

2007-08 Proves To Be A Very Busy Year

As this school year draws to a close, DCF can look back at a year filled with successes and accomplishments:

- + We began the year with two sessions of New Teacher Orientation gaining 236 certified members.
- + Members of DCF presented at AFT's QuEST Conference held in Washington, DC
- + Office staff members volunteered to help out at the Douglas County Education Foundation's annual golf tournament held at Perry Park
- + DCF sponsored a booth at the National Staff Development Conference held at the Hyatt in downtown Denver
- + DCF members presented at NSDC on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers held at the Hyatt
- + DCF's ER&D Program conducted training sessions for CSU@Pueblo New Teacher Induction process
- + 8 members of DCF attended ER&D Summer Institute for training to add to our cadre of professional developers
- + The Learning Center Board (of which DCF is a member) met monthly to put together a process for training "waiver" candidates
- + The Committee On Political Education (COPE) began meeting to track bills introduced to the legislature and to lobby for issues critical to education
- + A sub-committee of The Learning Center met regularly to direct the development of "blueprints" for all certified positions in the District
- + ER&D Instructors conducted Skill Block classes for all 9 content area strands
- + DCF provided ER&D training for 250 HOPE Online instructors
- + Pizza's were delivered to all Skill Block classes taught by ER&D trainers
- + Coffee Talks took place with any school responding to the invitation
- + DCF began "walk-through" introductions in all buildings passing out bite-size chocolate bars to certified and classified personnel
- + Building Representative Feeder meetings were held to educate building reps on the possibility of a bond/budget election and responsibilities of a Building Representative
- + 2 General Membership meetings were held, as well as, one Building Representative meeting
- + A retiree chapter was proposed, approved, and launched
- + DCF members attended all school board meetings
- + Members of DCF served on every committee functioning in the District
- + 58 students were recognized at the 36th Annual Student Awards sponsored by DCF
- + DCF participated in 3 Teacher Union Reform Network (TURN) Conferences
- + DCF will co-host the regional TURN Conference to be held in late May
- + AFT/DCF piloted an induction process in DCSD – both elementary and secondary
- + A lesson study, with the help of AFT, was conducted in mathematics
- + Brenda Smith, President, and Laura Halvorsen testified before the State House of Representatives
- + DCF assisted in the DCEF's annual Apple Awards Ceremony

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DCF Gains PERA Support for Retirees

The retiree chapter of DCF was approved at the General Membership meeting held in March. Since then, a lot of work has gone into play to begin to organize our certified and classified retirees.

One of the most crucial aspects of any organization is its ability to collect monetary support in the form of dues. If the retiree chapter were to rely solely on dues being paid by members through a check writing system, the DCF office would have a difficult time trying to collect dues. Such a method of

collecting dues would be a bookkeeping nightmare.



The DCF has worked with the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and has come up with a solution we feel would benefit our organization, as well as, our new retiree members. When a retiree signs up to become a member of the DCFR, PERA will deduct dues from the retiree's monthly PERA check. PERA will then forward the dues, on a monthly basis, to the DCF office. What a time saver.

It's Time!

For the most part, the articles appearing in this newsletter relay facts and figures concerning what is going on in the DCF office, as well as, what is happening at AFT National. This time, however, I would ask for your indulgence as a personal favor to me.

As most of you already know, I will be retiring at the end of this year. This is the last time I will be producing the *Rapping Paper* for the Douglas County Federation of Teachers and would like to take a moment to thank the members of the Douglas County Federation for giving me the opportunity to work with one of the most progressive and innovative unions in the nation. When I was asked by Rob Weil (DCF President in 1997) to assume the role of ER&D Site Coordinator and Colorado State Educational Issues Coordinator - I hesitated. I had spent my entire life inside the walls of classrooms and was, quite frankly, intimidated by the thought of leaving an environment in which I felt totally at ease.

But, in retrospect, assuming the role was one of the best decisions made in my professional career. The assignment has led to tremendous professional growth, life-long friendships, and teaching experiences beyond belief - the sum of which are too numerous to measure or relate.

Since 1997, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with three DCF Presidents – Rob Weil, Pat McGraw, and Brenda Smith – and various Executive Boards and office staff. I commend all of them for their dedication and hard work. Their leadership and determination, along with the efforts of individual members of the union, have made DCF a nationally recognized organization and a collaborative partner with the Douglas County School system – an uncommon occurrence in union/employer relationships.

To say “thank you” to this organization seems so inadequate. So, I will only say, “It’s time.” Time to move on to the next chapter in my life. Thanks for the experience of a lifetime! *Joanne Slanovich*



*Congratulations,
Graduates!*



Save the dates!

May 15: Student Awards Ceremony

July:

- ✓ ER&D Regional Institutes
- ✓ AFT National Convention

July: New Teacher Orientation

