



THE EDUCATOR

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Support Your Schools On May 17

This year's school budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 17. The ballot will also include transportation and maintenance propositions 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 17th. Make sure to tell them why passage of the budget and the 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 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. More information about this is on the next page.

To the right and below you will find some facts to help you inform others about the 2022—2023 Arlington school budget and propositions. More information about these items can be found at arlingtonschools.org.

Every vote counts!

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Seven candidates are running to fill three seats on the Arlington School Board. The ATA, the Arlington Nurses Association, the Arlington Teaching Assistants' Association, and the Arlington Educational Secretaries Association are endorsing **Marion Quinn, Kelly Cahill Chenski, and Mark Tornatore**. We feel that these candidates will help Arlington to remain a safe, accepting place where all students can excel and faculty and staff are free to be professionals.

BUDGET FACTS

- A 1.95% tax levy increase is proposed, which is below the allowable 2.99% cap.
- If the budget fails twice, a contingency budget must be adopted, meaning that an additional \$6.3 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.
- Proposition #2 is for the purchase of bus and equipment 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.
- Proposition #3 is a building maintenance proposition for \$21.5 million to fix the roofs and sidewalks at Arlington High, Union Vale Middle, and Vail Farm Elementary Schools.

Visit arlingtonschools.org for more information

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Trivia Challenge

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

When was the NY State Board of Regents created?

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **Kim Trahan** from BES. She knew that the dot above a lowercase I or j is called a **tittle**. 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 May 20. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Know What You Are Voting For

School board candidates are your friends and neighbors, and Girl Scout leaders, and soccer coaches, and members of your church. They are people that care enough about the school system that they want to be actively involved. This year's school board candidates in Arlington are no exception to this. What is different this year is the fact that the election has become highly politicized.

Candidates Cris Hanganu, Ron Edick, and Jonathan D'Agostino have all accepted the backing of Moms for Liberty, a national organization with ties to extreme right-wing elected officials, media outlets, and organizations. No matter how friendly and community-minded these candidates may seem, they have willingly chosen to be connected to a group whose founder has explained that their goal is to take over school boards and replace school

employees with those found by "conservative search firms". Moms for Liberty espouses limiting what is taught in classrooms and censoring libraries, all in the name of parental rights. Our local candidates can not be decoupled from the mission of their backer.

The ATA, the Arlington Nurses Association, the

supported, and we believe that the incumbents have a proven record of doing that. The incumbents are also backed by a local grass-roots organization called United in Learning (www.unitedinlearning.com) that strives for the same thing that we do—ensuring that all of our children get the 21st century education they need and deserve.

This May 17, please go out and vote. If you don't live in Arlington, rest assured that the same thing is happening in your district, and the students there need your help too. Spread the word about what is happening in these

races and why it is crucial for your like-minded friends and family members to go out and vote. This election has brought national politics to the school-district level, and, for all of our sakes, we need to ensure that the side that believes in the ideals of public education comes out victorious.

-Sam Falk,
ATA Communications Chair

For more information about the organizations backing Arlington's school board candidates, scan here:



Arlington Teaching Assistants' Association, and the Arlington Educational Secretaries Association are united in endorsing incumbents Marion Quinn, Kelly Cahill Chenski, and Mark Tornatore. You know who we are—we're the people who work in the schools. We know that we need Arlington to be a place where *all* children are

Don't Forget To Re-Register!

NYS law requires that all teachers re-register every five years in order to maintain their Professional or Permanent certificates, and that time is up.

Make sure to go to <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/> by the end of the month prior to your birth month to re-register.

NYSUT RA Celebrates 50th Anniversary

After two years of virtual conventions, NYSUT was able to convene the first post-COVID, in-person Representative Assembly (RA) on Friday April 1 and Saturday April 2 at the Albany Convention Center. The purpose of the RA is to allow about 1500 delegates from local unions to come together and work in committees to craft the resolutions that guide the priorities and direction for NYSUT to follow in the coming year.

Treasurer Dave Cordella and Second VP Steve Hertzog represented the ATA at this year's RA. The whole group of delegates meets in several "general sessions" to discuss and vote on these resolutions. The general sessions also have an "award show" component, as well as speeches from union leaders and politicians who want to address the RA delegates. This year's guest speakers included Governor Kathy Hochul, who was greeted with a standing ovation as she took a break from the nonstop state budget negotiations to deliver a lively and positive recognition for the work that NYSUT members, and a promise that "the era of disinvestment in education is over". Hochul supports public schools as a key structure to drive social mobility and build communities.

NY comptroller Tom DiNapoli delivered his perennial confirmation that our pension fund is strong and secure, and enthusiastically praised the work of NYSUT members as well. Organized labor has a strong



Photo courtesy of Tammy Rodriguez

ATA Treasurer Dave Cordella (left) and Second Vice President Steve Hertzog attended the NYSUT RA

advocate in NY Attorney General Letitia James, who emphasized that many of the advances in civil rights, human rights, and social justice have been as a result of gains from the labor movement. The delegates were also addressed by members of the House of Representatives Paul Tonko from the Capitol Region and Antonio Delgado from the Hudson Valley. Labor leaders who came to fire up the crowd included AFT President Randi Weingarten, NEA President Becky Pringle, and NYS AFL/CIO

President Mario Cilento.

The 2022 RA celebrated the 50th Anniversary for NYSUT, which added to the positive tone of the whole convention. We have many gains to celebrate from this half century of activity, and it was nice to be back together in person with a stable and cohesive leadership team, a supportive governor, and hope for a bright future and more positive gains on the horizon.

-Steve Hertzog,
ATA Second Vice President



ATA Retirees Stay Busy

This is part two of our feature on ATA retirees where they were asked to share how they spend their time, now that they are no longer obligated to go to work every day. On these pages you will see the responses not included in the last issue. We regret that we are not able to fit all of them. Our retirees do amazing things!

Correction: In the print version of the March *Educator* the response given by Nancy Diehl was inadvertently attributed to Betsy Denis. Both of their responses are included here with the correct names. We apologize for the mistake, and have corrected it in the online version.

How I spent my time really has nothing to do with retiring. I planned on doing volunteer work, which is not new to me, and taking some free-to-seniors college classes. My retiring came at the perfect time to be home and see signs of dementia in my son seven years ago. Michael was with me always and working in the community, very independent (he had DS). Much change occurred, very difficult for him, and I'm sure he didn't really understand what was happening to him, not sure I did either. It's been rather difficult, and Michael died on December 15, 2021. Michael never complained, and he had physical illnesses as well during these years. Not sure this inspires anyone, but his siblings shared that while folks with disabilities are always trying to be more like people who are "normal", maybe we should be more like them. I agree!!!

Pat Shanny

After retirement, I took on a couple of short-term jobs, including one as a museum docent (still in teaching mode!). I donate hats and blankets as volunteer for St. Luke's NICU and hope to resume my role as a Baby Cuddler. I also volunteer as a socializer for Puppies Behind Bars, which I began prior to retirement.

Betsy Denis

Retirement is comprised of golf, volunteer work and travel. I can be found on the golf course five days a week. I am a member of the golf, greens and ladies golf development committees. I volunteer as a member of the Home Owners Association landscape committee and just completed seven years as a member of the Architectural Review Committee. As for travel, walking on the Great Wall of China was one of my most memorable experiences.

Nancy Leibowitz

Travel and family. We've crossed the country several times with our camper and spend winter in Florida and the Florida Keys. Four of our children live within one and a half hours, the fifth in Asheville.

Bill McKeever

After retirement, I first spent time traveling and volunteering and then I did something I never thought I would do. I signed up to substitute teach. After spending my entire career at the middle school level, I opted to sub in the elementary school right near my home. I absolutely loved it. When COVID hit, I stepped away from teaching and spent time preparing for my second career in real estate. This has kept me very busy, but also allows me the freedom to make my own schedule and continue to travel and visit my family in Florida. I have never regretted retiring when I did. I left when I still enjoyed what I was doing and now how the opportunity to put my efforts in another career.

Nancy Diehl

I created a "bucket list" of activities that had been on my mind for some time. So, during retirement I have increased my volunteer time within my church and the community, traveled to Italy with my husband in celebration of our 40th anniversary, trained for and ran a half-marathon in NYC with my daughter/coach as well as a couple of 5K's, saw Paul McCartney (my favorite Beatle) in concert, visited several wineries and made many quilts. Next on the list-learn to play the piano, take a wine class and a return to travel. Our most recent activity during the past few years has been producing maple syrup from trees in our yard. A long process, but well worth it!"

If anyone is interested in the process, they can feel free to contact me.

Cheryl Moreau

I have traveled all over the world at my pace now, not just on school breaks or summers: China, Tibet, Australia, New Zealand, African safari, and numerous European countries. My first years of retirement I volunteered at numerous places: Val-Kill, Locust Grove, Friends of Seniors, and Poughkeepsie library. I have now limited my volunteering and spend my time on hobbies, exercising, reading, mah jongg, and local travel. As one of my retired colleagues said, "Retirement is the best job I have ever had."

Brenda Goldstein

For three years (before COVID): Visiting Artist teaching mathematics using origami for UVMS and Rhinebeck Elementary School, Volunteering at Ulster County SPCA, Volunteering at Mohonk Preserve for outdoor education program with local schoolchildren, Volunteering at Lifetime Learning Institute teaching origami classes to Seniors at SUNY New Paltz.

Kathryn Paulsen

I spend my time traveling around the country a few times each year and out of the country at least once a year. I also go skiing for a month in Steamboat Springs, CO. When I am home I play bridge at least once or twice a week and eat out at one of our fantastic restaurants in Naples, Florida every nite. I lived to retire!!! I have done some substitute teaching in a private school and some volunteering. All good stuff.

Linda Sullivan

2021 — 2022 ATA Officers

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UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen MillsMartin

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.

Elementary

ASM and TIS ENL teacher Cybill Cunningham ran in the Seneca 7 race along Seneca Lake on April 24 and helped coordinate three teams of seven vegans each who were running to support the Tamerlaine Farm Animal Sanctuary. Each runner on a team ran three times for a total of 12 miles. This was Cunningham's first running race.

ASM, OPS, and VF social worker Laura Bagnarol and her daughter Antonella (a 4th grade student in WCSD) ran a fundraiser to raise money for the children in Ukraine. Blue and yellow bracelets were sold at schools that raised a total of \$405.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Pollack

Highway Cleanup

The ATA's annual spring highway cleanup was held on Saturday, April 23. LMS math teacher Debbie Pollack organized the event to help improve the appearance of Route 55. She was joined by Marion Quinn, Christine LeRoy, Eleni Anemelos, Stefanie Healy, Joe Healy, Andy Franks, Jamie Feicht, Ann-Marie Howard, Christopher Howard, Regina Godfrey, Olivia Godfrey, Hannah Godfrey, Jean Cwik, and Mindy Grey.



Photo courtesy of Noreen Stephens

Retiree

AHS retired art teacher Ted Braggins (pictured here at Pondsides Press in Rhinebeck with monotypes from *The Empty Chair* series) and his wife Melissa Katzman Braggins have a solo show called *Closely Scene* that will run at the Tivoli Artists Gallery from May 6 through 29.

Rebuilding Our Community Together



Photo courtesy of Doug Dickeson



Photo courtesy of Steve Hertzog

UVMS teacher Doug Dickeson organized the ATA's Rebuilding team, and is shown above right manning power tools.

On April 30, 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 sixth year together the teams worked to make much needed repairs to the home of a proud 87-year-old Navy veteran named Comly Fox. His raised ranch in the Town of Poughkeepsie needed improvements to help his ability

to move safely around the home. This entailed improving access to a very narrow bathroom, replacing the stairs to the deck, and many smaller tasks, including painting, yard work, and caulking windows. Volunteers were at the house from 7am to 7pm. A highlight of the day was re-roping and flying the American flag in the front yard, which caused a grateful Fox to shed tears.



PR Committee Is Back In Full Swing

This year, the PR committee is back in (almost) full swing! We are proud to report all the work our members have been doing to make our community even stronger. Currently, we are supporting multiple local events and organizations through monetary donations, as well as something even more precious: our time.

Our 11th annual DCSPCA drive honoring Jackie Higgins was a huge success. Members donated much-needed supplies such as food, toys, blankets, and cleaning supplies to an overburdened shelter. Jackie was a beautiful soul who brought her

warmth and kindness everywhere she went. We are so proud to memorialize her in this way.

Member Doug Dickeson from UVMS has been chairing the volunteer department for our annual involvement with Rebuilding Together. Volunteers of all skill levels work to make necessary repairs to homes owned by local families. We are a proud partner of this organization, and have pledged both money and volunteer hours. Doug is retiring this year, and we are in need of someone to step up as chairperson for next spring.

In addition to the good works

from outside organizations, as a membership we also sponsor the Gift of Hope game by contributing money, and the Arlington Education Foundation's annual 5K race. We are cautiously optimistic that we can bring back our Movie Morning this fall! Stay tuned for opportunities to volunteer your time and talents to help those here at Arlington in September!

The PR committee is grateful for your time, your enthusiasm, and your professionalism in all you do! Please take care of yourself as we go into the last few weeks of school.

-Kristine Jackson, PR Chair

Dates to Remember



MAY

10th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

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

17th—**School Budget Vote and School Board Election**

20th—Professional Development Half Day

24th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

26-30th—Memorial Day Weekend—No School



JUNE

1st—Elementary School Half Day, Students dismiss at 11:30 a.m.

Regents Exam Day at AHS—No Classes

14th—Last Day of Classes, AHS

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

17th—ATA Recognition Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Christos

20th—Juneteenth—No School

21st—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

23rd—Last Day of Classes, All Elementary and Middle Schools

24th—Last Day of School For Faculty

25th—High School Graduation, Dutchess Stadium

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



Announcements

Vanaver Caravan Honors Teachers

This year, the Vanaver Caravan is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their first concert with a year full of anniversary events including a special concert honoring teachers and administrators on October 22 2022 in New Paltz. If you participated in an Arts-in-Education residency with The Vanaver Caravan and would like to be on their mailing list to receive event notifications and invitations, please contact Sue Lesser (Susie.lessen@gmail.com).

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