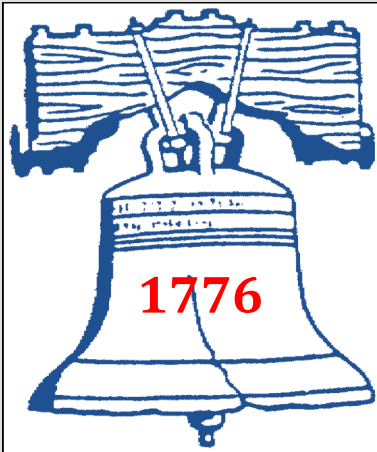


THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers



SPIRIT OF '76

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Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **DECEMBER 2022**



From the President's Desk

Christmas Blessings

With Christmas being only a few days away, I am taking a few moments to reflect on the many blessings God has given the members of the Association of Catholic Teachers during this past year.

There is the blessing of a negotiated Labor-Management Agreement. Due to a successful Early Bird Negotiations this past Spring, you were able to enjoy your summer break without worrying about whether or not the 2022-2023 School Year would start on time. Your salary increased by \$2200 this year coupled with no increase in your medical premiums.

The new Archdiocesan Parental Leave Policy, which will go into effect on January 1, 2023, is a welcome addition to the benefits offered under the Labor-Management Agreement. For those teachers who meet the Policy's eligibility requirements, having six weeks of paid parental leave prior to using the leave provisions provided in the contract has been well received by the teachers.

(Continued on Page 2)

From the President's Desk

(Continued from Page 1)

Sometimes, it is really difficult to explain to teachers who have come into the System under the protection and benefits of a negotiated contract just what it was like to work during a time when there was no grievance procedure, no job security, no limit on class size, no ceiling on the number of preparations, and, most of all, no union representation. Teachers were on their own, employees-at-will, with the possibility of being terminated for any reason or no reason at all. Ask any teacher who has sought the help of the Association when a situation arises, and they will tell you that they are very happy that the Association of Catholic Teachers has been there for almost 55 years, providing support and advice to them during a difficult time.

The members of the ACT Executive Board are another blessing. All of them give freely of their time and energy, always helping with the important, sometimes unpopular, decisions that need to be made to ensure that our Labor-Management Agreement is followed and our Union is respected.

A special thank you for his years of service goes to Legislative Representative, David Sommers, who will be leaving the Executive Board as of December 31, 2022.

The 2023-2024 Executive Board will begin its term on January 1, 2023. The new members—Adejola Garret (Fr. Judge, Treasurer), John Corrigan (Roman, Legislative Representative), and Michael Campellone (Fr. Judge, Member-At-Large) are a blessing to come.

The hard-working Senior Delegates and Alternate Delegates in the 15 Archdiocesan high schools continue to be a blessing. The Senior Delegates and Alternate Delegates are the Association's lifeline and communication link in each of the high schools. These men and women make sure that the contract is enforced at the local level. Before you go home to celebrate Christmas with your families, please thank your Senior Delegate and Alternate Delegate for all they do for you.

There will never be enough words to describe what a blessing ACT Administrative Assistant and Office Manger Ginny is. Nothing that any of us ask of Ginny is ever too much. Ginny keeps each of our worlds running so much smoother.

You, the members of the Association of Catholic Teachers are the greatest blessing. You constantly make me proud. In the classroom and beyond, you always do much more than what is asked of you. You put your lives on the line every day to do what you love to do—teach the students who attend the 15 Archdiocesan high schools.

The New Year will be upon us very soon and with it will come Negotiations for a new Labor-Management Agreement. It is truly a blessing that you have the ability to decide what will make your work lives better. In addition, there is the blessing of the 2023 ACT Negotiating Team—Katie Toenniessen-Innes (O'Hara, ACT Vice President), Christine Hanley-Maldonado (Conwell-Egan, Member-At-Large), James Vernon (Bonner-Prendergast, Senior Delegate) and myself.

For now, it is time for you to just relax and rejuvenate. You have earned it. Take a few moments to count the blessings in your life. I think you will be amazed at how many there are.

Christmas Blessings to you and your family. Best wishes for a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Be safe!

Irene

CONTRACT SURVEY REMINDER

Contract surveys were emailed to teachers on December 1, 2022. **Please return your completed survey by December 22, 2022**, if possible. If not, please fill it out over the Christmas break. Your input is extremely important and valuable to the Negotiating Team as they will be working on your behalf.



2023 ACT NEGOTIATING TEAM

Irene Tori, ACT President, ACT Staff

Katie Toenniessen-Innes, ACT Vice President, Cardinal O'Hara High School

Christine Hanley-Maldonado, Conwell-Egan High School

James Vernon, Monsignor Bonner-Archbishop Prendergast High School

RETIREMENT NEWS

The Association of Catholic Teachers congratulates

Helen Perri, Archbishop Wood High School,

on her recent retirement from the Secondary School System.

Enjoy your retirement, Helen!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT December Executive Board Meeting held on December 15, 2022.

I. Legislative Pay Raise

Pennsylvania state lawmakers received, as of December 1st, a 7.8% pay increase. This amounts to an average increase of \$7,400 a year. The raise is the largest increase in over twenty-five years. The salary per year ranges from \$102,844 to \$117,271 depending upon leadership, caucus, and chair positions accordingly.

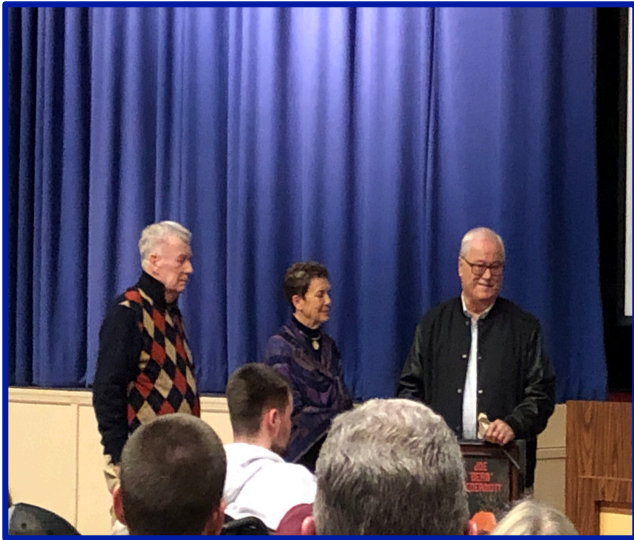
II. Report on Opioid Abuse

The Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission issued the “Report of the Opioid Abuse Child Impact Task Force” document on November 28, 2022.
For more information please refer to PA Act 2 of 2022 legislation.

The Executive Board wishes to thank David Sommers for his many years on the Executive Board and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

Merry Christmas!





THE LEGENDS OF SOLLY AVENUE

On November 23, 2022, Father Judge High School premiered the Legends of Solly Avenue, a documentary about the three winningest coaches in Catholic League history, who also taught as well as coached at Father Judge during the same time period. The coaches and former teachers honored in the documentary were Whitey Sullivan for

Football, the late Bill Fox for Basketball, and Joe McDermott for Baseball. The late Bill Fox also happened to be the youngest coach in the Catholic League, having been hired as the Head Basketball Coach at Father Judge at age 23. The premiere event was attended by many former football, basketball, and baseball players, along with the coaches' family members, including several grandchildren. The School presented Whitey Sullivan, Bill Fox's widow, and Joe McDermott with a commemoration portrait of the Legends of Solly Avenue. Thank you for all you gave to your students, your athletes and Father Judge High School. Congratulations on your historical accomplishments!

Charlotte's Web
ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY: E.B WHITE
BY JOSEPH ROBINETTE

\$20 Tickets for Friday Evening Shows and ALL Previews!
Dec. 7 – Jan. 29 / Use Code: **WILBUR3**
For tickets: Go to ardentheatre.org or call 215.922.1122

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INSURANCE INFORMATION

Dental Plan: As of January 1, 2023, you and each of your family members have \$1,000 in dental benefits to use for covered services in calendar year 2023. A list of your dental benefits is listed on the ACT Website at 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 2023. 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: Open enrollment for the Voluntary Vision Plan has come to an end. If you were on the plan last year, you should use the same Vision Card that you were issued. New members to the plan will receive their Vision card in the mail. **Vision benefits will go into effect on January 1, 2023.** If you do not have a Vision Card, please email Ginny at gabby@act1776.com.

Rest in Peace



+ Richard Bulley, retired, Monsignor Bonner High School +
+ Christine Kulchyskyj, retired, John W. Hallahan Girls' High School +
+ Doug MacMaster, Roman Catholic High School +

FSA REMINDER

If you were a participant in the 2022 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should be exhausted by December 31, 2022. Any funds that remain in your account after December 31, 2022 will be lost. However, this does not mean that all your eligible expenses have to be submitted by December 31, 2022. You have 90 days after the close of the calendar year in which to submit eligible expenses for 2022. All eligible expenses for 2022 must be submitted by March 30, 2023.

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.

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WELL-DESERVED REST

The ACT Office will be closed for the Christmas holidays, beginning at Noon on Friday, December 23, 2022. **We will return to the office on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.** During the Office closure, we will be checking both email and phone messages. If you need to contact us, please send us an email with your message and a phone number as well as a good time to reach you. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

A Holiday Message from the Executive Board

With the 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 Merry Christmas. Be safe.

*The Association of Catholic Teachers
Wishes you and your family*



*A Blessed Christmas
and a
Happy and Safe New Year.*

Merry Christmas