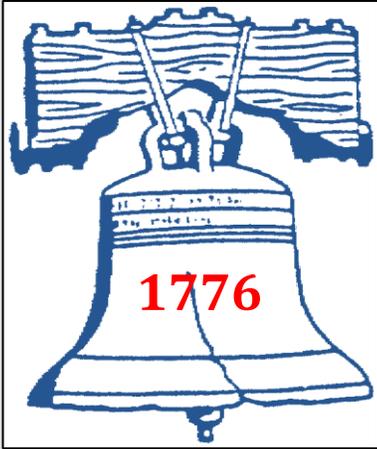


THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers



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From the President's Desk

ACT MEMBERS AND CORONAVIRUS: Successes and Challenges

Dear ACT Member,

I hope that you and your family are staying safe and that everyone is adjusting to our temporary virtual schoolhouse.

Week Two of the Coronavirus educational reality has been completed and you continue to do amazing work with your students. The Senior Delegates are relaying your message about the many hours you are spending each day on assignments, grading and preparation.

We now know that schools will be closed at least through April 13, 2020. I am sure Easter break can't come soon enough.

Week Three brings Virtual Professional Development. You may remember that there was a PD day set for April 2. It was departmental and has, in the past, been the highlight of the year's PD days. It has now been rescheduled for the fall.

(Continued on Page 2)

The virtual PD's, set throughout next week, are geared toward presenting programs like Zoom. Many of you are already using Zoom or Google Classroom to interact with your students. The use of these programs has always been an option. The operative word here is "option." These cannot be mandated by the System or an individual school.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Association and the System is extremely clear about what a teacher is mandated to do. The words in the Memorandum emphasize "posting" and "assignments" – the posting of assignments, the use of school technology for the posting of assignments, the length of assignments, the teacher's three-hour availability each day to answer questions that students may have about the assignment.

We are all living a new reality as we stay at home, shelter in place, communicate virtually with family and friends and, most especially, provide virtual assignments for our students every day. We do not know how much longer beyond April 13th the schools will be closed, with students dependent upon you and a computer for their education.

It is worthwhile for all of us to explore options. It doesn't hurt to try different teaching resources to see if they could work for you. You will have more tools to use as you continue to provide assignments for your students.

One more topic related to the Professional Development day. On that day, you are not required to provide assignments for your students. You are also not required to answer any student questions. The three hours that you would normally be available to your students will be the three hours of professional development.

Again, thank you for all you have done to continue your students' education in these very challenging times. You have definitely gone above and beyond in fulfilling your professional duties. The parents and the students appreciate all that you have done and all you will continue to do for as long as it needs to be done.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Irene or me through email and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Please stay safe and remain healthy. You are in my prayers every day.

Rita

CONTACT INFORMATION

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3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BUILDING 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020
PHONE NUMBER: 215-568-4175, FAX NUMBER: 215-568-8270
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50 YEARS OF SERVICE
A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS
congratulates

Carole Anne Dominello

who is celebrating her **50th** year of service to the
Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



25 YEARS OF SERVICE
A SILVER CELEBRATION

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS
congratulates

its members who are celebrating their **25th** year of service to the
Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

James Coyne Donna Cratin

Richard D'Ambrosio Noreen Diehl

Edward Dormer

John Dunlop

Joan Kearney

Paul Meyers

Rose Tecce

Juliane Teson

Joshua Wagner

TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

Teachers interested in applying for a voluntary transfer, teacher swap, or temporary transfer should file their application no later than **April 1, 2020**.

TAX INFORMATION

UNION DUES FOR 2019

January 2019 – June 2019 = \$336.00
(For those who retired or resigned as of June 2019)

January 2019 – December 2019 = \$578.40

RETIREES LUNCHEON: Currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020. We will be making a decision in April whether to reschedule this event.

PHILLIES GAME: Currently scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2020. The Phillies have delayed their season opening; therefore, this game will most likely be cancelled and/or rescheduled for a later date.

TELEMEDICINE AND YOU

As part of your Independence Blue Cross health insurance plan, you're covered for telemedicine—a convenient, low-cost option when it's not possible to visit your doctor's office. You can see a board-certified doctor by secure video, phone, or mobile app—anytime, anywhere -- who can treat non-emergency medical conditions such as:

- Colds and flu
- Ear infections
- Allergies
- Asthma
- Pink eye
- Sinus problems
- Respiratory infections
- Joint aches and pains
- Vomiting and nausea
- And more.

Plus, it's more cost-effective than visiting the ER for an illness that's not an emergency. **There is no out-of-pocket cost for Telemedicine services through MDLIVE.** Please note, if you have a PPO High Deductible Health Plan, you will pay \$40 until you reach your deductible; then Telemedicine services are covered at 100%.

Don't wait until you're sick — activate your account now!

You have three ways to register :

- Download the MDLIVE app on your smartphone
- Visit mdlive.com/ibx
- Call 1-877-764-6605.

If you call MDLIVE to register your account, inform the representative that you work for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

How to activate your MDLIVE account

You're just a few steps away from video access to local board-certified providers. Be sure to have your Independence Blue Cross ID card on hand when you activate your account.

Step 1: Get started

- Go to mdlive.com/ibx and click Activate Now.
- Include the three character alpha-prefix that precedes your member ID (e.g. ABC2345678901)

Step 2: Access your account

- Complete your profile and security settings. When the Sign-Up Completed page appears, click Access your account.
- A welcome email will be sent from MDLIVE. Verify your email address by clicking Verify Email.

Step 3: Add account details

Add dependents:

- Click My Account, then Family Members. Click Add Family Member for each family member you wish to add.
- An email will be sent to each dependent for verification.
- Each dependent will need their own account created before they conduct a consultation. Set your

Primary Care Provider (PCP):

- From the Dashboard menu, click My Health, then My Providers.
- Click Add Provider, fill in all requirements, then click Add.

Select a pharmacy:

- From the Dashboard menu, click My Health, then My Pharmacy.
- Click Select Pharmacy to search the network.
- The pharmacy can always be updated based on the member's location at the time of the consult.

Avoid long waits and eliminate the cost of unnecessary visits to the ER or Urgent Care. Activate your MDLIVE account today! If you call MDLIVE to register your account, inform the representative that you work for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.



In Memoriam

Larry Rosbach

1946 - 2020

A dedicated teacher. A devoted family man. A gentle soul. These are but a few of the words that come to mind when we think of our dear friend and colleague, Larry Rosbach, who was called to the Lord on January 23, 2020.

A man of many talents, Larry played the baritone horn, piano, and guitar. He was also passionate about running. According to his daughter, Laura, Larry kept notes on his runs, and he was proud of the fact that he ran 21,488 miles in his lifetime. He also participated in the Broad Street Run many times. Larry also loved sports, especially baseball. He loved to talk about the Phillies of the present, and he would reminisce about the collapse of 1964. The conversation would then turn upbeat when speaking about the 1980 and 2008 World Series championships.

Larry was a devoted family man. He had a deep love for his wife Theresa, his daughters Michelle and Laura, and his grandchildren Katie, Molly, Jeffrey, and Connor. Larry loved spending time with his family both at home and on family trips. He also proudly attended the Little Flower musicals with his grandchildren and would give a loud ovation to the performers.

Having taught in the Archdiocese for 51 years, Larry planned to retire in June 2020. He began his teaching career at Bishop Neumann High School, known to his students as “Mr. Roz.” Larry attended many Neumann basketball games. A special thrill of his was seeing the Neumann faculty defeat Phillies players in a charity basketball game in Neumann’s gym during the mid-1970s. Larry moved to Cardinal O’Hara High School where he served as Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs (APAA), and he became a true Lion, attending many school functions and developing a love for the school community. Larry then transferred to Little Flower High School and he assumed the position of APAA, becoming the first male administrator other than a principal. In the fall of 2019, Larry returned to the classroom, wanting to end his career as he began.

Larry was the quintessential gentleman. He had a gentle soul, and he was always non-confrontational. Larry looked forward to dressing up with LF administrators for Catholic Schools Week, and he was especially excited about playing Elton John in this year’s faculty skit; unfortunately, he never got to play that role. We will miss Larry walking down the halls, carrying his briefcase and Phillies lunch box, and greeting everyone he passed with a warm smile and a gracious nod.

*Written by: Anne Boland and Arnold Ronzoni
Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting held February 27, 2020.

Legislative Report

1. Recent Meetings PS House Education Committee:

a. Monday, January 13, 2020: House Education Committee: Voting meeting was held on HB 2046, HR 622, HR 650 and any other business that may come before the committee.

HB 2046: Special Education Certificates—An act in the area of certification of teachers, further providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department.

Status: Referred to senate Education Committee on February 19, 2020.

HR 622: Designating the month of January 2020 as “School Director Recognition Month” in Pennsylvania.

HR650: Recognizes the 110th anniversary of the Milton Hershey School and the life-changing opportunities it provides to children from low-income families.

b. Tuesday, January 21, 2020: House Education Committee: Public hearing on HB 1897 providing for school district cyber education. The act would “amend, revise, consolidate and by changing the laws relating thereto,” providing for school district cyber education.

c. SB992: Educator Certification & Employment for Immigrants—The act designed for professional employees, would provide for qualifications; certification of teachers (especially in the area of World Language Teachers/Special Ed Foreign Language), granting PA State Certificates and provisional status certification to qualified teachers.

Status: Referred to Senate Education Committee on January 15, 2020.

d. HB1500: Increasing Access to School Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers & Nurses—The Bill would affect private/parochial schools as well as public school systems. These expanded in-school services would include health services and providing for school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and school nurses.

Status: Referred to House Education Committee on May 23, 2019.

e. HB 1525: Providing More Access to Mental Health Professionals in Schools—Bill would provide for school clinical mental health care providers; establishing the school mental and behavioral health care augmentation fund. Grants would be given out through an application process accordingly.

Status: Referred to House Education Committee on May 29, 2019.

f. HB1622: Mental Health: Study on School Mental Health Professionals—An act that would provide for a study of school mental health professionals.

Status: Referred to House Education Committee on June 12, 2019.

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 logon 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.

THE CHARLOTTE DRUMMOND FOUNDATION

Memorial Scholarship

The Charlotte Drummond Memorial Scholarship is a legacy scholarship that keeps the spirit of Charlotte Drummond and her dedication to Catholic education alive. In 2020-2021 we are awarding one \$2,000 scholarship, one \$1,000, and one \$500 scholarship, and for the second year a \$1,000 CD Alumni Scholarship for a student who is a legacy of Cardinal Dougherty (a student whose grandparent, parent, or sibling attended Cardinal Dougherty High School).

Eligible candidates must be rising juniors or seniors attending a Philadelphia Archdiocesan high school, and must have a recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor that speaks not only to their ideal candidacy for the award through involvement in school, but also speaks to their financial need.

An application for The Charlotte Drummond Foundation Memorial Scholarship is posted on the homepage of the ACT Website at www.act1776.com.

The deadline for submission is April 1, 2020 by 11:00 P.M.

COLLEGE TUITION BENEFIT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

As you may already know, United Concordia has partnered with Sage Scholars, who has partnered with over 400 colleges and universities in the United States, to offer a [College Tuition Benefit](#) to teachers and retirees who are enrolled in the United Concordia Dental Plan through [the Association of Catholic Teachers Health and Welfare Fund](#).

Teachers and retirees who are covered under the above-mentioned dental plan are eligible to receive 2000 Tuition Reward Points upon registering into the *College Tuition Benefit Program*. Once registered, you will continue to receive 2000 Tuition Rewards Points for each year that you are enrolled in the dental plan. One point equals \$1; therefore 2000 points = \$2000. Points can be used toward a family member's undergraduate college tuition. The family member can be your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or godchild.

To be eligible for the College Tuition Benefit, you must be enrolled in the United Concordia Dental Plan, and you must register for the Sage Scholars College Tuition Benefit.

You can find more information on the United Concordia website at www.ucci.com

Welcome Spring!

