



“Fight Back and Fight Forward” in Colorado

Ellen Slatkin, Interim President



Delegates to the AFT national convention this past July participated in lively debate about what it means to “fight back and fight forward.” In Colorado, we know we have to fight back. We have long been subject to the attacks on teachers, unions, tenure and due process, public services, public education, public pensions, and affordable higher education. We also know we have to continue the fight forward for the rights of our members, democracy in and outside the workplace, retirement security and social justice.

As always, AFT Colorado stands ready to support our affiliated locals and our at-large members in public education, higher education, health care and related fields as they fight back and fight forward. Like all AFT state federations, we support the decision making and agenda setting undertaken by the locals themselves. The state federation provides critical support, addressing the shared concerns and fighting for the common objectives of all of our members and the communities they serve.

Political action and legislative activity are central to AFT Colorado’s mission and may be the first thing you think about when you consider the role of the state federation. Please see Political Director Kate Stigberg’s summary of the last legislative session and volunteer for the 2014 elections. AFT Colorado’s ability to mold the political landscape in the state depends on the active participation of our

members. That is not a mere cliché, so please get in touch with Kate and arrange to empower yourself and your community.

AFT Colorado is not only active in politics, but helps locals and members by serving as a liaison to national AFT. Our organizers help locals grow. Our able staff can provide advice and resources for complying with rules and laws, contract negotiations, legal actions and grievances. We have information about successful strategies and best practices as well as cautionary tales.



To be sure AFT Colorado serves its members effectively, uses its resources efficiently and is poised to continue to build solidarity between our locals, we will have a Strategic Planning meeting on September 13, 2014 at our Centennial office. Leaders from almost all of our affiliates have committed to attend and we hope to have participation from all locals by the time of the planning session. The president of each local or his or her designee is invited to attend. If you have not yet confirmed your attendance, please contact Cheryl Reiling by email at clreiling@aftcolorado.org or by phone at 720-440-9759.

I look forward to reporting the outcome of our workshops. I hope the planning meeting will be the beginning of productive discussion and activity for the direction of AFT Colorado.

ELECTIONS MATTER



We have all heard that elections matter time and again. In no other profession is this truer than in the education world. From funding K-12 education to college affordability for all, we are tied to the state legislature and the budget items they prioritize. We are in the hands of the elected school board members on a day-to-day basis, which, as we know, can sometimes be destructive. On the federal level, we are guided by policies like Race to the Top and a national education reform movement that stresses testing, attempts to rid professionals of tenure, and undermines teachers' unions.

The rhetoric is “public schools are failing” and teachers are to blame. We must prove them wrong. We must do this at the ballot box, or in Colorado’s case, at the mail box. We need to support the candidates who support public education.

Here are a few easy steps to follow to make sure you are an engaged citizen and voter:

Visit www.govotecolorado.com. At this site you can:

Register to Vote.

Update your voter information if you have moved, want to change party affiliation, or have other changes.

Check the district in which you live – Federal, State, and Municipal districts are given. Get the Facts:

Find out who your current representative is by clicking the “website” link under your county information on the voter information screen. Go directly to your **county clerk and recorder website**.

Ask questions. Once you know your representative, find out how they feel about the issues most important to you and your family. Contact AFT Colorado to find out how your representatives voted on issues.

Get out the Vote (GOTV): EVERY REGISTERED VOTER WILL RECEIVE A MAIL-IN BALLOT. Ballots will be mailed out the week of October 13. Fill out that ballot (don’t forget the back!) and mail it in or drop it off at any drop-off location. Ballots are due by 7 pm on Election Day November 4th.

If you have questions about any of the candidates or ballot initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact us. Make sure your family, friends, and fellow union members do the same. We cannot stress enough how important it is that we vote in every election. The results directly affect your work, family, and livelihood.

June Meet and Greet

Kallie Leyba, COPE Chair



Ray Williams, Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals and Service Employees meets with candidate for state representative, Alec Garnett.

In late June we held our annual AFT Colorado Candidate Meet-and-Greet on the beautiful Auraria campus, home to our higher education local, the Metro State Faculty Federation. Candidates who are running in federal, state, and local races came from across the state to meet our hard-working members, and share some food and drinks. We had a great turnout from our members and from candidates. We were able to talk to the legislators and candidates about education-related

State Representative John Buckner meets with AFT Colorado members: Joanne Slanovich, Kallie Leyba, Ann Biebel and Andrea Meyers.



Member Laura Huerta meets with State Representative Millie Hamner



2014 Lobby Day



This spring we held our annual AFT Colorado Lobby Day in the middle of legislative session. We had a great presence from our educators in Douglas County (active and retired), as well as, our Denver Paraprofessionals and Food and Nutrition Service Employees. Despite the Senate and the House adjourning early, we were able to speak with quite a few Senators and

Representatives throughout the morning and during pre-scheduled appointments in the afternoon. We received a lot of positive feedback about the day and hope to expand this program in future years - each local participating and adopting their own Lobby Day. It is important that legislators know we are a statewide organization with members in various professions.

We know it is hard to take the personal time to do work-related activities and we appreciate your participation. We had three new members agree to testify in committee because they were so empowered by the process. We cannot stress enough how important it is to have legislators hear from their constituents and those affected by the decisions they make.



2014 Legislative Wrap-Up

By: Kate Stigberg

There was a lot going on in the 120 days of the legislature. Below is a brief rundown of the bills/issues AFT Colorado was tracking.

K-12

Funding – There was a package of bills attempting to reduce our state’s ‘negative factor’ which is the \$1 billion shortfall in funding. After much debate on how to best use our tax dollars, the approved measures do the following:

- Reduction in negative factor by \$110 million which means schools receive an additional \$369 per student;
- \$27.5 million for English-learner instruction;
- \$17 million for at-risk preschool and kindergarten students (enough for 5,000 more slots);
- \$18 million to help schools with implementation of the READ Act (requires diagnosis and intervention for struggling readers);
- \$13 million for charter school facilities funding;
- \$3 million for a centralized website where the public can see the schools’ financial information;
- \$2 million to help small and rural districts implement reforms.

There was a lot of give and take with school funding, but overall there is more money than before for all students and additional money for those needing the extra support.

Testing – There were attempts to delay and roll back some of the new standardized tests that will be implemented next school year, but those measures failed. So, to compromise, lawmakers passed a bill to create a task force to study the issues (HB 1202).
School Board Transparency – Our main goal this legislative session was to hold school districts more accountable, especially during their executive sessions that are closed to the public. AFT Colorado believes we did just that. School boards will now be required to keep (and post) the minutes of executive session including the topics discussed and the length of time spent on each (SB 182). A huge thank you to the parents and educators who contacted their legislator in support of school board transparency.

Collective Bargaining – There were three bills directly attacking unions and workers’ rights. House Bill 1087 would have prohibited collective bargaining for state, county, municipal and school district employees – AFT members. This bill was killed in committee, but these attempts may be successful if we do not maintain a pro-worker majority in the state legislature.

Higher Education

Funding – A major priority for the Senate this year (as signified as the first bill introduced in the Senate) was the College Affordability Act (SB 1). This bill passed and it will mean:

- A \$100 million increase in higher education -
\$60 million will go to the institutions and
\$40 million to financial aid.

- A 6% cap on tuition increases for the next two years.

Details still need to be worked out on House Bill 1319, but essentially it changes the formula for the way institutions of higher education are funded. What this means for students, faculty and the stability of all higher education institutions in the state is yet to be determined.

Community College Adjunct Equity – Another bill AFT Colorado worked hard to support was HB 1154 which would have improved salaries and benefits for community college adjunct instructors. Unfortunately, because of the sizable fiscal note (cost of implementation), the bill did not make it past the Appropriations Committee (which is tasked with finding how bills are to be funded). Although ultimately unsuccessful, the introduction of this bill and the committee hearings helped start the conversation and raise awareness of the pay inequity of these instructors. This will be an issue AFT Colorado will continue to work on.

PERA

Once again it was mainly defense this legislative session when it comes to our members' retirement security. We were able to work with our union and progressive allies as part of the Secure PERA coalition to kill bills that would have raised the age of retirement and another that would have essentially lowered the benefit for retiring individuals (SB 68 and HB 1201).

Today, there is more of a focus to take away retirement security from workers rather than establishing a system for more workers to have that security. We believe that is wrong. That is why we supported HB 1377 that would have created a task force to look at increasing the percentage of residents in the state who have adequate retirement security.

Final thoughts on the legislative session

This last session we were able to fight back attacks on collective bargaining rights, PERA, and funding public school with a one-seat majority in the Senate and a small majority in the House. We were fortunate to have a governor in office that could veto the bad policies - if any passed. There is a lot at stake this election year. If we lose in 2014, the results will be detrimental to working families.



Member Voter Program

During the next few months AFT Colorado will be making sure that we keep our state moving in the right direction. A big part of our political program is ensuring our members know the issues, recognize the candidates who support public education, and then get out and vote. But we cannot do this alone. And, unfortunately we do not have the volunteer base we need to contact all of our members. This is why we need active or retired members to work the campaigns. Member to member communication is the best way to disseminate information as **YOU** are the most trusted messenger.

If you are interested in hearing more about this program and you have 20-40 hours to give per-week, please contact Kate Stigberg at 303.501.7388 or kstigberg@aftcolorado.org.

Election 2014

In non-presidential elections our biggest challenge is turnout. This year is no different. When working families get out and vote, we win. This year it is easy to vote, because every voter will receive a mail-in ballot. Below is a list of AFT Colorado endorsed candidates. Our Committee on Political Education (COPE) spent a lot of time interviewing candidates and reviewing their questionnaires. We believe these are the best individuals to represent our members and public education. If you have questions about any particular races or candidates, please contact Kate Stigberg.

AFT COLORADO HOUSE ENDORSEMENTS

SUSAN LONTINE	House District 01	Denver Metro
ALEC GARNETT	House District 02	Denver Metro
DANIEL KAGAN	House District 03	Denver Metro
CRISANTA DURAN	House District 05	Denver Metro
LOIS COURT	House District 06	Denver Metro
ANGELA WILLIAMS	House District 07	Denver Metro
BETH MCCANN	House District 08	Denver Metro
PAUL ROSENTHAL	House District 09	Denver Metro
DICKEY LEE HULLINGHORST	House District 10	Boulder County (from the Boulder-Denver Turnpike in the South, including Downtown Boulder to the West, and stretching Northeast through Niwot out to 107th Street.)
JONATHAN SINGER	House District 11	North Boulder (includes Niwot, Hygiene, Lyons, and Allenspark. Also, southwestern, central, northwestern and northern parts of Longmont.)
MIKE FOOTE	House District 12	Encompasses southern Longmont, Lafayette and Louisville.
KC BECKER	House District 13	Marshall in Boulder County to Continental Divide in western Clear Creek County and from the heart of the city of Boulder to Kremmling - encompassing all of Gilpin, Clear Creek, Jackson and Grand Counties along with the western half of Boulder County.
TONY EXUM	House District 17	Colorado Springs
PETE LEE	House District 18	Downtown and Central Colorado Springs -Manitou Springs -Old Colorado City and the Westside -Knob Hill
MARY PARKER	House District 22	Ken Caryl and Columbine neighborhoods
MAX TYLER	House District 23	Denver Metro – Lakewood
JESSIE DANIELSON	House District 24	Golden, Wheatridge
JANET HECK DOYLE	House District 25	Western Jefferson County
DIANE MITSCH BUSH	House District 26	Eagle County and Routt County.
BRITTANY PETTERSEN	House District 28	Lakewood
TRACY KRAFT-THARP	House District 29	Northern Jefferson County, Arvada

JENISE MAY	House District 30	East of DIA
JOSEPH SALAZAR	House District 31	Most of Thornton and parts of unincorporated Adams County
DOMINICK MORENO	House District 32	Commerce City and unincorporated Adams County.
DIANNE PRIMAVERRA	House District 33	Broomfield, Superior, and Erie
STEVE LEB SOCK	House District 34	Denver Metro
FAITH WINTER	House District 35	Adams County, portions of Westminster and parts of unincorporated Adams County
SU RYDEN	House District 36	Chambers Rd. to Colo. Hwy. 89, Colfax to Smoky Hill Rd., except for the area bounded by Chambers Rd., Tower Rd., Mississippi and Hampden. City of Aurora or unincorporated Arapahoe County.
NANCY CRONK	House District 37	Located in the eastern part of the city of Centennial and includes portions of unincorporated Arapahoe County, Foxfield, Dove Valley, Centennial Airport, Inverness, and small portions of Aurora and Greenwood Village.
JOHN BUCKNER	House District 40	Denver Metro
JOVAN MELTON	House District 41	Arapahoe & Denver counties - including southeastern portions of the City of Denver and central-southwest portions of the City of Aurora.
RHONDA FIELDS	House District 42	Bounded on the North and South by Colfax Ave. and Mississippi St. respectively, and on the East and West by Yosemite St. and N Chambers Rd. respectively.
DANEYA ESGAR	House District 46	South of Highway 50 West along the Fremont County line to Beulah, Colorado City, and Rye, then up the West side of I-25 to the South and West sides of Pueblo and including the area in Pueblo West south of High-
DAVID YOUNG	House District 50	Greely and Evans
JOANN GINAL	House District 52	Roughly the eastern half of Fort Collins.
JENNIFER ARNDT	House District 53	Roughly the western half of Fort Collins.
CHRIS KENNEDY	House District 55	Grand Junction Area
VICKI SNIDER	House District 56	Brighton, Todd Creek towns in eastern Adams County, parts of Aurora and Arapahoe County
MICHAEL MCLACHLAN	House District 59	Archuleta, La Plata, Hinsdale, San Juan, Ouray Counties, and the southern half of Gunnison County—including the City of Gunnison and the Blue Mesa Reservoir.
MILLIE HAMNER	House District 61	Summit County, Lake County, Pitkin County, as well as, parts of rural Gunnison and Delta counties.

AFT COLORADO SENATE ENDORSEMENT

LEROY GARCIA	Senate District 3	Pueblo
KERRY DONOVAN	Senate District 5	Covers a large section of south-central Colorado, ranging from Aspen, and Delta, Colorado through the San Luis Valley to the New Mexico border
CLAUDETTE KONOLA	Senate District 7	Mesa County and part of Garfield County
MICHAEL MERRI-	Senate District 11	Manitou Springs and eastern Colorado Springs
JOE PEREZ	Senate District 13	Northern and eastern Weld County
JEANNE NICHOLSON	Senate District 16	Black Hawk, Bergen Park, Buffalo Creek, Central City, Crescent, East Portal, Eldora, Eldorado Springs, Evergreen, Fenders, Foxton, Golden, Herzman Mesa, Hidden Valley, Idledale, Indian Hills, Kittredge, Marshdale, Morrison, Pine, Pinecliffe, Rollinsville, Southwest portion of Denver, Stanley Park, Superior, Tiny Town, Wondervu.
RACHEL ZENZINGER	Senate District 19	Arvada and Westminster
CHERI JAHN	Senate District 20	Wheatridge
ANDREW KERR	Senate District 22	Lakewood area
JUDY SOLANO	Senate District 24	Southern suburbs of Denver including Littleton
IRENE AGUILAR	Senate District 34	Parts of Denver

FEDERAL

MARK UDALL	United States Senate	
DIANA DEGETTE	United States Congress District 1	Primarily in the City and County of Denver in the central part of the state. The district includes all of the City and County of Denver and the nearby suburbs of Glendale, Englewood, Sheridan and Cherry Hills Village.
ABEL TAPIA	United States Congress District 3	Most of the rural Western Slope. Includes the cities of Grand Junction and Durango, as well as, southern portions of Colorado's eastern plains, including the city of Pueblo.
IRV HALTER	United States Congress District 5	Colorado Springs area
ANDREW ROMANOFF	United States Congress District 6	Denver suburbs including Littleton, Centennial and portions of Aurora, Brighton, and Henderson.
ED PERLMUTTER	United States Congress District 7	Northern and western parts of the Denver-Aurora Metropolitan Area, including Golden, Lakewood, Arvada and Westminster

COLORADO STATE ENDORSEMENTS

DONALD QUICK	Attorney General	Statewide
JOSEPH NEGUSE	Secretary of State	Statewide
BETSY MARKEY	Treasurer	Statewide
LINDA SHOEMAKER	CU Board of Regents District 2	North-central part of the state and encompasses the northerwestern suburbs of Denver including: Boulder, Northglenn, Thornton and Westminster
NAQUETTA RICKS	CU Board of Regents District 6	Denver suburbs including Littleton, Centennial and portions of Aurora, Brighton, and Henderson.
IRENE GRIEGO	CU Board of Regents District 7	Northern and western parts of the Denver-Aurora Metropolitan Area, including Golden, Lakewood, Arvada and Westminster
VALENTINA FLORES	State Board of Education District 1	Primarily in the City and County of Denver in the central part of the state including all of the City and County of Denver and the nearby suburbs of Glendale, Englewood, Sheridan and Cherry Hills Village.
JANE GOFF	State Board of Education District 7	Northern and western parts of the Denver-Aurora Metropolitan Area, including Golden, Lakewood, Arvada and Westminster

On Election Day, November. 4, 2014, you have the opportunity to exercise your vote. While we recognize that voting is a personal decision, we urge you to consider the AFT Colorado recommendations.



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AFT Members

GO UNION And Save With AT&T Wireless

AFT members: Support your union brothers and sisters and get the savings you deserve by choosing wireless service from AT&T.

\$150 Switch to AT&T Rebate
Members who move from another provider to AT&T are eligible to receive a \$150 rebate from Union Plus to help offset any costs associated with moving their service. In addition, the \$36 activation fee is waived for union members who switch to AT&T.

\$100 Smartphone Upgrade Rebate
Whether you are an existing AT&T customer or are planning to switch to AT&T, you are eligible for a \$100 rebate from Union Plus when you upgrade to a new smartphone with an AT&T data plan.

Remember to use your AFT+ Plus Credit Card to qualify for both rebates. If you don't have the card, apply now at AFTCard.com.

To start saving:
Go online to AFT.org/Benefits, follow the instructions. Shop online and get an additional \$25 in savings on new equipment.

or

Bring this coupon to an official AT&T Store near you, along with your union identification for the Union Plus discount.

FAN number: 3508840

Union Members:
SAVE 15% on monthly AT&T voice service and select data plans

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*All program plans for new and existing customers require a new two-year contract. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts. The \$10 Union Plus AT&T wireless discount is not available on the iPad, additional fees for family plans, unlimited plans and Unity plans. Data services only for the 1GB data plan and the shared minutes and data for AT&T Mobile phone plans are discounted. All other unlimited plans, data plans on secondary lines, and text plans are not discounted. The program is currently for residents in the United States and not available in Guam or Canada. AT&T service may not cover an entire state; check your local service map.



AFT COLORADO

STANDING TOGETHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Committee on Political Education (COPE)

Deduction

www.aftcolorado.org • 303.539.0345

What is COPE? COPE is how AFT Colorado raises and collects voluntary political contributions from members. COPE is a non partisan political education committee. These voluntary funds are used statewide to help back candidates and committees that support education and labor. There is one reason AFT Colorado needs to grow our COPE program, **YOU**. With the current economic environment our priorities are vulnerable and are constantly being targeted for reduction. Education budgets, programs, and services are often first on the chopping block when states face dwindling tax revenues. Along with decent working conditions, retirement, and health care. All vitally affect our lives. A strong COPE program will protect our various interests.

At the local level COPE is essential. AFT Colorado will use your voluntary funds to assist in school board races, levies, and referendums in your district. Reductions in state education aid and inflation have made local budgets even more of a challenge. We use COPE dollars to work with labor and education friendly supporters on both sides of the aisle.

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

BILLING CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

MOBILE PHONE _____ ☐ I wish to receive periodic text messages and accept the associated charges.

HOME EMAIL _____ LOCAL _____

WORK LOCATION _____

PAYMENT

*Due to the associated fees, we prefer that you sign up for **bank draft** payment.*

MONTHLY COPE AMOUNT ☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$OTHER _____

BANK DRAFT *****PREFERRED METHOD*****

Fill out below or simply attach a voided check.

BANK NAME _____

ROUTING NUMBER _____ ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: If you choose this method, we will follow up with you to change to bank draft at a later date.

CARD TYPE: ☐ VISA ☐ MC NAME ON CARD _____

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____

I hereby authorize a monthly contribution to the AFT CO COPE (AFT CO COPE) in the amount indicated above. This authorization is signed freely and voluntarily and not out of any fear of reprisal, and I will not be favored nor disadvantaged because I exercise this right. I understand this money will be used to make political contributions by AFT CO COPE. AFT CO COPE may engage in joint fundraising efforts with AFT COPE and/or the AFL-CIO. This voluntary authorization may be revoked at any time by notifying AFT CO COPE in writing of the desire to do so. Contribution or gifts to AFT CO COPE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions cannot be reimbursed or otherwise paid by any other person or entity.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

AFT Colorado Welcomes New Team Members



Daniel Klawitter

AFT Colorado would like to welcome Daniel Klawitter to our state staff. Daniel has a total of 14 years experience as a union, labor, and community organizer. During his career, he has worked as an intern with a migrant workers' rights organization in the Philippines. Most recently, he helped lead a coalition that helped to pass a statewide, anti-wage theft bill in Colorado which helps low-wage workers recover wages owed to them by their employers.

Daniel is an ordained Deacon in the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church and he is the founder of the Interfaith Worker Justice Committee of Colorado.

Artistically, Daniel is a published poet and the lead singer of the indie-rock band, Mining for Rain. You can find him on youtube under Mining for Rain – Zooey.

Kate Stigberg

Kate joined us in September 2013 as our Political Director and just recently has expanded her duties to include lobbyist for AFT Colorado. Kate spent her early career working in child welfare before receiving her Masters Degree in Social Work at the University of South Carolina. She moved from the south to Colorado 5 years ago and started in the labor movement as an organizer with Colorado WINS and was the State Affiliate Program Director for the Colorado AFL-CIO before joining our team. Kate is extremely passionate about social and economic justice and we are happy this passion has led her to advocate for and actively support public education.



In her spare time, Kate enjoys camping, hiking, and anything involving exploring our beautiful state (especially Colorado craft beer).

AFT National Elections



AFT Secretary -Treasurer Lorretta Johnson and President Randi Weingarten were elected to another term at the AFT National Convention in July. Also elected was AFT's new AFT Executive Vice President Mary Cathryn Ricker. Go to <http://www.aft.org/convention/> to get a full convention update which includes resolutions that were passed.

Mark your calendar for the next AFT Convention celebrating 100 years of AFT and its 84th convention. The convention will be held in Minneapolis on July 18 – 21, 2016.

Local Affiliate Update



The Douglas County Federation is very excited to announce plans to revive the ER&D (Educational Research and Dissemination) Professional Development program.

Douglas County Federation's Vice President, Kallie Leyba, traveled to Baltimore for the Local Site Coordinators' (LSC) training at the end of July. Kallie collaborated with thirty other LSCs from across the country, learning about the role of professional development in organizing as well as the logistics of coordinating the program.

DCF plans to offer *Foundations of Effective Teaching*, *Strategies for English Language Learners*, and *Thinking Math* to all Douglas County School District teachers and classified staff. The DCF is committed to the success of DCSD students, teachers, and classified staff and will be offering these classes to all employees of DCSD, regardless of membership status.

The AFT National Executive Council has appointed Courtney Smith, President of the Douglas County Federation, to the AFT Teachers' Program and Policy Council (PPC). This appointment lends voice to our Colorado organization at a national level.



Thanks to the outreach efforts of our dedicated new organizer, Daniel Klawitter, the Metro State Faculty Federation will co-sponsor an event on the "Corporatizing of Higher Education." As of now, the event is planned for Wednesday, October 15 at 5:00 pm on the Auraria Campus, exact place TBA. The themes of the program, embracing the threats of corporatization and privatization, go beyond the impact on higher education alone. All interested AFT Colorado members and allies are welcome. Contact the MSFF at msff6321@aol.com and we will make sure that you have updates for the event.

Co Fed School Safety Professionals

AFT Colorado is proud to welcome its newest local affiliate, Colorado Federation for School Safety Professionals, Local 6541, chartered in October, 2013. Our newest local represents security personnel working in the Denver Public School system.



PERA RETIREES WORKING TOGETHER

Lynea Hansen, Executive Director Secure PERA

As members of PERA, we worked hard to make Colorado a great place to live and now that we're retired, PERA is providing us with a financially secure future. PERA is a lifeline for retirees like us, but it also provides significant economic benefit to our state. PERA retirees put \$3.2 billion directly into the Colorado economy each year, which means local economies all across the state feel the impact of our retiree benefit dollars. You may already know this fact, but most Coloradans do not. We need your help educating them.

Would you leave one of these "We Are PERA" bucks behind at your neighborhood diner, car dealer, ice cream shop, pet store, or wherever you shop or dine in your community? These "bucks" let our neighbors know we're proud to shop or dine in Colorado using our pension dollars. The bucks you distribute have economic data specific to your region, so people can really see our impact. It's our way of getting the message out there that a retired state employee and PERA member gives back to their community, no matter if they live in a small town or a big city.

State employees are under attack by special interests who want to end pension systems. They don't fully understand we worked hard for our retirement, paid into it each month of our careers, and give back in so many ways to the communities in which we live. That's why it's important we tell our story. We were teachers, state patrol, transportation experts, judges, corrections officers and vital employees who made our state what it is. Our neighborhood businesses need to know who we are and, as retirees, we support our local economies.

Can we count on your help? The bucks will fit in your wallet. So, the next time you're out to eat or out shopping, just hand one to the cashier with your payment or leave one behind with your tip. With your help, we can cover a lot of ground and reach a lot of Coloradans who don't know that retired state employees are beneficial to our local economies.

Thank you for your commitment to standing up to misinformation about state employees and pensions and to educating Coloradans about PERA's economic impact on our state.

Get Your PERA Bucks Today

Visit www.SecurePERA.org to find a location near you where you can pick some up. If there's nobody near you, contact SecurePERA@gmail.com to request that some are sent to you. When you've distributed them all or as many as you can, please report back to us at www.WeArePERA.org letting us know where you shared your bucks.



MARK

UDALL

IS ON OUR SIDE



"Coloradans are tired of the reckless partisanship that has paralyzed Washington for far too long. They don't want to hear about shutdowns, sequesters, fiscal cliffs, repeal votes or filibusters—they want to see action. That's why I will continue forging partnerships with both Republicans and Democrats to stand up for the middle class and protect our special way of life." —MARK UDALL

Serving the People of Colorado. After a decade of running a nationally renowned outdoor education organization, Colorado Outward Bound, Udall followed in his father's footsteps and committed himself to public service, working for the people of Colorado as state representative, congressman and now U.S. senator.¹

Creating Jobs and Leveling the Playing Field for Working People.

Udall consistently has defended the rights of working people and earned a lifetime AFL-CIO voting record of 91% during his tenure in Congress.² He voted to raise the minimum wage so people earn enough to support their families and believes the wealthy can afford to pay their fair share.³ He also voted to end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and instead to invest in companies moving jobs back to the United States.⁴

Protecting Colorado. Udall, an avid outdoorsman and mountain climber who has climbed Colorado's 54 highest peaks, is committed to protecting the state's unique and plentiful natural resources.⁵ He has pushed for an "all of the above" energy plan that takes advantage of Colorado's diverse sources of energy in a responsible way and would bring new jobs to the state.⁶



1. U.S. News and World Report, 11/5/08; 2. AFL-CIO, accessed 5/28/14; 3. S. 2223, Vote 117, 4/30/14; S. 3412, Vote 184, 7/25/12; 4. S. 3364, Vote 181, 7/19/14; 5. U.S. News and World Report, 11/5/08; 6. KDVR, 3/30/14.

Support Candidates Who Support Working Families

MARK UDALL FOR U.S. SENATE



Reclaim the Promise of America

Sixty years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that separate is inherently unequal.

The *Brown v. Board* decision was a legal imperative to desegregate our schools and a moral imperative to help all children succeed. Though the legal barriers are gone, today social and economic inequality reinforces racial inequality.

Public education is as important now as it ever was. That's why students, parents, educators, elected officials, clergy and communities are coming together to reclaim the promise of public education—not as it is today or as it was in the past, but as it can be to fulfill our collective obligation to help all kids.

Throughout the month of May, we are mobilizing nationwide to fight for and win strong neighborhood public schools with teachers who are well-prepared and supported; an engaging curriculum that inspires a joy of learning and includes art, music and the sciences; and social, emotional and health services to meet the needs of every child. That is how we can fulfill our moral imperative to ensure every child has a fair shot at success.

Visit go.aft.org/promise to help reclaim the promise of America.

 Reclaiming the
Promise
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