



# THE

# SPIRIT

# OF

# '76

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1966-2016*

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

1700 SANSOM STREET - SUITE 903 - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 - 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXIX-NO.2  
Fax 215-568-8270 - email ([act@act1776.com](mailto:act@act1776.com)) - website ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) **OCTOBER 2018**

## HAPPY FALL



It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of first quarter. The year so far has not been without its challenges, especially for the teachers in the 11 schools getting up close and friendly with Power School for the first time. The best thing about using Power School is the support system provided for teachers in those schools by fellow teachers in those schools.

As usual, the ACT Staff has hit the ground running. There have been a number of teacher problems, not to mention grievances. We have been keeping the Senior Delegates busy, as well, especially monitoring how the evaluations are being handled. It is essential that each of you keep track of your observations and any pre and post conferences. Please let your Senior Delegate know if there is any problem with evaluations or walk-throughs.

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With second quarter, we are all thinking about the upcoming holidays, but before that, there is an election to be held. The political mid-term, notwithstanding, there is an election at ACT, as well. This school year, all 12 positions on the Association of Catholic Teachers' Executive Board are up for election, 8 in the fall and 4 next spring.

In the fall, you will be electing the President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Legislative Representative and 3 Members At Large. The 4 Area Vice Presidents will be elected in the spring of 2019.

On Wednesday, [November 7, at 4:00 P.M.](#), there will be a General Membership Meeting at the [Courtyard Marriott on City Avenue](#). The major portion of the meeting will be set aside for ACT Members to ***Meet the Candidates***. It is important for you to hear from your colleagues who want to serve on the ACT Executive Board. [Please put 4:00 P.M. November 7 at the Courtyard Marriott on your calendar.](#)

**Happy Fall. Happy Halloween. Looking forward to seeing you on November 7<sup>th</sup>.**



**VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN THROUGH DAVIS VISION**

***Enrollment information for the Voluntary Vision Plan through Davis Vision for the 2019 calendar year will be e-mailed to teachers on November 5, 2018.***

**For teachers currently on the Voluntary Vision Plan:** if you have not used the plan this year, try and do so before your benefits expire on December 31, 2018.

**Teachers wishing to enroll in the Voluntary Vision Plan for the 2019 calendar year, will need to submit a completed application form along with payment by Friday, December 1, 2018.**

# EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:** Dorothy Burdziak (BMD), Michael Cunningham (AC), Thomas McCracken (AR), Thomas McKeever (RC), David McQuiston (BS). **The following retired ACT members will serve as consultants to the Nominations & Elections Committee:** Joseph Schuler (retired-CE) and John Zoccola (retired-AW).

**The rules for the upcoming election are posted on page 4 of this Newsletter.**

The Nominations and Elections Committee met on October 25, 2018 to set the ground rules for the upcoming election and to open and verify the petitions. The following ACT Members are running for Office:

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<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Edward Morris *Rita C. Schwartz	(Abp. Ryan) (ACT Staff)
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Glen Galeone *Irene Tori	(Abp. Ryan) (ACT Staff)
<b>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:</b>	*Thomas Imburgia John Woehlcke	(O'Hara) (Abp. Carroll)
<b>TREASURER:</b>	*Theresa A. Lazorko Katheryn Tucker	(Roman) (Abp. Carroll)
<b>LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	*David Sommers	(Shanahan)
<b>MEMBERS-AT-LARGE</b>	Frank Costantini *William Finnegan *Michael Sheehan Louis Valenti	(Shanahan) (Abp. Ryan) (SS Neumann & Goretti) (Abp. Carroll)

\*incumbent

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**Ballots will be sent out no later than November 10, 2018 and must be returned no later than November 25.**

**MEET THE CANDIDATES ON NOVEMBER 7, 2018, 4:00 PM**

**COURTYARD MARRIOTT, CITY AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19131**

# **ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION REGULATIONS**

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall oversee the election process and enforce the election regulations.

Between the time nominating petitions are approved and the election is certified:

1. No declared candidates may visit the schools in order to campaign.
2. Any ACT Staff member who is running for elected office in any contested position shall not conduct any regularly scheduled school visits.
3. The Association will schedule a “Meet the Candidates” General Membership Meeting. The candidates will be afforded the opportunity to speak to the membership at this meeting. The meeting must occur prior to the mailing of the official ballot.
4. A one-page biography and platform submitted by each candidate shall be published and distributed to the eligible voting members with the official ballot.
5. No by-lined articles by any candidate for a contested position shall appear in the Association’s newsletter, *The Spirit of '76*.
6. There shall be no personal attacks or derogatory campaigning by any candidate.
7. Only campaign literature approved by the Nominations and Elections Committee that has been published by the Association may be disseminated to the teachers.
8. All election regulations will be published in the Association’s newsletter, *The Spirit of '76*, prior to the start of the election period. A copy of the regulations will be sent to all candidates.
9. The Association’s Executive Board will review and, if necessary, modify the election procedures prior to the start of each election period.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by *ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting held on Thursday, October 11, 2018.*

## Federal Government

### **Appropriations Bill (HB6157)**

Spending bill for 2019 including \$71.4 billion for the Department of Education. **Last action:** Senate vote 93-7 passage of the conference report on September 18, 2018.

## State Government

### **Monitoring: Statutes of Limitation**

PA House may approve provision for 2-year window for victims. Issues between PA House and PA Senate exist; Constitutionality of any proposed changes to be resolved; political/public pressure increasing; ongoing talks between member of the PA Senate and PA House as of late September with the upcoming session pending.

Vote in PA House week of 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018. Passage----heading to PA Senate; issues remain. Constitutional nature of any bill passed; public v. private payouts for offenses.

### **HB2595:** Education Fairness Bill

An act providing for basic education funding reimbursements by school districts and private/parochial schools from the Commonwealth - **Last action:** Referred to the House Education Committee on August 10, 2018.

### **HB2563:**

An act authorizing a school district to establish a program to permit retired law enforcement officers to volunteer to provide security services within the school district in exchange for a real property tax credit. - **Last action:** Referred to House Education Committee on July 17, 2018.

### **HB2641:** Mandatory Reporter Penalties

An act further providing for increased penalties for failure to report child abuse will result in a charge of felony of the Third Degree; may increase to Second

Degree felony under certain circumstances. This is a change in policy.

**Last action:** Laid on the table (House), October 1, 2018.

### **SB261:** Statutes of Limitation

Individuals would have until age 50 to seek financial damages for childhood sexual abuse. The act would take place immediately upon final passage. Some limitations would be placed on damages paid.

**Last action:** Laid on the table (House), June 6, 2018.

### **Senate Resolution 228:** Global Education task Force

Joint resolution to monitor and align curriculum for a globally-trained students and meet the upcoming needs of all educated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **Committed September 24, 2018.**

# TEACHERS IN THE NEWS



*Congratulations to ACT Executive Secretary and Cardinal O'Hara High School teacher, **Tom Imburgia**, on his induction onto the St. James Catholic High School Alumni Association's Wall of Honor. A Banquet and Awards Ceremony was held on Friday, September 29, 2018 at Lazaretto Ballroom in Essington, PA where Tom, a 1981 graduate of St. James, was recognized and honored for his ability to make a positive difference in people's lives. He has been called "a man full of humility with a God-given talent to promote the art of teaching young people how to learn."*

*(pictured above from left to right: ACT Vice President, Irene Tori, Tom Imburgia, ACT President, Rita Schwartz, and John Mooney, former St. James teacher, friend and mentor)*



*Congratulations to U.S. Navy veteran and Archbishop Carroll science teacher, **Robert W. Boyce** who was presented with the **Glass Tear Hero Award** on Saturday, September 29, 2018 at the Pottstown Veterans' Community Day. Robert was one of three Vietnam Veterans honored that day.*

*The **Glass Tear Hero Award** was developed by the Veteran's Island Project to honor local patriots who answered the call when their country needed them and those who returned home and served as an example to others of what it meant to live a life of honor and respect for both community and country.*

*Robert retired as a captain from the Navy, after twenty-six years of distinguished service.*

*Robert is now preparing the students at Archbishop Carroll to "walk into a world full of challenge."*

*ACT and its membership thank you for your service!  
Congratulations!*

# NOVEMBER 1 BEGINS THE NEW MEDICAL PLAN YEAR

## THINGS TO KNOW CONCERNING YOUR INSURANCE PLAN

### PERSONAL CHOICE PLAN (GROUP NUMBER 10101056)

If you signed up for Personal Choice during the open enrollment period, your coverage goes into effect on November 1, 2018. You should receive your identification card in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, if you need to use the plan, give your provider the group number listed above, and use your social security number for an ID number. The provider should be able to contact Personal Choice and verify your coverage with that information.

#### **Brief Outline of In-Network Coverage:**

Preventive Care for eligible services covered 100%; Doctors' office visits-\$30 copay; specialist-\$40 copay; urgent care-\$40 copay; emergency room \$125 copay; outpatient surgery \$125 copay; inpatient hospitalization \$200 copay; radiology-\$40 copay; speech, physical & occupational therapies-\$30 copay visits 1-30 and \$40 copay visits 31-60.

The following services are covered 100% **after** meeting a **\$100 individual deductible or the \$200 family deductible**: Laboratory/pathology; home health or hospice; skilled nursing; chemo, radiation, and/or dialysis; outpatient private duty nursing; cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation therapy; spinal manipulation.

Prescription Drugs are covered as follows:  
Generic on Preferred Drug List \$15 copay (\$30 mail order) Brand on Preferred Drug List \$30 copay (\$60 mail order), Non-Preferred Not on Preferred Drug List \$45 copay (\$90 mail order).

### KEYSTONE EAST HMO (GROUP NUMBER 10101054)

If you signed up for Keystone East HMO during the open enrollment period, your coverage goes into effect on November 1, 2018. You should receive your identification card in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, if you need to use the plan, give your provider the group number listed above, and use your social security number for an ID number. The provider should be able to contact Keystone and verify your coverage with that information.

#### **Brief Outline of In-Network Coverage:**

Preventive Care for eligible services covered 100%; Doctors' office visits-\$30 copay; specialist-\$40 copay; urgent care-\$40 copay; emergency room \$125 copay; outpatient surgery \$125 copay; inpatient hospitalization \$200 copay; radiology-\$40 copay; speech, physical & occupational therapies-\$30 copay visits 1-30 and \$40 copay visits 31-60.

**Note:** When receiving any of the following services, **lab, radiology, therapy, durable medical equipment, you must go where your PCP sends you.**

The following services are covered 100% **after** meeting a **\$100 individual deductible or the \$200 family deductible**: Laboratory/pathology; home health or hospice; skilled nursing; chemo, radiation, and/or dialysis; outpatient private duty nursing; cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation therapy; spinal manipulation.

Prescription Drugs are covered as follows:  
Generic on Preferred Drug List \$15 copay (\$30 mail order) Brand on Preferred Drug List \$30 copay (\$60 mail order), Non-Preferred Not on Preferred Drug List \$45 copay (\$90 mail order).

**MEDICAL RATES  
FOR THE 2018-2019 PLAN YEAR  
(NOVEMBER 1, 2018-OCTOBER 31, 2019)**

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 22 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 9, 2018 pay and ending with the pay of August 30, 2019)

	<u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u> <u>PERSONAL CHOICE HDHP</u>	<u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u>
<b>Employee</b>	\$ 81.17 \$40.93	\$ 52.30
<b>Employee &amp; child</b>	\$164.22 \$ 83.35	\$106.52
<b>Employee &amp; children</b>	\$183.27 \$ 93.23	\$119.15
<b>Employee &amp; Spouse</b>	\$195.50 \$ 99.43	\$127.07
<b>Full Family</b>	\$214.27 \$108.89	\$139.18

(\$0 INCREASE IN PREMIUM FROM LAST YEAR)

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 17 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 9, 2018 pay and ending with the pay of June 28, 2019)

	<u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u> <u>PERSONAL CHOICE HDHP</u>	<u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u>
<b>Employee</b>	\$105.04 \$ 52.96	\$ 67.69
<b>Employee &amp; child</b>	\$212.52 \$107.87	\$137.85
<b>Employee &amp; children</b>	\$237.17 \$120.66	\$154.19
<b>Employee &amp; Spouse</b>	\$253.00 \$128.68	\$164.44
<b>Full Family</b>	\$277.28 \$140.92	\$180.11

(\$0 INCREASE IN PREMIUM FROM LAST YEAR)



# ACT WEBSITE

All teachers are asked to logon to the ACT Website ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) and verify your personal information. It is critical that we have your current information and that it is accurate. **It is also 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 an email.) 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](mailto:ginny@act1776.com) and she can provide this information to you. To update your personal information, logon 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.



**ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS**

**PHONE: 215-568-4175**

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**[rita@act1776.com](mailto:rita@act1776.com)**

**[irene@act1776.com](mailto:irene@act1776.com)**

**[ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com)**

# **RETIREES' ROUNDTABLE**

## **MONTHLY GROUP MEDICAL RATES FOR RETIREES AGE 65+**

(Effective January 1, 2019)

**PERSONAL CHOICE 65:** Single Coverage: \$982.60

**KEYSTONE 65 HMO:** Single Coverage: \$717.90

Retired teachers who are enrolled in any of the above plans are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part D. **You DO NOT need to enroll in an individual Medicare Part D plan, if you are enrolled in one of the above medical plans with the Archdiocese.** In fact, if you do, you will lose your Archdiocese medical and prescription drug coverage because the Archdiocese plans are considered Medicare Part D plans, and you may not be enrolled in two Medicare Part D plans at the same time.

## **MOVIE TICKETS AVAILABLE**

The 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 \$9.25 per ticket. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with your request. An order form can be found on the home page of the Association's Website at [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com).**

**IF YOU WILL BE ORDERING TICKETS FOR CHRISTMAS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW MANY YOU WILL NEED BY NOVEMBER 16, 2018 SO I CAN PLACE AN ORDER. OTHERWISE WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE YOUR REQUEST.**

**Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your ticket request.**

# **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 7, 2018  
4:00 PM**

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

**AGENDA**  
**MEET THE CANDIDATES**  
New Business