



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 7, ISSUE VII

JUNE 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Insurance Cards 2

New health insurance cards are on the way.

Trivia Challenge

Win ATA gear.

Constitutional Convention 3

Next November NY voters will decide whether to hold a constitutional convention.

Recognition Dinner 4

Retirees are honored at the annual event.

What's Going On? 6

Member accomplishments are highlighted.

PR Update 7

The annual mini-golf event raised over \$3000 for the Arlington Education Foundation.

Calendar and Announcements 8

A Year of Relative Calm Comes to an End

As I look back on the 2016-17 school year it seems to me that this was a relatively calm year for Arlington. Since the inception of this newsletter in 2010 its June headlines

have reflected a great deal of upheaval for Arlington educators: *June 2011*—“A Year Full of Changes Comes to an End” talked about the closing of LaGrange Elementary School and working under a new superintendent.

June 2012—“We Have a Contract!” reflected on the fact that over the course of two long years of negotiations the ATA team met with three different superintendents. *June 2013*—“One Voice Unites Educators” reported on the huge rally that took place in Albany to fight back against Pearson and corporate education reform.

June 2014—“AMS Prepares to Enter a New Chapter” reminisced about the middle school in the face of its closing and the moving of the Arthur S. May school into its building.

Let's not become complacent though, and be on the lookout for ways to band together to fight for what is right in the field of education.

June 2015—“E Pluribus Unum” discussed the onslaught of assaults on the education profession.

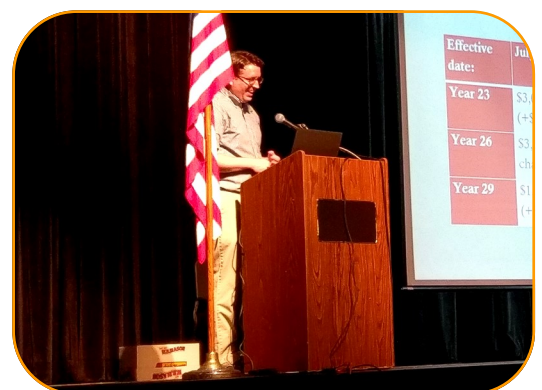
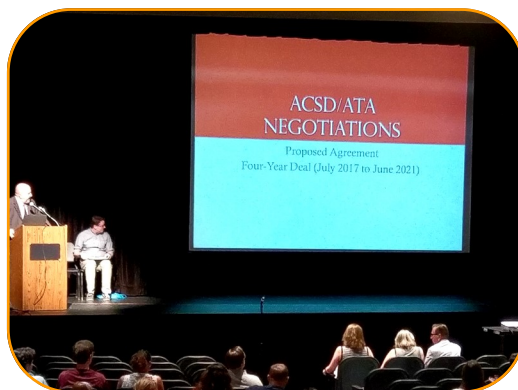
June 2016—“Relaxation, Recuperation, Registration” informed teachers that they now must register with State Ed. in order to keep their licenses.

Now, in June 2017, we have a signed memorandum of agreement with the district that was complete before our

current contract ran out, we have the same superintendent for a few years in a row, we haven't closed any school buildings, and we have no new state laws regarding education. On the local level, things are good. Then I remember that Betsy DeVos is Secretary of Education, and we still have the state laws about APPR, and the tax cap, and charter schools.

Have we gotten so used to tumult in Education that these things are the new norm? I hope not. Please, congratulate our negotiating team on their great work, and relax this summer knowing that your job conditions are stable. Let's not become complacent though, and be on the lookout for ways to band together to fight for what is right in the field of education.

-Sam Falk,
Communications Chair



| Effective date: | Jun |
|-----------------|---------|
| Year 23 | \$3 (+) |
| Year 26 | \$3 (-) |
| Year 29 | \$1 (-) |



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



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

Trivia Challenge

Last month's winners, selected at random from among the correct responses received, were **Meghan Erica Dunn** from ASM and **Jacob Lawrence** from AHS. They correctly identified **the 1950s** as the decade when Arlington's bus garages were built. They will be the proud owner of ATA gear.

Be sure to look for the next trivia challenge in September and you could win ATA gear too!

New BC/BS Cards Arrive Soon

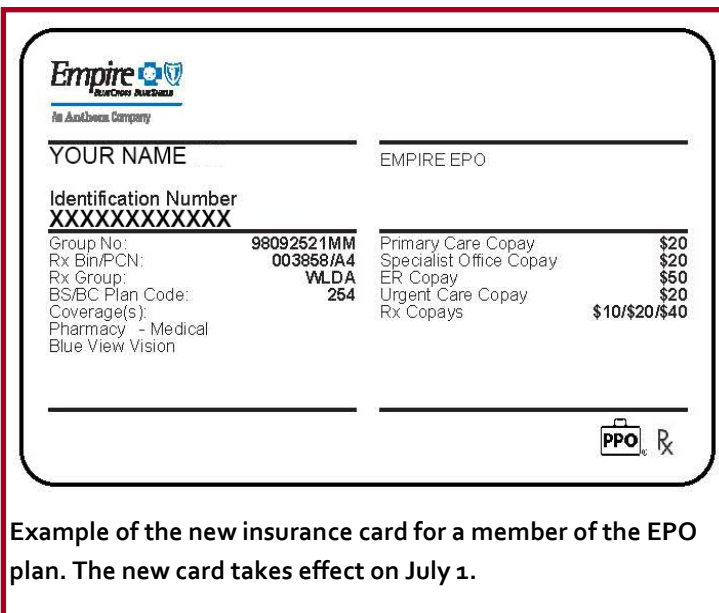
Don't forget that due to a software update at Blue Cross Blue Shield (BC/BS) they will be changing the member identification numbers for our health insurance and issuing new cards.

gests 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. Remember, current cards are

take both sets of insurance cards for you and your family with you.

Also happening at the same 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 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.

New insurance cards can also be printed from EmpireBlue.com, and if answers to your questions cannot be found there Maier will be checking email and voicemail at the ATA Office periodically over the summer. You can contact him there at 845-454-7002 or ata4547002@aol.com.



Example of the new insurance card for a member of the EPO plan. The new card takes effect on July 1.

New health insurance cards should be arriving imminently that will become effective on July 1, 2017. As you can see in the graphic below, the cards will look very similar to the ones we carry now for ourselves and our dependents. ATA President Bob Maier sug-

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. This means that if you are traveling the week after school ends you should

Have You Registered Yet?

If you have not yet registered with the State Education Department make sure to do so by the end of June.

Go to <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/> and follow the directions in order to maintain your teaching certification.

NY State Constitutional Convention – Is It a Big Deal?

The last time that New York State voters said yes to a constitutional convention was in 1965 when a convention committee was established by the state legislature. 186 people were elected (1966) to become members of the state’s 9th Constitutional Convention. On November 7, 1967, over 70 percent of voters in the state rejected the proposed constitutional changes. The total cost to New York tax payers in 1967 was approximately 15 million dollars. It is estimated that holding a constitutional convention today would cost tax payers anywhere between 47 and 108 million dollars, depending on the make up of the delegates elected as representatives.

In November of this year, voters will be asked to vote yes or no on holding a new Constitutional Convention here in the state of New York. Those in support of holding a convention have three main arguments.

- The current constitution is deficient in the rights that it guarantees to the public. There is a long list of rights that our current constitution does not guarantee to all New Yorkers, including the right to: adequate health care, clean air and water, equal rights for women and the LGBT community, force term limits on elected officials, early vot-

Albany would most likely be voted in to act as the delegates to what the opposition wants to call a ‘Politician’s Constitutional Convention’. Those legislators would then be entitled to a double salary for the entire length of the convention proceedings, and they would most likely continue to represent big business and anti labor interests, not the interests of grass roots coalitions.

- Dangerous decisions could be made because of the unlimited scope of what could be changed. New Yorkers could lose the right to: a free public education, Workers’ Compensation benefits, union association and collective bargaining.
- The state constitutional requirements regarding public pensions and social welfare programs could also be placed in jeopardy.



They argue that:

- It is a chance once and for all to curb the corruption in Albany by setting term limits and further restricting the state’s power.
- The current legislative process in Albany does not move quickly enough. Through the process of holding what supporters want to call a ‘People’s Constitutional Convention’, the general public will be able to force lawmakers to take actions that they are otherwise unwilling to take.

ing, independent redistricting... and the list goes on.

Those in opposition to a Constitutional Convention argue that:

- There is a more effective and less costly way to change our constitution through the public referendum process, a process that has successfully amended the constitution more than 200 times.
- The same Albany legislators who are currently paid to represent our interests in

As the debate for and against a constitutional convention heats up over the summer months and into the Fall, it behooves all of us to educate ourselves and our families in order to actively participate in this important debate. The consequences of voter inattention and apathy in this matter could have dire consequences for the future of our own families and the families of the children that we educate in our public schools.

-Betsy Marshall,
ATA CAC Co-Chair

Retirees Say Goodbye

The ATA's annual recognition dinner was held on Friday June 16 at Christos in Poughkeepsie. Sixteen 2017 retirees were honored. Many more photos of the event can be found at www.arlingtonteachers.com.

Dixie Anderson– 26 yrs with Arlington
Vail Farm, 2nd Grade

Tying up 26 years in Arlington in a "short" statement is no easy task for me! So I think of Bob Hope and say . . . "Thanks for the memories" and thank you for the many friendships and opportunity to teach beside some amazing and wonderful people! To be a part of so many children's lives and to have hopefully made a positive difference is something I will treasure forever! Carry on and do what you do BEST!

Eric Buegers– 38 yrs with Arlington
Arlington High, English

Thanks for all your support throughout the years, your hard work on our behalf, and the work that's already beginning as a result of the possible road education has to take in the upcoming years.



Thomas Voelker



AHS PE teachers turned out to congratulate retiree Fred Perry (second from right).

Michelle Cartmill– 30 yrs with Arlington
Beekman, 2nd Grade

It has been an honor to have taught in a District where the mission is centered around students. My hope is that through my dedication and hard work I have made somewhat of a positive difference in the lives of the students I have taught. Thank you for all the support from my colleagues and the ATA.

Sherry Conklin– 24 yrs with Arlington
LaGrange Middle, Special Education

Betsy Denis– 24 yrs with Arlington
Union Vale Middle, Special Education

I can't really imagine having had another career, especially over these many years and consider myself fortunate to have spent the majority of them in Arlington.

Donna Doerrier– 30 yrs with Arlington
Arlington High, Special Education

To my fellow ATA members please stick with your union. It will be especially important going forward as public education is a



Siouxzanne Harris

VOLUME 7, ISSUE VII

constant political football and I anticipate that that will not change with the current climate. We are stronger together. Also, vote no on the Constitutional Convention in November!

Karen Gell– 18 yrs with Arlington Beekman, 2nd Grade

Bonnie Glick– 24 yrs with Arlington Vail Farm, Speech Language Pathologist

I will treasure the friendships I have made during my time at Arlington. Please don't let the challenges to public education stifle the passion you have for teaching children. Continue to be the incredible educators you are and

chor.

Kathy Peifer– 18 yrs with Arlington High, Special Education

I would like to express my gratitude to the ATA leadership for all of their support and assistance. In our ever-changing



Donna Doerrier (left) and 2016 retiree Kathie Blank Cicala

world of education, it was always a comfort to me knowing we had a strong union advocating for our rights and needs as professionals.

Colleen Quartuccio– 27 yrs with Arlington Beekman, Kindergarten

Thank you to Bob Maier and all of Arlington's ATA members for making this incredible educational journey with me. It has been a privilege and an honor to teach with such diverse unity. What a wonderful life experience it has been. I will miss you all!

Fred Perry– 29 yrs with Arlington Arlington High, Physical Education

Thanks for the memories I will not miss all the stupid meetings just the people.

Thomas Voelker– 20 yrs with Arlington Arthur S. May/Beekman

Caryn Presti Billesimo– 29yrs with Arlington

Traver Road, 2nd Grade

-All photos by Kathleen Vogt



enjoy each special moment you create with your students. Never lose sight of the huge difference you make every day in so many lives! Have a safe and happy summer!

Pam Goetz– 27 yrs with Arlington Vail Farm, 3rd Grade

Nadine Hanley– 30 yrs with Arlington Arthur S. May, 2nd Grade

I wish my fellow ATA members health and happiness and a few laughs along the way.

Siouxzanne Harris– 17 yrs with Arlington Traver Road, Special Education

Become involved in the ATA. Support them in every way you can. You have what you have because of the work they do. They have your back. Now more than ever they are your rock, your an-



Vail Farm Elementary School's Recognition dinner attendees

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.

Arthur S. May

Fifth grade teacher Andrew Stock will be co-conducting a workshop called "Teaching Writing in the Science Classroom" at SUNY New Paltz from July 24-28 as part of the Hudson Valley Writing Project.

The workshop's description says that, "Writing is an integral part of creating scientific knowledge, from documenting observations and experimental findings to presenting an argument for or against a hypothesis. In this workshop, we will examine strategies that help students use writing as scientists do - to make sense of the natural world, reflect on scientific texts, and communicate ideas. We'll also see how daily and extended writing can engage students and prepare



Photo by Lily Cheung

Overlook Primary

Physical Education teacher Steve Ciancio received the American Heart Association's "Youth Market School Coordinator of the Year" award at the Dutchess-Ulster American Heart Association's "Men Go Red For Women" event at the Marist Boathouse at on June 6. Ciancio has coordinated the Jump Rope for Heart and Go Red for Women events at Overlook for 21 years, raising over \$125,000 for the American Heart Association.

them for reading and writing expectations in the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards." Go to www.newpaltz.edu/hwvp to learn more.

Summer Hours

The ATA officers are still there for members over the summer. While the office will not be physically open, President Bob Maier checks the ATA's email and voicemail a few times a week in July and August. Messages can be left at 845-454-7002 or ata4547002@aol.com.

PR Update: Worthy Causes Benefit

All eyes were focused on the weather reports, and fingers were crossed as we all hoped the rain that was in the forecast would hold off until after the mini-golf outing on Sunday, June 4, 2017. Our luck held out, and the skies didn't open up until the very end of the fundraiser at the Overlook Golf Center. This year was one of the most heavily attended mini-golf events in the ATA's thirteen year history of organizing it, where it raised over \$3,000 to benefit the Arlington Education Foundation. The outpouring of support from our members was also outstanding! We had many members donate baked goods for our bake sale, volunteer

The 13th Annual Mini-Golf event raised over \$3000 for the Arlington Education Foundation.

the day of the event, or bring their family out for a fun afternoon. Overall, it was a great success, which could not have happened without our dedicated members giving of their time and energy.

Our next PR event will be in September where we will set up a tent at the Arlington Street Festival. On behalf of the whole PR team, I thank you in advance for your continued support of us and our community.

As a membership, we have helped support the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Outreach, Rebuilding Together, the Highway Department, the DCSPCA, and the Arlington Education Foundation. I am proud to work with such a dedicated group of people as the ATA.

-Kristine Jackson, PR Chair



UVMS ELA teacher Jamie Tall (left) and social studies teacher Dan Sims from LMS were just two of many volunteers who helped throughout the day.



AHS social studies teacher Erica Wolff and her daughter Annika enjoyed the sand art table.

Find these photos and more by ATA photographer Kathleen Vogt on the ATA's web page at www.arlingtonteachers.com!

Dates to Remember



JUNE

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



2017-2018 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SCHEDULE

September 19

October 17

November 28

December (no meeting)

January 16

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 8

June 12



All meetings are at 4 p.m. in room 1432 at AHS



Announcements

Thank you to the ATA's Communications Committee for all of their help with The Educator this year!

Alice Estevez - ASM

Bill Mueller - BES

Chris Greco - JDWR

Jennifer Fischetti - LMS

Sharon Mosden - NOX

Jayne Pugnali- OPS

Aimee Holzapfel- TIS

Barbara Simone - TRS

Katherine Falcone - UVMS

Alison Durkin - VF

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 to 6 p.m. on July 10 and 14 and August 11 and 14. Please contact Colleen Napora at cnapora@acsdny.org to sign up.

Stay in touch over the summer! Like us on Facebook or check out www.arlingtonteachers.com for forms, photos, calendars, and more.