



# THE EDUCATOR

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## You Have to Care About Politics

You wouldn't skip a vote on an ATA contract, would you? Of course not. That vote directly affects your livelihood. Well, so will your vote in the November 4 general election.

Maybe people in other professions can get by ignoring politics, but you can't. Think about it: when was the last time legislation passed by our elected officials told a dentist or an engineer how to do his or her job? Now consider all of the recent legislation that has impacted what you do in the classroom every day. Common Core, APPR, the Dignity Act, the tax cap - those were all enacted by New York politi-

cians that you have the opportunity to vote for or against. As a public school teacher you can't afford to be a bystander in the political process.

*Think about it: when was the last time legislation passed by our elected officials told a dentist or an engineer how to do his or her job? Now consider all of the recent legislation that has impacted what you do in the classroom every day.*

It is easy to take sides regarding the gridlock in Washington, but when it comes to local politics you must consider yourself an educator foremost, not a Republican or a Democrat. No one candidate is going to hold the same beliefs as you on every single issue, so you must vote based on

those areas that will have the most direct impact on the lives of you and your family. Education policy and funding is surely at the top of that list for educators.

In the following pages you will find endorsements from NYSUT and information about local races that may help in your Election Day decisions. Do your own research though. Look past the party labels and vote for candidates that you think will be best for your profession and your community. On November 4 make sure you exercise your right to help choose those who will represent your views in Albany.

-Sam Falk, editor



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# Trivia Challenge

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

**Prior to Terry Gipson, who was the last Democratic senator to be elected in the 41st district?**

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **Christie Sablinski** from LMS. She correctly identified **George Clinton** as NY's first governor. 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 November 14th. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

# SPOTLIGHT ON ARLINGTON

Arlington: a singular name that unites us all. But have you ever stopped to notice that our district's moniker is a bit...different than most of the other school districts in our area? Unlike many schools in Dutchess County, the name "Arlington" does not take its name from a particular area of residency. This name has undergone quite an evolution over time.

Originally, the area that we have come to know as Arlington was called Leetown, presumably named after Darius Lee, born in Fishkill. Lee moved to Poughkeepsie and embarked upon a number of successful business enterprises, including a general store, a carriage factory, and a hotel (The Bulls HEAD Inn).

Local residents in the 1700s would also refer to the area as Bulls HEAD, and it is uncertain as to why the second word was entirely capitalized. The two major industries of the time were livestock and brickmaking, and the growing area was very up-and-coming. So much so that, when a trolley line was proposed to run from downtown Poughkeepsie to the area where Vassar College is now located, it was decided that the name Bulls HEAD lacked a certain dignity, and so a third, and perhaps the most controversial, name to our Arlington area was proposed.

According to the records of the Dutch Reformed Church of New Hackensack, the designation "East of what?" was officially recognized by many of officials in the city of Poughkeepsie, received by the but was not well Leetown, or Bulls actual residents of HEAD.



The undeclared Cold War between the city of Poughkeepsie and the town may have had its origins in this question of names, as the Bulls HEAD inhabitants were prompted to challenge the unwelcome name with, "East of what?"

In the late 1800's the area in which our district began finally became recognized as "Arlington." Although it is uncertain, there are at least two theories as to why this particular name was chosen. In the post-Civil War period the name Arlington was a popular choice of many small towns across the nation. It may very well have been the National Cemetery in Virginia that inspired many new "Arlingtons" to appear across the reunited country.

Yet another opinion is that the name Arlington traces its origins back to colonial times, to Colonel William Cosby, who served as a colonial Governor of New York and whose lineage can be traced back to Isabella Bennet, 2nd Countess of (c'mon, take a guess now) Arlington!

So there you have it. A fairly detailed, and yet completely inconclusive, explanation for the name "Arlington." It matters not from whence our name came; what is singularly most important is that you, dear reader, have become a part of the history of the Arlington School District. May this legacy serve to inspire you to further its proud and rich heritage!

-Joseph Healy, Jr., UVMS

# Where Does My Dues Money Go?

You may have noticed that the first paycheck in October began the year's deduction of your union dues. The dues that will be deducted from all full-time members for this school year will be \$855.26. Whenever money is travelling away from you it is natural to wonder "Where is that money going?" and "What is it going to be used for?" and of course "What do I get?" I hope to be able to shed some light on these questions and help you see the good work that these dollars are doing on our behalf.

The total amount of dues deducted can be divided into three parts. NYSUT will keep \$358, the AFT gets \$218.76, and \$278.50 will stay here with the ATA. Our ATA portion has been specifically budgeted by our treasurer, Kathie Blank-Cicala (LMS). The ATA budget is presented to the executive council in the spring for analysis, discussion, and vote of adoption. The main items that our organization uses this money for are the mortgage and maintenance of our building and property, paying stipends to officers and committee

chairs, and the salary of our part time administrative assistant. All of these expenses are subject to an internal audit performed annually by a committee of ATA members, as well as an external audit provided by an outside firm. As far as the NYSUT and AFT portions, we can easily find their financial statements

language continues to be in effect until a new settlement is voted in by you, thanks to the Triborough Amendment and union lobbying efforts.

Besides contractual protection, union membership also provides greater access to affordable healthcare. We have better access to health and dental coverage than most members of the private sector due to our union membership and the participation of ATA president Bob Maier on the board of directors of the Dutchess Educational Health Insurance Consortium (DEHIC). Being a member of such a large labor organization provides group discounts for life, auto,

renters, and homeowners insurance, as well as consumer discounts on products and services including wireless phone service, car rentals, hotels, and more. Check out the member benefits sections at NYSUT.org and AFT.org to find some great deals.

NYSUT also provides legal representation at no cost to you. NYSUT has a staff of attorneys who  
*See Union Dues on Page 7*

### Some of the Benefits Afforded by Union Membership:

- A negotiated contract with a salary schedule
- Job protections
- Access to affordable health care
- Welfare Trust reimbursements
- Group discounts on insurance
- Consumer discounts on products and services
- Free legal representation

on their websites and see how money is spent as a reflection of the priorities of these organizations. But then, the question of "What do I get?" remains unanswered.

Belonging to a union provides a great deal of benefits. We all benefit by having our contract. You have peace of mind knowing your salary, benefits, and working conditions are established and defended. Even while our contract is expired, the

## ATA Member of the Month: Mindy Grey

"I really have to credit the colleagues that mentored me at Traver when I began my career. Being involved in the ATA was important and talked up and it was expected that you helped out. I actually love the highway clean up. It's easy. There is no time commitment. And I feel a great sense of accomplishment when I leave an area better than when I found it. I also try to help out at the Lunch Box at least once a year - one of our librarians rallies us together and we go as a group. We talk to our students so much about being part of a greater community. I believe you have to walk it if you're going to talk it!! I'm even getting my son Caleb involved this year!"

-OPS Librarian Mindy Grey, on why she volunteers with the ATA



# Election 2014 Information

Each year NYSUT endorses candidates for the November elections. The endorsements, which are non-partisan, are based on the candidates' voting records on educational issues. The issues considered include charter school reform, education funding, and the property tax cap. Below are the local endorsements.

**Please remember to vote on November 4th!**

## NYS Attorney General

Eric Schneiderman (D)

## NYS Comptroller

Tom DiNapoli (D)

## U.S. House of Representatives

District 18

Sean Patrick Maloney (D/W)

District 19

Chris Gibson (R/C/I)\*

*\*Note - in this district no endorsement was made by the NYS AFL-CIO, and other local labor organizations, including the HVALF, have endorsed Sean Eldridge (D/W).*

## NY State Assembly

District 103

Kevin Cahill (D/W)

District 104

Frank Skartados (D/W)

District 105

No Endorsement\*

District 106

Didi Barrett (D/I/W)

*\*Note - In this district the NYS AFL-CIO also declines to make an endorsement, but the HVALF endorses Joseph Torres (D/W).*

## NY State Senate

District 39

William Larkin (R/C/I)

District 40

Justin Wagner (D/W)

District 41

Terry Gipson (D/W/G)

District 42

John Bonacic (R/C/I)

District 46

Cecelia Tkaczyk (D/W/G)

District 106



Assemblywoman Didi Barrett met with ATA CAC Co-Chair Robert McHugh (left), 1st Vice President Greg Nieman (right), and her Community Liaison, Arlington graduate Tyrone Stevens at NYSUT's Legislative Luncheon earlier this year. Barrett is an advocate for public education.

District 41

State Senator **Terry Gipson** is the best ally educators have in Albany right now and he needs our help. His opponent Sue Serino is running a very nasty campaign that does not have the best interests of the Hudson Valley at heart. Her literature spreading lies about Gipson is an attempt to mask her own ineptness. Example: when asked at a recent WAMC interview to name an unfunded mandate that she would cut Serino replied, "school aid" and stood by that when asked if she wanted to change her answer. Gipson does his research. When he wanted to know about education issues he came to us and had several meetings at the ATA office. That is exactly what we need in Albany - an intelligent, thoughtful politician who consults with actual educators before making decisions about our profession.



ATA President Bob [Name] with Senator Terry [Name] Office last June for announcement the anti-Pearson leg

# Please Support the Candidates Who Support Us!

Both NYSUT and the NYS AFL-CIO have declined to make an endorsement in the governor's race this year. Please make sure to weigh the candidate's positions on education issues before casting your informed vote. The following chart has been provided by New York State Allies for Public Education (NYSAPE), a coalition of more than 50 parent and educator advocacy groups from across the state. They personally communicated with each of the candidate's campaign teams in order to obtain the information presented.

**Governor's Race**



Maier (left) stood with Gipson at the ATA meeting following Gipson's announcement that he was sponsoring legislation.

Issues	Candidate		
	Andrew Cuomo (D-Incumbent)	Rob Astorino (Republican)	Howie Hawkins (Green)
Party Endorsements	Democratic, Working Families Party, Independent	Republican, Conservative	Green
Running Mate Lt. Governor	Kathy Hochul	Christopher Moss	Brian Jones
Common Core Standards	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	OPPOSES
Significantly Reduce NYS Standardized Testing Time	SUPPORTS, but his recent law doesn't accomplish this.	SUPPORTS	SUPPORTS
APPR tied to Standardized Tests	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	OPPOSES
Fully Fund Foundation Aid (CFE)	OPPOSES	NONCOMMITTAL	SUPPORTS
End the Gap Elimination Adjustment	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	SUPPORTS
Teacher Tenure	NONCOMMITTAL	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS
Commissioner of Education, John King	NONCOMMITTAL	OPPOSES	OPPOSES
Privately funded Regents Research Fellows	NONCOMMITTAL	NONCOMMITTAL	OPPOSES
Charter Schools	SUPPORTS	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES
Charter school expansion	SUPPORTS	NONCOMMITTAL	OPPOSES
The Dream Act	SUPPORTS, but hasn't gotten it passed in 4 years.	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS
Public Campaign Financing	SUPPORTS, but hasn't gotten it passed in 4 years.	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS

For more information about the election check out these useful websites:

- <https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>
- [http://balletopedia.org/New\\_York](http://balletopedia.org/New_York)

## 2014 — 2015 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**

Kristine Jackson

**Community Action Chairs**

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BES — William Mueller

NES — Nicolle McMorris

VFES — Pam Goetz

OPS — Anne Marie Beesmer

Traver — Siouxzanne Harris

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Sue Ramsden

LMS — Carmine Anastasio

LMS — Steve Bronzi

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

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@acsdny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.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.

**Arlington High**

On October 9 music teacher Jon Handman's organization Stringendo was awarded the Dutchess County Executive's Arts Award for Arts in Education. Stringendo, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community music school offering students youth orchestras, traditional fiddling classes and a summer music camp. Over 200 students between second and twelfth grades currently participate.

**Beekman Elementary**

Speech teacher Chris-



Photo courtesy of Lily Cheung

**English as a Second Language**

ESL teachers Allison Lauchaire from TIS (left), Lily Cheung from OPS (center), and Alice Estevez from ASM recently completed the Long Island/Westchester Bilingual Education/ESL Teacher Leadership Academy held at Fordham University. Lauchaire and Cheung are continuing the program with administrative internships this fall.

tina Gibson and her husband continued their involvement with two communities in Haiti by leading a Mission Trip with 20 participants during the month of July.

Music teacher Mary Dallari performed in a concert version of The Secret Garden on Oct 11 with Broadway performers Craig Schulman and Marnie Raab. This benefit concert was produced by Just Off Broadway Inc. to support the Orange County Arboretum.

**Overlook Primary**

Fuzzy Lollipops, first grade teacher Damian

Kortan's band, recently entertained approximately 30 children from the ages of 2-17 at the Poughkeepsie Children's Home. The performance was in the gymnasium on the Children's Home campus which was all decked out for a Halloween dance. The children and staff had a great time and there was lots of dancing, drumming, and fun. During one song the children participated by dressing up one of their counselors in silly attire. The band and the audience enjoyed the wonderful level of enthusiasm!

# Red, White, and Blue Jeans to Support Honor Flights



Photo courtesy of Chris Shave

Chris Shave (TIS) accompanied his grandfather, a WWII veteran, on an honor flight to Washington D.C.

Our American military service personnel often return home to little fanfare, but one special organization called the Honor Flight Network is trying to recognize these heroes and they need our help.

Our district is sponsoring a dress down day to benefit Honor Flight on Tuesday, November 25. Founded in 2005, the Honor Flight Network provides WWII and Korean veterans an all expense paid tour of the War Memorials in Washington DC. Since its inception, the Honor Flight program

has provided over 98,000 vets with an unforgettable experience free of cost.

Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at *their* memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans; World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

The ATA is proud to support this organization, which at least two of its members have been personally affected by: Chris Shave (TIS) went with his grandfather, a WWII vet, and Eric Cline (LMS) was able to accompany his father, a Korean War vet, to Washington, DC. Both ATA members were privileged to travel with their veterans to Washington DC as part of the National Honor Flight Network- Leatherstocking Chapter.

"Many touching moments marked our trip, but seeing my grandfather thanked for his service by random visitors at the WWII monument brought tears to my eyes," said Shave, who describes

himself as a grandson of freedom. "Poppy has always been a proud veteran, but nothing could have matched the outpouring of patriotism that day!"

Cline also shared similar experiences on his trip. "The Patriot Riders Motorcyclist Club, many of which were Vietnam vets, led the procession to Albany. I was amazed by the outpouring of support at each of the stops on route to Washington DC. The public and members of the vet's families came out in droves to thank the vets for their service to our country. The vets were overwhelmed with their reception," he said. "When we arrived at the World War II Memorial, we were greeted by the 91 year-old former senator Bob Dole, himself a WWII veteran. We also visited the Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Korean War Memorial and Vietnam Wall. It was an incredible experience for my father and I."

The Honor Flight Hudson Valley Branch needs our help as all vets' expenses are raised through fundraising events such as the ATA's Red, White, and Blue Jeans.

-Chris Shave, TIS

## Union Dues Provide Many Benefits to Members

*Continued from Page 3*  
are highly experienced in education and labor law and are available to assist members with job-related issues. They protect the right to arbitrate grievances in court and enforce arbitration decisions made in your favor. The ATA is also provided with a labor relations specialist who has extensive experience and expertise in workplace issues.

Finally, if you have not yet

been convinced that your union dues money is working hard for you every day, let me remind you of the ATA Welfare Trust that provides our dental plan, personal health expense coverage, and vision expense coverage, which in themselves more than return your dues directly to you through this negotiated set of ATA managed benefits.

I know many members understand and appreciate the value of

union membership. Some of you may not have been aware of the full spectrum of support that we gain as a result of belonging to these organizations. I also know as well as you do that the last few years have been tough on unions and union members, but I still feel as though the money I spend on my union dues is one of the hardest working investments in our future.

-Steve Hertzog, 2nd Vice President

# Dates to Remember



## NOVEMBER

4th—**Election Day**

Superintendent's Conference Day

Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., UVMS

11th—No School—Veterans' Day

18th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

24th—**General Membership Meeting**, 4 p.m., AHS auditorium

25th—Red, White, and Blue Jeans Dress Down Day to benefit Honor Flights

Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

26-28th—No School—Thanksgiving



## DECEMBER

4th—Children's Holiday Party, 5 p.m.— 7 p.m., Noxon

9th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Traver

12th—Professional Development Half Day



# Announcements

## Negotiations Update:

*Negotiations are continuing to move forward. We have two dates in November and one in January to meet with a mediator. Hopefully through these discussions we can come to a fair agreement that is respectful to the needs of both sides. **We are planning a General Membership meeting on November 24th** to present to the membership the proposals that are under discussion. Please look for more information about this in the upcoming weeks and plan on being there! Thank you for your support.*

— Donna Doerrier, Chief Negotiator

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check out [www.arlingtonteachers.com](http://www.arlingtonteachers.com) for forms, photos, calendars, and more.**