MPE’S NEW PRESIDENT, DEEDRE’ COLL

Best Practices Symposium Highlights
District Teachers of the Year
Meet your new MPE Board
MPE Scholarship winners
STAR Teachers

www.mpe.org
Spring/Summer 2013 - Vol. 25, No.1
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Deedre’ Walsh Coll</td>
<td>9 Grand Boulevard</td>
<td>601-297-7220</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Deedre.Coll@lamarcountyschools.org">Deedre.Coll@lamarcountyschools.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-elect</td>
<td>Donna Robbins</td>
<td>1002 Cedar Hill Drive</td>
<td>601-201-0129</td>
<td><a href="mailto:drobbins@clinton.k12.ms.us">drobbins@clinton.k12.ms.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>Angela Towers</td>
<td>512 Magnolia Avenue</td>
<td>662-723-6110</td>
<td><a href="mailto:atowers@cleveland.k12.ms.us">atowers@cleveland.k12.ms.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-President</td>
<td>Dr. Benny J. Hornsby</td>
<td>62 Shady Lane</td>
<td>601-408-4608</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhornsby@prcc.edu">bhornsby@prcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Ken Basil</td>
<td>1666 Hwy. 30 West</td>
<td>(w)662-534-1960,(c)662-266-9010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:basilk@union.k12.ms.us">basilk@union.k12.ms.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Cheryl Howard</td>
<td>700 East Friendship Road</td>
<td>662-444-0443</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tiggerabc12360@yahoo.com">tiggerabc12360@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>Mark Reddoch</td>
<td>7429 Highway 84 West</td>
<td>(w)601-845-2247,(c)662-251-7334</td>
<td><a href="mailto:msgrain@rcsd.ms">msgrain@rcsd.ms</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 7</td>
<td>Regina Allen</td>
<td>618 Oak Avenue</td>
<td>601-441-2722</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rilallen@gmail.com">rilallen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>Erica Armstrong</td>
<td>6717 Anna May Dr.</td>
<td>901-413-8503</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ericaarmstrong77@gmail.com">ericaarmstrong77@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>Becky Hayes, NBCT</td>
<td>295 Drake Circle</td>
<td>662-845-2247</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhayes37@yahoo.com">bhayes37@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>Brad Johns</td>
<td>226 Wilson Floyd Road</td>
<td>601-845-2247</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brad.johns@rcsd.ms">brad.johns@rcsd.ms</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8</td>
<td>Dr. Barry Morris</td>
<td>William Carey University</td>
<td>601-318-6587 H,601-765-4396</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barry.morris@wmcarey.edu">barry.morris@wmcarey.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>Ricky Smither</td>
<td>P.O. Box 86, Booneville, MS 38829</td>
<td>662-392-4547</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lsmither@gmail.com">lsmither@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>Philene Allen</td>
<td>405 S. First Avenue</td>
<td>662-388-9011</td>
<td><a href="mailto:phileneallen@bellsouth.net">phileneallen@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Kelly Riley</td>
<td>205 Woodland Brook</td>
<td>(C)601-373-6169</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelly@mpe.org">kelly@mpe.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-President</td>
<td>Dr. Benny J. Hornsby</td>
<td>62 Shady Lane</td>
<td>601-408-4608</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhornsby@prcc.edu">bhornsby@prcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Ken Basil</td>
<td>1666 Hwy. 30 West</td>
<td>(w)662-534-1960,(c)662-266-9010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:basilk@union.k12.ms.us">basilk@union.k12.ms.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Cheryl Howard</td>
<td>700 East Friendship Road</td>
<td>662-444-0443</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tiggerabc12360@yahoo.com">tiggerabc12360@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>Mark Reddoch</td>
<td>7429 Highway 84 West</td>
<td>(w)601-845-2247,(c)662-251-7334</td>
<td><a href="mailto:msgrain@rcsd.ms">msgrain@rcsd.ms</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 7</td>
<td>Regina Allen</td>
<td>618 Oak Avenue</td>
<td>601-441-2722</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rilallen@gmail.com">rilallen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>Erica Armstrong</td>
<td>6717 Anna May Dr.</td>
<td>901-413-8503</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ericaarmstrong77@gmail.com">ericaarmstrong77@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>Becky Hayes, NBCT</td>
<td>295 Drake Circle</td>
<td>662-845-2247</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhayes37@yahoo.com">bhayes37@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>Brad Johns</td>
<td>226 Wilson Floyd Road</td>
<td>601-845-2247</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brad.johns@rcsd.ms">brad.johns@rcsd.ms</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8</td>
<td>Dr. Barry Morris</td>
<td>William Carey University</td>
<td>601-318-6587 H,601-765-4396</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barry.morris@wmcarey.edu">barry.morris@wmcarey.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>Ricky Smither</td>
<td>P.O. Box 86, Booneville, MS 38829</td>
<td>662-392-4547</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lsmither@gmail.com">lsmither@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>Philene Allen</td>
<td>405 S. First Avenue</td>
<td>662-388-9011</td>
<td><a href="mailto:phileneallen@bellsouth.net">phileneallen@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Kelly Riley</td>
<td>205 Woodland Brook</td>
<td>(C)601-373-6169</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelly@mpe.org">kelly@mpe.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MPE STATE OFFICE**

P.O. Box 22550
Jackson, MS 39225-2550
Toll Free:(800)523-0269
www.mpe.org

**Office Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Riley</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelly@mpe.org">kelly@mpe.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brennan Burkd</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brennan@mpe.org">brennan@mpe.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Miller</td>
<td>Accounts Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephanie@mpe.org">stephanie@mpe.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Hicks</td>
<td>Office Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pam@mpe.org">pam@mpe.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanna Hall</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:deanna@mpe.org">deanna@mpe.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AREA DIRECTORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larry Boykin</td>
<td>9629 Hwy 37</td>
<td>601-785-4408</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lboykin@gmail.com">lboykin@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Brinson</td>
<td>202 Eastover Drive</td>
<td>662-402-3710</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abrinson@ymail.com">abrinson@ymail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serena Calhoun</td>
<td>19 Sylwood Place</td>
<td>662-719-7875</td>
<td><a href="mailto:serenacalhoun@gmail.com">serenacalhoun@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Goff</td>
<td>105 Carter Lane NE</td>
<td>601-384-6748</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mikegoff@fcweb.net">mikegoff@fcweb.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike E. Hamblin</td>
<td>15 White Oak Drive</td>
<td>662-402-3710</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shamblin@gmail.com">shamblin@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Board Members**

- President Deedre’ Walsh Coll
- President-elect Donna Robbins
- Secretary-Treasurer Angela Towers
- Past-President Dr. Benny J. Hornsby
- District 1 Ken Basil
- District 3 Cheryl Howard
- District 5 Mark Reddoch
- District 7 Regina Allen
- District 2 Erica Armstrong
- District 4 Becky Hayes, NBCT
- District 6 Brad Johns
- District 8 Dr. Barry Morris
- Community College Ricky Smither
- Retirees Philene Allen
- Executive Director Kelly Riley

**MPE STAtE oFFice**
P.O. Box 22550
Jackson, MS 39225-2550
Toll Free:(800)523-0269
www.mpe.org
## Cover Stories

**On the Cover**
MPE's new President
Deedre' Coll, husband Jim, and daughters Macy and Anna Grace

**President's Message**
Page 4
Deedre' Coll

**2013 Graduate Scholarship Winners**
Page 8
$1,000 scholarships are awarded to members of MPE.

**MPE Welcomes New Board Members**
Page 11

**MPE 2013 Best Practices Symposium Highlights**
Page 12

**2013 Undergraduate Scholarship Winners**
Page 16
MPE congratulates our student members who received a $500 scholarship.

## In Every Issue

**Past-President's Message**
Page 5
Dr. Benny Hornsby

**Message from the Executive Director**
Page 6
Kelly Riley

**Mississippi Department of Education News**
Page 18

**Community College News**
Page 19

**Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning News**
Page 20

**Retiree Reflections**
Page 22
Philene Allen

## Features

**MACTE UPDATE**
Mississippi Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Page 9
Dr. Leslie Griffen

**MPE Teachers of the Year**
MPE recognizes 28 members named as Teachers of the Year
Page 10

**2013 - 2014 Board of Directors**
Page 14

**Legislative Update**
Page 15

**STAR Teachers**
Congratulations to the MPE members named STAR Teachers
Page 17

**Embracing Change**
Page 21
Dr. Lela Hale
Deedre’ Coll

MPE: We aim to Inform, Inspire, and Impress

I am extremely proud to be a member of an organization that has, for the past 34 years, been made up of teachers, administrators, and non-certified staff members who feel that educating children is our top priority. We should continually set goals for ourselves and work toward achieving them. It is essential that we strive to inform, inspire, and impress.

First and foremost our goal as the state’s largest organization for professional educators should be to inform others about who we are and what we do. Our past accomplishments are many. Most recently, MPE has developed a recruitment video and we have begun establishing regional trainings across the state. All of this has helped to inform not only our membership but others in the field of education. Another excellent source of information provided to our members is the legislative updates that make us aware of any educational issues being addressed by the House or the Senate.

Secondly, we seek to inspire and be inspired by those around us. William Arthur Ward once said, “The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” Our membership of more than 10,500 educators is significant, and MPE has inspired educators to apply for grants and to grow as professionals. At our annual symposium, members are inspired by presenters and fellow educators who share their passion for learning. We each hope to inspire students daily with what we do in our respective jobs, but it is always nice to be inspired as well.

Finally, I hope our organization has impressed others in the education community. I am proud to say that I am a member of MPE and am surrounded by those who practice the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. This has always been the type of organization of which others want to belong.

Nevertheless, what is more clear to me is that MPE would be foolish to rest on the accomplishments of the past. As a new president, though, the list is daunting. What and how to attempt to add to that list in 2013-14 are questions to which I have not found easy answers. We must chart a path to future success carefully, a path that will continue to inform, inspire, and impress. This year, I hope that we can create a five-year strategic plan for the organization that outlines our vision for MPE, goals that will measure our success, and the tactics through which we will achieve those goals.

Without question, the staff and volunteer leadership will need your assistance in creating this plan. Your ideas and suggestions are not only welcome, but are vital to the success of this initiative. We will use as a starting point our most current survey of our membership to help determine our focus, but we will also be reaching out to you for input at various times throughout the year. At any time, please do not hesitate to contact myself, one of the board members or office staff.
It is with a sense of both sadness and optimism that I write this, my first and probably only column as your MPE Past-President. I am sad that my year as President has gone by so quickly; I am optimistic that we have accomplished a great deal and that the leadership of our organization has passed to the very capable hands of Ms. Deedre’ Coll. Among the accomplishments I would include are the facts that we are financially solvent; our membership continues to rise in number; we have moved to new and much more accessible and efficient office spaces; our influence continues to spread throughout the state; and our professional staff remains among the best in Jackson. I’m not very good at saying goodbye, so let me share the last few lines of the book I wrote last summer which summarized my long naval career and which seem relevant here:

“Well, this is it. The big one. Exit stage left. I’ve taken the gold watch. Adios and sayonara. Aloha and goodbye. I’m hanging up my rock and roll shoes. You have to know when to hold them and when to fold them. I’m out of here. Let me leave you with some final thoughts:

We’ve been long together,
Through pleasant and through cloudy
Weather;
‘Tis hard to part when friends are
Dear.
Perhaps ‘twill cost a sigh, a tear;
Then steal away, give little warning,
Choose thine own time;
Say not ‘Good night;’ but in some
Brighter clime,
Bid me ‘Good morning.’”

I’ve traveled so far, only to end up where I started. I’ve sailed every ocean and most of the seas. I’m one of the few who made it to Vladivostok, Sao Paulo, Capetown, and Bremerhaven; I’ve watched the sun rise on the Amazon River and set on the Sea of Japan; I tried to join the French Foreign Legion; I’ve stood in Buda and looked across the Blue Danube to its sister city of Pest; I’ve walked along the Great Wall of China; I met the Pope; Ronald Reagan sent me his autograph; Bob Hope shook my hand in Vietnam; Brook Shields kissed me in Thailand; a girl in Thessalonica, Greece, proposed to me in a pastry shop; I was bitten by a rock ape on the Rock of Gibraltar. I’ve slept on the Spanish Steps in Rome; I’ve seen the Northern Lights flash across the sky in the Aleutian Islands; I was thrown out of a bull fight in Barcelona, Spain, for cheering the bull; I was chased by elephants in Kenya; I was in Cambodia when Nixon said I wasn’t. I’ve visited Paul Gauguin’s grave in French Polynesia, and I rode a donkey up a mountain on the island of Majorca to hear someone play Chopin’s last piano. Am I any wiser? Did I learn anything? Did it make any difference? I hope so.

Adieu, adieu, and adieu, your friend and fellow teacher.

Benny Hornsby
In sitting down to write this article, I reviewed MPE’s eight principles of belief. Our first principle drives all that we do. It simply states, “The welfare of students must be placed above all other considerations. Our top priority is the education of children.” I quickly thought of “Miss Linda” Anglin, our dynamic founder, who so eloquently shared with those at our recent Best Practices Symposium, that “teachers make stepping stones.” Your work creates opportunities for your students. In reflecting back on this past school year, I hope you easily recall the opportunities you created for your students.

This issue of our MPE Journal is full of exciting news. We are celebrating the success of so many of our members, whether they have been recognized as their district’s Teacher of the Year, a STAR Teacher, or a recipient of an MPE scholarship. We’re honored to include an article from the Mississippi Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE), as they celebrate the success of outstanding teacher candidates from each institution.

We’ve also included our traditional collage of pictures from our 2013 Best Practices Symposium. Those of you who were not able to join us missed an engaging and refreshing day. Dr. David Lee, our keynote speaker, received rave reviews. As one member shared on their evaluation, “The keynote speaker was phenomenal. Very motivational, as well as informative. Just what I needed at this point in the school year.” I hope you’ll go ahead and mark April 12, 2014, on your calendar and plan to join us for our 2014 Best Practices Symposium.

Your MPE Board of Directors gave many hours of service to our association this past year. I’d like to thank Sonya Swafford, Walter Moore and Jamie Jackson for their commitment to our association, as they rotated off of the board recently. We are very excited to welcome Ken Basil, Cheryl Howard and Regina Allen to the board. Deedre’ Coll, a K-1 teacher at Oak Grove Primary School in Lamar County, will serve as your 2013-2014 President. It promises to be another incredible year for MPE and our members.

Where did the 2012-2013 school year go? It is hard to believe that summer is upon us. The 2013-2014 school year will be here before we know it. If you are looking for professional development opportunities this summer, I hope you will visit the “Professional Development” section of our website at www.mpe.org to identify offerings in your area. Whether you are enjoying time with family, traveling or furthering your own professional growth this summer, I hope you will take some well-deserved time for yourself. You deserve it! Thank you for your continued membership in MPE. Enjoy your summer!
MPE invites its members to apply for our classroom grant program to try out a new idea or buy the “extras” for an already great lesson plan or project. Up to 16 $500 grants will be awarded to teachers or instructors to enhance their instructional program.

The deadline to apply is August 30, 2013.

For more information, please visit our website at www.mpe.org
MPE congratulates the following recipients of the 2013 Graduate Scholarship Award. Each member will receive $1,000 towards their graduate studies.

**KRISTY ALSPAUGH** is an 8th grade Pre-AP English teacher at Colmer Middle School in Pascagoula. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. A member of MPE since 2004, she is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in secondary education from William Carey University.

**AMBER COMBS** is a guidance counselor and district test coordinator for Franklin County Middle School. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from the University of Southern Mississippi and her Master’s degree in Guidance Education from Alcorn State University. She has been National Board Certified since 1999. A member of MPE since 1993, she is currently in the Educational Specialist Program in Counseling at Delta State University.

**TERENCE JAMES** is a 7th grade math teacher at Vicksburg Junior High School. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and his Master’s degree in Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University. A member of MPE since 2004, he is currently working on his Doctorate degree in educational administration and supervision at Jackson State University.

**NANCY WALTON** is a 4th grade math and science teacher at Poplar Springs Elementary. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Millsaps College and her Master’s degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi College. A member of MPE since 2011, she is currently working on her gifted certification at Mississippi University for Women.

**SANDRA WARD** is a 7th grade reading teacher at South Pontotoc Middle School. She attended Itawamba Community College and earned her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Blue Mountain College. She was named Teacher of the Year in 2000-2001 and in 2008-2009. She was a STAR Teacher in 2009-2010. A member of MPE since 2002, she is currently pursuing her Master’s degree at Blue Mountain.
As this publication goes to print, the window has closed on another legislative session in Mississippi, one in which educational reform was front and center of the many debates. The passage of measures dealing with charter schools, early childhood education, increased standards for teacher certification, and other issues of significance to education was widely chronicled and analyzed. For, without deliberate, prudent, and appropriate reform measures for Mississippi’s P-16 education system, programs in our state will lose ground in what is increasingly an era characterized by high-stakes accountability, shifting demographics, and an evolving national policy landscape.

Vitally interested in each of these issues and arenas is the Mississippi Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE). With by-laws established in 1995, MACTE is an affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. The organization remains true to its original objectives, among them the provision of “interaction of teacher training institutions among themselves and with other organizations for the purpose of improving teacher education” (MACTE By-Laws, p. 6). Comprised of deans and/or department chairs in divisions, colleges, and/or schools of education at each of the public and private institutions of higher learning in Mississippi, the group is fundamentally interested in supporting and enhancing P-16 education in Mississippi.

In keeping with this purpose, the consortium chose in recent years to annually recognize an outstanding intern from each institution. During the second annual event, held at the Mississippi Department of Education this spring, honorees were heralded as guests learned of those traits that have distinguished these teacher candidates in the eyes of program and clinical faculty. Not surprisingly, phrases characterizing candidates as “careful and creative thinkers...displaying a strong knowledge of content...providing outstanding leadership” rang out amidst repeated references to their abilities to respond to diverse learners, strive for professional standards, set the bar high for peers, and provide vision through such varied activities as grant-writing and collaboration within a community of learners.

Outstanding Teacher Candidates

Kassandra Duncan
Allison Kalehoff
Brandon Lee Bates
Chelsea R. Sherrill
Leontyne Snell
Leann Williams
Virginia Edwards Stanford
Sarah Michelle Williams
Alisa Toy
Wanda Parker
Denise M. Johnson
Angela Lynn Ellen Tracy
Kyle Ethridge
Hanna Marie Moore

Alcorn State University
Belhaven University
Blue Mountain College
Delta State University
Jackson State University
Millsaps College
Mississippi College
Mississippi State University
Mississippi University for Women
Mississippi Valley State University
Tougaloo College
University of Mississippi
University of Southern Mississippi
William Carey University

In this setting, Dr. Lynn House, Interim Superintendent of Education for the Mississippi Department of Education, challenged these soon-to-be classroom teachers to continue in their professional quests and to avail themselves of the resources the Department offers. She spoke of their opportunities and challenges in this 21st century, providing them a broader glimpse into both the practicalities and the possibilities with which they will grapple as professionals in the field. And across that special afternoon it became clear that this gathering represented more than a mere end-of-the-year congratulatory event. Rather, it held up for inspection all that these educator preparation programs strive for in their graduates, the myriad of multifaceted and richly textured experiences that prepare a candidate for the professional field. As established and emerging professionals representing varied education constituencies in the state mingled, even the most casual observer would conclude that indeed Mississippi has the capacity to bring significant resources to bear on the issues it faces—and to do so in a harmonious flow.
MPE DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

MPE is proud to congratulate and honor the following members who were named their respective district’s Teacher of the Year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MPE MEMBER</th>
<th>SCHOOL DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia L. Butler</td>
<td>McComb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Shelton Caldwell</td>
<td>Lowndes County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudia R. Carter</td>
<td>MSMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison S. Clark</td>
<td>Jones County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Clayton</td>
<td>Chickasaw County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Anne Copley</td>
<td>Pearl Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Duke</td>
<td>Covington County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Laros Engberg</td>
<td>DeSoto County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbie Felder</td>
<td>South Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura B. Gray</td>
<td>Richton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsha Hillhouse</td>
<td>Pontotoc City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Patrick Holloman</td>
<td>Laurel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Lee</td>
<td>Choctaw County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucker Mikell</td>
<td>Lamar County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Smith Norman</td>
<td>North Pike Consolidated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belinda Bennett Ott</td>
<td>Lauderdale County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billie J. Powe</td>
<td>Wayne County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodson L. Ruschewski</td>
<td>Yazoo County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffanie Russell</td>
<td>Sunflower County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey Henley Shaw</td>
<td>Picayune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigitte Sheridan</td>
<td>Louisville Municipal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandie N. Steverson</td>
<td>Perry County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana L. Tankersley</td>
<td>Vicksburg-Warren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tessa Trimm</td>
<td>Petal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Charles Wall</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anita Jane Wilson</td>
<td>Lincoln County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillery Wise</td>
<td>Pontotoc County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracy M. Yarbrough</td>
<td>Greenville Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEN BASIL – DISTRICT 1

Ken has served as superintendent of the Union County School District since January 2008. He has almost 28 years’ experience in education. He attended Northeast Mississippi Community College before earning his Bachelor of Science and Masters in Educational Leadership from Mississippi State University. Prior to serving as superintendent, Ken worked for 12 years in the Union County School District, serving as a teacher, coach and assistant principal. He also worked in the Starkville, Marshall County and South Tippah school districts. Ken has been a member of MPE since 1991.

CHERYL HOWARD – DISTRICT 3

Cheryl teaches third grade math at Quitman County Elementary. A graduate of Delta State University, she has served 29 years in Quitman County – two as an assistant and 27 as a teacher. She has also served as a session leader with DSU’s Delta Math Project. Having earned her National Board Certification in 2009, Cheryl works with the University of Mississippi’s World Class Teaching Program, serving as a mentor for NBCT candidates. A member of MPE since 1991, Cheryl serves as a Building Representative.

MARK REDDOCH – DISTRICT 5

Mark has been reappointed for a full three-year term. A member of MPE since 2002, Mark has served as principal of West Jones Elementary in Jones County since 2000. Before becoming a principal, Mark was a science teacher and football coach for 14 years. He earned his Bachelor’s degree from USM, his Master’s from William Carey and his Specialist’s degree from MSU.

REGINA ALLEN – DISTRICT 7

Regina served as Columbia Primary School’s Library Media Specialist for 22 years. She earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Mississippi, a Master’s in Library Science from Louisiana State University, and a Specialist’s in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has previously served as a librarian and instructor at both Appalachian State University and Delta State University. Regina earned her National Board certification in 2003, as well as her recertification in 2012. A member of MPE since 1991, Regina has served as a Building Representative.
MPE elected its 2013-2014 officers and new board members at its 2013 Best Practices Symposium held April 13 at the Jackson Hilton. Those elected as officers are: President, Deedre’ Walsh Coll, a K-1 Teacher at Oak Grove Primary School; President-elect, Donna Robbins, a 1st Grade Teacher at Clinton Park Elementary; Secretary-Treasurer, Angela Towers, Principal at Cypress Park Elementary; and Past-President, Dr. Benny Hornsby, Chair of the Social Studies Department at Pearl River Community College. Members elected for three-year terms to the Board of Directors are: Ken Basil, Superintendent of the Union County School District, representing District 1; Cheryl Howard, a third grade math teacher at Quitman County Elementary, representing District 3; Mark Reddoch, Principal of North Jones Elementary, representing District 5; and Regina Allen, former Library Media Specialist at Columbia Primary School, representing District 7.
**GENERAL BILL HIGHLIGHTS**

- **HB 369** is the Charter School bill. It allows the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board to approve a maximum of 15 charter applications each fiscal year and requires A, B, and C school districts to give local school board approval for charters to locate within their districts. The Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board will consist of seven appointed members and will serve as the sole authorizer of charter schools. Up to 25% of teachers in charter schools may be exempt from state certification in the initial year the charter is opened, and such teachers are required to hold at least alternative certification within 3 years. Charter school administrators are exempt from state certification. Students cannot cross district lines to attend charter schools. State and local per pupil funding will follow the student, and charters are subject to the same student assessment and accountability requirements as traditional public schools.

- **HB 826**, the “Strengthening Mississippi Academic Research through Business Act,” authorizes the Department of Revenue to issue a rebate to an investor that incurs qualified research expenses pursuant to a research agreement with a state institution of higher learning or research corporation.

- **HB 932** provides an additional $8 million to the Workforce Enhancement Training (WET) Fund which is used by community colleges to provide training for jobs and skills that employers have identified as being in demand.

- **HB 1530** standardizes school attendance and absenteeism for the compulsory school attendance law and ADA calculations under the MAEP. This bill provides that a student must be present for 63% of the instructional day to be counted toward ADA.

- **SB 2347** is the Literacy-based Promotion Act (3rd Grade Gate). This bill provides that a universal reading screener or locally determined reading assessment may be given to students in kindergarten through third grade during the first 30 days of the school year and repeated if indicated at midyear, as well as at the end of school to determine student progression in reading. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, it prohibits the promotion of students whose reading deficiency is not remedied before the end of third grade.

- **SB 2395** is the Pre-K bill. It establishes a collaborative framework to support early childhood education programs. Effective with the 2013-2014 school year, the SDE shall establish a voluntary pre-kindergarten program, which shall be a collaboration among the entities providing pre-k programs. This is to be known as the “Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013.”

- **SB 2658** is the Governor’s Education Works bill. This bill requires high schools with graduation rates lower than 80% to submit a plan to the SDE to restructure the high school experience to improve graduation rates. It also creates the Teacher Education Scholars Program. Qualifying teacher education students must hold a minimum 28 ACT and a 3.5 GPA. Student scholars may receive an annual scholarship of up to $15,000 for up to 4 consecutive years and do not have to repay the scholarship if they teach in a Mississippi public school, and the entire amount is forgiven if he/she teaches in a MS public school for 5 years. The bill also provides for a pilot performance-based compensation system (i.e., merit pay) in four districts (Lamar County, Clarksdale, Gulfport and Rankin County) beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

- **SB 2659** establishes the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) Grant Program to assist law enforcement agencies in providing additional school resource officers in schools. It authorizes the local school board of public school districts which are unable to meet the financial requirements for participation in the program to develop a plan for the security of its students, faculty and administration. This plan, which may include staff carrying weapons, must be approved by the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Safety. The school board may apply for grants under the MCOPS program for the training of security personnel employed by the school district.
Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2013 Undergraduate Scholarship Award. Each student member was awarded a scholarship in the amount of $500.

Jessica Bonner  
Mississippi University for Women

Lauren Bridges  
University of Southern Mississippi

Anna Chesteen  
University of Mississippi

Christina Crow  
Mississippi State University

Alexandrea Danielson  
Delta State University

Elizabeth Goolsby  
Blue Mountain College

Airmecia Mills  
Alcorn State University

Briana Pearson  
Mississippi College

Cynthia Ann Smith  
William Carey University

Kelsey Wieberdink  
Belhaven University
MPE is proud to congratulate and honor the following members who were recognized in April by the Mississippi Economic Council as STAR (Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition) Teachers.

Kelsey L. Lawrence, Ackerman High School
Janie B. Thrasher, Belmont High School
Donna M. Bryant, Blue Mountain High School
Wendy H. Cawthorn, Bogue Chitto School
Jennifer G. Rogers, Bruce High School
Sherry D. Stratton, Caledonia High School
Rhonda Turner, Cleveland High School
Reuben W. McDowell, Columbia High School
Marilyn C. Dunaway, Deer Creek School
Elizabeth Butler, East Central High School
Beverly J. Combs, Ethel High School
Teresa O. Whitaker, Eupora High School
Evelyn C. Higgins, Franklin High School
Monica B. Edwards, Greene County High School
Angie K. Halford, Houlka High School
William S. Atkinson, Kosciusko High School
Danielle Yarbrough, Lake High School
Donna R. Wilson, Lawrence County High School
Carol W. Paola, Long Beach High School
David R. Teske, Louisville High School

Susan L. Huckaby, McComb High School
Dennis W. Reed, Mississippi School for Math & Science
Paula H. Stokes, Nanih Waiya High School
Allison Woolbright, New Hope High School
Andrea P. Clark, Oak Grove High School
Renee Hill, Ocean Springs High School
Jeffrey S. Jones, Oxford High School
Kimberly W. Fisher, Philadelphia High School
Cynthia S. Simpson, Potts Camp High School
Joette M. Smith, Quitman High School
Elizabeth M. Scrivner, Riverside High School
Lynn Zimmerman, Saint Martin High School
Katherine L. Sanders, Scott Central High School
Leslie B. Gammill, South Panola High School
Brandy B. Clingan, South Pontotoc High School
Jan C. Gunter, Sumrall High School
Karen C. Hoffman, Tylertown High School
Forrest S. Daws, Wayne Academy
Mark G. Brown, West Jones High School
With a sharp focus on reform, the 2013 legislative session lived up to its billing as “the year of education” as lawmakers debated and adopted several bills that will have a lasting effect on public schools in Mississippi.

Of all the policy decisions made over the last few months, I believe the greatest impact will be Senate Bill 2347, the “Literacy-Based Promotion Act” and Senate Bill 2395, which implements prekindergarten programs in the state for the first time. Both have the potential to bolster academic growth and to set students on the path to academic success.

The purpose of Senate Bill 2347 is to improve the reading skills of students in kindergarten and in grades 1-3 so that every student completing third grade is able to read at or above grade level. The voluntary prekindergarten program will lay the groundwork for reading success by encouraging collaboration among early childhood programs in a community and through implementing comprehensive early learning standards for four-year-old children.

We know that good prekindergarten programs help children learn important concepts that prepare them for success in school. We also know that in grades K-3, students should learn to read, and in fourth grade and beyond, they should be able to read to learn. That’s why reading proficiency is essential to every student’s progress in school.

Additionally, both of these bills are consistent with the Mississippi Board of Education goals and legislative priorities. The Board supports early childhood education and proposed early childhood pilots as part of its 2013 legislative priorities.

The Board has set a goal that students exit 3rd grade reading on grade level. This goal is particularly important as the state continues to transition to more rigorous Common Core State Standards and the accompanying PARCC assessments, in which reading comprehension and writing are emphasized.

These newly legislated initiatives may sound daunting, but I know that many educators across the P-20 spectrum are already working on strategies to address early learning. I also want to assure you that Mississippi Department of Education staff and practitioners have been engaged with the legislative discussions to influence the final legislation to the best of our abilities.

Here are a few key aspects of the prekindergarten legislation:

- The MDE will oversee the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the voluntary prekindergarten program, including the application process and awarding of funds.
- The department will establish a rigorous and transparent application process for awarding of funds.
- The Legislature has appropriated $3 million to implement the program, with additional funds to be added over time.

The following are several key aspects of the literacy bill:

- Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, third-grade students scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment or an approved alternative standardized assessment will not be promoted to fourth grade.
- The MDE recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a K-3 universal screener, a K-3 diagnostic assessment, and a third-grade literacy gateway assessment that may be used as the state assessment to determine promotion to 4th grade.
- Each K-3 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time as dictated by performance on an MDE-approved reading screener and/or locally determined assessment, as well as through teacher observations, must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention immediately.
- Parents must be notified in writing by the student’s teacher immediately upon determination of a reading deficiency and at each quarterly progress report. The report must include a description of services the school district is providing to assist the student, a description of proposed supplemental instructional services and supports needed to remediate the area of deficiency, and strategies parents can use at home to help the student. The report should also notify parents that if the reading deficiency cannot be remediated by the end of the year, the student will not be promoted to 4th grade.
- The Legislature has appropriated nearly $10 million for teacher training, instructional materials, remedial education training and interventions to launch the first year of the literacy initiative.

Implementing these legislatively mandated initiatives will take commitment and hard work, and I want you to know that the MDE stands ready to assist you. We appreciate all you do for our students each day and we want to support you in these efforts.
The 2013 legislative session ended in early April, and there were several important bills passed and signed by Governor Bryant that pertain to community colleges.

Appropriations for the community colleges are level-funded plus some “add-ons,” compared to last year. Funds were provided to cover the increased retirement expenses, and $5 million was included for repair and renovation of college buildings. The MCCB received a slight increase in appropriations compared to last year and retirement increases were also included. Additionally, the colleges will receive $25 million in bonds to be divided among the colleges. As I write this, the appropriations and bond bills are awaiting Governor Bryant’s signature.

The Workforce Enhancement Training Fund (WET Fund) was created in 2004 to provide a stable source of money for workforce training at community colleges. In recent years, we have experienced a decrease in the amount collected due to the economic downturn and a change made in 2010 to the way the fund was collected. Governor Bryant recognized this decrease and led the effort to pass House Bill 932 which inserts $8 million in one-time money into the fund. I am very grateful to the Governor and also to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security for their leadership in stabilizing this funding source which is very important to our colleges and the state.

House Bill 317 allows community colleges the option of waiving out-of-state tuition. This law will allow people who live in a border state the ability to attend a Mississippi community college while paying the in-state rate. The legislation states that the policy may be adopted only if a local industry or state agency agrees to reimburse the college for the entire amount of the out-of-state tuition that will be waived.

Our office oversees proprietary schools, the for-profit schools that offer career and technical degrees. At our request, Senator John Polk introduced Senate Bill 2786 to tighten the laws that govern these schools and to bring our law up to national standards. This is a good bill for both the proprietary schools and the students that attend these institutions in that it increases consumer protection for all parties involved.

Finally, Mr. Lee Bush, Mr. Bubba Hudspteth, Ms. Dolly Marascalco, and Ms. Sue Stedman were appointed to our board by Governor Bryant and confirmed by the Senate. Each of these people will make a positive impact on our community colleges, and I look forward to working with them.

Beginning January 1, 2014, the GED will move to a computer-based test. One other change that will also occur beginning in 2014 is that anyone who has not passed all five parts of the test will have to re-take all portions. We are urging everyone who has already begun the GED process to have everything completed by December 31, 2013. If you know of anyone who might be affected by this change, please have them contact the local GED office.

Dr. David Cole, long-time president at Itawamba Community College, will retire on June 30. Dr. Cole has been a leader in public education going back to 1974, and his retirement will leave a huge void in our state. I wish him the best during his well-deserved retirement.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful and restful summer!

Dr. Eric Clark
MCCB Executive Director
HIGH STANDARDS IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS OF ALL LEVELS

The most important factor in student achievement is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Those of us who have spent our careers in education already know this to be true from first-hand experience and research has supported that assertion. We all understand the importance of having quality teachers. The question is how to define, measure and ensure quality.

Certainly, having high standards for entering the profession is one way to ensure that there is a talented teacher in every classroom. Again, the question is what standards are appropriate? There are many ingredients in the recipe for a good teacher: content knowledge, knowledge of pedagogy, an understanding of children and the ability to communicate. Some can be measured by a standardized test, but the others cannot.

An aspiring teacher must first gain admittance to college, then enter the teacher preparation program after completing the first two years of college work. Current requirements for teacher education programs, which students enter as juniors, include a minimum grade point average ranging from 2.5 to 2.75 on the first two years of college work and passing scores on the Praxis I as set by the Mississippi Board of Education. These scores are 172 for reading, 173 for writing and 172 for math.

A student who scored 21 or above on the ACT prior to admittance to college may substitute that score for the Praxis I exam at some universities; other universities allow the substitutions for students scoring 23 and above. After completing the last two years of coursework, prospective teachers must complete a student teaching assignment. Students seeking a Teacher Education Route License must also pass the Praxis II, which includes the Principles of Learning and Teaching Test and the Specialty Area Test. The cut scores for the Praxis II are set by the Mississippi Board of Education.

There are four alternate route programs, including Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Educators, Teach Mississippi Institute, Masters of Arts in Teaching and American Board Certification. Approximately 40 percent of the teachers certified each year in the state of Mississippi complete alternate route certification. Whether a prospective teacher takes the traditional route or one of the alternate routes to the classroom, we must have the appropriate standards to ensure that he or she is qualified to hold the job and competent to perform the job and increase student achievement.

Schools and teachers have never been held accountable more than they are today. As we move toward full implementation of the Common Core State Standards, the quality of the teacher becomes more important than ever. Consequently, how teachers are prepared is more important than ever.

The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning supports having high standards for anyone entering the teaching profession and believes that licensure requirements are the appropriate method to use to set those standards. Not only will this, in effect, raise the standards for those entering the teacher preparation programs at the universities, it will also raise the standards for the additional 40 percent who enter the classroom through alternate route programs.

Certainly, we want high-achieving students to choose teaching as their profession, but we also have to understand that they are drawn to other professions for a variety of reasons, including compensation. We must ensure that compensation is set appropriately in light of the criteria required to become a teacher, the responsibilities teachers hold and how accountable they are held for results.

The ultimate goal is to have a teacher in every classroom that possesses all the ingredients of an excellent teacher, including content knowledge, knowledge of pedagogy, an understanding of children and the ability to communicate, so that every student can gain the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their dreams. This is a true recipe for success.

Dr. Hank M. Bounds
Commissioner of Higher Education

PAGE 20 MPE Journal - Spring/Summer 2013
EMBRACING CHANGE

There and Back Again, the original title of J. R. R. Tolkien’s fanciful children’s book *The Hobbit*, comes to mind when pondering Mississippi’s educational reforms over the last 30 years.

While teaching in the Mississippi Delta, the first reform I remember dealt with the Instructional Management Plan (IMP). I felt as if I were thrown into the proverbial frying pan when my principal asked me to collaborate with another first-year teacher to develop curriculum-based questions for the district’s eighth-grade English test bank. Little did I then know, that IMP was part of the first major reform known as the Mississippi Education Reform Act (MERA) of 1982 signed by Governor William Winter. Among its lasting components are state-wide testing, revised teacher certification, kindergartens, teacher assistants, the compulsory attendance law, revised graduation requirements, and a performance-based school accreditation. Subject-matter mastery determined course work to be mastered before advancing to another level. Sound familiar?

Currently, educators and policy makers are revisiting similar issues. With the 2010 adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for K-12, more emphasis is placed on proficiency in English language arts and mathematics. A major difference between these expectations and most curriculums is that students should not only master grade-level standards, but also retain and build upon or further develop them the next year. Literacy is embedded throughout the curriculum in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. Curriculum designs increase rigor and higher levels of thinking based on content-rich mediums. Educators should maximize implementation by sharing resources, learning from experiences, and creating quality-guided programs in collaboration with the other 45 states which have adopted the CCSS.

Another educational concern is a heightened awareness for pre-kindergarten programs. In 2011, early learning practitioners began aligning the CCSS for mathematics and English language arts with previous guidelines. The State Board published the Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children in February 2012. About one-third of districts use Title I funds, private funding, or grants for pre-k programs. Although the standards are available to public and non-public institutions, access to programs are not yet equitable for all children.

A third issue toward improving teacher excellence is the Mississippi Statewide Teacher Appraisal Rubric (MSTAR), to be piloted in 2013-2014. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has embarked on an endeavor to streamline teacher observations and facilitate structure in instructional leadership. MDE has held not only meetings with districts, but also with institutions of higher learning, both public and private, to ensure that teacher interns know and use the standards set forth in the evaluation rubric. Multiple evaluations will link teacher effectiveness through evidence-based observations.

As professionals, we have been “there and back again.” Hurdles with implementing CCSS include insufficient funding, inadequate technology for assessments, and accommodating curriculum designs. Public pre-k programs linger at the forefront. Educators remain anxious about state-wide evaluations. All stakeholders must accept that transformations will not happen overnight. Now is the time to embrace change as *The Hobbit’s* modern-day film title suggests “An Unexpected Journey.”
Hello Fellow Educators (retired or not):

When I wrote my article for the Winter issue I addressed it to retired and those wishing and wanting to be. By now some of you made that decision. Never fear— I know from experience that once a teacher, always a teacher. I still catch myself wanting to stop children when I see them running inside!

If you are retiring, please consider the type of MPE membership you need, but let me strongly encourage you to keep your membership active. We have different types of memberships for retired personnel. If you are considering working part-time in the field of education, you might want to consider the membership that continues to provide the liability insurance coverage. This membership is $60 a year. If you aren’t really retiring and are going to move into the private sector working full time as an educator, you can just remain a regular member. But, if you are “going home,” the retired membership at $10 a year is perfect for you. This gives you the benefits of continuing to be a part of the largest educational organization in MS (and the numbers do count with legislators) and you will continue to receive legislative updates and emails and the MPE Journal. This keeps us “in the loop” with educational issues and also informed on what is happening with PERS. While retired members are not covered by MPE’s professional liability insurance, they may participate in our optional long-term care, auto/home insurance, and dental and vision benefits. Whichever membership you choose, remember that MPE is here for you.

If you have retired or are changing schools, don’t forget to update your contact information with the office. We don’t want to lose you!

This legislative year has been a scary one for members of PERS--our retirement is very important to us. Some bills that struck fear in our hearts were introduced early in the legislative session. These died early and we could breathe easily again. Some bills are still pending as I write these but updates are given at www.pers.state.ms.us/legislation.html.

I will renew my educator’s license in June. I remember so well when I received it and saw that valid from 07/01/1997 to 06/30/2013—I laughed and said “well, this is the last time I’ll worry about this because in 2013 I will be 70 years old and not thinking about teaching!” Well, 2013 is here—and I’ll soon be 70—but something in me just won’t let that license go. If there are others like me out there, don’t forget that as state retirees renewing is not a problem. All we have to do is let it expire then ask for a reinstatement. This is done by filing an application for reinstatement with an official document from PERS:

- You can download the application from the MDE website (or call and they will mail you one) and call PERS (800-444-7377) and ask them to mail you the documentation showing your retired status.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can ever help you or if you want to talk. My cell number is 662-588-9011 and my email is phileneallen@bellsouth.net. I love hearing from you—and I’m here to represent you.
Why MPE?

The premier package of benefits for the least amount of money!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 - 2013 DUES</th>
<th>MPE</th>
<th>OTHER ORGANIZATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional with liability insurance</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$441* - $498*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples with liability insurance</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>-NA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Professional</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>-NA-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-certified or part-time with insurance</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$238*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Teacher with insurance</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>$21*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired Educator without insurance</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$60*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* May not include local dues

Professional liability protection of $2 million with $3 million maximum (other organizations provide only $1 million with $3 million maximum)

Legal assistance related to employment or professional matters per MPE policy

$10,000 in accidental death & dismemberment coverage

$2,500 assault related property damage (5x the coverage of another organization)

Only organization to provide identity theft coverage with membership

Graduate & Undergraduate Scholarships awarded annually

Classroom Grant opportunities

Unlimited professional advice available 24 hours per day/7 days per week (included with membership)

Every dollar of your dues stays in Mississippi for your benefit! MPE does not utilize dues to support political candidates.