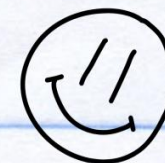
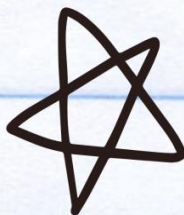


The Detroit Teacher

October 2023



The Detroit Teacher is the official publication of the Detroit Federation of Teachers,
American Federation of Teachers Local 231, AFL-CIO.

Lakia Wilson-Lumpkins, President
Jason Posey, Executive Vice President



“Something
Old is New
Again”

We are pleased to be able to offer members another form of communication--*The Detroit Teacher*. Several years ago we discontinued the printing and distribution of the monthly newspaper due to cost-cutting measures. We are proud to revive it in electronic form. We have been putting articles of interest in our Weekly Updates and also on the website. We will be moving much of that information to *The Detroit Teacher* so that our Weekly Updates won't be as long but we will continue to place articles of interest on the website. We have heard from you that you want consistent communication from the union office.

If there is an event or a special highlight from your work location that would be of interest to your siblings in the union, be sure to send us pictures, a short video and/or a quick write-up. We will do our best to publish what you send. Contact our Data Communications Specialist, Vida Bonacci, at vbonacci@dft231.com.

We will also be posting *The Detroit Teacher* on the DFT website, under the News tab, drop down to Publications and Reports: <https://dft231.mi.aft.org/publications-and-reports> .

Our plan is to publish once a month with member-generated input. We hope you enjoy this newest version of *The Detroit Teacher*.

CALENDAR

November 2023

- 1 Cycle 1 Observations underway
- 2 Executive Board, 4:30 p.m.
- 6 Report Cards
- 7 Election Day, PD for staff
- 9 General Membership Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- 14 DFT Dues Pull
- 14 DPSCD School Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 21 Retirees Chapter, 11:30 a.m.
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Break
- 28 Building Rep Training, 4:30 p.m.
- 28 DFT Dues Pull

December 2023

- Week of 4th: midway through Q2
- 7 Executive Board, 4:30 p.m.
- 12 DFT Dues Pull
- 12 DPSCD School Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 General Membership Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- 25-29 Winter Break
- 26 DFT Dues Pull

January 2024

- 1-5 Winter Break
- 9 DFT Dues Pull
- 11 Executive Board, 4:30 p.m.
- 16 Retirees Chapter, 11:30 a.m.
- 18 General Membership, 4:30 p.m.
- 18 Quarter 2 ends
- 18 Cycle 1 Observations end
- 19 Quarter 3 begins
- 19 Cycle 2 Observations Begin
- 23 DFT Dues Pull
- 25 Report Cards

Dates and times are subject to change.

DFT events are on website: <https://dft231.mi.aft.org/events>. DPSCD information can be found @ detroitk12.org.

September

Drama Teacher at Spain



Four Spain Theatre Students and their Drama Teacher, Kathleen Wright, spent ten days this summer studying and performing on Broadway! 6th graders London Reynolds and Sarya Dixon performed monologues and scenes at Atlantic Theatre Company in the Atlantic Acting Method taught at NYU. Atlantic is a famous theatre training program that has trained actors such as Elizabeth Olsen (Scarlett Witch from Marvel).

7th Grader A'myre McQueen and 8th grader Temple Rock workshopped a brand new Broadway Jr. musical that will be licensed soon for school and community theaters across the world through iTheatrics and MTI, the world's leading authority on youth theatre. Our students were the first students ever from Detroit to attend this program to workshop new shows and were accepted from a cross country audition search of 6th-12th graders.

In addition to keeping a professional actor's schedule, students took on the city. They attended four Broadway shows with backstage tours. Thank you UM, Mosaic and DSA alums Andrew Arrington, Raena White, and Alex Puette!

Students also saw the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, High Line, Eloise and Harry Potter, Times Square and even supported our artist brothers and sisters on the picket line at the SAG/AFTRA protest in Times Square. Our students represented Detroit so well and shined in their performances. We can't wait to see their growth this year at school. Member Kathleen Wright says "don't miss a Spain Theatre show this school year!"

The next page has some photographs from the trip.



October

Theater Director at DSA



Jennifer Leija is so proud of the accomplishments of one of her students, Mark Bonney.

Here is a video of DSA (and DPSCD) Theatre's first Michigan National High School Musical Theatre award winner, Mark Bonney. DSA's Spring musical received an honorable mention for design and Mark won the overall award for best featured actor in the state. He was awarded a week-long intensive at Julliard, the opportunity to perform on a Broadway stage, and a \$1000 scholarship. The Wharton center created this video this summer to highlight Mark's incredible work.

[Wharton Center of Leija and Bonney](#)

Member Leija is also featured on the video, speaking about the importance of the arts.

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Performances

Spain Elementary Middle School

All City Theatre (District Event) on
Thursday, November 2, 2023 @ 6:30
p.m., @ DSA (no charge)

Frozen Kids: Thursday, November 30,
2023 @ 9:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 4:00 p.m.
@ Spain, tickets \$2.00 for kids, \$4.00
adults

Noel Night, Saturday, December 2, 2023
@ 4 p.m. @ DSA (no charge)

Detroit School of Arts Theater

Ghost Library Monday, October 30 ,
2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

All City Theatre (District Event)
Thursday, November 2, 2023 @ 6:30
p.m. (no charge)

Fall Play: *Our Town* November 16-
18, 2023 @ 7 p.m.

Spring Musical: *The Wiz* April 18-20,
2024 @ 7 p.m.

All shows are at DSA, 123 Selden
Street, Detroit.

Tickets available at [DSA.ludus.com](https://www.dsa.ludus.com)



Work Locations Represented at October 2023 General Membership Meeting

Academy of the Americas

Adult Center Ed-West

Bagley

Bennett

Bunche

Burns

Carver

Central HS

Central Office @ Fisher

Charles Wright

Clippert

Cody

CMA

Cooke

DFT Office

DFT Retirees

Detroit Lions Academy

DSA

Detroit Virtual

Drew Transition

Duke Ellington

Durfee

EIDC

Edison

Emerson

Fisher Magnet

FLICS

Gardner

Golightly CTC

Golightly Educational Center

Hutchinson

Jerry L White

JR King

Mann

Marquette

Mason

Munger

Noble

Nolan

Pasteur

Pershing

PT/OT

Priest

Ronald Brown

SSW

Schulze

Southeastern

Spain

SLP

Thirkell

Vernor

Western

DFT Members Lobby to Restore Educators' Voices at the State Capitol This Past Summer.



We thank all of our members who wrote, called and drove to Lansing.

HUGE WINS IN MICHIGAN

Thank you, Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings, for hanging in there and fighting the good fight! We have testified in Lansing this year to restore rights to educators and the collective bargaining process. We gave the clarion call, and many of you joined us, lobbying legislators with visits to Lansing, phone calls, and emails.
When we show up, WE WIN!

Historical 5% increase to the Foundation Allowance

RIGHTS RESTORED TO EDUCATORS THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING:
PLACEMENT, EVALUATION PROCESS, DISCIPLINE, TERMINATION, PRIVATIZATION OF WORK,
AND MERIT PAY
ALSO RESTORED

UNION DUES CAN BE PAYROLL DEDUCTED AGAIN
INCREASES IN BENEFITS THAT OCCUR DURING EXPIRED CONTRACTS ARE NO LONGER
LEFT TO THE MEMBER TO INCUR

MOST IMPORTANTLY
2019 New hires and, after that, ARE AUTOMATICALLY ON THE UNION NEGOTIATED SALARY
SCHEDULE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECTS!

We thank our courageous
legislators that sponsored bills and
spoke on our behalf!

#EDUCATIONMATTERS



A dollar a week can go a long way to win the fight for things such as Restoring Educators' Voices. If every member would commit to this small contribution, it will give us much needed power in Lansing. It takes money to win these battles. Will you help? Go to <https://aftmichigan.org/pac/> and pledge a recurring donation to support our pro-labor, pro-public education causes.



State Fed President, Terrence Martin, and State Fed Political, Jenell Mansfield discuss why it's critical for union members to get involved in the political process.

[AFT Michigan Podcast with Martin & Mansfield](#)

In this first episode of the AFT Michigan Podcast, Terrence Martin sits down with Field Representative Sonya Alvarado for a discussion focused on higher ed.



[AFT Podcast with Martin and Alvarado](#)

NOTE: all AFT Michigan Podcasts are posted on the DFT website: <https://dft231.mi.aft.org/videos>

Fighting for Fair Teacher Evaluations

President Lokia Wilson-Lumpkins, Executive Vice President Jason Posey and DFT Member, Meredith Summer, testified this month in support of SB 395-396. These bills seek to remove the current mandate that 40% of a teacher's evaluation rating includes student growth and assessments. We want decisions about student assessment data made at the bargaining table, not from lawmakers in Lansing. Our goal is to get the Governor to sign these bills into law by the end of this year.

Read more about [SB 395-6 here.](#)





Labor Day Parade 2023 in Detroit



AFT Michigan Labor Day Barbecue Following the Parade With A Visit from the Lt. Governor, Garlin Gilchrist



DFT Members Stand With the Striking Autoworkers On the Picket Lines and in the Classroom



Activist Boot Camp with State Lawmakers

This summer the DFT hosted an Activist Boot Camp and learned more about organizing, the latest on legislation affecting the Educators' Voice and made some "What's Next?" for the union.

Presenters



State Senator,
Darrin Camilleri



State Senator,
Stephanie Chang



State Rep.,
Natalie Price



Organizing Fellow,
Yolanda King



EVP,
Jason Posey



Pres. Lakia Wilson-
Limpkins



Face-to-Face for Building Rep. Training in September

Organizing Fellow, Yolanda King, led the PD for building reps in September. The agenda for this session was grievances. It was a fabulous opportunity for building reps to work together and learn! We encourage all work locations to have representation. Reach out to OF King @ yking@dft231.com

Just a reminder that Building Rep PDs will be held at Horatio Williams Foundation, 1010 Antietam in Detroit.



CONTACT INFO FOR DFT STAFF: <https://dft231.mi.aft.org/contact-us>

- Lakia Wilson, President, 313-875-6788, LWilson@dft231.com
- Jason Posey, Executive Vice President, 313-875-6786, JPosey@dft231.com
- Karin Whittler, Labor Affairs Administrator, 313-875-6776, KWhittler@dft231.com~ East Side locations (east of Woodward), also Cass Tech, DSA, Burton, and Frederick Douglass
- Jason Posey, Labor Affairs Administrator, 313-875-6786, JPosey@dft231.com~ West Side locations (west of Woodward)
- Patrick Falcusan, Retirement Counselor, 313-875-6783, PFalcusan@dft231.com
- Yolanda King, Organizing Fellow, 313-598-3961, YKing@dft231.com
- Mae Winters, Office Assistant, 313-875-3500, MWinters@dft231.com
- Vida Bonacci, Data Communications, 313-875-3500, VBonacci@dft231.com

ADDRESS, EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES: Please make sure your correct **personal** email, home address and telephone number are on file with the DFT Office. If you change it with the district, that information is not sent to the Union Office. You may send corrections to dues@dft231.com. **We are not allowed to send communications to your DPSCD email address.**

RESOLVING AN ISSUE: If there is a contractual issue and you need assistance, reach out first to your building representative. If the issue is beyond the scope of the building rep's duties, then contact the Labor Relations Administrator who is assigned to your work location (see above email addresses).

SEPARATION FROM THE DISTRICT: It is the **member's** responsibility to notify the DFT Office when you separate from the district, whether resignation, retirement or termination. This is how the DFT office knows that your dues collection needs to be stopped with Bill Highway. Please contact Yolanda King at YKing@dft231.com or Mae Winters at MWinters@dft231.com

AGREEMENT FOR 2023-2024

The agreement, which was approved by the DPSCD School Board at its September Regular Board Meeting, is now posted on the DFT website: <https://dft231.mi.aft.org/key-documents>. The current DFT Step Schedule is on pages 12-13 of the document.

TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO BE SURE YOU ARE ON THE CORRECT STEP.

VIEWING PAYROLL COMPENSATION HISTORY

- Login to PeopleSoft with your DPSCD credentials
- Click on the **Compass** icon in the top right corner to open the NavBar
- A drop-down menu will appear
- Click on **Navigator** icon
- Click on *"Self Service"*
- Click on *"Payroll & Compensation"*
- Click on *"Compensation History"*
- View your current salary with its location on the DFT Step Schedule.

