

MEA-Retired Tribune

March, 2024

Election day will be upon us in a short eight months

Another “leap day” has come and gone, the two days prior to the once-every-four-years occurrence provided us with record warmth one day and a temperature dive over 50 degrees the next. A beautiful sunrise in my neck of the woods this first day of March will be the perfect start for a Friday.

When a new page is turned on a monthly calendar, my mind goes to looking at what is happening that new month; it’s a hectic one for many MEA-Retired members, with the NEA-Retired Organizing Conference in Chicago March 3-5, the MEA Winter Conference March 7-8, a number of MEA-Retired meetings March 11-13 and our MEA-Retired Annual Meeting March 26.

One-sixth of 2024 is now history, and while Election Day is nine months away, it is on our minds, in the news and more important than ever. We are all benefitting from your work that resulted in the election of pro-public education candidates in 2022. As one whose pension was fully taxed by the state, I am one whose pension checks will swell a little because of the pension tax rollback.

It is not too early to do your part to keep the ball rolling. Maybe knocking on doors in support of a candidate isn’t your “thing.” That’s fine; you can send postcards, participate in a phone bank, attend a fundraiser, talk to family and friends about the importance of supporting those who are making a difference.

Think about the impact that the nearly 38,000 members of MEA-Retired can have. If each of us has a conversation with a dozen Michigan voters over the next few months, that adds up to 456,000 people who will know how much the current pro-public education leaders in Lansing have had a significant, positive impact on the students, families and retirees in our state.

Finally, we all know that keeping this amazing momentum going doesn’t happen without the funds to do so. Take a moment and donate; it’s easy! Go to pac.mymea.org to help the cause. Your contribution—along with those of other members—will make a difference!

From ssa.gov:

How to spot a fake Social Security social media account

Do you know how to spot fake Social Security social media accounts? The tips below will help you protect yourself and your family.

How fraudsters create imposter accounts

Fraudsters create imposter social media pages and accounts using Social Security-related images and jargon, making them appear as if they're associated with or endorsed by us. They also create imposter social media pages of Social Security and OIG officials, such as the Commissioner or the Inspector General.

Protect your personally identifiable information

We will *never* ask for sensitive information through social media as these channels are not secure. Sometimes, users are asked to enter their financial information, Social Security number (SSN), or other sensitive information. This is a red flag, and often an indication of a fraudulent account.

How to spot a fake social media account

Identifying an imposter account may seem difficult at first, but there are a few things you can look for right away. You will want to focus on the following:

- How many people follow the imposter page. In most cases, fake pages have a very low number of followers as compared to Social Security's official page.
- Improper punctuation.
- Links to pages not on SSA.gov.
- Advertisements for forms or other Social Security documents.
- Incorrect social media handle. To view the list of our official social media channels, we encourage you to visit our [Social Media webpage](#).

Please report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — to the [OIG's website](#). You can find more information about scams on our webpage, [Protect Yourself from Scams](#).

Please share this information with your friends, family, and colleagues to help spread awareness about Social Security imposter scams.

From mea.org:

MEA recommends six Congressional candidates

On Feb. 14, MEA announced the following recommendations of candidates for Michigan Congressional districts:

- 3rd District: Rep. Hillary Scholten
- 6th District: Rep. Debbie Dingell
- 7th District: Curtis Hertel Jr.
- 10th District: Carl Marlinga
- 12th District: Rep. Rashida Tlaib
- 13th District: Rep. Shri Thanedar

“MEA members at the local level have carefully chosen our recommended congressional candidates because each one of them has a proven track record of standing up for educators and working to ensure our schools have the resources they need to help students succeed,” said MEA President Chandra Madafferi, a teacher from Oakland County. “We look forward to partnering with these candidates and others running for office throughout Michigan as we work to strengthen our schools, colleges and universities and bring respect back to the education profession.”

All six of the recommended congressional candidates were screened and recommended by committees comprised of MEA members from the districts. Scholten, Dingell, Tlaib and Thanedar were eligible for continuing recommendations under MEA rules, as they are incumbents who were previously recommended in 2022.

These federal recommendations were then concurred by the board of the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education at its recent meeting in Washington, D.C.

Local committees are continuing to screen candidates in other congressional and state legislative districts, and further recommendations will be announced in the coming weeks and months.

YOU can be on a local screening and recommending committee! Donate to MEA PAC and contact your MEA Coordinating Council.