

MEA-MFT History – significant achievements

– as of March 2010 and growing

1973-74

Legislation creating Montana Collective Bargaining Act

1981

Legislation providing “free” creditable TRS service for Vietnam era veterans

MEA delegate assembly authorizes MEA to organize k-12 classifieds (PSRPs)

1983

Legislation permitting 25-year retirement in TRS without penalty

1986

Ballot box defeat of CI-27 – to abolish property taxes

1987-89

Legislation creating Certification, Standards, & Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC)

Named plaintiff in school funding equity lawsuit

1988

Member Nancy Keenan elected superintendent of public instruction

1989

Legislation mandating two October PIR days for professional development

Creation of Montana Unified Schools Trust

1991

Legislation mandating binding arbitration of public school employee grievances

Legislation mandating school employee preference for all available positions in event of school district consolidation, etc.

1993-94

Legislation and ballot issue – Pension Security Act - CI-25 – now Article 8, Section 15 – Montana Constitution

First MEA-MFT merged local - Merged Missoula Classified Employees’ Organization

1995

Gubernatorial veto of MTSBA bill empowering school districts to unilaterally abrogate contractual steps & lanes

MEA-MFT Educators’ Conference featuring both Keith Geiger & Al Shanker

1996

Creation of Montana Professional Teaching Foundation (MPTF)

Teacher of the Year (1996)

Educator Forum (1996)

National Board

Certification (1997)

Karen Cox Memorial Grants (2006)

Presidential Science & Math Awards(2007)

Ballot box defeat of CI-66 & 67 – voter approval of tax increases & limitation on state spending

Ballot box defeat of C-30 – to abolish board of regents

1997

Legislation mandating binding arbitration of disputed teacher terminations

Legislation creating a guaranteed annual benefit adjustment in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS GABA)

Federal court decision ruling I-125 and subsequent legislation prohibiting corporate and union expenditures on ballot issues unconstitutional

1998-99

Supreme court decision voiding CI-75 – vote of the people on any new tax or fee – and establishing case law prohibition against whole sale ballot issue amendment of Montana state constitution

Legislation creating a guaranteed annual benefit Adjustment in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS GABA)

MFT launches prebudget, state employee pay plan negotiations

School accreditation standard – 10.57.604 - authorizing charter schools operating under the control of local school districts, employing licensed and endorsed teachers, providing open student enrollment, and permitting collective bargaining.

2000

MEA-MFT Merger

Affiliation with AFL-CIO

Member Linda McCulloch elected superintendent of public instruction

2001

Capitol rally for public education

2002

Stand Up for Education to rally Montana school communities on behalf of public education

2003

Legislation permitting correctional officers to join Game Wardens' Retirement System

Named plaintiff in school funding adequacy lawsuit

MEA-MFT & Office of Public Instruction collaborate on first Mentorship Institute

PASS to help Montana paraprofessionals meet quality standards created by NCLB

2003-05

Negotiation & legislation creating two consecutive biennial state employee pay plan increases

2004

Work that Matters to highlight the contributions of Montana's public employees

2005

Legislation creating quality educator payment

2005-07

Legislation reducing TRS and PERS unfunded liabilities and creating a significant ongoing infusion of state funding of TRS

2006

Ballot issue (I-151) creating a Montana minimum wage

District and supreme court decisions invalidating CI-97 – cap on state expenditures (also CI-98 – judicial recall & I-154 – eminent domain)

2007

Legislation establishing state funded full-time kindergarten

Legislation increasing state funding of so-called university faculty optional retirement plan

Legislation creating an education loan repayment program for teachers taking high demand/low supply positions

Legislation protecting the assets of school district self-funded health care plans for the purposes for which they were acquired

2008

Supreme court decision affirming right of bargaining units to demand to bargain impacts of so-called management right decisions

Four member primary election candidates for superintendent of public instruction; one member candidate for attorney general

Member Denise Juneau elected superintendent of public instruction

Member Linda McCulloch elected secretary of state

24 member primary election candidates for state legislature; 19 member general election candidates

17 member legislators

School accreditation standard – 10.55.907 – requiring that teachers of distance learning be licensed and endorsed

2009

Pre-budget pay plan negotiations and legislation “saving” state employee jobs

Legislation creating a first time ever state funded virtual academy

Legislative budget amendments prohibiting vacancy savings in 24/7 institutions

Organization of the last public higher education faculty in the state of Montana at MSU/Bozeman

Organization of MEA-MFT members into program & policy councils

Board of Public Education Accreditation Standard - 10.57.437 – Class 8 teacher license enabling college and university faculty to provide high school and dual credit

Over time

Bed Rock Defense

Alternative teacher licensure

Tuition tax credits & pay vouchers

Charter schools outside parameters set in school accreditation standards

Right to work

Pay check protection

PIR days

Defined benefit retirement

State Governing Bodies & Offices

Board of Public Education

3 of 7 – Sharon Carroll, Patty Myers, Bernie Olson

Board of Regents

1 of 7 – Angela McLean

TRS Board of Trustees

3 of 6 – Jeff Greenfield, Darrell Layman, Kari Peiffer

CSPAC

4 of 7 – Sharon Applegate, Patty Muir, Jon Runnells, Judie Woodhouse

Board of Personnel Appeals

Substitute labor member – Mike Thiel

Virtual Academy

1 of 6 - Teacher appointee – Barb Fettig

2009 State Legislators

Cheryl Steenson	Kalispell
John Fleming	St. Ignatius
Frosty Calf Boss Ribs	Heart Butte
Bob Mehlhoff	Great Falls
Wanda Grinde	Billings
Robyn Driscoll	Billings
Elise Arntzen	Billings
Franke Wilmer	Bozeman
Edie McClafferty	Butte
Jill Cohenour	Helena

Robin Hamilton	Missoula
Dick Barrett	Missoula
Michele Reinhart	Missoula
Theresa Henry	Missoula
Gary Branae	Billings
Ron Erickson	Missoula
Carol Juneau	Browning

Secretary of State

Linda McCulloch

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Denise Juneau

Membership Growth

1980	7,334
2009	17,550

For more history and information click on <http://www.meamft.org/contact%20gov.htm>