



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Election 2022 2

See which candidates the DCCLC endorses.

Trivia Challenge

Win ATA gear.

Member Spotlight 3

Find out how a VF teacher recently came to the aid of a student.

New VP Position 4

Read about the proposed new position and November vote..

What's Going On? 6

Member accomplishments are highlighted.

Movie Morning 7

Get details about this December fundraising event.

Calendar and Announcements 8



Please Vote On November 8!

If you're one of those people who doesn't bother to vote unless it's a presidential election year, please think twice before you sit out this year's contests.

As educators we don't have the luxury of ignoring the issues that often make the news, such as gun control, LGBTQ and women's rights, and, of course, education funding and curriculum control. If you don't think that these issues affect you, they certainly affect your students.

On the next page of this newsletter you will find endorsements from NYSUT. ATA members

have taken part in the endorsement process, and the candidates listed are those that are the most likely to support the needs of educators and union members like us.

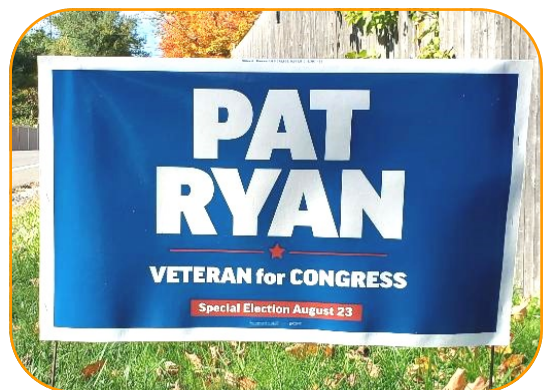
Before November 8, take the time to educate yourself about the candidates and propositions that will be on your ballot. Helpful resources include your county board of elections (Dutchess's is at www.elections.dutchessny.gov or [Vote411](http://Vote411.org) (www.vote411.org/ballot).

An alternative to following those endorsements is to give in to the temptation to simply vote "red" or "blue", but I would ask that you take the time to educate your-

self about the candidates and propositions that will be on your ballot. Helpful resources include your county board of elections (Dutchess's is at www.elections.dutchessny.gov/) or [Vote411](http://Vote411.org) (www.vote411.org/ballot). Campaign pages on social media can also let you know if a candidate is holding local events.

On November 8 (or earlier—take advantage of early voting!) make sure you exercise your right to help choose those who will support legislation to represent and protect you and those you care about.

-Sam Falk, editor



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Trivia Challenge

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

Who was the first governor of New York?

Last month's winner was **Leona Pcolar** from LMS. She correctly identified **June 21, 1788** as the date when the U.S. Constitution was adopted. 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 **November 4**. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Political Action Update: Elections

Each year NYSUT endorses candidates for the November elections. The endorsements below, which are non-partisan, are based on the candidates' voting records on educational issues. **Please remember to vote on November 8!**

NY Governor	Kathy Hochul
NY Lieutenant Governor	Antonio Delgado
NY Attorney General	Letitia James
NY Comptroller	Thomas DiNapoli
U.S. Senate	Chuck Schumer
U.S. House of Representatives	
<i>District 17</i>	Sean Patrick Maloney
<i>District 18</i>	Pat Ryan
<i>District 19</i>	Josh Riley
NY State Assembly	
<i>District 103</i>	Sarahana Shrestha
<i>District 104</i>	Jonathan Jacobson
<i>District 105</i>	Jill Feldstein
<i>District 106</i>	Didi Barrett
NY State Senate	
<i>District 39</i>	Julie Shiroishi
<i>District 40</i>	Peter Harckham
<i>District 41</i>	Michelle Hinchey
<i>District 42</i>	James Skoufis
<i>District 43</i>	Andrea Smyth

Make sure to turn over your ballot to vote YES on Prop 1!

More information can be found at [https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_Proposal_1,_Environmental_Bond_Measure_\(2022\)](https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_Proposal_1,_Environmental_Bond_Measure_(2022))

ATA Is Involved In NYSUT Endorsements

Every two years, NYSUT interviews candidates who are running for state and federal office. The state is divided into different regions and representatives from local unions meet to interview, debate, and determine whether or not to issue an endorsement for a given race. This year Bill Mueller and I represented the ATA in the Mid-Hudson region in these meetings which were held on Zoom on July 13, 15, and 22.

Many candidates were happy to interview with us to try to receive our endorsement. Some candidates declined to be interviewed. The candidates who did interview were asked questions about educational policy including questions by Bill and myself.

Many questions revolved around the impact of standardized tests on student learning, requiring schools to have a school nurse on sight, attempted book bans, requiring schools to have a dedicated librarian, and creating a uniform standard for school related professionals. The central question Bill and I asked of many candidates was whether they were willing to focus on the necessity of more mental health resources for our struggling students. Most candidates agreed that mental health among children needs to be prioritized, standardized tests create an undue strain, school nurses are critical to the health and well-being of students, and books should not be banned.

Following the interviews, we discussed and debated the endorsements. In some cases, the person to be endorsed was clear. In other cases, it was a more difficult decision that required significant discussion and a consensus was reached. In a few cases, no endorsement was issued. These endorsements are helpful to candidates but also help to inform members of local unions which candidates are the most supportive of public education. Bill and I thank you for trusting us to represent you in these matters and please feel free to reach out with any questions. Our unity is our strength,

-Brendan Lawler,
ATA CAC Co-Chair

Member Spotlight: Erin Killmer



Vail Farm 3rd grade teacher Erin Killmer recently had one of the worst experiences an educator can go through, but her efforts that day went above and beyond to not only aid a student with a medical emergency, but support the rest of her class. On October 11 a student became unresponsive in Killmer's classroom. Thinking quickly, Killmer carried the student to the nurses' office, and then rode with the student in the ambulance to the hospital. Killmer stayed with the student until the girl's parents arrived, and then went back to her class to reassure the other students that the girl was going to be okay. Killmer reports that, although it was the scariest day of her life, "My student is the real hero; she was brave and absolutely amazing through the whole situation."

Proposal - We propose to reorganize the leadership of the ATA so that there is a vice president position held by an elementary member, and one by a secondary member. There will no longer be First and Second Vice Presidents, but Elementary Vice President, Secondary Vice President, and Vice President for Membership. Making these changes will involve amending both the ATA's constitution and bylaws.

A general membership vote to amend the ATA Constitution will take place after school on Tuesday, November 1.

Rationale - The jobs of all educators have become more complex over the years, and there is an increased need for union leadership that is knowledgeable in the specific intricacies of the different grade levels. For this reason we think that it will benefit ATA members to have a vice president position that is held by an elementary member who is a specialist in that level and its job requirements, and another vice president who is a secondary member and a specialist in that level and its job requirements. Having an additional vice president will also allow for those in that office to have more time to attend to the needs of members, versus the one first vice president that we have now who is spread across all levels. This will not affect ATA dues payments.

Duties of the Officers -

- The Elementary Vice President must be an ATA member from an elementary building.
- The Secondary Vice President must be an ATA member from a secondary building.

The Elementary or Secondary Vice President with the longest tenure in office shall:

- A. preside over general membership and Executive Council meetings in the absence of the President.
- B. become President for the remainder of the President's term of office in the event of the resignation or removal of the President.

The Elementary and Secondary Vice Presidents shall jointly:

- A. serve as the chairpeople of the Professional Practices Rights and Responsibilities committee.
- B. perform all other tasks as may be required by the President.

The Elementary Vice President shall:

- A. coordinate the following social functions: Children's Holiday Party and membership engagement activities.
- B. oversee the Sick Bank.

The Secondary Vice President shall:

- A. coordinate the following social functions: Recognition Dinner and membership engagement activities.
- B. oversee the APPR Committee.

Timeline (Per the requirements of the ATA Constitution and Bylaws)

Timeframe	Event
September Executive Council	Introduce proposed changes
October Executive Council	Executive council vote on proposed changes to bylaws and Constitution, with a 2/3 majority needed for passage of constitutional amendments
Late October/Early November	General membership vote on proposed changes to the Constitution, with a 2/3 majority needed for passage
Early November	Candidate petitions and statements due for new Elementary Vice President position
Mid-November	Candidate statements given to general membership
December	General membership vote to elect the Elementary Vice President
January 1	Newly-elected Elementary Vice President starts

Questions?
 Email
ataupdate@gmail.com.

Welfare Trust Reminders:

- Go to the website arlingtononteachers.com for information about Welfare Trust benefits, and to print forms.
- The plan years are Vision and Personal Health: October 1 – September 30, Dental: January – December.
- Yearly Vision reimbursement per family is \$375. Yearly Personal Health reimbursement per family is \$425. Dental reimbursements are determined by dental codes.
- When a dependent child reaches the age of 19 and is a full time student, submit a Student status information form every year the dependent is a student.
- As long as a dependent child is a student they are eligible for benefits until the end of the year they turn 25 years old.
- All claims should be sent to
 Arlington Teachers’ Association
 C/O Preferred Group Plans, Inc.
 PO Box 15136
 Albany, NY 12212-5136

2022 — 2023 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 Chairs** Brendan Lawlor
Bill Mueller
- Welfare Trust Chair** Ron Higgins
- Communications Chair** Sam Falk
- Senior Building Representatives**
 - ASM — A'Rehema Leach
 - BES — Christie Boydston
 - Noxon — Nicolle McMorris
 - VFES — Gwen Moschetto
 - OPS — Christene Way
 - Traver — Diana Judge
 - JDWR — Barbara Mackey
 - TIS — Heather Blatz
 - LMS — Chris Greco
 - UVMS — Jim DeBonis
 - AHS — John Filor
 - AHS — Theresa Daleo-Stock

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.

National Board

Special education teacher Carol Waldschmidt (VF) recently received National Board Certification in Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood.

English teacher Tina Tamweber (AHS) renewed her certification in English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young



Photo Courtesy Matthew Zydel

Music

Three Arlington music teachers recently ran marathons. John Handman (AHS) ran his first, the Wineglass Marathon, on October 2 in Corning, NY. Matthew Zydel (TIS), and his husband Justin, pictured above left, and right, respectively, ran their first marathon on October 9 in Newport, Rhode Island. Mia Chong (UVMS) also ran a marathon on October 9 in Chicago. It was not her first.

Adulthood.

Dutchess Outreach

BES teachers recently collected over 50 new and gently used Halloween costumes to donate to Dutchess Outreach.

AIS teacher Jen Halstead organized the drive with the help of Liz Crivello-Jordan and her Beekman Bears Care Club and Lauren Feliciano-Weston and her Gratitude Attitude Club.

Office Beautification Help Needed

If you would like to help out with maintaining the landscaping at the ATA office, please consider joining me on the second Saturday of each month; 10/8, 11/12, 12/10, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, and 6/10. Weather permitting, we will meet at 8 a.m. and work for two hours. Tasks may include weeding, mulching, pruning, and planting. Please dress accordingly and bring gloves. Thank you for your consideration.

-Nancy Thomas (OPS)

Scan to sign up →





The Arlington Teachers' Association's Annual Morning Movie

To benefit the Arlington Education Foundation

Come see the holiday classic, *Elf*, on the big screen!
(Rated PG)

\$5.00 if pre-paid and registered
\$7.00 if purchased at door

Sunday, December 4, 2022
Doors open at 9:30 AM
Show starts at 10 AM sharp
Hyde Park Roosevelt Theater
4060 Albany Post Rd. Hyde Park

Pre-register by November 29, and registration is only \$5.00 per person!
You don't want to miss out on the raffle prizes!!

Registration

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number. of Tickets: _____

School: _____

Make checks payable to: Arlington Teachers' Association

Questions can be directed to Kristine Jackson: kjackson@acsdny.org

Please return registration form and fee in an envelope marked "ATA Morning Movie" to the main office of your child's school or mail directly to: ATA, 46 Davis Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

NO TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED.

Simply check in at the registration table on the day of the event!

Sponsored by:

Arlington Parent Teacher Association
Arlington Teachers' Association

New York State
PTA
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Dates to Remember



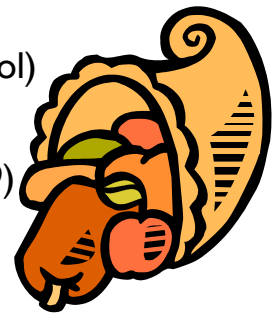
NOVEMBER

- 1st—ATA Constitutional Amendment Vote, after school, all buildings
- 8th—Election Day
 - Superintendent's Conference Day
 - Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., JDWR
- 11th—No School—Veterans' Day
- 14th—Arlington Connect Session, 7 p.m., AHS Café C&D
- 15th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 22nd—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 23-25th—No School—Thanksgiving



DECEMBER

- 5-8th—Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences (dates vary by school)
- 6th—Arlington Connect Session, 7 p.m., AHS Café C&D
- 8th—ATA Children's Holiday Party, 5 - 7 p.m., BES (Snowdate 12/9)
- 13th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., NOX
- 23rd-30th—No School—Winter Recess



Announcements

Volunteers Needed!

Help is appreciated for our Movie Morning on Sunday, December 4. We are looking for volunteers to set up, sell raffle tickets, greet guests, and to clean up. 9 a.m. to noon.

If you know of a local business that would like to donate, please let us know!

Contact Kristine Jackson at LMS if you can help. Thank you!

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