



# THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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## Contract Settlement Reached

After over a year of contract negotiations the ATA has finally reached an agreement with the school district. Formal and informal negotiating sessions had led to an impasse being declared last April, but with the aid of a mediator and a fact-finding report our negotiating team was able to agree on a fair settlement with the district at the end of September.

Once the Memorandum of Agreement was presented to the ATA membership a vote was held. On Friday, October 2, ATA members overwhelmingly approved the agreement

by a vote of 487 to 82.

The next step in finalizing the contract was for the Board of Education to also vote on the agreement. At their October 13 meet-

*While a change in health insurance can seem like an inconvenience, most ATA members will be saving money on their premiums because of it. By agreeing to this demand on the part of the district, the ATA's negotiating team was also looking out for its members.*

ing the Board approved the contract 7 to 1, with Steve Rossi being the only vote against.

Now that the terms of the contract have been formally adopted by both sides the next step is to implement

these terms, the onus of which rests on the district.

The two major changes that the contract contains are to salary and health insurance. The district has not yet decided whether the retroactive raise going back to September will be included in regular paychecks or printed as a separate check. Either way, it will be several weeks before the raise is received.

All ATA members should have been given a packet of information about the details of the new health insurance plan options and are

See Health on Page 2



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# Trivia Challenge

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

**When is the presidential primary election in New York?**

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **Jacob Lawrence** from AHS. She correctly identified **Chalmun's Cantina** as the best place to go to enjoy music on Ta-tooine. He will be the proud owner of ATA gear.

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to [rmchugh@acsdny.org](mailto:rmchugh@acsdny.org) by Nov. 6. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

# Political Action Update: Elections

Although there are no candidates for statewide elections this November for NYSUT to endorse, the Dutchess County Central Labor Council, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, has endorsed candidates for local elections. The endorsements, which are non-partisan, are based on the candidates' positions on labor issues. **Please remember to vote on November 3rd!**

## Dutchess County Central Labor Council 2015 Endorsed Candidates

County Executive	Marcus Molinaro
Dutchess County Court Judge	Katherine Moloney
Dutchess County Family Court Judge	Lisa Ghartey
County Legislator-District 1	Shari Rikard Gil
County Legislator-District 4	Hannah Black
County Legislator-District 6	Rita Langva
County Legislator-District 7	Rich Perkins
County Legislator-District 8	Craig Brendli
County Legislator-District 9	Kari Rieser
County Legislator-District 10	Barbara Jeter Jackson
County Legislator-District 11	Joel Tyner
County Legislator-District 14	Francena Amparo
County Legislator-District 15	Charlie Davenport
County Legislator-District 16	Anthony Sciarrone
County Legislator-District 20	Micki Strawinski
City of Poughkeepsie Mayor	Rob Rolison
City of Poughkeepsie Common Council -Ward 5	Ann Perry
Town of Poughkeepsie Town Board -Ward 6	Ann Shershin
Town of Beekman Clerk	Meghan Sweeney
Town of Red Hook Supervisor	Robert McKeon
Town of Red Hook Town Board	Sarah Imboden
Town Of Red Hook Justice	Jonah Triebwasser
Town of Wappingers Supervisor	Gregorio Quinn
Town of Wappingers Town Board -Ward 2	Janelle Mendez



## ATA Member Running For Office

Arlington High School's senior building representative Noreen Mills Martin is running for a seat on the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council in Ward 8. More information about her campaign can be found at <http://1776nmm.wix.com/noreenmillsmartin>.

# Health Insurance Changes Are Imminent

*Continued from Front*  
encouraged to attend one of the information sessions being offered in early November.

While a change in health insurance can seem like an inconvenience, most ATA members will be saving money on their premiums because of it. By agreeing to this demand on the part of the district, the ATA's negotiating team was also looking out for its members.

Choosing a new plan is an individual decision. ATA president Bob Maier is available to answer questions about the differences between the new plans, but in the

end it is up to each person to decide what is best for his or her family. All ATA members must submit paperwork to the district

***New health insurance plans will take affect on January 1, 2016. Please keep in mind though that there will be another open enrollment period in April with the opportunity to change plans again if the need arises. This change would take affect in July.***

by November 6 to enroll in one of the two new plans being offered.

New health insurance plans will take affect on January 1, 2016. Please keep in mind though that there will be another open enrollment period in April with the

opportunity to change plans again if the need arises. This change would take affect in July.

An additional benefit that the ATA received as part of the new contract was an increase in Welfare Trust funding. The ATA's Welfare Trust committee will receive an additional \$150 per member increase per year over the life of the contract. The committee will decide how these funds will be used to impact individual benefits.

The current contract agreement will expire on June 30, 2017.

-Sam Falk, editor

## ATA Member of the Month: Michael Reiter



"Hello, my name is Michael Reiter and I am an English teacher at Arlington High School. I am the ATA Elections Committee Chairperson for the district. This means that I coordinate all the ATA voting that takes place within the district and here at the high school. I would like to acknowledge all the Election Committee Representatives at each of our schools; I could not run any vote without their help and the help of other dedicated ATA members.

I do what I do for the union because I consider it important work. Both of my parents were long time union members who worked very hard throughout their lives -- my father as a carpenter and my mother as a secretary. They are currently able to live comfortably in their retirement because of the opportunities their unions provided for them. My first union involvement came as a teenager, working over summers as a laborer for the New York State Parks and Recreation Department. Since then, I have been proud to be a member of three different teachers' unions.

As our country and public education system face the destructive threat of corporatization, I believe that unions are the last, best hope that working and middle class people have to ensure that their interests are represented. In order for there to be opportunities in the future for my own children, I believe it is critical that we all work together now to keep our unions strong."

-AHS English teacher Michael Reiter, on why he volunteers with the ATA

# Welcome, New Members!

The Arlington Teachers' Association hopes that all members are settling in to their classrooms this year and would like to welcome the following brand new people to the Arlington School District and the ATA. Please let us know if there are more additions to your building that we can include in the next issue.

## Arlington High

**Austin Crittenden**– Social Studies

Favorite Book: *Breakfast of Champions*, by Kurt Vonnegut

Favorite Food: Nachos



**Marcia Hunter-Innis** - Business

Favorite Book: *The Fifth Discipline*, by Peter M. Senge

Favorite Food: Rice and peas



**Joel Loussedes** - ELA

Favorite Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

Favorite Food: Chicken Parmesan



**Sean McDermott** - Technology

Favorite Book: *FDR*, by Jean Edward Smith

Favorite Food: Lobster



**Michael Wiesenthal** - Social Studies

Favorite Book: *none*

Favorite Food: Pizza

## Titusville Intermediate

**Mashal Malik** - School Psychologist

Favorite Book: *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini

Favorite Food: Oriental Food



**MaryAnn McCabe** - 5th Grade

Favorite Book: *My Sunshine Away*, by M.O. Walsh

Favorite Food: Blueberries

## Noxon Road Elementary

**Robyn Davis** - Reading

Favorite Book: *none*

Favorite Food: none



**Tara Gilliard** - 3rd Grade

Favorite Book: *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan

Favorite Food: Mexican Food



**Mechele Palmer** - Special Education

Favorite Book: *none*

Favorite Food: Italian Food

## Traver Road Primary

**Carol A. Berliner** - Reading

Favorite Book: *A Slant of the Sun*, by Beth Kephart

Favorite Food: Tuna tacos



**Ann Marie Burnell** - Special Education

Favorite Book: *Sarah's Key*, by Tatiana de Rosnay

Favorite Food: Vegetable Lasagna



**Risa Petrone** - 1st Grade

Favorite Book: *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton

Favorite Food: Lasagna

## Central Office

**Heather Milano**

Favorite Book: *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Favorite Food: Pizza

### Joseph D'Aquanni West Road

Stephanie Deickler - Special Education

Favorite Book: *I Am Malala*, by Malala Yousafzai

Favorite Food: Any Italian Food

### LaGrange Middle

Melissa Dominick - Math

Favorite Book: Any fictional light read

Favorite Food: Pastas and pizza

### Union Vale Middle

Ann Buonincontri - Math

Favorite Book: *none*

Favorite Food: *none*

Chelsea McAvoy - Special Education

Favorite Book: *none*

Favorite Food: Pizza

### Arthur S. May School

Sabrina Acampora - Special Education

Favorite Book: *1984*, by George Orwell

Favorite Food: Spaghetti and meatballs

Nicole Maiorano - Special Education

Favorite Book: *Glass Castles*, by Jeanette Walls

Favorite Food: Pizza

Johanna Roth - Reading

Favorite Book: The *Harry Potter* Series, by J.K. Rowling

Favorite Food: Ice Cream

Jessica Sgroi - Reading

Favorite Book: *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry

Favorite Food: Mexican

### Vail Farm Elementary

Jessica LoBue - Special Education

Favorite Book: *My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Picoult

Favorite Food: Pasta



ATA New Teacher Luncheon - September 2, 2015

## 2015—2016 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 — Nancy Thomas

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR — Chris Greco

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 dedication to seeking out professional development opportunities over the summer:

### Arlington High School

Social studies teacher Kathy Bellino and English teachers Julie Jee and Katie Nixon were presenters at the 65th Annual New York State English Council (NYSEC) in Albany on October 15. They gave a talk entitled "Building Blocks to Support Google's 80/20 Philosophy in the Classroom".

Art teacher Sean Bayliss' work is a part of the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz's juried exhibition of work by Hudson Valley artists. The exhibit, titled "The Stories We Tell: Hudson Valley Artists 2015", runs until November 8.

### Arthur S. May

Teacher Andrew Stock participated in Hudson Valley Writing Project's Saturday Seminar series at SUNY New Paltz on October 17. He

led a workshop entitled "Are You Ready for the Parlor: Creating and Interrogating Knowledge in the Disciplines" which examined how knowledge claims are made, challenged, and reshaped through discussion.

### Union Vale Middle

Special Education teacher Teri Acosta was awarded a grant of \$1,360 from the Autism Directory Service in Fishkill. The funds are being used to allow students in the Impact program to take a field trip to NYC to see the play "Wicked". Students will compare the play to the film "The Wizard of Oz" in order to better understand character perspective. The trip will also give the special needs students the experience of negotiating travel in the city. In addition, all of the families will attend with the hope of building a sense of community amongst them so that they can support each other in raising children on the autism spectrum.

Health teacher Kathleen Vogt is on the Public Relations committee of the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Library District. The new Friends' Book Store recently had its grand opening at the Boardman Road Branch Library. They have over 20,000 used books for sale on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

### West Road

Music teacher Kathen Cowan is starting the third year of the West Rd Rocking Guitar Club. This is a beginner guitar club for 4th and 5th graders who come together once per week before school. They are learning strumming and notation and are already playing some cool songs.

### Dutchess Outreach

The ATA and the Arlington School District were recently recognized at Dutchess Outreach's annual brunch for the volunteer work that we have done with their organization. In addition to participating in the district's Cram the Classroom food drive, ATA members have been serving dinner at the Lunch Box twice a month for years. Special recognition goes out to AHS special education teacher Colleen Napora for coordinating that effort.

### Highway Cleanup

Thank you to all of the ATA members who volunteered their time to clean along Route 55 between Freedom Road and Route 82 on October 17 as part of the ATA's annual commitment. AHS: Joe-Lynn Ginese, Adrienne DeMare LMS: Jean Cwik, Lara Ivchenko, and organizer Debbie Pollack OPS: Nancy Thomas, and Crystal Elmendorf BES: Liz Jordan

# BES Teacher Aids Children in Mississippi



Photo courtesy of Lynn Grainger

**Lynn Grainger (BES) worked with children in Glendora Mississippi last summer.**

This past summer Beekman Elementary School 3rd grade teacher Lynn Grainger taught digital storytelling to children ages 8-14 in the small community of Glendora, Mississippi through the organization Partners in Development. The children live in poverty and their education is underfunded. Typically these students are multiple grade levels behind their counterparts in our school district. Partners in Development

has provided the community with The Lighthouse Learning Center, a computer center and tutoring program to support student growth beyond the classroom. The organization also provides support to adults to get driving licenses, transportation to doctors and housing.

Through Google Drive and with support of summer interns, Grainger communicated with the children prior to her arrival

in early August. The children wrote scripts and received feedback and reworked their ideas. With a Cannon Sure Shot camera and tripod donated by people from Grainger's church, the children created short videos. Then they combined them with images and voice-overs to make their message using Wee Video. In the final session the children collectively created an ABC book about their community. Saturday was a movie preview day when several community members and family members came to see what the children produced.

According to Grainger, the most difficult part of the trip was visiting the Emmett Till Museum in the cotton gin building where the 14 year old was murdered. The exhibit at the Civil Rights Museum was concise and far less graphic than the accounts told in the local museum. "As I read each word in the displays and listened to the accounts retold, I started to feel hopeful for the communities' future because I could hear my teammates hammering away on the new home being constructed for a family that had been burned out of their trailer," Grainger stated.

## ATA Photographer Needed

Are you looking to become more involved with the ATA, but aren't sure how? Here is your chance—the ATA is in need of a photographer.

This stipended position is perfect for someone who enjoys attending ATA events and taking photos. Ideally, the official photographer should be someone

who has a stand-alone camera with an external flash since camera phones do not typically take good indoor photos.

The ATA's photographer is required to document the annual children's holiday party, mini-golf outing, and recognition dinner, though photographing other events would be desirable al-

so. Photos appear in the ATA's newsletter, Facebook page, and web page and help us to mark memorable events, but also to show the public the great things that we do.

Interested candidates should contact [ataupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ataupdate@gmail.com).

# Dates to Remember



## NOVEMBER

3rd—*Election Day*

Superintendent's Conference Day

10th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., UVMS

11th—No School—Veterans' Day

17th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

24th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

25th—Dress Down Day to benefit Grace Smith House

26-27th—No School—Thanksgiving



## DECEMBER

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

8th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Traver



# Announcements

### ***The Educator needs you!***

Would you like to see more information about *your* school in here? We need your help in gathering information to print! Let us know about the great things ATA members do at your school by emailing Sam Falk at [sfalk@acsdny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.org).

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 - 6 p.m. on November 9 and 13 and December 7 and 11. 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.**