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# MEA-MFTtoday

A publication for members of MEA-MFT

## MEA-MFT & MPEA ready to launch new union

It's official: MEA-MFT and the Montana Public Employees Association (MPEA) will join forces.

The plan adopted by both unions would create a fully merged organization by next summer.

Delegates at MEA-MFT's 2017 representative assembly (RA) this spring voted unanimously to pass New Business Item #1, which states:

*"With the full support of our brothers and sisters in the Montana Public Employees Association (MPEA), the 2017 MEA-MFT representative assembly directs the president to seek full merger with MPEA in governance, programs, and services no earlier than August 1, 2017 and no later than July 1, 2018."*

*"To effect this merger, the president and his representatives shall work with MPEA representatives to design and propose a name, constitution, pertinent policies, and dues structure for MPEA and MEA-MFT consideration and adoption at regular and/or special representative meetings of both unions."*

MPEA delegates followed suit at their annual meeting in May, passing a similar measure unanimously.

"This is just the beginning of a journey that's not going to take very long," MEA-MFT President Eric Feaver told RA delegates. "So hang onto your hats."

Leading up to the vote at RA, MEA-MFT Executive Director Erik



MEA-MFT representative assembly delegates savor "membership seeds" (aka M&Ms). More about RA inside.

Burke and MPEA Executive Director Quint Nyman updated delegates on the process of merger exploration.

Burke reminded delegates that last year's RA passed a new business item directing MEA-MFT to pursue merger with the MPEA.

Since then, he said, "we've held three meetings with MPEA during the past year, talking about our similarities and differences."

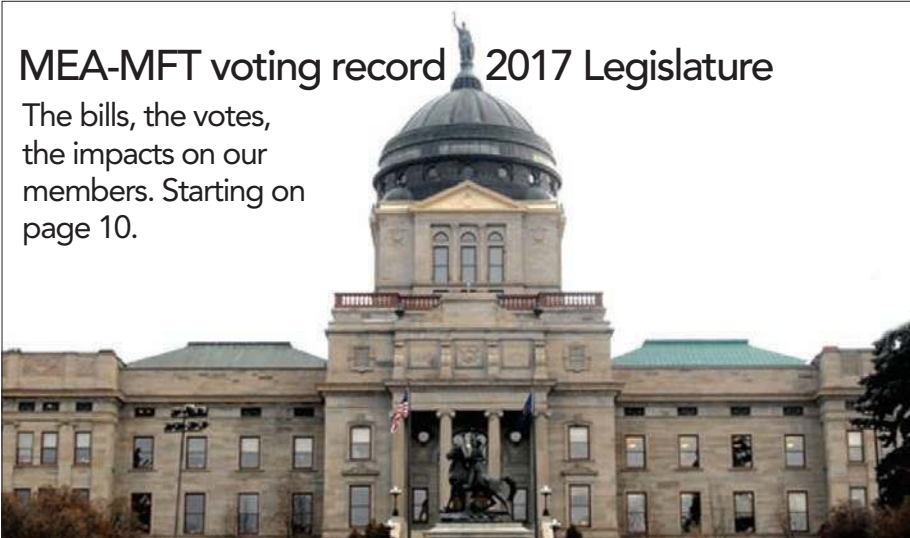
Burke noted that the two groups have worked together extensively over many years. "There wouldn't be a public employee pension without MEA-MFT and MPEA," he said.

"We fought privatization together.

Continued on p. 7

## MEA-MFT voting record 2017 Legislature

The bills, the votes, the impacts on our members. Starting on page 10.





BY ERIC FEAVER  
MEA-MFT PRESIDENT



## No way to legislate

The 2017 legislature convened in a fiscal hole and ended that way. Post session the hole appears to be growing deeper. With the exception of a necessary increase in motor fuels taxes, legislators refused to fix our state's deficit with revenue enhancements (you may call them tax increases) of any sort. In the past two sessions, legislators have chosen to cut and vacancy-save their way out of deficit...and when feeling particularly capricious, chosen to create unaffordable, even unconstitutional, tax credits and loop holes.

Grim.

Certain state employees are taking a hit right now. Courtesy of SB 261, a bill crafted in the dark of night late in the session bereft of purposeful public review and comment, if future revenue falls short of certain benchmarks, then program cuts and RIFs will automatically happen. State funded programs and services the public expects will go away, including publicly funded private health care. More cuts will come if the next legislature is like this one and the one before it and the one before it rolling right on back in time. We have been traveling backwards down the wrong revenue road for years.

The 2017 legislature did in a depressingly familiar and frustrating way "save" the state employee pay plan we negotiated – a last-minute rescue of a tiny, inflation battered pay increase of 1%/1% not to be realized until February in each of the next two years. Worse than that is the grubby fact that the last four legislatures failed to adopt the pay plan we bargained in good faith with the governor. To continue to do what we have been calling pre-budget negotiations is to continue to demonstrate at least one definition of insanity. Consequently, delegates to the annual meetings of MEA-MFT and Montana Public Employees Association have directed us to find another way to get to YES on state employee pay.

The legislature was no kinder to the Montana University System. As I write, the MUS appears poised to offer university employees at the bargaining table 0%/1% or maybe even 0%/0% for the next two years! Tuition increases are coming. Tuition increases may be justified, but the MUS really needs to get serious about providing well-advertised, up front student grants and scholarships across the board. Student debt and threat thereof kill enrollment. And then there is the University of Montana on the ropes.

Come November 2018, Montana

voters will once again enjoy the decennial opportunity to REAUTHORIZE the 6-mill statewide property tax levy to help fund the MUS. \$21 million in annual revenue is at stake. I expect the voters to do better by their university system than the legislature. But what if they don't?

Given the uncertainty of our legislature's commitment to state funded public employees, right now why would anyone seek a career at the Montana Historical Society or Department of Public Health and Human Services or the University of Montana? In the hands of an anti-tax, anti-spend, anti-government legislature, these great institutions and others look to be career killers. New aspirants: Apply for work at your own risk.

This is no way to legislate.

Yes, k-12 suffered licks as well. But the legislature did create a first-time ever sustainable ongoing path to maintain and refurbish local school district facilities. Further the legislature expanded local school district budget authority and promised greater state guaranteed tax base aid down the road. Whoa. Despite a significant shift in taxes from the state to local school communities, school funding, never extraordinary, looks to be in better shape than state government.

Meanwhile MEA-MFT and MPEA are moving on to far better than what we are now. We both exist for the same purpose, the same public employees doing work that matters everywhere in Montana. We have worked side by side for years and years. Bigger, merged together, we will work ever harder to turn this starboard listing legislative ship around. And we will send a message of smart union solidarity across the NEA/AFT nation.

Stay tuned. 🗨



# FOCUS & PASSION

## MEA-MFT celebrates our members of the year

MEA-MFT honored our 2017 members of the year this spring during representative assembly. These are folks with extraordinary commitment to our union and to the Montana people they serve:

**Federation of Probation & Parole: Local Affiliate of the Year.** Leadership often shines most clearly during a crisis.

When Federation of Probation and Parole leadership negotiated an innovative new career ladder recently, an internal storm erupted.

The plan was complicated, and that made members fearful, said MEA-MFT Field Consultant Larry Nielsen. "The local's Facebook page turned into a battleground," he said. Members voted down the contract." Some threatened to leave the union.

The local's leaders took action, crisscrossing Montana to meet with members in every corner of the state. (The Federation of Probation & Parole has 190 members scattered statewide.)

"The leadership team encountered anger and hostility everywhere," Nielsen said. "But this team understood that face-to-face communication works best."

In the process, he said, "the local went from the brink of the cliff to being a local where members are proud of their union, their jobs, and their leadership team."

"It was intense," said Tom Fulton, the local's president. "Communication was key. We took steps to get new people to MEA-MFT regional training and representative assembly. We're always trying to include new people."



Federation of Probation & Parole President Tom Fulton accepts the MEA-MFT Local of the Year award at the celebration.



Kris Hursh



Chris Danielson



Julie McKenna

"There are 10,000 felony offenders in the state of Montana," Nielsen said. "They are in your neighborhood. You don't know that because we have 190 people working to keep us safe. I thank God for that."

**Julie McKenna, Helena: Kevin D. Bock Public Employee Member of the Year.** "Julie has one of the most important qualities of an active member. She shows up," said Shannon Graham, introducing McKenna at the celebration.

McKenna shows up at local, state, and national union events. She is heavily involved in MEA-MFT's efforts to get more state employee members active and involved.

As treasurer of her local, the Dept. of Revenue, McKenna keeps her local's finances in immaculate shape.

Her work on her agency's labor-management committee created

better working relations and made Revenue the first state agency with an anti-bullying policy.

McKenna's work ethic has earned her widespread recognition. The Big Sky Labor Council elected her as its treasurer. Governor Bullock appointed her to the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration, which oversees eight public employee retirement systems.

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Delegates listen to Gov. Steve Bullock during representative assembly 2017.

## Rep. Assembly: voices & views

The 2017 MEA-MFT representative assembly (RA) was one of the most dramatic in history, as delegates moved toward full merger with the Montana Public Employees Association (see p. 1).

More than 350 locally elected delegates attended the event, held in Helena March 31-April 1, in the middle of a rough legislative session. Amid RA business, delegates spent time at the capitol talking to their local legislators.

In addition to New Business Item #1, directing MEA-MFT to seek full merger with MPEA, delegates took the following actions:

**Passed New Business Item #2:** Endorses the 6-mill levy in the 2018 election for the support, maintenance, and improvement of the Montana University System.

**Passed New Business Item #3:** Calls for a joint MPEA/MEA-MFT committee to review and suggest alternatives to pre-budget negotia-

tions and HB 13 as the method for advancing state employee pay raises.

**Elections:** Delegates elected: 1) Rich Aarstad as MEA-MFT secretary-treasurer to fill the late Kevin Bock's term; 2) district chairs and vice-chairs for odd-numbered districts to serve on the MEA-MFT Board of Directors (see [mea-mft.org/aboutmea-mft](http://mea-mft.org/aboutmea-mft) for a complete list of board members); 3) cluster and student delegates to the NEA RA.

**Dues:** Delegates approved a \$1 per year increase for all members.

**VIPs & celebrations:** Delegates heard from Governor Steve Bullock and other leaders and celebrated our members of the year (see p. 3).

**#Mtra17:** Delegates kept social media busy during RA. Here are some samples of tweets and posts:

"At MEA-MFT Rep Assembly. Learning, laughing, growing in our profession." *Abby Traeholt*

"Moving forward with a merger with MPEA. I am so excited! Love



Matt Bell, MEA-MFT director at large, opens RA with an invocation. "Reflect on what we believe that brought us here," he says. "When I reflect on my [Blackfeet] culture, my people have looked to the buffalo. Leaders in the Buffalo Nation face the storm. When we go to the Capitol today, we are facing that storm."

that this will join our families!"

*Cherie Pinkley Stordahl*

"Day one at the MT Legislature, hanging with Gov. Steve, and chocolate from the Parrott." *Brent Scott*  
More RA voices & views on p. 5.





Membership Man gives his annual overview of just about everything.



Joyce Anderson (left) and Diana Walker attended their first RA this year. Both are officers in the new Belgrade Classifieds local. "Everyone at RA was warm and welcoming," says Anderson. "Humor goes a long way," she adds. "Union work can be serious. Adding levity and fun is important." "I appreciated being able to network with other members," says Walker.



In memoriam: Delegates paused to remember the late Kevin Bock, MEA-MFT secretary-treasurer, who tirelessly championed fellow state employee members, saying, "A member is a member is a member."



Gov. Steve Bullock tells delegates, "The work that you do matters. There would certainly be easier jobs you could do, with more rewards. You make this place I call home so much better to live, work, recreate, and raise a family."



Delegates celebrate MEA-MFT members of the year (see p. 3).



Union is family! RA begins with "Little RAs" held across Montana. These folks attended the Bozeman Little RA.

# Grit & triumph: Hall of Fame

MEA-MFT's Hall of Fame honors the pioneers who forged our union into Montana's champion of justice. Three new inductees were honored at a celebration in Helena this spring:

**Tom Gigstad – Yoda of MEA-MFT:** Tom Gigstad fought for our members as an MEA-MFT field consultant for three decades.

Gigstad became a warrior early in his career. When he attended his very first local union meeting as a new teacher in Frazier, MT in 1974, he was drafted to serve as president.

Back then, he said at the celebration, "75 percent of the student body in Frazier was Native, and two-thirds of the school board was not. They didn't want to spend a dime educating Native Americans that they didn't have to. The union made a big difference."

Under his leadership, his local also stopped the superintendent from sexually harassing female staff. "The board canned all union leadership" for their efforts, he said. "We triumphed. We got our jobs back and got a good contract."

Gigstad put that same tenacity to work for MEA-MFT members on a large scale as a field consultant.

"Tom is absolutely unflappable, quiet but powerful," said MEA-MFT Research Director Diane Fladmo. "He is the Yoda of MEA-MFT."

**Wanda Grinde – Pure grit:** From teaching to helping guide the merger of MEA and MFT to serving in the Montana Legislature, Wanda Grinde has won key victories for MEA-MFT members and Montana families.

"When I started teaching 50 years ago, there was no duty-free lunch, no planning time, no health insurance, no family leave," Grinde said. "If a female teacher was pregnant, she

was expected to quit. Male teachers were paid more than female teachers, high school teachers more than elementary teachers."

Collective bargaining changed all that, Grinde said. She credited MEA and MFT with getting the Montana Collective Bargaining Act written and passed 40 years ago.

Despite ongoing attacks on public schools and public services, she said, "Many good things have happened, thanks to the leadership of this organization, our friends in the legislature and state government, and a big dose of pure grit."

**Linda McCulloch – hero:** Linda McCulloch gained hero status and made national news as Montana's

said, "I learned a lot about how to organize, how to negotiate, how to think a step or two ahead, and how to listen." These skills came in handy in all of McCulloch's different public service jobs, she said.

She had one other thing going for her in all those jobs, she said. "I belonged to MEA-MFT." 🗨️

**"Our Hall of Fame honors the pioneers who forged our union into Montana's champion of justice."**



Tom Gigstad



Wanda Grinde



Linda McCulloch

superintendent of public instruction, when she stood up to the disastrous federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

A former teacher, school librarian, and state legislator, McCulloch went on to serve two terms as Montana's secretary of state.

"Nobody in Montana has been more dedicated to voter rights, more effective in stopping voter suppression than Linda," said MEA-MFT President Eric Feaver.

"I came by my union activism honestly," McCulloch said at the celebration. "My father was a factory worker who was on strike for the better part of my childhood."

Growing up in a union family, she

## Important membership information

In accordance with MEA-MFT Policy 603, members who wish to withdraw their membership from MEA-MFT must do so between August 1 and September 30.

"Policy 603.1. Withdrawal from continuous membership must be by **written notice to the MEA-MFT president**. Such notice must be given between August 1 and September 30. After consultation with the local affiliate, MEA-MFT may take appropriate action against persons who attempt to cancel continuous membership outside the cancellation period." 🗨️





Participating in history: RA delegates listen to merger discussion.

## Merger (from p. 1)

We created Work that Matters together. Department of Revenue employees are already members of both unions. We have the same concerns and values. It only makes sense to combine forces. We will create a new organization that

reflects the best of both MEA-MFT and MPEA and grow it to be as powerful as we can."

Nyman told delegates, "There's a place for everyone in this new organization. We'll be working together like never before."

**What's next:** A merger task force made up of MEA-MFT and MPEA

leaders met in Helena July 17 to draft a constitution for the new merged organization.

Plans call for MEA-MFT and MPEA leaders to present the constitution to members at regional meetings across the state this fall.

In January 2018, MEA-MFT will hold a special RA and MPEA will hold a special meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed constitution. Assuming both unions' delegates approve the constitution, the first annual meeting of the new merged union will take place April 6-7 in Helena to elect officers and board members.

**Combined newsletter ahead:** Beginning soon, MEA-MFT members and MPEA members will find a new newsletter in their mailboxes. The two unions will produce a combined newsletter, tracking merger progress and news from both unions. 🗨️

## Don Jones joins staff

Don Jones recently became MEA-MFT's director of member rights. He also serves as a field consultant, working with locals in Silver Bow and Lewis & Clark counties, along with Warm Springs and Dept. of Revenue locals. Jones works in MEA-MFT's headquarters office in Helena.

He grew up in Colorado and worked for Boeing as a machinist and engineer for 10 years after high school. He was a proud member of machinists and engineering unions.

"I had always dreamed of being a lawyer," Jones said. So at age 28, he went to college, followed by law school. He practiced law in Tacoma, WA, and later moved to Helena to raise his family in a smaller town with outdoor recreation in the back yard.

Jones worked as an attorney for the State of Montana, then for an organization representing people



Don Jones

with disabilities in access and employment discrimination cases. He later started a private firm and handled employment law for 10 years, representing plaintiffs in wrongful termination and discrimination cases. He did some work for MEA-MFT in that capacity.

Jones and his wife, Sandy, have four kids ranging from 24 to eight years old. Sandy is an MEA-MFT member teaching at Four Georgians School in Helena, and Jones has served on the Helena School Board.

Jones is an avid mountain biker, snowboarder, skier, hiker, and hunter. He also coaches kids' football and referees lacrosse. We're glad he's part of our MEA-MFT team! 🗨️

with disabilities in access and employment discrimination cases.

He later started a private firm and handled employment law for 10 years,

## Welcome, Fortine members!

Teachers in Fortine, MT recently joined the MEA-MFT family, voting unanimously to form a bargaining unit and affiliate with MEA-MFT.

Laurel Thompson is serving as acting president and Debra Roloff as secretary/treasurer. Fortine members had their first bargaining meeting in May. "Their main issues have been about workload," said MEA-MFT Field Consultant Heather Diehl.

Teachers in this small town have had no duty-free lunch, Diehl said. Pay and a voice in their workplace are also important issues. Having a union will make a big difference.

Congratulations and welcome to our Fortine members! 🗨️



A Helena student uses the Hokki stool, a tool that improves strength, balance, and concentration.

## Hokki to hand chimes: Karen Cox grants

Love of reading encouraged. Music classes expanded. Antsy students calmed. Across Montana, MEA-MFT members are using Karen Cox Memorial Grants to help their students succeed.

Our Montana Professional Teaching Foundation provides these grants to help teachers buy classroom

supplies their schools can't (or won't) afford. The following are the latest Karen Cox grant recipients:

**Reading in Great Falls:** "There are two kinds of people: those who love to read and those who are reading the wrong books," says Great Falls High School teacher Joan Dailey. "It is my mission to put the right books into the hands of my students." Dailey's Karen Cox grant purchased 40 young adult books for her classroom library.

**Fighting obesity in Kalispell:** Ross Darner, teacher at Evergreen School in Kalispell, used his grant to help the Evergreen Fitness Team acquire equipment and nutritious snacks to teach kids healthy habits.

**De-stressing in Billings:** Librarian Rachel Schillreff of Billings Senior High aims to help students cope with stress. Her grant allowed the library to provide yoga and meditation classes, a relaxation nook, information on stress management, and a visit from therapy dogs.

**iPads in Bonner:** Bonner teacher Breeann Adam used her grant to buy an iPad Air 2 and apps designed for students with autism and other disabilities. The technology helps students with reading, math, speech, and communication skills.

**Hokki in Helena:** "Hokki stools are specifically designed to help students 'keep moving while sitting still,'" says teacher Jodi Delaney at Broadwater Elementary in Helena. Her grant bought four Hokki stools to help kids develop better strength, posture, balance, and focus.

**Hand chimes in Bonner:** Potomac School teacher Sarah Schmill uses hand chimes to teach her music class how to read music and play an instrument. But her hand chimes were damaged beyond repair, forcing her to turn students away from her class. Her grant purchased new hand chimes, allowing more students to learn music.

**Is there a Karen Cox Memorial Grant in your future?**

Contact Donna Graveley for application information: [dgraveley@mea-mft.org](mailto:dgraveley@mea-mft.org).

# Soaring Across the Big Sky

2017 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference  
October 19-20, 2017 • Missoula



Registration info, program, & more at: [mea-mft.org/educators\\_conference.aspx](http://mea-mft.org/educators_conference.aspx)





## UFA members help right the ship

MEA-MFT members in the University of Montana faculty take great pride in the top-quality education they provide, the cutting-edge research they do, and the value they add to Montana's economy.

And rightly so.

Now, with UM facing serious budget constraints, faculty members have stepped up to help right the ship through their local union, the University Faculty Association (UFA).

The university has undertaken a massive effort to prioritize all academic programs and administrative services – hundreds of them – to determine which ones to keep.

"It's a huge task," said Paul Haber, president of UFA. Haber teaches in UM's Political Science Department.

Participating in the project was not a slam-dunk for UFA members. They held an all-member meeting in February to discuss what the union's role should be.

Ultimately, "we decided that by being at the table, we could help ensure the highest quality process possible and position ourselves to move forward," Haber said.

Haber and several other UFA members now sit on the task force that is evaluating programs and services. The task force also includes administrators, staff, and students. "The model is one of shared governance, which means power sharing," said Haber.

"We have a huge charge to come up with a set of principles and values to guide UM into the future, stabilize it financially, and regain the student enrollment we lost," he said.



MEA-MFT members in the University Faculty Association discuss the local union's role in UM's prioritization process.

The task force will develop a report providing recommendations to the university president, the final decider.

Tammy Harris, MEA-MFT's field consultant for higher education locals, said program prioritization happens throughout the Montana University System on a regular basis.

In this case, the stakes are especially high. "There is a lot of angst among our members," Harris said.

"UFA is working to make sure the contract is followed in the process."

"We're concerned that any cuts that may happen are done in a rational manner in compliance with the collective bargaining agreement," said Haber.

"I'm particularly concerned that our most vulnerable members be treated fairly," he continued. Those members include nontenured and probationary tenure-track faculty.

"We are working to protect the contract and to advocate for increased transparency around these processes and, ultimately, for a better budget model," Haber said.

MEA-MFT is backing UFA up with advice and legal counsel.

The clock is ticking. The task force must sift through immense amounts of data to rank programs and departments so UM can live within its budget. The whole process is to be complete by the end of fall semester – an incredibly tight time line.

UFA will then work to make sure management respects the task force's final report.

"We need to hold the administration accountable for implementing the results," Haber said.

"That's what unions do." 🗨️

## Mark your calendar! South Central Regional Training October 6-7, 2017 • Billings

All MEA-MFT members are invited to attend the MEA-MFT South Central Regional Training in Billings, October 6-7, 2017.

Regional training sessions are fun, inspirational, and FREE to members!

The trainings provide members with individualized, localized learning that helps us succeed as a union.

Registration information will be posted at [mea-mft.org](http://mea-mft.org) and sent to local presidents. 🗨️

# 2017 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Montana's every-other-year, 90-day legislative session is always a wild ride for MEA-MFT.

We knew going into the 2017 session that it would have its own special blend of difficulties.

Montana began the session with a budget crisis caused by a serious dip in tax revenues. The state ending fund balance dropped from \$354 million after the 2015 session to \$110 million as the 2017 session began.

As a result, the governor's office proposed an austere state budget. Legislative budget committees proposed even deeper cuts.

Despite the odds, MEA-MFT managed to hold the line on most of our members' priorities and even make some gains. Some highlights:

**STATE PAY PLAN:** Once again, the Republican House failed to pass HB 13, the state employee pay plan bargained between MEA-MFT and our fellow state employee unions with the governor's office.

However, bill sponsor Moffie Funk (D-Helena), MEA-MFT, and MPEA persisted, working with reasonable Republican legislators to get an altered version of the pay plan passed in SB 294. State employees will receive 1% base pay increases in 2018 and 2019. The Montana University System will receive increased funding of the state's share (about \$2.6 million) of faculty and staff pay.

**K-12 FUNDING:** Montana's public schools faced cuts of about \$42 million early in the session.

Worse yet, plans called for cutting into key pillars of the school funding formula, thus making permanent cuts in school districts' budget authority (their ability to spend dollars on children's education).

MEA-MFT worked closely with our allies in the Montana Public Education Center (MT PEC) to protect the school funding formula and k-12 districts' budget authority.

We succeeded. We avoided cuts to school districts' budget authority. We gained inflationary increases on all school formula elements (including special education for the first time).

We also got SB 115 passed, helping address recruitment and retention of teachers through annual stipends for National Board Certified teachers. We gained a new state/lo-

cal partnership solution to school facility maintenance. And we defeated every school privatization bill.

**HIGHER EDUCATION:** We succeeded in restoring half of the proposed cuts to higher education. The Montana University System still faces problems, however.

The legislature passed SB 85, putting the 6-mill levy on the November 2018 ballot. State law requires that voters renew this tax every 10 years via voter referendum. The levy supplies about \$21 million annually for higher education funding. MEA-MFT and MPEA will work hard to get it passed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** In a sad rehash of the 2015 session, infrastructure/bonding bills, so desperately needed in communities all over Montana, were stopped by a few Republican legislators.

Multiple bills were proposed to create thousands of good jobs while fixing our schools, caring for our veterans, cleaning up our water and sewer systems, expanding our Historical Society, and more.

All infrastructure bills and all attempts to increase revenue died but one: the legislature passed a gas tax increase to fund road construction.

**PUBLIC PRESCHOOL:** The legislature passed the governor's plan to fund pilot pre-school programs.

**TRIGGERS:** With state revenues in flux, the legislature added a new twist to the state's two-year budget:





"Trigger language" could add or cut dollars depending on how much tax revenue comes in during the next year. If triggers are met, some of the cuts called for would be extremely

harmful to state agencies and MEA-MFT members. MEA-MFT is working with the governor's office to mitigate the impact of these cuts should they happen.

**OUR THANKS** to the thousands of MEA-MFT members statewide who called and e-mailed legislators on bills! It made all the difference. Voting record begins below.

## MEA-MFT VOTING RECORD

### Description of House Bills:

**HB 13** Moffie Funk (D-Helena): State employee pay plan.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** Failed House motion to "blast" out of committee.

Appropriated \$16.7 million over the biennium to increase state employee pay 1% each year. Once again, for the 4th consecutive legislative session, the Republican House majority failed to pass the pay plan state employee unions bargained in good faith with the governor.

**Status:** Failed in the House.

**HB 239** Bill Harris (R-Mosby): Income tax credits for employers.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Oppose.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** 3rd Reading in the House and motion to suspend the rules in the Senate.

Created an individual and corporate income tax credit for employers to help pay a student's higher education expenses. One of several bad tax credit proposals we have opposed over the last 25 years that challenge our constitution's prohibition against direct and INDIRECT taxpayer funding of sectarian education at any level, k-graduate school.

**Status:** Passed House, failed Senate 2/3ds vote to suspend the rules to accept late bill for transmittal.

**HB 280** Randy Brodehl (R-Kalispell): Allow legislators to carry concealed handguns on state property.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Oppose.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** House Conference Committee Report and Senate

Conference Report.

Authorized legislators to carry handguns on state property including our state Capitol. Ridiculous.

**Status:** Vetoed by the Governor.

**HB 385** Seth Berglee (R-Joliet): Montana School "Safety" Act.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Oppose.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** 2nd Reading House.

Authorized school district employees with concealed weapon permits to carry concealed handguns in public schools. MEA-MFT opposes legislation that would dangerously weaponize our public schools.

**Status:** Failed in the House.

**HB 387** Kirk Wagoner (R-Boulder): 12-bed intensive behavioral center.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** House Free Conference Committee Report and Senate Free Conference Committee Report.

Establishes a 12-bed intensive behavioral center and delays closure of the Montana Developmental Center for two more years. Helps partly clean up the mess the 2015 legislature created when it directed MDC to close.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

**HB 473** Frank Garner (R-Kalispell): Revise highway revenue laws.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** House Concurred with Senate Amendments and 3rd Reading Senate. Incrementally increases Montana

motor fuels tax 6 cents (2 cents for diesel) over the next 6 years to generate 7x more in matching federal dollars for local and state bridge and road construction. Only new infrastructure bill to pass the session. It will help Montana build and rebuild vital infrastructure and put people to work at good paying jobs.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

**HB 647** Don Jones (R-Billings): K-12 education funding.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** House Concurred with Senate Amendments & 3rd Reading Senate.

Eliminates the natural resources development k-12 funding payment; eliminates school district general fund block grants, and increases the guaranteed tax base aid (GTB) over time; revises excess oil and gas production taxes to school districts to be distributed to the state special revenue guarantee account; increases funding for k-12 career and technical education; creates a natural resources development k-12 facilities payment; creates a coal-fired generating unit mitigation block grant; and transfers funds for higher education. Reduces state general fund expenditures by \$44.7 million in FY 2018 and by \$9.2 million in FY 2019. Notices community colleges that they must at least maintain 200 full time equivalent enrollments.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

**HB 660** Jenny Eck (D-Helena): Revise lodging facility use tax to construct Montana Heritage Center. (Continued on p. 12)

# VOTING RECORD

(Continued)

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded** 2nd Reading House.

Increased bed tax .5% from 3% to 3.5% to fund construction of Montana Heritage Center. Montana desperately needs to build a proper place to preserve, study, and exhibit our history.

**Status:** Died in process.

## Description of Senate Bills

**SB 85** Mary Moe (D-Great Falls):

Submit 6-mill levy for Montana University System (MUS) to voters.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** 3rd Reading House & 3rd Reading Senate.

Decennial bill necessary to place the MUS 6-mill levy on the 2018 general election ballot. 6-mill levy provides critical funding to the MUS: \$21 million per year.

**Status:** Passed.

**SB 115** Mary Moe (D-Great Falls):

Revise stipends for National Board Certified teachers.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** 3rd Reading House & 3rd Reading Senate.

Provides first-time-ever ongoing state-funded stipends for National Board Certified teachers. Incentivizes local school communities to bargain same. MEA-MFT sponsors the National Board Certification process through our Montana Professional Teaching Foundation.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

**SB 143** Mike Lang (R-Malta): Revise retiree return-to-work provisions in Teachers' Retirement System.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Oppose.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** House Free Conference Committee Report & Senate Free Conference Committee Report.

Amended an already too-permissive existing law that permits a retired educator (teacher or administrator) under certain circumstances to be reemployed at full salary and continue to draw retirement benefits without penalty. This blatant double-dipping proposal represented a potential long-term threat to our efforts to amortize and save the Montana Teachers' Retirement System.

**Status:** Vetoed by the Governor.

**SB 260** Llew Jones (R-Conrad):

School facilities subtrust within coal tax trust fund.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** 3rd Reading House & 3rd Reading Senate.

Creates first-time-ever local public school facilities maintenance and repair fund within the coal severance tax trust fund. Huge step forward but will take time to grow into a significant school facility funding source. Companion bill to SB 307.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

**SB 294** Steve Fitzpatrick (R-Great Falls):

Revise laws related to state government pay plans.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** House Adopted Free Conference Committee Report and Senate Adopted Free Conference Report.

Revises statutes governing state employee pay and increases state employee base pay 1% February 15 each year of the coming biennium. Montana University System receives increased state funding of the state's share (approximately \$2.6 million) of faculty and staff pay going forward. MUS also receives \$2 million more to incentivize employee retirements.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

**SB 307** Llew Jones (R-Conrad):

Revise k-12 school funding laws to address facilities.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** House Concurred with Governor's Amendments and Senate Concurred with Governor's Amendments.

Revises school funding laws to address facilities. Terminates ineffective unfunded quality schools facility program. Creates an additional local school district permissive levy opportunity. Companion bill to SB 260.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

**SB 352** Al Olsewski (R-Kalispell):

Referendum on prohibition of ballot collection by certain individuals.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Oppose.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** 3rd Reading House & 3rd Reading Senate.

Legislative referendum restricting 3d party ballot collection. Little more than a voter suppression proposal purposefully crafted to avoid a gubernatorial veto. Will be on the 2018 November general election ballot. Legal challenge possible before or after the election.

**Status:** Passed. Filed with the Secretary of State.

**SB 367:** Eric Moore (R-Miles City):

Revise infrastructure funding laws.

**MEA-MFT Position:** **Support.**

**Vote(s) Recorded:** 3rd Reading House and 3rd Reading Senate.

Authorized bonding to build infrastructure including Southwestern MT Veterans Home, MT University System Romney Hall, dental hygiene facility construction at College of Great Falls, MSU Billings Tech addition, and \$16 million for quality school facility grants across the state. The House of Representatives has now twice failed to authorize bonding to build infrastructure and twice failed to fund the quality school facility program.

**Status:** Died in process. Failed to get two-thirds vote in the House.



# SENATE VOTING RECORD

**R** = Right vote according to MEA-MFT position  
**W** = Wrong vote according to MEA-MFT position  
 Score = Percentage of right votes

E = Excused  
**Bold** = MEA-MFT member

Legislator & Party	District	City	Score	HB 239	HB 280	HB 387	HB 473	HB 647	SB 85	SB 115	SB 143	SB 260	SB 294	SB 307	SB 352	SB 367
Ankney, Duane (R)	SD 20	Colstrip	77%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
<b>Barrett, Dick (D)</b>	SD 45	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Blasdel, Mark (R)	SD 4	Kalispell	31%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W
Boland, Carlisle (D)	SD 12	Great Falls	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Brown, Dee (R)	SD 2	Hungry Horse	33%	R	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	E	W	W
Buttrey, Edward (R)	SD 11	Great Falls	77%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
Caferro, Mary (D)	SD 41	Helena	77%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
<b>Cohenour, Jill (D)</b>	SD 42	East Helena	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Connell, Pat (R)	SD 43	Hamilton	69%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
<b>Facey, Tom (D)</b>	SD 50	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Fielder, Jennifer (R)	SD 7	Th. Falls	25%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	E	W	W
Fitzpatrick, Steve (R)	SD 10	Great Falls	62%	W	W	R	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
Gauthier, Terry (R)	SD 40	Helena	69%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
Gross, Jen (D)	SD 25	Billings	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Hinebaugh, Steve (R)	SD 18	Wibaux	23%	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Hinkle, Jedediah (R)	SD 32	Belgrade	15%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Hoven, Brian (R)	SD 13	Great Falls	58%	W	W	E	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
Howard, David (R)	SD 29	Park City	15%	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Jones, Llew (R)	SD 9	Conrad	69%	R	W	W	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
Kary, Doug (R)	SD 22	Billings	38%	R	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W
Keenan, Bob (R)	SD 5	Bigfork	25%	R	W	W	W	E	W	W	R	R	W	W	W	W
Lang, Mike (R)	SD 17	Malta	38%	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W
MacDonald, Margaret (D)	SD 26	Billings	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	E	R
Malek, Sue (D)	SD 46	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
<b>McClafferty, Edie (D)</b>	SD 38	Butte	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

Continued on p. 14

# SENATE VOTING RECORD

(Continued)

**R** = Right vote according to MEA-MFT position  
**W** = Wrong vote according to MEA-MFT position  
 Score = Percentage of right votes

E = Excused

**Bold** = MEA-MFT member

Legislator & Party	District	City	Score	HB 239	HB 280	HB 387	HB 473	HB 647	SB 85	SB 115	SB 143	SB 260	SB 294	SB 307	SB 352	SB 367
<b>McNally, Mary (D)</b>	SD 24	Billings	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Moore, Frederick (R)	SD 19	Miles City	50%	W	W	R	W	E	R	R	W	R	W	R	W	R
Olszewski, Albert (R)	SD 6	Kalispell	46%	R	W	R	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Osmundson, Ryan (R)	SD 15	Buffalo	42%	W	W	R	W	E	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	R
Phillips, Mike (D)	SD 31	Bozeman	92%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
Pomnichowski, JP (D)	SD 33	Bozeman	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Regier, Keith (R)	SD 3	Kalispell	23%	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W
Richmond, Tom (R)	SD 28	Billings	69%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
Sales, Scott (R)	SD 35	Bozeman	23%	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Salomon, Daniel (R)	SD 47	Ronan	77%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
Sands, Diane (D)	SD 49	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Sesso, Jon (D)	SD 37	Butte	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Small, Jason (R)	SD 21	Busby	67%	W	W	R	R	E	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
Smith, Frank (D)	SD 16	Poplar	85%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	W	R	R
Smith, Cary (R)	SD 27	Billings	15%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Swandal, Nels (R)	SD 30	Wilsall	38%	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R
Tempel, Russel (R)	SD 14	Chester	54%	W	W	R	W	R	R	R	W	R	W	R	W	R
Thomas, Fred (R)	SD 44	Stevensville	46%	W	W	R	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R
Vance, Gordon (R)	SD 34	Belgrade	15%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Vincent, Chas (R)	SD 1	Libby	23%	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W
Vuckovich, Gene (D)	SD 39	Anaconda	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Webb, Roger (R)	SD 23	Billings	15%	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Welborn, Jeffrey (R)	SD 36	Dillon	62%	W	W	R	R	R	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R
Whitford, Lea (D)	SD 8	Cut Bank	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Wolken, Cynthia (D)	SD 48	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	E	R	R	R	R	R	R	R



# HOUSE VOTING RECORD

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Legislator & Party	District	City	Score	HB 13	HB 239	HB 280	HB 385	HB 387	HB 473	HB 647	HB 660	SB 85	SB 115	SB 143	SB 260	SB 294	SB 307	SB 352	SB 367
Abbott, Kim (D)	HD 83	Helena	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Anderson, Fred (R)	HD 20	Great Falls	75%	R	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	R	R	R	R	R
Bachmeier, Jacob (D)	HD 28	Havre	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Ballance, Nancy (R)	HD 87	Hamilton	44%	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	R	R	R	W	W
Bartel, Dan (R)	HD 29	Lewistown	25%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W
Beard, Becky (R)	HD 80	Elliston	38%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Bennett, Bryce (D)	HD 91	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Berglee, Seth (R)	HD 58	Joliet	19%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Bishop, Laurie (D)	HD 60	Livingston	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Brodehl, Randy (R)	HD 9	Kalispell	31%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Brown, Zach (D)	HD 63	Bozeman	88%	R	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Brown, Bob (R)	HD 13	Th Falls	25%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Burnett, Tom (R)	HD 67	Bozeman	38%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Cook, Rob (R)	HD 18	Conrad	81%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
Court, Virginia (D)	HD 50	Billings	94%	R	A	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Cuffe, Mike (R)	HD 2	Eureka	44%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	R	A	W	R	R	W	R	W	R
<b>Curdy, Willis (D)</b>	HD 98	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
<b>Curtis, Amanda (D)</b>	HD 74	Butte	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Custer, Geraldine (R)	HD 39	Forsyth	81%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	R	R	R	R	R
Doane, Alan (R)	HD 36	Bloomfield	25%	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R
Dudik, Kimberly (D)	HD 94	Missoula	94%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Dunwell, Mary Ann (D)	HD 84	Helena	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Eck, Jenny (D)	HD 79	Helena	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Ehli, Ron (R)	HD 86	Hamilton	31%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Ellis, Janet (D)	HD 81	Helena	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

Continued on p. 16



# HOUSE VOTING RECORD

(Continued)

**R** = Right vote according to MEA-MFT position  
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**Bold** = MEA-MFT member

Legislator & Party	District	City	Score	HB 13	HB 239	HB 280	HB 385	HB 387	HB 473	HB 647	HB 660	SB 85	SB 115	SB 143	SB 260	SB 294	SB 307	SB 352	SB 367
Essmann, Jeff (R)	HD 54	Billings	44%	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	R
Fern, Dave (D)	HD 5	Whitefish	94%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Fitzgerald, Ross (R)	HD 17	Fairfield	81%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
<b>Fleming, John (D)</b>	HD 93	St Ignatius	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Flynn, Kelly (R)	HD 70	Townsend	25%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
<b>Funk, Moffie (D)</b>	HD 82	Helena	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Galt, Wylie (R)	HD 30	Martinsdale	25%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Garner, Frank (R)	HD 7	Kalispell	69%	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	R	R	R	R	R
Glimm, Carl (R)	HD 6	Kila	25%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Greef, Edward (R)	HD 88	Florence	44%	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Grubbs, Bruce (R)	HD 68	Bozeman	81%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
Gunderson, Steve (R)	HD 1	Libby	31%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Hamilton, Jim (D)	HD 61	Bozeman	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Hamlett, Bradley Maxon (D)	HD 23	Cascade	94%	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Harris, Bill (R)	HD 37	Winnett	25%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R
Hayman, Denise (D)	HD 66	Bozeman	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Hertz, Adam (R)	HD 96	Missoula	31%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Hertz, Greg (R)	HD 12	Polson	25%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Hill Smith, Ellie (D)	HD 90	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Holmlund, Kenneth (R)	HD 38	Miles City	50%	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	R	R	R	W	R
Hopkins, Mike (R)	HD 92	Missoula	56%	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	R	R	R	W	R
Jacobson, Tom (D)	HD 21	Great Falls	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Jones, Donald (R)	HD 46	Billings	31%	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Karjala, Jessica (D)	HD 48	Billings	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Keane, Jim (D)	HD 73	Butte	94%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

Continued on p. 17



# HOUSE VOTING RECORD

(Continued)

**R** = Right vote according to MEA-MFT position  
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 Score = Percentage of right votes

E = Excused  
**Bold** = MEA-MFT member

Legislator & Party	District	City	Score	HB 13	HB 239	HB 280	HB 385	HB 387	HB 473	HB 647	HB 660	SB 85	SB 115	SB 143	SB 260	SB 294	SB 307	SB 352	SB 367
Kelker, Kathy (D)	HD 47	Billings	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Kipp III, George (D)	HD 15	Heart Butte	88%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R
Knokey, Jon (R)	HD 65	Bozeman	56%	W	R	W	R	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	R	R	W	R
Knudsen, Austin (R)	HD 34	Culbertson	31%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Knudsen, Casey (R)	HD 33	Malta	13%	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Lavin, Steve (R)	HD 8	Kalispell	56%	R	W	W	W	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	R	R	R	W	R
Lenz, Dennis (R)	HD 53	Billings	31%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Loge, Denley (R)	HD 14	St Regis	81%	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Lynch, Ryan (D)	HD 76	Butte	88%	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Mandeville, Forrest (R)	HD 57	Columbus	31%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	A	W	R	W	W	W	R
Manzella, Theresa (R)	HD 85	Hamilton	13%	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
McCarthy, Kelly (D)	HD 49	Billings	94%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
McConnell, Nate (D)	HD 89	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
McKamey, Wendy (R)	HD 19	Great Falls	63%	W	R	W	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
Morigeau, Shane (D)	HD 95	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Mortensen, Dale (R)	HD 44	Billings	21%	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	E	E	W	A
Noland, Mark (R)	HD 10	Bigfork	25%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
O'Hara, James (R)	HD 27	Fort Benton	25%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Olsen, Andrea (D)	HD 100	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Patelis, Jimmy (R)	HD 52	Billings	38%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	R
Peppers, Rae (D)	HD 41	Lame Deer	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Perry, Zac (D)	HD 3	Hungry Horse	94%	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Pierson, Gordon (D)	HD 78	Deer Lodge	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
<b>Price, Jean (D)</b>	HD 24	Great Falls	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Redfield, Alan (R)	HD 59	Livingston	25%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W

Continued on p. 18



# HOUSE VOTING RECORD

(Continued)

**R** = Right vote according to MEA-MFT position  
**W** = Wrong vote according to MEA-MFT position  
 Score = Percentage of right votes

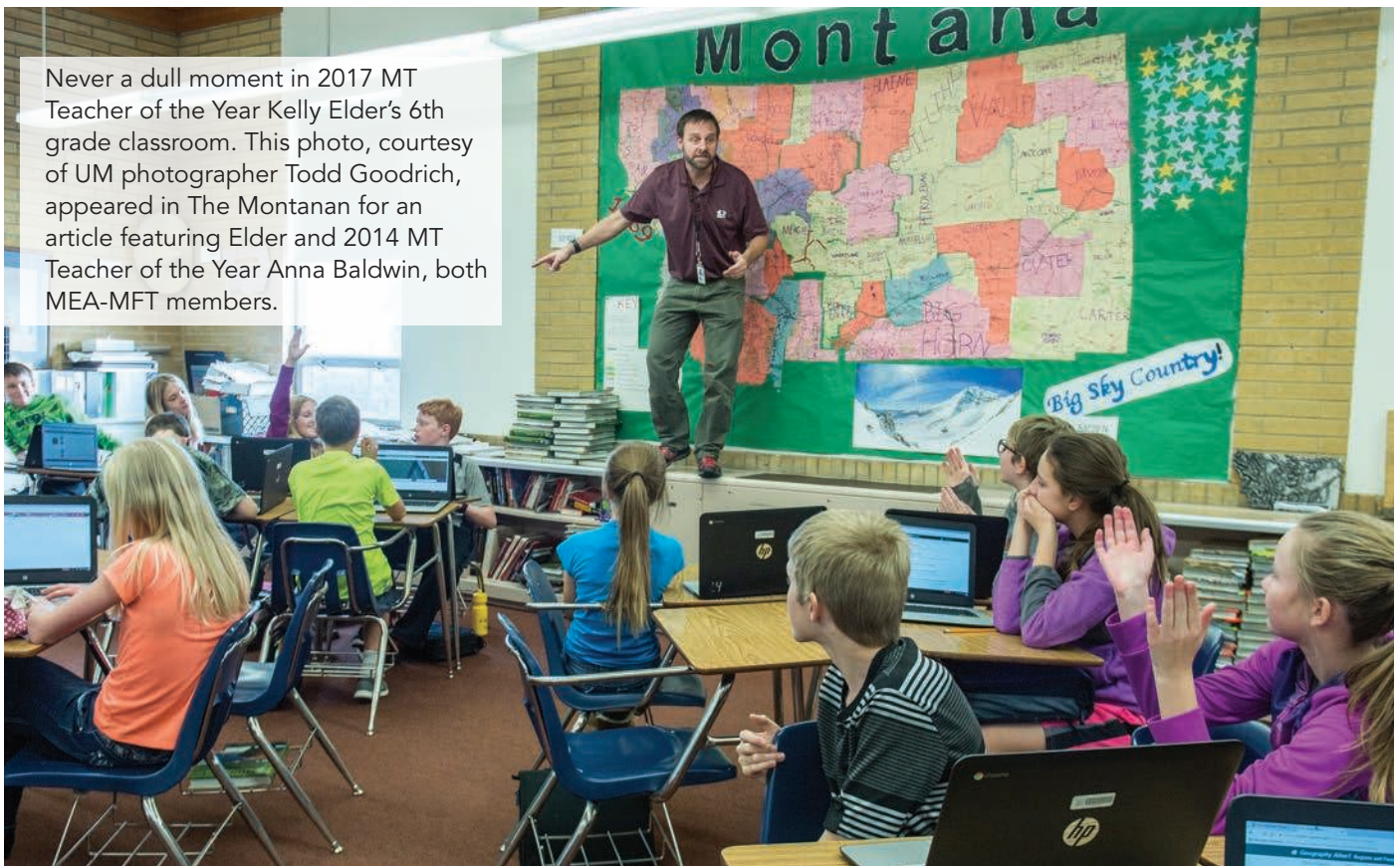
E = Excused

**Bold** = MEA-MFT member

Legislator & Party	District	City	Score	HB 13	HB 239	HB 280	HB 385	HB 387	HB 473	HB 647	HB 660	SB 85	SB 115	SB 143	SB 260	SB 294	SB 307	SB 352	SB 367
Regier, Matt (R)	HD 4	Kalispell	19%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Ricci, Vince (R)	HD 55	Laurel	38%	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Rosendale, Adam (R)	HD 51	Billings	19%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
<b>Ryan, Marilyn (D)</b>	HD 99	Missoula	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Sales, Walt (R)	HD 69	Manhattan	81%	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
<b>Schreiner, Casey (D)</b>	HD 26	Great Falls	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Shaw, Ray (R)	HD 71	Sheridan	75%	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
Sheldon-Galloway, Lola (R)	HD 22	Great Falls	31%	W	R	W	R	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	A	W	W	W	W
Skees, Derek (R)	HD 11	Kalispell	25%	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Smith, Bridget (D)	HD 31	Wolf Point	88%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R
Staffanson, Scott (R)	HD 35	Sidney	31%	W	W	W	R	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon (D)	HD 42	Crow Agency	88%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R
Swanson, Kathy (D)	HD 77	Anaconda	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Trebas, Jeremy (R)	HD 25	Great Falls	50%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	W
Tschida, Brad (R)	HD 97	Missoula	19%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Usher, Barry (R)	HD 40	Billings	38%	W	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R
Vinton, Sue (R)	HD 56	Billings	44%	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R
Wagoner, Kirk (R)	HD 75	Montana City	38%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W
Webb, Peggy (R)	HD 43	Billings	19%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Webber, Susan (D)	HD 16	Browning	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Welch, Tom (R)	HD 72	Dillon	63%	W	W	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	W	R
White, Kerry (R)	HD 64	Bozeman	19%	A	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)	HD 32	Box Elder	94%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
<b>Woods, Tom (D)</b>	HD 62	Bozeman	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Zolnikov, Daniel (R)	HD 45	Billings	19%	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	A



Never a dull moment in 2017 MT Teacher of the Year Kelly Elder's 6th grade classroom. This photo, courtesy of UM photographer Todd Goodrich, appeared in *The Montanan* for an article featuring Elder and 2014 MT Teacher of the Year Anna Baldwin, both MEA-MFT members.



## Finland to Italy to South Africa

### For Montana Teachers of the Year, doors open wide

When you become a Montana Teacher of the Year, doors all over the world open for you. Literally.

Kelly Elder is a case in point. Since he was selected as Montana Teacher of the Year last fall, his life has become a whirlwind of opportunity.

Being a Montana Teacher of the Year helped him achieve additional awards that will allow him to expand his knowledge of the world and share the experiences with his students and other educators.

Elder, a middle school social studies teacher in Helena, recently earned a Global Learning Fellowship that will take him to South Africa in July 2018. The National Education Association (NEA) Foundation chooses one award-winning teacher

from each state to take part in the program, all expenses paid.

Elder also received a Global Ambassador Scholarship that took him to Finland and Italy this July. He joined award-winning U.S. educators in Helsinki to learn about Finland's world-renowned educational system and its culture.

Then he attended a Global Leadership Summit in Milan, where learned from top experts and explored education's role in tackling global issues – in this case, Italy's growing population and dwindling food supply.

Elder was one of five state teachers of the year chosen to participate in the Helsinki/Milan program on a full-ride scholarship.

Elder isn't alone. Other Montana Teachers of the Year have traveled to places like Peru, China, and Brazil on fellowships and scholarships.

Programs like these look for top-achieving teachers. Montana

Teachers of the Year have access to amazing opportunities specifically because they are recognized as top teachers. MEA-MFT's Montana Professional Teaching Foundation (MPTF) administers the Montana Teacher of the Year program.

"We don't choose the Teacher of the Year, but the program wouldn't exist without our foundation," said MPTF Chair Eric Feaver.

Elder has also traveled to Dallas and Washington, DC, to network and learn with the nation's other state teachers of the year.

"It was fantastic," he said of the experiences. "The connections I've made through the Teacher of the Year program are invaluable."

**Here's the take-home:** If you know a great Montana k-12 teacher, nominate that person for Teacher of the Year. If you get nominated, submit the application. Watch [mea-mft.org](http://mea-mft.org) and our Facebook page for nomination information. 🗨️

## MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

(From p. 3)

**Kris Hursh, Kalispell: Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year.** "Focus and passion." That's how fellow ESP member Eden Dias characterized Kris Hursh.

Hursh works as an AV media assistant in the Kalispell schools, helping students with audio and video editing, finding books and videos, and much more.

She jumped feet first into her local union when she first started the job. "I was eager to have a voice and make a difference in our schools for the students, staff, and community," she said. Hursh now serves as

president of her local. She gave a shout-out at the celebration to the diverse ESPs who help our students succeed: clerical staff, paraeducators, custodial and maintenance staff, food service, health and student services, skilled trades, technical services, and transportation services.

Without them, she said, "the doors wouldn't open, the bells wouldn't ring, the phones wouldn't be answered, and the classrooms wouldn't be a safe place for our students to learn."

**Dr. Chris Danielson, Montana Tech, Butte: Faculty Member of the Year.** "Dr. Chris Danielson is a compassionate teacher and gifted historian with a sense of humor," colleague Glen Southergill told the celebration crowd.

Danielson is a professor of history at Montana Tech in Butte. He has a special interest in African-American History and the civil rights movement, with a focus on voting rights and the political realignment of the Deep South.

"I teach and I write because I love what I do," Danielson said. "I'm a professor and a student of history."

He is also passionate about the union movement, speaking at the celebration of "those who died for the right to organize."

Under Danielson's leadership as president of his local union, the Montana Tech Faculty Association, membership has increased to record levels.

Congratulations to all our members of the year! 🗨️

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