

Douglas County Federation of Retired Teachers & Educators
General Membership Meeting
September 10, 2009
Chaparral High School Library

*** Welcome and Call to Order**

Joanne Slanovich called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. in the Chaparral High School Library. The twelve members present (quorum) introduced themselves by stating their names, years and location of service to Douglas County, and years of retirement.

Greg Silverman from Liberty Mutual Insurance outlined benefits and discounts he can offer to members of the DCFRTE.

Minutes of the April 23, 2009 Spring General Membership meeting were approved as read.

*** General Business**

- Joanne gave members insightful information about candidates for the Douglas County School Board Elections. The DCFRTE will be supporting four candidates in the upcoming elections. Interested members may be asked to help with yard signs and other aspects of the campaign. Joanne stressed the importance of the election's outcome to the welfare of Douglas County teachers and retirees.
- Joanne Slanovich reported for Jim Farrell about recent legislative activity surrounding PERA retirement and the changes that are being considered. No final decisions have been made.
- She also updated members on DCFRTE plans to increase membership via a recently approved \$600 AFT grant. This will involve recruiting incentives for new and current members as well as mailings to prospective members.
- Grace Slanovich, Social Committee chairperson, described summer activities that some of our chapter members enjoyed. These included High Tea and a tour of The Castle in Castle Rock, a Shred-a-Thon, and an upcoming picnic on September 21st at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Members and friends can take advantage of ticket discounts by meeting at the front gate at 10:00 a.m.
- Joanne explained the status of the By-Laws/ Charter. After five or six revisions of minor details, we are still waiting for chapter approval. It is expected soon.
- Joanne is a member of the Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security and gave an in depth review of the issues and the help AFT is giving us to secure a positive outcome of upcoming changes in PERA. Members are asked to go to the SecurePERA.org website for clarification of upcoming potential changes.

- Patricia Meyers facilitated a discussion of the AFT benefits available to DCFRTE members. There are many discounts available to members for products, travel, health, and more. Most important for retirees still substituting is a million dollar liability insurance policy to cover you while in the classroom. This is free with your five dollar a month membership to DCFRTE. Joanne will find out if the million dollar liability is good in any school district, and if we will get membership cards when we are chartered.
- Pat Nicholson, a retired social studies teacher from Cresthill Middle School will represent us at The Retiree Conference in Washington DC (9/30 to 10/2). Her expenses will be shared by AFT and the Douglas County Federation.

*** Social Events**

As summer events come to a close at the Sept. 21st Denver Botanic Gardens picnic, members were asked to brainstorm future events they might enjoy. There were suggestions that we meet for the Santa Fe Downtown Art Walk and the Littleton Symphony. The Social Committee will look into the suggestions made by members in attendance along with those suggested earlier in the year.

*** Items from the floor**

* As a part of our membership campaign, new and present members were included in drawings for sets of four Avalanche tickets (courtesy of the Douglas County Education Foundation), two Elitch's passes (courtesy of the Douglas County Education Foundation) and a \$25 gift certificate to Target (courtesy of Greg Spearman, Liberty Mutual). Winners included, Pat Meyers, Sally Wentzel, Cindy Howell, Charlie Kruse, Joy Egger, Andrea Meyers, and Karen Barrett.

* The next General Membership Meeting will be January 7, 2010 at the Loan Tree Recreation Center, 4:30 p.m.

*** Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.