



MEA-MFTtoday

A publication for members of MEA-MFT

Game over, game on

The Montana Legislature affects everything we work for as MEA-MFT members—whether we teach young people, keep communities safe, or provide other crucial services.

Every legislative session sees hundreds of bills that have the potential to improve the public services we provide or make our jobs impossible; boost Montana's economy and quality of life or turn our state into a third world country.

That's why MEA-MFT leaders and staff are at the Capitol every session, tracking bills, working with legislators, and updating members.

Thousands of MEA-MFT members help by contacting legislators and showing up in person on key bills.

With the 2015 Montana legislative session now behind us, we have been compiling the MEA-MFT Voting Record. It begins on page 8.

Behind the votes are countless stories of drama, suspense, and adrenaline. Take the state pay plan, for example. Against all odds, MEA-MFT members got our negotiated state pay plan passed after months of game-playing on the part of the Tea Party controlled House of Representatives.

The House held the pay plan, HB 13, hostage in committee for months, refusing to schedule a hearing. Then they tabled the bill, then let it die by missing the transmittal deadline.

Throughout these shenanigans, MEA-MFT members held steady, politely standing in the Capitol halls during their lunch hour with signs, calling and e-mailing legislators, and writing letters to the editor.

Finally, with the help of legislators who support state employees, we got the pay plan added to the main funding bill, House Bill 2.

Against all odds, we stopped efforts to gut Montana's math and science standards. We stopped numerous bills to divert public tax

dollars to private/sectarian schools. You can read more in President Eric Feaver's column beginning on p. 2.

Next up: the 2016 elections. It matters who gets elected. Game on. 🗳️

Meet our MEA-MFT Members of the Year & Hall of Fame inductees!



Read about Renne't Sarbu, Kyla Gardiner, Eden Dias, Dave Shively, Dick Barrett, Marilyn Ryan, and David Smith on pp. 6-7.



State employees never gave up. It paid off.

Our Point of View

BY ERIC FEAVER
MEA-MFT PRESIDENT



Victory & defeat

So, how did we, MEA-MFT, do in the 2015 legislature? I mean, how did WE do?

Were we victorious, beaten into submission, or both? We have had a few weeks to think about it.

Read this. You decide.

Victory

It was amazing to see Governor Steve Bullock, minority Democrats, and a group of smart Republicans work together to pass Medicaid expansion, campaign finance reform, and the water compact. Really good stuff for all Montana.

But what about us, MEA-MFT, our members doing work that matters in every community in this state? What about us?

Well, along with our friends and colleagues in the Montana Public Education Center, we scored inflationary increases in k-12 school funding, and we scored early in the session. All good. Did this legislature establish a precedent for future legislatures to follow? Sure hope so.

We passed a **state employee pay**

plan, albeit with a slightly delayed implementation date and late in the session. We worked hard to get it. Our thanks to every MEA-MFT member who day after day politely stood in Capitol hallways urging legislators not to forget the folks who deliver the programs and services the legislature has directed us to deliver.

And thanks to those folks who daily e-mailed legislators with the same message.

Great member commitment and energy. We hung in there until we got the job done.

And we killed bills, lots of bad, bad bills. Bills attacking organized labor. Bills attacking common core and the board of public education. Bills promiscuously inviting guns into our public schools and college campuses. Bills privatizing our public schools and directly or indirectly contributing to sectarian education in weird and unconstitutional ways.

We killed an ugly, pernicious bill empowering certain elementary school districts to secede from their historic high school districts that would have had no say whatsoever in the secession process.

And we testified against bills slicing and dicing Montana's income

taxes in ways that screamed out for the inevitable gubernatorial veto, without which Montana could easily morph into Kansas, where Tea Party politicians cut the revenue stream and are now swimming in deficit.

Defeat

But, there were losses that could haunt us for years to come.

We lost the **Montana Developmental Center**. Shocking privatization of a primary state responsibility. Inexplicable except in the context of a legislative session where the accused never get to cross examine their accusers and challenge their purported evidence, some of it driven by blatant conflict of interest. End result: Public sector union workers, our members, laboring away in challenging circumstances, unfairly and grossly maligned.

Yet despite our serious opposition to and disappointment with SB 411, we must regroup and move on.

After plenty of internal gnashing of teeth, we agreed to accept appointment to the MDC Transition Planning Committee (TPC). MEA-MFT Executive Director Erik Burke will represent MEA-MFT and the

'Battling for our constitution, our democracy, our public programs and services, including our public schools, is what we are all about.'

entire workforce at MDC.

Over the next 18 months, we will do everything we can to help the TPC produce a quality outcome for all involved: residents, their parents and guardians, unionized employees, the city of Boulder, and the state of Montana.

We lost **Early Edge**. Almost without a whimper. Never gained traction. MEA-MFT invested mightily in Early Edge. With a purposeful tweak or two, we will continue to support the governor's idea. Early quality childhood education for all is the right thing to do.

We lost the one **infrastructure bill** that would have made a difference across our state for so many folks – including our members – who suffer direct and indirect impacts from the Bakken. But also losing are members at Warm Springs, Montana University System, and Montana Historical Society.

It's hard to understand why we have so many Tea Party, Koch brother, Republican legislators in the Last Best Place. Legislators who would rather wallow in dark money than bond to build Montana's economy. Rather vote NO than provide health care for our working poor. Rather condemn thousands of water users to years of costly litigation than start the state down the road to resolution. But it's harder yet to fathom why so many Montanans elect legislators who would rather not govern in our best interests. Do we the people empower these anti-government legislators because of voter ideology, amnesia, or abject cynicism?

And we lost big yet again when **SB 410** slipped almost unnoticed into law. SB 410 creates two new "tax replacement programs," one to promote public school innovation and the other to establish an entire new industry in Montana: student



Day after day, week after week, hundreds of MEA-MFT members and other state employees politely stood shoulder to shoulder in Capitol hallways, urging legislators not to forget state employees. Here, from left, Andrew Elford, Tessa Gray, Rachael Milne, and Gene Meegan deliver the message.

'Great member commitment and energy. We hung in there until we got the job done.'

scholarship organizations designed to provide **public funding of private schools**. Big time loss.

Consequently, down the rabbit hole we go, someday to see if our constitution means what it says in Article 5, Section 11 (5) that states, "No appropriations shall be made for religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes to any private individual, private associations, or private corporation not under the control of the state;" and Article 10, Section 6 (1) that reads, "The legislature, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and public corporations shall not make any direct or indirect appropriation

or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination."

Perhaps this is what Governor Bullock and maybe SB 410 sponsor Senator Llew Jones want: A definitive Montana Supreme Court decision that forthrightly concludes that public investment in the education of our children must remain NON-sectarian. Perhaps.

So, did we win, lose, or what? 🗣️

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Delegates give NEA President Lily Eskelsen García a standing ovation during Rep. Assembly 2015.

'Be fearless, be proud' Rep. Assembly 2015

Hundreds of locally elected MEA-MFT members from around the state gathered in Helena March 27-28 for



Delegate Christine Rasmussen from Bozeman speaks to fellow delegates. RA is democracy in action!

MEA-MFT's annual Representative Assembly (RA).

In two whirlwind days, delegates elected statewide officers and other board directors; approved dues and budget; and heard from VIP speakers like NEA President Lily Eskelsen García, Gov. Steve Bullock, Lt. Gov. Angela McLean, and Denise Juneau.

On Saturday, delegates ringed the interior of the state Capitol, talking to legislators and holding signs in support of the state pay plan and against school privatization.

On these two pages are some of the voices and faces of the 2015 RA.

National Education Association (NEA) President Lily Eskelsen García: "We're in the business of giving children, families, and communities the hope that they can have a better life. And that has made us public enemy #1 to a small group of people who want to privatize everything public: schools, prisons, pensions, programs. We're engaged in a mighty struggle. But the only struggle you lose is the one you abandon. Unity is our weapon."



NEA President Lily Eskelsen García says, "The only struggle you lose is the one you abandon."

"You and I are in the crosshairs of ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) and the Koch brothers. Their mantra has three pillars: privatize, deprofessionalize, and standardize. They make money turning schools into testing factories. They think we don't need career professionals."

"We need to tell the truth. It's

the truth that the vast majority of public schools are wildly successful. It's the truth that Money Magazine did a consumer report a few years ago comparing public and private schools and said public schools are the best bang for the buck.

"A union is the only thing standing between that profiteer and his profits. The only thing standing for that kid, that family, that community.

"There is no better way to stand up for our cause than to put a face on what we do. Tell our stories. Speak from the heart. Some of you are still wonderfully humble. Get over it. I need you to brag. Be fear-

less. Be proud."

Al Ekblad, Executive Secretary, Montana State AFL-CIO: "We can change what's going on up there (at the legislature). If we just sit back, we get what we deserve."

Denise Juneau, Montana Supt. of Public Instruction and MEA-MFT member: "We are defeating Rep. Debra Lamm's bills (to revoke the Common Core Standards in English and math). I was inspired by the testimony from teachers, parents, administrators, and school board members in opposition to her bills.

"There is no guarantee we can keep the Montana we love if we

have another election like 2014. Every public employee needs to vote. All politicians are NOT alike."

Matthew Bell, MEA-MFT's newly elected director-at-large: "Native people aren't as comfortable being the center of attention. Our point of view is that we're all equal." (Bell is Assiniboine and Gros Ventre.)

Angela McLean, Montana Lt. Governor and MEA-MFT member: "If we want to make sure Montana never looks like Wisconsin or Wyoming or Idaho (states that have gutted workers' rights), then we need to get the Koch brothers and dark money the hell out of Montana." 🗣️



Delegate Ashley Vancamp of Great Falls is one of the many MEA-MFT members who took the challenge issued at last year's RA: She cut off a foot of her hair to donate for wigs for cancer patients.



Delegate Kellen Alger of Cut Bank participates in RA delegates' trip to the Capitol to talk to legislators about key bills: HB 13 (state pay plan) and SB 107 (school secession bill).



Lt. Governor and MEA-MFT member Angela McLean addresses delegates amid thunderous applause.

Statewide officers elected

Representative Assembly delegates elected Amanda Curtis of Butte as our new NEA director, representing MEA-MFT members on the National Education Association board, and Matt Bell of Missoula as director at large.

Curtis and Bell join President Eric Feaver, Vice President Melanie Charlson, and Secretary-Treasurer Rich Aarstad as statewide officers.



Amanda Curtis celebrates with the Butte delegation.



Matt Bell sports a "Green for HB 13" (state pay plan) button.



Melanie Charlson speaks to RA delegates.



Dave Shively and Kyla Gardiner chat after the Members of the Year celebration.



Eden Dias



Renne't Sarbu

'FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH' MEA-MFT celebrates our Members of the Year

Every year, MEA-MFT honors members who have a profound impact on their profession, the Montana people they serve, and our union. They are people with the unwavering willingness to step up and say "yes."

This spring, MEA-MFT celebrated its 2015 Members of the Year at a gala dinner in Helena, as part of our annual Representative Assembly.

Eden Dias, Education Support Professional of the Year

As a paraeducator in Whitefish, Eden Dias has worked with children with a variety of disabilities in all grade levels. She now works at the elementary level, helping some of the most behaviorally challenging students with math and reading.

"No matter who it is, you see progress," she said. "Suddenly they've got it; they're reading when they weren't before. Inside you're cheering."

As president of her local union,

Dias has transformed it into a powerhouse by getting members more engaged in the union and reaching out to the community.

"The union is not a fee-for-service organization, it's a family," said MEA-MFT member Kelly Haverlandt, introducing Dias at the celebration. "Eden has been a vital part of growing our family of active members."

Renne't Sarbu & Kyla Gardiner: Public Employee Members of the Year

"Standing up for coworkers at every turn; using their skills, knowledge, and leadership to build power in the workplace; juggling the critical state services they provide in their day jobs; and being leaders in their locals the other 16 hours a day is no easy feat," said MEA-MFT staffer Morgan Smith, introducing Renne't Sarbu and Kyla Gardiner at the gala.

"Renne't and Kyla are superstars." Gardiner and Sarbu are both leaders in their local unions as well

as team members in MEA-MFT's major project to strengthen our state employee locals.

Over the past two years they have knocked on hundreds of coworkers' doors, made hundreds of phone calls, and held countless one-on-one meetings to help resolve members' issues on the job.

Gardiner, who works at the state Dept. of Revenue, told the celebration crowd that when she was asked to serve on her local union's executive board eight years ago, "little did I know it would change my life. I can't say how hard someone else is willing to fight for my cause, but I do know how hard I will fight for theirs."

Sarbu works for the Dept. of

(Continued on p. 7)

Public Health and Human Services. "I look forward to continuing to strengthen our union by building up our membership," she said. "Without them, we won't grow to become the 'force to be reckoned with.' All together, stronger together!"

Dave Shively, Faculty Member of the Year

Dr. Dave Shively knows Montana's

college and university students deserve top-quality faculty. And he knows the way to get there is to organize and advocate for faculty.

Shively is a professor of geography at the University of Montana, Missoula. He is president of his local union, the University Faculty Association. He also chairs MEA-MFT's Coalition of Union Faculty, a group that builds ties among local faculty

unions on Montana's campuses.

"Dave has established tremendous rapport with his fellow faculty members, the Board of Regents, and the Commissioner of Higher Education's office," said MEA-MFT Executive Director Erik Burke.

"Montana can't succeed without high quality higher education, and Dave has advanced that cause in a major way." 🗨️



From left: Dick Barrett, Marilyn Ryan, David Smith: our new Hall of Fame inductees.

MEA-MFT HALL OF FAME

MEA-MFT inducted three new trailblazers into our Hall of Fame this spring, on the eve of Representative Assembly. All three were key architects in the merger of MEA and MFT that culminated in 2000. All have been pioneers and leaders in making MEA-MFT a shining beacon of hope for working folks and the middle class.

Dick Barrett is a retired professor of economics at the University of Montana, Montana state senator, former president of his faculty union, long-time leader of the former Mon-

tana Federation of Teachers, and a sage leader in MEA-MFT.

Barrett told the Hall of Fame celebration crowd: "Involvement in MEA-MFT has taught me a series of lessons: To be solution oriented. To persist. To stand in solidarity. To command the facts and figures. To ask only the questions you're prepared to hear the answers to. To make only those offers you're prepared to have accepted. And finally, to unplug the phone after 11 p.m."

David Smith served as MEA-MFT's executive director for many years,

including the crucial merger years.

There were many obstacles to merger, he recalled; with opposition by our two national affiliates leading the list. "And the unions had very different cultures of governance, to say the least," he said. "Let me give an example. There were no bait fishermen in the MEA leadership, and no fly fishermen at MFT."

Despite the obstacles, MEA and MFT joined forces – mostly because "we had people like Eric Feaver (then president of MEA) and Jim McGarvey (then president of MFT) at the helm, able to see beyond their own noses," Smith said.

Marilyn Ryan is a retired teacher and former president of the Missoula Education Association, vice president of MEA-MFT, and MEA-MFT field consultant.

Ryan grew up in a union family in a union town—Anaconda. She recalls the annual Christmas Party paid for each year by the Ironworkers "so that no union member's child would go without a present for the holiday, even during a strike."

Unions are just as relevant today as in the past, she said.

"MEA-MFT is a voice that supports and fights for all workers' rights and benefits, public services and public schools, fair taxes, and the well being of all Montana citizens. I am proud to be a member of a vital, ever-changing, progressive union." 🗨️

MEA-MFT VOTING RECORD 2015 LEGISLATURE

How did your local legislators do on our issues in the 2015 Montana legislative session? Here's the report card. Below you'll find descriptions of the bills used in the MEA-MFT voting record. Votes begin on page 11.

The bills

HB = House Bill SB = Senate Bill

HB 2: Ballance (R-Hamilton)

Short Title: State Budget.

MEA-MFT Position: Support.

Vote Recorded: 1) Failed Early Edge Amendment House and Senate. 2) As amended to include state employee pay plan.

Status: Signed by the Governor with modifications ("line item veto").

HB 13: Kathy Swanson (D-Anaconda)

Short Title: State Employee Pay Plan.

MEA-MFT Position: Support.

Vote Recorded: Failed motion to take off the table House.

HB 13 adopted a state employee pay plan. 50 cent hourly increase across the board plus health insurance.

Status: Failed to meet transmittal.

HB 27: Denise Hayman (D-Bozeman)

Short Title: School Funding Bill.

MEA-MFT Position: Support.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House



and Senate.

Increases k-12 base aid, entitlements, and payments. Continues appropriations gained in SB 175 that passed last session.

Status: Signed by the Governor.

HB 166: Keith Regier (R-Kalispell)

Short Title: Tax Cut.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Senate, 3rd Reading Senate Amendments House.



MEA-MFT Secretary-Treasurer Rich Aarstad speaks during a news conference, voicing state employees' dismay after the House Appropriations Committee tabled HB 13, the state pay plan. The pay plan ultimately passed, after weeks of delay and shenanigans. MEA-MFT and our members made it happen.

HB 166 cut \$80 million out of Montana income tax collections.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor.

HB 314: Carolyn Pease-Lopez
(D-Billings)

Short Title: Funding for "Schools of Promise" Initiative.

MEA-MFT Position: Support.

Vote Recorded: 2nd Reading House.
HB 314 funded continuation of Superintendent Denise Juneau's "Schools of Promise."

Status: Failed in the House.

HB 320 Carl Glimm (R-Kila)

Short Title: Allow Guns in Schools.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House.
HB 320 invited students to bring guns to school under certain circumstances and authorized termination of school employees who "interfered" with a student's gun rights in school.

Status: Died in the House.

HB 322: Don Jones (R-Billings)

Short Title: Pay Voucher for Students to Attend Private and Religious Schools.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House and Senate.

HB 322 created pay vouchers for certain qualified students to enroll in private and religious elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor.

HB 377: Debra Lamm (R-Livingston)

Short Title: Repeal the Montana Common Core Standards.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House.
HB 377 limited constitutional authority of the Board of Public Education to consider and adopt school accreditation standards, created accreditation standards review council, repealed



MEA-MFT member Melissa Romano and two of her children at the Capitol, just before Romano testified against HB 377, the bill to kill Montana's Common Core Standards. MEA-MFT helped create a coalition of parents and others called Montanans for Public Education, which worked successfully to get pro-public school parents, educators, and community members to testify and contact legislators on key bills.

Montana's Common Core Standards.

Status: Tabled in Senate Education.

HB 433: Seth Berglee (R-Joliet)

Short Title: Tuition Tax Credit For Private School Attendance.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House.
HB 433 created an income tax credit for parents enrolling their children in private and religious schools.

Status: Tabled in Senate Judiciary.

HB 462: Art Wittich (R-Bozeman)

Short Title: "Right To Work" for Public Employees.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: Failed motion to take from table House.
HB 462 prohibited collectively bargained agency fee/fair share payments for employees of a state agency or school district who choose not to join a union (so-called "right-to-work") and further prohibited state

agencies and school districts from making payroll deduction of bargaining unit member dues.

Status: Failed to meet transmittal.

HB 501: Debra Lamm (R-Livingston)

Short Title: Limit School District Data Collection.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House.
HB 501 prohibited school districts from collecting and sharing education-specific student information and from directing students to participate in statewide testing.

Status: Tabled in Senate Judiciary.

HB 596: Austin Knudsen (R-Culbertson)

Short Title: Charter Schools.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House.
HB 596 created a parallel universe of charter schools in Montana.

(Continued on p. 10)

MEA-MFT VOTING RECORD

(Continued)

Status: Tabled in Senate Education.

HB 598: Matthew Monforton (R-Bozeman)

Short Title: Legislative Referendum to Remove Restriction on Citizens Right to Bear Arms.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 2nd Reading House.

HB 598 proposed a legislative referendum to establish that the right to bear arms may not be restricted unless there is a compelling state interest to do so.

Status: Died in the House.

SB 12: Mary Moe (D-Great Falls)

Short Title: Provide ANB Funding for Certain Students 19 Years of Age.

MEA-MFT Position: Support.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Senate.

SB 12 allowed school districts to claim certain 19-year-old students for state funding.

Status: Tabled in House Education.



MEA-MFT is a founding member of the Montana Public Education Center, a coalition that successfully fought for public school issues during the 2015 session through information such as this report and "days of action."

SB 107: Taylor Brown (R-Huntley)

Short Title: Expansion of K-12 School Districts.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Senate and House.

SB 107 authorized Lockwood, East Helena, and Hellgate Elementary, all k-8 elementary districts, to morph into k-12 elementary and high school districts by seceding from their historic high school districts.

Status: Died in the House.

SB 143: Carey Smith (R-Billings)

Short Title: Prohibit the Board of Regents from Adopting Campus Gun Control Policies.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Senate, 2nd Reading House.

SB 143 directed Montana Board of Regents to permit guns on campus with limited and unworkable exceptions.

Status: Died in the House.

SB 200: Duane Ankney (R-Colstrip)

Short Title: Income Tax Cut.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Senate and House.

SB 200 cut over \$100 million out of Montana income tax collections.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor.

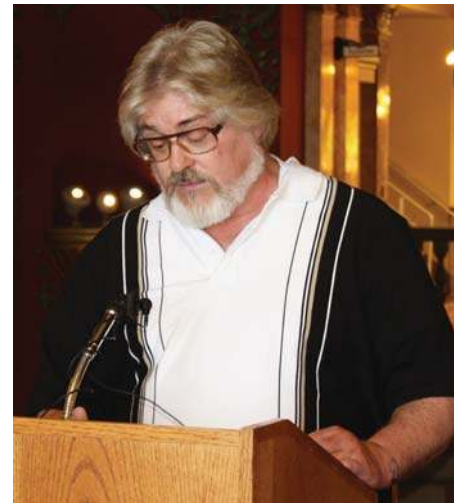
SB 275: Roger Webb (R-Billings)

Short Title: Constitutional Amendment to Elect the Board of Public Education.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Senate and House.

SB 275 proposed a constitutional amendment to elect the Montana Board of Public Education. (Required



Stan Danielson of Antelope, MT, father of a patient at MDC in Boulder, begs the legislature to keep MDC open at a Capitol news conference. "My son is safe there," he says.

2/3 vote, 100 legislators voting YES, to qualify for the ballot.)

Status: Failed the Legislature.

SB 410: Llew Jones (R-Conrad)

Short Title: Tax credit for public and private schools.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Conference Committee Senate and House.

Creates tax replacement programs to fund public school innovation and private sector student scholarship organizations.

Status: Passed the Legislature and went into law without the Governor's signature.

SB 411: Mary Caferro (D-Helena)

Short Title: Closure of Montana Developmental Center.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House, 3rd Reading House Amendments Senate.

SB 411 closes Montana Development Center in Boulder.

Status: Signed by the Governor.

Senate Voting Record

R = Right vote according to MEA-MFT position
W = Wrong vote according to MEA-MFT position

MEA-MFT supported

MEA-MFT opposed

% of Right votes

Name	Party	District	City	HB 2 Early Edge	HB 2	HB 27	HB 166	HB 322	SB 12	SB 107	SB 143	SB 200	SB 275	SB 410	SB 411	SB 416	% of Right
ANKNEY, DUANE	R	SD 20	COLSTRIP	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	38%
ARNTZEN, ELSIE	R	SD 26	BILLINGS	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
BARRETT, DEBBY	R	SD 36	DILLON	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	15%
BARRETT, DICK	D	SD 45	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
BLASDEL, MARK	R	SD 4	KALISPELL	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
BRENDEN, JOHN	R	SD 17	SCOBEY	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
BROWN, DEE	R	SD 2	HUNGRY HORSE	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
BROWN, TAYLOR	R	SD 28	HUNTLEY	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	38%
BUTTREY, EDWARD	R	SD 11	GREAT FALLS	W	E	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	E	W	R	36%
CAFERRO, MARY	D	SD 41	HELENA	R	W	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	69%
COHENOUR, JILL	D	SD 42	EAST HELENA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
CONNELL, PAT	R	SD 43	HAMILTON	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	38%
DRISCOLL, ROBYN	D	SD 25	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
FACEY, TOM	D	SD 50	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
FIELDER, JENNIFER	R	SD 7	THOMPSON	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
HAMLETT, BRADLEY	D	SD 15	CASCADE	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	85%
HANSEN, KRISTIN	R	SD 14	HAVRE	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
HINKLE, JEDEDIAH	R	SD 32	BOZEMAN	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	15%
HOVEN, BRIAN	R	SD 13	GREAT FALLS	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	31%
HOWARD, DAVID	R	SD 29	PARK CITY	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	E	W	W	W	R	8%
JONES, LLEW	R	SD 9	CONRAD	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	38%
KARY, DOUG	R	SD 22	BILLINGS	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
KAUFMANN, CHRISTINE	D	SD 40	HELENA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
KEANE, JIM	D	SD 38	BUTTE	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	92%
KEENAN, BOB	R	SD 5	BIGFORK	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
LARSEN, CLIFF	D	SD 47	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
MALEK, SUE	D	SD 46	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
MCNALLY, MARY	D	SD 24	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
MOE, MARY	D	SD 12	GREAT FALLS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
MOORE, ERIC	R	SD 19	MILES CITY	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	E	W	W	W	R	33%
PHILLIPS, MIKE	D	SD 31	BOZEMAN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
POMNICHOWSKI, JP	D	SD 33	BOZEMAN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
RIPLEY, RICK	R	SD 10	WOLF CREEK	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	31%
ROSENDALE, MATTHEW	R	SD 18	GLENDALE	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
SALES, SCOTT	R	SD 35	BOZEMAN	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%
SANDS, DIANE	D	SD 49	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
SESSO, JON	D	SD 37	BUTTE	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
SMITH, CARY	R	SD 27	BILLINGS	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	8%
STEWART-PEREGOY, SHARON	D	SD 21	CROW AGENCY	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	85%
SWANDAL, NELS	R	SD 30	WILSALL	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	15%
TAYLOR, JANNA	R	SD 6	DAYTON	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
THOMAS, FRED	R	SD 44	STEVENSVILLE	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	23%
TUTVEDT, BRUCE	R	SD 3	KALISPELL	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	62%
VANCE, GORDON	R	SD 34	BELGRADE	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%
VINCENT, CHAS	R	SD 1	LIBBY	W	W	R	W	E	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	17%
VUCKOVICH, GENE	D	SD 39	ANACONDA	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	85%
WEBB, ROGER	R	SD 23	BILLINGS	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	15%
WHITFORD, LEA	D	SD 8	CUT BANK	R	R	E	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%
WINDY BOY, JONATHAN	D	SD 16	BOX ELDER	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	E	R	R	W	W	R	67%
WOLKEN, CYNTHIA	D	SD 48	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	92%

See key committee votes on p. 14.

House Voting Record

R = Right vote according to MEA-MFT position
W = Wrong vote according to MEA-MFT position

MEA-MFT supported

MEA-MFT opposed

% of Right votes

Name	Party	District	City	HB 2 Early Edge	HB 2	HB 13	HB 27	HB 166	HB 314	HB 320	HB 322	HB 377	HB 433	HB 462	HB 501	HB 596	HB 598	SB 107	SB 143	SB 200	SB 275	SB 410	SB 411	SB 416	% of Right Votes	
BALLANCE, NANCY	R	HD 87	HAMILTON	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%
BENNETT, BRYCE	D	HD 91	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
BENNETT, JERRY	R	HD 1	LIBBY	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
BERGLEE, SETH	R	HD 58	JOLIET	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
BERRY, TOM	R	HD 40	ROUNDUP	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	29%
BRODEHL, RANDY	R	HD 9	KALISPELL	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
BROWN, BOB	R	HD 13	TH. FALLS	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
BROWN, ZACH	D	HD 63	BOZEMAN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
BURNETT, TOM	R	HD 67	BOZEMAN	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
CLARK, CHRISTY	R	HD 17	CHOTEAU	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	43%
COOK, ROB	R	HD 18	CONRAD	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	48%
COURT, VIRGINIA	D	HD 50	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	E	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
CUFFE, MIKE	R	HD 2	EUREKA	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
CURDY, WILLIS	D	HD 98	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
CUSTER, GERALDINE	R	HD 39	FORSYTH	W	R	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	62%
DOANE, ALAN	R	HD 36	BLOOMFIELD	W	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
DUDIJK, KIMBERLY	D	HD 94	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
DUNWELL, MARY ANN	D	HD 84	HELENA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
ECK, JENNY	D	HD 79	HELENA	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%
EHLI, RON	R	HD 86	HAMILTON	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	100%
ELLIS, JANET	D	HD 81	HELENA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
ESSMANN, JEFF	R	HD 54	BILLINGS	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	29%
FISCUS, CLAYTON	R	HD 43	BILLINGS	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%
FITZPATRICK, STEVE	R	HD 20	GREAT FALLS	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	25%
FLYNN, KELLY	R	HD 70	TOWNSEND	W	R	W	R	E	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	15%
FUNK, MOFFIE	D	HD 82	HELENA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
GARNER, FRANK	R	HD 7	KALISPELL	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
GLIMM, CARL	R	HD 6	KILA	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
GREEF, EDWARD	R	HD 88	FLORENCE	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%
HAGSTROM, DAVE	R	HD 52	BILLINGS	W	R	W	R	W	W	E	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	20%
HARRIS, BILL	R	HD 29	WINNETT	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%
HAYMAN, DENISE	D	HD 66	BOZEMAN	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
HERTZ, GREG	R	HD 12	POLSON	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
HESS, STEPHANIE	R	HD 28	HAYRE	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%
HILL, ELLIE BOLDMAN	D	HD 90	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
HOLLANDSWORTH, ROY	R	HD 27	BRADY	W	R	R	R	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	52%
HOLMLUND, KENNETH	R	HD 38	MILES CITY	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	29%
HUNTER, CHUCK	D	HD 83	HELENA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
JACOBSON, TOM	D	HD 21	GREAT FALLS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
JONES, DONALD	R	HD 46	BILLINGS	W	R	E	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	E	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	16%
KARJALA, JESSICA	D	HD 48	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
KELKER, KATHY	D	HD 47	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
KIPP III, GEORGE	D	HD 15	HEART BUTTE	R	R	R	R	E	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
KNUDSEN, AUSTIN	R	HD 34	CULBERTSON	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
LAMM, DEBRA	R	HD 60	LIVINGSTON	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
LANG, MIKE	R	HD 33	MALTA	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
LASZLOFFY, SARAH	R	HD 53	BILLINGS	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
LAVIN, STEVE	R	HD 8	KALISPELL	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	24%
LIESER, ED	D	HD 5	WHITEFISH	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	E	R	R	R	R	95%
LYNCH, RYAN	D	HD 76	BUTTE	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%

House Voting Record (Continued)

Name	Party	District	City	HB 2 Early Edge	HB 2	HB 13	HB 27	HB 166	HB 314	HB 320	HB 322	HB 377	HB 433	HB 462	HB 501	HB 596	HB 598	SB 107	SB 143	SB 200	SB 275	SB 410	SB 411	SB 416	% of Right Votes
MACDONALD, MARGIE	D	HD 51	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MANDEVILLE, FORREST	R	HD 57	COLUMBUS	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
MANZELLA, THERESA	R	HD 85	HAMILTON	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%
MCCARTHY, KELLY	D	HD 49	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
MCCLAFFERTY, EDIE	D	HD 73	BUTTE	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MCCONNELL, NATE	D	HD 89	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
MCKAMEY, WENDY	R	HD 23	GREAT FALLS	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	24%
MEHLHOFF, ROBERT	D	HD 22	GREAT FALLS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MEYERS, G. BRUCE	R	HD 32	BOX ELDER	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	29%
MILLER, MIKE	R	HD 80	HELMVILLE	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
MONFORTON, MATTHEW	R	HD 69	BOZEMAN	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%
MOORE, DOC	R	HD 92	MISSOULA	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	52%
MORTENSEN, DALE	R	HD 44	BILLINGS	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
NOLAND, MARK	R	HD 10	BIGFORK	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
NOONAN, PAT	D	HD 74	RAMSAY	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
OLSEN, ANDREA	D	HD 100	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
OLSEWSKI, ALBERT	R	HD 11	KALISPELL	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
OSMUNDSON, RYAN	R	HD 30	BUFFALO	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14%
PEASE-LOPEZ, CAROLYN	D	HD 42	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PEPPERS, RAE	D	HD 41	LAME DEER	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PERRY, ZAC	D	HD 3	HUNGRY	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
PIERSON, ANDREW	D	HD 96	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PIERSON, GORDON	D	HD 78	DEER LODGE	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PINOCCHI, RANDALL	R	HD 19	SUN RIVER	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
POPE, CHRISTOPHER	D	HD 65	BOZEMAN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PRICE, JEAN	D	HD 24	GREAT FALLS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
RANDALL, LEE	R	HD 37	BROADUS	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
REDFIELD, ALAN	R	HD 59	LIVINGSTON	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
REGIER, KEITH	R	HD 4	KALISPELL	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
RICCI, VINCE	R	HD 55	LAUREL	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	19%
RICHMOND, TOM	R	HD 56	BILLINGS	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	24%
SALOMON, DANIEL	R	HD 93	RONAN	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	38%
SCHREINER, CASEY	D	HD 25	GREAT FALLS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
SCHWADERER, NICHOLAS	R	HD 14	SUPERIOR	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%
SHAW, RAY	R	HD 71	SHERIDAN	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	48%
SMITH, BRIDGET	D	HD 31	WOLF POINT	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
STAFFANSON, SCOTT	R	HD 35	SIDNEY	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%
STEENBERG, TOM	D	HD 99	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
SWANSON, KATHY	D	HD 77	ANACONDA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
TROPILA, MITCH	D	HD 26	GREAT FALLS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
TSCHIDA, BRAD	R	HD 97	MISSOULA	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
WAGONER, KIRK	R	HD 75	CLANCY	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
WEBBER, SUSAN	D	HD 16	BROWNING	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
WELBORN, JEFFREY	R	HD 72	DILLON	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	48%
WHITE, KERRY	R	HD 64	BOZEMAN	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10%
WILLIAMS, KATHLEEN	D	HD 61	BOZEMAN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
WILSON, NANCY	D	HD 95	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
WITTICH, ART	R	HD 68	BOZEMAN	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
WOODS, TOM	D	HD 62	BOZEMAN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
ZOLNIKOV, DANIEL	R	HD 45	BILLINGS	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%



MEA-MFT public employee locals win national award

MEA-MFT public employee members who attended a national AFT conference this spring came home to Montana toting a prestigious prize: AFT's Solution-Driven Unionism award.

The award recognizes AFT members' outstanding collective work to create solutions that improve their workplaces and

communities. AFT is one of MEA-MFT's two national affiliates.

Montana's prize honors "the public employee local unions of the Montana MEA-MFT for bringing together a community alliance of citizens, activists, unions, and community groups around issues that help support the common good. The MEA-MFT agenda works to build a stronger community, supporting mental health programs, public safety, retirement security, jobs, education, and a wide range of issues that benefit communities all across Montana."

Several MEA-MFT members received the award at the AFT's annual public employees'

conference in Denver in May.

With the theme "Reclaiming the Promise of Quality Public Services for Strong Communities," the conference addressed the need to confront powerful, well-funded forces working to silence workers' voices and eliminate bargaining rights. "It's more important than ever that we fight together to restore the middle class in this country," said AFT President Randi Weingarten at the conference.

"And it means our communities get first-rate public services that keep them safe, healthy and vibrant," Weingarten said, "services that are provided by public employees, not privatized." 🗨️

2015 Voting Record

(Continued)

Important committee votes

Not all key votes take place on the floor of the Montana House or Senate. Some bills never even get out of committee. Legislators' committee votes are just as important as floor votes. Below are the committee votes MEA-MFT counted as part of legislators' 2015 report cards:

HB 377 Lamm: Repeal Common Core. Senate Education—Motion to amend and pass.

Wrong: Arntzen, Hansen, Blasdel

Right: Keenan, Brown, Facey, Moe, Stewart-Peregoy, Cohenour, Jones

HB 596 Knudsen: Charter schools. Senate Education, motion to concur.

Wrong: Arntzen, Blasdel, Hansen, Keenan, Jones

Right: Facey, Moe, Stewart-Peregoy, Cohenour, Brown

HB 501 Lamm: Restrict student data collection. Senate Judiciary, motion to concur.

Wrong: Fielder, Hansen, Hinkle, Sales

Right: Driscoll, Larsen, McNally, Moe, Sands, Kary, Swandal, Vincent

HB 433 Berglee: Tuition tax credit k-12 schools. Senate Judiciary, motion to concur.

Wrong: Fielder, Hansen, Hinkle, Kary, Sales, Swandal

Right: Driscoll, Larsen, McNally, Moe, Sands, Vincent

HB 511 Tschida: Tuition tax credit k-12 schools. House Tax, do pass motion.

Wrong: Flynn, Hertz, Miller, Olszewski, Randall, Schwaderer, Lavin

Right: Williams, Brown Z., Cook, Custer, Dunwell, Jacobson, Lieser, McClafferty, Redfield, Smith B, White, Wilson, Zolnikov

HB 13 Swanson: State employee pay plan. House Appropriations, motion to table.

Wrong: Balance, Burnett, Osmundson, Brodehl, Cuffe, Ehli, Glimm, Hagstrom, Holmlund, Jones, Tschida

Right: Noonan, Dudik, Ellis, Hollandsworth, McCarthy, Mehlhoff, Peppers, Tropila, Woods

Check out our new mobile app

Available for your iPhone or Android device: MEA-MFT's new mobile app. Tons of resources: MEA-MFT calendar, office locations, news feed, Member Benefits, direct links to our Facebook page, and more. Find it at the Apple App Store and Google Play store. Look for MEA-MFT.





Growing teacher leadership

Nobody knows more about great teaching than great teachers.

That's why MEA-MFT and our foundation, the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation (MPTF), pour considerable time and resources into providing top-quality professional development for teachers. It's why we've focused even more in recent years on teacher leadership.

As part of those efforts, MEA-MFT and MPTF have been facilitating three major new projects: Teacher Leadership Initiative (TLI), JumpStart,

and Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching (ECET2).

"We brought all three projects together over four days this summer under the umbrella of teacher leadership," explained Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT's public policy director.

More than 200 MEA-MFT teacher-members attended these high-energy events June 22-25 in Missoula. Here's a synopsis of these projects:

TLI: A partnership of MEA-MFT, NEA, and the Center for Teacher Quality, TLI cultivates teachers who want to be leaders in education without leaving the classroom to become administrators. MEA-MFT and MPTF have recruited 67 members to participate in TLI over the last two years.

JumpStart: This three-day workshop prepares teachers to be successful candidates for National Board Certification, the highest level of certification a U.S. teacher can achieve.

ECET2: Brought to Montana by MEA-MFT member Anne Keith, a

Bozeman math teacher and Montana's 2010 Teacher of the Year, ECET2 is a celebration of effective teaching. With help from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, ECET2 brought together Montana Teachers of the Year and finalists, presidential math and science award winners, TLI participants, National Board Certified teachers, and others to share innovative teaching practices.

"Teacher voices matter," said Keith at the ECET2 kick-off dinner.

"Teachers are the ones who can transform education."

"Elevating the teaching profession is a big part of our mission at MEA-MFT and the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation," said Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT president and MPTF chair.

"It's about teachers helping each other teach their best for our kids."

To learn more about these programs, contact Marco Ferro: mferro@mea-mft.org.

MEA-MFT Educators' Conference 2015

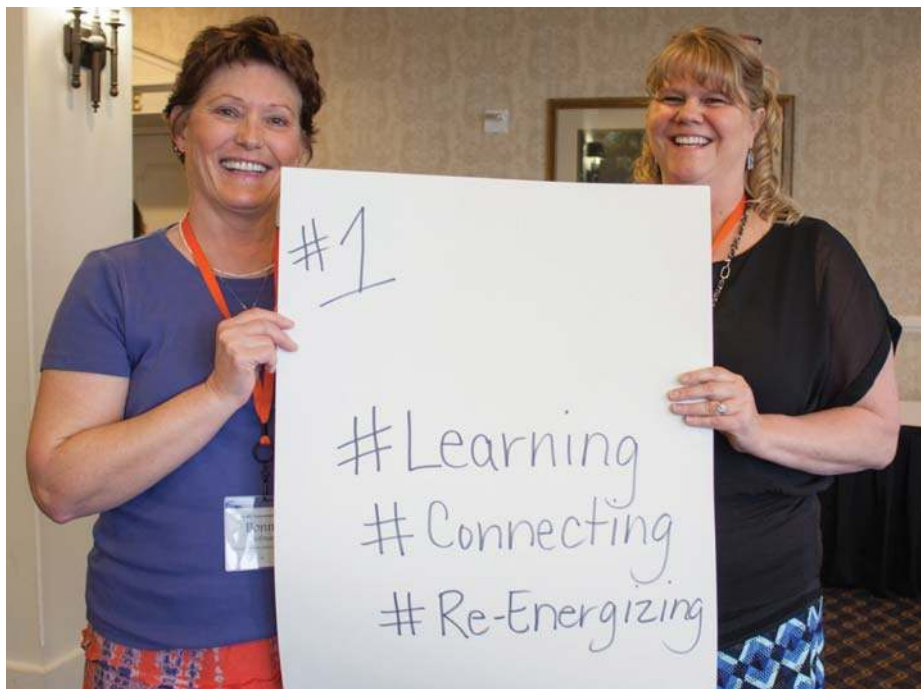
OCTOBER 15-16 • BILLINGS

Mark your calendar for the 2015 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference. No matter what you teach, you'll find workshops especially for YOU.

State law calls for closing Montana schools the third Thursday and Friday of each October so teachers can get professional development and obtain renewal units. Our conference allows you to use those days well.

Find programs, registration info, accommodations, and everything else you need to know here:

mea-mft.org/educators_conference.aspx



MEA-MFT members Bonnie Hofmann (left) and Jo Dell Beeler of Billings take a moment during Rep. Assembly to invite folks to the 2015 Educators' Conference.

'Forget Finland, visit Montana'

People love pointing to Finland as the pinnacle of public school success. But National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen García, a self-described "fanatic for Finland," thinks folks should look to Montana, instead.

Eskelsen García visited Montana this spring and toured three schools in Helena. She wrote a major blog about the visit, called "Save the Plane Fare to Finland. Go to Montana!" (Lily's Blackboard, 3/13/15)

In her blog, Eskelsen García congratulates Montana for resisting the school "reforms" that other states have bought. "For years, MEA-MFT has fought back privatization, standardization and de-professionalism that creep up like crabgrass wher-



Capital High teacher Jim Weber (left) describes his students' state-of-the-art welding and machining projects to Helena Education Assoc. President Jeff Cowee and NEA President Lily Eskelsen García.

ever politicians gather," she writes.

Her blog talks about Bryant Elementary, a high-performing school that serves some of Montana's lowest-income children. "What is Bryant's secret?" she asks. "Lots of test prep? Pay by test scores? Drill and kill instead of recess, art, or P.E.? None of the above." The secret is *compassion* for children, she says—plus high standards of conduct, a nutritious meal, and even a ride to school if kids need it.

Eskelsen García then visited Exploration Works, which offers science classes for home school children in grades 1-8, taught by a certified, licensed teacher (MEA-MFT member Vanessa Sybert). It's a unique partnership involving MEA-MFT, the

school district, and the Exploration Works museum.

Finally, she toured Capital High School, where she saw state-of-the-art classes in welding, machining, P.E., and health careers.

Eskelsen García's blog concludes that Montana's success "is driven by the same elements that drive schools in Finland, Canada, and Singapore: Highly prepared and respected career educators who are determined to have their students succeed on many different levels—mind, body, and character—and who have the authority to design something that's meaningful, relevant, and personal to the whole children in their care."

You can read her entire blog at lilysblackboard.org/tag/helena/



Home school students get a science education from MEA-MFT member Vanessa Sybert.