

## Solidarity to Power

Sarah R. Mesmer, President

Welcome to a new school year! Welcome also to a time critical to the preservation of public education in our state. The Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals and Nutrition Service Employees and the Douglas County Federation are in the midst of school board elections. Douglas County's election will determine whether the direction of their district will, or will not, continue to engage in Betsy DeVos's version of reform. Additionally, CCSEA is working hard to convince the voters in Brighton to say yes to an increased mill levy to support their schools.

Over the summer I had an opportunity to assist a group of employees who exercised the power of solidarity. The issues centered around poor, mixed message communication and administrative management style. Sound familiar? What started out as one or two people calling for assistance turned into a large group of members creating a strategy to address the problems with Human Resources. It worked. As individuals they were fearful to act; together they succeeded.

During the next few months, all AFT-Colorado members must band together to support our brothers and sisters facing life altering elections. Am I being overly dramatic? If you think so, ask our Douglas County colleagues about what reform does to compensation, evaluation, and morale. I cannot encourage you enough to lend a hand. It will take all of us to ensure that our students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential in pleasant, safe environments with a confident, professional faculty and staff.

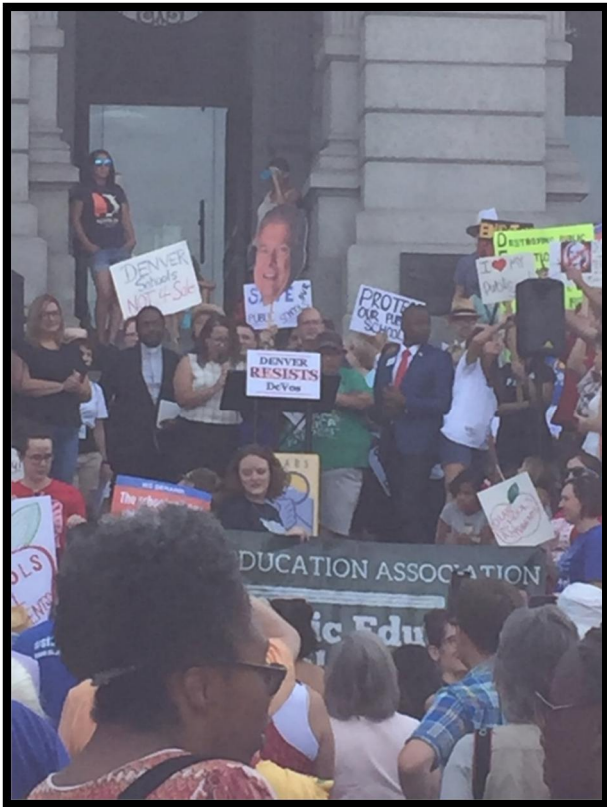
Don't wait for someone to contact you. Make a call and [volunteer](#) to work a phone bank, canvass, or drop literature. Remember, solidarity equals power and we are all in this together.



# DeVos/ALEC

## Rally in Denver

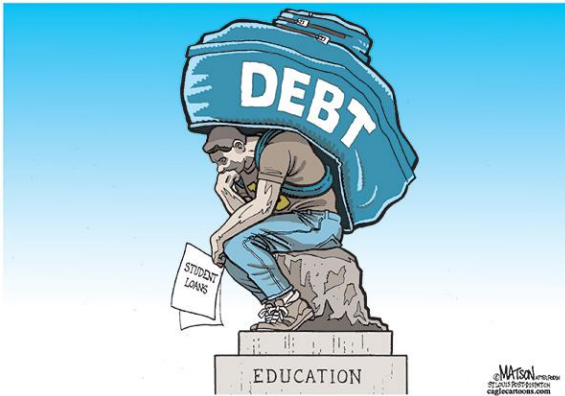
### July 19, 2017



Hundreds of activists for public education gathered in Denver July 19, 2017 to protest ALEC and Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos during ALEC's annual conference. ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) is known for bringing state lawmakers and corporate lobbyists together, in secret, to draft and approve "model" bills on different issues, often benefiting its corporate donors' bottom line. The report below reveals the members of the Colorado legislature who have ties to ALEC and recent Colorado state bills that can be traced back to the organization. [Read the report](#)



# Student Debt



AFT Colorado is excited to announce that we will be hosting another student debt clinic on **Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am!** It will be held at the DFPNSE office at 2840 S. Vallejo St. Englewood, CO 80110 ([map](#)). For more detailed information on the debt clinic, please RSVP here: <http://bit.ly/2qxZMER>

Student loan debt has a huge impact on many of our lives. The U.S. is on the verge of a devastating debt crisis not seen since the mortgage crisis of the late 2000s. Almost 45 million Americans have student loan debt, totaling \$1.4 trillion, and a

staggering 2,000 people a day are going into default on their student loans.

Because we personally understand the frustrations that come along with trying to navigate the repayment process, regardless of whether or not you personally have student debt or you're a family member of somebody with student debt, we want to make sure you are equipped with the most complete information possible to maneuver the student debt landscape. There are several programs that provide significant relief to those who have struggled, or are struggling, to make student loan payments. We will be going over these programs with you, in-depth, to ensure you can take full advantage of them.

AFT employs some of the nation's most knowledgeable experts on the student debt crisis and has incredible resources on this issue. We simply want to share the information with you. There are programs that can save you hundreds of dollars a month and even forgive you of your debt after a certain amount of time. So, we hope you take advantage of this student debt clinic!

We look forward to seeing you there. Please RSVP at the website above and/or email our Political Director, Ryan Case at [rcase@aftcolorado.org](mailto:rcase@aftcolorado.org).

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## We have moved

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Suite 600

Denver, CO 80224

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[www.aftcolorado.org](http://www.aftcolorado.org)



# Volunteer Opportunities!

With the immensely important school board elections in Denver and Douglas County this year, we must come together and contribute our time and effort to the candidates' campaigns who will be fighting for pro-public education policies. Our strength as a union largely lies in our people-power and our ability to band together for a common cause. We have a real opportunity to make some lasting change in our school districts, but we're not going to be able to do it without the help of everybody who can provide it.

Below, you will find specifics on when and where you can donate your time to talk to voters and your fellow union members about the candidates who will protect traditional public schools, but for

those of you who cannot contribute in that way, there is an alternative – COPE.

COPE stands for "Committee on Political Education." We are not legally allowed to use your union dues for political purposes, so COPE allows us to contribute to the campaigns of pro-public education school board, state house and senate, and gubernatorial candidates to ensure your interests are being served at the State Capitol.

If you are unable to contribute your time, please consider donating to COPE or increasing your donation to COPE. Contact our Political Director, Ryan Case, at [rcase@aftcolorado.org](mailto:rcase@aftcolorado.org) or contact your local President for more information.



**Denver Public Schools** – If you want to volunteer for endorsed candidates in Denver Public Schools please contact [rcase@aftcolorado.org](mailto:rcase@aftcolorado.org).

**Douglas County School District** – We are asking everybody living in or close to Douglas County to commit to signing up for three phone bank shifts between now and Election Day on November 7. Contact your local President or Ryan Case at the above email address to sign-up.

Phonebanks – please sign-up for at least two Tuesday or Thursday phonebanks

**Every Tuesday and Thursday** between 9/5 and 11/7, 5:00 to 7:30pm at AFT Colorado office located at 925 S. Niagara St., Denver, CO 80224. These phone banks will be to fellow union members



# Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey has left a path of devastation throughout the Texas Gulf Coast, while relentless rains are flooding many other areas. CNN has called Harvey unprecedented and catastrophic.

While we are calling on the federal and state government to help, this is the time for us to help too. We, as a union family, must respond as we have in past crises.



## DONATE

The AFT's disaster relief fund is working to make sure that AFT members and the communities we serve receive help and relief during and after this storm.

[Donate to the AFT's disaster relief fund here.](#)



## Make Great Memories

Save on family travel and entertainment, including theme parks, car rentals and movie tickets with AFT +.

**AFT families have more fun** and get big savings on travel and entertainment.

That includes up to **25% off on rental cars, plus major savings on movie tickets and theme park packages** – including Disney and Six Flags destinations.



Learn more at  
**[unionplus.org/afttravel](http://unionplus.org/afttravel)**

COME TO A SCREENING OF:

# BACKPACK FULL OF CASH

NARRATED BY MATT DAMON



STONE LANTERN FILMS AND TURNSTONE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT  
"BACKPACK FULL OF CASH" NARRATED BY MATT DAMON PRODUCED BY SARAH MONDALE VERA ARONOW  
EDITED BY VERA ARONOW MARIAN SEARS HUNTER CINEMATOGRAPHY BY ROGER GRANGE ORIGINAL MUSIC BY TOM PHILLIPS  
CONSULTING EDITOR MARIAN SEARS HUNTER ANIMATION BY PATRICK SMITH DAVID GERLACH - QUOTED STUDIOS  
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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SARAH PATTON WRITTEN BY SARAH MONDALE & VERA ARONOW  
CONSULTING WRITER SHEILA CURRAN BERNARD DIRECTED BY SARAH MONDALE

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IMPACT STRATEGY:  
ACTIVE  
VOICE LAB

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017**

SIE Film Center, 2510 East Colfax Avenue, Denver CO 80206

Doors open 6:45pm, screening at 7pm, Q&A to follow

Reserve tickets: <https://goo.gl/XnTh71>

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, 721 Santa Fe Drive, Denver CO 80204

Doors open 6:45pm, screening at 7pm, Q&A to follow

Reserve tickets: <https://goo.gl/QVwc9M>

**Tickets are free but reservations are advised**

For more information, contact Eve Cohen at [eve@cohen-porter.net](mailto:eve@cohen-porter.net)



**DCTA**

Denver Classroom Teachers Association



Uniting4Kids



# Local Union Updates



## DFPNSE

**Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals  
and Nutrition Service Employees**

Elections for the Board of Education for Denver Public Schools will be held in November of 2017. The current school board, which has been working to undermine traditional public schools, has a 7 – 0 majority. There is an opportunity to fight back against their so-called “reform” policies during this year’s election.

Denver Federation of Paras and Nutrition Service Employees

participated in the Denver Area Labor Federation endorsement process and interviewed all prospective candidates who were asking for labor’s endorsement. After careful consideration, Local 4463, DFPNSE, has endorsed the following candidates:

District 2: **Xochitl (Sochi) Gaytan**

District 3: **Carrie Olson**

District 4: **Tay Anderson**

At-large: **Robert Speth**

Click [HERE](#) to confirm your voting district



The upcoming school board election in Douglas County School District has the potential to be the most watched school board election in the nation, according to *The Colorado Independent*. The majority of the board hangs in the balance in this election. Americans for Prosperity, the Koch Brothers, and other groups will

likely pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into this election, trying to elect members who want to continue the DeVos-style reforms that have hurt this district that once received an award for labor-management collaboration with the Douglas County Federation. Teachers, parents, and community members are excited to work to elect candidates who will help end these reforms. These candidates are [Kevin Leung](#), [Krista Holtzmann](#), [Anthony Graziano](#), and [Chris \(Christina\) Schor](#).

The Douglas County Federation will be holding member-to-member phone banks to educate all our union brothers and sisters in Douglas County about which candidates support public schools and our public school employees. We welcome all AFT Colorado members to join us in phone banking on Tuesdays and Thursdays from now until November 7, 2017. Please contact [Ryan Case](#) for more information.

**AFT COLORADO**

## STANDING TOGETHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Committee on Political Education (COPE) Deduction

[www.aftcolorado.org](http://www.aftcolorado.org) 720-443-8032

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 \_\_\_\_\_  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 \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.