



Colorado Connection

1st Quarter 2026



President's Message

Happy May 2026!

May 1, 2026 "MAY DAY", we stood along the Alameda Ave waving signs. If you have any pictures, please send them to me, bernie@aftcolorado.org, and we will post them on our website and share them with AFT National.



March 26, 2026, NO KINGS DAY!!! Congratulations to Locals 4463 DFP-NSE and Local 4443 Douglas County for attending. We joined DCTA walking and handing out information, we also wore our "NO KINGS" t-shirts. We shared a table with DCTA, it was a very good day communicating with other school districts and exchanging information. I want to thank Kim Manning, Fiona Boomer, Dee Smith, Ariana Josue, Ron Gould (DCTA president) for their work at the "NO KINGS DAY" 'Together we are stronger as team'.

In the beginning of April 2026, Richard Wagner and myself were asked to attend a session with the sponsors at the Capitol. Regarding the School Finance Education Funding Act. Very interesting and if you have any questions regarding the School Finance Act, contact Fiona Boomer at fiona@aftcolorado.org

I attended the PPC meeting in Washington, D.C., we discussed the funding work conditions, AI, Health and safety updates, work shouldn't hurt, AFT Legislatives, we went to the capital and lobby with representatives from Hickenlooper's and DeGette's offices.

Randi Weingarten, our National President, joined us for dinner and discussed the issues we are fighting for.

We talked about the lack of training that PSRP's receive before beginning their jobs. We talked PSRP's living wages, which needs to change, immigrations and knowing your rights!!!



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Local Union Updates

Congratulations to Cheryl Reiling on retiring from AFT Colorado! Please welcome Christi Mangusso as she will be taking over from Cheryl.

Hello to AFT Colorado members! I am a Colorado native from Arvada, I have a Bachelor of Business Administration from Colorado Mesa University and have over 20 years of office management experience including time in a union post-secondary education environment. I am also actively involved in agriculture, volunteering as a 4-H mentor, raising horses, livestock and a hay crop with my daughters. I am ecstatic to become a part of the amazing AFT Colorado team and I look forward to contributing to the collective success of our members!



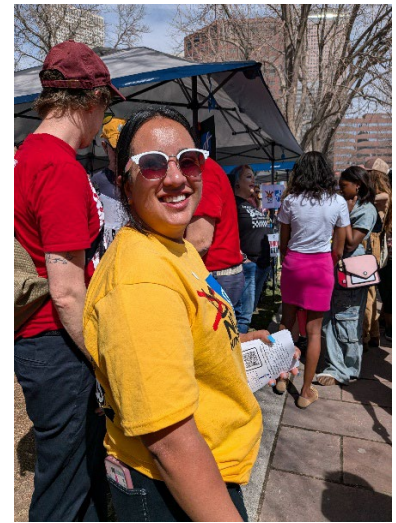
DFP-NSE: A Spring of Solidarity and Success

As we wrap up another academic year, the **DFP-NSE** has been hitting the pavement and making our voices heard across Denver. It has been a whirlwind of advocacy and community building, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Advocacy in Action: United Denver & Beyond

On **May 28th**, we joined forces with **United Denver** to host a booth and engage with the community. We successfully distributed flyers regarding the push for City Council to move away from **Palantir and Flock Cameras**, advocating for privacy and community-focused safety.

We also hit the streets for the **May Day Rally on May 1st** and participated in the **Allies on Alameda** event. A massive **Thank You** to every member who showed up to support these rallies—your presence makes our collective power visible!



Growing Our Strength

Our recent outreach efforts have yielded fantastic results. We had a wonderful turnout for our **Potential Building Rep** meeting, and we are thrilled to welcome several **new members and building representatives** to the team. Strengthening our leadership at the building level is the best way to ensure every worker is protected and heard.

Looking Ahead: Relax and Reset

The end of the year is finally here. We hope everyone takes this summer break to truly **relax, reset, and recharge**. You've worked hard, and you deserve this time for yourself and your families.

Enjoy the sunshine, because we have a lot of work ahead of us this fall! We look forward to seeing everyone back in August, ready to keep the momentum going.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Best regards,

Deidre "Dee" Smith



STANDING TOGETHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Committee on Political Education (COPE) Deduction

1777 S. Bellaire St., Suite 440, Denver, CO 80222 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 _____

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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: _____