

THE

SPIRIT

OF

'76

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

50 Years Strong
1966-2016

3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BLDG. 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020- 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXIX-NO.7
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **APRIL 2019**



From the President's Desk

SEVEN WEEKS AND COUNTING

The final seven weeks of the school year promise to be very busy ones for teachers and ACT alike.

Preference Forms are out and are due back 10 school days after distribution. It is important for you to be specific as to what you want to teach and what type of service period you want. It is also important to understand that this is your "preference".

By June 1, the Department Head is to discuss his/her tentative recommendations with each member of the department. However, if you do not receive your preference(s), you have the right by contract to know the reasons why from the department head. "If requested by the teacher, the appropriate administrator shall inform the teacher of the specific reasons all other preferences were not assigned."

(Continued on page 2)

The Evaluation Period for the second semester ends on May 20 for tenured teachers and on May 10 for non-tenured. You needed to have had your first visit by April 15. Pre and post conferences are also important as are the number of observations.

There is no word as yet on Constriction. According to the Labor-Management Agreement, Article VII, Section 1, “Such constriction shall be completed by the last day of the school year.” “The System agrees to inform the Association of such action and the reasons thereof as soon as possible, but at least thirty (30) days in advance of such constriction and will seriously consider any recommendations that the Association may make.”

The remaining paragraphs of Article VII, Section 1, along with the Constriction Guidelines, explain in detail how the process works.

Keep in mind that Constriction from an individual school is based on school seniority within academic competency. Bumping within a school is also based on school seniority. Once on the Constriction List, a teacher picks a new position in order of System Seniority.

It is in your best interest to check your college transcripts to see what credits you might have in subjects other than your major. You need 24 credits to declare a competency.

ACT monitors the Constriction Process very carefully.

If you have any questions about Constriction, Evaluation, Preference Forms or any other contractual issue, please talk with your Senior Delegate or contact Irene or me at 215-568-4175.

Rita

ACT Congratulates Rosemary Naab on her retirement from the Secondary School System. Ro retired after 45 years of service to both students and teachers in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting held on April 10, 2019.

SR34: Global Education Task Force

Establishment of Global Awareness curriculum into Pennsylvania schools. Benchmarks would be established, to be met by specific dates. Topics include: understanding of international issues; global competence; the global marketplace.

Amended March 19, 2019, PA Senate

SB115: CPR Training

*An added course of study, providing for cardiopulmonary resuscitation education in both private, parochial, and public schools. **Last action:** Unanimously passed PA Senate on May 27, 2019.*

Referred to House Education Committee on April 2, 2019.

SB440: Flexible Instructional Days

Provisions for school days to be made up due to circumstances such as weather issues. These days would be by use of technology-assigned work to students. Guidelines would be in place to ensure completion.

***Last action:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee on March 25, 2019.*

HB395: Vocational Education

*Providing for the creation of Vocations Ed. Advisory committees. These groups would advise the area/regionals vocations-technical boards on such matters as the need for particular shops/laboratories; occupation/careers; equipment needs; academic curriculum; labor management coordination/issues; business and industrial requirements; selection of essential personnel. **Last action:** Referred to Senate Education Committee on March 28, 2019.*

HB522: Career & Technical Education

*Provides for the creation of a Career and Technical Education Investment Incentive Program. Applicable taxes would be used to create a fund for career and technical education programs. Programs are defined by the proposed law. **Last action:** Referred to Senate Education Committee on March 28, 2019.*

First Semester Evaluation Data

ACT has finally received the data for the first semester Evaluations by school administrators and it is all good news.

TENURED TEACHERS: 99% are Distinguished or Proficient.

NON-TENURED TEACHERS: 86% are Distinguished or Proficient

Congratulations to all our hard-working teachers.



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.”

Executive Board Elections

There is a contested election in the [Northwest](#) and [Southwest](#) Areas. Schools in the affected areas will receive ballots no later than May 1, 2019. Elections are to be held in the affected schools, and the ballots are to be returned to the ACT Office no later than May 15, 2019. The results will be posted in each school as well as on the ACT Website, and in the May 2019 edition of *The Spirit of '76*.

Senior Delegate Elections (May 15th – June 1st)

Teachers need an Advocate. *Do you have what it takes to be a Senior Delegate?* If Social Justice in action, teacher dignity and respect are issues that you find important, and, if you would like to work with these issues, then consider running for Senior Delegate at your school.

Responsibilities Include:

1. Act as a liaison between your members and administration.
2. Provide representation for your members in situations where any member reasonably feels that disciplinary action may occur.
3. File grievances to settle issues of opposing interpretations of the contract.
4. Encourage members to become familiar with and support the contract.
5. Conduct meetings at the local level.
6. Attend all meetings to represent your school.
7. Encourage your members to attend general membership meetings.
8. Keep the Executive Board informed of local issues.
9. Be responsible for conducting all union elections in the school.
10. Be responsible for the ACT Bulletin Board.
11. Distribute information from the ACT Office to the teachers.
12. Perform duties assigned to you by the Executive Board.
13. Be responsible for signing up new members and maintaining the good standing of present members.

Senior Delegates received a stipend of \$500 for the 2018-2019 school year.

This is a good time to, once again, thank all of the Senior Delegates who have served the Union and their own school members so well this year. The ACT Office and the Executive Board need and appreciate your work.

Sabbaticals Awarded For 2019 -2020 School Year

Two ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2019-2020 school year. One full year sabbatical is available. Two teachers are receiving one semester each. The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were Dorothy Burdziak (McDevitt) and Irene Tori (ACT Staff). Representing OCE were Dr. Patricia Rigby (Asst. Superintendent for Secondary Education), Nancy Kurtz (Asst. Superintendent for Secondary Education), and James Molnar (HR Director for Secondary Schools).

The Association extends best wishes to the following recipients:

Kathleen Capriotti (21 years) Bishop Shanahan High School (one semester)

Terrence Kane (34 years) – Roman Catholic High School (one semester)

REST IN PEACE

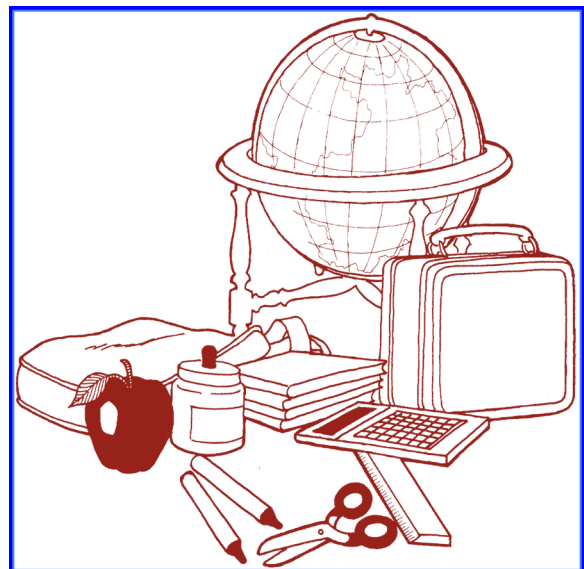


Jim Bowes
Monsignor Bonner-Archbishop Prendergast High School

Florence Fay
Archbishop Ryan High School (retired)

Our 9th Grade Scholars Class of 2022

Maeve Sullivan - Monsignor Bonner &
Archbishop Prendergast
To be announced - Archbishop Carroll
Madison Harris - Conwell-Egan
Charlotte Welsh - John W. Hallahan –
Kimberly Erwin - Saint Hubert
William McGlynn - Father Judge
Ella Karcewski - Lansdale Catholic
Anna Golden - Little Flower



Robert McGovern – Bishop McDevitt
Brooke Campbell - Sts. John Neumann & Maria Goretti
Abigail Loyson - Cardinal O'Hara
Brynn Sullivan-DeLaney - Pope John Paul II
Julian Ciurlino - Roman Catholic
Cara Marquess - Archbishop Ryan
Megan Bradley - Bishop Shanahan
Luam Hailu - West Catholic
McKenna Murphy - Archbishop Wood

ACT WEBSITE

All teachers are asked to logon 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. **It is important that we have a PERSONAL email address for you**, since Executive Board Minutes, Newsletters, 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 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.



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 \$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. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NEW ADDRESS: ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS,
3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BUILDING 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020
PHONE NUMBER: 215-568-4175, FAX NUMBER: 215-568-8270
E-MAIL: act@act1776.com

RETIREES ROUNDTABLE

Retired ACT Members are invited to attend a

Retirees' Luncheon

May 15, 2019
12: 00 – 4:00 PM



to be held at

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.