-centered problems. Over 400 online interactive student-ready lessons plus teacher resources for hands-on projects, design thinking, 3D printing, coding, career videos and parent discussions are all offered through Learning Blade.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has [provided](#) Learning Blade® to offer middle school students more opportunities for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and Computer Science (CS) career awareness. [Link](#) to the DESE Memo about Learning Blade:

Receive your school's free account by registering at www.LearningBlade.com/MO.

Contact info@learningblade.com to request a webinar training or ask questions.

Start the school year right by exposing students to high-demand STEM and Computer Science careers. At no charge, use Learning Blade's 200+ hours of interactive STEM and Computer Science activities to show your students how these careers and technologies solve human-centered problems. Over 400 online interactive student-ready lessons plus teacher resources for hands-on projects, design thinking, 3D printing, coding, career videos and parent discussions are all offered through Learning Blade.

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Contact info@learningblade.com to request a webinar training or ask questions.

Interactive Career Awareness Toolbox



MARE Welcomes MSU Springfield

MARE is happy to welcome MSU-Springfield Department of Counseling, Leadership and Special Education as our newest Associate Member.

Missouri State University has more educators working in Missouri schools than any other institution. Since our founding in 1905 as the Fourth District Normal School, our institution's primary purpose was preparing educators for our public school systems. We currently have graduates teaching in all 114 of Missouri's counties and have more than twice the number of graduates working in rural schools as compared to any other Missouri institution. Missouri State has a strong commitment to rural schools; our Chancellor of the Missouri State-West Plains campus Dr. Shirley Lawler even serves on the MARE Executive Board. To serve rural educators, now all of Missouri State's classes in our Educational Administration graduate programs are streamed live so that teachers in every corner of Missouri can take classes from their own classroom or home at half the cost of other institutions. Because we know rural schools often struggle to find special education teachers, we've also started a new Special Education Alternative Certification Program that allows for provisional certification in special education for candidates who currently hold a Bachelor's degree in another area. In this program a district can actually hire candidates as a K-12 mild-moderate special ed teacher, while the teacher works on

certification and a Master's degree. We are happy to join with the Missouri Association of Rural Education in serving the families and communities of rural Missouri.

Website <https://education.missouristate.edu/clse/>

Contact Person For Live Streaming Educational Administration Program: Dr. Kim Finch KimFinch@MissouriState.edu

Contact Person For Alternative Special Education Certification Program: Dr. Paris DePaepe

ParisDePaepe@MissouriState.edu

Twitter: @MoStateEdLeader

Logo Attached

Jon S. Turner, Ed. D.

Assistant Professor of Ed. Leadership

Missouri State University

Park Central Office Building 133

901 S. National Avenue

Springfield, Missouri 65897

(417) 836-6518

JonSTurner@MissouriState.edu

New or Returning Member School Districts – MARE would like to welcome the following school districts as either new or returning MARE members: **St. Joseph, Spokane R-VII, Greenfield R-IV, Strafford R-VI, Calhoun R-VIII, Risco R-II, Harrisonville R-IX and Nevada R-V**. If you are not sure of your MARE member status or would like more information on becoming a MARE member school district, I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

MARE Scholarship Information – MARE awarded a total of 40 scholarships last year including 15 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors and 25 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament and support from our awesome organization sponsors are the primary sources of funding for scholarships. Due to the generous support of many of our Associate Members and other donors, we hope to award even more scholarships in 2020. Information will be sent out in December for both of these opportunities! **Please check out our website for an article on our 2019-2020 College Scholarship Recipients who were recently recognized at the Summer MARE Executive Board Meeting on Saturday, July 27th!**

2019 MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament

The 2019 MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament was held on Tuesday, July 30th at the beautiful Osage National Golf Courses in Lake Ozark, Missouri. This year we had twenty-five (25) teams and 97 golfers participating in the event. The weather was amazing and the entire crew at Osage National was awesome. Proceeds from the event are dedicated to providing scholarship funds for students who plan to become teachers and return to rural Missouri schools to teach. This past year, through the generous support of our corporate sponsors, hole sponsors, players and other patrons MARE was able to award \$27,500.00 in scholarships. Our plan is to grow the financial support for the tournament so that we can offer even more scholarships next year. Click on the photo link (right) to see a scrolling list of team photos.

Corporate sponsors for this year included the following:

CTS Group - Founding Collaborator Sponsor - \$5,000.00

L.J. Hart & Company - Gold Flight Sponsor - \$3,000.00

American Fidelity Assurance Company - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00

Forrest T. Jones & Company - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00

Guin Mundorf, LLC - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00

MEUHP - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00

Mickes O'Toole, LLC - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00

Missouri Education Health Group - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00

Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C. - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00

Kemper Health - Bronze Level Sponsor - \$1,000.00

Our Hole Sponsors (\$250.00 each) this year included: Inter-State Studio, EdCounsel, LLC, MRTA, MUSIC, EduOptimus, George K. Baum & Company, Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C., Central States Bus Sales, Reynolds Construction & Commercial Roofing Company, Pro Energy Solutions, NREA, The Garland Company, GRP Mechanical, **Gilmore & Bell, P.C., Wagner Portrait Group, Mike Keith Insurance, Apple Bus Company, Thrive Nutrition Services and McKinstry.**

Additional prize support was provided by FTJ (KC Royals Tickets), L.J. Hart & Company (St. Louis Cardinal Tickets) and Osage National Golf Course (2 Foursome with Cart Golf Packages).

A Flight Winner - Mike Nagel, Brian Sherrow & Troy Clawson

A Flight Runner Up - Jim Roe, Jerry Premer, Tim Judd & Jason Irwin

B Flight Winner - Brandon Harding, Marc Spunaugle, Scott Gemes & Matt Unger

B Flight Runner Up - Neil Branham, Matt Robinson, Shannon Nolte & Bryan Copple

C Flight Winner - Drew Beaugard, John French, John Mulford & Jeff Haug

C Flight Runner Up - Todd McCrackin, Danny Dewitt, Darin Carter & Chris Gold

Closest to the Hole Winners - #4 River Course - Jerry Premer, #7 River Course - Tom Gotsch, #2 Mountain Course - Eric Hoyt and #4 Mountain Course - Tom Hibbs

Long Drive Winner - #9 River Course - Eric White

Thank you to all of our golfers for supporting this Scholarship Golf Tournament!!!!

Please make plans to join us next year for our 10th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament. Date and location TBA soon!

Missouri Department of Economic Development Energy Loan Program

The Missouri Department of Economic Development is now accepting applications for low-interest energy improvement loans to public K-12 schools, public colleges and

universities, local governments, public water and wastewater treatment facilities and not-for-profit hospitals. The Department is making over \$4 million dollars available for these entities to complete energy-efficiency and renewable energy projects throughout the State of Missouri.

Included below are a number of links to various documents that provide details on this amazing program. Many rural schools across Missouri have taken advantage of this program in the past. I would invite you to check out the various links and go to the Department of Economic Development's website at www.ded.mo.gov to find out more information and watch some awesome video testimonials from organizations that have utilized this program.

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.

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

NEW Superintendent Boot Camp

The date for the 2019 New Superintendent Boot Camp has been set. This year's Boot Camp will be on September 10, 2019 at the Des Peres Lodge in St. Louis. Topics will include; Hiring Employees, Investigating Employee Misconduct, Staff Discipline and Dismissals, Competitive Bidding and Contracting Issues, Student Discipline and Special Education.

The Boot Camp is provided free of charge and lunch will be provided.

Register today to secure your spot!

2019 MARE/MO K-8 Conference - The 2019 conference is set for Wednesday, October 23rd through Friday, October 25th at The Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri. More information will be posted soon regarding the Conference Schedule, General Sessions, Small Group Sessions, etc. Please make plans now to join us!

Did you Know - MARE was formed in 1987 by a group of Superintendents and other education leaders who wanted to make sure that the voice of rural education was heard! MARE now boasts 381 member school districts across the state! For more information about MARE, contact Kevin Sandlin at (660) 747-8050!

News from NREA - The Rural Educator

To boost workforce, medical schools try to sell rural life

August 10th, 2019

<https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/breakingnews/story/2019/aug/10/boost-workforce-medical-schools-try-sell-rura/500906/>

The Candidates and Rural Policy: A Quick Guide

Here's a roundup of the candidates' positions on rural policy and a sampling of their statements about rural. <https://www.dailyyonder.com/the-candidates-and-rural-policy-a-quick-guide/2019/08/12/>

<https://medium.com/@teamwarren/my-plan-to-invest-in-rural-america-94e3a80d88aa>

Have Democrats abandoned rural American voters?

MARTY OLSEN

<https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/Column/2019/08/13/Why-did-Democrats-abandon-rural-American-voters.html>

LET'S GO OUT WEST... THE CHALLENGES OF RURAL EDUCATION by Larry Jacobs

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/edutalk/2019/08/14/lets-go-out-west-the-challenges-of-rural-education>

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Announces New \$5 Million Funding Opportunity for Expanding Effective School Practices to Support the Whole Child

<https://chanzuckerberg.com/newsroom/5-million-funding-opportunity-to-support-the-whole-child/>

Outstanding Rural Education Awards - MARE is accepting nominations for the following awards to be presented as part of the MARE/MO K-8 Conference on Thursday, October 24th:

Outstanding Rural Support Staff Member Award

Outstanding Rural Teacher Award

Outstanding Rural Administrator Award

Outstanding Rural School District Award

For more information on these awards, please access the [Nomination Form](#) or go to the MARE website at www.moare.com. **The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, October 4th by 3:00 p.m!**

Quote of the Week

"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn."

Unknown

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