



## President's Remarks

By: Bernadette Jiron

Congratulations to all our AFT Colorado endorsed candidates who won! Now let's go to work!

It's time to move forward in Colorado for our students.

The last couple of months have been both busy and exciting! Volunteers spent many hours endorsing and walking our districts in support of Colorado candidates. Now we see the results of all your hard work. I want to thank Kallie Leyba, Executive Director of AFT Colorado for her hard work recruiting members to get involved in their union and the volunteers in Denver, Douglas County, Jefferson County and surrounding areas.

### Upcoming events:

- Special AFT Colorado Convention on April 23, 2022
- Paraprofessionals & School Related Personnel (PSRP) Convention in Boston July 2022

**Coloradans for the Common Good**  
<https://www.cocommongood.org> Campaign  
**Issues:**

AFT Colorado, the Douglas County Federation, and Denver Locals areas working with Coloradans for the Common Good (CCG) on issues that involve the surrounding communities and our AFT members.

- Health Food and Fair wages in Jefferson County Schools
- Affordable housing
- Gun Safety
- School Closures in Aurora and Denver
- Air Quality

If you are interested in any of the campaigns and want to be-involved in CCG please contact Executive Director Kallie Leyba at [kleyba@aftcolorado.org](mailto:kleyba@aftcolorado.org), Brock Grosso at [Brock@cocommongood.org](mailto:Brock@cocommongood.org) or me.

Happy Holidays to you and your family during the holiday season.

In Unity -  
Bernadette (Bernie) Jiron  
AFT Colorado President  
303-744-9962

## AFT Members Volunteering

Many of our members worked hard this year for school board and municipal elections.

DALF-DCTA-DFPNSE Canvass kickoff event for Scott Esserman and Dr. Carrie Olson at Colorado Education Association.



Dr. Joyce Brooks, Natalie Cole, Rob Gould, and Jennifer Bacon



Xochitl Gaytan, Michelle Quattlebaum, Dr. Carrie Olson, Dr. Joyce Brooks and Natalie Cole



Rob Gould, President DCTA



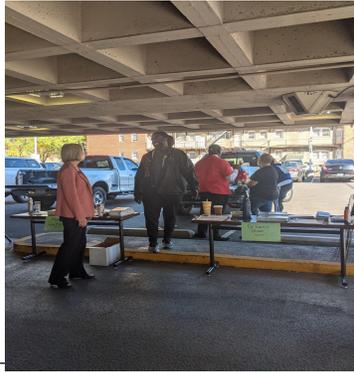
Xochitl, Scott, Michelle, Carrie



Kiki and Kallie Leyba out canvassing



Dr. Joyce Brooks, Natalie Cole, Rob Gould welcome State Board Member Lisa Escarcega



Canvassers inspired by candidates

### DALF-DCTA-DFPNSE

Canvass kickoff event for Scott Esserman and Michelle Quattlebaum at Montbello HS



Canvass



Kallie Leyba canvassing with Rob Gould, DCTA



DALF canvass, October



## Great Education Colorado Luncheon

AFT Colorado supported Great Education Colorado by purchasing five tickets to the annual luncheon—this year honoring Dr. Joyce Brooks. Great Education envisions a future in Colorado where every students can thrive. AFT Colorado partners with Great Education in many ways including working on increasing statewide funding for preK-12 education. If you would like to learn more about the luncheon, you can view the introductory [video](#). Additionally you may view the luncheon photo gallery [here](#).

Below are some photos the AFT Colorado attendees submitted for the newsletter.



Kevin DiPasquale and Kathy Dorman,  
DCF and Kallie Leyba



Bernie Jiron & Victoria Pacheco  
with Cary Kennedy (center)



Dr. Carrie Olson, Scott Esserman,  
Bernie Jiron and Victoria Pacheco



Victoria Pacheco, Dr. Alex  
Marrero and Bernie Jiron

## 2021 Democratic Labor Education Event

On September 29, 2021 the Colorado Democratic Party State Labor Initiative held the annual Labor Education event at IBEW Local 68 where attendees were able to tour the apprenticeship program, hear labor speakers and connect. For us, it was a chance to meet with candidates, legislators and other union members to talk about our movement, and in particular, the need for public employee collective bargaining.

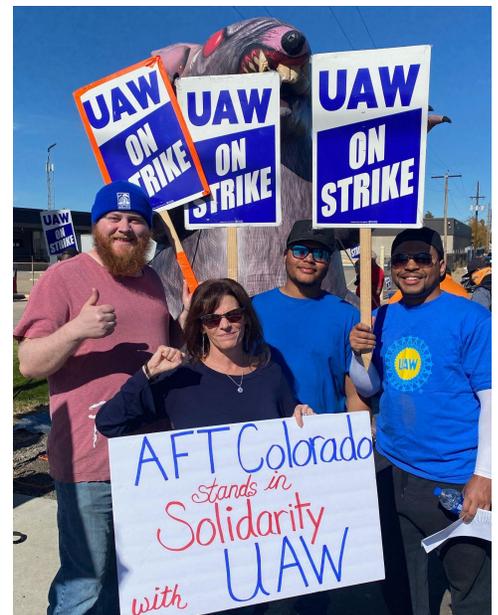


Kallie Leyba, AFT Colorado, Exec Director  
Josette Jaramillo, CO AFL-CIO, President  
Robert Lindgren, CO AFL-CIO, Political Director

## United Auto Workers—John Deere strike line

AFL-CIO members showed up to support John Deere workers in #Striketober as they stood up for fair working conditions and wages for their members.

Later in November, the workers voted to ratify a contract.  
#Striketober



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# Local Union Updates



## Update from the Douglas County Federation

The past few months have provided a strong message to our members and those in the education community: a strong union relationship with the school district makes the difference in election results. In the surrounding metro area school districts, almost every school board seat went to pro-public education candidates because of union support and collaboration. The Douglas County Federation would like to report out similar results, but that did not happen this year. We know that our strength moving forward will depend on increased and engaged DCF membership. Strengthening our relationships within the community will build back a level of collaboration that puts education at the forefront of the political landscape.

Jason Butler, our AFT Organizer, and I have been visiting members and building relationships before school over the past two months. It has been great connecting with people and learning what successes and challenges this academic year has presented thus far. We have a strong sense of community in many pockets in Douglas County and will continue to branch out to build our membership so this becomes the norm.

While the school board election results are a concern for public schools in Douglas County, we are planning, in partnership with members and community, the steps needed to ensure that progress continues with regard to the Educational Equity Policy, improved compensation, and overall working environment for our members. Education faces many challenges with staffing from not having enough substitutes, support staff, and teachers which creates even further/more strain from the pandemic and political strife. But we will continue to forge on to affect positive changes for the profession.

Over the course of this pandemic, we have seen public opinion shift from a reverence toward public education to admonishments of our hardworking teachers and staff. We know the importance of collaboration and how our organization is made stronger by people working together. While there is a movement working against public education nationwide, employing the same tactics from Virginia to Ohio to Colorado to sow discord in our communities, our work continues. We must build our own membership, rise above the rhetoric, and continue to carry on the work to improve our organization and our local school district. A strong public education gives students a chance for greater success, creates opportunities for members to have a safe workplace and predictable compensation. Most importantly, public education also helps create a strong sense of community that is at the heart of our schools. We will always strive to build bridges-by increasing our membership and ensuring the right of every student to a quality public education in Douglas County.

Lastly, DCF is committed to positively contributing to our community. We are excited to announce that we hosted a successful pediatric vaccination clinic on Friday December 3rd. We were thrilled to help vaccinate many many children and offer boosters to their parents and guardians at the same time. Thank you to DCPHE for their partnership. Pediatric shot 2

# DFPNSE



## Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals and Nutrition Service Employees

As we continue to support our classified employees, Paraprofessionals/CSO'S will receive an extra stipend of \$148.00 on their November 22<sup>nd</sup> paycheck. This is money the district and the union had agreed upon for "high performance schools" over 5 years ago. Since the district no longer recognizes high performance schools anymore, this money was made available to the locals to use as we wanted. The DFPNSE Executive Board decided to distribute the money evenly to all Paraprofessionals/ CSO'S so they will receive the stipend on their Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> paycheck.

Hats off to the following loyal DFPNSE members!!

I would like to recognize the top 3 paraprofessionals and top 3 Nutrition Service Employees for their years of service in DPS and serving our students

Johnnie Martin – Cole Arts and Science Academy- 47 years of service

Francis Ortego – Cowell Elementary School - 47 years of service

Phyllis French – NE (Northeast?) Terminal 43 years of service

Mary Dully – Manager II – Merrill Middle School- 45 years of service

Jane Chavez – Manager II – Goldrick Elementary School - 40 years of service

Jeanne Lucero Manager III – Doull Elementary School - 33 years of service

## Douglas County Federation Retirees

### Retirees Rock!

I'm excited to share with you some people (that I know of) who helped in the school board election. While the outcome in Douglas County was disappointing, I am grateful for these people who dropped candidate literature, canvassed, made text/phone calls, endorsed candidates publicly, wrote sticky notes and postcards, put up yard signs, shared information with neighbors and on social media etc. #RetireesRock! #ActivistsNeverRetire! #IamAFT! #DCFR



top row: Dr. Betsy Cabell, Kallie Leyba, Sandy Stolar  
middle row: Ken Gittins, Randi Alison, Rethea Morris  
Bottom row: Robin Handy, Kristin & Jim McCord

# 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.