



JCAFT ACTION

1900 – 20th Avenue South • Birmingham, AL 35209 • 933-1124 • FAX 933-1101 • October 2007
Website: JCAFT.COM E-Mail: JCAFT2143@AOL.COM

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO HELP MEMBERS

At the JCAFT Membership Meeting JCAFT members took a strong position regarding the start of school for the next school year. Members will push legislation that requires school districts to start school after Labor Day when the temperatures are cooler, or install air conditioners in gymnasiums, school buses and kitchens. JCAFT leaders presented data to the Jefferson County Board of Education on September 27 to show how hot buses, gymnasiums and kitchens can be. JCAFT leaders received numerous calls from teachers, bus drivers and child nutrition workers, who work in

unbearable and potentially dangerous environments during days of extreme heat and high humidity. These employees are concerned about the safety of their students.

JCAFT leaders will also request that they be granted permission to conduct a study on school buses next spring. National AFT will provide monitoring devices and instructions that can be used to record temperatures, times and humidity on school buses. This information could help school leaders determine if children's health is at risk on long routes, during hot days. School leaders, pushing for schools to start in early August must address the issues of extreme heat or start school later.



Once again the JCAFT depended on the work of longtime JCAFT retirees to help recruit new members to the JCAFT. Joining the regular JCAFT staff were Linda Herold, Anne Feller, Joyce Nelson, Jimmy Parker, Anne Sheppard and Jo Ann Sheppard. All of these former teachers worked long, hot hard hours out in our schools.

BEATING THE HEAT

The heat was a nightmare at the beginning of school. It was especially hard on bus driver and food service personnel. With the help of Maxine Gray, an eighty-one year old widow who is the mother of Sheila Jones and two retired seamstresses, Phillis Anderson and Pat Johnson, the JCAFT was able to distribute approximately eight hundred cool ties. These ties, when wet, help to lower the temperature of the body.



Mrs. Maxine Gray



Ms. Phillis Anderson & Mrs. Patricia Johnson

Thanks for all your efforts to cool a very hot concern.

CUSTODIAL COMMITTEE IMPRESSES BOARD MEMBERS WITH PRESENTATION

The JCAFT Custodial Chapter presented their concerns to Board members at the Jefferson County Board of Education meeting on September 27, 2007.



l.-r. Dana Hopper, Marianne Coleman, Brenda Ladun, Tracee Binion

JCAFT MEMBERS & RACE FOR THE CURE

In an effort to kickoff our Wellness Program, members

of the JCAFT participated in our first "Race for the Cure". The Susan G. Komen Foundation Race for the Cure promises to save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures. More than 11,000 participants from all over the state participated in either the 5k run/walk or 1mile walk. Cheerleading squads, pink moped riders and a sea of pink supporters shouting encouragement added excitement and a sense of energy to the event.

The weather couldn't have been more beautiful or the crowd more energized as the "AFT Angels" made their way to the finish line. The "AFT Angels" team, made up of Marianne Coleman, Dana Hopper, Tracee Binion, Abby Binion and Jessie McClain, was a small, but a mighty team! "I couldn't think of a better way to kick off our wellness program than participating in this event", said JCAFT Health and Safety Director, Tracee Binion. "Next year we are going to try to have at least 20 walkers on our team and have a booth at the event".

The "AFT Angels" participated to support all public education employees whose lives have been affected by breast cancer. "It just made you feel good to be there and know that you were supporting such a great cause," comments Angel team member and JCAFT Vice President, Marianne Coleman. "I encourage everyone to join us next year for a great morning of energy and inspiration."

The Custodial Chapter's Chairperson, Wyoming Truss (Head Custodian at Erwin High School), along with Dan Hicks (Head Custodian at Clay-Chalkville Middle School) spoke to the school board members on behalf of the custodians. There were approximately 20 Jefferson County School custodians in attendance at that meeting.

The JCAFT Custodial Chapter addressed three issues with Board members. The first was how the Board determines the number of custodians that are hired at each school. The Board members were presented with a list of schools and the square footage for each school. According to the personnel department the total square footage is divided by 3100. The answer is the number of hours per day that is assigned for custodians to that school. Examples were given in which some custodians are being asked to clean over 11,000 square feet per day. This square footage is equivalent to cleaning 6 residential homes per day. The custodians felt that they

are required to clean too much square footage per day and asked that the Board change the way they determine how many custodians are hired.

The custodians also discussed the possibility of appointing a Custodial Director to facilitate training and ordering of supplies. The last issue that the custodians covered was the lack of training for custodians. The Board doesn't provide any training for custodians. The custodians cited examples of new custodians not being able to handle the equipment. They also feel that they could use training on green cleaning supplies, which would be less harmful to use as well as the latest cleaning technologies that could be used. They expressed to the Board that custodians are the only group of Jefferson County School employees that do not receive any training. They feel slighted in this regard.

The JCAFT leaders recommended that the Board take the following actions: modify the way square footage is calculated for hiring custodians; appoint someone to serve as Custodial Supervisor at the Central Office level; and provide custodial training for new custodians as well as ongoing training for existing custodians. Both the Board members and Dr. Hammonds assured the audience that these matters would be taken seriously and that Dr. Hammonds would be in touch with JCAFT leaders to discuss matters further.

We are proud of our custodial chapter and look forward to paving the way for great changes for custodians!!! Thank you to all who attended. Your attendance made an impact on Board members. Thank you for the job you do.

Jefferson County American Federation of Teachers Presents



BEGINNING OF THE YEAR CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

An Opportunity for You to Earn
3 Hours of Professional Development Credit
In A Workshop Open To All Teachers And Paraprofessionals

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

JCAFT Auditorium

1900 20th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35209

Dinner: 4:00 p.m.

Class: 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Topics to be covered:

Rules and procedures

Instructional routines

Giving feedback to students

Hierarchy of consequences

Management styles

Coping with restraints to effective classroom management

FREE Admission – Door Prizes

To register call the JCAFT office at 933-1124 or FAX this form to 933-1101

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JOIN JCAFT NOW!!!