



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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We Will Weather This Storm Together

ATA President Bob Maier's 2018 State of the Union Address

As 2017 comes to a close, we can look back and appreciate the victories we have achieved. In the last year we were able to settle a contract with the District, and win a victory against the movement for a Constitutional Convention. Both of these efforts took a huge amount of efforts from our team.

The operation of the ATA is a significant task everyday for the officers and me. Beyond our operation, we have a significant team of members who come together and work to

support our cause. Through last spring, the negotiating team was able to work to have a contract settlement for the next four years. A

On the horizon, a significant concern is the results of a Supreme Court decision in the case of Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

job well done by our Chief, Robert McHugh and team members, Patty Bauerlein, Chris Greco, and Bill Mueller. Long hours and a great effort brought a fair settlement before the last expired. This has not happened in more

than 20 years. Well done, team!

The other significant victory this year was that of denying an effort to hold a Constitutional Convention. In this arena our Community Action Team of Brendan Lawler and Betsy Marshall created an action plan and then executed

it to reach our members and get out the Vote No campaign. Thankfully, this is only on the ballot every 20 years, but we definitely have mastered the political campaign and how we can impact the outcome. This

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Trivia Challenge

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

Which President signed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, moving the observed dates of many Federal holidays?

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **Allison Kilroy** from Noxon. She correctly identified **Grand Moff Tarkin** as the original commander of the Death Star. She 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 sfalk@acsdny.org by February 12. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Annual SPCA Drive Has Begun

The Arlington Teachers' Association is proud to report we will be sponsoring a supplies drive, once again, to honor Jackie Higgins, a true supporter of the ATA. Jackie was the ATA's administrative assistant for many years. She greeted everyone with a smile on her face, and always had a kind word to offer to anyone who walked through our office doors. In 2010, our community lost a champion and friend 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 for the 8th straight year. She loved animals, and the Dutchess County SPCA is always so appreciative of our donations as a district. Last year, we were able to fill two car loads worth of supplies! Starting February 5 until

March 5, we will be collecting donations for the DCSPCA. 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 (Yesterday's News)
- *Clean, dry towels and blankets
- *Long handled scrub brushes
- *Wee-wee pads
- *Peanut butter
- *Paper towels
- *Bleach
- *Laundry detergent
- *Hoses and hose nozzles
- *Cake-sized paper plates
- *Uncooked white rice
- *Pet toys



Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts and for helping us to honor the memory of the ATA's friend, Jackie Higgins.

-Kristine Jackson, PR Chair



Photo courtesy of DCSPCA

The Dutchess County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DCSPCA) is located at 636 Violet Avenue in Hyde Park.

We Will Weather This Storm Together

Continued from Front victory wasn't even close with a resounding more than 80% No vote. We really appreciate the efforts of our team, and all of you who turned out to vote.

On the horizon, a significant concern is the results of a Supreme Court decision in the case of Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). This case will directly attack the rights of unions of public employees. This issue is the same as the Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association case from last year where the Court had to decide whether public employee unions can charge dues or for those who don't want to join pay an agency fee for services the union provided. The court ruling was an even split as the deciding justice Atonin Scalia passed away. This year the new Justice Gorsuch is believed to bring a vote against

the union cause.

If we see the Janus v. AFSCME decision vote against us, it will change the way we will be able to operate. In the short term, we would need to re-sign all members to our union. Each member would be able to decide if they want to join the ATA or not each year. The court may also contemplate what services and benefits the unions would have to provide for what is referred to as a "Free Rider". This is a person who declines membership, but expects services and benefits the unions provide. To say the least, this case could threaten our existence, and the rights and protections our contract provides.

The Janus case has not been scheduled to be heard in the Court at this time. As soon as information is available we will be sharing what we know. Moving forward, the ATA

leadership will be addressing this concern and planning our future. The ATA is absolutely dependent on our membership. We will be navigating this new challenge together. I am confident that we are a strong association, and we will continue to be successful in our efforts.

Once again I would like to thank all of our members working on behalf of our Association. The ATA is fortunate to have so many dedicated professionals working for us all. I would be remiss if I did not personally share a huge thank you to Sam Falk for putting this newsletter together for us, and keep our communication lines open with our entire membership. Although our future is complicated and challenging, we will weather this storm together.

-Bob Maier, ATA President

Tax Season is Upon Us Once Again

Dues Deductions for the Calendar Year 2017 for:

Full Time Teachers Who Were Employed In All Of 2017

<u>Payment Option</u>	<u>Amount of Union Dues Deducted</u>
6 Payments	\$887.86
15 Payments	\$886.26 <i>*This applies to most members</i>

Full Time Teachers Who Returned From Leave or Started In September 2017

<u>Payment Option</u>	<u>Amount of Union Dues Deduction</u>
15 Payments	\$414.40

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 22 check stub.

Check your pay stub from the last paycheck in December (12/22/17- 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

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	July
National WWII Museum	6-12	Social Studies—WWII	July 22
McDonald Observatory	K-12	Science—Astronomy	Variou
Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History	K-12	Social Studies—American History	Variou
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 15
Skidmore College	9-12	Art	July 9-
Carnegie Hall	6-12	Music, Drama	July
National Physical Education & School Sport Institute	K-12	Physical Education	July 23
Michigan State University	6-12	Foreign Language	Variou
ASM International	6-12	STEM—Materials Science	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 sators. Many even include room, board, and travel expenses!



	Location	Application Deadline	Website
	Germany	Jan. 31	tinyurl.com/jcdweyw
-28	New Orleans, LA	Feb. 1	tinyurl.com/y7h4nkv9
us	Fort Davis, Texas	Feb. 9	mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/profdev#hubble
us	Various	Feb. 15	www.gilderlehrman.org/content/teacher-seminars
us	Various	March 1	www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs
us	Washington, D.C.	March 21	www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/teacherinstitute/
-21	Kansas City, Missouri	March 26	tinyurl.com/jgqg2x8
29	Saratoga Springs, NY	April 7	www.skidmore.edu/summerstudioart/art-fellows-information.php
	New York NY	April 30	www.carnegiehall.org/MEW_Summer_Program/
-25	Asheville, NC	Ongoing	nationalpe.com/
us	East Lansing, MI	May 4	clear.msu.edu/resources/professional-development/summer-workshops/
us	Various	Ongoing	tinyurl.com/gwo24fq

2017 — 2018 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 — Gwen Moschetto

OPS — Nancy Thomas

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR — Chris Greco

TIS — Sue Ramsden

LMS — Kevin Walsh

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

English teacher Katie Nixon has organized the fourth annual Hudson Valley New Teacher Institute. The event will be held on February 1 from 6 to 9pm at Marist College. The conference consists of panels of teachers, administrators, and other school personnel from Arlington, New Paltz, Carmel, John Jay, Newburgh, Rhinebeck, Hyde Park, Pine Plains, and Poughkeepsie school districts and education majors from Bard, Vassar, Mount St. Mary, Marist, and SUNY New Paltz. The panels cover a range of topics including Curriculum and Planning, The Art of Co-Teaching, Legality and the Classroom, Building Relationships within the School Community: Advising and Coaching, and The Job Search. It is presented as an opportunity for those interested in the



Photo courtesy of Gwen Saylor

Women's March

On January 20 many ATA members attended Women's Marches held throughout the state. Pictured above (front left to back right) are Arlington High School teachers Tory Biasotti, Julia Bucklin, and Gwen Saylor, who met New York City mayor Bill DeBlasio and his wife Chirlane McCray at the march held in New York City.

teaching profession to learn about real-life experiences in the school community, instead of simply observing a classroom and reading from a textbook.

Union Vale Middle

Special Education teacher Kat Spinelli recently achieved her National Board Certification.

Special Education teacher Karen Sipperly once again organized the annual trivia competition that benefits the Red Hook Library. This is the competition's 16th year.

Each year many Arlington teachers compete in the charity event. This year it was held on January 28.

Vail Farm Elementary

ENL teacher Allison Lauchaire (who is currently acting as assistant principal) recently achieved her National Board certification.

The Student Council, lead by Special Education teacher Jennifer Sullivan and 1st grade teacher Janet Will hosted a blood drive on January 18. They collected 47 pints of blood.

ARLINGTON *Team Hope*

The 11th Annual Gift of HOPE dress down day will be taking place on Friday, March 23. HOPE stands for Helping Others Pursue Education. For the past 11 years college scholarships have been awarded to over 160 students in the Arlington School District who have suffered the loss of a parent or guardian at some point in their academic endeavors. We currently have 29 graduating seniors who are eligible to receive a scholarship.

We have decided to continue our tradition of a March Madness basketball tournament. This is an evening filled with fun and excitement that will involve faculty members from the entire district. We will have food available from 4:30pm throughout the entire evening.

Doors will open at 4:30pm on March 23 at Arlington High School. Introduction of players will be at 6:00pm, with tip-off at 6:30pm. Admission will be \$5.00.

Order forms will be collected no later than February 26. Forms will be available at each school. Please send orders to Marc Provost at AHS through interoffice 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 ordering a shirt and wearing it on March 23. All of your continued support and cooperation with this great cause is appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

Ladies Tee LST370
Sport-Tek® Ladies CamoHex V-Neck
4-ounce, 100% polyester interlock
Gently contoured silhouette
Tag-free label
Self-fabric v-neck
Set-in sleeves



\$20
each



St370 Mens Tee
Sport-Tek® CamoHex Tee
4-ounce, 100% polyester interlock
Tag-free label
Set-in sleeves

Mens	<i>SIZE:</i>	XS	SM	MD	LG	XL	2X	3X
	<i>Quantity:</i>	___	___	___	___	___	___	___

Ladies	<i>SIZE:</i>	XS	SM	MD	LG	XL	2X	3X
	<i>Quantity:</i>	___	___	___	___	___	___	___

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____

Check or cash for my shirt order is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

Email: _____

I would like to additionally donate \$ _____ to "The Gift of HOPE" (optional)



Dates to Remember



FEBRUARY

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

19th—President's Day - No School

20th—ATA Executive Council Meeting: 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

27th—Board of Education Meeting: 7 p.m., CAO

MARCH

3rd—Math, Science, and Technology Fair: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., AHS

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

16th—Professional Development Delayed Start Day

20th—ATA Executive Council Meeting: 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

Board of Education Meeting: 7 p.m., LMS

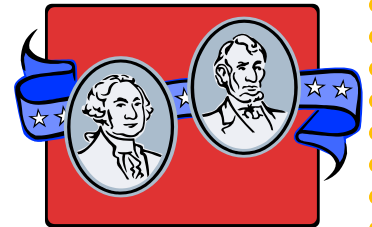
26-30th—Spring Break



APRIL

2nd—Spring Break

7th—District Arts Fair: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., LMS



Announcements

Retirees, Save the Date!

The next retiree luncheon will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 12 pm at the Italian Center at 227 Mill Street in Poughkeepsie. More information will be coming soon.

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4—6 p.m. on February 9 and March 9 and 12. Contact Colleen Napora at AHS to sign up.

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