

MPEA Resolution – 2016 Annual Meeting

Whereas, the Montana Public Employees Association, MPEA, affiliated with the Montana AFL-CIO and received its Charter as a member on March 9, 2011,

And Whereas, the affiliation was established as a direct affiliation due to the fact that MPEA is a ‘stand alone’ labor organization in the state of Montana and does not belong to a national or international labor organization,

And Whereas, MPEA is the second largest affiliate of the Montana AFL-CIO and the second largest labor organization in the state of Montana,

And Whereas, the National AFL-CIO’s constitution requires that in order for a labor organization to belong to a state AFL-CIO they must be an affiliate of a national or international labor organization,

And Whereas, at the time of direct affiliation there were several independent labor organizations nationally who were certified as direct affiliates to state AFL-CIO’s under Solidarity Charters,

And Whereas, MPEA is the last remaining direct affiliate of a state AFL-CIO,

And Whereas, MEA-MFT, the American Federation of Teachers, AFT, and the National Education Association, NEA, gave direct support and advocacy for the approval of MPEA’s direct affiliation,

And Whereas, MPEA and MEA-MFT have agreed to a ‘no raid’ agreement for over 20 years which also includes language to deal directly with each other regarding any potential mergers or affiliations,

And Whereas, MPEA and MEA-MFT have discussed the concept of merger or affiliation over the course of the last two decades,

And Whereas, MPEA and MEA-MFT have jointly represented members at the Montana Department of Revenue since 2000,

And Whereas, MPEA and MEA-MFT represent members who often times work side by side in various levels of government and educational settings,

And Whereas, the agenda of anti-union organizations has gathered momentum and strength that leave independent organizations in a vulnerable position,

And Whereas, organized labor must adapt to the current culture and society in order to remain relevant,

And Whereas, MEA-MFT passed a similar New Business Item at its 2016 Representative Assembly,

Therefore, be it resolved that MPEA and MEA-MFT shall continue to explore merger or affiliation opportunities and report the status of those discussions at the 2017 MPEA Annual Meeting.