

THE

SPIRIT

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The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BLDG. 2, SUITE 101, BENSLEM, PA 19020- 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXXII-NO.3
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From the President's Desk

GEARING UP FOR NEGOTIATIONS

It is hard to believe that we are now in the Second Quarter and that Thanksgiving is here. In addition, ACT is starting to gear up for Negotiations.

Under the terms of the Labor-Management Agreement, either the Association or the System can, any time subsequent to December 9, notify the other party of its "intention to open negotiations for a new agreement." The Association's Executive Board has directed me to write and request Early Bird Negotiations.

What is an Early Bird and why does the Association believe it is important for the 2022 negotiations?

An Early Bird is a streamlined format of negotiations that limits the scope of bargaining primarily to Salary and Benefits in order to finish the process so that our members can vote on a contract prior to the end of the school year. Of course, in the unlikely event that there is no settlement prior to the end of the school year, traditional bargaining will begin in mid-June with the entire contract on the table.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

(Continued from Page 1)

There are two major reasons why the Association leadership is requesting that the parties to the Labor-Management Agreement agree to an Early Bird. First, in the next several months, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will appoint a new Superintendent of Secondary Schools. A ratified contract in June would be a welcoming gift for the Superintendent to begin his/her tenure.

The other major reason is the state of enrollment in our, now, 15 Archdiocesan high schools. Combine these numbers with the Constriction that is likely to emanate from the enrollment projections for next school year, and negotiations dragging on all summer and possibly beyond will not be helpful at all.

In 2014, 2015, and 2016, ACT was able to bring back a contract for ratification before the end of the school year. I think we can all admit that it felt good not having to worry if school would start on time. Hopefully, this is what an Early Bird would achieve in 2022.

Unfortunately, contract negotiations in 2018 saw no progress made until Labor Day Weekend and they ended in the early hours of the morning the day after Labor Day. The resulting contract was not popular with a number of our members.

In 2020, the System's best and final offer brought the teachers to the brink of a strike. After soundly rejecting the System's best and final offer, a strike was prevented from occurring the day after Labor Day when you, the teachers, out of concern for your students whom you hadn't seen since March, 13, 2020, directed the ACT Negotiating Team to return to the Negotiating Table for the first week of the school year. Thankfully, the System and the Association were able to reach an agreement on a new contract, which the members resoundingly approved.

You will soon be asked to consider being a member of the ACT Negotiating Team. In addition you will receive a Contract Survey so that you can tell the Team what will make your life better both at work and at home. You will then be offered the opportunity to attend a General Membership Meeting where the Bargaining Proposal will be approved. You have to be present at the meeting to vote on the proposal.

The final vote, hopefully before the end of the school year, will be to ratify the Contract that ACT and the School System negotiate. You have the ability to not ratify the Contract, too. In accord with the Constitution and By-Laws, you will have to be present at this meeting in order to vote as well.

You are the Union. Therefore, it is crucial that all ACT members become more active in the Association of Catholic Teachers.

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Irene

A Holiday Message from the Executive Board

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays upon us, and in order to keep everyone safe throughout the holiday season, the Executive Board, at its November meeting, unanimously passed the following motion:

The Executive Board strongly urges every teacher to take advantage of any opportunity to receive a vaccine and/or booster.

The Executive Board wishes you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Be safe.

Seniority Lists Posted

Article V, Section 1a states “On or before October 31 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in individual schools a complete listing of all teachers in the Secondary School System including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to system seniority and school seniority.”

“Teachers shall have until **December 15** to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster.”



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT November Executive Board Meeting held via zoom on November 18, 2021.

I. HB 951: Statutes of Limitations for Sexual Abuse Victims w/ A00786 (Amendment) *providing for language changes*

Specifics: Create a 2-year window for civil lawsuits to be filed. If under age 18 when incident/abuse occurred, add 37 years to age for eligible time period to file; if ages 18-24 when incident/abuse occurred, individuals would have until they reach age 30 to file civil action.

Last action: removed from the Senate Table, October 27, 2021.

*“Removed from the table” ---up for possible consideration and may be placed on the Chamber’s legislative calendar.

II. HB1332: Online Curriculum Availability

The bill would provide parents and guardians the ability to review all curriculum being taught in PA schools via online access. The information would include course standards; course materials and texts; assessments; syllabus.

Last action: Second Consideration, Senate Education Committee on Nov. 10, 2021.

III. HB1041: Furthering Home Education Program

The bill would provide home-schooled students to take up to four academic courses/classes during the school day at their local public school. Also, would allow for participation in co-curricular activities.

Last action: Referred to the Senate Education Committee on Nov. 9, 2021.

IV. HB2045: Reading Support

Providing for teacher support in the Science of Reading Program.

Last action: Referred to the House Education Committee on Nov. 3, 2021.

V. HB 1660: Temporary Emergency Provisions

When five consecutive school days (or more) will be missed due to unforeseen emergency situations, temporary provisions may be put into place for a maximum time limit of sixty days.

Last action: Second consideration, Senate, Nov. 10, 2021.

VI. SB937: Immunization Exception

No child shall be required to be immunized for COVID-19.

Last action: Second consideration, Senate, Nov. 9, 2021.

VII. SB931, SB932: Educational Tax Credits

In educational tax credits, further providing for definitions: “Household Income.”

Last action: Re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee, Nov. 10, 2021.

CAPTAIN KATHLEEN DONAHUE BRUYERE CHAMPION FOR CHANGE AWARD

On November 10, 2021, ACT President Emeritus, Rita C. Schwartz, was awarded the *Captain Kathleen Donahue Bruyere Champion for Change Award* by Chestnut Hill College (both Rita's ('63) and Kathleen's ('66) alma mater). This prestigious award is a merit-based award rooted in the values exemplified by Captain Bruyere.



Nominees for this award had to meet the following criteria: demonstrate exceptional service and leadership leading to positive societal change either through collegiate, professional, or personal endeavors, have a reputation as a trailblazer and a demonstrated record of standing up for what is right, and exemplify the core values of Chestnut Hill College.

Nominations for the award were sent to the Director of Alumni Relations who then made recommendations to the President of the College as well as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement. Rita was nominated for this award by Irene Ampthor Tori, CHC class of '77.

Rita was selected to be the first-ever recipient of *the Captain Bruyere Champion for Change Award*. Pictured above is Sister Carol Jean Vale (left), President of Chestnut Hill College, presenting Rita with this honorable award.

The Captain Bruyere Champion for Change Award will be given annually to a member of the Chestnut Hill College community who is a catalyst for positive change in society, addressing the needs of the time.

Read about Captain Kathleen Donahue Bruyere's Legacy on page 5.



CAPTAIN KATHLEEN DONAHUE BRUYERE

Captain Kathleen Donahue Bruyere came from a military family that traveled around the United States and the world. After completing her high school education in Germany, she attended Chestnut Hill College.

Knowing from an early age that she wanted a career in the military, Bruyere joined the Navy upon graduating from Chestnut Hill College in 1966

Bruyere slowly climbed the ranks. In 1975 she became the first-ever female flag secretary, serving under Admiral Allen Hill. Time Magazine took note, and in 1976 Captain Bruyere was one of 12 women to adorn the cover of Time Magazine.

However, due to the 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act which gave service secretaries the right to discharge women from the military without cause, restricted women from flying aircraft in combat, and in Bruyere's case restricted her and other qualified women from being able to command their own ship during wartime, Bruyere knew that she and other qualified female naval officers would not be able to get promotions and command assignments.

Thus, in 1977 Bruyere and five other sailors filed a lawsuit against the United States Government and the Department of Defense, which resulted in the 1948 law being declared unconstitutional.

Captain Bruyere was a true trailblazer. While Captain Bruyere herself never commanded a ship (her choice), she paved the way for thousands of other women to have that opportunity. The unconstitutionality of the 1948 law allowed Bruyere to climb to the rank of Captain, the highest rank in the Navy. Captain Bruyere retired from the Navy in 1994.

When Captain Bruyere was interviewed in March of 2020 by the San Diego Veterans Magazine, she said "There is nothing today's women cannot do. We need them to keep charging ahead."

Captain Kathleen Donahue Bruyere passed away on September 3, 2020 at the age of 76.



VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN THROUGH DAVIS VISION

Teachers wishing to enroll in the Voluntary Vision Plan for the 2022 calendar year will need to submit a completed application form along with payment by Monday, December 6, 2021.

FSA REMINDER

If you were a participant in the 2021 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should be exhausted by December 31, 2021. Any funds that remain in your account after December 31, 2021 will be lost. However, this does not mean that all your eligible expenses have to be submitted by December 31, 2021. You have 90 days after the close of the calendar year in which to submit eligible expenses for 2021. All eligible expenses for 2021 must be submitted by March 30, 2022.

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.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

The Association of Catholic Teachers thanks all of our members and their family members who have served or who continue to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

We thank you for your service and for your many sacrifices.
We also thank your families who also make sacrifices while you serve.



(Pictured above ACT Office Manager, Ginny Crowther (Left), ACT President Emeritus, Rita C. Schwartz (Center), and ACT President, Irene Tori (Right)).

Rest in Peace

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+ *Walter Belovitz, Retired, St. John Neumann High School* +
+ *William Dunas, Retired, Roman Catholic High School* +
+ *Barbara Futej, Retired, Bishop Shanahan High School* +
+ *Donald Hegedus, Retired, Archbishop Wood High School* +
+ *Patrick Keenan, Retired, Archbishop Wood High School* +
+ *Edward Mooney, Retired, Father Judge High School* +
+ *Francis Quinn, Retired, Cardinal O'Hara High School* +
+ *Sr. Maureen Lawrence McDermott* +

IN MEMORIAM



Don Hegedus 1947-2021

When I first arrived at Archbishop Wood for Boys (circa '83), my math colleagues were Jack Diamond, Rich Hochanski, Joan Pignatelli, Ted Keener, and Don Hegedus. All of these fine people were tremendous for a “wet-behind the ears goofball”.

Concerning Don, in particular, two of his idiosyncrasies come to mind.

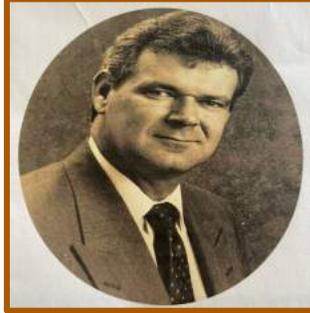
First, Don had an uncanny way of writing on the blackboard (remember them?). With his back to the board, he would lift the chalk above or below his shoulder and write legibly facing the students. Myth has it, in his first year (or second) teaching, a loud bang went off (theories vary to the source) and since then was reluctant to turn his back.

Also, Don would never give a test grade less than a 55. On many occasions when returning the test to the students individually, one could hear Don walking down the aisle handing back each test repeating over and over “double nickels, double nickels, double nickels.”

Don was one of the few teachers who volunteered to teach the track 4's (remember them?). Don was a good soldier for Wood, and he is one of the few teachers who got to enjoy a long retirement (20+ years' worth!).

Written by: Mike Mason
Archbishop Wood High School

IN MEMORIAM



Patrick Keenan 1950-2021

Patrick (Pat) Michael Keenan, 71, of Somerton PA died in peace on October 14th ay Wyncote Place. Pat was the beloved husband of Liz Keenan. Pat was born in Frankford, PA on February 26, 1950 to the late Andrew and Mary Keenan. He was a graduate of North Catholic, Pennsylvania State University and Philadelphia University. He worked for the Philadelphia Police Department until he retired in 1995. At that time, Pat began his secondary career as an educator at Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop Wood, Neumann College and the Community College of Philadelphia where he taught technology courses.

Pat enjoyed golfing, world travel and spending time with his family. He has three children (Kelly, Patrick Jr and Mary Kate) and 7 Grandchildren (Anthony, Grace, Vincent, Maeve, Nolan, Josie and Patrick III) Pat's most prized successes were the successes and accomplishments of his children and grandchildren as well as his students. He made sure that they all understood the importance of hard work and compassion. He was the department chair for the business department both at Cardinal Dougherty and Archbishop Wood. He made sure to prepare all his students for the next steps whether that was college or joining the workforce. Pat was well respected by all of his students as well as his fellow teachers.

Submitted by: Edward Smith
Archbishop Wood High School



IN MEMORIAM

Edward Mooney

(1936-2021)

Ed Mooney was what we call at Father Judge “a Salesian gentleman” who through his actions in and out of the classroom inspired others “to be a power of good.”

Ed Mooney, or “The Magnificent Moon” as his students affectionately called him for 42 years at Judge, retired in 2007, but his legend still lives on. When the news of his death was announced, many of my students knew who he was, for they had heard of his legacy from their fathers and brothers, former students. For many years I taught next to Ed’s classroom, “The Moon Base,” and I remember “Moon Trivia,” “Moon dollars,” Tybalt and Romeo sword fighting through the halls with hockey sticks, Juliet on her balcony with balloons (don’t ask), and overly histrionic readings of “Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God”. Remember: “Follow the Moon, son, and you will shine.”

But Ed was more than the theatrics: this was just his means to achieve the end. His love for literature always was on the forefront. He inspired his students to take ownership of their learning, be critical in their analysis, and explore the themes of what they read. Many of his students became teachers because of his inspiration. Ed once told a student teacher that he teaches young people first, and what he taught them was English.

After reading the close to 350 comments left by former students on the school Facebook page, I began to see a common theme: Ed was able to see within his students, a quality that they could not see themselves. With humor, gentle sternness, patience, and good-natured fun, his students soon realized their personal worth and the value of being a dedicated student. Many wrote that, even after 15 years, they appreciated Ed’s ability to draw out their unique talents.

Ed served Father Judge well. He was our long-time Forensics moderator, National Honor Board member, and in 1982 single-handedly convinced a reluctant faculty to embrace a twenty-four-hour Basketball Marathon for Leukemia. The Marathon continues 50 years later. In addition, he would attend any event when he knew even one of his students would be participating.

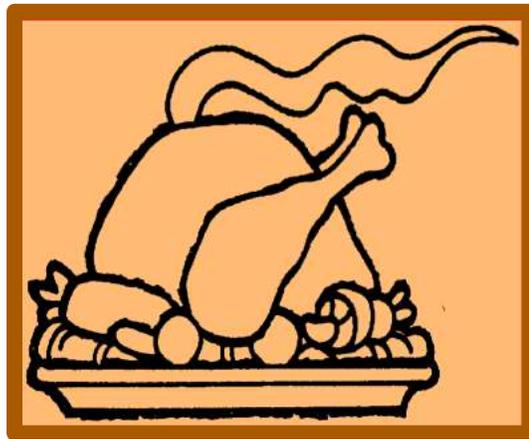
Ed often showed one of his favorite movies, “On the Waterfront,” as a companion to the students reading “Huckleberry Finn.” Besides the techniques of filmmaking, he would stress the common theme of standing up for one’s moral convictions, in other words to be “a man thinking” and not follow the pack blindly but be “special.” As St Francis said, “Be who you are, and be that well.”

Ed was a man of true faith, dedicated to our patron saint. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a Man of Malvern, and one of the first to understand the power of the senior Kairos retreats, becoming a faculty leader for each one until his retirement.

So, in conclusion, and only because Ed would appreciate a quote from a Shakespeare play he knew by verse and line: “...the elements so fixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to the world, ‘This was a man...*thinking*.’”

Written by: John Cramutolo
Father Judge High School

*The Association of Catholic Teachers
wishes you and your family a*



Happy Thanksgiving!