

Federation Voice

MONROE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
& SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

LFT, AFT, AFL-CIO

MAY 2009

President's Message...



Take a long deep breath, this school year is about to come to an end, and yes you've made it. I know this has been a difficult school year for many of us, from beginning to end. For some it has been more difficult than others, all depending on your schools leadership, but through it all you have been there for the children.

Far too often egos, personal agendas, and cutting deals make our jobs more difficult than it has to be;

The children are what keeps us coming back and why we answered the calling to teach and work with young adults. Far too often egos, personal agendas, and cutting deals make our jobs more difficult than it has to be; but just to see the light bulb come on in a child's eye makes it all worth it, and as a Christian I believe in what you sow you shall also reap.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a **BIG THANK YOU**, to all Federation Members who make the sacrifice to belong to our family; your sacrifice made and makes it possible for everyone to share in the benefits. And, again **THANKS** for the many phone calls and e-mails we received thanking us for keeping the MFP/bonus check issue alive. It finally paid off.

Many employees have voiced concerns about the leadership and the inconsistent manner in how their school is being managed is among many issues that rightfully should be addressed. However, fearful of reprisals and intimidating tactics leave many silent. **The morale in the district is at an all time low.** But, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and anytime you get ready to turn it on all we need to do is come together. Together we can make a difference and the Federation is always there to lead the way.

Have a blessed, safe, and relaxing vacation. And, let's look for a brighter tomorrow!

Much Love and Appreciation,

Sandie

**May 12, 2009 Is Lobby Day
Please Contact Our Office
If You Want To Attend
322-2442**

Coalition Speaks Against Education Cuts

(Capitol Steps in Baton Rouge-Monday, April 27, 2009)

A coalition of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, the School Board Association, and the Louisiana Association of Educators, spoke in opposition of Governor Bobby Jindal's proposed budget. Students from LSU, Grambling, Southern, Northwestern, and other universities from across the state paraded a giant shark replica and chanted to the Governor to stop eating up education. Jindal's proposal would cut \$200 million in K-12 schools and \$219 in colleges around the state. The coalition wore black along with educators around the state for "**Black Monday**" in mourning for public education.

Sandie Lollie, President of the Monroe Federation, joined other locals from around the state at the capitol. After the press conference, she and the coalition listened to Governor Jindal address the legislators.

The coalition will stand together to fight these cuts and is asking for the public to join them at the legislature, or to contact their legislators and say **No Cuts To Education!**

Teacher Appreciation Week 2009: 3rd – 9th May

Teacher Appreciation Week is a week in the academic calendar which is dedicated to all of our teachers around the world. It is a time to say thank you to our teachers for all of their help and show our gratitude for all the time and effort that they have put in our education.



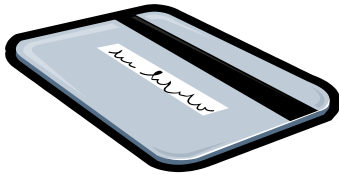
The Federation Appreciates All Teachers & School Employees!

May 4- 8 as Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week

Napoleon Bonaparte said, "An army moves on its stomach." We can say that in schools children learn on their stomachs because we know that hungry children cannot learn. The people in schools responsible for providing nutritious food for the academic and physical growth of children are the child nutrition workers.

The importance and nutritional value of today's school meals provided by these staff is well documented. In addition to preparing food, their other responsibilities include food safety, nutrition education, catering and managing a financially self-sufficient program.

Use Your AFT Benefits NOW!!!



Credit Card



Hotel Discounts



Car Rental

Join the Federation NOW, With NO Dues until September and Enjoy these Benefits for Free.



Payroll Deduction Authorization

I hereby authorize the Monroe City School Board to deduct in equal installments, from each of my paychecks, current dues for the local chapter of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers. I understand that dues are set by the constitution and by-laws of the Monroe Federation of Teachers/School Employees (Local 4326).

This authorization shall remain in effect until revoked by me through proper written notice to the Monroe School Board Human Resources and the MFT/SE Local 4326. Dues: Teachers \$36.70 School Employees \$17.00

Name _____	School or Worksite _____
Address _____	Position: <u>Teacher</u> or <u>School</u> <u>Employee</u> (Circle One and List Title) _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Signature _____
Home Phone (318) _____ E-Mail _____	Social Security # _____ Date _____

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