‘This is about voting your JOB’

What would drive MEA-MFT members to give up a beautiful summer or fall evening to sit inside and make political phone calls?

Carole Addis, a member in Missoula, put it succinctly: “If we don’t elect Steve Bullock (as governor) and Denise Juneau (as superintendent of public instruction), everything we’ve worked for will be down the drain.”

Addis is one of dozens of volunteers participating in a massive effort to reach all 18,000 MEA-MFT members across Montana, talking about how crucial the November election is.

“We are mobilizing as never before,” said MEA-MFT President Eric Feaver. “Never have the stakes been higher, and never have the choices been starker. We’ve seen what happened in states like Wisconsin, Ohio, and Idaho, where extremists got elected in 2010. We’re not letting that happen here in Montana.”

(Continued on page 3)

MEAMFT volunteers rock the phone banks in Helena, Missoula, Billings, Kalispell, & Great Falls, talking to fellow members about the 2012 election. Clockwise from top: Nicole Peterson, John George, Jennifer Kirby, Ashley Glover, Tom Glover, Paul Northey, Mary Verploegen, Pat Rosenleaf, Marilyn Hamer, Jean Tutskey.


I’ve lost family and friends before. Rode each event out pretty much whole.

But losing Jim McGarvey has been a hard ride, maybe not yet over.

Jim was my friend.
And I was his.
Jim was a comrade in arms.
Right now, losing Jim, I feel empty . . . somewhat the way I felt another raw moment 43 years ago on a godforsaken LZ hard by the Ho Chi Minh trail.

A huge part of MEA-MFT has died.

At first Jim and I warred against each other as MEA and MFT competed for members and affiliates . . . sometimes oblivious to the wreckage we left around and the outside, predatory, anti-union dangers our warfare invited.

But once we figured out our respective union interests were better served united than not, we built one hell of a union.

Then we warred together, joined at the hip in common cause, for the best things good government exists to provide: public schools, public health and human services, public safety, minimum wage, universal health care . . . and against right-wing, libertarian, political evil that would destroy the social compact, drown government in a bathtub, privatize public schools, sell out Social Security and pensions, and prohibit workers from organizing to bargain collectively for competitive salaries and benefits — the stuff that makes the American middle class.

The war continues. It is a war, you know.
Now without Jim.

And I have other memories:
Decoding Jim’s history lessons and instructional stories. He was a book of infinite chapters, and he never began a story on the first page.
Fishing Jim out of truly dangerous rapids in the Alberton Gorge.
Jim painstakingly ordering dinner a la carte and not eating most of it.
Jim and his damned tea bags.
Jim calling whenever and demanding, “Tell me what I don’t know.”
Jim’s three cell phones buzzing at once, one in his ear.
Jim and his fat, beat-up book of multi-colored note pages that he carried everywhere but rarely opened in my presence. Each color meant something to Jim. I don’t know what.
Jim forcefully calming troubled waters between MEA-MFT and the governor’s office setting the stage for successful legislation creating state-funded quality educator payment, education loan repayment, and full-time kindergarten.
Jim and the iron-clad friendships he built, nurtured, and never forgot.
Jim and the implacable enemies he made, nurtured, and never forgot in the rough-edged world of union organizing . . . because, well, because he was Jim . . . and he despised jealous competitors who failed to grant or even acknowledge his success. They gave it back in kind.
Jim and Butte, the sacred city of his birth.
Jim, a Montana organizer, without peer.
Jim’s funeral was Monday, Labor Day, as it should be.

Goodbye, Jim.

Eric Feaver

P.S. Despite rumors to the contrary, I don’t believe Jim ever really fished with dynamite.
MEA-MFT leaders, staff, and volunteers have been working for a year to inform members about the issues in this year’s election.

The phone calls are part of that effort. They began in June and will continue through Election Day, November 6. Volunteers have been calling and writing fellow members from phone banks in Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, Helena, Kalispell, and Laurel. More phone banks are planned in other towns. The calls focus especially on Steve Bullock for governor and Denise Juneau for superintendent of public instruction.

“These are the offices that have the most direct impact on our members and their jobs, though every race is crucial,” explained MEA-MFT Political Director Terry Minow.

“Our volunteers are having a great time, and they're making a huge difference. They're finding that most other members appreciate hearing from them about the candidates.”

Volunteers are also recruiting more members to help elect candidates who support public education, public services, and employees’ rights: MEA-MFT’s endorsed candidates. “Nearly a thousand said they would volunteer,” said Minow. “Our members get it. They know this election is about saving their jobs. It’s about their ability to provide for their families, the very existence of public education and public services in Montana.”

Meanwhile, MEA-MFT leaders and staff are meeting with members around the state, talking about the election and showing the now-famous “Not in Montana” presentation, which explains what happened in states where public employees lost collective bargaining rights. (See p. 4.)

As MEA-MFT board member Mike Picking, president of the Great Falls Education Association, recently wrote to his local members, “I know some of you may have a hard time separating your other political views from your professional views. I understand that, believe me, but this is about voting your JOB.” Picking’s advice: “Vote your job, lobby your hobby.”

Join the team! Want to help elect candidates who support you? Contact Terry Minow at MEA-MFT: tminow@mea-mft.org.

Super Volunteer JANE SHAWN
1st grade teacher

Jane Shawn has cheerfully reported for phone bank duty at MEA-MFT’s Helena office more than a dozen times. For two hours, she talks to fellow MEA-MFT members about the importance of electing Steve Bullock as governor and Denise Juneau as superintendent of schools.

She plans to keep volunteering until Election Day, November 6.

“I think it’s important to do whatever I can to help get people elected who are going to support me in my job and support my community,” she says.

“I’m really impressed with Denise’s Graduation Matters program and her Schools of Promise program. Steve Bullock and I are on the same side of the issues. We share the same values.”

She adds, “It’s not just about my job security. I’m advocating for the kids I teach and their families. Teachers can’t do their jobs with crowded classrooms, without resources. Balancing the budget on the backs of public employees doesn’t make sense. We’re part of the economy. We shop locally, we put money back in the local economy. We pay taxes.”

Thank you, Jane! You are making a difference.
Not in Montana! We’re not following Wisconsin & Idaho

What’s at stake in Montana’s November election:

- Your job, salary, working conditions, & benefits.
- Funding for education and public services.
- Collective bargaining: the right of workers to stick together as a group.
- Privatization of public schools and other public services.
- Teacher tenure (the right to due process before dismissal).
- State pay plan.
- Your pension: Will the Teachers Retirement System & Public Employees Retirement System continue to exist?

It all depends on who gets elected.

Workers have a right to stick together, so their employers take them seriously. It’s as fundamental as the right to free speech and religious freedom.

But powerful interests, acting on a national level, want to destroy that right, especially for public employees. Why? It gets in their way.

Take a look at Wisconsin: Scott Walker, with help from the billionaire right-wing Koch brothers, won election as governor in 2010 and immediately set out to unravel Wisconsin’s public employee unions.

Without warning, the lives of thousands of Wisconsin public employees and educators changed overnight when Governor Walker pushed a law through the legislature that destroyed 50 years of collective bargaining rights.

Due process, health insurance, and retirement benefits disappeared. Thousands lost their jobs. Others suffered huge pay cuts.

Funding for public services was slashed. Classrooms grew so crowded that teachers had no room to walk up and down the aisle.

Right next door to us, in Idaho, State Superintendent of Education Tom Luna pushed bills through the 2011 Idaho legislature that rolled back collective bargaining rights of educators. Idaho now has no renewable contracts for teachers, no due process for salary reduction or assignment changes, and no just cause for dismissal. Teacher pay is now partly determined by student test scores. State funding for public schools was cut by $156 million. Similar atrocities happened in many other states in 2011.

And in Montana’s 2011 legislature, Tea Party legislators tried to follow suit, with bills aimed at destroying workers’ rights, ending public education as we know it, and privatizing public services like the Montana Veterans Home.

“The only thing that saved Montana from following Idaho and Wisconsin in 2011 was having a governor who vetoed bad bills,” said MEA-MFT President Eric Feaver.

“We’ve already seen similar bill draft proposals from the same Tea Party legislators for the 2013 session. We have to elect a governor, superintendent of public instruction, and legislators who will fight for our members and the Montana people our members serve.”

Feaver continued, “Rick Hill has publicly embraced an agenda similar to Wisconsin’s Scott Walker. Sandy Welch says she shares Hill’s agenda. We have to elect Steve Bullock and Denise Juneau.”

“We can do it. Our 18,000 members and their families can swing the course of this election.”

This issue of MEA-MFT Today shows which candidates measure up.

NOTE: As we go to press, a Wisconsin judge has just ruled that Governor Walker’s anti-union law violates the state and U.S. constitutions. This follows a lawsuit brought by Wisconsin public employees’ unions. The Walker administration is expected to appeal the ruling.

Super Volunteer JOE SPICHA, Head Start

Joe Spicha, super volunteer at the Missoula phone bank, not only gave up many of his summer evenings to call fellow members about MEA-MFT’s endorsed candidates, he showed up at the phone bank with fresh tomatoes from his garden to share.

He even shared his huckleberries — not something most pickers are willing to do.

Talk about going the extra mile for your fellow members. Thank you, Joe!
MEA-MFT’s endorsed candidates for STATEWIDE OFFICE

Steve Bullock for Governor

Steve Bullock’s priorities are clear: strong public schools, strong public services, a strong economy, and a strong middle class.

Steve shares our values. He knows education is directly tied to economic development. He will fight for workers’ collective bargaining rights.

MEA-MFT is proud to make Steve’s election our top priority. He will continue Governor Schweitzer’s legacy of working with MEA-MFT to stop bad ideas like giving public dollars to private schools run by for-profit, out-of-state corporations. He will fight to uphold the public retirement systems that provide security and dignity to our members at the end of their careers.

With Steve Bullock as governor, MEA-MFT

(Continued on p. 7)

Denise Juneau for Superintendent of Public Instruction

Denise Juneau is a proven champion for all Montana children. MEA-MFT is proud she is our friend, our fellow member, and a nationally recognized leader.

Denise is running for re-election as superintendent of schools. She deserves another four years to continue her good work, including her Graduation Matters campaign, which has improved Montana’s graduation rate.

Denise is a talented, articulate advocate for quality education for all. She knows first-hand that public education, from Head Start to k-12 to the university system, gives our children the chance to make a good life for themselves.

(Continued on p. 7)
Don’t be a down-ballot dropout!
There are many hot races at the top of the November ballot. But some of the most important races are down the ballot. Every race is important! Every race affects you, your family, and your job. Don’t stop at the top!

Jon Tester for U.S. Senate

Jon Tester brings Montana values to the United States Senate. As the Senate’s only farmer, he has a unique perspective on protecting our state’s farms and ranches.

As a former teacher and school board member from a small rural community on the Hi-line, he knows that Montana’s quality public schools and universities need funding and support. He has been willing to stand up to the Obama administration on federal policies that don’t work for Montana, policies like No Child Left Behind.

MEA-MFT enjoys a working relationship with Jon that began during his years in the Montana Senate and that continues today. He takes our calls, and he deserves our votes.

Kim Gillan for U.S. Congress

Kim Gillan is a longtime friend of public education and public services. As a Montana legislator from Billings, she worked with both Republicans and Democrats to make life better for Montana families.

She got the insurance companies to cover autism and diabetes. She successfully fought for better job training opportunities for Montanans.

As our congresswoman, Kim Gillan will protect Medicare and speak up for Montana’s working families.

MEA-MFT is proud to recommend a candidate who will truly stand up for Montana in Washington. That candidate is Kim Gillan.

Pam Bucy for Attorney General

Pam Bucy has dedicated her career to public service. She has been a staunch advocate for public services and public education in Montana.

Pam previously worked for former Attorney General Mike McGrath, serving as his chief deputy. She knows the ropes!

As Montana’s top law enforcement officer, Pam will make safe neighborhoods her priority.

She has extensive experience in prosecuting those who would harm our citizens, especially our children. As Montana’s chief consumer advocate, Pam Bucy will prosecute those who would take advantage of Montanans.

Linda McCulloch for Secretary of State

MEA-MFT member Linda McCulloch deserves a second term as Montana’s secretary of state. Linda has proven herself to be a champion of fair, open, honest, and accurate elections. She has successfully fought bills that would infringe on Montanans’ right to vote.

Linda has made the secretary of state’s office, which licenses businesses in Montana, a model of fiscal responsibility and improved customer service. This has saved money for business owners and taxpayers alike.

Linda’s opponent, Brad Johnson, supports oppressive “voter ID” laws that would make it harder for Montanans to vote.

Voting by mail?
Watch for your ballot the week of October 8. For peace of mind, fill it out and send it right in!
Monica Lindeen for State Auditor

In her four years as state auditor, Monica Lindeen has successfully protected Montana securities and insurance consumers from fraud. She prosecuted the largest Ponzi scheme in Montana history, returning millions to victims across the state.

Monica’s opponent, Derek Skees, is a Montana legislator who had a miserable 25% voting record in the 2011 legislative session on public education, public services, and other issues that matter to MEA-MFT members.

Ed Sheehy for Montana Supreme Court Justice

The Montana Supreme Court is the court of last resort for Montana citizens to obtain justice.

Ed Sheehy is a talented, experienced, and ethical attorney with 34 years of experience in Montana.

Ed has the breadth of experience and knowledge of the law, legal procedures, and the legal system needed in order to be a great justice. MEA-MFT is proud to recommend Ed Sheehy for Supreme Court justice.

Brian Morris for Montana Supreme Court Justice

Montana law requires that state supreme court justices who run unopposed for re-election be placed on the ballot with the question of whether or not they be retained.

Justice Brian Morris is running for re-election unopposed, and he needs our “yes” votes to be retained.

Brian has proven he has the judicial temperament, talent, and legal knowledge to serve as a valued member of the court.

The values we share as MEA-MFT members:

- We want Montana to be a state we can be proud of: a state with educated citizens, safe communities, and opportunities for all.
- Public education and public services make these possible. They help families, communities, and businesses thrive.
- Working people deserve a voice in their working conditions.
- Public tax dollars should go to public services; not to private, for-profit ventures.

These are the values we look for in our endorsed candidates.

Ballot measure recommendations

The MEA-MFT COPE Board studied these measures, which will appear on Montana’s November ballot, and made the following recommendations:

NO on LR-121: Legislative Referendum 121 would basically force Montana state employees to become immigration agents. LR-121 would “deny certain state services to illegal aliens.” State and higher education staff would have to determine a person’s status when that person applied for state services. Determining citizenship has always been the federal government’s job. LR-121 shifts that burden to the state.

YES on I-166: Stop unlimited corporate spending on campaigns. The U.S. Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United decision ruled that corporations have the same rights as people, and that unlimited corporate political spending equates to constitutionally protected free speech. I-166 establishes a state policy saying corporations are not entitled to constitutional rights because they are not human beings.

Steve Bullock (from p. 5)

members will know they have a friend at the state capitol, a friend who believes in the work we do, work that matters.

Learn more about Steve Bullock, and his opponent, on page 9.

Denise Juneau (from p. 5)

Denise goes to the experts — teachers, students, and parents — to get their ideas on how to make Montana’s great public schools even better.

Learn more about Denise Juneau, and her opponent, on page 10.
MEA-MFT’s endorsed candidates for MONTANA LEGISLATURE

Bold = MEA-MFT Member  HD = House District  SD = Senate District

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HD 3  Zac Perry  Hungry Horse
HD 4  Ed Lieser  Whitefish
HD 10  Alex Schaeffer  Kalispell
HD 12  Luke Walawander  Ronan
HD 15  Frosty Calf Boss Ribs  Heart Butte
HD 16  Lea Whitford  Cut Bank
HD 17  Mike Henning  Fairfield
HD 18  Colter McCarty  Great Falls
HD 19  Richard Liebert  Great Falls
HD 20  Lindsay Love  Great Falls
HD 21  Jean Price  Great Falls
HD 22  Casey Schreiner  Great Falls
HD 23  Carlie Boland  Great Falls
HD 24  Tom Glover  Great Falls
HD 25  Tom Jacobson  Great Falls
HD 26  Bob Melhoffer  Great Falls
HD 31  Bridget Smith  Wolf Point
HD 33  Brenda Skornogoski  Havre
HD 34  Karen S. Sloan  Havre
HD 35  Floyd Hopstad  Glasgow
HD 38  Jim Hicks  Glendive
HD 40  Bill McChesney  Miles City
HD 44  Wallace Yovetich  Billings
HD 45  Carolee Hagstrom  Roundup
HD 47  Dale Rumph  Billings
HD 48  Rita Wells  Billings
HD 49  Mary McNally  Billings
HD 50  Deborah D. Willis  Billings
HD 51  Kelly McCarthy  Billings
HD 52  Virginia Court  Billings
HD 53  Joseph Sands  Billings
HD 54  Margie MacDonald  Billings
HD 55  Bob Winger  Billings
HD 58  Cole Olson  Laurel
HD 59  Paul Beck  Red Lodge
HD 62  Reilly Neill  Livingston
HD 63  Franke Wilmer  Bozeman
HD 64  Tom Woods  Bozeman
HD 65  Kathleen Williams  Bozeman
HD 66  JP Pominichowski  Bozeman
HD 70  April Buonamici  Bozeman
HD 72  Norma J. Duffy  Dillon
HD 73  Pat Noonan  Ramsay
HD 74  Ryan Lynch  Butte
HD 75  Edie McClafferty  Butte
HD 76  Amanda Curtis  Butte
HD 77  Adam Lythgoe  Clancy
HD 79  Chuck Hunter  Helena
HD 80  Kelsen Young  Helena
HD 81  Galen Holbenbaugh  Helena
HD 82  Jenny Eck  Helena
HD 84  Everett G. Sheets  Deer Lodge
HD 85  Gordon Pierson Jr  Deer Lodge
HD 86  Kathy Swanson  Anaconda
HD 88  Pam Erickson  Hamilton
HD 91  Chuck Erickson  Milltown
HD 92  Bryce Bennett  Missoula
HD 93  Doug Coffin  Missoula
HD 94  Ellie Hill  Missoula
HD 95  Tom Steenberg  Missoula
HD 96  Carolyn Squires  Missoula
HD 97  Nancy Wilson  Missoula
HD 98  Jennifer Gursky  Missoula
HD 99  Kimberly Dudik  Missoula
HD 100  Dave Andrews  Missoula

MONTANA SENATE

SD 2  David B. Fern  Whitefish
SD 6  Nancy Lindsey  Polson
SD 7  Mark Sheets  Thompson Falls
SD 9  Ron Szabo  Great Falls
SD 10  Brad Hamlett  Cascade
SD 17  Greg Jergeson  Chinook
SD 18  Julie E. French  Scobey
SD 19  Fred Lake  Sidney
SD 22  Jean Dahlman  Forsyth
SD 24  Wanda Grinde  Billings
SD 26  Robyn Driscoll  Billings
SD 27  Gary Branae  Billings
SD 33  Mike Phillips  Bozeman
SD 36  Richard Turner  Dillon
SD 37  Jon C. Sesso  Butte
SD 38  Jim Keane  Butte
SD 41  Christine Kaufmann  Helena
SD 43  Gene Vuckovich  Anaconda
SD 46  Sue Malek  Missoula
SD 47  Dick Barrett  Missoula
SD 50  Cliff Larsen  Missoula

Your vote counts...if you use it.

We expect an extremely high voter turnout for Montana’s 2012 November election. Every vote will count. Montana has seen many races won or lost by a handful of votes, especially legislative races.

Are you registered to vote? You can register online at the secretary of state’s web site: http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/index.asp
Or visit your county clerk’s office. Or contact your local MEA-MFT president.

Do you know where to vote? If not, visit: http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/index.asp
Click on “My voter page.”

Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 6
## Candidates for **GOVERNOR**: the choice is crystal clear

### ST EVE BULLOCK

**Background**
- As Montana’s Attorney General since 2008, Steve Bullock has:
  - Put more cops on the street to make our children & communities safer.
  - Cracked down on scam artists.
  - Led the national fight against unlimited corporate spending on elections (“Citizens United”).
- Steve previously was a lawyer in private practice, representing businesses, individuals, & citizen groups.

**Public Schools**
- Steve Bullock and his wife attended Montana public schools. So do their three young children.
- Steve passionately believes in public education.
- He will fight for adequate funding of education on all levels, with incentives for public schools to innovate and grow.
- Steve respects Montana educators and supports teacher tenure, knowing teachers deserve the right to due process before dismissal.

**Your Pension**
- Steve Bullock supports fixing the financial solvency of Montana’s existing teachers and public employees retirement systems (TRS and PERS).

**State Employee Pay Plan**
- Steve Bullock believes that state employees deserve a raise after having their base pay frozen for four years. He supports collective bargaining rights for all Montana’s public employees.

**Jobs**
- Steve’s jobs plan includes new incentives for Montana-based small and medium-sized businesses to create jobs; developing traditional resources like coal & gas and alternative energy sources like wind & biofuels; and helping more students afford college.

**Minimum Wage**
- Steve led the fight to increase the minimum wage in Montana, raising wages a dollar an hour for 20,000 of Montana’s lowest paid workers.

**Right-to-Work for Less**
- Steve opposes so-called “right-to-work” union-busting legislation. As governor, if such a bill ever made it to his desk, he would veto it.

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### RICK HILL

**Background**
- Rick Hill is a lobbyist, ex-congressman, and former insurance executive. He has spent his career advocating for powerful special interests, helping Wall Street weaken consumer protections, and helping health insurance companies charge women more than men.

**Public Schools**
- Ex-Congressman Rick Hill would dismantle public education as we know it. He supports taking money from public schools and giving it to private, for-profit schools. (HR 2746, Roll Call 569, 11/4/97)
- In Congress, he voted to cut $137 million from Montana schools. (HR 2264, Roll Call 615, 11/7/97)
- He insulted Montana teachers, calling them second worst in the nation. (Bitterroot Star 7/11/12)
- He would eliminate teacher tenure and move to a merit pay system. (Yellowstone GOP Women’s Forum, 11/12/11)

**Your Pension**
- Rick Hill has called for ending Montana’s existing TRS & PERS retirement systems by putting all new employees in a defined contribution system (much less stable for employees). He won’t say how he would fund the retirement costs of current employees. (KMMS radio, 4/13/12)

**State Employee Pay Plan**
- Rick Hill said the average state employee is overpaid by $8,000 per year. Instead of pay increases, he wants merit pay for state employees. (KMMS radio, 4/13/12)

**Jobs**
- Rick Hill says we need to give more tax breaks to out-of-state corporations, and eliminate regulations and oversight for development of coal, oil, and natural gas. (NAIFA luncheon, 4/19/12)

**Minimum Wage**
- Rick Hill voted against a minimum wage increase five times in Congress. (4/9/00-HR 3846 Roll Call 42, 4/9/00-HR 3846 Roll Call 43, 4/9/00-HR 3846 Roll Call 44, 4/9/00-HR 3846 Roll Call 45, 10/30/00- H Res 663, HR2614 Roll Call 582)

**Right-to-Work for Less**
- When asked if he would make Montana a “right-to-work” state, Rick Hill answered, “Yes. What more do you want?” (Ravalli Co. Pachyderm Meeting, 1/6/12)

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**Steve Bullock for Governor!**

**Ex-Congressman Hill: Too extreme.**
Candidates for **SUPERINTENDENT of Public Instruction**: a stark contrast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DENISE JUNEAU</th>
<th>SANDY WELCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BACK- | **
| GROUND | • Denise Juneau grew up in Montana and attended Montana schools from Head Start through law school.  
| | • Sandy Welch was educated in California and previously taught in California’s Silicon Valley.  
| | • Denise Juneau is a third-generation Montana educator,  
| | • Sandy Welch served six years as a principal in Ronan and taught several months in the Flathead area.  
| | • Denise was elected as superintendent of public instruction in 2008 and has been an outstanding, nationally acclaimed superintendent.  
| | • Sandy Welch worked for senate Republicans during Montana’s 2011 legislative session.  
| | • She is running for re-election.  
| | • Currently she is self-employed. |
| **CLASS SIZE** | **
| | • Denise Juneau supports Montana’s class size requirements to keep class sizes down.  
| | • Sandy Welch doesn’t believe in limiting class sizes.  
| | • She knows teachers can’t give individual attention to students when classes are too big.  
| | • She says the state has no business telling schools what the student-teacher ratio should be. (Speech to GOP Convention 7/16/12, Welch opinion in Billings Gazette, 7/20/12) |
| **TAX $$ | **
| for PRIVATE | schools | • Denise Juneau is passionately committed to public education, the foundation of our democracy and the root of our middle class.  
| | • Sandy Welch supports private charter schools, which would take money from public schools.  
| | • Denise won’t let the next legislature give away public tax dollars to private, for-profit schools.  
| | • She has sidestepped questions on vouchers and tuition tax credits for private schools, but aligns herself with Rick Hill on education issues. (MEA-MFT interview) |
| **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT** | **
| | • Denise Juneau has tackled some of the toughest problems in our schools with innovative strategies like Graduation Matters, Bully Free Montana, and Montana’s first-ever Student Advisory Council.  
| | • Sandy Welch supports adopting Florida’s system of grading schools from A to F, using standardized test scores. The system is like No Child Left Behind, except schools get a letter grade. (Havre Daily News, 9/12/12)  
| | • Denise believes educators should be full partners in any school improvement efforts.  
| | • She supports unproven charter school schemes as a tool for school improvement.  
| | • She has stood up to the punitive federal mandates in the No Child Left Behind law and Race to the Top. |
| **EVALUATION & TENURE** | **
| | • Denise Juneau believes in high quality teacher evaluation designed collaboratively with teachers. She won’t tie evaluation to test scores.  
| | • Sandy Welch would tie teacher evaluation to students’ test scores, even though teachers have no control over factors like students’ health issues, poverty, or lack of parental involvement.  
| | • She supports teacher tenure, preserving teachers’ right to due process before dismissal.  
| | • She wants to get rid of teacher tenure. (Speech to GOP Convention, 7/16/12, MT PBS Equal Time) |
| **STATE PAY PLAN & BARGAINING** | **
| | • Denise Juneau supports public employees and educators and respects the important work they do. She supports their right to collectively bargain.  
| | • Sandy Welch has been silent on the state pay plan.  
| | • She supports a salary increase for state employees. |

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**Denise Juneau for State Superintendent!**

**Sandy Welch: wrong priorities for Montana.**

MEA-MFT Member-to-Member • 1232 E 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59601
Phone bank volunteer Mike Hoffman has devoted two evenings a week for months to call fellow members about the elections. “We have to emphasize to our members the importance of electing pro-public service candidates,” he says. “Steve (Bullock) and Denise (Juneau) are willing to support public employees. All you have to do is look at what’s offered by their opponents. It’s two very different paths. I consider myself a conservative. But I can’t endorse what Rick Hill supports: cuts to education, cuts to retirement, cuts to services. Let’s not go backward. I feel very passionately about that.”

Thank you, Mike!

Lou Ann Hansen is an active member of the Missoula Education Association and a super volunteer at the Missoula phone bank. MEA-MFT gives prizes to volunteers who work multiple phone bank shifts. Missoula phone bank captain Heather Diehl reports that for her prize, Hansen chose a hat with an American flag on the back.

The hat has special significance to Hansen because she has two sons doing tours of duty in Afghanistan. “Caleb is a drone pilot,” Diehl says, “and Mike is airborne infantry; he jumps from planes into some very dangerous situations. Mike’s unit lost 11 members since being deployed. Lou Ann recently received a flag from Caleb’s entire unit along with a certificate of appreciation for all she has done for them. The flag had flown over their base. Her commitment to others is far reaching beyond her MEA-MFT family.”

Thank you, Lou Ann! And huge thanks to all our volunteers statewide.

The annual MEA-MFT Educators’ Conference brings top-quality professional development to Montana educators. No matter what your field, you’ll find dozens of workshops and keynotes designed just for you, to provide you with inspiration, information, and renewal units.

Special conference events: all participants invited

Thursday, October 18
• Montana Teacher of the Year Celebration
  6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Billings Depot, 2310 Montana Ave
• Visit with AFT President Randi Weingarten
  2:00 - 2:50 p.m., Skyview High Choir Room
• Candidate Conversation: Steve Bullock
  3:00 - 3:50 p.m., Skyview High Choir Room
  (Rick Hill declined our invitation to speak.)

Friday, October 19
• Candidate Conversation: Denise Juneau
  1:00 - 1:50 p.m., Skyview High Choir Room
• Candidate Conversation: Sandy Welch
  2:00 - 2:50 p.m., Skyview High Choir Room

It’s all online:
You’ll find the conference program and all the info you need at this web site:
mea-mft.org/educators_conference.aspx
For MEA-MFT members, **everything is at stake** in the November election.

- Our jobs & paychecks.
- Our ability to support our families.
- Our retirement pensions.
- Our right to a voice in the workplace.
- The state pay plan.
- The very existence of public education and public services in Montana.
- Montana’s middle class.

We’ve seen what happened in states like Wisconsin & Idaho. We can’t let it happen here. **It all depends on who gets elected.**

Your fellow MEA-MFT members did the research, interviewed the candidates, studied the voting records, and endorsed the candidates who will fight for you. Learn who they are inside.