



# THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 3, ISSUE IV

FEBRUARY 2013

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## A New Day for Arlington

### ATA President Bob Maier's 2013 State of the Union Address

This year has been one of great advances for the ATA. Last June, after working almost two years without a contract, we were successful in settling an agreement that would provide us with a salary increase for the years past, and for several years going forward. The school year drew to a close on a very positive note.

With summer came a retroactive paycheck that would help to bring closure to the recent dark period. Our previous administration had pointed the finger at the ATA as the financial burden that caused the closure of a school. Because of that, and a

generally negative attitude toward teachers across the nation, the past few years were not an easy time for our members. Thankfully, a new administration and a focus on

*I am optimistic about the direction we are taking. We can join together as faculty, staff, and administration to focus on the future that we want for ourselves and our students.*

working together helped to bring us back onto the track of success. Instead of publicly laying blame, the new administration has committed to working with us to propel the district into the future. Once again I have to thank

the membership for the patience and professionalism that has gotten us to where we are today.

On February 1, a 1.95% increase in salary was added to our paychecks on top of the previous increases included as part of our contract agreement. The details of finalizing the entire agreement have taken some time, but we are very close to having our new contracts printed and put in to members' mailboxes and on the ATA's web page. In the meantime don't hesitate to call the ATA office if you need help in interpreting the new salary schedule or have any other questions

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## NYSUT and the ATA Educate Legislators

On January 26, Betsy Marshall (West Road) and I joined roughly 75 other NYSUT members from the Mid-Hudson Valley in lobbying local politicians at the annual Legislative Luncheon in Kingston. While I have attended this event the previous six or seven years, this time was different and more rewarding than in the past. Typically, the same old faces



Photo by Robert McHugh

Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation president Paul Ellis-Graham (left) and ATA CAC co-chair Betsy Marshall (right) talked with legislators such as Assemblyman James Skoufis (center) while enjoying a buffet lunch at Hillside Manor in Kingston on January 26.

would show up – Senator Saland, Assemblyman Miller, all the usual suspects – but this year there were several new attendees. Terry Gipson, elected in November with NYSUT support to replace Saland, sat at my table along with several teachers from Wappingers, Hyde Park, and Spackenkill. Betsy had a chance to talk with James Skoufis, the newly elected

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## Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

### How many towns are in the Arlington Central School District?

Last month's winners, selected at random from among the correct responses received, were **Krysta Weiss** from AHS, **Karen Chirinos** from Beekman, and **Jeanne Buckley** from OPS. They correctly identified **Addison Central** as the school district in NY that is first alphabetically. They will be the proud owners of ATA fleeces. Answer this month's question and you could win ATA gear too!

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to [rmchugh@acsdny.org](mailto:rmchugh@acsdny.org) by February 8th. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

# ATA Looks Toward the Future in 2013

*Continued from Front* about the current contract.

The other significant event for the ATA in the past year has been our development of a new APPR plan. Although the requirements put forth by the state were not ideal, we believe that we have a plan that manages to preserve the professionalism and dignity of our members while fulfilling the legal mandate. I believe that in comparison to many other

plans around the region, as well as the state, the ATA agreement with the District is one of the fairest approaches to the new APPR requirements. This summer the plan will be reassessed and possibly revised to amend any shortfalls

that are determined through the evaluation cycle this year.

At this crossroads in the school year we have to take stock in where we have been and where we are headed. I recently participated in the

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District's strategic planning retreat and helped to develop the new district mission. I am optimistic about the direction we are taking. We can join together as faculty, staff, and administration to focus on the future that we want for our-

selves and our students.

As we work through the second half of the 2012-13 school year, I would like to thank you for your continued support. For those of us who have been teaching for a while, we notice significant changes to our profession that are requiring us to work harder than ever before. There are still some challenging times ahead as we adjust to these requirements, but the ATA leadership is energized knowing that we have the support of our membership. On behalf of the leadership team, we wish you well in the second half of this year.

--Bob Maier, ATA President

## Legislators Hear Educator's Concerns

*Continued from Front* 25-year old assemblyman from Orange County. In addition, NYSUT-backed legislators Chris Gibson (U. S. Congress), Kevin Cahill (Assembly) and Cecelia Tkaczyk, who won her November senate race by a razor thin 19 votes, took part in the event.

We pressed the legislators for more education funding; encouraged them to revise the tax cap law to eliminate the 60% supermajority required for override; and related personal stories of how the new evaluation law has impacted us in the class-

room. Senator Gipson, who has only been in office a few weeks, listened attentively



Newly elected state senator Terry Gipson (right) listened to the concerns of a Hyde Park teacher while enjoying his food at NYSUT's annual Legislative Luncheon in Kingston on January 26.

and expressed sympathy as we detailed all the instructional time that has been lost

in order to administer the bevy of pre- and post-tests necessary to comply with the law. Teachers from Hyde Park and Spackenkill described how the libraries and computer rooms at their schools had been closed to the students for weeks to accommodate testing.

Over the coming months – starting with meetings at their local district offices next week – we will continue to press our local elected officials and make our voices heard as they debate the governor's budget. If anyone would like to participate in these upcoming lobbying days, please email me at [rmchugh@acsdny.org](mailto:rmchugh@acsdny.org).

# PR Committee Welcomes the New Year 2012-2013 APPR Plan is Finalized

A new year has begun and the ATA Public Relations Committee remains hard at work. As we close out 2012, we look forward to continuing our union's commitment to support causes near to our hearts and assisting those in our community and beyond.

Our year closed with an extraordinary donation from our members to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Our membership generously donated money and made a commitment to "Stick Together Against Cancer." In total, we raised \$2,688.50 for this very important cause, and we sincerely thank all who participated. It was a great way to end the year!

As we look forward now to the year ahead, we begin by honoring the memory of someone very special to the ATA.

Jackie Higgins was a friend to us all and always had a smile to share, a hug to give, or an ear to listen. For those of you that didn't have the pleasure of knowing Jackie, simply mention her



Photo by Sam Falk

Many supplies were collected for the Dutchess County SPCA during the month of January. Donated items included blankets and dog and cat food, such as these donated by ATA members at AHS.

name to a veteran colleague and you will know in an instant how loved she was by all. Thank you for helping us to make the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jackie Higgins SPCA Drive a success. Your donations were much appreciated by the

Dutchess County SPCA.

On behalf of the ATA PR Committee, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful year ahead and thank you for your continued support of all we do to make our community a better place.

--Kristi Bogaczyk, PR Chair

Thanks to the hard work of many ATA members and district administrators Arlington was able to submit an Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) plan to the state and have it approved before the January 17 deadline set forth by Governor Cuomo. Missing the deadline would have meant that the district would have lost out on a promised increase in state aid for the 2013-2014 school year.

The process of developing an APPR plan that would meet the new state guidelines first began in the summer of 2011. Although there were no definite penalties for failing to enact a plan in the 2011-2012 school year the ATA leadership felt that it was in the best interest of its members to get a head start on the process.

There were many bumps along the way. Although the entire process of rating a teacher based on student test scores goes against the tenets of our profession we made the best of the requirements put forth by the state. When it became absolutely necessary to enact an APPR plan for the 2012-2013 school year we had learned a great deal from the experience of the previous year and had a good framework in place.

The APPR plan that was approved by the state is in effect for only the current school year. This summer we will have an opportunity to reflect upon the process and alter the plan if it is necessary to alleviate any issues that become apparent during the school year.

The ATA leadership welcomes all members' questions and concerns regarding the APPR process. They can be contacted at the ATA Office by calling 845-454-7002 or emailing ata4547002@aol.com.

*Arlington's complete APPR plan can be found at <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/home.html>*

## Spotlight on the Contract: Textbooks

Each issue of The Educator spotlights a particular part of our contract in an effort to make our members more familiar with their rights and the terms and conditions of their employment. Until the new contract that was approved in June 2012 is published we will be featuring segments from the previous contract that will remain unchanged. If you have a section you would like to see featured, email [sfalk@acsdny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.org).

"The purchase of additional textbooks and other instructional materials, changes in such materials, or selection of new materials shall continue to be determined according to the procedure presently in effect, to the end that teachers involved shall participate in the selection of all textbooks."

**Explanation:** According to this provision of the ATA contract (Article XIII, page 18), no teacher should be required to use a new textbook or "other instructional materials" that have been purchased without the input of teachers. Although this clearly says that administration may not select such materials themselves, it does not specify the amount of involvement the teacher must have in the purchasing process.

# Summer Opportunities Abound

In February summer may seem far off, but it is not too soon to be thinking about applying for teachers after school ends. Information about numerous educational programs can be found in this list of just some of the great programs that are available at very little or no cost at all to educators.

<b>Program Sponsor</b>	<b>Recommended Grade Level</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
McDonald Observatory	8-12	Science—Astronomy	July 17-
Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History	K-12	Social Studies—American History	Variou
CERN	9-12	Science—Physics	June 30-J
Exploratorium Teacher Institute	6-12	Science	June 24-J
National Endowment for the Humanities	K-12	Humanities—Social Studies, ELA, Architecture	Variou
American Meteorological Society	K-12	Science—Weather	July 14-
George Washington Summer Residential Teachers' Institute	3-12	Social Studies—American History	July 14-
ASM International	6-12	Science—Materials Science and Engineering	July 8-
Ringling College of Art and Design	K-12	Art	July 7-
RIT Summer Mathematics Institute	9-12	Mathematics	June 24-
New York Math Circle	6-8	Mathematics	July 29-Au
Teaching American History	K-12	Social Studies—American History	Variou

g for one of the many professional development opportunities available  
 nd on the internet, but many can be very expensive. The following is a  
 cators. Many even include room, board, and travel expenses!



<b>s</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Website</b>
-19	Fort Davis, Texas	Feb. 8	<a href="http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/profdev#hubble">mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/profdev#hubble</a>
us	Various	Feb. 15	<a href="http://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-exhibitions/teacher-seminars">www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-exhibitions/teacher-seminars</a>
July 20	Switzerland	Feb. 28	<a href="http://teachers.web.cern.ch/teachers/HST2013atcern.html">teachers.web.cern.ch/teachers/HST2013atcern.html</a>
July 12	San Diego, CA	March 1	<a href="http://www.exploratorium.edu/teacher-institute">www.exploratorium.edu/teacher-institute</a>
us	Various	March 4	<a href="http://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs">www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs</a>
-26	Kansas City, Missouri	March 31	<a href="http://www.ametsoc.org/amsedu/proj_atm.html">www.ametsoc.org/amsedu/proj_atm.html</a>
-20	Mt. Vernon, Virginia	April 5	<a href="http://www.mountvernon.org/content/teachers-institute">www.mountvernon.org/content/teachers-institute</a>
12	Troy, NY	None given	<a href="http://www.asminternational.org/portal/site/www/foundation/educators/teacher-material-camp/">www.asminternational.org/portal/site/www/foundation/educators/teacher-material-camp/</a>
13	Sarasota, Florida	None given	<a href="http://www.ringling.edu/index.php?id=2507">www.ringling.edu/index.php?id=2507</a>
-27	Rochester, New York	Not yet available	<a href="http://www.rit.edu/cos/sms/smi/schedu.html">www.rit.edu/cos/sms/smi/schedu.html</a>
August 2	Annandale-on-Hudson, New York	Not yet available	<a href="http://www.nymathcircle.org/workshop">www.nymathcircle.org/workshop</a>
us	Ashland, Ohio	Not yet available	<a href="http://teachingamericanhistory.org/institutes/">teachingamericanhistory.org/institutes/</a>

## 2012—2013 ATA Officers

### President

Bob Maier

### First Vice-President

Greg Nieman

### Second Vice-President

Steve Hertzog

### Treasurer

Kathleen Blank Cicala

### Chief Negotiator

Donna Doerrier

### PR Committee Chair

Kristi Bogaczyk

### Community Action Chairs

Betsy Marshall

Robert McHugh

### Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

### Media Specialist

Sam Falk

### Éminence Grise Emeritus

Robert McHugh

### Senior Building Representative

ASM — Johanna Pungello

BES — Anne Schillinger

NES — Elise Pattison

VFES — Pam Goetz

OPS — Anne Marie Beesmer

Traver — Siouxzanne Harris

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Sue Ramsden

AMS — Carmine Anastasio

LMS — Steve Bronzi

UVMS — Donna Curran

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen Mills Martin

# What's Going On?

"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing [sfalk@acsdkny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdkny.org). We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help!

Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.

### Beekman Elementary

On December 21, Beekman Elementary School was awarded a plaque by the American Cancer Society in recognition of our fundraising work. I accepted the plaque on behalf of the school. I began organizing a fundraiser called "Kickball-for-Life" when I came to Beekman in 2006. Since then it has grown to be an awareness and community building event that the school holds each spring. Although I brought the idea to Beekman, several other teachers and staff help make the event possible. Jen McMorris, who now works at Noxon Road, co-chairs the event with me. Special Education teacher Sue Kilcrease has also been a tremendous part of the event since its beginning. Every member of the faculty and staff participates in the preparations and execution of the tournament of kickball games where students, siblings, and parents play together. The event culminates with the faculty of Beekman playing kickball against the New York State Troopers. The Beekman faculty has won this final game for the past two years. Over the past six years we have grown to have 24 different teams on ten different fields playing at the same time. The event also includes food vendors and raffles. This year the event will be our seventh annual and



### LaGrange Middle

On Jan. 12, art teacher Kathryn Paulsen taught a 3 hour in-service class entitled Origami Mathmagic at SUNY New Paltz. Participants learned about several lessons that combine Common Core mathematics themes with origami techniques. The lessons emphasized "math literacy" and are adaptable for students at both elementary and secondary levels. According to Paulsen, "Math vocabulary and concepts can be introduced and reinforced by linking them to the manipulation of paper with origami. Finished models can be used for problem-solving. In addition, students will experience sequential learning and the creative joy of transforming a two dimensional piece of paper into a three dimensional work of art." Twenty teachers from many school districts throughout the Hudson Valley participated. The class was one of the four-part course "Art+Math=SmARTwork" sponsored by the New York State Art Teachers Association, SUNY New Paltz, and the Mid-Hudson Teachers Center.

will take place in May. Last year we raised \$4,472.40. Over the past six years we have raised a total of \$24,616.50.

--Rebecca Patton, Special Education teacher

Two ATA members have volunteered to teach a skill to their colleagues over the next few months. Physical activity and stress reduction is the emphasis, along with putting oneself outside the box and having fun. School psychologist Gina Noto is teaching tap dancing and fifth grade teacher Bill Muller is teaching kick boxing. Both are doing this free of charge for BES staff.

### Union Vale Middle

Many Arlington schools recently observed No Name Calling Week. At UVMS Social Worker Paula Dante designed a program to raise awareness about the need to recognize and stop name calling, bullying and harassment and replace it with respect and dignity for all. Teachers did special lessons and activities and decorated their doors with art related to the theme. There was also an assembly featuring storyteller Queen Nor and films were shown in the library during lunch periods. In addition, students participated in the Creative Expressions exhibit about name calling sponsored by the Safe Schools Round Table of the Hudson Valley.

# ARLINGTON *Team Hope*

The 6th Annual Gift of HOPE dress down day will be taking place on March 21st. HOPE stands for Helping Others Pursue Education. For the past seven years college scholarships have been awarded to over 75 students in the Arlington School District who have suffered the loss of a parent or guardian at some point in their academic endeavors. We currently have 23 graduating seniors who are eligible to receive a scholarship.

Along with our new shirt design we have also decided to continue our tradition of a March Madness basketball tournament. This is an evening filled with fun and excitement that will involve the entire district. This year we will have hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausage and peppers served with a side and a drink available from 4:30pm throughout the entire evening.

We have a round-robin-style basketball tournament, two preliminary games, a consolation game, and the finals. Each game will consist of two ten minute running halves. Doors will open at 4:30pm on March 21st at Arlington High School. Introductions will begin at 6:00pm, with tip-off at 6:30pm. Admission will be \$5.00, or \$3.00 for anyone wearing HOPE apparel!

Order forms will be collected no later than February 22nd. Forms are available at all schools. Please send orders to Marc Provost at AHS through interoffice mail. Cash or checks accepted.

Checks can be made payable to: **Gift of HOPE**

Sent to: **Arlington High School (Attention Marc Provost)**

**1157 Route 55, LaGrangeville, NY 12540**

All of the proceeds will benefit the students of Arlington High School. Please show your support by ordering a shirt and wearing it on the day of March Madness. All of your continued support and cooperation with this great cause is appreciated. Thank you for your time.

<b>T-SHIRT</b> <b>\$15.00</b>	<b>SIZE:</b>	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	XX-LARGE
	<b>Quantity:</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>HOODIE S.S.</b> <b>\$30.00</b>	<b>SIZE:</b>	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	XX-LARGE
	<b>Quantity:</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>LONGSLEEVE</b> <b>\$20.00</b>	<b>SIZE:</b>	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	XX-LARGE
	<b>Quantity:</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

Check or cash for my shirt order is enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to additionally donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to "The Gift of HOPE" (optional)

# Dates to Remember



## FEBRUARY

- 1st—Deadline for June 2013 Retirement Decisions
- 12th—Board of Education Meeting: Budget Workshop #2, 7 p.m., ASM
- 18th—Presidents' Day - No School
- 19th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432
- 26th—Board of Education Meeting: Budget Workshop #3, 7 p.m., Noxon

## MARCH

- 5th—Budget Forum, 7 p.m., CAO
- 12th—Board of Education Meeting: Budget Workshop #4, 7 p.m., LMS
- 19th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432  
Budget Forum, 7 p.m., CAO
- 21st—Gift of HOPE Basketball Tournament, 4:30 p.m., AHS
- 22nd—Professional Development Half Day
- 25-29th—Spring Recess - No School



# Announcements

**Stay informed! Like us on Facebook or check out [www.arlingtonteachers.com](http://www.arlingtonteachers.com) for forms, photos, calendars, and more.**

It's tax time! Your union dues are eligible to be deducted as long as you itemize on Form 1040, Schedule A. All ATA members who are employed full time pay the same ATA dues, but because the dues structure is based on the school year and not the fiscal year and there are different payment options, the amount that can be deducted varies. See the chart below to determine the amount that you can deduct for calendar year 2012.

### Members Employed for All of 2012

Payment Option	Dues Deduction
6 Payments	\$817.70
10 Payments	\$792.90
15 Payments	\$780.48

### Members Who Started in September 2012

Payment	Dues
6 Payments	\$817.70
10 Payments	\$490.62
15 Payments	\$327.06

*Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 to 6 p.m. on February 8 and 11 and March 8 and 11.*

*Please contact Colleen Napora at [cnapora@acsdny.org](mailto:cnapora@acsdny.org) to sign up. Donations of condiments such as salt, pepper, mayonnaise, and ketchup are also appreciated.*