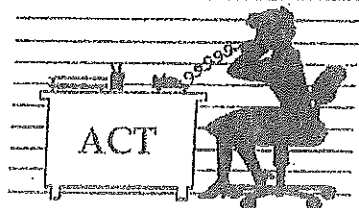


# THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

# SPIRIT '76 OF '76

1700 SANSOM STREET - SUITE 903 - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 - 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXV- NO. 1  
Fax 215-568-8270 - email ([nacst.nacst@verizon.net](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net)) - web site ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) - September 2014



From The  
President's Desk

## A MATTER OF DEDUCTION

As you are all aware, Pension and Annuity contributions should have been activated on September 12, the first pay of the new school year. Archdiocesan funds equivalent to 4.5% of your gross pay were to be placed into a Vanguard 403b Annuity for you. Voluntary contributions were to be deducted from your pay and added to the Archdiocesan money. The operative words in regard to the 403b Plan are "should have been." Those of you who have clicked on to Vanguard have noticed that, as of Tuesday, September 22, no money has appeared in your account.

The problem seems to be with the newly-chosen payroll aggregator selected by the Archdiocese. It is the aggregator's job to withdraw the Archdiocesan funds along with your voluntary contribution and transfer them to Vanguard. Under the terms of the Labor-Management Agreement, this is to be done within three working days.

The Association, on behalf of all the teachers in the Plan, has filed a grievance citing lost interest because the deposits were not timely.

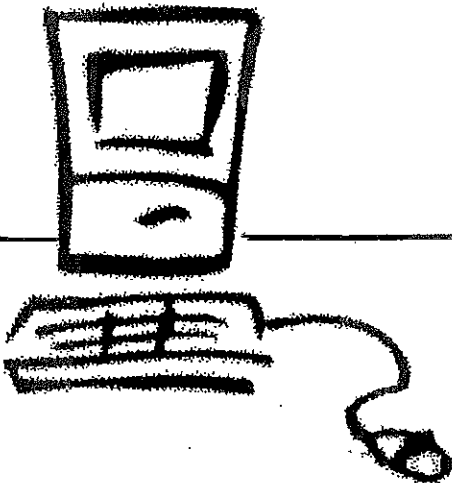
FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

We are the last group to begin participation in the 403b Plan. Deposits and deductions were transferred for all other Archdiocesan employees starting with the first pay in July. We do not know if similar problems occurred during the summer, but there was plenty of time to work out the kinks.

We have been told that the System will make sure that the pension and annuity deductions for the September 26<sup>th</sup> pay are handled earlier.

The Association will continue to monitor the situation. Please contact the ACT Office with any other problems you encounter.

*Rita*



**THE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
IS GOING GREEN!**

**Beginning with the October 2014 issue,**

*The Spirit of '76*

**will be coming to you via email.**

**It will also appear on the ACT Website.**

# Very Important!

## Representation May Be Crucial

**Article III, Section 2 of the Labor-Management Agreement is short but extremely important. Please pay particularly close attention to what it has to say.**

No teacher may be asked to attend a meeting with the school or diocesan administration without a representative of the Association being present if the teacher reasonably feels the meeting could result in disciplinary action against him/her.

Disciplinary action cannot be taken against any teacher unless the teacher has been apprised in writing of his/her right to union representation.

**Should you “reasonably feel” the meeting could turn into one that involves you in disciplinary action, immediately get to your Senior Delegate for advice or call the ACT Office if you choose. Don’t let a relatively minor situation turn into a major one because you decided you could “handle” it yourself.**



## Another Note of Thanks!

From: John J. Reilly Scholarship Award Winners

"Each year, the Association's Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9<sup>th</sup> grader in each Archdiocesan high school and at Holy Cross High School, Delran, New Jersey who has the highest general average as of the end of the first semester. If that student is already on scholarship, it is given to the highest student not receiving financial assistance. The \$500 Scholarship is sent to each school to be applied to the student's 10<sup>th</sup> grade tuition."

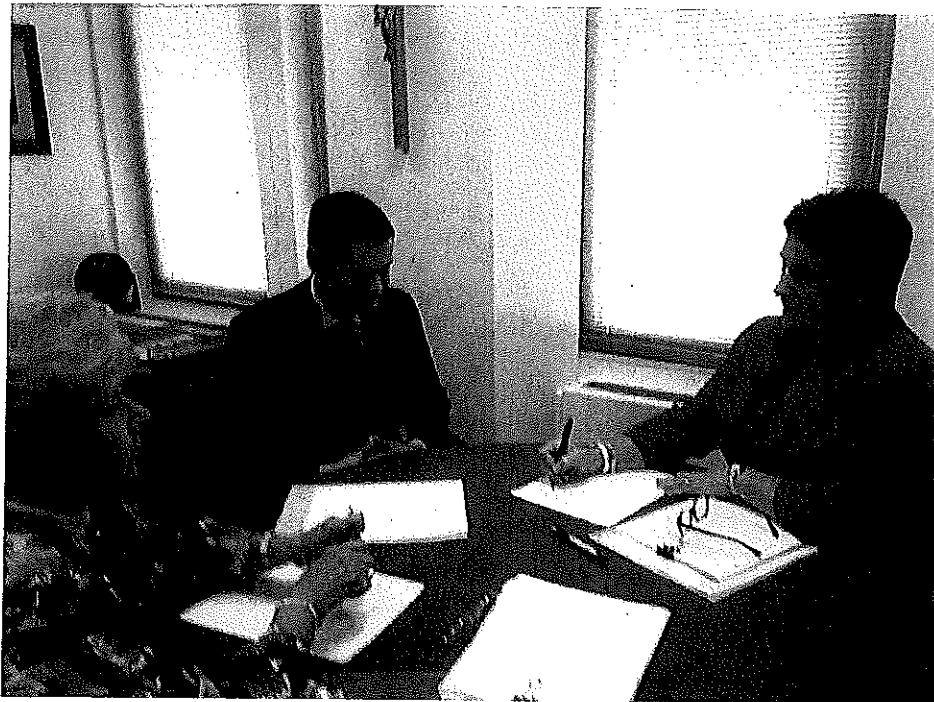
Dear Rita C. Schwartz,

Thank you very much for awarding me with this very generous scholarship. It means a lot to my family and me. This scholarship will aid my family, and it is greatly appreciated. I will try my best this year to do well in school. Once again, I thank you and the Association of Catholic Teachers very much.

Sincerely,  
*Laura Porretta*  
Little Flower Class of '17

## Executive Board Election

In November of even numbered years, officers, other than Area Vice Presidents, shall be elected. Filing of petitions to run for an office (President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Legislative Representative, and three Members-at-Large) must be submitted no later than October 20<sup>th</sup>. Senior Delegates have received and have posted the notice of elections and the particulars of the process on the ACT Bulletin Board. If you are interested in running for an Executive Board office, please check the ACT Bulletin Board. If you have any questions, see your Senior Delegate or call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175.



CONTRACT SIGNING

ACT President, Rita Schwartz, and Secondary Schools' Superintendent, Carol Cary, at Contract Signing on September 16, 2014.

## Lancer's Local

Issues or contractual items of interest to  
Holy Cross H. S. (Delran, NJ)

Congratulations to long-time teachers

John Gamble (27 years)  
and  
Carole Lynch (31 years)

on their retirements. Thank you for all of your years of  
service to Holy Cross High School.

# Education Grant Application Due

Teachers who wish to apply for an Education/Study Grant under the Labor-Management Agreement (Art. XIII, Sec. 7) must do so by October 15th. The grant offers 50 percent tuition reimbursement up to a maximum of \$2000 per year for undergraduate coursework, \$2200 for Master's Degree coursework, and \$2500 for Doctoral coursework. The grant can also be used as reimbursement for successfully passing the Praxis Series exams in a teacher's area of certification. Teachers who have received a study grant for two (2) consecutive years are not eligible to receive for the following year.

Grants are awarded on the basis of system seniority and are available to any teacher with at least one year of teaching in the System.

Forms to apply for an Education/Study Grant are posted at the local school or can be downloaded from the home page of the ACT web site at [www.actr776.com](http://www.actr776.com).

## Additional credits?

If you have received an advanced degree or additional credits over the summer which qualifies you for payment under a different column of the salary scale, notify your school accountant immediately.

You must also send proof (an original transcript) of the degree/credits to Mr. James Molnar at the Office of Catholic Education so that the change in degree/credits can be verified.

For your records, it is highly recommended that all documents be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested.

The five lanes of the salary scale are:

Bachelor's Degree  
Bachelor's + 18 or Certification  
Master's or 30 Graduate Credits  
Double Master's  
Doctorate

## ***ACT School Visit Schedule 2014-2015 School Year***

<b>NAME OF SCHOOL</b>	<b>ACT VISITOR</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DAY</b>
Bonner-Prendergast	Irene	October 15	Wednesday
Carroll	Rita	October 28	Tuesday
Conwell-Egan	Rita	November 4	Tuesday
Hallahan	Irene	January 7	Wednesday
Holy Cross	Rita	February 10	Tuesday
St. Hubert	Rita	February 3	Tuesday
Fr. Judge	Rita	January 6	Tuesday
Lansdale	Irene	December 10	Wednesday
Little Flower	Irene	January 14	Wednesday
McDevitt	Rita	February 24	Tuesday
Neumann-Goretti	Irene	March 3	Tuesday
O'Hara	Rita & Irene	November 11	Tuesday
Pope John Paul II	Rita & Irene	December 16	Tuesday
Roman	Rita	March 10	Tuesday
Ryan	Rita & Irene	March 17	Tuesday
Shanahan	Rita	December 9	Tuesday
West Catholic	Rita	March 31	Tuesday
Wood	Irene	March 11	Wednesday



# **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 30, 2014**

**4:00 P. M.**

**Crowne Plaza  
Philadelphia Main Line**

## **AGENDA**

**State of the Union  
Negotiations 2015  
Meet the Candidates**