



Protecting Pensions. Serving Members.

THE NEWS

SUMMER 2026

VOL. 65, NO. 2

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www.mnream.org

REAM STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Represent all school retirees, present and future, certifies and classified.

Educate and inform all school personnel on matters related to the improvement of their economic and social status.

Assist and work to strengthen local and regional units in every way possible.

Monitor the actions of, and cooperate with the legislature, all government units, and other organizations that deal with present and future retired school personnel.

HAPPY SUMMER REAM MEMBERS

We wish you a relaxing summer!

Please mark the dates of September 28 and 29, 2026, so you can join fellow educators at Jackpot Junction in Morton for lots of fun and sharing at REAM’s Annual Conference. The conference will begin on Monday, September 28. People who want to golf need to be at the golf course in Redwood Falls at 12:30. Bingo starts at 1 p.m.

Also, how did you like the new look and features of the REAM Newsletter? Please share with us your thoughts and suggestions.

Barb Hunter and I will be completing our two-year term as co-presidents on September 30, 2026. We enjoyed the challenges as well as meeting lots and lots of great fellow educators from around the state. An election will be held at our REAM Conference to install new presidents.

REAM’s legislative team is busy staying in contact with legislators during the current session. Watch for important information from them as the legislature has to adjourn by May 18, 2026. REAM’S goal is to preserve, protect and enhance our pensions.

Happy Summer -
John Huisman Co-President



THE ANNUAL REAM CONFERENCE



The Annual REAM Conference for 2026 will be held at Jackpot Junction in Morton this year. We have changed the format a little bit to avoid stagnation. Please preregister for the conference. The menu is a buffet style this year. There will not be a bus tour offered this year due to the distances that would need to be traveled. We encourage you to explore on your own the many historical places in the area as time allows. You do have the option to stay an extra day for the discounted rate.

There is a golf option for Monday afternoon. Golfers are expected to provide their own transportation to the Redwood Falls Golf Course at their own expense. REAM will not be collecting any fees for golf. Something new this year is Bingo! We will play Monday afternoon for some wonderful prizes!

Please note that the Presidents' Reception Monday night is a cash bar. This is due to the policies at Jackpot Junction. We will still have the opportunity to visit on Monday night after the day's events to mingle and meet new friends.

The speakers on Tuesday morning look to be fantastic. You will have an opportunity this year to hear BOTH speakers; you do not have to choose which one to attend. You only need to decide the order in which you wish to hear them. We will have someone speaking about the education system of the Indians and their culture. We also have someone speaking about decluttering. This is something we all try to do or want to learn how to do better.

It looks like it will be an informative and fun conference! We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. See you at Jackpot Junction!

The Dakota Wicohan dancers, singers and drummers will share dances and songs with the conference goers on Monday evening.

They will share six different dance styles along with a video about the reason and purpose

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026 REAM FALL CONFERENCE!

JOIN US AT THE JACKPOT JUNCTION CASINO HOTEL,
SEPTEMBER 28-29.

***NEW THIS YEAR:** 2 Registration Rates – 1 for REAM Members, the other for those that haven't joined REAM. Both Rates include **ALL** breakout sessions and **ALL** meals. Please register only one person per form.

**REGISTRATION FORM for the 2026 REAM CONFERENCE to be held SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2026
JACKPOT JUNCTION CASINO HOTEL, MORTON, MN**

FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS: Call (507) 697-8000 **BEFORE SEPTEMBER 12TH**.
Ask for the Retired Educators Association of Minnesota Conference rate (\$85.20 plus tax).

*NAME: _____

*ADDRESS _____ *CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

*PHONE _____ *EMAIL _____

Please PRINT how you want your name badge to appear:

*NAME _____ *CITY or LOCAL UNIT _____

Please Choose One:

REAM MEMBER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: \$150.00 (Fee after 9/11/2026 is **\$160.00**.)

Fee Includes: Registration, all meals and breakout sessions. Rooms must be reserved and paid for separately.

REAM NON-MEMBER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: \$160.00 (Fee after 9/11/2026 is **\$170.00**.)

Fee Includes: Registration, all meals and breakout sessions. Rooms must be reserved and paid for separately.

All meals are buffet style. No need to make meal choices. **All meals are included with registration.**

Monday Dinner Buffet Includes: Chicken, Steak, Rice, vegetable, and salad

Tuesday Breakfast Buffet Includes: Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Bacon, and Hash Browns

Tuesday Lunch Buffet Includes: South Mex Buffet – Taco buffet, refried beans, and chips

Vegetarian and Gluten-Free Options are available for all meals. Circle special requests here:

VEGETARIAN

GLUTEN-FREE

I am interested in Golfing at the Redwood Falls Golf Course on Monday.
(No fee at this time. Golf will be at your own expense and transportation. More details to come.)

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM & CHECK TO: Mary Broderick – REAM PO Box 7519 St. Cloud, MN 56302
Questions: Contact: Mary Broderick email : reammembership@gmail.com phone: (320) 493-7396

MEET OUR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Downsizing & Decluttering

Are you looking to get rid of some unwanted stuff around your home? Join us and hear about important organizing tips while exploring how streamlining your things can help you feel happier, less stressed and more productive. We'll explore:

1. How to start your decluttering and organizing journey;
2. Practical tips on organizing and decluttering;
3. How better organization can positively impact your daily life.



Bio: Pat Casello-Maddox is an educator, author, and speaker. She retired from her profession as a healthcare provider, professor, and administrator in 2021 and continues to live in West Bloomington with her husband. She now works with retired senior women and is an AARP volunteer speaker. She is passionate about helping seniors thrive through the challenges of retirement.

American Indian Education



Jesse Kodet is an enrolled citizen of the Lower Sioux Indian Community. Born and raised in Morton, Jesse graduated from Redwood Valley High School in 1997 and completed several years of college at MSU-Mankato and Anoka-Hennepin Tech. He has dedicated his career to working for the community and now serves as the Lower Sioux Education Coordinator, where he is collaborating to expand mentoring toward educational pathways for younger tribal citizens.

He will be speaking on the following topics: *American Indian Student Definition* (Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.73, subdivision 5); *Indigenous Education for All Students* (Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120B.021, subdivision 5); *Tribal Regalia at Graduation Ceremonies* (Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.792); and *Standards Development* (Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 120B.021, subdivision 2(a)).

Jesse recommends reading the following books: Charles Eastman's *Indian Boyhood*, *The Soul of the Indian*, and *From the Deep Woods to Civilization* for starters.

APPLY NOW:

REAM Educator and John Moriarity Awards

Deadline July 31, 2026

The **REAM Educator Award** will be presented during the annual conference at the Jackpot **Junction Casino Hotel in Morton, MN on September 28-29, 2026**. The awards are given on Monday, September 28 at 5:15 p.m. This award is given to a noteworthy REAM member who has contributed to the growth of REAM or a local REAM unit. To nominate an individual or individuals, please use the following criteria:

1. Personal endeavors as a school educator
2. Promotion of the causes of education within the community
3. Service to schools and community as a volunteer
4. Service to retired educator groups at the local, division, and/or state level.

Letters of nomination should be brief and concise, but include the following items in the individual's resume:

1. Name, address, education (place, dates, degrees, etc.)
2. Teaching (or school related) places, level or work, years in service
3. Date retired
4. Experience, other than school-related
5. Honors received, organizations, offices held, etc.
6. Volunteer activities, church, community, etc.
7. Service to retired educator groups at local, division, and/or REAM level.

The **John Moriarity Government Involvement Award** is given to a retired educator and member of REAM who is/was involved in local, county, state, and/or national government activities and political activities such as REAM/AARP legislative activity, political party involvement and/or campaign work.

Possibilities to consider for this award are those who are/were:

- Elected or appointed to community government positions such as city councils, city commissions and board, or school boards
- Elected or appointed to county government positions such as county commissions and boards, or study or research groups
- Elected or appointed to state government positions such as state officers and commissioners, legislature, interns or advisors, or pension positions
- Elected or appointed to national offices such as cabinet members, Congress, staff assistants or interns, or those serving on boards or commissions involved in political activity such as REAM or AARP legislative activity, political party activity, or campaign workers.

Important: Please submit any **2026 REAM Award nominations** for the 2026 Annual Conference to: **jkh4president@gmail.com**

or this address (preferred snail mail):

Lindsay Lally
5560 Lally Rd
Cromwell, MN 55726

For questions call **Lindsay's mobile at 218-644-3739**.

REAM LEARNING SERIES

REAM WEBINARS

TUESDAYS

10:30 AM

If you are looking for relevant, valuable information on a variety of topics, REAM has you covered. REAM is offering webinars just for you. These webinars feature a live Q&A.

You must register in advance per session.*

Can't make it on **Tuesdays at 10:30AM?**

Not to worry, we've got you covered! Just register for each session that interests you. Those registered will receive a link from the recorded session so that you can watch it at your leisure.

JUNE 30

What They Don't Tell You About Long Term Care

JULY 28

Eyes, Smiles and Health: Power of Preventive Care in Retirement

AUGUST 25

Senior Scams and Election Season Frauds

SEPTEMBER 22

Life Insurance Basics for Retirees

OCTOBER 27

Medicare Made Easier. Your Guide to Annual Enrollment

NOVEMBER 19

Caring for Loved Ones- While Protecting Yourself

DECEMBER 11

Holiday Savings and Member Benefits

web

* To register, Go to www.mnream.org

Go to the far right side and click on the link below the listing for each session.

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IN MEMORY OF: FROM:

Connie Priebe	Lois J. Bahl, Austin	\$20.00
Dave Elwood	West Central Retired Educators Ass'n	\$15.00
Ed Draheim	Gary and Cherry Schwartz, Owatonna	\$25.00
Marty Rossini	Patricia Rossini, Oak Park Heights	\$25.00
Mike Norberg	West Central Retired Educators Ass'n	\$100.00
Richard Frie	Sheldon D. Johnson, Monticello	\$25.00
John (Pat) and Judith Harris	Carl Most, Rochester	\$20.00

GIFTS:

Gifts from REAM "life members" \$1,340.00

REAM ACKNOWLEDGES AND APPRECIATES GIFTS WITH MEMBERSHIP

REAM MEMORIAL/GIFT DONATION

I'm happy to enclose a \$_____ gift to be used by REAM to carry forward the objectives of my organization, namely, the improvement of the civic, cultural, social, economic and professional status of its members;

(and/or)

I've enclosed a \$_____ memorial in abiding memory of _____ of the _____ Chapter.

My Name _____

Or Name of Chapter _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

___Please do not print my name with this gift/memorial in
The REAM News

Mail to REAM Treasurer, Al Tonn,
602 W. North St.,
Janesville, MN 56048



Protecting Pensions. Serving Members.

PO Box 7519
St. Cloud, MN 56302



TRAVEL WITH REAM TO COSTA RICA FEB 9 – 17, 2027

Expertly crafted guided tours
for the modern traveler.

Travel with REAM!
Travel is the #1 requested member benefit.
Scan the QR code for more information

