



THE EDUCATOR

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Support the School Budget on May 17

This year's school budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 17. The ballot will also include two propositions and four school board candidate positions.

The support of every ATA member is vital to ensure a positive outcome to the budget process. If you do not live in the district it is important that you talk to your friends and family who do and encourage them to get out and vote on the 17th. Make sure to tell them why passage of the budget and the bus proposition are important to you and how they will benefit the children of this district.

In addition, offer to give them information

about the candidates for school board and explain why it is important for the success of Arlington to have people on the school board who value public education and will support the children and staff of the district.

To the right and below you will find some facts to help you inform others about the 2016—2017 Arlington school budget, the bus proposition, and the candidates running for election to the school board. More information about these items and the capital reserve proposition can be found at arlingtonschools.org.

Every vote counts!

BUDGET FACTS

- A 0% tax levy increase is proposed
- This is the fifth year in a row that Arlington's proposed tax levy has been below the cap
- If the budget fails twice, a contingency budget must be adopted, meaning that an additional \$3.87 million would have to be cut. That would require the elimination of new equipment purchases and many needed building repairs.

Visit

arlingtonschools.org
for more information

BUS PROPOSITION

When school buses reach a certain age or number of miles NYS requires that they are replaced. Taxpayers are asked to permit the district to purchase new vehicles. This would cost a family with a home valued at \$250,000 \$6.25 per year over 5 years, starting in 2017-2018. If the bus proposition is not passed the district will have to lease buses, which will be more expensive.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

The terms of four current school board members are expiring: Christine Baxter, Jennifer Eraca, and Kelly Lappan, plus Kerri Fasulo, who had been appointed to the board in January. Six candidates are running to fill these four seats. The ATA recently interviewed all of the candidates and is endorsing the following: **Christine Baxter, Jennifer Eraca, Kerri Fasulo, and Mark Tornatore.**

ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
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Trivia Challenge

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

How many square miles does the Arlington Central School District cover?

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was

April Meyer from ASM. She correctly identified **nine** as the number of years that Stephen Colbert hosted the Colbert Report. She 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 by **May 27**. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

NYSUT RA 2016 Update

Every spring, NYSUT's Representative Assembly gathers together delegates from each local union across New York to take part in its policymaking process. This year the RA was held in Rochester on Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9. Representing the ATA were President Bob Maier, Chief Negotiator Donna Doerrier, and Second Vice President Steve Hertzog. The main business of the RA is for NYSUT to set priorities for the coming year and focus effort and resources on the issues that matter most to members, as decided upon by the committees of participating delegates during the busy convention program.

The body of delegates, just like any large group of teachers, are often unified in their opposition to changes that have been imposed on us like APPR, student testing, the receivership laws, the College and Career readiness standards created by SED, and the possible NY Constitutional Convention in 2017. So we take the time at the convention to allow committees of members who are particularly interested in working toward positive change in each of these areas to meet and craft language that becomes a resolution which NYSUT will adopt as a priority for the coming year. Throughout the convention, these resolutions are brought before the whole body of delegates and debated as to whether they should be adopted, amended, or just let go. A wide variety of these types of issues that affect teachers, retirees, school related professionals, and those in higher education are worked out during the RA.

To break up the drudgery of this kind of a massive meeting, the RA program also incorporates lively guest speakers and entertainers who keep the body of delegates uplifted and inspired to get back to the general proceedings. The most notable of these guests to address the delegates at the RA this year was Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The Presidential candidate visited on Friday night, after spending the earlier part of the day in New York City (you may remember the awkward entry in the subway station that became an SNL skit...). Clinton spoke for just over 40 minutes and was very positive and supportive of the work we do and promised to have us "at the table" during the decision making process on educational issues as President. She also stressed the importance of undoing many of the changes that have fouled the educational process recently, like the "test and punish" agenda. You can watch the entire speech on YouTube by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or you can search YouTube for Sec. Hillary Clinton- NYSUT RA 2016.

Next year's RA will be held in Manhattan and is the first year that the newly elected slate of officers will have to face an election in an organization with continued unrest revolving around the myriad challenges we face.

Use this QR code to see Hillary Clinton's speech to delegates at the 2016 NYSUT RA.



-Steve Hertzog, ATA 2nd Vice President

New Regent Johnson Inspires Hope

The Arlington School District was host to N.Y. State Regent Judith Johnson on April 7. After spending an evening listening to what Johnson had to say to a group of local boards of education members and district superintendents, I feel hopeful that we just might be witnessing a return to a more responsive and responsible leadership for education policy here in New York State. As a N.Y State Regent, Johnson oversees the Ninth Judicial District of which Arlington is a part. She was elected in April 2015 and is currently serving the second year of a five-year term. She, along with 15 fellow Regent members, recently ushered in a new era at the New York Board of Regents, voting in Betty Rosa as Chancellor to replace the departing Merryl Tisch who stepped down from the position in March.

Johnson was a member of the group of six Regents, along with now Chancellor Betty Rosa, who published a

paper last spring in support of teachers and against the governor and the legislature on the issue of using student test scores for teacher and principal evaluations. She also stated that she stands firmly against linking school funding to teacher evaluations.

Johnson has taken a strong stand against the "Education Transformation Act of 2015", a law that was passed by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Cuomo as part of the state budget last spring. She stated that although the Regents played a hand in forestalling the worst effects of the law, the law has not been removed from the books. She pointed out that the law could still have a negative impact on teacher tenure decisions and the placement of students in gifted programs.

During her talk Regent Johnson raised the following four questions that she believes must be addressed in response to current education

reform policies that have, for the past 15 years, placed an inordinate and unhealthy emphasis on standardized testing:

- Are we actually assessing what we value?
- Have we as a society agreed on what we value when we talk about a sound education?
- Does research support the decisions we are making?
- Have equity and social justice been compromised?

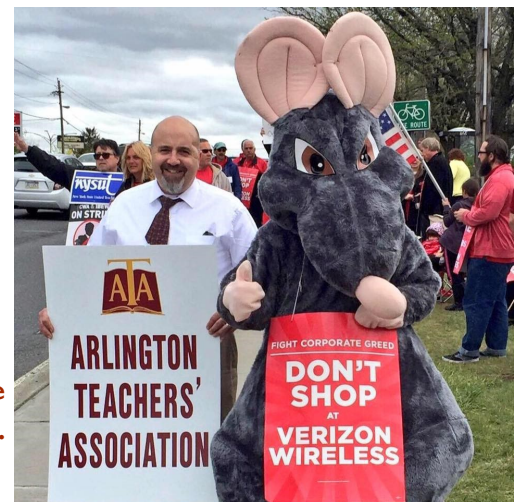
She also stated that in her view, "school is not just about individual achievement. It is also about building a sense of community, and the creation of new traditions." She went on to say that we have created a perfect storm in education in this country and while, "we may not be able to control the miles per hour of the wind", she believes that, "we can always reset the sails."

-Betsy Marshall,
ATA CAC Co-Chair

ATA Members Support Striking Workers

NYSUT locals from around the Hudson Valley joined their brothers and sisters of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in support of their fight for a fair contract with Verizon. Members of the ATA, the Wappingers Congress of Teachers, and other locals walked the picket line with the striking workers in front of the Verizon store on Route 9 after school on Thursday, May 5. This was a national day of action against Verizon.

ATA President Bob Maier poses with Scabby the Rat during the National Day of Action Against Verizon on May 5.



Rebuilding Our Community Together

On Saturday, April 30, Rebuilding Together Dutchess County (RTDC) joined 166 Rebuilding Together affiliates nationwide, along with tens of thousands of volunteers, to provide free home repairs and modifications to low-income Americans including the elderly, disabled, military veterans and families in need. Locally, over 150 Rebuilding Together Dutchess County volunteers completed 7 projects across Dutchess County.



The Arlington Teachers' Association teamed with the Poughquag/Pawling United Methodist Church to rebuild the home of Mr. Zeidel, an 86 year old widower who lives by himself in Hyde Park. Among the ATA members and spouses eager and generously willing to help and donate their time were Scott Adams, Betsy and Mark Denis, Doug Dickenson, Jonathan Nix, Stepan Kubicek, Khalie Wood-Aker, Paul Sevigny, and Judy McGuire.



Photos by Kathleen Vogt



On behalf of Rebuilding Together Dutchess County I would like to personally thank you and the entire PUMC/ATA team for program! On Saturday, you impacted Mr. Zidel's life forever. You showed him kindness and commitment to your community as well as lifted the burden and constant worry about his home.

Our programs are dedicated not only to the improvement of individual lives, but also to the improvement of quality of life for all in Dutchess County. Helping homeowners remain in safe and healthy homes is important to strengthening our community and preserving housing affordability. In total, thanks to you and your fellow 150+ National Rebuilding Month volunteers, we helped change the lives of 17 individuals in Dutchess County and returned their home to a warm, safe, dry, and independent living environment. The work of our volunteers also impacted the lives of the hundreds of individuals that seek the critical services provided by Family Services. The critical repairs, accessibility modifications and energy efficiency upgrades provided during National Rebuilding Month are valued at nearly \$200,000!

We are continually overwhelmed by the generosity of our volunteers - without you we would not be able to make such a difference in our community. We hope that you had the best experience possible and welcome any feedback that you have to help us to continue to better serve our neighbors in need!

Together, we have the power to not only rebuild homes and communities but also to rebuild hopes and lives. Thank you for your support of our critical mission!

Sincerely, Christina Boryk, Executive Director Rebuilding Together Dutchess County

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 — shared

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. 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

Special Education teacher Brian Powers was voted the Coach of the Year by the Poughkeepsie Journal for Girls' Winter Track and Field.

English as a New Language teacher Laurie Sorgen had an article published in the spring edition of the Swarthmore College Bulletin.

Beekman Elementary

Special Education teacher Christie Boydston has been accepted into the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy for grades 3–5. It will take place this year at Liberty Science Center in New Jersey from July 17–22.

Union Vale Middle

Special education teacher Karen Sipperly worked with students in the National Junior Honor Society to organize a blood drive on April 29.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Pollack

Highway Cleanup

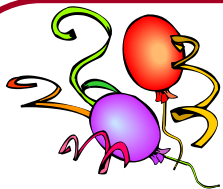
The ATA's annual spring highway cleanup was held on Saturday, April 30. LMS math teacher Debbie Pollack organized the event to help improve the appearance of Route 55. She was joined by Joe-Lynn Ginese, Steve Hertzog, and Sean McDermott from AHS; Julie Sanders from LMS; Andy Franks and Joe Healy from UVMS, and Mindy Grey from OPS.



Photo courtesy of Julie Shook

Author Visit

On April 15 teachers from Noxon, Vail and Beekman Elementary Schools got to meet beloved children's book author Kate DiCamillo at a book signing in Saratoga, NY for her newest book. Pictured are (L-R) Maureen Frischknecht (NOX), Julie Shook (BES), Alicia Jazayeri (NOX), Janice Rifenburg (BES), Christine LaGuardia (NOX) and Eileen Snook (VFE).



The Arlington Teachers' Association 12th Annual Miniature Golf Outing

Bring the whole family for a day of Miniature Golf, Free Food, Music, Crafts, Face Painting, Prizes, Raffles, and Lots of Fun!

Saturday, June 4th 11am-2pm

Overlook Golf Center

\$8.00 per player

Pre-register by May 26th and registration is only \$7.00 per player PLUS you will receive an additional door prize ticket on the day of the event!

Registration

Name: _____ No. of Players: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 School: _____ Teacher: _____

Make checks payable to: Arlington Teachers' Association

PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "ATA MINI-GOLF" TO THE MAIN OFFICE OF YOUR SCHOOL BUILDING OR SEND DIRECTLY TO:

Arlington Teachers' Association, 46 Davis Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

NO TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED.

Simply check in at the registration table on the day of the event!




Sponsored By:




Arlington Parent Teacher Association, Arlington Teachers' Association, Raymond Opticians

Come to the 2016 Recognition Dinner!

On Friday, June 17th, the ATA will hold its annual recognition dinner/dance. The evening provides an opportunity to recognize and say goodbye to those who have decided to retire. The event will be from 6:30—11:30 p.m. at Christos, with dinner at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$50.00 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and a cash bar.



New teachers — fill out the entry form at right to enter a raffle for two free tickets!



ENTRY FORM

2 Free Tickets to the ATA Recognition Party

You must be in your first three years of teaching at Arlington to be eligible.

Name: _____

School: _____

Send completed form through interoffice mail to the ATA Office.

Dates to Remember



MAY

17th—**School Budget Vote**

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

27th-30th—Memorial Day, No School

JUNE

4th—ATA Miniature Golf Outing, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Overlook Golf Center

7th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

9th—Half Day for Students, All K-5 Schools

13th—Last Day of Classes, AHS

14th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS

17th—ATA Recognition Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Christos

21st—Half Day for Students, All K-5 Schools

22nd—Last Day of Classes (Half Day), All Elementary and Middle Schools

23rd—Superintendent's Conference Day

24th—Superintendent's Conference Day

25th—High School Graduation, Dutchess Stadium

28th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO



Announcements

The Educator needs you!

Would you like to see more information about **your** school in here? We need representatives from each school to aid in gathering information to print! Please contact Sam Falk at sfalk@acsdny.org if you are interested.

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 to 6 p.m. on June 6 and 10. Please contact Colleen Napora at cnapora@acsdny.org to sign up.

Stay informed! Like us on Facebook or check out the ATA webpage at www.arlingtonteachers.com for photos, contact information, benefits forms, issues of *The Educator* and more.