

THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT

OF

'76

50 Years Strong
1966-2016

1700 SANSOM STREET - SUITE 903 - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 - 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXVIII-NO.7
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **March 2018**

From the President's Desk

THE CONTRACT PROPOSAL: WHAT TEACHERS DON'T WANT

On Tuesday, April 10, negotiations for a new Labor-Management Agreement will begin. The ACT Negotiating Team is currently putting the finishing touches on the proposal that will be handed across the table. However, before we give the proposal to the School System, you, the members of ACT, need to vote your approval.

On Thursday, April 5, a General Membership Meeting will be held at the Courtyard Marriott on City Avenue so that you can see the proposal the Team has drawn up from the surveys you submitted. This is a very crucial meeting because it is your opportunity to tell the ACT Team and, more important than that, the System, what you want and what you don't want.

(Continued on Page 2)

This negotiating year especially, the surveys make it crystal clear what ACT members do not want to see in the document that governs their work life.

One of the primary benefits of being a Union member is the right to have a say over what goes into the contract and what doesn't. Your vote at the General Membership Meeting determines this.

In addition to salary and benefits, the membership is looking at numbers throughout the contract – number of years, number of days, number of minutes.

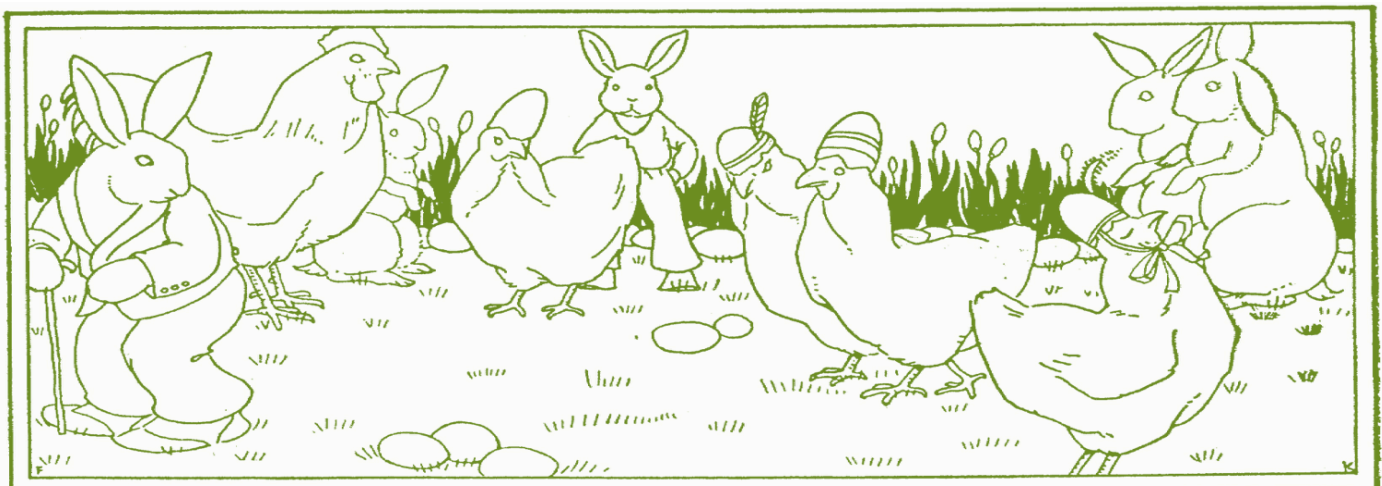
Your vote on the proposal will send a message to the System and you must be at the meeting to vote.

Stand behind the proposal that will impact your work life. Stand behind your Team.

See you at the [General Membership Meeting 4 P.M. on Thursday, April 5 at the Courtyard Marriott on City Avenue.](#)

Rita

Welcome Spring!



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In conjunction with **National Women In Leadership Month**, which honors women who have successfully challenged the role of women in both business and the paid labor force, the **Association of Catholic Teachers**, along with the **Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia**, and **Holy Family University** sponsored a **Women in Leadership Conference** for female students attending Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



The **Women in Leadership Conference** is a program focused on inspiring young women to follow their dreams and aspirations. This year the Conference was held on **March 9, 2018**. The Keynote Speaker was **Kathryn Ott Lovell**, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, City of Philadelphia. Students attending the Conference got to hear stories of real life challenges and successes in the workforce experienced by former Catholic school graduates, **Kara Di Orio**, Senior Manager/Human Resources, Comcast Business, **Lynn Tarini**, Communications Director, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), **Elizabeth A. Ward**, Family Nurse Practitioner, Department of Otolaryngology, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and **Representative Martina White**, Pennsylvania State Representative, 170th District.

TAX INFORMATION

Archdiocesan High Schools

2017 DUES: **\$537.31**

Holy Cross Academy

2017 DUES: **\$534.00**

Seniority Lists Posted

(for school only)

Article V, Section 1b states “On or before April 1 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in each school a complete listing of all full-time teachers in that school including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to school seniority.”

“Teachers shall have until **May 1** to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster.”

Voluntary Transfers

Applications for voluntary transfers must be submitted no later than **April 3rd**.

(Forms are posted in the schools.)

The application form can also be found on the ACT web site at www.act1776.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The following report was given at the **March 15, 2018 Executive Board Meeting** by **ACT Legislative Rep, David Sommers**.

- **PA Senate: *SB 1065 Safe Schools Initiative***

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14) known as the Public School Code of 1949, in safe schools, establishing the School Safety and Security Augmentation Account. –Last Action Referred to Senate Education sub-committee, March 2, 2018.

SB383 Protection and Defense of Pupils

An Act amending duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for protection and defense of pupils by teachers legislation
–Last action referred to House Education Committee June 29, 2017.

- **PA House: *Keystone Scholars Program***: State Rep. Duane D. Milne, R-167, announced this week that he will introduce legislation to expand a newly-created, pilot program created to encourage tax-advantaged savings for post-secondary education. Milne’s legislation proposes to make the program statewide in the future. 3-1-2018.

529 College Investment higher education savings account legislation.

No introduction as of 3-12-2018.

- **U.S. House of Representatives**: H.R. 4909 regarding support and resources for school safety measures to counter gun violence was passed on 3-15-2018.
- **VARIA: Commonwealth Court Suit on the issue of school funding**: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 arguments heard. May affect funding methods for the 500 school districts in Pennsylvania. The issue at hand is does PA legislature fulfill its constitutional mandate to provide a “thorough and efficient” education to all students?

ACT WEBSITE

All teachers are asked to log-on to the ACT Website (www.act1776.com) and verify your personal information. It is critical that we have your current information and that it is accurate, since this is a contract year. **It is important that we have a PERSONAL email address for you**, since contract information and updates, Executive Board Minutes, and other pertinent information will be sent via email. We cannot and will not send email to a school email address.

Every teacher was provided with a username and password for the ACT Website. (New teachers will receive their log-on information in their welcome packet.) If you do not have this information, please contact Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or email her at ginny@act1776.com and she can provide this information to you. To update your personal information, log-on to the ACT Website and, in the upper right hand corner of the homepage, click on member login. Type in your username and password and then verify the information on file. Any changes made will be sent to the ACT Office automatically.

THIRD ANNUAL ACT DAY

ACT AT THE PHILLIES

April 22, 2018

Game Time: 1:35 PM

Philadelphia Phillies *versus the* Pittsburgh Pirates



IT IS OPEN ENROLLMENT TIME FOR BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB

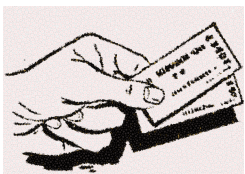
Members of the Association of Catholic Teachers can save on their BJ's Membership by joining or renewing during the Association's open enrollment period. There are two offers this year.

For Renewing Members the offer is \$40 (Reg. price is \$55) for the inner circle membership good for 13 months, or \$80 (Reg. price is \$110) for the BJ's Perks Rewards Card. BJ's will add 13 months onto your current membership card. You must include your membership number on your application.

For New Members the offer is \$25 for an inner circle membership, or \$50 for the BJ's Perks Reward Card good for 12 months. Once you sign up, an activation form with your membership number will be emailed to you promptly. When you receive the form, simply bring it to the Member Services Desk at your local BJ's Club, along with a photo ID to get your permanent BJ's Membership Card.

Each teacher was sent (via their personal email address) enrollment information as well as the application form. There is also a copy of the application form on the ACT website at www.act1776.com.

Applications should be returned to the ACT Office, 1700 Sansom Street, Suite 903, Philadelphia, PA 19103 with a check made payable to BJ's Wholesale Club no later than April 16, 2018.



MOVIE TICKETS

ACT Office keeps a limited supply of movie tickets on hand for teachers to purchase at a discounted rate. We have REGAL/UNITED ARTISTS and AMC Tickets Available. **AMC Tickets are \$10.50 per ticket. Regal Tickets are \$8.75 per ticket.** If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with your request. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request.

RETIREES ROUNDTABLE

Retired ACT Members are invited to attend a

Retirees' Luncheon

May 16, 2018
12: 00 – 4:00 PM



Randi's Restaurant & Bar
Grant Plaza
1619 Grant Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19115

Ticket price is \$20 per person.
You may bring a guest.

An order form is posted on the ACT Webpage at
www.act1776.com.

Your order form along with payment is due by May 1, 2018

IN MEMORIAM



LOUIS NICASTRO 1925-2018

February saw the passing of Lou Nicastro and his death was noted in many and varied circles. Lou had made his mark, locally, nationally and even internationally in the world of track and field as an athlete, coach and official. As a school boy athlete at Northeast Public in 1942, he ran on a scholastic world record setting 4x880 relay team at Penn Relays, which has been immortalized on the Penn Relays Wall of Fame. Lou was a champion coach while teaching at Roman Catholic High School and his Cahillite 1958 4x880 relay set a Penn Relays and scholastic record in winning that event at Penn. Taking his coaching talents to the collegiate level at then St. Joseph's College in the 1960's, Lou's teams won 2 Middle Atlantic Conference cross country and 2 MAC track Championships during his 6 year tenure.

Retiring from coaching while continuing to teach at Roman, Lou stayed active in the track world as an official and served for years as a starter and then Head Starter at the Penn Relays. As testimony to his ability, he was selected to serve as a starter at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. But to many, athletics was not where Lou made his mark.

To generations of students at RCHS, Lou was simply Mr. Nic. Lou taught Math and loved the students who would appreciate unorthodox techniques and might present a greater challenge. Most teachers relish the "smart kids". Results are more quickly visible and success more predictable. Lou enjoyed those less inclined to developing Math skills and enjoyed boasting of their hard fought achievements. A member of ACT from its beginning, Lou was a senior faculty member and leader within the school for decades. Also included on Lou's teaching resume was years of Accounting at the University College at St. Joseph's where his class was one of the most popular and hardest to get into. After retiring, Lou remained active in accounting, continuing to do the taxes of friends up until last year. He was setting up his tax programs for this year when he passed. Lou is survived by his wife Nancy and sons Mark and David. Lou was 93. If you were a friend of Lou's, you had a friend forever.

Written by
Kevin Quinn, Retired Teacher
Roman Catholic High School

Lou Nicastro was a WWII Navy Veteran. Thank you for your service, Lou.

IN MEMORIAM



ALEX SKIVO
1934-2018

A True Human Being

Alex Skivo was born in the Belmont Section of West Philadelphia. He was a street kid who was proud of his roots. After graduating from Saint Thomas More High School, he joined the US Coast Guard, serving four years. The GI Bill enabled Alex to enroll at Saint Joseph's University, graduating in 1960 with a BA in English. Alex began his long teaching career at Monsignor Bonner High School.

I met Alex in the fall of 1974 at Archbishop Carroll High School. And, corny as it sounds, he was a real good guy. We became friends. Alex was a voracious reader, consuming books on history, literature and sports. Athletic competition and coaching was our common ground. As a spectator, Alex was a "four for four" fan. He loved the Flyers, Sixers, Phillies and Eagles. He was able to watch the 2018 Super Bowl. However, his favorite team was the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers.

Alex was a talented writer. One of his best pieces is an essay about going to the Sunday baseball games at Shibe Park. This particular Sunday, Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers were in town to play the Phillies. Alex's essay was entitled "Injustice on the Diamond." The story described how Jackie responded to the negative behavior from some fans and players. "While we watched intently and with awe, Jackie led his team to victory..."

When Mr. Alex Skivo walked into a classroom, magic happened. He was prepared and energized. More important, he had a passion for helping young people. He inspired thousands of students to spend their lives making a difference. A plaque presented to Alex from his students said it best: "To Mr. Skivo, who taught us more than you can learn in books."

Written by,
Dan Bielli
Archbishop Carroll, retired

Alex Skivo was a Veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. [Thank you for your service, Alex.](#)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

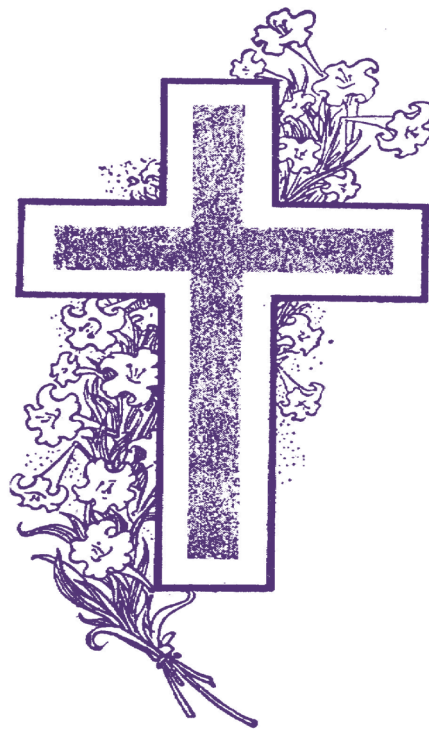
**THURSDAY,
APRIL 5, 2018
4:00 PM**

Courtyard Marriott - City Avenue
4100 Presidential Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19131

AGENDA

Contract Proposals
New Business

ALLELUIA



HAPPY EASTER
Rita, Irene and Ginny