



President's Remarks

By: Bernadette Jiron

As we end this year, I want to thank all volunteers who assisted in the political races for your hard work canvassing, mailing post cards, and making phone calls. Your hard work paid off! We need to work even harder when the 2024 races begin. It is important to keep our democracy alive in the United States. Kallie Leyba needs a special shout out for all her endless hard work in the political action campaign!!

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



From your Executive Director

By: Kallie Leyba

As we close out 2022, I want to thank all of you for your continued dedication to public service. I know it's harder and harder every year—especially now with political vitriol and divided communities – and our schools and public institutions are often caught in the middle. Now it is more important than ever that we stand in solidarity, not only with AFT Colorado and AFT National members, but with AFL-CIO brothers and sisters, and all unions who are working to organize at this pivotal time for labor in our nation. Thank you for your work and your commitment to YOUR union. I hope you all get some well deserved time off this month and that you are able to go back to work re-energized.

I'll highlight **some** of this quarter's work below. Thank you all for your continued commitment to education and to AFT's work.

In solidarity,
Kallie Leyba

Election 2022

Colorado's election results were better than most even dreamed.

Of the 48 candidates we endorsed for State House, 44 won.

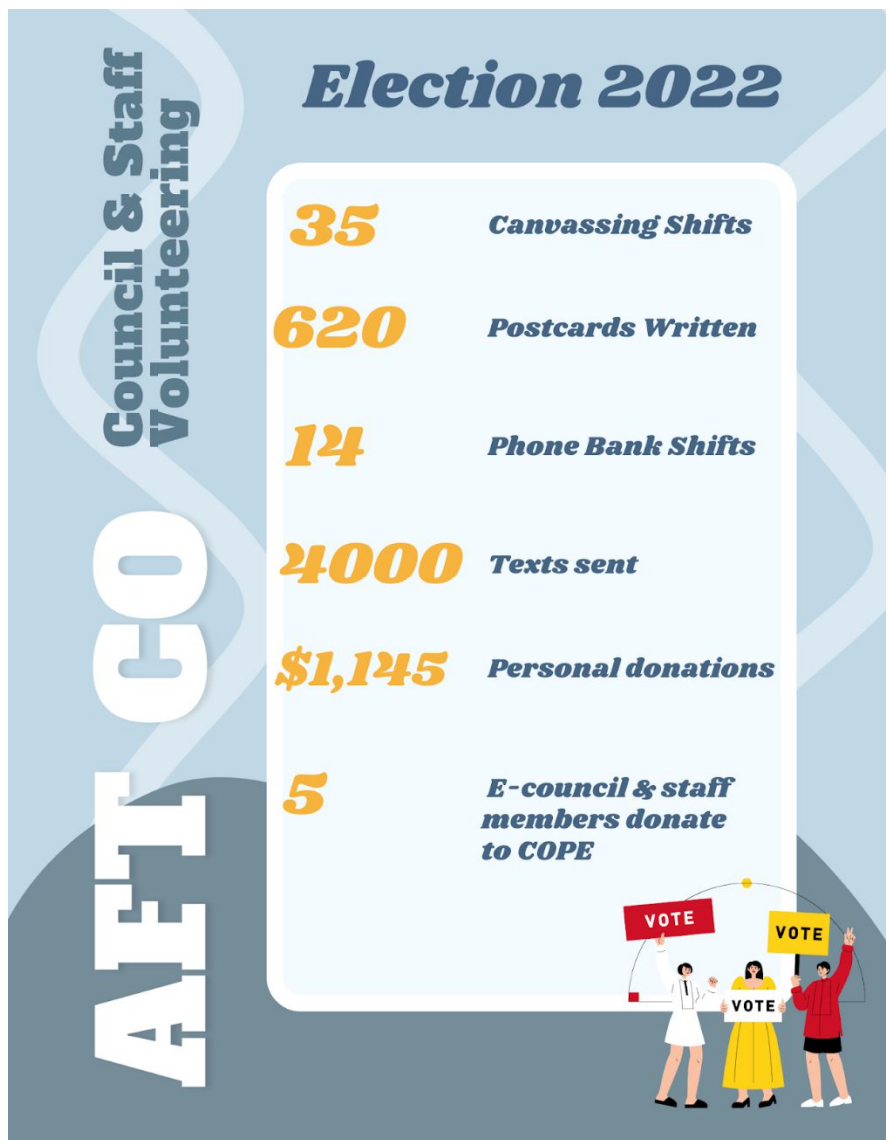
Of the 13 candidates we endorsed for State Senate, 11 won.

All three of the state board of education candidates we endorsed won and all four of the statewide candidates we endorsed won.

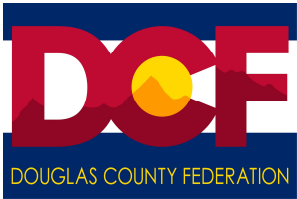
The AFT COPE committee and Executive Board worked to determine endorsements and distribution of donations from the COPE fund. I met with the majority of candidates, either individually or as a part of the education event we held for candidates. The AFT helped tremendously by contributing to campaigns in our state as well.

Below you will see our volunteer stats. Frankly, these numbers fall far short of expectations. We have thousands of members across the state and, while we have a lot to celebrate, I am already focused on how we can mobilize more of our members and our elected leaders to volunteer next year for school board races and municipal elections, and especially in 2024 for the Presidential election.

Our COPE donations were noticed and appreciated by candidates. Thank you to all the members who donate to COPE. We will be asking everyone to consider donating to COPE so that we can begin building our resources for upcoming elections.



Local Union Updates

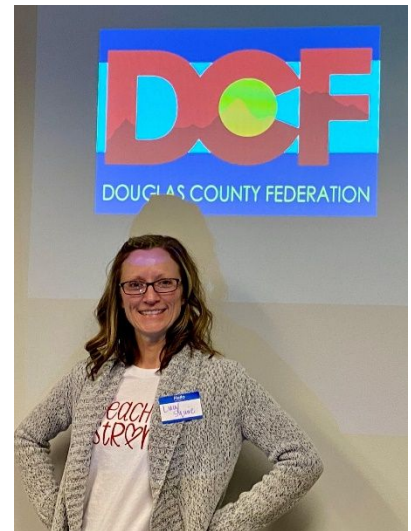


Update from the Douglas County Federation

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us and the first semester is coming to a close! To say things have been busy is an understatement. In October our President, Kevin DiPasquale, stepped down and Vice-President, Sarah Mesmer, became the Interim President. This leadership transition created a perfect opportunity to reflect on our traditional structure and consider a change. Historically we have had a full-time President who is no longer employed by the School District. We have decided to convert to a structure mirroring AFT-Colorado with an Executive Director and a President who remains a District employee.

At our general membership meeting, November 30th, we introduced Lucy Squire as our new DCF President. Lucy is at Copper Mesa Elementary School where she teaches third grade.

"I am excited to step into the role as President of the DCF!" says Squire. "I've spent my 18-year teaching career in Douglas County, which means I've experienced the vast gamut of educational philosophies, leadership styles, and school boards. . . and quite frankly, I think that educators, and those in the field should be the ones making decisions about education; we should be a presence in the room and have a voice when decisions are made. While I know there will be challenges as the DCF President, I am excited and quite optimistic about paving a new path forward by building positive relationships with the school board, while representing and advocating for my incredible colleagues."



"I am also still in the classroom, and this is the first time we've had a current, full-time teacher in this role. While we are working to define what this looks like, I believe that bringing in a current voice to educational matters and decisions is vital."

In November there were two significant measures on the ballot in Douglas County that would impact our members: initiative 5A, a mill-levy override (MLO) that was ear-marked exclusively for employee compensation, and 5B, a bond for building new schools in three, rapidly growing housing developments and for capital improvements at existing buildings. The DCF supported these measures through: phone banking, canvassing, distributing literature, sending text messages encouraging support and surveying members as to their voting intentions, utilizing email and social media to encourage our members to support the measures, publishing information regarding where to obtain yard signs and how to sign up for campaign activities that have been organized by other entities, and car painting. While neither initiative passed, there is a strong probability that they will appear again next year.

The Douglas County Federation wishes you happy holidays and all the best in the year to come!



Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals and Nutrition Service Employees

As the local president of Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals & Nutrition Service Employees (DFPNSE), I will be retiring as of December 15, 2022. The person taking my place is Deidre (Dee) Smith. Dee has been a paraprofessional in the Denver Public Schools for over 29 years. She is the Executive Vice President of our board. She will officially begin January 1, 2023. She has worked with general and special education students in DPS. I will be assisting her during the transition. She is very knowledgeable regarding union issues, a fast learner and always open for suggestions. Please welcome her with open arms.

It has been an honor to serve as the President of DFPNSE for over 24 years. It's time to move on but know that I'm here to assist DFPNSE in anyway that they need. I will continue to serve as the State President for AFT Colorado.

Hats off! Victoria Pacheco and Christina Finnsey. DFP-NSE organizers, have recruited 187 new members since August.

In Solidarity

Bernadette "Bernie" Jiron



AFT COLORADO

STANDING TOGETHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Committee on Political Education (COPE) Deduction

925 S. Niagara St., Suite 600, Denver, CO 80224 www.aftcolorado.org 303-947-6709

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.