



# TAAAC ACTION REPORT



*Your Professional Organization*

Volume 46, Number 10



Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County, An MSEA/NEA Affiliate

June 2014

## TAAAC FEE Scholarship Winners



Pictured above from left to right: Jim Burns, TAAAC-FEE Committee Member; Betty Coleman, TAAAC-FEE Scholarship Chairperson; Tabitha Herrin, Northeast HS; Brittany Reynolds, Meade HS; Melanie Williams, Southern HS; Ken Baughman, TAAAC-FEE Committee Member; and Eric Johnson, South River HS

The TAAAC Foundation for Educational Excellence, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, organized and run by active and retired TAAAC members was founded a few decades ago. It serves as TAAAC's philanthropic arm and serves local public school students in two ways.

Its Children's Fund provides prescription eyeglasses and winter coats and clothing to students in need.

Its Scholarship fund provides scholarships for which AACPS students earn through competition.

While the Children's Fund operates throughout the year, attention is drawn to the Scholarship Fund each spring.

On May 7, 2014, at the Association Representative Council, the winners of the 2013-14 scholarships were announced. Winners of this year's TAAAC-FEE Scholarship Awards are: Mary V. Kizer Ball, Annapolis High; Sarah Sinnott, Arundel High; Brittany Reynolds, Meade High; Tabatha Herrin, Northeast High; and Melaine Williams, Southern High.

The Foundation administers two additional scholarships funded by private donations. The winner of the Robin Coleman Scholarship was Eric W. Johnson of South River High School. The winner of the Samuel and Bessie Chao Book Scholarship was Renee C. Dobrovolsky of North County High.





**Richard Benfer**

## Long Challenging Year

It has been a long challenging year. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all educators in TAAAC for their perseverance through the many obstacles and opportunities. We have felt growing pains across our county with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, new curriculum, navigating online web tools, the PARCC Pilot, and the lack of planning time to get it all done. We have worked diligently to help alleviate some of the demands on educators. The TAAAC Curriculum and Instruction Advisory Cabinet was established jointly between TAAAC and the Office of Curriculum and Instruction. Our very own Association Representatives served on the council and brought many issues to the table they were dealing with along with solutions. The Office of Curriculum and Instruction used the information gathered to help inform them how to best help educators in the classroom who are hard at work implementing new curriculum using proven instructional practices and new strategies alike. Many elementary educators saw an additional half day of sub time to help their team come together and plan lessons that they could use right away. The Office of Curriculum and

## COMMENTARY

Instruction has also recently developed other voluntary professional development opportunities with per diem pay that will be offered between now and August. These opportunities will allow elementary educators to continue to grasp the new curriculum and align it to the CCSS.

*“It is time to send the message to county government that we want to keep our schools on the forefront of greatness.”*

TAAAC in partnership with MSEA has formed a CCSS Cadre to help our educators further enhance their knowledge and create a support network that they will be able to depend upon. Additionally, during the MSEA Summer Leadership Retreat, the Student Learning Objective Cadre will be trained and we will have another support network started for SLO’s. Both Cadres will plan to deliver professional development to our educators in the 2014-2015 school year.

As I have talked to countless educators across our county, I have been sending the message about getting involved in elections this year. For too many years the funding authority has left us high and dry. It is time to send the message to county government that we want to

keep our schools on the forefront of greatness. The only way to do that is to show educators the respect that we deserve. They can start by funding our contract and helping us to recover some of the damage that we have suffered. That message can be sent at the polls. I urge you to get out and vote June 24<sup>th</sup>. Early voting begins June 12<sup>th</sup> and runs to the 19<sup>th</sup>. Voting is a great way to have your voice heard, and we need all our members involved. Visit [MDAppleBallot.com](http://MDAppleBallot.com) for a list of education friendly candidates.

The TAAAC “Celebrate Educators” event is in full planning mode. The event will be held at Sandy Point State Park on Friday, August 22, 2014 from 11:00AM to 3:00PM. I hope this event will give a boost to educators across our county and help start off the year with some fun. As I have done in the past, I requested that a memo be put out to principals asking them to allow 12 month Unit 1 members the opportunity to leave early on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to be able to join in the festivities. I have been assured that the message will be communicated to principals.

I hope you have a restful summer. Spend time with friends and family. Decompress. Re-energize.



## TAAAC Action Report

Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County	Officers	Board of Directors	Editors
2521 Riva Road, Suite L 7 Annapolis, Maryland 21401	Richard Benfer, President Russell Leone, Vice President Colleen Benda, Secretary-Treasurer	Enid Collison-Lee Martin Sears Pamela Bukowski Jacqueline Lubniewski Diana Peckham	Grace Matthews Elizabeth Bringer Vacancy Donzella Parker Bert James Vaughn
(410) 224-3330 (301) 261-8309	(410) 841-6022 FAX (410) 841-5117		Bill Jones, Executive Director and Managing Editor Roxanne L. Beach, Editor
<a href="http://www.taaaconline.org">www.taaaconline.org</a>			

## From Contentia this month . . . *Some End of the Year Advice*

At TAAAC there are issues that often appear at the end of the school year.

### Early Release Days (June 13-18)

*“The four days of early release time for students, scheduled immediately prior to the end of each semester will be utilized to provide self-directed work time for teachers at all levels. (Article 11, N)”*

Don't feel obligated to attend any “housekeeping” meetings at your school from June 13-18 after the kids are sent home. That is YOUR time to do what you need to complete report cards and end the year work.

### Personal Days

*“... Personal Business Leave shall not be taken... at the beginning or the end of the school year. (Article 8, A)”*

The last five duty days constitute the “*end of the school year.*” If circumstances require your absence, the restriction may be waived by the principal.

### SAVE THE DATE – BACK TO SCHOOL TAAAC PICNIC

For the second time in recent years, TAAAC is sponsoring a back to school picnic for all TAAAC members and their families. Mark your calendars for **Friday, August 22, 2014**. That is the final day of the back to school week without the children. Join us to celebrate a new year together.

## What's Your Bright Idea?

### Make it happen with MSEA's New Members-Only Grant

Do you have a great idea for how to get your colleagues excited about the issues that matter to you, TAAAC, and your profession? It's time to make it happen with an MSEA Innovative Engagement and Organizing (IEO) Grant. An IEO Grant can fund the development of your great idea—the average grant will be about \$5,000—and help you put it into action.

“We're looking for thoughtful, fun, exciting, and unique ideas that will get us all thinking about fresh ways of organizing and advocacy,” said MSEA President Betty Weller. “I'm excited to see your great ideas and how they can help move our association forward!”

Here are the basics:

- Visit [marylandeducators.org/IEOGrant](http://marylandeducators.org/IEOGrant) to learn more about the grant and the application process.
- Download, complete, and submit the grant application form.
- Meet the deadline of June 16 for your application to be reviewed.
- Grants will be reviewed by MSEA's Strategic Planning Task Force, a diverse group of members and staff working to bring relevant, member-focused innovation to MSEA's organizing and advocacy goals.
- Grantees will be notified August 1 and awards will be dispersed September 1.

“We're always looking for new ways to engage and energize our members,” said TAAAC President Richard Benfer. “This new grant from MSEA can help tap into the creative thinking of our members—our association's strongest and best resource.”

**The 2014 Gubernatorial Elections are on the near horizon. Primary Elections are on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The following candidates have been recommended by TAAAC and MSEA.**

**Governor/Lt. Governor**

Anthony Brown/Ken Ulman

**Attorney General**

Brian Frosh

**Comptroller**

Peter Franchot

**Maryland Senate**

**30** John C. Astle

**32** James Ed DeGrange

**Maryland House**

**30A** Mike Busch

Maria Triandos

**31A** Ned Carey

**31B** Stan Janor

**32** Pamela Beidle

Theodore J.Sophocleus

Spencer Dove

**33** Henry Green

**Anne Arundel County Executive**

George Johnson

**Council Districts**

**1** Pete Smith

**2** Andy Werner

**4** Andrew Pruski

**6** Chris Trumbauer

## TAAAC is excited to share a great new resource: MDAppleBallot.com

This new site is an easy to use, one-stop-shop for educators and voters to find association-recommended candidates in their districts. Whether or not you live in Anne Arundel County, all you need to do is enter in your address and you'll find recommended candidates for school board, county offices, the General Assembly, governor, attorney general, and comptroller.



## Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment/Cancellation

Unit I employees that would like to join the TAAAC Sick Leave Bank may do so during the Open Enrollment Period, which is July 1 through September 30. New Unit I employees may join within the first 30 days after their effective date of employment.

Unit I employees who wish to cancel their participation in the TAAAC Sick Leave Bank must do so by June 30 or risk the irretrievable loss of their one-day contribution.

Your Association Representative has been provided with a list of SLB members for their work location.

Those interested in enrollment/cancellation may call the TAAAC office to obtain the proper forms.

## May ARC Attendance

The following schools, departments, and affiliates were **not** represented at the May 7, 2014 Association Representative Council Meeting.

**Affiliates** – Coaches Association, Counselors, SLAAAC; **Departments** – Riva Road; **Elementary** – Annapolis, Arnold, Bodkin, Brock Bridge, C & I Res. Ctr. at Point Pleasant, Comm. Based Servs. at Point Pleasant, Crofton, Crofton Meadows, Davidsonville, Deale, Fort Smallwood, Freetown, Georgetown East, Germantown, Glen Burnie Park, Glendale Annex, Glendale/Glendale Level V, Hillsmere, Jacobsville, Jessup, Lake Shore, Lothian, Manor View, Mayo, Millersville, Nantucket, North Glen, Oakwood, Overlook, Piney Orchard, Rolling Knolls, Seven Oaks, Severn, Severna Park, Shady Side, South Shore, Sunset, Van Bokkelen, West Meade, Woodside; **Secondary** – Arundel High, Brooklyn Park Middle, Corkran Middle, Glen Burnie High, Old Mill Middle N., Severna Park Middle, South River, Southern Middle, Southern High; **Specials** - Center of Applied Tech. N., Center of Applied Tech. S., Chesapeake Science Pt., Infants & Toddlers, J. Albert Adams, Mary Moss Academy, Monarch Academy, Phoenix Academy, Staff Development – Carver.

## Hershey Park

Discounted tickets are available online NOW through the TAAAC link and using the promo code:

TAAAC LINK:

<http://tinyurl.com/anne2014>

PROMO CODE:

14895

Discounted tickets are also available for purchase at the TAAAC office.