



# THE EDUCATOR

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## We Are Arlington

### ATA President Bob Maier's 2023 State of the Union Address

As each year seems to rush by, it is important for us to share with you all that has been happening for the ATA and what we can see in the future. While COVID was probably one of the greatest challenges we have ever faced in society, and more specifically in our

classrooms, we all seem to have settled into living with the virus among us. It is not to say this is something to take for granted, but it is definitely not creating the same amount of fear and anxiety that we all had

when it first started. Moving forward I would encourage all to remain vigilant in our efforts to protect ourselves and

*The ATA, with our partners in the other units of the staff, are what makes Arlington. We all should be very proud.*

those around us. This year the ATA has made some structural changes to the leadership team. While there had been requests for years for greater representation of our elementary faculty in

the ATA leadership, we have been able to bring that to fruition this year with first the ATA Constitution being changed though the vote of our membership, and then the election of our first elementary vice president, Nicolle McMorris from Noxon. Thank you to the

membership for participating in the elections that were necessary to make this happen. Now we are positioned for our leadership team to be more engaged on different levels of our See Arlington on page 3



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## Trivia Challenge

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

**Who was Arlington's first superintendent?**

Last month's winner was **Marisa Drogan** from AHS. She correctly identified **6.3 feet in Silver Lake, CO in 1921** as the record for the most snowfall in the U.S. in one day. 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 February 10. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

# Annual DCSPCA Drive Begins Soon

Once again, the Arlington Teachers' Association will be sponsoring a supplies drive for the Dutchess County SPCA to honor Jackie Higgins, a champion for the teachers here in our district. Jackie was the ATA's administrative assistant for many years. She was the first face people would see when they would visit our offices, and the first voice they would hear on the phone. She was always kind, greeted you with a smile, and made you feel like family. In 2010, the ATA suffered a great loss with her passing.

As a way of ensuring her memory lives on, we are proud to sponsor this cause that was special to Jackie for the 12th year. She loved animals, and the Dutchess County SPCA is always so appreciative of our donations as a district. Last year, we were able to donate two VERY full car loads worth of supplies.

Starting February 27 through March 6, 2023, we will be collecting donations for the DCSPCA. **Monetary donations are welcome and appreciated.** Please write checks to DCSPCA. All donations (both monetary and non-monetary) are tax

### Please consider donating these desperately needed items:

- Unopened dog and cat kibble
- Unopened dog and cat canned food
- Towels, flat sheets, and comforters
- Unfrayed blankets with no fringe
- Harnesses and leashes in good condition
- Dog and cat toys without rope or string
- Cat trees in good condition
- Clean crates and carriers
- Unopened cat litter
- Clean, uncovered litter boxes
- Paper towels
- Clean metal or ceramic bowls

### What animals don't need:

- Opened bags or cans of food
- Pillows and pillow cases
- Fitted sheets
- Cushions
- Electric blankets
- Knitted or crocheted items
- Mattress pads and covers
- Duvet covers
- Rusted crates and carriers
- Prescription pet food
- Medicines and medical supplies
- Newspapers, can, and bottles
- Plastic pet food bowls

deductible.

Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts and for helping us to honor the memory of the ATA's friend, Jackie Higgins.

-Kristine Jackson,  
ATA PR Chair

**Read more about the Dutchess County SPCA at [www.dcspca.org](http://www.dcspca.org)**

# We Are Arlington

*Continued from front organization.*

We have seen so many changes to Arlington in the recent years, the impact has been daunting. The number of new programs and initiatives that have begun are really building members' anxiety. First let me say, what I witness everyday is an amazing professional faculty that comes to work to provide the best educational experience to our students. This dedication to the students is quite remarkable. There is so much going on around us, I continue to encourage our members to focus your attention on the work you do with students. There have been many changes to the district and, in some cases, building administration. The common thread of consistency in Arlington is the ATA and its members.

For those of us who have been with Arlington for some time, we have seen the new administration come and go several times. Each time the new administration brings new ideas and new plans for the District. The ATA has always been involved, and we have worked to help Arlington grow. We have evolved over the years with many of those ideas

ingrained in what we do, and we accommodate new ones from the new players. We are also faced with campaigns in the media across America to lay blame for the test scores that may have declined, or the false assumption

***I truly believe that we, as professionals, no matter what capacity we provide to the Arlington students, are the ones who know our students the best. We know what they need, and we, as professionals, are here to provide for them everyday. There will always be the studies and research that has an opinion of how to improve us. I think we all wish they would just ask us for our opinion.***

that we could do more to make up for the time lost to COVID. The point I want to make is that no matter what is going on around us, keep your focus on the students and what you know is best for them. I truly believe that we, as professionals, no matter what capacity we provide to the Arlington students, are the ones who know our students the

best. We know what they need, and we, as professionals, are here to provide for them everyday. There will always be the studies and research that has an opinion of how to improve us. I think we all wish they would just ask us for our opinion.

If you are new to Arlington, or if you have been here for some time, the consistency and continuity that we provide is most important for the students and their families. The cycles of the education world are always evolving. By the time you have years invested here you will more than likely see different practices come and go, and then come around again. Please don't let this discourage you, or cause anxiety. The Arlington community is so fortunate to have us, and we are the providers of quality education to our students

everyday. The ATA, with our partners in the other units of the staff, are what makes Arlington. We all should be very proud. Please remember to reach out to the ATA leadership team if we can support you in any way.

-Bob Maier,  
ATA President

## 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; 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 →



# Summer Opportunities Abound

In February summer may seem far off, but it is not too soon to be thinking about applying for teachers after school ends. Information about numerous educational programs can be found in this list of just some of the great programs that are available at very little or no cost at all to educators.

<b>Program Sponsor</b>	<b>Recommended Grade Level</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
Library of Congress	K-12	Using Primary Sources	July 5-7, 12-13
National WWII Museum	6-12	Social Studies & ELA —WWII	July 9-10 July 23
McDonald Observatory	K-12	Science—Astronomy	Various
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum	5-8	STEAM	July 10 July 15
The Thoreau Institute	K-12	Natural History, ELA	July 16
National Endowment for the Humanities	K-12	Humanities—Social Studies, ELA, Architecture, Music	Various
National Portrait Gallery	K-12	Social Studies, ELA, Visual Arts	July 10
Ford’s Theater	3-12	Science—Weather	July 23
The Ecology School	K-8	Watershed Science and Conservation	July 17 July 27
U.S. Naval Academy	6-12	STEM	July 17
Elementary Physical Education Workshop	K-8	Physical Education	July 16
ASM International	6-12	STEM—Materials Science	Various

g for one of the many professional development opportunities available and on the internet, but many can be very expensive. The following is a list of opportunities. Many even include room, board, and travel expenses!



<b>s</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Website</b>
4, 17-19	Washington, D.C.	Feb. 10	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/2ub9ucuj">tinyurl.com/2ub9ucuj</a>
15 -29	New Orleans, LA	Feb. 13	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/y7h4nkv9">tinyurl.com/y7h4nkv9</a>
us	Fort Davis, TX	Feb. 15	<a href="http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/profdev#hubble">mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/profdev#hubble</a>
-21 -26	Washington, D.C.	Feb. 15	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/3hrah76">tinyurl.com/3hrah76</a>
-21	Walden Pond, MA	March 1	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/yf623sm8">tinyurl.com/yf623sm8</a>
us	Various	March 3	<a href="https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs">https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs</a>
-14	Washington, D.C.	March 10	<a href="https://npg.si.edu/teacher-workshops/learning-look-summer-teacher-institute">https://npg.si.edu/teacher-workshops/learning-look-summer-teacher-institute</a>
-28	Washington, D.C.	April 10	<a href="https://fords.org/teaching-and-learning/education-programs/set-in-stone/">https://fords.org/teaching-and-learning/education-programs/set-in-stone/</a>
-20 -30	Portland, ME	Ongoing	<a href="http://theecologyschool.org/teacher-institute">theecologyschool.org/teacher-institute</a>
-20	Annapolis, MD	Ongoing	<a href="http://usna.edu/STEM/applications.php">usna.edu/STEM/applications.php</a>
-20	Pomona, CA	Ongoing	<a href="http://epew-cp.weebly.com/">epew-cp.weebly.com/</a>
us	Various	Ongoing	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/gwo24fq">tinyurl.com/gwo24fq</a>



## 2022 — 2023 ATA Officers

### President

Bob Maier

### Elementary Vice President

Nicolle McMorris

### Secondary Vice President

Greg Nieman

### Vice President For Membership

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 — TBD

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](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.

### Art

From February 2 through 9, AHS art teacher Sean Bayliss will be offering a six hour online workshop consisting of live and on-demand modules for teachers who are looking for guidance on best practices for teaching AP Art History. Bayliss has been offering AP Art History workshops for College Board since 2015 and he has been the subject's lead consultant since 2020.

### National Board

Kindergarten teacher Nicolle McMorris (NOX) recently received her National Board certification as an early childhood generalist.

The following teachers all recently received their National Board maintenance of certification: Cindy Binnie, Sue Pung, and Krysta Weiss from AHS; Xiang'e Bove from BES; Mindy Grey

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

Do you know something great that an ATA member has done recently? Perhaps they have done charity work, received an award, attended a conference, or even published a book. Let us know by scanning the QR code or going to this link:

<https://forms.gle/aGLYf3LWHqkP5gaS7>





from OPS; Kat Spinelli from UVMS; and Alison Durkin and Amy Pagano from VF.

### Master Teacher

Vail Farm third grade special education teacher Kristen Mateja and AHS science teacher Marc Quiet were selected to be a part of this year's cohort of New York State Master Teachers. The four year fellowship is available for STEM teachers and comes with an annual stipend of \$15,000 with the requirement of completing 50 hours of professional development and collaboration through the program each year. Applications are now open for the next round of Master Teacher selection, and elementary educators are especially encouraged to apply. For more information go to

[www.suny.edu/masterteacher/applications/](http://www.suny.edu/masterteacher/applications/)

### Retirees

Retired Arlington physical education teacher and coach Gary Montalto received the Robert Robinson award at the United Soccer Coaches Convention that was held in Philadelphia from January 11 through 15. The award recognizes long-term service to interscholastic soccer.

Retirees Karen Sipperly (UVMS) and Dave Moss (AHS) are once again running a trivia competition to benefit Red Hook library. The 19th annual contest is taking place on February 5 at Cancun's Restaurant in Red Hook. Each year many Arlington teachers compete in the charity event.

# Member Spotlight: Euni Shim

Being new to Arlington hasn't stopped Overlook second grade teacher Euni Shim from getting involved with activities outside the classroom. Although only in her second year as a teacher, she is the coach of the Admiral Winterguard team at AHS. This competitive performance-based team for students in grades 8 through 12 incorporates choreographed dance, staging, and props accompanied by music. In the summer Shim also works with UVMS special education teacher Shannon Gilhuly (coach of the Cadet Winterguard for students in grades 5 through 8) on coaching the AHS marching band's color guard.

According to Shim, she has been active with color guard both competitively and professionally since 2014, and transitioned to coaching in 2017, never looking back. Her professional life even included a stint as a dancer on the Broadway show *Ajijaak on Turtle Island* for two years before becoming a teacher.

All of this experience led Shim to

seek out Arlington's marching band director Darrell Keech when she came to the district. Shim says, "I've always known about the Arlington Winterguard program for their accomplishments and accolades. After I accepted the job offer at Arlington, I asked to join the team. [Keech] introduced me to [color guard director] Albert Cousins and I have been here since! Marching band in the summer and fall and Winterguard in the winter and spring! It is a year round commitment!" She details that, "We spend about 13 hours a week rehearsing. During competition season, that number can get up to the 20+ hour range a week! And that's just when I'm with the students. There is a lot of planning and collaboration that happens behind the scenes as well. It's a huge time commitment for sure." Shim enjoys every minute of it: "I plan to work with the color guard for many, many years to come. It's a big part of my life and I wouldn't have it any other way!"



Photo by Sam Falk

Overlook second grade teacher Euni Shim is coaches Admiral Winterguard at Arlington High School.

The Admiral Winterguard debuted their 2023 production, "Missing In Action: Vietnam", in honor of those who served, and those who were left behind, on January 21 at Shenendehowa High School. They came in first place at that competition.

## Tax Season Is Upon Us Once Again

When preparing your taxes, you may be able to deduct the union dues from your taxable income. Check with your tax preparation professional to be sure.

So how much did I pay in Union Dues (ATA+NYSUT/NEA+AFT) in 2022?

New employees (started in September)	\$358.50
Full time employees (worked last year also)	\$836.51
Recent retirees (Dues from last spring)	\$478.01

Are there any exceptions to this? Yes, a few people may have had a leave, or started after Sept. 1, or had some other payroll interruption that would change their deduction. See below to confirm your deduction.

The documentation you can provide to show that you have made these payments is on the "paystub" that was emailed to you on 12/22/22. I recommend keeping all of your paystubs, but the last one in each December is particularly handy when tax prep time comes.

Happy New Year!

-Steve Hertzog, ATA Vice President For Membership

# Dates to Remember



## FEBRUARY

- 14th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., LMS
- 17th—Professional Development Half Day
- 20th—President's Day - No School
- 21st—ATA Executive Council Meeting: 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432
- 25th—Math, Science, and Technology Fair: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., AHS
- 28th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

## MARCH

- 10th—Superintendent's Conference Day
- 14th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TRP
- 21st—ATA Executive Council Meeting: 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432
- 28th—Board of Education Meeting: 7 p.m., CAO



## APRIL

- 3rd-10th—Spring Break
- 11th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., BES



# Announcements

### ***Did you know?***

The educator expense tax deduction has increased for the first time since it was introduced in 2002! Eligible educators can now deduct up to \$300 (up from \$250) of qualified expenses paid in 2022. Spouses who are eligible educators filing jointly can deduct up to \$600 (up from \$500). To be eligible you must have worked at least 900 hours in a school during the school year.

### **Welfare Trust Updates:**

Beginning January 1, 2023 dental benefits increased by 10% and a new hearing aid benefit went into effect. Coverage for hearing aids provides \$500 per family every 36 months for hearing aids, batteries, and adjustments. More info can be found under the "Our ATA" and "Links and Forms" sections of the ATA webpage.

**Stay informed! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or check out [www.arlingtonteachers.com](http://www.arlingtonteachers.com) for forms, photos, calendars, and more.**