

# TAAAC ACTION REPORT

Your Professional Organization

*“Empowered Educators, Successful Students, Connected Communities”*

Vol. 51, Number 7

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

March 2019

## March for Our Schools

This week, TAAAC joined educators from around Maryland to advocate for our students, our schools, and our profession. This was our statewide Red for Ed moment to send a message to our legislators. But why did we march? Now is the time to prepare for funding the Kirwan recommendations that are likely to go through legislation next year. We sent a message that budgeting for the funding of the recommendations now is crucial to ensuring that we are ready to start the work right away. Otherwise our students would need to wait an additional year before the money is secured. Some of the things we are hoping to see as a result are universal pre-k, more counselors and other student support positions, expanded career and technical education, living wages for our support staff (our colleagues in SAAAAC!), and an average teacher salary of \$92,000. However, our work didn't end on March 11. TAAAC members will still be meeting with state representatives in the coming weeks. The General Assembly session ends on April 8 and we welcome members to come lobby with us.

Hundreds of TAAAC members sported red and hopped on buses and carpoled to Annapolis to use our teacher voices. For pictures and more details from the event, head over to our Facebook page.

## Board of Education Approves the FY2020 Budget

The Board of Education approved the budget that is now in the hands of County Executive Steuart Pittman and the County Council. There were over 80 amendments presented to Dr. Arlotto's original budget. Board members expressed a great interest in taking care of teachers, although not all agreed on how far to go to achieve that. However, there are several things for TAAAC members to be happy about today. The following is a list of items that are significant gains:

- A catch-up step for employees who worked the 2008-09 school year
- A catch-up step for employees who worked the 2009-10 school year (to also include the employees above)
- Nine additional ELL positions (3 teachers, 3 Bilingual TA, 1 Bilingual facilitator)
- Thirty-two additional Triple E teachers for Arundel, Glen Burnie, Old Mill, Severna Park and South River
- Eleven additional school counselors, 5 Psychologists, 3 Social Workers, and 3 PPWs
- Eight additional positions for purpose of class size reductions
- Five Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and/or Speech Pathologists and up to 4 Special Education positions

All of the positions above are in addition to the ones in the original budget proposal.

The compensation toward catch-up steps is in addition to Dr. Arlotto's original \$13.6 million “placeholder.”



**Russell Leone**

**Your Professional Organization**

Careful readers have noticed these three words on the cover of every TAAAC Action Report. What do those words mean to you? For me, it goes well beyond a group that is working on my contract or filing a grievance. My professional organization should help me grow and thrive as an educator. I expect my organization to offer relevant opportunities that meet the needs of my colleagues and me. This gives my professional organization value to me. At the end of the day, I must believe my organization will help me be better for my students and co-workers.

There is another level to my organization supporting me. I know that means I must invest myself into the work of my organization. I do not mean to imply that every member of the organization must be leading the work, but there is a connection between what we offer and the benefits we gain. It could be as simple as contacting your Board of Ed members (which I know many of you have, because they tell me they've heard from members) or connecting with your colleagues

# Commentary

around the county to share experiences and ideas for creating a better work environment. However, for you to invest your time and energy, you must believe it is beneficial.

***“Please visit <https://bit.ly/2V9yYXO> to let us know what you want from Your Professional Organization.”***

Through the weekly updates, I believe I've created a platform to enhance your profession. That is why in the updates I include information and news links on trending education issues. I use the updates to keep you informed of association opportunities, both through MSEA and TAAAC. You will also find links to resources. But most importantly, I highlight the actions TAAAC members can take to elevate our profession.

I want you to know and believe that your TAAAC Leadership truly is looking for new and meaningful ways to support you in the schools. But now that I am seven months into my presidency, I am taking a step back to reexamine the big picture and ask if this is enough. Is the way we have offered trainings and workshops in the past meeting your needs?

Over the years, TAAAC has provided many great trainings and opportunities to members. They were often full to capacity. This year, though, you may have noticed that there were a couple of events that we planned but had to cancel due to low interest. I must acknowledge that the way workshops and trainings were structured when I was an early educator does not work today. As a profession, we have changed. Our needs and the demands on our time have changed. The way we rely on each other has changed. TAAAC must also change to fit with your needs.

At the beginning of this commentary, I asked “What do those words mean to you?” This is where your TAAAC Leadership needs you. Your feedback is critical to us helping you grow in your profession as we move forward. As I look to the remainder of the year and into next year, I need to hear from you. Please take a moment to provide feedback and ideas on the types of events you would like to see TAAAC implementing. Offer your suggestions for content of trainings and workshops. Please visit <https://bit.ly/2V9yYXO> to let us know what you want from ***Your Professional Organization.***



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## TAAAC Action Report

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Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County  
2521 Riva Road, Suite L7  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(410) 224-3330 (410) 841-6022  
(301) 261-8309 FAX (410) 841-5117  
[www.taaaconline.org](http://www.taaaconline.org)

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## From Contentia this month . . . *Quality Teacher Incentive Tax Credit*

If you are a Maryland public school teacher and you paid tuition during the 2018 tax year for graduate-level courses to maintain certification, you may be entitled to an income tax credit on your Maryland return.

You may claim a credit for 100 percent of the unreimbursed amount of tuition paid or \$1,500 – whichever is less. A credit of up to \$3,000 is allowed on a joint return if each spouse qualifies for the credit.

### **Qualification**

To qualify for the credit, you must:

- Currently hold a standard professional certificate or an advanced professional certificate.
- Be employed by a county/city board of education in Maryland.
- Teach in a public school and receive a satisfactory performance evaluation for teaching.
- Successfully complete the graduate courses with a grade of B or better.
- Have not been fully reimbursed for these expenses. Only the unreimbursed portion qualified for the credit.

The courses taken must be required to maintain certification and the cost of the courses must exceed any amount reimbursed by AACPS.

### **Claiming the credit**

To claim the credit:

- Complete Part C of Form [502CR](#).
- File Form 502CR with your Maryland return.

The credit can be claimed on Maryland forms 502, 505 or 515. It is not available on short Form 503.

If the credit exceeds your tax liability, the unused credit may not be carried forward to any other tax year.

You may be eligible to claim tax credits from previous years. Please discuss this with your tax advisor.

## **Community Outreach— Helping SPAN**

Serving People Across Neighborhoods (SPAN) helps those in need across Anne Arundel County. TAAAC collects donations of non-perishable items each month at our representative assembly meeting. You can help by giving a small donation to your building rep to bring to our meeting. If you happen to be coming to the TAAAC office, we have a collection bin.

## **#RedforEd Shirts**

You've seen the #RedforEd shirts. If you haven't gotten yours yet, see your TAAAC Rep. T-shirts are now available to non-members as well for a cost of \$10 while supplies last. Contact the TAAAC office for shirt purchases.

## Foundation to Help Local Students

One of TAAAC's functions is to assist local students in continuing their education. TAAAC does so through its Foundation for Educational Excellence which gives competitive scholarships to college bound young people.

The Foundation provides eight scholarships to local public high school students each year which are funded by members, outside donors, and occasional fundraising events. One of these is funded by TAAAC-R. In addition, there are two memorial scholarships funded through direct donations: The Robin Coleman Award for Computer Science and/or Technology, and the Samuel and Bessie Chao Memorial Book Award. Applications are distributed through all public high school counselors. The forms were sent out on February 13 for the 2019 scholarship awards. For more information, contact your school counseling department or call the TAAAC office.



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(\*Valid on purchases of \$100 or more, through 3/31/19)



*"The most important thing that schools can do is not use technology in the curriculum more, but to use it more effectively."*

- John G. Palfrey

## TAAAC Events Calendar

### MARCH

- 18 – Government Relations – 5 PM @ Stan & Joes
- 20 – IPD Committee – 4:45 PM @ TAAAC
- 21 – TAAAC ASI – 3:30 PM @ TAAAC
- 25 – SLB @ TAAAC
- 25 – Government Relations – 5 PM @ Stan & Joes
- 26 – Special Events – 4:30 PM @ TAAAC

### APRIL

- 1 – Government Relations – 5 PM @ Stan & Joe's
- 8 – SLB @ TAAAC
- 8 – Government Relations – 5 PM @ Stan & Joe's
- 18-22 – Easter Break – All Schools, Central Offices and TAAAC office closed.
- 13 – RA Meeting – 5 PM @ Severna Park Middle
  - Meeting Prior to RA:
    - Elementary Concerns
    - Middle School Concerns
    - High School Concerns
    - Nominating Committee
- 23 – SLB @ TAAAC
- 25 – TAAAC/ASI – 3:30 PM @ TAAAC
- 25 – Membership Committee – 4:30 PM @ TAAAC
- 30 – Credentials Committee – 4:30 @ TAAAC

Visit [www.taaaconline.org](http://www.taaaconline.org)

## County Executive Town Hall Meetings

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

District 1 – Lindale Middle School Auditorium with Councilmember Sarah Lacey

Tuesday, March 26, 2019 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

District 5 – Severna Park High School Auditorium with Councilmember Amanda Fiedler

Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

District 6 – Annapolis High School Auditorium with Councilmember Lisa Rodvien

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Allison Beaver	Amanda Mascetti
Cortea A. Bess-Foreman	Davesus Omoson
Katherine F. Billingsley	Madison Park
Tonya Careaga	Charles Phillips
Kevin Chaney	Renan Pires
Sandra Choute	Sarah Rivers
Ryan Davenport	Brooke Rogers
Christina Green	Ronald Romanski
Katrina Hatfield	Junior Rose
Deirdre Henry	Katherine Schaner
Tammi Holihan	Oumie Sherif
George Jerome	Michael Shina
Lulu Jones	Ryan Simms
Michelle Kenney	Leanna Steffen
Jessica Lechert	James Triebwasser
Edison Cabrera Manalo	Rebecca Womack

## TAX PREPERATION

R.J. Pellicoro Assoc. will be at TAAAC offices on **March 18 and 20, 2019, from 10 AM – 6 PM**, to prepare 2018 Income Tax returns for long-time TAAAC clients.

As in the past, contact the TAAAC office to make appointments for these dates. For those clients who would prefer to receive their 2018 tax returns earlier, please contact Bob Pellicoro at (301) 706-7619 to arrange for mailing tax data directly to R.J. Pellicoro Assoc.

Link up with TAAAC on Social Media



Please scan the code to follow us on Twitter

Please scan the code and Like us on Facebook

## NOMINATIONS OPEN

The TAAAC Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the **Credentials Committee** and the **Nominating Committee**.

Nominations will be accepted until the April 10, 2019 RA meeting.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to place my name in nomination for the following position(s):

**Credentials Committee**

**Nominating Committee**

## NOMINATIONS OPEN

The TAAAC Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the **Sick Leave Bank Approval Committee** and the **AACPS Calendar Committee (Secondary)**.

Nominations will be accepted until the May 2, 2019 RA meeting.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to place my name in nomination for the following position(s):

**Sick Leave Bank Approval Committee**

**AACPS Calendar Committee (Secondary)**



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### April 4, 2019: Saving & Investing

All workshops are being held at Severna Park Middle School. For more details, call Bill at (410) 480-0007 or email at William.bush@lpl.com.



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR TAAAC COUNSELOR:**

Fahad Khan | Fahad.Khan@gcu.edu | 602-247-4955 | gcu.edu/udc/fahad.khan

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**SUZANNE HERRMANN**

Cell: (703) 795-0406 Office: (301) 985-2020  
[suzanne\\_herrmann@us.aflac.com](mailto:suzanne_herrmann@us.aflac.com)



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