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Preserving Our Profession

ATA President Bob Maier's 2017 State of the Union Address

As we reach the end of January, the school year is half over and we start to look toward the spring. At the time of writing this article, we have just inaugurated a new President, and we now face uncertainty on every level of government. From Arlington to the White House, our future faces many challenges, and we must stand together to preserve our profession.

In our immediate future at the local level, we will start negotiating our next ATA contract. As we have visited all of our schools, it has been great to see

so many of our members. Thank you for all of your proposals, thoughts, and words of support. We will keep you informed as we

From Arlington to the White House, our future faces many challenges, and we must stand together to preserve our profession.

work toward a settlement.

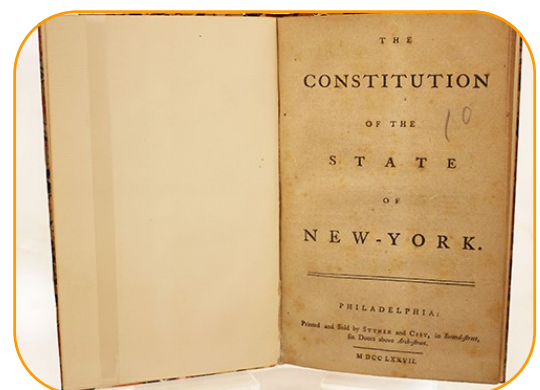
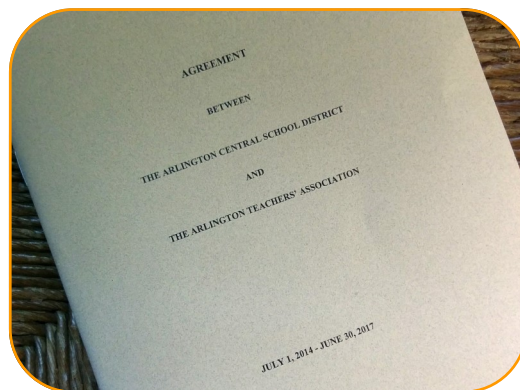
Beyond our district, the future is more concerning. As the new President is sworn in, the Cabinet appointments will set us back. From Education to Labor, we will be in jeopardy and will need

to work together to protect our profession and the rights of our students. Let us also not forget the Supreme Court appointment

coming that can revisit the Friedrichs case, or one like it, that has the potential to derail our organization.

Further on the horizon, this November there will be a referendum for a Constitutional Convention to rewrite our NY State Constitution. This could be one of the most important votes in recent times, and we will depend on full participation from

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ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
46 Davis Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



(845) 454-7002 · www.arlingtonteachers.com · ata4547002@aol.com

Trivia Challenge

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

In what year was the first animal anticruelty law passed in the United States?

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **James Muraco** from AHS. He correctly identified **33 inches** as the average annual snowfall for Poughkeepsie. He will be the proud owner 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 February 10th. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Annual SPCA Drive Has Begun

For the 7th straight year, the ATA will be sponsoring a supplies drive to honor Jackie Higgins, a dear friend and life-long supporter of the ATA. Jackie served as the ATA's administrative assistant for many years, and was an invaluable member of the office. She spread sunshine to everyone who came through the doors or called the office, with a huge smile and a kind word. In 2010, our community and ATA family suffered an enormous loss with her passing.

As a way of honoring her memory, we are proud to sponsor this cause that was near and dear to Jackie's heart. She loved animals, and the Dutchess County SPCA is always so appreciative of our donations as a district. Starting now until March 2, we will be collecting donations for the DCSP-CA. Monetary donations are welcome and appreciated. Please write checks to DCSPCA. All donations (both monetary and non-monetary) are tax deductible.

Please consider donating one or more of the following desperately needed items:

- *Brand named dry dog food
- *Brand named dry cat food
- *Non-clumping kitty litter
- *Clean, dry towels and blankets
- *Long handled scrub brushes
- *paper towels
- *bleach
- *laundry detergent
- *hoses and hose nozzles
- *cake-sized paper plates

Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts and for helping us to honor the memory of such an important person, Jackie Higgins.

-Kristine Jackson, PR Chair



Preserving Our Profession

Continued from Front
ATA members to help ensure the security of our Constitutionally-protected rights as members of a public-sector labor organization.

Our educational system is based in our State Constitution, as is our pension system. The real fear is that if we move to a convention, all parts of the State Constitution

are subject to change.

Over the next few months there will be advertisement campaigns that will work to sway the vote. We will be providing information to our membership to understand what is at stake if the referendum were to pass.

For a profession that is constantly evolving, we are working harder today

than we ever have. Your efforts are much appreciated, and we will continue to need your support to ensure the future of our organization and our profession. We will keep you posted. As we look toward the spring, let's anticipate warmer weather and brighter days.

-Bob Maier, ATA President

Know How Those SLOs Go

When Governor Cuomo signed new Education Law 3012-d in April 2015 it enacted several changes to the existing annual professional performance review (APPR) plan for teachers. Gone were components such as professional growth plans and local assessments; the new plan essentially amounted to comprising 50% student performance and 50% teacher observations.

In light of this new increased weight of student test scores, and the fact that the Governor had formed a task force to make recommendations for reforming the Common Core system, the Board of Regents adopted a new regulation allowing for a four year transition period whereby APPR scores based on state-provided growth scores could not be used for making employment decisions. This transition period lasts through the 2018-19 school year.

Because of this, many teachers will receive both an "original" and a "transition" APPR score and also have multiple student learning objective (SLO) scenarios to possibly calculate the student performance component of their APPR score since there is no longer a local assessment as part of the APPR plan that can be used to base a score off of when the state-provided growth score cannot be used.

The following are some APPR-related terms that all educators should be familiar with:

State-Provided Growth Score

For teachers of grades 4 - 8 ELA and math who have at least 50% of their students taking a state-provided test, NYSED will provide a growth score and rat-

ing. According to them, that rating will incorporate students' academic history compared to similarly academically achieving students and takes into consideration students with disabilities, English language learners, and students in poverty. This score comprises the student performance component of the APPR score.

SLO

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) are the required student performance measure for teachers who do not receive a State-provided growth score. For teachers with more than one grade and subject, SLOs must cover the courses taught with the largest number of students, combining sections with common assessments, until a majority of students are covered. By law, these SLOs are developed by the district superintendent or his designee and are not subject to collective bargaining. The HEDI scoring bands for the SLOs are set by the State.

Alternate SLO

During the 2016-17 through 2018-19 school years, grades 3-8 NYS ELA/math assessments and any State-provided growth scores may only be used for advisory purposes and may not be used for the purpose of calculating transition scores and ratings. Because of this, districts must also develop an alternate SLO based on assessments that are not grade 3-8 ELA/math State assessments and/or on State-provided growth scores.

Back-Up SLO

For the 2019-20 school year and thereafter, for those teachers who would typically receive a

State-provided growth score, the district must also include a back-up SLO in the event that there are not enough students, not enough scores, or data issues that prevent a State-provided growth score from being calculated for that teacher.

Original Score

During the transition period (2015-16 through 2018-19 school years), State-provided growth scores will continue to be computed for advisory purposes only and "original" HEDI ratings will continue to be provided to teachers based on such growth scores. However, during the transition period, this "original" score may not be used for purposes of employment decisions. It is still reported for the purpose of public records though.

Transition Score

During the transition period (2015-16 through 2018-19 school years), transition scores and HEDI ratings will be generated and used to replace the "original" scores and HEDI ratings for teachers whose scores are based, in whole or in part, on State assessments in grades 3-8 ELA or math. The transition score will be based on the use of an alternate SLO that excludes the results of grades 3-8 ELA and math State assessments. This is the score that will figure into employment decisions.

As more information is provided by the district as to the details that they have set for all of the necessary SLOs please don't hesitate to contact the ATA at ataupdate@gmail.com with any questions.

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.

Program Sponsor	Recommended Grade Level	Subject	Date
Goethe Institut	K-12	Social Studies, STEM	June 30-July 1
McDonald Observatory	K-12	Science—Astronomy	Variou
Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History	K-12	Social Studies—American History	July 7-July 10
National Endowment for the Humanities	K-12	Humanities—Social Studies, ELA, Architecture, Music	Variou
Library of Congress	K-12	All	Variou
American Meteorological Society	K-12	Science—Weather	July 16-17
Skidmore College	9-12	Art	Variou
The Met, MoMA, and the Guggenheim	3-12	All	July 10-11
National Physical Education & School Sport Institute	K-12	Physical Education	July 24-25
Michigan State University	6-12	Foreign Language	August 1-2
Carnegie Hall	6-12	Music, Drama	July 19-20
ASM International	6-12	Science—Materials Science and Engineering	Variou

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



Start Date	Location	Application Deadline	Website
July 20	Germany	Feb. 3	tinyurl.com/jcdweyw
August	Fort Davis, Texas	Feb. 6	mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/profdev#hubble
July 22	Various	Feb. 20	www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-exhibitions/teacher-seminars
August	Various	March 1	www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs
August	Washington, D.C.	March 17	www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/teacherinstitute/
March 28	Kansas City, Missouri	March 27	tinyurl.com/jgqg2x8
August	Saratoga Springs, NY	April 7	www.skidmore.edu/summerstudioart/art-fellows-information.php
May 14	New York, NY	May 19	metmuseum.wufoo.com/forms/connecting-collections-application/
June 26	Asheville, NC	June 30	nationalpe.com/
August	East Lansing, MI	July 7	clear.msu.edu/clear/resources/professional-development/summer-workshops/
July 22	New York NY	Ongoing	www.carnegiehall.org/MEW_Summer_Program/
August	Various	Ongoing	tinyurl.com/gwo24fq

2016—2017 ATA Officers

- President** Bob Maier
- First Vice-President** Greg Nieman
- Second Vice-President** Steve Hertzog
- Treasurer** Dave Cordella
- Chief Negotiator** Robert McHugh
- PR Committee Chair** Kristine Jackson
- Community Action Co-Chairs** Brendan Lawler
Betsy Marshall
- Welfare Trust Chair** Ron Higgins
- Communications Chair** Sam Falk
- Senior Building Representatives**
 - ASM — Erica Dunn
 - BES — William Mueller
 - NES — Nicolle McMorris
 - VFES — Pam Goetz
 - OPS — Christene Way
 - 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
FACS teacher Stefanie

Rice and science teacher Maribel Pregnall recently renewed their National Board certifications.

Arthur S. May School

Michele Anderson, 2nd grade Special Education teacher, and Allison Whitted, speech and language pathologist, began a course on Yoga and Mindfulness in the Classroom with staff this month. They wanted to address the emotional, social, and academic needs of the students in a diverse population.

Alice Estevez, ENL teacher, has begun work-

ing with the educational software company PreK12Plaza to find ways to supplement and enhance Arlington's ENL curriculum.

Union Vale Middle

Special Education teacher Karen Sipperly once again organized the annual trivia competition that benefits the Red Hook Library. This is the competition's 15th year. Each year many Arlington teachers compete in the charity event. This year it was held on January 29.



Photo courtesy of Tina Tamweber

Arlington High School

English teacher Tina Tamweber (second from right) organized a book club social hour in an effort to bring together all members of AHS. It was centered around the book *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown and took place on January 13 at Mill House Brewery in Poughkeepsie. Pictured are (L-R) foreign language teachers Daria McAndrew and Ester Fallon, English teacher Darcy Soi, secretary Ginny Dunn, English teacher Sue Pung, special education teacher Stephanie Tito, Principal Paul Fanuele, guidance counselor Connie Weber, math teacher Pam Frye, Tamweber, and social studies teacher Noreen Mills Martin.

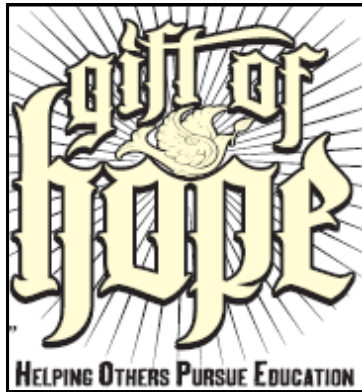
ARLINGTON *Team Hope*

The 10th Annual Gift of HOPE dress down day will be taking place on Friday, April 7. HOPE stands for Helping Others Pursue Education. For the past 10 years college scholarships have been awarded to over 140 students in the Arlington School District who have suffered the loss of a parent or guardian at some point in their academic enu-
 ating seniors who are eligible to

We have decided to continue our tra-
 game (in April) as well. This is an
 ment that will involve faculty mem-
 have food available from 4:30pm

Doors will open at 4:30pm on Friday,
 troduction of players will begin at
 mission will be \$5.00, or \$3.00 for

Order forms for HOPE apparel will be
 and will be collected no later than
 Marc Provost at AHS through interof-



deavors. We currently have 29 grad-
 receive a scholarship.

dition of a March Madness basketball
 evening filled with fun and excite-
 bers from the entire district. We will
 throughout the entire evening.

April 7 at Arlington High School. In-
 6:00pm, with tip-off at 6:30pm. Ad-
 anyone wearing HOPE apparel!

available in all schools in February
 February 24. Please send orders to
 fice 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 or-
 dering a shirt and wearing it on the day of March Madness. All of your continued support and coopera-
 tion with this great cause is appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

Tax Season is Upon Us Once Again

Dues Deductions for the Calendar Year 2016 for:

Full Time Teachers Who Were Employed In All Of 2016

<u>Payment Option</u>	<u>Amount of Union Dues Deducted</u>
6 Payments	\$884.86
15 Payments	\$877.81 <i>*This applies to most members</i>

Full Time Teachers Who Returned From Leave or Started In September 2016

<u>Payment Option</u>	<u>Amount of Union Dues Deduction</u>
15 Payments	\$413.00

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 23 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 (12/23/16- 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

Dates to Remember



FEBRUARY

- 14th—Board of Education Meeting: Budget Workshop, 7 p.m., VFE
- 20th—President's Day - No School
- 21st—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432
- 28th—Board of Education Meeting: 7 p.m., CAO

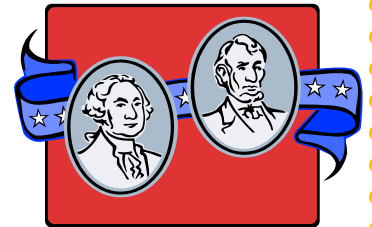
MARCH

- 4th—Math, Science, and Technology Fair, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., AHS
- 10th—Professional Development Half Day
- 14th—Board of Education Meeting: 7 p.m., JDWR
- 21st—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432
- 28th—Board of Education Meeting:, 7 p.m., OPS



APRIL

- 1st—District Arts Fair, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., LMS



Announcements

Don't Forget To Register!

New York State Law now requires that all teachers register in order to maintain their Professional or Permanent certificates.

Make sure to go to <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/> by the end of your birth month to register.

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4—6 p.m. on February 10 and 13. They are also in need of dishwasher-safe plates, cups, and coffee mugs. Contact Colleen Napora at AHS to sign up or donate.

Stay informed! Like us on Facebook or check out www.arlingtonteachers.com for forms, photos, calendars, and more.