



# THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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## Our Strength Is In Our Numbers

### ATA President Bob Maier's 2015 State of the Union Address

Each year I wish to report to the members of the ATA a perspective on our Association. It has been easy to bring the positive news and happenings of the past few years. Unfortunately, this year it has not been that easy to write this piece.

This year's experience, both at home and statewide, has provided us with a difficult environment for our immediate future.

Here at home, we continue to work towards a contract settlement with the District. While the process be-

gan almost a year ago, we have not been successful at this time. Currently we are been working with a mediator

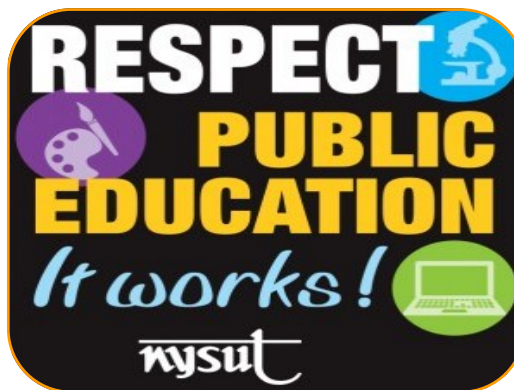
*The time is now for us to take action. Failure to do so may bring sweeping changes that forever alter the profession that we work so hard in.*

from the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB). The PERB mediator's job is to encourage both sides to meet a resolution somewhere in the middle between their positions. As you can imagine, we have not found that middle ground yet. It was our

intention to meet with the membership this past December to give you an update after our two scheduled mediation sessions. When the last mediation session had to be re-scheduled, we decided to postpone the general membership meeting. We

have now met with the mediator twice and have not reached a settlement. Shortly we will call a general membership meeting to report to you our progress, and may ask for your help in reaching a settlement with the district.

See 2015 on Page 7



ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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## Trivia Challenge

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

### What year was the ATA founded?

Last month's winners, selected at random from among the correct responses received, were **Anna Leigh** from ASM and **Bonnie Glick** from VFE. They correctly identified **senior advisor to Education Secretary Arne Duncan** as the job John King now has. They will be the proud owners of ATA gear.

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 20th. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ARLINGTON

Behind the new Arthur S. May School, almost touching the arterial, is the utility field that was once the Arlington High School football field. In the far corner closest to the highway, an old sign proclaims the field to be "The Robert Waelde Memorial Field."

So who was Robert Waelde, you ask? Well, his is a rare and tragic story; the stuff that Hollywood films are made of. And if it weren't for Andy Arenson and Jocelyn Banfield, it may have faded into Arlington's storied past...

It had been a splendid series of fall afternoons for the Arlington Maroon Football team. Sunny days of glory filled with clear, chilly air were remembered by those who had played the game. In some ways, the last three football games of the 1936 season would set the standard for Arlington athletics for years to come. Size and speed would take the back seat to preparation, fundamentals, and heart. To all those who would put on Maroon and wage the noble battle in the future, a debt would be owed to that special group of overachievers, the 1936 Arlington Football team.

The team itself was tiny, even by the smaller football standards of the 1930's. The offensive line averaged one-hundred-forty pounds per man and was led by one-hundred and seventy-nine pound giant tackle named junior Walters. Robert Bennett, their marquee player, stood six feet one inch and weighed about one-hundred-eighty pounds. That season the team had been mauled by Highland, shut out by Pearl River, and had the indignity of being referred to as 'the midget team' in the local paper. Going into the last three games of the season, they looked like lambs being led to the slaughter. But they were learning fundamentals every practice, and they had an emotional leader in their quarterback, Robert Waelde.

Diminutive Waelde weighed one-hundred-thirty-five pounds and stood about five feet eight inches. As a result, he often took a pasting but always followed the coach's instructions of three small steps and then a sharp cut to the left or the right. Waelde was the complete package: playing in the orchestra, setting track records, acting in the plays, or throwing his small frame into larger football players. The lion's heart of the team was Captain Bob Bennett, but Waelde represented the team's inner soul. It seemed that nothing could stop this juggernaut, this quintessential David; frail in frame but giant slayer, nonetheless.

After back-to-back games where Waelde scored touchdowns to bring Arlington to victory, the stage was set for the team's showdown with rival Oakwood. The game was a seesaw contest with swings of momentum that ages those in the stands. Ahead by six points, Waelde threw an interception to tough Oakwood defender Mills. Needing to keep Oakwood from scoring the tying goal, the one-hundred-thirty-five pound Waelde charged the Oakwood linebacker with reckless abandon. The contact was violent. Waelde was smashed in the stomach as his opponent lowered his head to run the smaller player over. Arlington went on to win the contest by the one score, but sadly, Waelde collapsed in the locker room. At the hospital he was placed in critical condition due to a ruptured spleen. Players, the Arlington Fire chief, and even the superintendent-principal, George Schaivone, all gave blood while a whole community prayed for their hero to recover. Waelde fought his last epic battle, but after another heroic effort, died several weeks later.

Fifty years later, on a sunny, cool fall day in 1986, Waelde's classmates returned to rededicate the field in his name. The spirit of Robert Waelde abounded that day as a wonderful generation of Americans continued to keep his memory alive. To them, he was the eternal youth, whose majestic runs on the open field of valor remained etched in their minds...a tribute to a school and a team that will never be forgotten.



*Material courtesy of Andrew Arenson and Jocelynn Banfield*

*-Joseph Healy, Jr., UVMS*

# PAC Update: Budget Season Has Begun



Photo by Sam Falk

On February 5 ATA Community Action Chairs Robert McHugh (left) and Betsy Marshall (near center), and First Vice President Greg Nieman (right), along with Wappingers teacher Jim Marrinan (second from right) and Carmel teachers Rob Buccheri and George Coates (not pictured) met with newly-elected state senator Sue Serino at her office in Poughkeepsie. Now that the governor has made his budget proposal it is imperative that teachers meet with their legislators to talk to them about the harm that the governor's proposed education "reforms" will do to children. Other scheduled events are NYSUT's annual Legislative Luncheon on February 7, and an in-district lobby day on February 12.

## PR Committee Has Many Events Planned

The PR committee is proud to report that the district raised over \$2,800 for the Honor Flight Network. Our next large initiative will be the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Jackie Higgins SPCA drive. It will take place from February 9 through March 3. Your PR building representative will be dispersing information about the needs of our local SPCA.

The ATA is always looking

for people to give some of their time to our programs. We are in the beginning stages of our

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largest fundraiser, the mini-golf tournament, and we are looking for members to share their talents to make this a success. If

you are able to help in any way, whether it is soliciting donations from local businesses, helping to set up, face-painting, crafting with the kids, or anything you can think of, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact either your PR building representative or Kristine Jackson at [kjackson@acsdny.org](mailto:kjackson@acsdny.org) if you are able to lend a hand.

-Kristine Jackson, PR Chair

## ATA Member of the Month: John Filor

"I am proud to be an active ATA member. My wife is a member and my daughter is an Arlington student. (She has great teachers whom she loves!) I believe it is important for teachers, who are the experts in the field of education, to actively advocate for our students and schools especially when so many forces are working against what we know to be best for education."

-AHS social studies teacher John Filor, on why he volunteers with the ATA



# We Respect Public Education!



On Wednesday, January 21, members in every school donned ATA shirts in support of public education. On that day Governor Andrew Cuomo gave his State of the State Address and revealed his plans for the State budget. Neither showed respect for public education or the teaching profession. This show of solidarity on the part of the ATA was just the first step in rallying against the Governor's attacks.



Pictured here are just a few of the members that participated. Clockwise from top: Union Vale Middle, Noxon Road Elementary, Arthur S. May, Arlington High, and Joseph D' Aquanni West Road Intermediate schools.



# ARLINGTON *Team Hope*

The 8th Annual Gift of HOPE dress down day will be taking place on March 27th. HOPE stands for Helping Others Pursue Education. For the past nine years college scholarships have been awarded to over 100 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 19 graduating seniors who are eligible to receive a scholarship.

Along with our new 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 food available from 4:30pm throughout the entire evening.

Doors will open at 4:30pm on March 27th 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 27th. Forms will be available at each school. 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>Men's Tee</b> \$20	SIZE: SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	XX-LARGE
Quantity: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Women's Tee</b> \$20	SIZE: SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	XX-LARGE
Quantity: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

<b>Raglan Longsleeve</b> \$25	SIZE: SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	XX-LARGE
Quantity: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Hooded Sweatshirt</b> \$40	SIZE: SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	XX-LARGE
Quantity: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



Canvas brand Premium Men's ringer tee



Bella brand Premium women's ringer tee



Canvas brand Raglan Fashion Long Sleeve



Jerzee 2-Tone Hooded Sweatshirt



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)

## 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**

Betsy Marshall

Robert McHugh

**Welfare Trust Chair**

Ron Higgins

**Media Specialist**

Sam Falk

**Éminence Grise Emeritus**

Robert McHugh

**Senior Building Representatives**

ASM — Johanna Pungello

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 School**

Social studies teacher Robert McHugh had a letter to the editor published in the Poughkeepsie Journal on February 5. The letter was in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's recently proposed education "reforms".

**Overlook Primary**

Music teacher Kathen Cowan is a member of Capella Festiva, a community

choir affiliated with Vassar College. In her role as treasurer Cowan was able to obtain an Arts Mid-Hudson grant to support the group.

**Union Vale Middle**

Special Education teacher Karen Sipperly once again organized the annual trivia competition that benefits the Red Hook Library. Each year many Arlington teachers compete in the charity event. This year it was held on January 25.

## Tax Season is Upon Us Once Again

Dues Deductions for the Calendar Year 2014 for:

**Full Time Teachers Who Were Employed In All Of 2014**

<u>Payment Option</u>	<u>Amount of Union Dues Deducted</u>
6 Payments	\$855.26 (Fewer than 10 members make use of this option)
15 Payments	\$844.50 *This applies to most members

**Full Time Teachers Who Started In September 2014**

<u>Payment Option</u>	<u>Amount of Union Dues Deduction</u>
15 Payments	\$342.12

Please note: ALL full time teachers pay the same ATA dues. Numbers are different due to number of payments and the fact that the dues structure changes school year to school year. The dues structure is based upon the school year and not on the calendar year.

Some members who are part time may pay a reduced amount of dues. Part time ATA members should use the value from their December 19 check stub. There are fewer than 10 members that this affects and I will email each of them to let them know.

Check your pay stub from the last paycheck in December (12/19/14- Deductions column, Y-T-D, DUES ATA) for your exact amount, as well as other potential tax deductions. Check with your tax preparation professional to discuss union dues and other work related tax deductions.

-Steve Hertzog,  
2nd Vice President

# 2015 Is the Time For You to Get Involved

*Continued from Front*

Along with our issues at home becoming more challenging, we are also faced with more serious issues in Albany. On January 21, 2015 Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered his State of the State address. This, in essence, is his proposed agenda for the State of New York for the coming year. For those of us in public education, Governor Cuomo has drawn a line in the sand and has declared war on us and our profession. Specifically, he has proposed increasing the tenure probationary period to five years, changing the APPR system by increasing the weight of testing to 50% of a teacher's yearly score, requiring teachers to recertify every five years, increasing the cap on charter schools, and making the tax cap permanent.

All of these reforms are at the expense of our members. Currently the Governor has not released the yearly state

aid to education notices that usually come out after the State of the State address. This is a part of his plan to hold the proposed state aid hostage to gain the reforms he wants. In a form of blackmail, the Governor has threatened to hold

the state aid increase to only the rate of inflation, but offers a 4.8% increase if his reforms are passed by the legislature. If you do not follow politics or the news, for the sake of our profession, the time is now. NYSUT has geared up their website, and a political action center called the MAC. It is very im-

ests and provided an agenda that blames educators and our public education system for all of the ills of the state. It is time that our members become more active in protecting ourselves and the children that we work with each day. Please visit NYSUT's website or Facebook page. Become more active using the MAC and

contact your legislators. The time is now for us to take action. Failure to do so may bring sweeping changes that forever alter the profession that we work so hard in.

Moving forward, we will keep you informed about updates with the District. We will be calling for a general membership meeting as soon as we can schedule one. The days ahead are bringing difficult waters to navigate. Our members are working harder today than we ever have. As a union we have a

responsibility to stand together to regain control of our future. We are all a part of this union: now is the time to exercise the strength in our numbers to bring voice to what is right for our future.

-Bob Maier, ATA President

## YOU CAN TAKE ACTION RIGHT NOW!

- Plan to attend school board meetings. You need to know what decisions are being made about your career at the local level and the school board needs to know that you care.
- Contact your legislators. Tell them all of the reasons why it is important to support public education and not the governor's "reform" agenda. Some information to help you with this can be found on the district's website at <http://tinyurl.com/p8m2gpk>.
- Get connected to NYSUT's Member Action Center. Text the word NYSUT to 38470 for text alerts, download the MAC app to your phone, or subscribe for email alerts at <http://mac.nysut.org>.
- Stay informed through Facebook. "Like" the Facebook pages for the NYSUT Member Action Center and NYSUT United, along with the ATA's Facebook page.
- Join NYSUT's social media army. Follow @NYSUT on Twitter and use the hashtag #AllKidsNeed to remind the governor what matters.
- Spread the word. Find resources such as talking points and images at <http://www.nysut.org/allkidsneed>.

important that our members start telling their legislators that these proposed changes are not acceptable.

If you haven't followed what is happening, in essence the Governor has bowed to corporate inter-

# Dates to Remember



## FEBRUARY

- 10th—Board of Education Meeting: Budget Workshop, 7 p.m., CAO
- 16th—President's Day - No School
- 17th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432
- 21st—Math, Science, and Technology Fair, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., AHS
- 24th—Board of Education Meeting: Budget Workshop, 7 p.m., JDWR

## MARCH

- 10th—Board of Education Meeting: Budget Workshop, 7 p.m., OPS
- 13th—Professional Development Half Day
- 17th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432
- 19th—Community Budget Forum, 7 p.m., CAO
- 24th—Board of Education Meeting; 7 p.m., TIS



# Announcements

Now that Arlington has used up all of its allotted snow days, please be aware that the following is the order in which give-back days will be taken:

- 1st Day - Friday, May 22
- 2nd Day - Monday, April 6
- 3rd Day - Monday, March 30
- 4th Day - Tuesday, March 31
- 5th Day - Wednesday, April 1

**Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 - 6 p.m. on March 9 and 13. Contact Colleen Napora at AHS to sign up.**

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