



# Missouri Association of Rural Education

Our goal is to work in cooperation with all other education organizations, but our programs and effort will be designed to meet the specific needs of schools in rural Missouri.

Please copy and share this newsletter with board members and other school staff.

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## MARE 2003-2004 Calendar

**August 1-2, 2003**  
Summer Board/Planning Meeting  
Holiday Inn  
Lake Ozark, MO

**October 6, 2003**  
Board Meeting\*\*  
10:00 am  
Jefferson City, MO

**October 22-25, 2003**  
National Rural Education  
Convention  
Kearney, Nebraska

**December 1, 2003**  
Board Meeting\*\*  
10:00 am  
Jefferson City, MO

**February 27-28, 2004**  
Annual MARE Conference  
Board/Membership Meeting  
Holiday Inn  
Lake Ozark, MO

**April 5, 2004**  
Board Meeting\*\*  
10:00 am  
Jefferson City, MO

**May 3, 2004**  
Board Meeting\*\*  
10:00 am  
Jefferson City, MO

\*\* Board Meetings are held at the PSRS Building in Jefferson City, MO

### Executive Director Report Dr. Ray V. Patrick

*"Read my lips; no new taxes!"* The first President George Bush used this cliché during his 1988 presidential campaign as an appeal to the nation to control costs. It would seem that this was the theme of this year's regular and two special sessions of Missouri's General Assembly. The real concern is that this most likely will be the theme for the next yearly session as well. There is a big difference between playing the role of public service and of politics. It is a tragedy that the children of our state seem to be caught in the middle of a political game.

The current period of fiscal instability shows little sign of abatement. The conclusion can be drawn that some districts will weather the fiscal crisis better than others. A well planned budget reduction plan will not alleviate the pain. Our priority has to be educating all of the children of this state. We must continue to support the high standards set for the education of the children and the retention and attraction of good quality staff. The people in each community must be provided accurate information on the adjustments that have been made to the schools programs because of fund reductions. The residents and in particular the parents must become involved in the political process by sending the message to our government officials that their actions will be remembered at the ballot box.

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The MARE Board of Directors met for their annual summer general/planning meeting. We welcomed five new members to the board. Jerry Parrett will represent Region C (Southwest Missouri), Geanine Bloch will represent Region D (South Central Missouri), Yancy Poorman will represent Region E (Southeast Missouri) and John Brinkley will represent Region I (North Central Missouri). Nelson Dinsmore of the Meadville School District is filling one of the two Board of Education member slots on the board.

The board had a busy two day schedule of conducting regular business as well as hearing reports from different groups/organizations. Steve Yoakum from PSRS gave a report on the current status of the Public School Retirement System. John Jones from MSTA gave a report on his take on the potential loss of funds to rural school districts. The board of directors approved the endorsement of two services to the MARE members: (1) Mark Iglehart from the Forrest T. Jones Insurance Co. -- Long Term Care Program and (2) Ted Ferguson from MGM/UnumProvident Educator Plans -- Group Disability Program.

In order to expand MARE's support of Missouri's rural school districts, the MARE Board approved an invitation to become part of the School Administrators Coalition (SAC). The members of this coalition are MASA, MAESP, MASSP, MoASBO, MSHSAA, MoCase and MARE. The group will fund a full time lobbyist to work at the State Capitol. Secondly, following a presentation by Tyler Laney and Lyle Rowland, MARE became the first statewide educational association to join the Committee for Educational Equality (CEE).

On Saturday morning, following the regular business meeting, the board recognized and awarded certificates to the 2003 Scholarship Winners. We were happy to have all seven recipients and their families as well as some of the individuals for whom the scholarships were named, present for this recognition.

As part of MARE's on going desire to be a service organization to the rural school districts of this state, a partnership is being developed between MARE and Cornerstone Energy. This program will provide member districts with attractive pricing alternatives, for the purchase of the districts natural gas requirements for the upcoming year. The MARE Board will act on this partnership at its October meeting. Information will be mailed to all member school districts for their consideration.

On behalf of the MARE Board of Directors and Staff, we want to thank you for your support of the organization. MARE will continue to work to recognize the needs and concerns unique to rural education. **MARE is us -- working together.** Have a great school year!

## Missouri Association of Rural Education

Officers and Board of Directors  
2003-2004

### Officers

*President:* Ken Spurgeon (Stockton R-I)  
*Vice President:* Ken Dudley (Meadville R-IV)  
*Secretary:* Charlotte Baker (Mid Buchanan Co. R-V)  
*Past President:* Burnell Crain (Miller Co. R-III)

### Regional Board Members

C: Jerry Parrett (Kirbyville R-VI)  
D: Geanine Bloch (Stoutland R\_II)  
E: Yancy Poorman (Senath-Hornersville C-8)  
F: Terry Beasley (Pettis Co. R-V)  
G: Stephen Cookson (Naylor R-II)  
H: Larry Flanagan (Elsberry R-II)  
I: John Brinkley (Linn Co. R-I)  
J: Francis Moran (North Platte Co. R-I)

### School Board

Wes Rutherford (Kingsville R-I)  
Nelson Dinsmore (Meadville R-IV)

### Higher Education/K-8 Schools

Dean Cone (Maplewood Community College)  
Chris Welch, K-8 School Districts (North Wood R-IV)

### Advisory

Larry J. Hart (L.J. Hart & Company)  
Audie Cline (Missouri State Teachers Association)  
Vick Hobbs (Missouri Distance Learning)

### Executive Director

Ray V. Patrick—*Executive Director*  
Phil Dorth—*Associate Director*

### Superintendency Search

The MARE organization is available to all school district throughout Missouri to facilitate superintendency searches. MARE prides itself in being able to help school districts locate and employ leaders in a very cost competitive manner.

School districts interested in more information about the superintendency search services should forward inquiries to:

#### MARE Superintendency Searches

**Dr. Frank Dean Cone**  
Metro North Mall  
400 NW Barry Road  
Suite 205, Office 108  
Kansas City, MO 64155-2730  
Office Phone: (816) 235-6632  
Email: dean.cone@kcmetro.edu  
Or cone@earthlink.net

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### *Save a Penny, Lose a School*

*Save a Penny, Lose a School: The Real Cost of Deferred Maintenance* is the second report in a series of policy briefs on rural education. This brief describes the problem of deferred maintenance for school facilities, especially from the perspective of small rural districts. It examines the extent, causes, and consequences of deferred maintenance as well as recommendations for policy, practice, and funding that can help correct this national problem. Single copies of the report are available *free of charge* by calling Garfield Gardner at (202) 955-7177. A PDF version can also be downloaded from the Rural Trust Web site at <http://www.ruraledu.org/docs/penny.htm>. (Taken from *Rural Policy Matters*, September, 2003 issue.)

(MARE along with other Associations/Organizations helped fund the a study dealing with Missouri Tax Policy and Educational Funding. This study was completed under the direction of Dr. Ed Robb of Columbia, MO. The following is the Executive Summary of the study.

**The Missouri Tax Structure  
And Education Funding:  
A Proposal for Reforms  
May, 2003**

Executive Summary

Both the Missouri State tax structure and the funding mechanisms for elementary and secondary education have undergone significant changes during the past three decades. The effects of the changes have many faceted.

With respect to the state tax structure, the results, both intended and otherwise have been:

1. an increased reliance on income taxes and less on sales and other sources of revenue,
2. a concerted effort to make the overall state tax structure more progressive,
3. a contraction in the total state tax base and an increase in the complexity of the tax system.

At the local level in Missouri, these changes have been:

1. a reduced reliance on property taxes and a shift to sales taxes for all types of funding - for both operating and capital expenditures,
2. an increased reliance on state revenues for educational funding and a concomitant increase in the complexity of the funding mechanism.

The scope of this study, the overall tax structure and education funding, is necessitated by the interaction and correlation between these two topics. Indeed, all the significant changes in the overall Missouri tax structure during the last 30 years have been directly, or indirectly, caused by changes in the method for funding elementary and secondary education.

While many of the changes have been necessitated by external events, in particular by legal or constitutional considerations, their overall result has been to place the future fiscal stability of the state in serious jeopardy. In order to remedy the many challenges that face Missouri, bold and innovative changes must be made in both the tax structure and the education funding mechanism. With respect to the state tax structure, the primary objectives should be simplification and the broadening of the overall tax base. These two changes alone would reverse the litany of poor fiscal choices the state has made over the past three decades. Secondly, any new or enhanced revenue sources should be chosen such that they offer long run revenue growth potential. This criterion is of special import given the revenue enhancements that have been proposed to remedy the state budgetary crisis, such as higher levies on tobacco products and increased corporation income taxes. It makes no sense whatsoever to enact new taxes that are doomed to fail as a viable source of future revenue. Such a policy will only perpetuate the current budget woes and necessitate even more draconian measures at a later date.

To this end, we offer the following recommendations for the state tax structure:

1. replace the current individual income tax with a flat-rate of 6.75%.
2. repeal the corporation income tax and replace the franchise tax with a new levy on all businesses.

Besides the additional \$2.8 billion in state revenues these changes would generate, they would also vastly simplify the overall tax structure and make Missouri much more competitive in attracting new investment and jobs. They would also permit the elimination of many of the failed tax incentive programs that have been enacted over the past twenty years in an attempt to lure business to Missouri. Finally, their enactment would generate significant administrative

savings for both the state and, more importantly, for Missouri tax payers.

The lion's share of this new revenue, \$2.5 billion, could then be used to create a new funding mechanism for elementary and secondary education. The need to replace the current foundation formula, which is operationally defunct, may be the single most pressing challenge that Missouri faces. Indeed, the formula will be changed by either the citizens of Missouri or, most certainly, by the courts. Given the debacle of court mandated desegregation, it would behoove the state to act promptly on this critical matter. To accomplish this objective, we offer the following recommendations:

1. eliminate property taxes as the primary basis for funding K-12 education and change the school funding mechanism to pure per pupil formula,
2. eliminate all state assessed property taxes as a revenue source for schools,
3. create a special fund for elementary & secondary education to provide for funding emergencies,
4. and cap all municipal and other property tax rates at their current levels.

Instead of the nearly incomprehensible current funding mechanism, the new formula would simply establish a new per pupil basic guarantee. For the first year, this would be \$4,250 per pupil. For the second year, the basic guarantee would be \$4,500 and for the third year, \$4,750 per pupil. The level would then be indexed to net income tax receipts for subsequent years. Such an approach would not only increase the level of total funding for all districts, but it would also reduce the variability of funding between the richest and poorest school districts. The Savannah school district, for example, would receive an additional \$171,000 in the first year, an additional \$657,000 in the second year and nearly \$1.5 million in the third year. As a consequence of the increased level of state funding, the district would have a zero operating levy. Other districts, while still maintaining an operating levy, would see a dramatic decrease in the tax rate. Knox Co. R-1, for example, would not only receive additional total funding but also be able to reduce its operating tax rate to \$1.03 from its 2002 level of \$3.67.

The implementation of these reforms would have profound implications. First, they would completely eliminate the school operating levy in 351 of Missouri's 521 school districts and dramatically reduce the rates in 132 of the remaining 170 districts. Secondly, they would decrease the complexity of the tax structure and the funding mechanism for elementary & secondary education. Third, the new formula would reduce the inequity across school districts, and allow many less wealthy districts to build newer, more adequate facilities. They would also lower utility rates across the state and create substantial administrative savings.

The combination of the tax and education funding recommendations has several joint benefits. First, they would preserve all federal tax deductions and enhance the ability to export federal tax burdens to other states. This aspect of tax policy is seldom given the consideration it is due. The objective of any tax should be to generate the required level of revenue with the least possible disruption or loss in efficiency. Thus, it makes little sense to impose a tax that fails this test. The educational reform enacted in Michigan provides a salient example. Faced with a funding crisis similar to the one now in Missouri, Michigan opted to replace much of its property tax, which is deductible on the federal income tax, with a higher state sales tax that is not deductible. As a result, federal individual income tax liability for Michigan residents increased by an additional one billion dollars in the year following this change. To a lesser extent, this trend towards replacing deductible taxes with those that are not has been common in many states, including Missouri. One need only to look at the growing significance of dedicated state and local sales taxes in Missouri to see the consequences of such policy. While the sales tax may be more palatable to taxpayers, it is certainly poor fiscal policy to needlessly increase the tax burden on Missourians.

Finally, the adoption of these changes would permit a balanced and reasonable growth in state expenditure programs. As we have seen during the past three years, the rate of spending in Missouri has far outpaced the ability of the tax structure to provide the required revenue. Until this point has been adequately addressed, it will be impossible to return to a budget process that is fiscally sound. And while these recommendations are not a panacea for all of the problems, both current and future, that the state faces, we believe that their adoption is essential to the long term vitality of the state.

***Talking With Your Community About  
No Child Left Behind***

The Learning First Alliance, a partnership of 12 leading national education associations has developed "***A Practical Guide to Talking With Your Community About No Child Left Behind and Schools in Need of Improvement***" to help schools, districts and communities understand and respond to the requirements of the law. The materials are not intended to engage debate about the pros and cons of the law. Rather, they are designed to help school leaders communicate with parents and the public about the law

*(Continued on page 6)*

**"What is the CEE?"**

Submitted by: Lyle Rowland

Superintendent of the Taneyville R-II School District

I would imagine most individuals that are associated with public schools have heard about the CEE. I wonder, though, if they truly understand what it is!

The CEE (Committee for Educational Equality) was originally founded in 1991 as the vehicle to eliminate problems with public school funding. It brought about the first lawsuit on this issue with favorable results. The problem now is that the original ruling has been left behind. Schools are still "golden to God awful," as quoted by Judge Kinder in his judgment of 1993. This is not to say that schools haven't had better days since that decree - we have, but we were satisfied with the positive ruling and didn't force continued compliance with the original terms.

Back in the late winter - early spring of 2003, a group of Superintendents discussed this issue again. A brainstorming session was held and the rest is, let's say, history. We now have better than 200 member school districts, both rural and urban, representing approximately one quarter million students. The mission and goal statement of the CEE is to secure an equitable and adequate level of educational resources for the individual development of Missouri's public school Pre-K - 12 students.

Is this a lawsuit? Yes! School leaders talk about "The Lawsuit Committee". This is the CEE. It seems a shame that almost everyone is for education, but not all are willing to pay for it. Those who don't want to pay would rather tout what is wrong with the system! How schools are failing! If our State Leadership had done their job over the past ten years, we wouldn't have need for the CEE. To address the aforementioned concern, schools are not failing.

The CEE is trying to right a wrong. Two hundred school districts believe in what we're doing. I encourage the other 324 districts to look closely at what they stand for. This is about KIDS. Some non-member schools claim the ruling might hurt their districts. Some don't want to get involved with a lawsuit. Others just want to do nothing and see what happens. I feel it is the kids in Missouri that I'm trying to represent not just the kids in my school district. Yes, there will be a time when finite solutions will have to be worked out, but not at this time. We have to get that favorable court ruling before we can start working on details. I encourage school administrators to join with CEE because of what it stands for -- the equitable and adequate level of educational resources. We can have separate camps later to fight for our own interests, but this is an issue for all of us. To quote a famous someone, "If you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem." Don't stay in the shadows. The State Legislature, in response to the impending lawsuit, has already taken actions to address the CEE issue.

**There is strength in numbers. United we can win!**

**Energy Center Provides Low-Interest Financing**

Teachers frequently speak of the satisfaction they receive when they see the light come on in a child's mind. But for many school districts, the cost of keeping the actual lights on in the classroom leaves fewer resources for educators to switch on the lights in their students.

In order to make a larger share of a district's money available for vital educational needs in the classroom rather than payment of energy bills, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources offers low-interest loans to finance energy-efficient improvements to school buildings. These loans finance projects and develop strategies to improve energy efficiency, including efficient insulation, lighting, windows, motors and pumps, and heating and air conditioning systems.

Because the loans are repaid using energy savings, not new taxes, they do not require bond issues or public votes. In addition to public school districts, other eligible applicants include city governments, county governments, public colleges, public hospital districts, drinking water districts and wastewater districts.

Applications may be submitted at any time. Loans may have terms up to 16 years, which will help you accomplish larger and more comprehensive projects with larger energy savings. Loan amounts and payback periods will be based on the amount of annual energy savings the project will accomplish. Loans are being offered at a below market interest rate. Interest rates vary from 2.75% for a six-year payback period to 3.75% for a 16-year payback period.

**Applications Awarded in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters of Fiscal Year 2003**

Please contact the Energy Center at (573) 751-6630 or visit our Website at [www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/financial/loan.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/financial/loan.htm) for more information or to receive a loan application packet. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to explain how energy efficiency and our loans can help free up dollars in your budget.

<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>
Ava R-I S.D.	\$1,035,285
Breckenridge R-I S.D.	40,003
City of St. Louis	1,597,431
Dallas Cty R-I S.D.	643,563
Forsyth R-III S.D.	154,209
Houston R-I S.D.	112,567
New Franklin R-I S.D.	210,669
Nixa R-II S.D.	239,322
North St. Francois Cty R-I	730,908
Summersville R-II S.D.	98,987
University City S.D.	4,649,572
Waynesville R-VI S.D.	275,715
Winona R-III S.D.	90,277

**Brain Wave Test**

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoentn tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer are in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sithll raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it slef but the wrod as a wlohe and the biran fguiers it out aynawy.

# MARE Members: We'll do your homework for you.

Over 100 companies offer long term care insurance, with dozens of options and features among them. Researching and comparing this coverage on your own can be a frustrating, confusing experience.

Let Forrest T. Jones & Company's long term care insurance advisors do your homework for you. We are an independent brokerage representing multiple top-rated carriers for individual and group plans. Our experienced, professional staff starts by helping you to better understand your long term care insurance options and helping you assess your specific needs-with absolutely no pressure or obligation. And, we know educators almost as well as we know insurance: FTJ has been serving the specialized needs of educators for more than 50 years.

Contact us now for a free, no-obligation phone consultation.

Phone (800) 821-7303, ext. 107  
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Web [www.ftj.com](http://www.ftj.com)  
Mail 3130 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111

FTJ's  
LTCI Staff:  
Harvey Day,  
Jane Walsh,  
Mark Iglehart,  
Sally Ievitt



MARE now endorses the Forrest T. Jones & Company, Inc., Long Term Care Insurance Evaluation Service to its members.

## GreaterNET

Judy Stainback has recently taken over as Executive Director of GreaterNET. Contact information for Judy is:

4807 S. Gold Road  
Battlefield, MO 65619  
Phone: 417-882-2509  
Fax: 417-882-6264  
E-mail: [jstainba@mchsi.com](mailto:jstainba@mchsi.com)

GreaterNET is currently beginning the process of matching and brokering I-TV classes for next fall. Districts interested in contracting with GreaterNET or learning more about the organization should contact Judy.

## MoDLA

(Missouri Distance Learning Association)

- **Leadership:** to provide national leadership in the field of distance learning
- **Advocacy:** to advocate and promote the use of distance learning Information: to provide current information on distance learning
- **Policy:** to represent the distance learning community before government policy and regulatory bodies
- **Association of Associations:** to serve and support the state, consortium and individual organizations that belong to US-DLA
- **Recognition:** to provide annual recognition and awards of outstanding achievements in distance learning
- **Partnerships:** to serve as a catalyst for the formation of partnerships among education, business, health care and government
- **International:** to achieve a global leadership role through liaisons with international organizations Access and
- **Equity:** to promote equity and access to life-long learning through distance learning
- **Diversity:** to promote diversity in our organization and its program

Michelle Norgren, Executive Director	Missouri Distance Learning Association
Phone: 417-836-6150	College of Natural and Applied Sciences
Fax: 417-836-6934	Temple 110
E-mail: <a href="mailto:MichelleNorgren@sms.edu">MichelleNorgren@sms.edu</a>	Southwest Missouri State University
<a href="http://www.modla.org">www.modla.org</a>	Springfield, MO 65804

## LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MARE MEMBERS

MARE is pleased to announce the selection of Forrest T. Jones & Company, Inc., as the group-endorsed insurance administrator for Long Term Care Insurance. The Kansas City-based company has been addressing the insurance needs of Missouri educators for more than 50 years.

Mark Iglehart the company's LTCI Program Manager has 17 years experience working with educators. According to Mark, "MARE made an informed and advantageous decision on behalf of their members for three key reasons.

"First, long term care insurance is no longer the "nursing home" insurance of the past; astute financial advisors now consider this coverage a key component in a sound retirement or estate plan. In-home care, assisted living and other expanded coverages are essential in an age where a rapidly-aging population is on a collision course with exploding health care costs.

"Secondly, it is important to select an advisor you can trust: one with a proven history of sound business practices and a long-term commitment to customer service. We will take time to listen to you, learn your needs, and ensure you have enough information to make a decision with which you're comfortable. Our experienced staff emphasizes education and personal service, and you're under no pressure or obligation to make any commitments or purchases.

"Finally, long term care insurance can be complex and confusing; it is definitely not a 'one size fits all' product, and over 100 companies offer LTC coverage. As an independent agency, Forrest T. Jones uses a *multi-carrier strategy*. This is vitally important in shopping for the right coverage, as we consider the policy features and benefit provisions for multiple companies to determine the best choice for customers on an *individual* basis. Importantly, in helping you compare LTC insurance we consider only reputable, reliable companies with demonstrated financial strength."

MARE encourages you to consider LTC insurance as part of your financial and retirement planning, both individually and within your school district. For more information, call Mark Iglehart at (800) 821-7303, e-mail him at [miglehart@ftj.com](mailto:miglehart@ftj.com) or visit Forrest T. Jones on the Web at [www.ftj.com](http://www.ftj.com).



Mark Iglehart, Program Manager, Long Term Care Evaluation Service, Forrest T. Jones & Company, Inc.



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## No Tooth Left Behind

*Imagine if they followed the logic of "No Child Left Behind" with other vocations, such as.....well, such as dentists! Enjoy.*

### HIGH-STAKES TESTING FOR DENTISTS

Imagine a new program called, Leave No Tooth Unfilled. Each dentist will get a rating of Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor (just like a used textbook!) based on the average number of cavities in the teeth of their clientele at ages 6, 12, 24, and 36.

"Outrageous!" the dentist shouts when he hears of this plan. "Do you mean to tell me that if I serve a poorer population that doesn't get the same preventative care as a wealthier group, I'm going to be labeled as only Fair or maybe even Poor?"

"Yes," says the administrator of Leave No Tooth Unfilled, "and if you're labeled Poor, we'll take some of your equipment away from you."

"That's a big help," replies the dentist.

"Oh, don't worry. If you're labeled Poor, we'll help you. We'll send a dentist who's rated Excellent to show you what to do."

"But the biggest reason that person will have been labeled Excellent is because he's got patients who for some reason have fewer cavities.

It has nothing to do with how well I treat the situations I find. In fact, if this Excellent dentist works in an area where people are wealthier, have fluoridation, preventative care, he might never have seen a case like one of mine in a poorer area."

"You're just make excuses and stonewalling"

"Are you crazy? To evaluate a dentist's work, you have to take into consideration what kinds of cases he or she encounters, to observe their technique and manner, to evaluate the long-term results of the care they give their patients, and by the way you have to be a pretty experienced dentist yourself."

"Good luck. No Tooth Unfilled is already law, and that's the way it's going to be."

"That's outrageous. How many dentists were involved in actually creating this law?"

Good question. Very good question.

(Reprinted from the Rural Education News, Spring, 2003)

*(Continued from page 3)*

and its effects in each community. These were written primarily for district superintendents and principals, since they are often the first to be called to comment on school issues. But these materials can be readily adapted for use by teacher leaders, PTA presidents, school board members, and others. This Guide also contains links to many other resources on the law and other education issues. The Practical Guide documents can be viewed in pdf, html, or Word. To access "*A Practical Guide to Talking with Your Community About No Child Left Behind and Schools in Need of Improvement*," go to <http://www.learningfirst.org/publications/nclbguide/>

### Cash for Culture

College students who hope to someday teach music, art, literature, dance or other humanities in rural areas can receive help with tuition costs.

The **Jack J. Isgur Foundation**, established by a Kansas

*(Continued on page 10)*

**Missouri Association of Rural Education  
School Board Training Program**

MARE Board Training

2003-2004 Schedule

Check our website: moare.com for changes/updates

Before 1993 local school board members were not required to receive any formal orientation or training. That changed with the enactment of Senate Bill 380, "The Outstanding Schools Act of 1993," which required that all new school board members have at least sixteen hours of orientation and training within one year of their election or appointment. MARE a statewide educational association, has provided training for the past six years. Beginning with the 2002-03 school year, the training program includes 16 hours of discussion/interaction with one of the board trainers identified with this information. (Video instruction for certification no longer an option.)

MARE contracts with six presenters (refer to schedule) to lead board training discussion /interaction activities. A Professional Development Grant received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will allow the organization to sponsor 16 training sessions in different regions throughout Missouri. Each session of 16 hours with a set curriculum will be offered at no cost to the board member trainee. In addition the annual MARE Convention scheduled for February 27 & 28, 2004 and the annual K-8 Convention scheduled for April 14 - 16, 2004 will offer board training opportunities.

Newly elected Board of Education members, candidates, or experienced Board of Education members interested in training should contact their superintendent, the trainer, or the executive director to register for training.

Additional and specific local training may be offered for the presenter's time and mileage. Scheduling of such specific training may be scheduled by contacting the Executive Director of the Missouri Association of Rural Education at (660) 747-8050 or rpatrick@moare.com.

**Central/East Central Missouri**

**Dr. Robert Hoffman** (816) 850-5351  
Crest Ridge R-VII S.D. Johnson Cty—Centerview, MO  
 October 8, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 October 15, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 October 18, 2003 8 a.m.—4 p.m.  
 (Spring Training Site to be announced later.)

**Southeast Missouri**

**Mr. Phil Dorth** (573) 392-4271  
Pemiscot Cty Special S.D. Held at the Special S. D.  
 November 6, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 November 7, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Poplar Bluff School District Held @ Admin Office Building  
 May 6, 2004 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 May 7, 2004 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 May 8, 2004 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Southwest Missouri**

**Mr. Don Neidt** (417) 646-8293  
Stockton R-I S. D. Cedar City—Stockton, MO  
 October 18, 2003 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 November 1, 2003 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**West Central Missouri**

**Dr. Frank Dean Cone** (417) 235-6632  
Metro North Mall, 400 NW Barry Road, Jackson Cty—Kansas City, MO  
Suite 205, Office 108  
 November 13, 2003 12:00 noon—8:00 p.m.  
 November 14, 2003 12:00 noon—8:00 p.m.  
Metro North Mall, 400 NW Barry Road, Jackson Cty—Kansas City, MO  
Suite 205, Office 108  
 March 18, 2004 12:00 noon—8:00 p.m.  
 March 19, 2004 12:00 noon—8:00 p.m.

**Northwest Missouri**

**Mr. William Casey** (660)382-5128  
King City R-I S. D. Gentry Cty—King City, MO  
 October 22, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 October 29, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 November 5, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 November 12, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 (Spring Training Site to be announced later.)

**Northeast Missouri**

**Mr. LeRoy Huff** (660) 465-8532  
Shelby Cty C-I S. D. Shelby Cty.—Shelbyville, MO  
 November 24, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 December 1, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 December 8, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 December 12, 2003 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

*We're on the web  
MoARE.com*

**Other Training Sites**

Contact : **Dr. Ray Patrick** (660) 747-8050

MARE Annual Conference	Feb. 27 & 28, 2004	Holiday Inn SunSpree, Lake Ozark, MO
K-8 Annual Conference	April 14, 15, & 16, 2004	Chateau on the Lake, Branson, MO
MARE Summer Meeting	August 6 & 7, 2004	Holiday Inn SunSpree, Lake Ozark, MO

If your school district is interested in being a host site for board training, please contact Dr. Ray Patrick at (660) 747-8050 or rpatrick@moare.com

Reminder: Certificates are issued following completion of 16 hours of board training with the identified board trainers. Video instruction for certification, is no longer an option



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### West-Hall Software Solutions

The Missouri Association of Rural Education (MARE) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the partnering with West-Hall Software Solutions. West-Hall Software is a unique national provider of quality educational solutions for schools, faculty and students. The founder is Dr. Leonard W. Hall, a Missouri educator having served as Assistant Commissioner for Special Education at DESE from 1971-1983. Since 1984, Dr. Hall has worked with educators to empower students to improve basic skills through instructional technology.

Expected outcomes to the district include measurable change in:

Improved achievement test scores by ALL students;

More efficient identification and placement of special needs learners;

Reduced incidents of behavioral disruption and need for punitive actions;

Enhanced opportunities for inclusive instructional experiences by all students;

Empowerment of suspended/expelled students to have continuity of instruction.

The skills are consistent with the "Show Me Standards" including Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Writing, Informational Skills, Critical Thinking Skills, and Job Readiness Skills.



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*- Larry 'J. Hart*

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## MARE Associate Membership 2003-2004

Below are listed the Associate Members of MARE. These members are important to the MARE organization in their long-term interest in the welfare of the Rural School Districts in Missouri. Please consider all the business associates when you are in need of services. Let them know that you saw their information in our newsletter when you contact them.

**L.J. Hart & Company**

Larry J. Hart  
16401 Swingley Road  
St. Louis, MO 63017  
(800) 264-4477 (636) 537-9939

**Arthur J. Gallagher & Company**

Gary VanMeter  
P.O. Box 1950  
St. Charles, MO 63301  
(800) 877-8218 (636) 916-3433

**Control Technology & Solutions**

Scott Ririe  
300 Ozark Trail, Suite 202  
Ellisville, MO 63011  
(636) 230-0843

**MO Consultants for Education**

Roger Russell  
19324 Deer Points  
Glencoe, MO 63301  
(636) 405-0649

**Doster, Mickes, James & Ullom, LLC**

Thomas A. Mickes  
17107 Chester Field Airport Road, Suite 320  
St. Louis, MO 63005  
ST=(636) 532-0042, KC=(816)531-1888

**Citizens Bank and Trust**

Tamara M. Vaughn  
105 N. Main, P.O. Box 800  
Maryville, MO 64468  
(800) 399-3023

**American Boiler Services, Inc.**

Mike Hemphill  
4950 Bischoff Ave.  
St. Louis, Mo 63110  
(800) 235-5377

**Lemberger Company**

Dan Snodgrass  
P.O. Box 110  
Vienna, MO 65582  
(573) 422-3354

**Septagon Construction Company**

Eldon L. Kreisel  
113 East Third Street  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
(800) 778-3113

**Forrest T. Jones & Company**

John Farrar  
3130 Broadway  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
(800) 821-7303

**EPM, Inc.**

B.H. Trout  
2105 Power Drive  
Fulton, MO 65251  
(573) 642-6550

**Midwest Bus Sales**

Jack Woolf  
313 East Front Street  
Bonner Springs, KS 66012  
(913) 422-1000

**Jack Ball & Assoc. Architects PC**

Chris Ball/Jack Ball  
444 South Campbell Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65804  
(417) 866-1904

**Central States Bus Sales**

Jeff Reitz  
2450 Cassens Drive  
Fenton, MO 63026  
(636) 343-6050

**Sam A. Winn & Associates, Architects**

Sam A. Winn  
1949 East Sunshine, Suite 4-400  
Springfield, MO 65804  
(417) 882-7821

**Jim's Mobile Offices**

James Helleny  
P.O. Box 547  
Marion, IL 62959  
(800) 747-5467 (618) 997-6072

**Benee's Toys**

Joan Reed, V.P. for Sales  
1602 Airpark Drive  
Farmington, MO 63640  
(573) 756-0035

**DataTeam Systems, Inc.**

Craig McCollam  
4911 Legends Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66049  
(877) 843-8150

**Missouri Energy Center**

Bernard Thompson  
P.O. Box 547  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 751-7466

**George K. Baum & Company**

Greg Bricker/Dick Bartow  
435 Nichols Road, Suite 200  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
(816) 474-1100

**Partners for Life**

David G. Huff  
P.O. Box 1364  
Raymore, MO 64083  
(866) 211-3344

**Budget Plus Software**

Leland Foster  
509 Graystone  
Grain Valley, MO 64133  
(816) 847-6610

**First National Bank**

Craig Heaton  
1802 East State, Rt. K  
West Plains, MO 65775  
(800) 347-7855

**TAC Americas**

Valerie Houchin  
1034 South Brentwood Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
(573) 547-8130

**Allied Bus Sales (Laidlaw)**

Frank Wittmers  
1101 Kenneth Street  
Nixa, MO 65714  
(800) 462-0173

**S.M. Wilson & Company**

Rob Tinker  
13316 West 98th  
Lenexa, KS 66215  
(913) 322-3900

**American Trust Group Holdings**

S. L. Baker/ Ray Shoaf  
P.O. Box 966  
Sunrise Beach, MO 65079  
(573) 374-9991

**Claim Care, Inc.**

Stacy L. Dye  
209 N. Main Street  
Paris, MO 65275  
(660) 327-5308

**Goosen Livingston Architects**

Al Osborne  
9229 Ward Parkway, Suite 210  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
(816) 444-4355

(Continued on Page 10)

## MARE Associate Membership (continued)

### National Investors

Gerald Littell/John Davis  
204 West Rollins  
Moberly, MO 65270  
(660) 263-5630

### Tri State Bus Sales

David Wilson  
1336 West New Monee Road  
Crete, IL 60417  
(800) 813-5970

### Software Technology, Inc.

Mary Ann McCann  
14105 N. Tolle Lane  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
(877) 889-009—Fax (618) 244-3574

### Thomeczek Law Firm, LLC

James G. Thomeczek, Attorney  
1120 Olivette Exec. Pkwy, Ste 210  
St. Louis, MO 63132  
(314) 997-7733

### WestHall Software Solutions

Adam Hall/Leonard W. Hall  
300 N. 4th Street  
St. Louis, MO 63102  
(314) 588-1524/(800) 222-3681

## We welcome the following new Associate Members

### School Transportation

#### **Southern Bus & Mobility**

Terry Gerdes, President  
12-A Allen Road  
Highway 54  
Eldon, MO 65026  
(866) 327-1600

### Heating/Cooling Equipment

#### **Trane**

Tim Schryver, Ed Segment Leader  
2275 Cassens Court, Ste 105  
Fenton, MO 63026  
(636) 305-3764

### Long Term Care Insurance

#### **Forrest T. Jones & Com. Inc.**

Sally Levitt, Insurance Specialist  
3130 Broadway  
Kansas City MO 64111  
(913) 631-7153

### Long Term Care Insurance

#### **Forest T. Jones & Co. Inc.**

Harvey Day, Insurance Specialist  
3130 Broadway  
Kansas City, MO 63111

### School Pictures/Newsletters

#### **Inter-State Studio, Inc.**

John Kueker  
300 Snyder Ave., P.O. Box 1177  
Sedalia, MO 65302  
(660) 82601764

### Fertilizer/Lime Service

#### **MVG Lime & Fertilizer Service**

Toby Blakemore  
801 Craig View Drive South  
Harrisburg, MO 65256

### Long Term Care Insurance

#### **Robert W. Davis & Associates, Inc.**

Robert W. Davis, Insurance Specialist  
25 South Arizona Place, Ste 560  
Chandler, AZ 85225  
(480) 899-9983

### Natural Gas

#### **Cornerstone Energy**

Larry D. Kilpatrick, Mgr Consum. Acct.  
12637 W. 82nd Terr.  
Lenexa, KS 66215  
(913) 322-1776

### Insurance Specialist

#### **The Horace Mann Company**

Ron Mattli, CIC—Acc. Rep.  
P.O. Box 201  
Wappapello, MO 63966  
(888) 771-2812

*(Continued from page 11)*

meetings to the members of the Board, a written notice of the meeting and the matters to be considered will be posted in the same manner as postings for regular Board meetings.

### **Quorum and Majority Vote**

The presence of a majority of the Board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. However, the letting of contracts, employment of personnel, approval of bills for payment and the ordering of warrants require an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board.

### **Closed Meetings**

The Board may vote to conduct closed executive sessions as provided for Policy 0430 -- Executive Sessions. In order to enter into executive session, such motion must be approved by a roll call majority vote. The motion to enter executive session must reference the specific statutory matters to be discussed.

### **Firearms/Weapons**

Possession of firearms and weapons are prohibited from all school premises and school activities. This prohibition specifically applies to meetings and activities of the Board of Education and applies to all attendees, including members of the Board of Education. The firearm prohibition includes permitted weapons. (See Policy - 1432).

*(Continued from page 6)*

City attorney and Sedalia native, seeks to encourage humanities education in rural areas. Grants are available to juniors, seniors and graduate students majoring in education. Preference is given to students interested in elementary education.

This year five students from small towns across Missouri received scholarships. Applications are now available for the 2004 Education in Humanities scholarships.

For more information contact the Charles F. Jensen, Jack J. Isgur Foundation, Stinson, Morrison, Hecker, LLP, 2600 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64108; or call (816) 691-2760.

**"CHECK YOUR GUNS AT THE DOOR"  
Implications of the Conceal and Carry Law  
for Missouri Schools**

Tom Mickes  
Sarah Lawrence  
Doster Mickes James & Ullom, LLC

On September 11, the Missouri Senate voted to override the Governor's veto of a conceal and carry gun law. As enacted, the law will permit individuals 23 years of age and older; who have passed an eight-hour gun safety course and who have obtained a permit, to carry concealed weapons. Persons found guilty of a felony, or who, within the past five years, have had two or more DWI or drug possession convictions, or who have a record of misdemeanors that include unspecified "crimes of violence" are not eligible for a concealed weapon permit. Persons who have been committed to mental health facilities in the past five years, or who have a full order of protection issued against them, are also not eligible.

Missouri's new gun law goes into effect October 11, 2003. Applications may be made as of that date, and the local sheriff has up to forty-five (45) days to approve or deny the application. Thus, we can expect individuals with permitted concealed weapons to be in our communities by mid-November. What affect will the new concealed weapons law have on Missouri schools, and what steps should we consider?

Possessing and carrying a concealed weapon under the new law is prohibited in a number of locations, including police stations, churches, and gambling facilities among other locations. Included in this prohibition are schools, unless permitted by school officials. However, the law appears to permit possession of a firearm in a vehicle on school premises, as long as the firearm is not removed from the vehicle or flourished while the vehicle is on the school's premises. Finally, the law prohibits possession of a firearm at school board meetings, but appears to permit school board members to be armed during board meetings.

It is obvious to the authors, that school districts must take adequate precautions to protect the safety of the districts' students, staff, and visitors. In addition, districts should take steps to minimize potential liability resulting from injuries occurring as a result of firearms on school premises.

First, we would suggest adopting policies that totally prohibit possession of firearms on all school premises, facilities, parking areas, grounds, and vehicles, as well as prohibit possession of firearms at all school activities, with the exception of law enforcement officials. To the extent, the MARE endorsed MCE policies will include a broad firearm prohibition policy in the Fall 2003 updates. In addition, a new paragraph has been added to Policy 0410 Meetings, which prohibits the possession of firearms at board meetings and board functions. This prohibition will include school board members.

**Adoption of policies, however, is not enough.** School districts must communicate their prohibition against firearms on district property. In this regard, we would suggest permanent posting of signs at the entrances to all school facilities. These signs should state words to the effect that:

Similar signage should be displayed at the entrances to all school parking areas and at off premise locations where school functions (i. e. sporting events) are held. We would also suggest posting a firearm prohibition sign outside the room where school board meetings are held.

In addition, districts should annually include notice of the districts' firearm prohibition policy in district handbooks, newsletters, and other community correspondence. Requests should be made to print and radio media to assist in disseminating the policies and the

safety concerns necessitating the policy adoptions.

Finally, districts must consistently enforce their firearm policies. Missouri's new gun law only provides that individuals violating the law can be removed from the premises for the first violation, and fined up to \$100 if they fail to leave. For a second violation within a six month period, the violator can be fined \$200 and lose his/her permit for one year. In light of the potential danger from violators in

**FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS ARE  
PROHIBITED ON ALL DISTRICT PREMISES-  
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

a school setting, these "penalties" seem rather meaningless. Therefore, we have included a one-year exclusion from school premises and school activities for the first violation. Any subsequent violation will result in a permanent exclusion.

Regardless of how any of us personally feel about the new conceal and carry law, the law poses catastrophic risks to schools by the few individuals who choose to use the law as an excuse to threaten or intimidate others on school premises. It is our hope that the suggestions contained in this article will minimize safety risks in Missouri schools.

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**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**  
**Policy 1432**

**School/Community Relations**

**Prohibition Against Firearms and Weapons**

The presence of firearms and weapons poses a substantial risk of serious harm to district students, staff and community members. Therefore, possession of firearms and weapons is prohibited on school premises at all times except for law enforcement officials. As used in this policy, the phrase "school premises" includes all district buildings, grounds, vehicles, and parking areas. This prohibition also extends to the sites of school activities whether or not those school activities are conducted on school district property.

Individuals found to be in violation of this policy will be dealt with severely. Students will be disciplined up to and including expulsion as provided in Policy/Regulation 2620. Law enforcement officials will be notified and the individual violating the policy will be barred from all school premises and school activities for a period of one year. Subsequent violations by the same individual will result in a permanent bar from school premises and school activities.

**ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS**  
**Policy 0410**

**Meetings**

**Meetings**

**Regular**

The regular meeting of the Board shall be held on the \_\_\_\_\_ in each month, at the hour of \_\_\_\_\_ p.m., except when a majority of the Board agrees in advance and public notice is given.

**Special**

Special meetings may be held at the time set by the Board or on the call of the Board president or a majority of the Board. (Not less than twenty-four (24) hours written notice, stating the time and place of the meeting and the business to be considered, will be given to each member.) Simultaneously with the giving of notice of such

*(Continued on page 10)*

Missouri Association of Rural Education  
201 South Holden St., Suite 202  
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093-3400

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### Board Training Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

Session Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MARE, 201 South Holden Street, Suite 202, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Fax: (660) 747-8160.

Email: rpatrick@iland.net or rpatrick@moare.com

Register online at moare.com

### **YES!!!! I want to be a member of MARE**

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\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Member from Non-Member Institution — \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Membership — \$1 yearly

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter sent to district board members — \$35. yearly

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MARE, 201 South Holden St., Ste 202, Warrensburg, MO 64093  
or fax: (660) 747-8160