

## Game On!

Sarah R. Mesmer, President

It's that post-election time of year again, and for educators and union members, the future is much brighter. At the convention this past summer AFT introduced the new tag line: We care. We fight. We show up. We vote. And we did, with remarkable results. **More than 300 AFT members ran for office nationwide this year, and more than 60 percent of them won!** That's how we affect the changes required to support students and educators in this country. With a more education friendly legislature and executive branch in Colorado, the door is open to advance education in a way that has not existed in decades.

AFT-Colorado locals made great strides with the passage of bond and mill levy overrides in places that have typically not supported these measures. Elizabeth School District passed its first ever mill levy override! Adams 12 Five Star and Douglas County school district also passed mill levy overrides, and Douglas County passed a bond.

After all of the door knocking, phone banking, and post card writing it would be easy to sit back and rest. The fact is, it is

now our responsibility to participate in the decision making regarding what happens next. **University leadership, school boards, and district decision makers need to hear our voices.** Not only where the news was good, but also where things didn't go well as is the case with our colleagues in Trinidad where the bond was defeated. They are currently in the process of a recount for the mill levy override measure. Decisions will be made; money will be spent. It is up to us to influence the direction through participation on committees, talking with administrators and board of education members, and informing the public. This is also a critical time to organize our colleagues. There is no doubt we can influence decision making with our collective voice.

I don't mean to say that the frenetic activity, stress, and energy spent, leading up to election day, is not deserving of a well-earned rest. Thanksgiving could not have come at a better time. However, our time is now. In addition to decision making in individual schools and districts, the 2019 legislative session will begin soon. Those decision makers need to hear from us.

**Gear up brothers and sisters, game on!**

# We Showed Up and We Won

2018 State-Level Election Results		
Chamber	Majority	Change
House	41-24 - Democratic	+5 Dem
Senate	19-16 - Democratic	+3 Dem

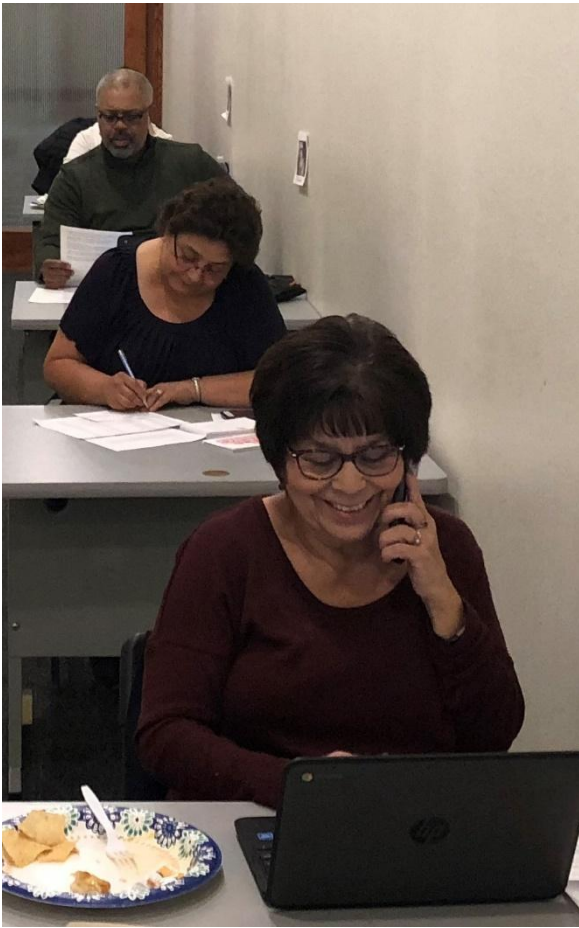


The 2018 general election brought many victories for public education, with one notable exception, and drastic changes to the balance of our state legislature. The vast majority of AFT Colorado-endorsed candidates were victorious and the highest priority races, in which we focused our volunteer activity, saw a complete sweep by our preferred candidates. Most importantly, you showed up - **a whopping 83% of registered AFT members in Colorado voted in this year's election!** That's nearly 20% higher than the general public. The most important and powerful thing you can do as a citizen of Colorado and a union member is to vote. Thank you for using your voice.

There is much to celebrate from this past election and we cannot thank the volunteers that helped make it all happen by talking to their fellow union members at the doors and on the phones. We cannot afford to celebrate for long. Now begins the long hard work of restoring respect to your profession, and changing the trajectory of public schools in Colorado by ensuring every child receives a high-quality education, no matter their zip code.



## Amendment 73 and Moving Forward



AFT Colorado played a large role in the “Yes on Amendment 73” campaign, which would have taken a huge step towards that goal, but unfortunately the ballot measure did not reach the required 55% threshold, and **we are now going to have to work with our new legislature to find creative ways to ensure Colorado’s schools receive the resources they need.** Amendment 73 may not be law, but there is still plenty to be hopeful for.

With a budget 1/13th the size of the previous statewide effort to increase education funding, the “Yes on Amendment 73” campaign nearly doubled the "yes" votes of that previous effort. It is clear that education is the number one issue on voters' minds, and only with your help, will be the issue we will push our legislators to make as their number one focus going into next year's legislative session. With the help of teachers and other volunteers around the state, an army of education activists was created that will be able to jump into action when it is needed.

By Election Day, volunteers knocked on 125,000 doors, mailed 60,000 postcards, texted 190,000 people, had 40,000 telephone conversations and sent 24,000 emails in support of A73. We need to keep up that activity, and this time we need to be writing those emails to our legislators and we need to show up to the capitol to testify on bills that will affect our schools. **If you would like to receive updates from AFT Colorado on the latest happenings at the capitol and to find out how you can get involved, sign up for our weekly legislative update [HERE](https://goo.gl/forms/YT13Z0TdVFzXmxTj2).** - <https://goo.gl/forms/YT13Z0TdVFzXmxTj2>

Let's keep it going!





# AFT Colorado Bi-Annual Convention

Saturday, April 27, 2018

We need members to participate on the following committees. If you are interested please give AFT Colorado a call at 720-443-8032. If you would like to be a delegate contact your local union president.

## Constitution & Resolutions Committee

- Review Constitution and ByLaws.
- Write Recommended Changes to Constitution and By-Laws (Redlined)
- Write Resolutions
- At the six week deadline prior to convention– Review documents (other request can be received from the locals) and plan to make a recommendation to the Convention for one of the following:
  - adopted as written, defeated, adopted with the following revisions or with no recommendation.
- Present to the Convention body the day of the Convention. Constitutional changes are presented first.

## Rules Committee

- Examine the rules noting any changes that might need to be made. Any changes made to the rules should be legibly marked for permanent changes on a current rules document.
- Make a recommendation to the delegation of any recommendations by the committee, at the appropriate time in the schedule.

## Credentials Committee

### The day of the Convention

- Examine each credential by matching the blue and the green copy of the credential, noting irregularity on the “Delegate Worksheet and Report”.
- If the credential is not in order, the delegate may appeal by completing the “Credentials Appeal Form”. The Credentials Committee should then decide if the delegate will be seated.
- When credentials are approved, imprint them with AFT Colorado seal.
- Check to be sure payment has been made.
- After everyone has check in, transfer the information from the “Delegate Worksheet Report” to the “Credential Committee Report” and sign both reports.
- Present the “Credential Committee Report” to the convention at the proper time.



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# Discovering Discounts



Check out the values online at our all new website at [unionplus.org/aftbenefits](http://unionplus.org/aftbenefits)

\*15% ON THE MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE OF QUALIFIED WIRELESS PLANS: 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 or unlimited data 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](http://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](http://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 of the other third party products/services mentioned. The Mastercard Brand Mark is a registered trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated.





# Local Union Updates



**Douglas County Federation is happy to report that our students are the big winners because Douglas County voters have chosen to support our schools.** A strong public education system requires funding, and Douglas County hadn't passed a funding measure in twelve years. This increase means more mental health services for our students, repairing some of our most urgent capital needs, and long overdue salary increases for teachers and staff.

The Douglas County community is full of dedicated individuals who take action to solve important education issues and this result is a testament to their hard work and dedication. **The**



**Douglas County Federation members worked side by side with retirees, students, parents, community members, the school board, and administration to educate our county about the need for increased funding.** This victory shows that when we collaborate with the goal of serving students, we are powerful. DCF owes a debt of



gratitude to AFT Colorado for supporting this election, as well as, the AFT National organization for the financial and tactical support as well.





## DFPNSE

Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals  
and Nutrition Service Employees

On September 20, 2018, the Denver Public School Board of Education issued a proclamation designating the second week in October, from this year forward, as "Classified Employees' Recognition Week." The proclamation was initiated by the Denver Federation of Paraprofessionals and Nutrition Service Employees on behalf of ALL classified employees in Denver Public Schools. Our thanks to Superintendent, Tom Boasberg and the DPS Board of Education for acknowledging the proclamation the week of October 8, 2018.



The Denver Public School Board recognized classified employees,  
along with presidents from associations and unions.



## 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.