



Local 698

East Detroit Federation of Teachers
Educators and more since 1942



A Union of Professionals

March 2009 Newsletter Extra

Extra **Special St. Patty's Pac** **Edition** Extra

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 COPE/PAC Pledge Day

As many of you are aware we can no longer collect our political action contributions through payroll deduction any longer. We must now rely on a new method to try and let politicians in Lansing and other local boards hear our voices as teachers united to promote the well being of public education in East Detroit and Michigan.

It is critically important to support legislation and candidates that protect the interests of education and teachers. Graduation standards, standardized testing, special education funding, foundational allowances for per pupil funding, teacher preparation and certification standards, state curriculum benchmark modification, schools of choice regulations and dropout age modification are only some of the issues that we have strong opinions on.

On our union website: www.aftmichigan.org you can find the entire legislative agenda for the AFT and our political action direction. These issues are without regard to party and are of concern to all educators at any level of our profession.

Aside from the straightforward educational issues, there are critical professional economic issues that are on the agenda as well.

Retirement and pension security, health care benefits for active and retired workers, job security, academic freedom protection, school nurses and collective bargaining protection are all of significant importance to our economic well being.

On Tuesday, March 17th the EDFT will be holding a pledge day activity to solicit your support for the EDFT Committee on Political Education (COPE), which is our Political Action Committee (PAC). Each building will have an activity chosen by its building reps to attract your attention to our efforts and provide an opportunity to participate in this pledge drive. The card provide several choices for your level of participation or allows a contribution of your choice. You may also donate on the spot or request to be billed later.

East Detroit Federation of Teachers
Committee on Political Education

DEMOCRACY IN EDUCATION - EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY
I Pledge Card - March 2009

Name _____ **Phone** _____

LAST FIRST M.I. AREA CODE NUMBER

Address _____

NO STREET CITY ZIP CODE

Building _____

I pledge \$30.00 to EDFT-COPE

I pledge \$20.00 to EDFT COPE

I pledge \$_____ to EDFT COPE

I do not desire to pledge now

I will pay now.

Please bill me.

"This authorization is signed freely and voluntarily and not out of any fear of reprisal and on the understanding that the EDFT COPE will use the money contributed to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with state and local elections."

Please note that contributions to the EDFT COPE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal or state income tax purposes.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Please consider this request for the COPE/PAC contribution very seriously. I know these are tough times for all of our household budgets, but we can't afford to be silent on these critical issues concerning our professional and our economic security. Let's continue to be among the leaders in the State to support these issues in our State legislature.