



# THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 9, ISSUE VI

MAY 2019

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## Support the School Budget on May 21

This year's school budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 21. The ballot will also include a bus and equipment proposition and three school board positions.

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 21st. Make sure to tell them why passage of the budget and the bus and equipment proposition is 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 the district to have people on the school board who are able to work with the employees of Arlington to further the educational opportunities that we offer. There are several qualified candidates running, and the ATA has carefully considered whom to endorse.

To the right and below you will find some facts to help you inform others about the 2019–2020 Arlington school budget and propositions. More information about these items can be found at [arlingtonschools.org](http://arlingtonschools.org).

Every vote counts!

### BUDGET FACTS

- A 2.15% tax levy increase is proposed, which is below the allowable 2.55% cap.
- If the budget fails twice, a contingency budget must be adopted, meaning that an additional \$3.8 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](http://arlingtonschools.org)  
for more information

### BUS & EQUIPMENT PROPOSITION

Taxpayers are asked to permit the district to purchase new vehicles, trailers, and floor-scrubbing machines at a local share of \$643,985 bonded over five years. The district maintains a schedule for bus replacements in order to provide cost predictability. If this proposition does not pass, more buses will likely need repairs as they get older, which could lead to cuts to educational programs to cover these additional costs.

### SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Five candidates are running to fill three seats on the Arlington School Board. The ATA recently interviewed all of the candidates and is endorsing **Marion Quinn**, **Kelly Cahill Chenski**, and **Mark Tornatore**. We feel that these candidates show the most promise for making positive changes that will benefit the employees, students, and taxpayers of the district.

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# Trivia Challenge

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

**How many buses and vans are in Arlington's fleet?**

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **Karen Chirinos** from BES. She correctly identified **1939** as the date of the first NCAA basketball tournament. 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](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.org) by **May 31**. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

# NYSUT RA 2019



Photos Courtesy of Sam Falk

Top: Attendees pack the hall where the NYSUT RA general sessions were held each day. Bottom: Dave Cordella (left) and Sam Falk from AHS pose in front of NYSUT's traveling billboard that was parked outside of the Albany Convention Center on May 3 and 4.

Each spring NYSUT holds their Representative Assembly meeting to gather locals from around the state to address the issues that we all face, and to elect people to various NYSUT positions. This year the ATA was represented at the conference in Albany from May 2 through 4 by President Bob Maier, Treasurer Dave Cordella, and Communications Chair Sam Falk.

The nearly 3000 delegates attended meetings to craft resolutions on topics ranging from the condem-

nation of state testing to the support for farm workers' rights. They were also graced with guest speakers including AFT president Randi Weingarten and U.S. Representative Tim Ryan, a 2020 Presidential candidate.

Although the recent Janus case in the Supreme Court threatened to weaken public unions, NYSUT President Andy Palotta told conference attendees that, "Our members are more engaged than ever, and they are sticking with the union."

# ATA PR Committee Reflects and Looks Ahead To Next Year

The PR Committee is proud to share all the positive happenings in and around our district lately. In our district-wide supplies drive to benefit the DCSPCA, the ATA was able to donate an entire car stuffed with much-needed supplies as well as over \$400 to honor Jackie Higgins's memory.

Despite the gloomy weather over the weekend of April 27-28, many of our members were out participating in events to improve our community. Some helped Rebuilding Together, an organization that works with families to make necessary repairs on their homes. We also had several teachers and family members participate in the bi-annual highway clean-up along Route 55 by the high school, and they were able to beautify that section of the road.

Looking forward to next year, we are once again asking for the help and support of our members. We will have our 2nd Movie Morning sometime in October, and any suggestions for film titles are welcome. As many of you recall, the screening of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* was a huge hit, and we would like to continue raising money and having fun on behalf of the Arlington Education Foundation. The PR committee is grateful for your time, your enthusiasm, and your professionalism in all you do!

-Kristine Jackson ATA PR Chair



# Arlington Teachers' Association Night at The Renegades!



**Hudson Valley Renegades vs. Brooklyn Cyclones  
Dutchess Stadium  
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 @ 7:05 p.m.**

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 Wednesday, July 17, 2019**

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.<sup>00</sup> each

Number of Children Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.<sup>00</sup> each

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to The Arlington Teachers' Association and  
send to the ATA Office by June 25.*

# Rebuilding Our Community Together



Photo Courtesy of Doug Dickeson

Members of the ATA's Rebuilding team, pictured above from left to right, were retiree Betsy Denis, Kathy Reid (UVMS), Tom Hartford, Marc Denis, Casey Dickeson, Mike Collyer (AHS), Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago (UVMS), Doug Dickeson (UVMS), Eleni Anemelos (VF), and Pete Sevigny (LMS).

On April 27, the ATA and Poughquag United Methodist Church (PUMC) once again teamed up to participate in National Rebuilding Day through Rebuilding Together Dutchess County. For their fifth year working together they worked to make much needed repairs on Mrs. Baker's home on Hillside Lake Road in East Fishkill. The weather wasn't the greatest, but the turnout of support from the ATA was. The Bakers have lived in their home since 1974, where they raised seven children. In 2011 Mr. Baker died, making it more difficult for Mrs. Baker to maintain the home. Fast forward to 2019. Mrs. Baker is 79, and a new sun rises on her home where she can safely live.

ashes and a folded American flag alongside her bed.

The ATA and the PUMC were able to install a new front and back door, new floors in both the kitchen and bathroom, and new second floor handrails, as well as make repairs to the ceiling in the living room, and the foundation. Addi-

The home, she said, has helped her keep her husband's memory alive, but she wants to make new memories too. Mr. Baker served in the Army in the late 1950's and Mrs. Baker

keeps his

tionally, we made repairs to the siding, installed new basement stairs, removed an old water heater, a new walkway was installed and probably a few more things were addressed that I don't know about because I was in the basement all day!

Each year the ATA's team has many returning veterans, and also a handful of new members. In total 150+ people volunteered for the National Rebuilding Day in Dutchess County and the ATA made up nearly 10% of them; a great accomplishment. Aside from the volunteers, the ATA also donated funds to help pay for the materials for the project. If you want to learn more about the project, there is a video on the ATA's Twitter page; you can also view an article and video on the *Poughkeepsie Journal's* web page.

-Doug Dickeson, UVMS



Photo Courtesy of Doug Dickeson

Rebuilding Together's house captain Larry Theisen (left) takes a break from working to pose with ATA members Pete Sevigny (center) and Mike Collyer.



Photo Courtesy of Doug Dickeson

**UVMS teachers Karen Cunningham (right) and Kathy Reid enjoyed their time volunteering.**



Photo Courtesy of Doug Dickeson

**UVMS teacher Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago helped with some carpentry.**

Thank you for volunteering your time on National Rebuilding Day! On Saturday, your PUMC/ATA team [Re] Built Lee and Annmarie’s home. The impact of your work will be felt for years to come all throughout the home.

Helping homeowners remain in safe and healthy homes is important to strengthening our community, preserving housing affordability and avoiding displacement of families. In total, thanks to you and your fellow 150+ National Rebuilding Day volunteers, we helped change the lives of 6 families in Dutchess County through our Rebuilding Day Program and we will still have 2 more projects to go. In all, this spring our [Re]Builders will help 19 individuals remain warm, safe, dry, and independent in their home - the repairs provided are valued at over \$120,000!

The [Re]Build movement empowers all of us to be change makers in our neighborhoods. To repair homes, revitalize communities and [Re]Build lives. Our goal is to transform neighborhoods throughout the country into vibrant places, restoring pride, dignity and hope in every community. We are thankful that PUMC and ATA shares our vision of safe homes and communities for everyone.

We truly hope you enjoyed your day serving with Rebuilding Together Dutchess – if you have any thoughts, questions, or comments we would love to hear from you. We also encourage you to sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to be informed of upcoming volunteer opportunities and events.

Thank you again for your service. We look forward to [Re]Building with you next year!

[Re]gards, Christina Boryk, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together Dutchess County

## 2018 — 2019 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 Lawlor  
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 — Christene Way

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Larry Jeannotte

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](mailto: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.

**FCCLA**

On April 25 Family and Consumer Science teachers Kathy Croft (AHS) and Margaret Romano (LMS) won awards from the regional Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Croft was awarded FACS Teacher of the Year and Romano was awarded FCCLA Advisor of the Year.

**Anti-Racism Course**

The following ATA members are enrolled in a six-week course at Vassar College whose aim is to raise awareness around difference, equity and racial justice: Kate Sprague-Hicks (UVMS), Eric Duvier, Kimberly Henry, Theresa Karamrenzo and Matthew Zydell (JDWR); Liz Jordan (BES); Amanda Conklin and Colleen Napora (AHS); Rita Roman (LMS/AHS); Christina Congi and Kristine Jackson (LMS); and Kendra Rogers (ASM).



Photo courtesy of Debbie Pollack

**Highway Cleanup**

The ATA's annual spring highway cleanup was held on Sunday, April 28. LMS math teacher Debbie Pollack organized the event to help improve the appearance of Route 55. She was joined by her husband John Pollack; Heidi Krueger (AHS) and her daughter Sadie; Sadie's friend Shannon Grey; Mindy Grey (OPS) and her son Caleb; KimTrahan (BES) and her daughter Jillian; and Jean Cwik (LMS).



Photo courtesy of Noreen Stephens

**AEF 5K Fundraiser**

Many ATA members took part on the Arlington Education Foundation's 5K run on April 27 to raise money to support district programs. Pictured above is 2nd grade teacher Vivian LaColla from Noxon, decked out in a costume honoring her school's mascot "Speedy the Turtle". Noxon won a trophy for being the school with the most participants.

# Author Visit Was a Labor of Love



Photo Courtesy of Suzie Peterson

**Author Jewell Parker Rhodes (right) posing with LMS 6th grade teacher Suzie Peterson, in front of towers filled with "I Am" poems written by LMS students. These towers were inspired Rhodes' novel *Towers Falling*. They were designed and built by teachers Kristin Ouimet, Phil Bronzi, Jill Freeswick, and many LMS students.**

It took LMS 6th grade teacher Suzanne Peterson about 10 months of working with a booking agent, and many follow-up calls, but she was finally able to secure a commitment for a visit to her school from author Jewell Parker Rhodes. Rhodes flew from San Diego to New York just to visit LMS on Wednesday, March 24.

A Dutchess County BOCES Arts in Education grant provided funds for the visit. While Peterson completed the necessary paperwork to secure the grant and did all of the scheduling, LMS' Arts in Education administrative representative Sharon LaDue had the duty of sending the necessary information along to BOCES. Each Arlington school has such a representative.

A significant reason for Rhodes' visit was that everyone at LMS had read her middle-grade novel, *Towers Falling*, two years ago and it has since become a tradition at LMS for all 6th graders to read the novel each fall.

The author spoke to all LMS 6th graders in two sessions, had a book signing session, and then a lunch with the author of make-your-own tacos catered by Salsa Fresca was provided for 18 students.

According to Peterson, Rhodes offered inspirational and empowering messages and personal stories and experiences for the students. The author shared that, "...one of the things about my books is that I may take you through horror, but I will always get you to affirmation, I will always take you to love, because that is the only way to live a good life, that is the only way to make our nation stronger. In children's literature, I define diversity as the celebration of unique characters, a celebration of their heritage and culture, and their exterior and interior selves with the deepest sense of empathy and humanity."

Rhodes also shared her belief that everyone should write, because it is through writing that we are able to more deeply understand ourselves and those around us. "Diverse books with compassion and empathy can reaffirm that we are all kin."

The kindness, inspiration, philosophy, and understanding of diversity that the author shared with LMS students can also be seen in her interview with Reading Rockets at <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/rhodes>.

# VF Club To Play At The Falcon

Vail Farm Elementary School of Rock was established in 2017 by VFE teachers Pina Bruno and Jonathan Nix. The mission of this club is to inspire students to learn to play musical instruments and advance the musical talents of Vail Farm Elementary students.

The club is very well attended, and there is a need to purchase equipment. To that end, the School of Rock will be having

a fundraiser and performance on Saturday, June 22 from 12 to 4 p.m. at The Falcon in Marlborough, NY. 100% of donations will go to benefit the club.

The School of Rock advisors feel very fortunate that the owner of The Falcon, Tony Falco, has agreed to host their fundraiser. The venue is very popular, and students will enjoy the experience of performing in a real concert facility.

All students, faculty, and families at Vail Farm are invited to the event. It will also be open to the general public and the School of Rock participants appreciate help spreading the word.

Lunch will be available and can be purchased from The Falcon menu. There will be no admission fee, but there will be a box for donations. Reservations can be made by visiting [www.liveatthefalcon.com/](http://www.liveatthefalcon.com/).

# Dates to Remember



## MAY

21st—**School Budget Vote**

23rd—Professional Development Half Day

24-27th—Memorial Day Weekend—No School

28th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TIS

## JUNE

7th—Elementary School Half Day, Students dismiss at 11:30 a.m.

11th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS

17th—Last Day of Classes, AHS

18th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

21st—ATA Recognition Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Christos

25th—Last Day of Classes, All Elementary and Middle Schools

Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

26th—Superintendent's Conference Day

29th—High School Graduation, Dutchess Stadium, 1 p.m.

## JULY

2nd—Board of Education Meeting, 5 p.m., CAO

17th—ATA Night at the Renegades, 6 p.m., Dutchess Stadium



# Announcements

**Due to the late timing of this year's ATA Recognition Dinner, we will be unable to print a June newsletter with coverage of the event before the end of the school year. Make sure to visit the ATA's social media accounts or web page for photos of the dinner and a celebration of this year's retirees.**

*Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 to 6 p.m. on June 10 and 14. Please contact Liz Jordan at BES or Kathleen Vogt at UVMS to sign up.*

**Stay informed! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or check out the ATA webpage at [www.arlingtonteachers.com](http://www.arlingtonteachers.com) for photos, contract information, benefits forms, issues of *The Educator* and more.**