



# Colorado Connection

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025



## HAPPY SPRING!

Congratulations — we've made it through another school year!

The AFT Colorado Convention was held on Saturday, April 26, 2025. I'm honored to have been elected President of AFT Colorado. Richard Wagner from the Metro State Faculty Federation was elected Executive Vice President, and Bill Hamaker was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

New board members include Shae Banks from the Denver Federation of Paraprofessionals, Christina Garcia from AFT Colorado, and Chris Graham Herring from the Douglas County Federation. The remaining Vice President positions are filled by Lucy Squire, Wayne Scott, and Deidre Smith. All of these elected positions are for two-year terms. Congratulations to everyone!

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Sarah Mesmer for her years of dedicated service to AFT Colorado as Secretary-Treasurer. We wish her joy and fulfillment in the next chapter of her life.

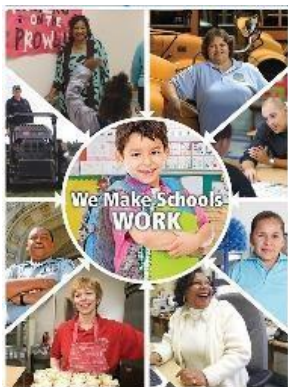
AFT Colorado has hired Fiona Boomer to begin work as our Executive Director on July 1. We look forward to a prosperous future with Fiona leading our operations.

Emma Bliesener has also joined AFT Colorado as our Lobbyist, and we will continue the important work we do at the Colorado State Capitol.

Wishing you a wonderful and relaxing summer (even though some of us are still working!). Be sure to enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

In Unity –

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





## Denver Federation Paraprofessionals and Nutrition Service Employees


As the school year comes to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our newly appointed Executive Director, Fiona Boomer, and our Legislation Lobbyist, Emma Bilesener. I am confident that their leadership will guide us toward achieving our goals for all of the Locals our State represents.


I also want to congratulate the members of the Executive Council. I am looking forward to working with each of you to further improve and grow our State Organization. Have a wonderful Summer.

Deidre Smith DFP-NSE Local #4463




  
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## STANDING TOGETHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Committee on Political Education (COPE) Deduction

1777 S. Bellaire St., Suite 440, Denver, CO 80222 [www.aftcolorado.org](http://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.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

