

# Federation Voice

MONROE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
& SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

LFT/AFT/AFL-CIO

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

## President's Message...



**“Believe little of what you see and none of what you hear, unless it’s in writing from the Federation.”**

**for this to happen.** Rumors and gossip only slows down the process. **“Believe little of what you see and none of what you hear, unless it’s in writing from the Federation.”**

Two petitions were circulated for signatures to get all employees a pay raise, one for the certified employees and one for the support workers. The Federation **Thanks You** for signing the petitions. If you did not get an opportunity to sign the petitions, please stop by the office, or ask your building representative about the petition. As we move forward with the pay raise campaign, the petitions will be presented to the school board. I would also like to thank the principals and supervisors for their warm welcomes during our school visits. We will keep you updated on the raises.

Thank you for helping to make the start of this school year a positive and productive beginning. With new leadership the board is moving forward with positive changes that will affect the children and the employees of the district.

The Federation is working with the Superintendent and the School Board to try and recover the \$2500 from last year’s MFP money for all certified personnel, and a \$2000 pay raise for all support workers. **However, this does not happen overnight because there is a process that must be followed**

**The Board Voted To Pay All Employees Early on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

*Sandie*

## Why A Raise and Not A Bonus

The Federation has received calls and has heard rumors about the pay raises. Let us clear up what’s being said. First, the certified employees’ raises will come from the MFP growth money that was due to them last year. These funds can only be spent on teacher pay raises. Second, the November sales tax check that all employees get will not be touched. It will remain as is, a bonus check.

The raise for the support employees is new monies that they have never received. We are trying to get additional monies put into their salary schedule. **A \$2000 raise would increase a support worker’s monthly pay check by approximately \$150 to \$165 dollars for the remainder of their career.** This increase will also increase your retirement.

Bonus checks seem good, but in reality you loose a lot of money. First, it’s taxed at a higher rate than your salary, (40%). Secondly, it is for only one year. See the examples below and you do the math.

**Raise in Salary**

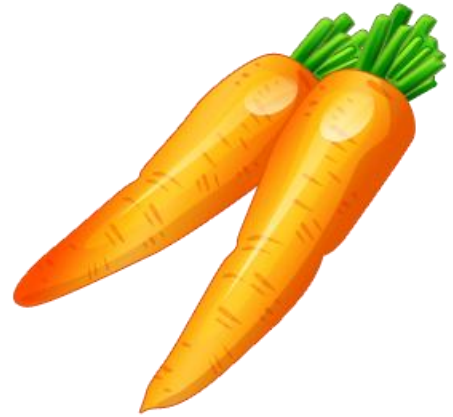
**Bonus**

**\$150 a Month x 12 = \$1800 a year**

**\$2000 taxed at 40%  
You get \$800 only one time**

**Retiring in 10 years = \$18,000**

# The Federal CARROT Is Worth \$4 Billion! But What About The Stick!



The newest federal education program is called "Race to the Top," a \$4 billion fund that could give Louisiana \$25 million to \$50 million a year for three years.

But to get the money, the U.S. Department of Education wants us to:

- ▣ **Base teacher evaluations and salary on standardized tests**
- ▣ **Create many more charter schools**
- ▣ **Impose even more sanctions on struggling schools**

Is that really the best way to improve education in Louisiana?

The Louisiana Federation of Teachers believes we need to measure much more than test scores. The contributions of parents, administrators and school boards — in fact, entire communities — are vital to student success.

Learn more about Race to the Top, and let us know what you think about it. **Log onto the LFT Web site at <http://la.aft.org>** for the latest information, and **take a short survey about "Race to the Top."**

**Don't Forget To Save Your Boarding Passes!**



- Is Offering \$50 Incentive For Opening A  
New Rewards Checking With Direct Deposit  
With Free Checks For Life  
\$5000 Identity Theft Insurance  
Free Saving Accounting For Overdraft Protection
- \$50 will be deposited into your account 6-8 weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> deposit
  - No deposit required at the time of opening
  - Only the Old Sterlington Road Branch



Don't Forget To Save Your Boarding Passes!

**YOU WILL NEED A  
PASSPORT!  
MAKE THE  
TIME TO GET ONE  
IN TIME FOR THE  
DEPARTURE!**



## All Aboard With The Federation!



### 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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