



# MARE Focus

DECEMBER 10, 2018

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.

Pro-Energy Solutions

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

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

- Ray, Jerry and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! In January of 2019, MARE will be celebrating its 32nd anniversary of promoting, protecting and advocating for rural school districts as an organization. We are truly fortunate to be able to count 373 of the school districts across the state as MARE members.

## MARE Superintendent Searches

Closed Superintendent Searches: Central R-III, West St. Francois Co. R-IV, Scott County R-IV and Hermitage R-IV

## Other Vacancies

- We have the following additional vacancies posted on our site:

- Richland R-IV School District - Superintendent of Schools for 2019-2020
- Bradleyville R-I School District - Superintendent of Schools for 2019-2020
- Gasconade County R-II School District - High School Principal for 2019-2020
- West St. Francois Co. R-IV - High School Principal, Middle School Principal and Elementary Principals for 2019-2020

## 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](http://www.moare.com).

## MARE Associate Directory - Coming Soon!

- One of the projects that we are working on is to create a MARE Associate Directory that will provide information for our member school districts. I am requesting that all of our Associate Members send me an email containing a paragraph that highlights your organization, including contact information, a link to your website and a picture and or logo to include. The directory will be organized by services or products provided.

## School Board Training Dates

- MARE will be providing a number of required Board Training sessions around the state after the April elections. Be sure to check out our website for more information soon concerning these regional events.

To register, go online ([www.moare.com](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.

**2018-2019 Missouri School Directories** - We have some additional directories available for purchase at \$15.00 each. These make wonderful Christmas presents for secretaries, bookkeepers, administrators and athletic directors. Please contact me if you are interested in purchasing a copy!

**MARE Associate Members** - If you are in need of products or services, please give one of our Associate Members a call. Please access this link for a complete listing of current [Associate Members](#).

### **Quote of the Week**

**"All things good to know are difficult to learn." Greek proverb**

**Save the Date** - Make plans now to participate in the 9th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament to be held at Osage National Golf Course on Tuesday, July 30, 2019! More information will be provided next Spring!

**New Associate Members** - Please join me in welcoming the following to MARE as Associate Members:

Software Unlimited, Inc.  
Missouri Propane Education & Research Council  
Web Schools Tools

**MARE Board Elections** - MARE will be electing Regional Executive Board Members in Regions A, C, E, G and I this year. Additionally, one member from a MARE member school district’s Board of Education and a Higher Education representative will be selected. Board members will be announced at the May 6th Executive Board Meeting. Terms for newly elected or appointed members begin on July 1, 2019.

**Region A** Counties of: Bates, Vernon, Barton, Cedar, St. Clair, Benton, Hickory, Polk, and Dallas

**Region C** Counties of: Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Barry, Lawrence, Dade, Greene, Christian, Stone, Taney, and Webster

**Region E** Counties of: Dunklin, Pemiscot, New Madrid, Mississippi, Scott, Stoddard, Gape Girardeau, Bollinger, Madison, Wayne and Butler

**Region G** Counties of: Wright, Douglas, Ozark, Texas, Howell, Shannon, Oregon, Carter, and Ripley

**Region I** Counties of: Mercer, Grundy, Livingston, Carroll, Putnam, Sullivan, Linn, Chariton, Schuyler, Adair, Macon, Randolph, Howard and Boone

**Legal Hotline Service** – One of the greatest benefits that MARE member school districts receive is the opportunity to participate in the Legal Hotline Consultation Service. This service allows for unlimited telephone consultations with a school attorney to get

answers to minor legal issues. The following terms pertain to this MARE member service:

- Annual MARE membership must be current.
- **The district staff making the call must inform the attorney that this is a MARE member school district phone call.**
- The service provided must be of an advisory nature.
- The service does not include the following:
  - 1) In-depth research
  - 2) Preparation of documents
  - 3) Review of documents mailed or faxed to the firm
  - 4) Written opinions
  - 5) Any consultation in conjunction with the firm's current representation of the district.

Participating firms include – EdCounsel, Guin Mundorf, Mickes O'Toole and Thomeczek & Brink (This firm sets an annual limit of two free legal consults regarding special education issues.) If you have questions regarding this service, please give me a call.

**2019 Boys State Information** - The American Legion Boys State of Missouri is an eight-day hands on experience in the operation and fundamentals of government. Missouri Boys State draws together the best and brightest high school juniors to help lead them down the path of individual success and leadership through "doing," not just learning. 2019 Boys State will be held June 15th through June 22nd at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. For more information, check out the website at [www.moboysstate.org](http://www.moboysstate.org).

**MARE Scholarship Programs** – The Missouri Association of Rural Education sponsors two scholarship programs. The first program is open to any Missouri college junior or senior who is majoring in education. Application materials will be sent to all Missouri colleges that have an education program in early December. The second program is open to seniors of MARE member school districts. Eligible students must be planning to pursue a degree in education. Information regarding this program will be sent out to all High School Counselors in early December. Please access the information below:

[..\Scholarship Folder\Guidelines & Application for College Scholarships.doc](#)

[..\Scholarship Folder\Guidelines & Application for Senior Scholarships.doc](#)

**Did You Know?** - The Missouri Association of Rural Education currently has 373 member schools districts ranging in size from 19 to 6,434 students. In January, MARE will be celebrating 32 years of promoting, providing services for and protecting rural school districts across this great state. **If you would like more information about MARE, please reach out to me!**

## **Can Innovative Rural Schools Stem the Urban Bleed?**

How schools and colleges in middle America are being redesigned to keep their young, skilled graduates employed — and local.

<https://www.the74million.org/article/can-innovative-rural-schools-stem-the-urban-bleed-and-reseed-middle-america/>

## **Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries**

### **Grant Info:**

**Application:** The [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) for FY 2019](#) (PDF 384KB) is now available.

**Grant Amount:** \$10,000–\$50,000

**Grant Period:** Two years

### **Program Overview:**

Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries (APP) is a special initiative of the National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program. The goal of this initiative is to support projects that strengthen the ability of small and rural libraries and archives to serve their communities. IMLS invites applications that focus on the following topics:

- transforming school library practice
- community memory
- digital inclusion

**Cost Share Requirement:** No cost sharing is required for APP.

**Eligibility:** See the Notice of Funding Opportunity for eligibility criteria for this program.

### **Program Contacts:**

If you have questions, we encourage you to contact the staff member listed under the category that best fits your project:

Community Memory	Digital Inclusion	School Libraries
Sarah Fuller Senior Program Officer <a href="mailto:sfuller@imls.gov">sfuller@imls.gov</a> 202-653-4783	James Neal Senior Program Officer <a href="mailto:jneal@imls.gov">jneal@imls.gov</a> 202-653-4740	Tim Carrigan Senior Program Officer <a href="mailto:tcarrigan@imls.gov">tcarrigan@imls.gov</a> <a href="tel:202-653-4639">v</a> 202-653-4639

### **Webinars:**

We invite you to participate in a pre-application webinar to learn more about the initiative and as questions.

- [Tuesday, December 18, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern](#)
- [Wednesday, January 9, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern](#)

Learn more about accessing IMLS webinars at the bottom of the [Webinars](#) page of the IMLS website.

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[www.philanthropyworx.com](http://www.philanthropyworx.com)

Website: [www.campbell.edu/rpahttps://blogs.campbell.edu/category/research-health/](https://blogs.campbell.edu/category/research-health/)

**New Associate Member - Web School Tools** - MARE is pleased to welcome Web School Tools as our newest Associate Member.

Web School Tools is designed by educators for use by educators. Our goal is to design user friendly software that is efficient and effective. We offer customized data solutions for schools. Our products include: Paperless Board Meetings, Podium Interactive Display Boards, GradeWatch Missing Assignment Tracking, Track and Field Meet Management, Online Forms, Curriculum Mapping, Testing Software, Data Team Management, and more.

For more information on this member, please check out their website at:

<http://www.webschooltools.com/>

### **Holiday Article - Submitted by Dr. Anne Billington**

#### School Holidays Are Not Always Happy Times for Everyone

When a student arrives at school and gets off of the bus in the morning, 80% of the time one can recognize the emotional and physical well-being of the students. In a rural school, that is one of the perks. As a school administrator, I know all of my students by name, their background, and what makes them happy or sad. I can tell if a student is hungry, if they need their hair or teeth brushed, or if they just need a hug!

Those who are not in the educational profession may think teachers and administrators have it easy. Some will make reference to the summers and holidays off. Well, that is a nice perk, but the emotional work is 365 days a year. As educators, we are compassionate by nature. Therefore, all of the students in the school are like our own children. We are constantly worrying about them. Many times we spend more time with the students that we do our own children at home.

As we enter into the holiday season, let's remember it is not always a happy time for our students. Some students hate to hear the last school bell ring before break. To them, the bells mean they might be home alone, cold, hungry, or in danger.

It is our duty as educators to reach out to the students who we are concerned about. If a student needs food, send food home. If a student needs a warm coat or gloves, find a way to get them provided. If you are concerned about the lack of activities for a child, send home laptop, coloring books, reading and math games, or even websites to use on cell phone. It is hard to believe, but even the most impoverished people have access to cell phones or electronic devices.

So, the next time you are sending students away for a break or even a weekend, please let them know you care about them. Make that special connection with all students. Try to set

them up for a safe and healthy break. You may not be able to eliminate all of their stress or discomfort, but you can let them know you care, provide them with resources, and give them advice for dealing with emergencies.

I am wishing everyone in the educational world a Happy Holiday season. Enjoy your families, your friends, your resources, and your blessings.

### **MARE Organization Staff**

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