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Support the School Budget on May 15

This year's school budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 15. The ballot will also include three 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 15th. Make sure to tell them why passage of the budget and propositions are important to you and how they will benefit the children of this district.

This year's bus replacement proposition is the same as last year's.

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, with 63% eligible for state transportation aid, the local share of the cost is \$693,195. If the bus proposition is not passed the district may have to lease buses, which will be more expensive.

To the right and below you will find some facts to help you inform others about the 2018–2019 Arlington school budget and propositions. More information about these items can be found at arlingtonschools.org.

Every vote counts!

BUDGET FACTS

- A 2.20% tax levy increase is proposed, which is below the allowable 2.40% cap.
- If the budget fails twice, a contingency budget must be adopted, meaning that an additional \$3.0 million would have to be cut. That would require the elimination of new equipment purchases, and the reduction of positions, programs, and extracurricular activities, among other things.

Visit arlingtonschools.org for more information

AHS ATHLETIC COMPLEX UPGRADE PROPOSITION

In 2016 Arlington taxpayers approved a capital reserve fund to allow the district to set aside monies to use toward district facilities. This proposition will allow for the use of the remaining \$1.5 million from that fund to upgrade the AHS athletic complex and renovate some of the bathrooms at the high school with no additional increase to taxes.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND 2018 PROPOSITION

The district is seeking approval to create a new capital reserve fund for \$20 million dollars. The maximum term of the fund will be 20 years. A capital reserve fund allows the district to set monies aside for the purpose of constructing additions, making improvements, and equipping district buildings and facilities. If this fails, capital projects will need to be fully bonded, which will result in new taxes.



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Trivia Challenge

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

What type of fuel did Arlington start transitioning its busses to in 2016?

No correct entries were received for last month's trivia question. **New York** is the state with the highest rate of union membership. Answer this month's question correctly and you could win ATA gear!

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by **May 25**. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

NYSUT RA 2018 Update



NYSUT President Andy Pallotta addressed the delegates at the 2018 RA in Buffalo.

Photo Courtesy of NYSUT

One of the harbingers of spring each year is the NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA), where delegates representing local NYSUT chapters from all across the state convene for two days of business that includes debating changes to the NYSUT constitution and bylaws, and proposing resolutions to guide the efforts and direction of NYSUT's leadership in the coming year. These amendments and resolutions were proposed weeks prior to the RA, and committees convene to discuss and submit the changes to the entire voting body during general sessions. To add breaks to the debate and discussions, there are also guest speakers and reports from each NYSUT officer, as well as presentations of a variety of awards. Going to www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/representative-assembly connects you to NYSUT's RA webpage where you can see the whole program and more detailed information about what happened in each session. If you are holding a print copy of this fine newsletter, you can scan the QR code with your smartphone to get to the website.

Use this QR code to get more detailed information about the 2018 NYSUT RA program.



In this delegate's perspective, this meeting in Buffalo on April 27 and 28 was much more calm and cooperative than the last two RA's which involved tension between two rival caucuses, and the turnover of leadership for the third time in the last dozen years. This year things were very settled, and the messages were unified. One of these messages is that NYSUT and the labor movement is gaining ground. State and national leaders touted grassroots campaigns and community action that drove the labor agenda. Pay raises in other states resulting from organizing and mobilizing

See Representative on Page 3

Help Fix APPR



for the bill, which would go a long way toward creating a fairer and more effective evaluation system.

It is now the Senate's turn to pass the bill. Let's get this done now!"

State Senator Sue Serino represents much of the Arlington district, and she has not yet signed on to support the Senate bill. Please go to www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/let-us-teach/fax to encourage her to do so.

In addition, we need to keep letting our lawmakers know that, while this bill is a good start, it isn't enough. No system that uses any kind of student test scores to evaluate teachers is going to be fair, and APPR must be ended, not just amended.

From NYSUT.com:

"Thanks to you, we are closer than ever to fixing New York's flawed and unfair teacher performance review law. The NYS Assembly has passed

A.10475, which would return control over teacher evaluations to local school districts and teachers. Between the Senate and the Assembly, this bill has more than 120 sponsors. That shows overwhelming support

NYSUT Representative Assembly 2018 Update

Continued from Page 2
 were one example. In New York, the state legislature is on a fast track to reform our APPR laws that could have the potential to put teacher evaluations back in the hands of local control. This is a process that is happening as this newsletter is in production, but is another example of the momentum the labor movement is gaining.

This optimism was tempered with a bit of anxiety over the coming Janus U.S. Supreme Court case, which has the potential to land anywhere on the spectrum from harmless to toxic to the labor movement. State

and national leadership urged all in attendance to remain proud of their union membership and the gains that the labor movement has provided to the American

the Janus decision is that we may need to sign-up every member of our union every year. To be proactive, and avoid scrambling to get this done in September, the ATA will undertake a membership drive in May and June of this school year. You can expect to hear more about this very soon.

This QR code will bring you to NYSUT's YouTube channel where you can view videos from the RA.



middle class, but we also have to put some safeguards in place to prepare for the possible outcomes of the pending decision, which is also due to finalize in the coming weeks. One of the possible negative outcomes of

Your delegates ATA president Bob Maier, ATA treasurer Dave Cordella, AHS social studies teacher Jim Lillis, and I enjoyed our time in Buffalo and the many networking and union building opportunities associated with it.

-ATA 2nd Vice President Steve Hertzog

Rebuilding Our Community Together

Coffee, donuts, bagels, fruit...chicken marsala, chicken parmesan, ziti, sausage and peppers, bread ... cookies, brownies, and 2x4's? Sounds like a party!

On April 28 the ATA teamed up with our long time partners the Poughquag United Methodist Church to help out World War II veteran Frank Sause. This Rebuilding team was the largest to date: 48 in total, with 16 coming from the ATA, and providing a total of 417 hours worth of labor. Many of the ATA members were veterans of previous rebuilds, but with our numbers growing there were several new faces.

Sause has lived in this home for 63 years with much of the home still original; there was no shortage of work. The jobs consisted of a new front handrail, a repair to the garage door, mortaring bricks on the front steps and chimney, installation of new smoke and CO₂ sensors, new basement stairs and railing, new door to the garage, new door out the basement, new door to the deck, repairs to



*Left: UVMS
technology teacher
Clint Walters tackles
some carpentry work.*



*Right: Some of the ATA's
many volunteers stop for a
photo. For a full list of
names, see page 6.*

Photos Courtesy of Doug Dickeson



Left: UVMS English teacher Joe Healy runs the chop saw while UVMS science teacher Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago supervises.

soffits and deck rail, staining of the deck, replacement of window trim, interior trim and a whole lot more. The jobsite was a constant buzz and laced in between it were visitors from the National Rebuilding Office, news cameras, reporters and even senators! Our home was also a Sears Heroes at Home Program which allowed us extra resources, and provided a new roof installation by an outside contractor.

Sause and his dog Abby were very excited for all the work done and commented on how kind and hardworking the team was; he was also thrilled to get all the leftovers and cookies!

At the same time Sause was thanking the Rebuilding team for all their work, the team were all saying how we appreciated the fact that he served our country, and that we were happy to serve him in return. Sause put his hands out and with a big smile said, "Well, it was worth fighting for."

-Doug Dickeson, UVMS

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@acsdcny.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 Julie Jee was selected to be a Heinemann Fellow for the 2018-2020 cohort. According to the Heinemann website, "[Fellows] will use their fellowships to engage in individual research projects that address challenges faced by schools across the country. These research projects will be informed by their own personal experience as teachers. . . The group will meet regularly throughout their fellowships to share findings and feedback. Together, they will refine data gathering, inform further research plans, and help interpret results. Their work will then be shared through Heinemann's various publication channels."

Science teacher Sam Falk is part of a small group of volunteers who are running the annual Millbrook Literary Festival. This year's 10th Anniversary Festival will be held at Millbrook Library on May 19 from 10am to 5pm. More information can be

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County

The following ATA members and retirees (and some family members) were among those who participated in this year's annual Rebuilding Day on April 28: Scott Adams (VFE), Karen Cunningham (UVMS), Betsy and Marc Denis, Doug and Casey Dickeson (UVMS), Tom Hartford, Joe Healy (UVMS), Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago (UVMS), Sara Jernigan (LMS), Renee Mavros (UVMS), Bill and Ruth McKeever, Jon Nix (VFE), Kathy Reid (UVMS), and Clint Walters (UVMS). For more information see the article on Page 4 of this issue.

found at
www.millbrookliteraryfestival.org.

Arthur S. May School

Fifth grade teacher Andrew Stock is teaching a course titled "Writing to Learn Science: Climate Change and Beyond" as part of the Hudson Valley Writing Project at SUNY New Paltz from July 23-27. Inservice hours are available. For more information go to www.newpaltz.edu/hvwp/openinstitutes.html.

LaGrange Middle

Social Studies teacher Greg Fredricks had an article titled "Empowering Students Through Turbulent Times" published in *Education Week* online in March.

English teacher Kristine Jackson was featured in the May issue of *Real Simple* magazine after she answered a questionnaire about mothers in different stages of life and was selected to receive a makeover from a salon in New York City. She was dubbed the "Explorer" to represent the moms who are experiencing being an empty-nester for the first time.

Vail Farm Elementary

Fourth grade teacher

Bridgit Pasquarella and fifth grade teacher Michelle Malkischer led the VFE Running Club at the Arlington Education Foundation 2nd Annual 5k on Saturday, April 21. VFE won the trophy for having the most students participate in this event.

Second grade teacher Pina Bruno and first grade teacher Jonathan Nix established the Vail Farm Elementary School of Rock was established in the fall of 2017. The mission of VFE School of Rock is to inspire students to learn to play musical instruments and advance the musical talents of students. VFE School of Rock began as a guitar program with over 80 students. School of Rock teaches students the basics of playing guitar. Students learn rock and roll history and learn to play their first song. In its second year VFE School of Rock offered students many new opportunities, including expanding to include a drum program. The guitar program now offers sessions for new and advanced VFE musicians in School of Rock will now have the opportunity to perform in front of an audience of their teachers and peers on Field Day



**Arlington Teachers' Association
Night at
The Renegades!**



**Hudson Valley Renegades vs. West Virginia Black Bears
Dutchess Stadium
Thursday, July 12, 2018 @ 7:05 p.m.
*Craft Beer Fest/25 Year Card Set Giveaway!***

The Arlington Teachers' Association has reserved the left field picnic area at Dutchess Stadium.
The picnic area opens for our members prior to the game at 6pm.

We will enjoy an all-you-can-eat grill. The menu includes all-beef hot dogs, charbroiled Angus burgers, fire-grilled chicken, grilled sausage with sautéed peppers and onions, pasta salad, chips, fresh baked cookies, soda, and bottled water. Ticket price also includes a Rascal's Clubhouse play area wristband for the kids!

Only \$25 for adults and \$15 for children (under three years old are admitted free)!

The price includes a ticket to the game and exclusive access to the left field picnic facility.



**The Arlington Teachers' Association at Dutchess Stadium
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

Member's Name: _____ School: _____

Number of Adults Attending: _____ @ \$25.⁰⁰ each

Number of Children Attending: _____ @ \$15.⁰⁰ each

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

*Please make checks payable to The Arlington Teachers' Association and
send to the ATA Office by June 22.*

Dates to Remember



MAY

- 15th—**School Budget Vote**
- 22nd—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., OPS
- 28th—Memorial Day, No School

JUNE

- 5th—High School Regents Day, Students attend only for exams
- 8th—Elementary School Half Day, Students dismiss at 11:30 a.m.
- 11th—Last Day of Classes, AHS
- 12th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS
- 15th—ATA Recognition Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Christos
- 20th—Last Day of Classes, All Elementary and Middle Schools
- 21st—Superintendent's Conference Day
- 22nd—Superintendent's Conference Day
- 23rd—High School Graduation, Dutchess Stadium, 1 p.m.
- 26th—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? Let us know when your colleagues do something great! Please contact Sam Falk at sfalk@acsdny.org if you have news to share.

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 to 6 p.m. on June 8 and 11. 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.