What is the Member Organizing Institute?

The AFT Member Organizing Institute is a jointly funded program of the AFT and its local affiliates and state federations. This program capitalizes on one of our most valuable resources—our members—to help build union power and activism.

A member’s ability to draw from personal work and union experience to engage and activate potential members is invaluable. In the MOI, union members are trained and work as part-time organizers to help increase capacity in their local unions. The program seeks to foster a culture of organizing, member engagement and accountability among member organizers, staff and local leadership.

Initial and ongoing training and support is provided to participating affiliates and state federations. After training, member organizers are paid to work 10 hours a week (40 hours monthly). This work is to be performed during nonwork hours, such as during weekends and evenings. All MOI work is aside from normal work duties.

To receive more information about Oregon MOI, contact Jessica Foster at jfoster@aft.org or 971-888-5665.

OUR MISSION

The American Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

Lorretta Johnson
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mary Cathryn Ricker
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

A Union of Professionals
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
202-879-4400
www.aft.org

MOI
Member Organizing Institute
AFT Member Organizing Institute objectives

The AFT Member Organizing Institute is designed to support our member engagement efforts through one-on-one conversations with members, leadership identification and development, and increased member activism. Member engagement programs build the power you need to win contract, legislative and other advocacy campaigns.

Testimonials

“Meeting with employees at Lane Community College and getting to know them made it easier to talk to them about the union and how it benefits us as members. Getting the employees informed about the benefits offered and how being able to vote would improve the work environment was what made them want to be full members.”

—Mark Jordon, Lane Community College Employees Federation, Local 2417

“We’re seeing people we don’t normally see. Some people feel isolated at their workplace because they don’t see a lot of other people at work. We’re one union. We’re one voice. We’re one team, and we want to help you and we want you to feel a part of this team.”

—Laura, member organizer, Kansas Organization of State Employees

“I’ve always known that the work done by my union makes my life better on a daily basis. Getting involved with my union and doing member organizing allows me not only to meet my co-workers, but to know that I am helping strengthen a union that benefits us all. Face-to-face conversations with fellow faculty members are an important part of building relationships and remembering that we are all in this together. We are stronger as a united group than we could ever be as individuals!”

—Shayna, member organizer, AFT-Oregon

What are the requirements to participate in the Member Organizing Institute?

Team sessions will create and strengthen union-management-community partnerships to:

- Spend up to 10 hours a week performing activities related to the project.
- Participate in trainings and team activities.
- Conduct small-group meetings, home visits and one-on-one conversations in other locations; listen to and talk with workers; make assessments; identify social networks and leaders; and move workers to action.
- Assist with the logistics for project meetings and activities.
- Help develop a personalized organizing plan based on targeting and training.
- Improve leadership skills in both the workplace and the community.
- Maintain and coordinate database information about employees for organizing purposes.