



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 12, ISSUE III

DECEMBER 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Member Spotlight 2

Read about how an ATA member acts on her passion for volunteer work.

Trivia Challenge

Win ATA gear.

PR Update 3

Find out how ATA events have supported our community.

Holiday Party 4

See photos of this year's holiday event at BES.

What's Going On? 6

Member accomplishments are highlighted.

Calendar and Announcements 8

Banding Together To Help Others

Let's do some word association—what comes to mind when you think of the term "labor union"? Strike? Picket line? Maybe contract and benefits? It seems like the only time that labor unions are covered by the media is when something is wrong, so the average person probably only thinks of the job actions they've heard about, like the recent rail worker strike that was averted, or the one-day walk-out at the *New York Times*. (Did you break your Wordle streak to be supportive?)

Sure, labor unions

are about those things, and the ATA is no different, but, really, what labor unions do is band people together to help each other out.

What labor unions do is band people together to help each other out. That can be related to ensuring that everyone is fairly compensated for the work that they do, but it can also entail being there to support each other in times of need, and doing charity work for the community.

That can be related to ensuring that everyone is fairly compensated for the work that they do, but it can also entail being there to support each other in times of need, and doing charity work for the community.

In this issue of *The*

Educator I have highlighted those last two. Not only will you read about the ways that the ATA's PR committee has led our members in raising money for area organizations, but you can be inspired by our spotlighted member of the month, reading teacher Eleni Anemelos, who participates in various volunteer opportunities.

Yes, there is a lot going on right now with grievances and contract negotiations, but that's not all that we're about. Being in a union provides many opportunities for all members to make a difference together.

-Sam Falk, editor



ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
46 Davis Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



(845) 454-7002 · www.arlingtonteachers.com · ata4547002@aol.com

Member Spotlight: Eleni Anemelos

Trivia Challenge

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

What is the U.S. record for the most snowfall in one day?

Last month's winner was **Jason Venier** from VF. He correctly identified **Richard Nicolls** as the first governor of the New York colony. He 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 **December 23**. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.



Photos courtesy Eleni Anemelos

If there is an ATA volunteer position left unfilled, Eleni Anemelos is always willing to step up and help out. For years she has been a part of the Rebuilding Together and highway clean-up committees, and this year she is taking the helm of not only the Rebuilding Together team, but also the Sunshine Committee. In addition, she has volunteered at the Lunch Box, representing the ATA.

Anemelos started in Arlington as a reading AIS teacher at Vail Farm Elementary School in 2015 and

this year moved to the high school as a foundations of reading and writing teacher. She says that, "I have always been inspired by people who support and help others, people who give a sense of worth-whileness, and show that they care about their community.

While working at ACSD, I have come across many individuals who insisted on the love of helping others and making a difference in other people's lives. Being the model for my students and other individuals around by volunteering, I am hoping to inspire them to make the changes they want to see in the world and make it a better place. Volunteering is an opportunity to be a lifelong learner, empower others, and support our district's mission. Working together,

learning new skills, encountering unique opportunities, and nurturing our sense of belonging make a positive change in our community."

Anemelos also draws inspiration from her membership in

the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, whose mission is, "We do. We give. We share. We care.". She states, "I was driven by the passion to support people in need, lend a helping hand, and put a smile on their faces. I grew up helping others, making places better than previously found, setting an example for others, as well as giving back to the community. Volunteering gives a sense of worth-whileness, is valuable for any community, and a great way to support others, and show that we care about our community and people. Lastly, another reason that inspires me to be involved is that we are here because of our community and people who care about us; therefore, giving back is our obligation."

The annual Rebuilding Together event in Dutchess County is always the last weekend in April, so be on the lookout for a call for volunteers for that, and the highway clean-up, which will also be in the spring.

Which ATA member should we feature next month? Please email Sam Falk at sfalk@acsdny.org with your suggestions.

PR Committee Supports Our Community



Photos by Lara Ivchenko

ses, and social casework services. There are students right here at Arlington who are benefiting from the services TCH provides, and we are proud to support their efforts.

We are thrilled to report we were able to hold our Morning Movie fundraiser at the Hyde Park theater with a screening of *Elf* after a two year hiatus. We had over 350 people attend, and we raised over \$3000 for the Arlington Education Foundation. In addition to revenue raised by ticket sales, local businesses, union leadership, and schools' PTA/PTOs pledged or donated raffle prizes to this event. It truly was a successful day, and we could not have done it without the efforts of our vol-

With the hustle and bustle this season brings, it can be easy to miss all the wonderful things our ATA members are doing to make our community a better place to be. Currently, our PR committee helped to support two local organiza-

tions that are near and dear to our hearts: the Arlington Education Foundation and the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie.

Recently, the ATA sponsored a dress-down day to support the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie. TCH provides services for children who age in range from infancy to age 21 with their seven different programs. Their main goal is to reunite children with their families, but they also help with the fostering and adoption process as well. They provide, among many programs, mental health services, family clas-



unteers.

As we transition to a new year, be on the lookout for other opportunities you can be a part of, including our largest events, the annual Jackie Higgins DCSPCA drive in late February/ early March and Rebuilding Together in April.

-Kristine Jackson,
ATA PR Chair



PAGE 4 **ATA Holiday Party 2022**





These photos and many more can be found on the ATA's website at www.arlingtonteachers.com

Photos by Lara Ivchenko

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.

Middle School

UVMS/LMS Health teacher Ryan Sonne just completed a 12-credit certificate in SEL from Cambridge College in Massachusetts. This entailed doing graduate course work based on the National Health Education Standards and the CASEL Social Emotional Competencies.

Elementary School

Vail Farm second grade teacher Julia Quinn was selected as radio station Q92's Teacher of the Month for November. She was nominated by a former student.

High School

English teacher Dan Pitt's band Slip Groove played a show at Juan Murphy's in Poughkeepsie
See Great on page 7



Photo Courtesy Steve Ciancio

Physical Education and Health

Several Arlington physical education and health teachers attended the NYSAHPERD (New York State Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) conference at the Turning Stone Conference Center in Verona, NY in November. Pictured above from left to right are Carmine Anastasio (VF), Steve Ciancio (OPS), NYSAHPERD's mascot Finley, and Dave Ostrander (BES). Ciancio presented with a group of Elementary P.E. teachers about how he teaches balancing skills to K-2 students by demonstrating stations he uses to teach those skills. Chris Keenan (ASM) was part of a group of middle school teachers who presented about a flag football lead-up game. Liz VanZandt (AHS), Kathleen Vogt (UVMS) and David Fendrich (LMS) were also in attendance.

ATA Members Do Great Things

Continued from page 6
on December 9 to benefit the HOPE foundation, which raises money to give scholarships to AHS seniors who have lost a parent or guardian. Guidance counselor Marc Provost organized raffle baskets to help raise money, the band donated their tips, and a portion of drink and food sales that night also went to the cause.

English teacher Tina Tamweber attended the NYSEC (New York State English Council) conference in Albany on October 20-21. She listened to keynote speaker Kelly Gallagher talk about the importance of offering students opportunities to write with choice and voice, steering them away from prescriptive writing leaning towards more organic pieces. She also attended sessions on the value of reading personally selected texts, the use of art in the classroom, and how to create lessons that promote civic engagement. At that same conference AHS English coordina-

tor Lucille Ogden was awarded (in absentia) a certificate for "NYSEC Educator of Excellence: Secondary".

Special education teacher Colleen Napora and FACS teacher Stefanie Rice are leading a hybrid National Board professional support program through the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center. They will be holding eight meetings from December through April, some online, and some in person, to help educators work collaboratively toward their new National Board certification, or maintenance of a previous certificate. Any teacher interested in learning more about National Board should contact Napora or Rice at AHS.

Napora and Rice are also running an online course through the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center that will support new teachers through the tenure process. As a continuation of a course offered in the fall, some of the specific topics to be addressed are mock

interviews with a superintendent, reviewing exemplar tenure essays/binders, and practicing reflective teaching through examples. Those interested can register through MyLearningPlan. The first session is on February 15.

FACS teacher Bonnie Leitheuser is the president of the Hudson Valley Northeast chapter of the New York State Association Family and Consumer Sciences Educators (NYSAFCS). Katherine Croft (AHS) is the chapter secretary and MaryBeth Mathews (UVMS) is the area coordinator. The chapter meets monthly during the school year, and was also a part of the statewide conference that was held in Vestel, NY on October 21. Leitheuser was asked to present at that conference on her chapter's professional development process in order to give other members meaningful professional development ideas for their chapters.

School-Themed Tree Raises Money

Family Services in Poughkeepsie is an organization that helps people to find the support that they need by providing programs in areas including behavioral health, victim services, family programs, youth services, community safety, and prevention. This year they held their second annual Festival of Trees on December 2 and 3 at Revel32 in Poughkeepsie. After attending the event last year at the Poughkeepsie Tennis club, ASM second grade teacher Julie Shook decided to get involved. This year she was a part of the planning committee for this fundraising event. The ATA sponsored a tree (pictured right) that Shook decorated with school supplies. When auctioned off it raised \$100 for Family Services.

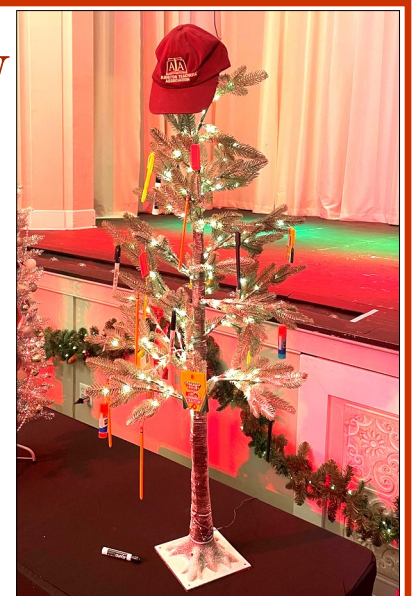


Photo by Julie Shook

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

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

23-31st—Winter Recess - No School



JANUARY

2nd—Winter Recess - No School

10th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., VF

16th—Martin Luther King Day - No School

17th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

23rd—Arlington Connect Session, 7 p.m., AHS

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

24-27th—Regents Week



FEBRUARY

1st—Deadline for June 2023 Retirement Decisions

14th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., LMS

17th—Professional Development Half Day

20th—Presidents' Day - No School

21st—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

23rd—Arlington Connect Session, 7 p.m., AHS

25th—MST Fair, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., AHS

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



Announcements

Looking to get a start on your taxes before you receive your W2 form from the district? Make sure to save your December 22 pay stub. It will contain your yearly totals for salary and paycheck deductions.

The staff of *The Educator* would like to wish all ATA members a happy and healthy holiday season.

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