

DeSoto DCAE EDUCATOR

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NEA CONVENTION

Three DCAE members sailed off to San Diego, California, during the week of July 4 for the National Education Association Convention. What a week! Melonie Goolsby, Joyce Helmick and Renee Lawson participated in the representative assembly as well as attended caucus meetings, exhibits, and made new friends and acquaintances from all over the nation.

Participating in the representative assembly gave all members of the delegation a chance to voice opinions on the many amendments and new business items. Hearing debate and listening to experts in various fields of education gave Lawson, Goolsby, and Helmick new perspectives on some subjects while strengthening their opinions on others.

Lawson and Goolsby spent most of their time in the RA while Helmick served on the election committee which oversees the elections for the assembly. Although each participant had fun in the San Diego area after the assembly closed in the evening, the work of the convention continued from early morning until late.

Because the association holds the convention during the July 4th week, they were also able to witness a spectacular fireworks event held on the bay. Every member is encouraged to attend the next convention which will be held in New Orleans in July of 2010. If you are interested, contact one of the officers for further information.



Local delegate, Lawson, and state delegates, Goolsby and Helmick, pose with MAE President Gilbert during a break on the convention floor.

NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION

Once again the DeSoto County Association of Educators greeted new teachers to DeSoto County at New Teacher Orientation. Members provided water, granola bars, a calendar for planning, a friendly smile, and words of encouragement to the newly hired. Ten dollar gift certificates were given to five of DeSoto County's newest employees.



The lucky winners of gift certificates to WalMart were Heather Vaughan, April Peterson, Lisa Lloyd, Kim Walker, and Kevin Edge



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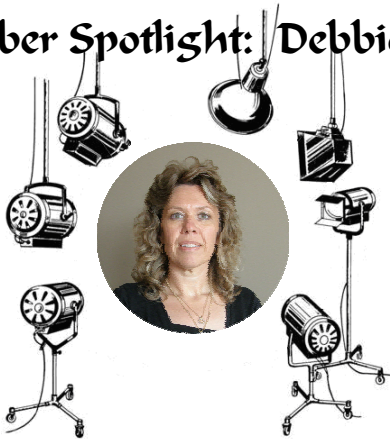
Remember

November 15-21

American Education Week

**CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.DCAE.ORG**

Member Spotlight: Debbie Moore



DCAE wants to recognize educational support staff member Debbie Moore from Olive Branch Elementary. Moore began recruiting last spring with a new enthusiasm and has signed up 7 new members. Moore, also a building rep, attended Summer Leadership Conference in Jackson in June and serves on the DCAE MAE Legislative Contact Team.. She has lobbied our legislators in Jackson and at home. We congratulate Debbie for her efforts and encourage all members to become as involved and excited about activities involving improving education for our children as well as working conditions for our teachers and ESPs (Educational Support Staff)

Professional Development Opportunity

Register today at maetoday.nea.org

MAE and DCAE are offering .5 CEU
\$10 for Members, \$75 for Non-members
\$20 for CEU Processing

8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Saturday, November 7
at Olive Branch High School

Amanda Rhymer will be presenting a workshop on
the Smartboard










Joyce Helmick, Renee Lawson, and Sharon Mullins
will be presenting a workshop on
Stress and Time Management

JOYCE'S CORNER



Recently, much of our conversations during our DCAE meetings have been about the issue of money and how many teachers do not join MAE because of the money. The expense is obviously a consideration. I understand. Money is an issue. Exactly!!!! If money is the issue, be sure to tell the teachers that being a part of this association can give them a chance to actually make a difference in that salary and those classroom dollars. We here at DCAE are making a difference. We go to the capital every year on Lobby Day to join other teachers from all over the state to voice our opinions about our salaries as well as other issues concerning education. We stay in constant contact with our legislators about these issues. We meet once a month (more if needed) to share important information concerning our educators and our students. We provide professional development for our members and nonmembers. We support our young teachers and offer assistance for their growth and development. We are a part of the ever-changing educational process of this county. Therefore, if money is the issue, how can anyone claim to be concerned about money when he or she does not support the efforts of those of us who are consistently involved. Where is their concern for our salary, for our National Board supplement, for our school room supply money, for raises for our valuable ESPs, for professional development, and for creating a community of professionals who want to speak up for us whether in our own school, our district, our state, or our nation? Money??? I don't think so. From what I witness year in and year out, Mississippi teachers are perfectly happy with their salaries. Enough so that they will never support those of us who work for salary increases. Enough so that they will never join an organization that, if we were stronger in number and resolve, would have the legislature making deals with us for salaries. Enough so that this would be a professional organization totally devoted to the issues of our professional educators here in our state and our nation. A good question to ask at this point is, "Is my money better spent on dues (which I can get back through member benefits) or on insurance premiums." So when recruiting, if you are given an excuse called MONEY say they can not afford to join, ask them how can they afford not to join...not just for money...but for the future of our children.

2010 MAE Legislative Agenda

-  Beginning teacher salary \$40,000
-  Fully fund MAEP
-  Restore EEF Funds
-  Increase planning time to 250 min/week exclusive of lunch period
-  Employment contracts and due process rights for all education support personnel
-  Maintain health care cost with no loss of benefits
-  Mandatory kindergarten
-  Continue funding NBCT supplement
-  Payroll deduction of dues for education employees

Visit maetoday.nea.org to see the complete list of Legislative Priorities.