

New Business Item #1 – 17 RA

Action: 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.

Rationale: New Business Item #1 of the 2016 MEA-MFT Representative Assembly directed MEA-MFT to pursue merger possibilities with MPEA. MPEA's 2016 annual convention directed MPEA to do likewise. Over the past year MPEA and MEA-MFT representatives have met periodically to discuss steps towards merger. As a result, the organizations have adopted shared communication structures (including a Facebook Page – Montana Unified), joint advocacy and organizing efforts, and developed an agreement to merge political action programs for the 2018 election cycle. More work can and must be done with urgent yet thoughtful deliberation. As the whole world knows MEA-MFT and MPEA continue to share greater and more ominous common threats to union rights and the work our members do that matters. Merger of MPEA and MEA-MFT unites 25,000 members strong. Montana Unified we stand.

Submitted by:

MEA-MFT Board of Directors

Fiscal Impact:

\$0 - Embraced in current and proposed budget