

afpe *today*

Fall 2007



Mary Kay Downes

October 2007

Fellow Educators:

By now you have weathered both the joys and stressors of opening yet another year, have concluded Back to School night presentations, and are settling down for the months ahead of work with your students. As late fall approaches, we come to another important time, Election Day, November 6.

The AFPE Board of Directors endorses the candidacy of two sitting school board members, Kathy Smith – Sully District; and Tessie Wilson – Braddock District.

A bit of background: Since our inception as a professional organization 12 years ago, we have remained neutral in the political arena. We have never spent one cent of members' dues on donations to political candidates or to political action groups and will continue this policy. We do not have a political action committee, nor do we issue a candidate survey. However, in the past number of years, the board has recognized the support and the willingness to listen of both Kathy Smith and Tessie Wilson. Both have attended our board meetings and given an ear to the concerns of our teacher board members.

In addition, these members have consistently recognized our organization as full members "at the table." In their eyes we have equal footing with the two teacher unions. For this reason we support their re-election and wish them the best as they work to support students and teachers.

By now you have received your Building Success Planners and so have all new teachers to FCPS! If you see colleagues thumb through it in the mail room, take some time to speak of the benefits of AFPE membership – a focus on Fairfax matters only, equal amount of insurance, teacher professional grants, and low monthly dues.

With best wishes for the year,

Mary Kay Downes

President – Association of Fairfax Professional Educators
marykay.downes@fcps.edu

FCPS Regulation for FAC 4451.2

- AFPE encourages all members who have concerns in their schools to bring the problems to the attention of the school's Faculty Advisory Council. By FCPS regulation, this council must be established by secret election in every school, must meet at least six times a year, and must listen to the concerns of teachers. We encourage all of you to read regulation 4451.2 available on the FCPS website, and if you find that the council is not established according to the regulation, bring this fact as well as any concerns to the attention of your cluster director or assistant superintendent.

Grant Application in this Issue

- Don't forget to fill out an application for a professional development grant. AFPE is the only Fairfax organization that returns dues to its members in a way that enhances their professionalism. Any AFPE member can apply for a grant to cover professional development opportunities such as workshops or conferences, materials for special lessons, the cost of a second college course, or a course needed for endorsement. Fill out the form, attach a receipt or canceled check for your personal expenditure and pony both to Katherine Rehm, AFPE Secretary at West Springfield High School.

You are represented!

- Three members of the AFPE Board of Directors are representing you on various committees and task forces. Patti Abernathy attended the Survey Action Meeting on the FCPS Climate Survey. Becca Houston represented us at a 2008 benefits briefing, and Kerri Harris is AFPE's representative on the Superintendent's Transportation Task Force and the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council.

AFPE Board of Directors 2006-2007

PRESIDENT

Mary Kay Downes
Chantilly High School

VICE PRESIDENT

Bretton Zinger
Chantilly High School

TREASURER

Gary Bender
Westfield High School

SECRETARY

Katherine Rehm
West Springfield High School

PAST PRESIDENT

Eric Timpson
Cub Run Elementary School

Patricia Abernathy
Sangster Elementary School

Karen Dosch
Sangster Elementary School

Kerri Harris
Cub Run Elementary School

Becca Houston
Thomas Jefferson High School

Michael Nokovich
London Towne Elementary School

Meghan Percival
McLean High School

Scott Phillips
Stone Intermediate School

Thomas J. Sakole
Westfield High School

Alison Sheble
Cub Run Elementary School

Michelle Sheble
Frost Intermediate School

Sharon Stemen
Retiree Liaison

Vern Williams
Longfellow Intermediate School

Erin Woodward
Clermont Elementary School

I join you in your commitment to excellence!



(703) 690-5296

NAME SOCIAL SECURITY # EMPLOYEE #

HOME ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

WORK LOCATION TITLE/POSITION
Ex: 1st Grade Teacher, Math Teacher, Counselor

WORK PHONE HOME PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

METHOD OF PAYMENT: \$80 annual dues deduction is taken in equal increments over the length of your contract; for example, \$8 per month for a 10 month contract. Upon receipt of this request, deduction for dues to any other professional association will terminate. Please allow 2-4 weeks for processing. Please send this form through the pony to Gary Bender at Westfield High School.

SIGNATURE DATE



Professional Development Opportunity: AFPE Teacher Grants

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS ONE OF AFPE'S FUNDAMENTAL TENETS.

Since 1995, AFPE has offered grants to our members to help fund activities such as attending Advanced Placement workshops and participating in the National Reading Recovery Conference. Again this year, we will support our members' professional development activities. The maximum grant per teacher is \$500, and all grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Apply by completing the section below and sending it via Pony along with a copy of a receipt or cancelled check for your personal expenditure to Katherine Rehm at West Springfield High School by the April 30 deadline. *Be sure to attach a copy of the cancelled check or receipt to this application.*

Name School

Date of professional activity

List name or type of professional development activity.

What is your primary reason for participating in this activity?

Total cost Amount requested