



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 7, ISSUE VI

MAY 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NYSUT RA Update 2

Read about the annual convention.

Trivia Challenge

Win ATA gear.

Insurance Changes 3

Changes to our health insurance cards and vision plan are coming.

Rebuilding Together 4

The ATA helped fix up a community member's house.

What's Going On? 6

Member accomplishments are highlighted.

ATA Events 7

Sign up for mini-golf and the annual recognition dinner.

Calendar and Announcements 8



Support the School Budget on May 16

This year's school budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 16. The ballot will also include two propositions and three school board candidates who are running unopposed.

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 16th. Make sure to tell them why passage of the budget and the bus proposition and transportation and maintenance facilities propositions 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 2017–2018 Arlington school budget, the bus proposition, and the transportation and maintenance facilities proposition. More information about these items can be found at arlingtonschools.org.

BUDGET FACTS

- A 1.52% tax levy increase is proposed
- This is the sixth 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 \$1.38 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 year's proposition is the same as last year, and with 61.8% eligible for state transportation aid, the local share of the cost is \$719,497. If the bus proposition is not passed the district will have to lease buses, which will be more expensive.

TRANSPORTATION & MAINTENANCE FACILITIES PROPOSITION

Last year Arlington taxpayers approved a capital reserve fund to allow the District to set monies aside for the purpose of constructing additions and making improvements to district facilities. This year they are asking for voter approval to use that money to make much-needed improvements to transportation and maintenance facilities. This will not result in any additional increase to taxes.

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 decade were Arlington's bus garages built?

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

Mia Chong from UVMS. She correctly identified **Ed McCormick** as the longest-serving member of the Arlington School Board. 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 19. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

NYSUT RA 2017 Update



Photo by Sam Falk

Delegates gathered at the Midtown Hilton in New York City for NYSUT's 45th annual Representative Assembly on April 7 and 8, 2017.

Every spring, NYSUT's Representative Assembly gathers together delegates from each local union across New York State to take part in its policymaking process. This year the RA was held in Manhattan on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8. Representing the ATA were President Bob Maier, Treasurer Dave Cordella, Second Vice President Steve Hertzog, Communications Chair Sam Falk, and members Donna Doerrier and Jim Lillis. 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.

Every three years the RA also hosts elections for NYSUT officers, as it did this year.

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 student testing, the receivership laws, and the possible NY Constitutional Convention in 2017. They can also have differing opinions on issues such as APPR and NYSUT election procedures. Because of this, time is taken at the convention to allow committees of members who are particularly interested in working toward change in each of these areas to meet and craft language that

See RA on Page 3



Photo by Sam Falk

ATA Treasurer Dave Cordella (left) and Second Vice President Steve Hertzog look over the day's schedule at the NYSUT RA on April 7.

Changes To Health Insurance Are Coming Soon

As many of you have seen the notice in our payroll, I wanted to follow up with some explanation of the changes that will happen shortly with our Blue Cross / Blue Shield health insurance plans. Due to a computer/ software update at BC/BS they will be changing our group numbers, not necessarily our individual ID numbers. In any event, it is very important that our members pay close attention to the changes that are coming.

First, we all will be receiving new health insurance cards in June that will become effective on July 1, 2017. The cards will look very similar to the ones we carry now for ourselves and our dependents. I have suggested to people to mark the cards you currently have with a marker or something that will stand out to you. This way there will be no confusion with the new cards when they arrive in June. So to be clear,

current cards are to be used up until the close of business on June 30. The new cards should be used for doctor visits, prescriptions, or hospitalization beginning July 1 by all participants and their dependents.

Also happening at the same

As far as the benefits of Blue View Vision, I believe most will be very happy to see a change in the structure of the plan.

time, Davis Vision has ended its contract with BC/BS and with that, we will begin participating in the BC/BS Blue View Vision program. What this means, in short, is that we will continue to visit our eye professionals for vision programs, glasses and contacts, but we need to make sure that the providers use the BC/BS program. The network is actually much larger than the Davis Vision network, and you can search providers on EmpireBlue.com.

As far as the benefits of Blue View Vision, I believe most will be very happy to see a change in the structure of the plan. Specifically, we are now afforded an allowance to purchase glasses, different lenses, and contacts, rather than the

Davis program of purchase from a specific rack. We will now also enjoy tiered pricing on popular lens options and upgrades, 35-40% discounts on additional pairs of glasses, polycarbonate and transitions lenses for children at no additional cost, and discounts on laser vision correction surgery.

We have developed a plan benefit document that will be distributed to fully explain all of the benefits. This will be coming shortly. This plan takes effect July 1 as well. As we move forward more information will be coming, and if you have any questions as always feel free to contact us at the ATA office.

-Bob Maier, ATA President

NYSUT Representative Assembly 2017 Update

Continued from Page 2 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.

The 2017 RA was particularly contentious, as the room was very clearly divided into two factions based around the Stronger Together and Unity Caucuses. (See the March 2017 issue of *The Educator* for background on this.) In the end, the Unity caucus generally prevailed, as they had many more members who

were in attendance at the convention. As in-person attendance at the RA is a requirement for voting in NYSUT elections, the Unity slate won all of the NYSUT officer positions its candidates ran for. As of April 10, NYSUT's President is Andrew Pallotta, its Executive Vice President is Jolene DiBrango, its First Vice President is J. Phillippe Abraham, its Second Vice President is Paul Pecorale, and its Secretary-Treasurer is Martin Messner. Messner and Pecorale previously held those positions, and Pallotta was previously the First Vice President.

Now that NYSUT's new officers have been installed, the fo-

cus for the coming months will be to rise in opposition to the possibility of a New York State Constitutional Convention. That is something that all NYSUT members, and all public sector union members, should agree on since opening the Constitution could threaten our pension benefits. In addition, a constitutional convention would be extremely costly, and jeopardize other rights that non-union citizens value. The ATA will be asking for all members to help spread the word to educate others as to why it will be important to vote against a Constitutional Convention next November.

Rebuilding Our Community Together



“My Goodness, It’s overwhelming.” This was the reaction of Mrs. Johnson, a 73 year old mother who lives in her Holmes residence with her disabled adult son. On April 29 the ATA teamed up with its longtime partner, the Poughquag United Methodist Church, to do much needed repairs on their home. The event was organized by Rebuilding Together Dutchess County.

The threat of bad weather did not deter the fantastic turnout of our ATA members and their families. Representing the ATA this year were Betsy and Marc Denis, Kate Reid and Tom Hartford, Julie Jee, Kate Sprague-Hicks and John Hicks, Dan Braun, Ryan Pellow, Steve Kubicek, Maryann Markard, Renee Mavros and her son Dean, Doug Dickeson and retiree Bill McKeever. We had a total of 15 members, our biggest turnout to date.

After our morning safety meeting and coffee and donuts, the combined team this year installed new front steps and a new side



Photos by Betsy Denis and Laura DiStefano



door, repaired the front door and basement door, painted, tore down a garage, did yard work, and porch column repairs, and installed smoke alarms, shower grab bars, a ramp to the shed, new columns in the basement and filled a 40 yard dumpster! There were probably other repairs done, but it was too hard to keep track! These repairs will provide a safe home for Mrs. Johnson and her son.

This year was a milestone for Rebuilding Together Dutchess County; it was their 25th year, serving our community. In those 25 years, 13,000 volunteers have completed 500 home repairs at a value of \$5.8 million to communities throughout Dutchess County. This valuable work the ATA is doing would not be possible if not for the Poughquag United Methodist Church, and we appreciate this partnership and their hospitality (you should have seen the lunch they provided.) Thank you to all who participated this year. I would also like to thank Jim DeBonis for helping me out with all of the mass emailing to our members.

-Doug Dickeson, UVMS

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
<hr/>	
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.

Union Vale Middle

On Saturday, May 20, Union Vale Middle School will be the drop off site for an annual clothing drive for the Leukemia/ Lymphoma society (LLS). Technology teacher Doug Dickeson is helping his friend and Union Vale resident John Kissam organize the drive. Kissam is a cancer survivor whose children previously attended Arlington schools. Questions can be sent to ddickeson@acsdny.org and for more information on LLS and the event please see Kissam's fundraising website at pages.teamtraining.org/ctwhv/yourway15/jkissam.

Sixth grade social studies teacher Chris Malet is helping to organize the Shootout for Sol-



Photo by Melody Wolff

Highway Cleanup

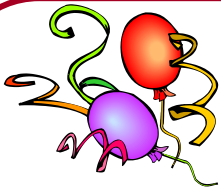
The ATA's annual spring highway cleanup was held on Saturday, April 22. LMS math teacher Debbie Pollack organized the event to help improve the appearance of Route 55. She was joined by Kathleen Peifer and Caleb Grey (AHS); Kaylee and John Wood-Aker, Julie Sanders, Dan Sims, John Pollack, and Melody Wolff (LMS); Jamieson Tall (UVMS); Betsy Marshall and Kristin Angevine (JDWR); Mindy Grey and Eleni Anemelos (VF); Colleen Quartuccio (BES); Judy McGuire and Jessica McGuire (ASM); Sharon Mosden, Jacob Mosden, and Caitlin O'Dowd (NOX); Cynthia Katz (TRP), and retiree Marion Quinn. Pictured are (L-R) O'Dowd, Wolff, and Tall.

diers. Twenty-four consecutive, one-hour Lacrosse games will be played to raise money for local veteran charities. The funds raised will go to the Hudson Valley Heroes project. The charity was founded by former AHS/UVMS student, Marc Coviello. The event takes place on June 16 and 17 at the Torne Valley Sports Complex in Hilburn, NY. To learn more about either organization, visit their web-

sites: <https://www.hudsonvalleyheroproject.org/> and <http://shootoutforsoldiers.com/>.

Vail Farm Elementary

Physical education teacher Marisa Sutera Strange successfully defended her Women's Overall title in the 10K at the 2017 USA Track & Field Master's Championships. The event took place on April 30 in Dedham, MA.



The Arlington Teachers' Association 13th Annual Miniature Golf Outing

Bring the whole family for a day of Miniature Golf, Food, Crafts, Prizes, Raffles, a Bake Sale and Lots of Fun!

Sunday, June 4th 11am-2pm

Overlook Golf Center

\$9.00 per player

Pre-register by May 26th and registration is only \$8.00 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

Come to the 2017 Recognition Dinner!

On Friday, June 16th, 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 in Poughkeepsie. The cost is \$53.00 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, dessert, and a cash bar. New menu this year!



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

16th—**School Budget Vote**

19th—Professional Development Half Day

23th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., NOX

26th-29th—Memorial Day, No School

JUNE

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

6th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

12th—Last Day of Classes, AHS

13th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS

16th—ATA Recognition Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Christos

21st—Last Day of Classes (Half Day), All Elementary and Middle Schools

22nd—Superintendent's Conference Day

23rd—Superintendent's Conference Day

24th—High School Graduation, Dutchess Stadium, 2 p.m.

27th—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 9 and 12. 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.