

## Red for Ed

Sarah R. Mesmer, President



Red for Ed is alive and well! From its inception in April 2018 to this very day, educators continue to exercise their collective voice. It may be as simple as wearing a lapel button, or as involved as carrying signs on a picket line. As I write today, educators in the Denver Public Schools stand together to demand a compensation system that is predictable, competitive and recognizes educators as professionals. While it is disappointing and frustrating that leadership in

Denver, as well as some of our own locals, chooses to put politics above people, we will not be bullied and will not remain silent. We know that the ultimate answer is through legislation. On January 4th, the Colorado Capitol was awash in red for the opening of this legislative session. We are not going away. Red for Ed lives!

April also brings our bi-annual AFT-Colorado convention. As directed by our constitution, we gather to elect officers, review constitutional content and language, and vote on resolutions. It is also a time for us to strengthen our resolve to build our locals and support each other in providing exceptional education in our state. Please plan to attend. Now more than ever it is critical that our voices are heard!



# Colorado Legislative Session 2019

The 2019 legislative session is underway and we are looking forward to a positive and productive spring. In fact, we already have some good news to report! Addressing the student debt crisis and holding student loan servicers accountable is major focus with AFT, both nationally and in Colorado. We are excited to announce that we have taken two large steps towards tackling these issues in Colorado. We have worked with legislators and coalition partners to introduce two bills – SB19-002 and SB19-057—both well on their way to becoming law in Colorado.

## **SB19-002**

**Status: Passed Senate Education 4-0 on 02/07**

SB19-002 requires student loan servicers to apply for a license to operate in the state of Colorado and requires oversight of student loan servicers, by the Colorado Attorney General's office. Student loan servicers have been documented as misleading student loan borrowers. This legislation intends to keep them honest and provide a layer of oversight the current federal department of education is failing to provide.

## **SB19-057**

**Status: Passed Senate education 4-1 on 1/30**

SB19-057 requires employers, whose employees potentially qualify for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (public school employees, state workers, fire fighters, non-profit workers, etc.), to annually provide informational resources to existing employees enrolling in this program, and to provide new-hires with the same resources. Many people do not know they qualify for this program and this bill would provide accurate and consistent information to qualifying employees at no additional cost to the state of Colorado. This is especially important considering the shortage of educators and other public school employees - largely caused by low and stagnant pay in Colorado.

We are currently following over 60 education bills. If you would like to receive weekly updates from the AFT Colorado legislative team on these two bills and beyond, you can sign up for these updates [HERE](#) or visit <https://goo.gl/forms/u8ZsUxVU72tmMYet2>. If you would like to view the entire list of bills we are following, you can view them [HERE](#).

Knowledge is power and these updates serve to keep you up-to-date on what decisions are being made impacting your schools and classrooms. We also hope you engage in legislation introduced this year by emailing or calling your legislators or testifying at the Capitol. We encourage you to discuss these issues with your colleagues and your union sisters and brothers.

## Lobby Days

Have your voices heard! Join us at one of our two lobby days to talk to your legislators about the issues that matter to you! As educators, you hold the power to effect change in Colorado. These two days, not only provide the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with your legislators, but you will leave more knowledgeable about the legislative process and more able to continue to shape our educational system in Colorado. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions, please email our political director, Ryan Case, at [rcase@aftcolorado.org](mailto:rcase@aftcolorado.org)

**What: AFT Colorado Lobby Days**

**Where: Colorado State Capitol**

**When: 9am, March 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **MORTGAGE**

The Union Plus mortgage program makes buying or refinancing a home easy for you and your children.

### **CAR RENTAL**

Up to 25% discount on car rental deals with Avis, Budget, Hertz, Dollar, Thrifty & Payless.

## **Four Ways to Save**

### **AT&T WIRELESS**

The only national unionized wireless provider. 15% savings for union members on the monthly service charge of qualified plans.\*

### **CREDIT CARD**

Several credit card choices,\*\* all with competitive rates and U.S.-based customer service, designed to meet the needs of union members.

\*Available only to current members of qualified AFL-CIO member unions, other authorized individuals associated with eligible unions and other sponsoring organizations with a qualifying agreement. Must provide acceptable proof of union membership such as a membership card from your local union, a pay stub showing dues deduction or the Union Plus Member Discount Card and subscribe to service under an individual account for which the member is personally liable. Offer contingent upon in-store verification of union member status. Discount subject to agreement between Union Privilege and AT&T and may be interrupted, changed or discontinued without notice. Discount applies only to recurring monthly service charge of qualified voice and data plans, not overages. Not available with unlimited voice plans. For Family Talk, applies only to primary line. For all Mobile Share plans, applies only to monthly plan charge of plans with 1GB or more, not to additional monthly device access charges. Additional restrictions apply. May take up to 2 bill cycles after eligibility confirmed and will not apply to prior charges. Applied after application of any available credit. May not be combined with other service discounts. Visit UnionPlus.org/ATT or contact AT&T at 866-499-8008 for details.

\*\*Certain restrictions, limitations, and qualifications apply to these grants. Additional information and eligibility criteria can be obtained at UnionPlus.org/Assistance. Credit approval required. Terms and conditions apply. The Union Plus Credit Cards are issued by Capital One, N.A., pursuant to a license from MasterCard International Incorporated. Capital One N.A. is not responsible for the contents of this message and/or any other third party products/services mentioned. The MasterCard Brand Mark is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated.



[UnionPlus.org/aftbenefits](http://UnionPlus.org/aftbenefits)



## AFT Colorado Bi-Annual Convention

Saturday, April 27, 2019

This is the **call** to the **AFT Colorado Biennial Convention** convening at 10:30 am on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the AFT CO office located at 925 S. Niagara St., Suite 600, Denver, Colorado 80224. Registration and pre-convention committee meetings will begin at 10:00 am with officer nominations, resolutions and constitutional revisions being the order of business.

Members may contact their local union if they are interested in running for any officer position or would like to attend as a delegate. Terms of office are for two years. Deadline for nomination of officers is 11:59 pm March 28, 2019.

AFT Colorado will be awarding The Meyer/Mall and Friend of Public Education awards at Convention. Contact your local union if you know of anyone who is deserving of one of these awards. The deadline for submission is 11:59 pm March 28, 2019.

The AFT Colorado Convention delegates will consider proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, and proposed resolutions. Delegates will also nominate and elect State Federation officers.

We encourage you to take part in this process. Please contact your local union leader if you wish to attend, nominate an officer, or recommend an award recipient.



# Local Union Updates



The Douglas County Federation held its third Trades Event for the year--this one at Castle View High School. Thank you to our brothers and sisters in the AFL-CIO for partnering with us to educate high schoolers about apprenticeship opportunities in the trades, especially IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 111 RENEW which led the charge in making this

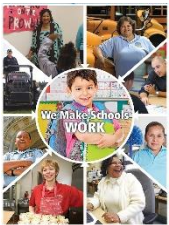
dream a reality. Inside and outside electricians, sheet metal workers, skilled building trades, pipe fitters, operating engineers and others were in attendance. Even some of the National Electrical Contractors' Association, NECA, contractors came out to talk to our students about the power of organized labor and employers working together to offer exceptional apprenticeships with little or no cost to apprentices in the programs.

Students were able to see how stoplights function, including looking at an actual intersection assembly, wiring and control panel. Inside electrical was also visible through a system built by IBEW local 68 RENEW just for this event--the example showed how wiring runs in walls through an outlet and switch. Students were able to test electrical currents and establish a hands on understanding of electricity and why lights come on when we flip a switch!



Some students were able to operate an excavator, using the digger arm to pick up soccer balls, basket balls, and footballs and place them in a bucket. Others experienced the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, IUPAT, virtual reality painting and glazing system, which had a line throughout the event.

A special thanks to the DCSD (Douglas County School District) lead counselor, Aaron Ragon, who has been so intentional about including organized labor, supports our values, and is committed to growing this program not only in DCSD but across the state of Colorado.



# DFPNSE

Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals  
and Nutrition Service Employees

Denver para-professionals and  
nutrition service employees stand in [#solidarity](#) with you [Denver](#)  
[Classroom Teachers Association - DCTA!](#) [#DCTAStrong](#) [#RedForEd](#)



## AFT COLORADO

### STANDING TOGETHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

#### Committee on Political Education (COPE) Deduction

925 S. Niagara St., Suite 600, Denver, CO 80204 [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 \_\_\_\_\_

**BANK**

#### DRAFT \*\*\*\*PREFERRED METHOD\*\*\*\*

*Fill out below or simply attach a voided check.*

BANK NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTING NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: 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.