

DeSoto

DCAE EDUCATOR

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SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2010

Summer Leadership 2010 ushered in a new and exciting vision for MAE. Changing to meet the needs of its membership, MAE moved the once Jackson-based Summer Leadership Conference to three different areas of the state. Olive Branch hosted one of the conferences at the Whispering Woods Conference center.

Over 40 MAE members attended the conference in this one location alone. Combining all three events, MAE set a record for the number of teachers and ESPs attending summer leadership.

Trainers highlighted several areas of MAE services during the three-day event. Some learned more about member benefits while others learned how to become better representatives for MAE and DCAE. Officer training was also included.

DeSoto County members were trained in every area presented during the conference. Officers of DCAE learned to be more effective and they are planning to take their training to the members throughout the year. Some members received CEU's for the event.



DCAE members who attended are pictured above (l. to r.) Renee Lawson, Connie Mah, Abby Rodman, Debbie Moore, Joyce Helmick, Barbara PottsZoke, Sharrell Reed, Tina Self, David Odom, Grace Williams, Corey Nichols, and Brandy Parnell. Not pictured were Tim Gardner, April Holifield-Scott, and Nikki Britton.

NEA ESP LEADERS FOR TOMORROW Class of 2011

DCAE's own Debbie Moore flew in July to Minneapolis for the first of several trainings she will receive as our state's ESP representative the NEA ESP Leaders For Tomorrow. Moore's met and trained with ESP's from around the country who share drive and determination to make better leaders for NEA.

From this first training Moore states, "I had five days of unbelievable eye opening experiences about myself and others. I learned what type of Communication and Leadership styles I possess. We learned about self awareness, self esteem, and self image." Moore also stated that she learned much about communication style and about herself as a communicator. She shared that she learned about the four traits of communication: being prepared, being interesting, making others feel comfortable, and being committed to the task.

Moore will attend two more conferences: one in November in Miami and the last one in March held in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the National ESP Conference. Moore's enthusiasm is evident as she begins sharing with the local using her favorite quote from her July session, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

Join Us!

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6
4:30 P.M.**

MEMPHIS PIZZA COMPANY



DeSoto County members of MAE attended the NEA National Representative Assembly this year held in New Orleans during July. Angie Colston, Joyce Helmick, Cheri Kamler, and Renee Lawson represented DCAE in the four day event.

MAE DELEGATES MAKE THEIR MARK

Colston, Helmick, Kamler, and Lawson attended every NEA Representative Assembly session and learned about the issues of other states across the nation. They also learned about membership issues from large states to small states. Although concerned that Mississippi's delegation remains one of the smallest delegations to attend the RA, all four active DCAE members pledged to help the Mississippi delegation grow as they look forward to next year's RA in Chicago.

Once again, the assembly astonished the attendees with the number of members at the RA as well as the importance of business items and resolutions considered. One of the main topics of the RA resounded in almost every discussion: that of budget cuts throughout the nation. Reports came in of school systems with over 500 teachers cut from its staffs. Another issue discussed was the concern that public education continues to be undermined through No Child Left Behind policies.



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- ✓ Register your membership card and use it
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- ✓ Explore the NEA Academy for graduate courses and CEU's
- ✓ Be sure your beneficiary is listed and correct on your free life insurance policy

TIM'S TWO CENTS



Greetings, fellow educators, and welcome to another great school year in DCAE. I appreciate your support in choosing me to be your president. The officers and I will be working hard for you. This association would not be here with out you, the member, so our association provides support for you.

Your membership packet should have arrived this past month. If there are any changes that need to be made to your record please fill out the CHANGE MY RECORD sheet and send it in. Your certificate of insurance was also in your membership packet; put this in a safe place. My favorite part of the membership packet is the Access card. Activate your access card by following the directions that are on it. My family saves at least \$20.00 a month using the access card.

We are all faced with a smaller paycheck this year. Several members have contacted me concerning the adjustments to the paychecks. Last month our checks reflected the 2% increase in retirement payments (This extra 2% will be paid for 2 years). This month our paychecks reflect the 4% reduction due to budget constraints. This 6% adjustment is hard on the pocket-book. I would like to encourage all our members to take advantage of the various benefits and savings that are offered to members. I was a member for years before I used any of these. Several members have told me that they save enough to make up for their dues. Use your access card, and register on the member benefits website. (neamb.com)

DCS teachers were presented with a new absentee/tardy policy for employees. Many concerned members called and emailed me to investigate. Your officers immediately began to ask questions of the administration. We were in contact with the county office, and our site principals. This policy was changed. We applaud Mr. Kuykendall for being responsive to the concerns of DCS employees.

Your association will continue to work for you. There are many opportunities to help your association be stronger. The easiest way is to reach out to new teachers. Help our membership grow. Explain to them the benefits of membership. (If you need applications let me know.) Committees are being formed; if you are interested in serving on a committee please let me know. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact me. Let your association work for you.

TIM
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