

Dear Friend,

As the year draws to a close, I want to express my gratitude to you. I am struck by the many challenges we confronted this past year—and the numerous victories we achieved.

Americans endured another year of a tough economy, with mounting cuts to vital services and more families falling out of the middle class and into poverty. But this also was a year when a new movement emerged, mobilized by outrage over economic inequity, that was determined to put the powerful and privileged in an unfamiliar position—on the defensive.

Elected officials in many states pushed extremist agendas to break unions, privatize public education and curb voting rights. In each case, our members and our friends took a stand against these overreaching affronts to basic American values.



Watch the Holiday Video at:
www.youtube.com/afthq

It was a year with no letup, when our union had to defend against bad ideas and policies. But we also promoted our own ideas; worked with community partners; and advanced an agenda that fosters educational opportunity, economic dignity, and voice and democracy. Through it all, AFT members worked hard every day to make a difference, on the job and in their communities.

One way the AFT is making a difference is through its work in McDowell County, W.Va., one of the most disadvantaged areas in the United States. Just a few days ago, the AFT and nearly 40 partners announced Reconnecting McDowell—an initiative to bring new opportunities to children and families in this struggling community. Education is the centerpiece of this partnership, which also will seek to revitalize the county through projects to improve its economy, transportation, technology, recreation, social services and housing. Here is a state and county that trusts and believes in unions and its unionized workers—not just listening to their voices, but allowing their voices to shape the future for its people. **Join us by visiting www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org.**

I am so proud of our collective accomplishments. I am determined to keep up the fight and am deeply grateful for all you do. I wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season.

In unity,
Randi