

## Spring General Membership Meeting

On March 10, at the Marriott South at I-25 and Lincoln, approximately 110 members attended the Douglas County Federation spring General Membership Meeting. Members were treated to dinner and beverages, as well as, information relating to certified/classified blueprints, Douglas County Education Foundation house raffle, and the potential bond/budget election.



President Brenda Smith calls the spring General Membership meeting to order

President Brenda Smith gave an overview of possible budget reductions, the history of bond and budget elections in Douglas County, as well as, educating members on possible solutions for the future. Douglas County continues to hire the best employees and would like to stay competitive when it comes to compensation and benefits. State mandated retirement contributions have increased along with insurance costs - each contributing to budget pressures. Douglas County's financial predicaments are no different than the national trends when it comes to increased costs for natural gas and fuel. Property tax receipts are lower than projected due to numerous foreclosures. Each scenario adds to the burden of balancing the budget and the potential bond and budget election.

In other items for action included the Douglas County Federation of Classified Employees election of officers for the next two-year term and acceptance of amendments to the DCF Constitution establishing language for the retiree chapter of the DCF - the Douglas County Federation of Retirees.

Ms. Smith asked for a vote from membership to increase the small donor fund. After some discussion, membership voted to increase the funding for non-partisan initiatives and elections.

Membership involvement is critical to the success of our organization. The staff and officers of DCF appreciate the time taken by members to attend the meeting. As of March 11, 2008 DCF has over 3000 members - both certified and classified. We appreciate the hard work of our members in the field who help contribute to our success.

Kristie Krier, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Timber Trail Elementary, was the proud winner of the iPod donated by the Douglas County Education Foundation.



Attendees enjoy dinner and beverages prior to conducting the business portion of the meeting.



Jeanie Guerin and Laura Bush listen as Brenda Smith gave DCF updates and reports.

*Douglas County  
Federation*

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# Did you know?

- ✓ Signing a letter of resignation means you are resigning from the District not just the school to which you are assigned.
- ✓ If you do not want us to transfer a month's worth of your dues to the Small Donor Fund, please contact our office. These funds will be used to support non-partisan initiatives.
- ✓ If you are a Building Representative and you have not attended a feeder area meeting at this point in time, you must attend one scheduled by the end of March.
- ✓ Our website – DCFT.net – houses all documents needed for new membership, scholarships and committee volunteers.
- ✓ The contracted work year for teachers is 186 days for beginning teachers and 185 days for returning teachers.
- ✓ A teacher shall be given access to his/her own official personnel file (in Human Resources) without delay.
- ✓ Positions filled with substitute or 1-year contract teachers shall be posted again for the next school year.
- ✓ Teachers will be paid sixty percent (60%) of the basic substitute teacher pay at the time of separation for each day of all of their accumulated sick leave up to 130 days upon resignation or retirement from service with the District provided they have at least 10 years continuous service.



## AFT SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT DEADLINE IS APPROACHING

The cost of higher education is high and getting higher. The cost of financial aid also can be prohibitive. However, for AFT members and their children who will graduate from high school in 2008, the Robert G. Porter Scholars Program might be able to help. The program offers four competitive \$8,000 scholarships to high school seniors and \$1,000 grants to AFT members who are continuing their education.

There are three easy ways to apply: Download the application from the AFT Web site at [www.aft.org/aftplus/scholarships](http://www.aft.org/aftplus/scholarships); e-mail an application request to [porterscholars@aft.org](mailto:porterscholars@aft.org); or send a request to American Federation of Teachers Robert G. Porter Scholars Program, 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The application deadline is March 31.



**April 12:**  
Apple Awards Ceremony

**May 15:**  
Student Awards Ceremony



**Save the dates!**