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The Association of Catholic Teachers

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## *From the President's Desk*

### **PREPARING FOR NEGOTIATIONS**

Happy New Year to everyone.

2020 promises to be an interesting year. As I said in a previous newsletter, there is quite a bit of uncertainty. We are still waiting for the announcement of our new Archbishop. He will, by the way, be arriving in the middle of contract negotiations.

The format of Contract negotiations, whether Early Bird or traditional collective bargaining is still not known. The Association's letter notifying the System of our intent to open negotiations for a new Agreement and asking for an Early Bird was emailed on December 11, 2019, over a month ago. As of the printing of this Newsletter, there has been no response from the System.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Response or not, ACT needs to begin active preparations for our bargaining talks, whatever the format will be. Surveys will be emailed to every ACT member asking for your input on all twenty-one contract articles. Your survey can be returned to the Office by email, fax or snail mail.

ACT is also looking for volunteers to serve on the Association's Negotiating Team. If we are doing an Early Bird, negotiations will mainly cover Salary and Benefits and should be completed by the end of the school year. Traditional bargaining on all twenty-one Articles of the Labor-Management Agreement will, almost certainly, continue throughout the summer and could extend beyond Labor Day.

Serving on the ACT Negotiating Team is an immense commitment, both in time and in energy. It will, literally, take over your life. ACT members who are interested in serving on the Team should nominate themselves and email their names to [act@act1776.com](mailto:act@act1776.com).

The deadline for ACT Negotiating Team Nominations is Friday, January 31, 2020. February 7, 2020 is the deadline for Contract Surveys.

The Spring General Membership Meeting will be scheduled within the next few weeks. The main agenda topic for the Meeting will be the approval of the contract proposals compiled from your Surveys. I hope to see you there.

We will contact you as soon as we hear back from the System.

I wish all of you a happy and productive second semester. May all your evaluations be Distinguished.

*Rita*

*Rest in Peace - Marie Gallagher*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting held December 12, 2019.

1. **Pennsylvania:**

- a. **HB1800:** Tuition Scholarships Program (Update): tuition Scholarships Bill for certain, specially designated school districts (i.e. Harrisburg School District). For school districts in “financial recovery” designation.  
Last action: Voting meeting in the House Education Committee on Monday, November 18, 2019.
- b. **PA Act 83 (of 2019):** Faith-Based Security Grants: The law provides for a non-profit security grant fund.  
Last action: Enacted from HB859 on Thursday, November 7, 2019. (Applications will be available beginning in early 2020.)
- c. **SB850:** Community Engaged Schools: Schools that are designated by the Secretary to participate in the program and are engaged in developing and implementing a community engagement plan to provide engaged student support services.  
Last action: Re-reported as committed November 18, 2019 (PA Senate).

2. **Noteworthy Pennsylvania Legislation:** *Statutes of Limitations Bills* regarding Childhood Sexual Abuse Cases (voted on: Senate, November 20<sup>th</sup>; House, November 21<sup>st</sup>). Signed into law on November 26, 2019.  
HB962 (pn2938;pn299)  
HB1171 (pn2892)  
HB1051

Additional: HB963: Two-Year Revival Window: Constitutional amendment legislation to allow victims to file civil charges in older cases.

# **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

(continued from page 3)

This legislation must pass two consecutive legislative sessions before it goes on the state-wide ballot for voters to determine if the constitutional amendment will occur.

3. **Update on Flexible Instructional Days (aka Cyber Snow Days):** As requested at our November meeting (Update and Clarification):  
Department of Education clarification for non-public/parochial schools requirements:  
No requirement to submit an application to the Department of Education.  
Must follow the "guidance".  
School is responsible to create their own policy/requirements.  
School must document their procedures and ensure that they are met.

**The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting held January 9, 2020.**

## **HR606: American Education Week**

A Resolution was made recognizing the week of November 18 -22, 2019, as "American Education Week" in Pennsylvania.

**Last Action:** Reported as committed on December 16, 2019 by the House.

## **HR583: National Apprenticeship Week in Pennsylvania**

A Resolution was made recognizing the week of November 11-17, 2019, as "National Apprenticeship Week" in Pennsylvania.

**Last action:** Reported as committed by the House on December 16, 2019.

## **HB355: Charter School Reform**

The law would provide for definitions, charter school requirements, and board of trustees powers specifics.

**Last action:** Re-reported as committed to the Senate on November 20, 2019.

## **Legislative Session Update:**

\*The Senate Convenes Tuesday, January 7, 2020

\*The House Convenes Tuesday, January 7, 2020

## **IT'S TIME TO START THINKING SABBATICAL!**

**It's time to start thinking about whether or not you want to apply.**  
**Applications for sabbatical will be posted in each school in February.**

**Applications for sabbatical leave must be submitted**  
**no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## **TAX INFORMATION**

**UNION DUES FOR 2019**

**ARCHDIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS - \$578.40**

## **FSA REMINDER**

If you were a participant in the 2019 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should have been exhausted by December 31, 2019. Any funds that remained in your account after December 31, 2019 will be lost. However, this does not mean that all your eligible expenses had to have been submitted by December 31, 2019. You have 90 days after the close of the calendar year in which to submit eligible expenses for 2019.

**All eligible expenses for 2019 must be submitted by March 30, 2020.**

# NACST SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS** **John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship**

The National Association of Catholic School Teachers established the John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship to help defray the cost of a college education for outstanding children of NACST members. During their senior year of high school, \$4,000 awards are made to two students, \$1,000 in each of their four years of college study.

All sons, daughters and stepchildren of all active NACST members are eligible to participate in this scholarship provided they are in good standing in their senior year of high school. [Application forms are available from the Senior Delegate of each high school.](#) There is also an application posted on the ACT Website at [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com). **Deadline for submission of all applications is March 13, 2020.**

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## INSURANCE INFORMATION

**Dental Plan:** As of January 1, 2020, you and each of your family members have \$1,000 in dental benefits to use for covered services in calendar year 2020. A list of your dental benefits is listed on the ACT Website at [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com).

**Medical Plan:** A reminder that you will need to meet your annual \$100 individual deductible and/or \$200 family deductible for calendar year 2020. You may begin receiving bills for services requiring that a deductible be met before payment can be made. **These services include the following:** Outpatient laboratory and pathology, home health care and/or hospice, skilled nursing, chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, outpatient Private Duty Nursing, and physician/surgeon charges that require a deductible.

**Voluntary Vision Plan:** If you signed up for the vision plan, your benefits went into effect [on January 1, 2020](#). You should have received a vision card by now. If you do not have a Vision Card, please contact Ginny at 215-568-4175 or email her at [ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com). If you were on the plan last year, you will use the same card you had last year.

**YOUR BENEFITS UNDER THE UNITED CONCORDIA DENTAL PLAN  
(CONCORDIA FLEX uses the ADVANTAGE NETWORK)**

**BENEFIT CATEGORY**

**PLAN PAYS**

<b>Class 1 – Diagnostic/Preventive Services</b>	
➤ Exams	100%
➤ Cleanings and Fluoride Treatments	100%
➤ X-rays	100%
➤ Space Maintainers	100%
➤ Palliative Treatment (Emergency)	100%
<b>Class 11 Basic Services</b>	
➤ Basic Restorative (Fillings, etc)	100%
➤ Simple Extractions	100%
➤ Endodontics	100%
➤ General Anesthesia	100%
➤ Surgical & Non-surgical Periodontics	50%*
<b>Class 111 – Diagnostic/Preventive Services</b>	
➤ Oral Surgery	N/A
➤ Inlays, Onlays, Crowns	N/A
➤ Prosthetics (Bridges, Dentures)	N/A
➤ Repairs to Inlays, Onlays and Crowns and Prosthetics	N/A
<b>Orthodontics (Dependents to any age)</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Included Plan Features**

***\*Smile for Health – Wellness Program***

*Provides periodontal care for people with certain Chronic medical conditions: diabetes, heart disease, lupus, oral cancer, organ transplant, rheumatoid arthritis and stroke*

- Covers 1 additional periodontal maintenance per year and all are covered at 100%
- Scaling and root planing are covered at 100%
- 4 periodontal surgery procedures are covered at 100%
- 
- **Maximum benefit per calendar year is \$1,000 per teacher and covered family Member.**

*The Staff of the*

2020

*Association of Catholic Teachers*

2020

*Wishes all of its members a  
Happy and Healthy New Year*

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**MOVIE TICKETS**

ACT Office has 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 ACT website at [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com).** Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request.

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CONTACT US AT

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