

DeSoto DCAE EDUCATOR

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DCAE OFFICERS 2008-2009

Joyce Helmick (OBHS)..... President
Tim Gardner (SHS) Vice President
Phillis Boileau (HLMS) Secretary
Renee Lawson (OBHS)..... Treasurer

SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This past June, Corey Nichols, David Odom, Emily Ashworth, and Melonie Goolsby represented DeSoto County at the Summer Leadership Conference in Jackson. The theme for this year was Juggling Elephants. During this time, they learned about leadership. Juggling the responsibilities of leadership along with their personal lives is difficult. They brought back fresh and new ideas to DeSoto County that will make DCAE great. In addition, David was elected to the position of Assistant Ringmaster, or the Vice-President of the Emerging Leaders class, and Corey served as his public relations chairperson. David, Corey, and Emily stayed an extra day to serve on the Legislative Committee. This committee is responsible for addressing the needs of teachers and students to the legislature. In short, this committee determines what will be brought before the legislature. The conference was a huge success and they plan on returning next year for the second part of the the Emerging Leaders Class.



Odom, Goolsby, Ashworth, and Nichols take a break to pose for the camera during SLC this summer in Jackson. They made DeSoto County proud.

NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION

They're here! 300 plus new teachers have been hired by DeSoto County Schools to fill vacancies and new positions. DCAE was present and active in welcoming them on July 28, 29, and 30 at new teacher orientation. We disseminated member benefit information, MAE calendars, and membership applications to the new hires. A give-away was held each day.

Jennifer Stubblefield of Center Hill Elementary won a \$50 VISA gift card on Monday, Melissa Lee of Hernando Elementary won a Fry Daddy on Tuesday, and David Webb of Olive Branch High School won a \$50 VISA gift card on Wednesday.



Tim Gardner, Cheri Kamler, Emily Ashworth, David Odom, Sarah Thomas, Corey Nichols, Janie Risley, Phillis Boileau and Joyce Helmick (she took the picture) met this summer to assemble goody bags for the 300 new teachers.

2008 NEA CONVENTION

President Joyce Helmick and Treasurer Renee Lawson represented DeSoto County as delegates to the 2008 National Education Association Representative Assembly in Washington, DC from July 1 to July 6. Helmick and Lawson attended state caucus meetings each morning and assembly meetings daily. First-time delegates, the two active DeSoto County Association of Educators participated in the decision-making process of both the caucuses and the assembly.



During the 2008 assembly, a new budget and 14 new legislative amendments were adopted. Issues such as supporting food safety and adequate labeling for food products, support of post

secondary education for all in-state residents, regardless of immigration status, support of abolishing all student loan predatory lending practices, and support of the ratio of 1 school nurse to every 750 or fewer students. The assembly considered 83 new business items ranging from issues of including private school membership to supporting high priority allocation of disaster assistance from state and federal sources to preserve governmental structures and services when disasters occur.

Lawson and Helmick also witnessed the end of the illustrious leadership of Reg Weaver. After eight years of enthusiastic support of America's public schools, he passed the gavel to President-elect Dennis VanRoekel.

RETIREES HONORED

This year DCAE honored two of its members who have chosen to retire: Janet Littlejohn, 28 years including 3 at Center Hill Middle/High School, Lonnie Coleman, 38 years at Olive Branch High School. Each teacher was presented with a framed memento and a gift card.



Joyce Helmick makes a presentation to L. Coleman at OBHS' end-of-year faculty luncheon.

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*Serving members in Desoto County
for 15 years.*

DCAE members talk with Representative Forrest Hamilton during Lobby Day at the capital. We are always working to provide great public schools in Mississippi



JOYCE'S CORNER



Well, I'm here to tell you, you **can** teach an old dog new tricks! Actually, it was two old dogs. Renee Lawson and I learned many new tricks this summer as we attended the 2008 RA in Washington, DC. You ask, "What did you learn?" Here goes . . .

We learned that Mississippi has the smallest delegation at the convention; however, we have decided to do all we can to change that.

We learned that teachers all over the nation are powerful as one voice.

We learned that the NEA convention is the largest parliamentary decision-making body in the world!

We learned that one voice counts for the concerns of many.

We learned that NEA does what it says it will do and that it stands up for "Great public schools for every child."

We learned that you can walk from the White House to the Lincoln Memorial and back and not die!

We learned we want to be a part of this convention as often as possible!