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AFT Leaders Lobby Senators To Support Recovery Plan

More than 40 AFT leaders from 20 states traveled to Washington, D.C., on Feb. 4 to lobby members of the U.S. Senate to support the national economic recovery plan. While the House of Representatives passed its version on Jan. 28, the bill has faced a tougher time in the Senate.

AFT leaders were pushing a number of key issues addressed in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including the bill's significant investment in education; an increase in funding for

help reduce some of the program's growing burden on state budgets; ample funding for school construction and modernization; and opposition to efforts to reduce the bill's support for Pell Grants and other higher education programs. Passage of the recovery act is the current top priority of the AFT's "[Fight for America's Future: It's Dollars and Sense](http://www.aft.org/fight4america)" <http://www.aft.org/fight4america> campaign. (This paragraph taken from "Inside AFT," E-Newsletter for AFT Leaders.)



Cheryl Heaton, from DCF and Dave Sanger, President of AFT Colorado, were among the people who represented Colorado in the effort. Fighting for these programs is fighting for America's future. DCF was proud to have had Cheryl represent the Douglas County Federation and AFT Colorado.



Cheryl Heaton leaves the office of Colorado Representative John T. Salazar after discussions concerning the national economic recovery plan.

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Union Member Spotlight

Name: Deborah Nelson
School/Site: Douglas County High School
Years with DCSD: 11 years

Union Position: Classified Building Union Representative

Why I became a union member: So I would have the back up and support in situations that may come up -Liability Insurance coverage. I wanted my voice to count and make a difference.

What do you like best about working for DCSD: I really enjoy the people I work with and I like to feel that I make a difference working with the community.

What you enjoy doing in your spare time: I really enjoy going to my townhouse in Keystone - especially when my adult kids get to join my husband and I. I also enjoy riding my ATV.



Name: Karen Callas

School/Site: Wilcox

Years with DCSD: 16

Union Position: Building Representative/Wilcox

Why I became a union member: I came from a Union family of machinist and autoworkers.

What do you like best about working for DCSD: I like the people.

What you enjoy doing in your spare time: I enjoy browsing in consignment and antique stores, trading and shopping on EBAY, and walking.

Name: Kevin DiPasquale
School: Mountain Ridge Middle School 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher

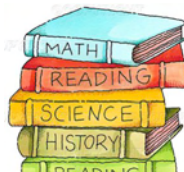
Years with DCSD: I have been with DCSD for nine years.

Union Position: I am a Building Rep. for Mountain Ridge as well as part of the Negotiations Team for the DCFT.

Why you became a Union member: I became a Union member to stay involved with the positive opportunities our Union and District offer its employees. Not only does the Union offer professional development for employees, but they have grants for classes, and works tirelessly for its members. The collaboration between the two entities is part of what makes Douglas County such a great place to work.

What you like best about working for DCSD: Working with so many people that want what's best for our profession. The overall scope of what our district can achieve is one of the positive attributes DCSD has going for all of us.

What you enjoy doing in your spare time: Spending time with my family, anything outdoors, especially mountain biking, and reading.



Name: Carlye Holladay

School/Assignment: Chaparral High School English Teacher

Years with DCSD: 12

Union Position: Building Representative, Executive Board Member-at-Large, Negotiations team.

Why I became a Union member: Over the years, the DCF has helped me, and I feel it's right to give back when asked. In addition, I believe in the work the DCF and AFT do for teachers in Douglas County and for the profession as a whole. It's necessary for teachers to have a voice in their profession, and my support of the union enables all of us to effect change in our work with students. Ultimately, I know that teachers who love their work, feel empowered to do their best, and contribute to their profession provide the best education for students. That's why I'm a member of DCF.

What you like best about working for DCSD: I work with amazing students, my colleagues push me everyday to be a better teacher, and I feel like a valued employee of the district. There are so many opportunities for me to grow as an educator, like serving on the Group Incentive Board, or becoming a Digital Educator, or even talking to other teachers about the challenges facing our district. But in my twelve years, what I've appreciated most is the freedom to be a professional.

What you enjoy doing in your spare time: Cycling, snowboarding, reading great books, and spending time watching my son grow up.



Classified Membership Drive

The Douglas County Federation of Classified Employees has launched its annual membership drive. Members of the DCF have been meeting with employees at various sites throughout the district to recruit new members and answer questions. The meetings occur during employee breakfast and lunch times – with DCF providing food and beverages.

These site visits have proven to be successful and have advanced the membership of the classified to 801. DCF encourages those employees who have not yet joined our organization, to check out our website at DCFT.net and/or to call the office if you still have questions.



2008-2009 Golden Apple Awards

The Douglas County Educational Foundation (DCEF) in cooperation with the Douglas County Federation (DCF) and the Douglas County School District (DCSD) are pleased to announce the 2008-2009 Golden Apple Awards will be held on March 14th, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the district, this year's Apple Awards will be cloaked in gold celebrating the power of 50 years.

The Apple Awards is a fund-raising event that raises between \$80,000-\$100,000 per year with proceeds directly benefiting Douglas County schools. This annual celebration of DCSD teachers is made possible through the sponsorship of many local and national companies. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact the DCEF at 303-387-0505.

Over seventy teachers have been selected to represent their local schools at the upcoming Golden Apple Awards. Even though these teachers represent a small number of the highly qualified and truly inspirational teachers we have throughout Douglas County, they provide wonderful examples of how teachers touch lives on a daily basis in and out of the classroom.

DCF Building Visits:



Growing the Union

DCF Representatives will be visiting your building and/or site before or after school hours to introduce themselves and answer any questions you may have. Specific time and date will be announced by your building representative.

Membership Update!

Certified Membership:
2479

Classified Membership:
801

Douglas County Federation of Retirees Hold Inaugural Meeting

The Douglas County Federation of Retirees held their inaugural general membership meeting on January 28 at Sand Creek Elementary. The members in attendance had the arduous task of constructing the chapter's by-laws and electing officers and committee chairs.

The process of chartering a retiree chapter with the Douglas County Federation began last year with membership approval of the Constitutional changes by adding language to include a retiree chapter. Letters went out to Douglas County retirees asking for their support to organize a chapter. After a sufficient number of members signed up, the General Membership Meeting was set.

The first order of business was to elect officers for the newly formed organization. The newly elected executive board:

Joanne Slanovich	President
Patricia Meyers	Vice-president
Karen Barrett	Secretary
Bonnie Mortimer	Treasurer
Member-at-Large	Connie Hansen

The construction and adoption of By-Laws was the next order of business. The By-Laws will be the governing document for the chapter and must be legally reviewed and approved by the American Federation of Teachers.

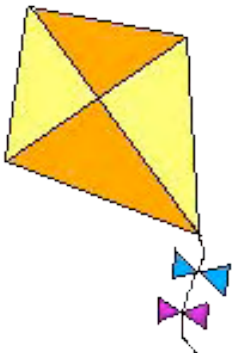
The last order of business was to select committee chairs. It will be the responsibility of these individuals to insure the smooth running of the organization. Those retiree members interested in joining a particular committee should contact the committee chair:

Connie Hansen	Membership/Program
Jim Farrell	Legislative Action
Margaret Brinker	Elections
Ingrid Huntley & Grace Slanovich	Social

Due to the length of the meeting, other items on the agenda were tabled until the next General Membership Meeting to be held on April 23, 4:30pm at Sand Creek Elementary's library.

Website information at DCFT.net – click on the “retirees” button.

Save the Date!



- March 2** General Membership Meeting
Embassy Suites
Denver Tech Center (10250 E. Costilla Ave., Centennial 80112)
- March 14** Apple Awards – Hyatt Regency Tech Ctr
- April 6** Building Representative Meeting
(TBD – only if needed)

