



Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

**Minnesota Rural Education Association**

[ A P.O. Box 187, St. Cloud, MN 56302-0187 ]

[ T 320-762-6574 E mrea@mnrea.org W mnrea.org ]

**PLEASE NOTE NEW MAILING ADDRESS AS OF MAY 2013**

**Membership # 0548**

Deb Wanek

Pelican Rapids Public Schools

PO Box 642

Pelican Rapids MN 56572-0642

**Invoice date: May 29, 2014**

**Due Date: July 15, 2014**

**(Membership year 7/01/14-6/30/15)**

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**\*\*\* MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVOICE \*\*\***  
**FY 2014-15**

**MREA Membership Type:** FULLISD

FULLISD Base Fee \$1,100.00

**APU =** 985

APU Legislative Fee\* + \$985.00

**Total 2014-15 MREA Dues =** **\$2,085.00**

\* \$1.00 per Adjusted Pupil Unit (APU) to \$1,400 maximum. APU based on MDE estimates for FY 2014-15.

**Please send your membership dues payment, payable to MREA, with a copy of this invoice.  
Update the enclosed membership listing as needed and return with your payment.**

*MREA dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but may be deductible as a business expense. MREA estimates that 38.2% of your dues are not deductible because of MREA lobbying activities on behalf of our members.*

"MREA is way ahead of everyone in letting us know what the issues are. They are also ahead in being a partner with anyone involved in helping to educate members, the public, and legislators of the issues."

-- Sharon Kipka, School Board Member, Foley



# Voice of Education in Greater Minnesota

MREA is the only advocate exclusively for Greater Minnesota districts. Under the leadership of school board members, administrators, teachers and community members, MREA focuses on what puts the education, growth and development of learners first to bring about our best possible future.

**98%**

**SUPERINTENDENTS ARE SATISFIED  
WITH THE WORK OF MREA.**

## KEY ADVOCACY RESULTS

### AT THE CAPITOL AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Here are some of the areas that MREA recently provided a leadership role in successfully advocating for:

#### FUNDING

- Closed the Donut Hole with up to \$424 in Local Optional Revenue for all boards
- Reduced the funding gap with a highly equalized \$300 board-approved levy
- Called for equitable facility funding, worked with state task force, expect Legislative action in 2015
- Secured funding for All-Day Kindergarten programming
- Increased funding on the formula each year of the biennium

#### POLICY

- Repealed the GRAD rule and replaced with exams aligned with college entrance to take effect Spring 2015
- Called for state task force to address MTLE (Minnesota Teacher License Exam) reform
- Waived Basic Skills Tests for non-native English speakers who otherwise qualify for a Minnesota teaching license
- Fended off legislation tying the hands of districts when contracting for services.
- Appointment of two rural members to the board of teaching
- Science standards and graduation credits can apply to agriculture and career and technical education courses
- Conferring high school diploma is a local district decision based on students' achievement of required high school credits
- Permanent repeal of the January 15 contract deadline and penalty and safe schools maintenance of effort

**"WHERE EDUCATION POLICY AFFECTS RURAL EDUCATION, MREA IDENTIFIES IT,  
ANALYZES IT, TRACKS IT AND ADVOCATES ON BEHALF OF RURAL EDUCATION."**

FRED NOLAN, MREA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## HOW WE CONNECT WITH OUR MEMEBERS

- Weekly insider briefings on key issues and legislative news.
- Action Alerts to help you effect change on the issues that matter to you.
- Email Alerts when key legislation is passed with its impact.
- Interactive maps and analysis that illustrate the impact of an issue for schools.
- Lobbyists at the Capitol focused on key issues impacting schools.
- Capitol Insider Blog honing in on key issues facing schools and the impact.
- Professional development and networking at the Annual Conference in November.
- Regional meetings to discuss issues and connect with other members.
- Lower professional learning costs for member districts through partnerships with Atomic Learning, and Rubicon International's Atlas Curriculum Management System.
- Social Media Partnership Project with strategy and training on using social media to connect with parents and their communities.

Learn more at [MnREA.org](http://MnREA.org)

## LOOKING FORWARD

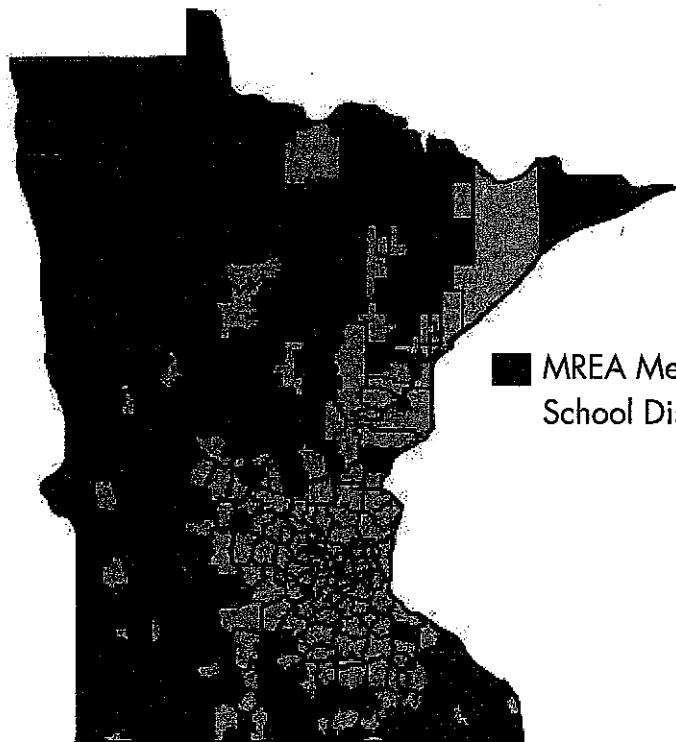
MREA is focused on working with the Legislature to close educational opportunity gaps in funding and policy that impacts students in Greater Minnesota.

### SOME KEY ISSUES INCLUDE:

- **Provide equitable access to facility maintenance funding.** The 25 largest school districts spend \$2.79 per square foot while the other 305 Minnesota school districts and their 440,000 students spend \$0.58, one-fifth the amount.
- **Increase teacher quality and availability** through alternative licensing options, flexibility to teach across disciplines and specialties, and multiple strategies to measure skills.
- **Provide high quality early learning programming** in all counties.
- **Improve the transition to college and careers** by ensuring state high school course requirements better align with workforce needs.
- **Balance local control and state accountability** by repealing the school calendar start date requirement, and streamlining and reducing school district reporting requirements under the World's Best Workforce statute.

**"MREA IS WAY AHEAD OF EVERYONE IN LETTING US KNOW WHAT THE ISSUES ARE. THEY ARE ALSO AHEAD IN BEING A PARTNER WITH ANYONE INVOLVED IN HELPING TO EDUCATE MEMBERS, THE PUBLIC AND LEGISLATORS OF THE ISSUES."**

SHARON KIPKA, FOLEY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER



■ MREA Member  
School Districts

99%

**MEMBERS SEE MREA  
AS EFFECTIVE IN  
COMMUNICATING  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION  
AND THE IMPACT.**

**MREA**

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