

**Albuquerque Teachers Federation
Committee on Political Education (COPE)**

CONSTITUTION

Revised April 2005

We, the members of the Albuquerque Teachers Federation, know that education is the key to the survival of our federal republic. Conversely, public education is guided by political and governmental decisions. In order to fully participate and lend our voice for education, we constitute COPE, the Committee on Political Education, as a political wing of ATF. Through COPE, ATF members can work to improve education through coordinated political action.

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the Albuquerque Teachers Federation Committee on Political Education, COPE.

Article II – Purposes, Goals and Objectives

1. To support and strengthen the commitment of the citizens and the government to excellence in public education at all levels.
2. To promote and strive for the improvement of the public schools by encouraging and stimulating school employees to take a more active part in governmental affairs pertaining to public education.
3. To encourage school employees to know and understand the nature and actions of their government and the important political issues as they pertain to public education.
4. To assist school employees in organizing themselves for more effective political action and in carrying out their civic responsibilities.
5. To raise funds to carry out the stated aims of COPE.
6. Conduct candidate ratings, screenings, interviews, and endorse political candidates that are favorable to public education and labor issues who have a direct influence on education policy. In addition, COPE will work to support campaigns of endorsed candidates and lobby elected officials.

Article III – Membership

1. Only ATF members may become members of COPE.
2. Membership in COPE is contingent on written notification which authorizes voluntary contribution through payroll deduction. The contribution level is at the discretion of the member.
3. However, this is not to preclude from COPE campaign activities those ATF members who choose to volunteer, but are not enrolled in COPE.
4. A current list of COPE members will be maintained by the COPE leadership within the ATF office.

Article IV – Committee Structure

The mission of this organization shall be managed by the COPE Committee as recognized in the ATF Constitution.

1. A coordinating chairperson shall be appointed by the ATF President, with the approval of the ATF Executive Council. The chairperson shall:

- A. preside at committee meetings,
 - B. recruit a secretary and a treasurer of COPE.
 - C. appoint COPE members as delegates to the Central Labor Council,
 - D. attend the NMFL (New Mexico Federation of Labor) COPE Conventions and recommend delegates to same.
2. The President of the Albuquerque Teachers Federation, per the ATF Constitution, shall be an ex-officio member.
 3. The committee shall consist of:
 - A. A secretary who shall prepare and disseminate agendas and minutes of the committee meetings.
 - B. A treasurer who shall give a periodic financial report, be familiar with the state laws regarding political action committees, organize fund drives, keep account of all COPE funds, and have the authority to co-sign checks with the ATF President or the COPE Chairperson.
 - C. other ATF volunteer members.

Article V - Meetings

Meetings shall be scheduled as needed. At least two meetings a year shall be held.

Article VI – Parliamentary Authority and Procedure

Meetings of ATF-COPE, at the discretion of the Chairperson, shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised.

Article VII – Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by submission of the proposed amendment(s) to the ATF Executive Council at least two weeks before its regularly scheduled meeting. Following review and recommendation by the Executive Council, the proposed amendment(s) shall be submitted to the ATF Fed Rep Council for a vote of ratification.

Article VIII – Ratification

This Constitution shall supercede all existing COPE Constitutions and governing documents following ratification as set forth above in Article VII.

