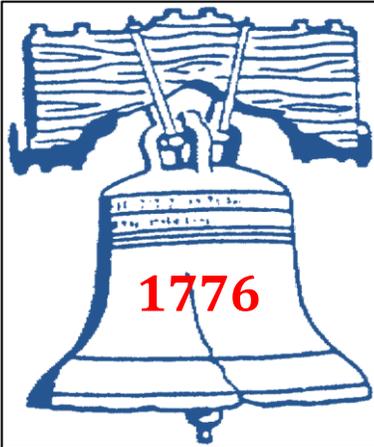


THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers



SPIRIT

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



From the President's Desk

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU DID IT AGAIN!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! Each and every one of you did an absolutely outstanding teaching job during another very challenging school year. You gave well beyond 100% of yourselves every day in the classroom. You should be very proud of all that you have accomplished during this difficult year. If it was within my power to evaluate your performance this year, I would rate each and every one of you as Distinguished in each domain and on the Summative Page.

I know that all of you are extremely happy that you have reached the end of the 2021-2022 school year. You can begin your summer break knowing that, with the ratification of the 2022-2023 Labor-Management Agreement on June 14th, there will be labor peace in the Archdiocesan Secondary School System for another year.

It took a great deal of hard work by the ACT Negotiating Team to achieve this Labor-Management Agreement. I am very thankful to have worked with such a wonderful group of your colleagues. No task was too much for them to undertake.

(Continued on Page 2)

It also required two General Membership Meetings, one in-person on June 1st and the second, on June 14, via Zoom at each of the 15 high schools, to ratify a new contract.

At the June 1st Meeting, the vote to reject the contract was close, 85 to accept, 106 to reject.

After the vote was announced, the members asked the Association to contact the System and seek the resumption of early bird negotiations. The Negotiating Teams met all day on June 13th. That evening, the Executive Board voted to recommend the System's final offer of a \$2200 salary increase, no increase in teachers' medical contribution, the same increases in moderator and department head stipends as presented on June 1st, and a one year Agreement to the ACT membership.

At the Zoom General Membership Meeting on June 14th, the ACT membership ratified the new Labor-Management Agreement by a vote of 203 to accept, 158 to reject, and 1 abstention.

The vote to accept the contract on June 14 reflected that many of you did not feel the salary increase was enough to combat these difficult economic times. Others very strongly believed that the contract should have been a multi-year agreement. Whether you voted to accept the contract or you voted to reject it, both votes sent a clear message to the System—you deserved more and you definitely needed more.

None of us has any idea of the challenges, both within and outside the System, that lie ahead of us when negotiations begin next school year. What I do know is that you, the ACT members, will, once again, need to be the best of what a Union is and what a Union does.

For now, enjoy your summer. You have certainly earned it!

Irene

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

The *pre-opening of school* Professional Development Days (Article IX) for the 2022-2023 school year will be two out of the three days from August 30 to September 1, 2022. The two days will be consecutive.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting on June 22, 2022 via Zoom.

I. HB951: 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: No change in status since last report**
Laid on the Senate table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9), on April 12, 2022.
N.B. "Laid on the Table" ---the bill may be considered at a later date

II. HB972: Protect Women's Sports Act

An act expressly designating male, female, or coed in sports activities.

Last Action: Second consideration in the Senate on June 6, 2022. (30-19 vote)

III. HB2646: Out-of-State Teaching Certificate Applicants

An act regarding certification of teachers thereby providing for out-of-State applicants in career and technical education certification who meet set requirements. Instructional I Certificate (Career and Technical) would be issued after two years teaching at a Satisfactory level.

Last Action: Re-committed to the House Appropriations Committee on June 15, 2022.

IV. SB1244: Temporary Graduation Pathway

An act further providing for special provisions applicable to the Keystone Exams, graduation requirements, and alternative competency assessment due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Three pathways to graduation would be available for students to achieve a score or rating to meet requirements for graduation.

Last Action: Re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 25, 2022.

V. HB1041: Homeschool Hybrid Educational Access

An act permitting students enrolled in home education programs to participate in academic classes offered in-person by the student's school district.

Last Action: First consideration in the Senate on May 24, 2022.

TEACHER IN THE NEWS

Roman Catholic High School teacher, Ken Eaves (Center), received the *Teacher of the Year Award* at the 2022 Cahill Club Awards Dinner on May 25, 2022.

Pictured with Ken is Roman Catholic President, Rev. Joseph Bongard (L) and a member from Roman's Board of Directors (R).



Pope John Paul II Teacher voted “Coolest Teacher”

To celebrate teachers, WMMR's *The Preston & Steve Show* randomly selects area high schools to vote for their *Coolest Teacher*. This year, *Pope John Paul II* was one of the schools selected, and students were given 24 hours-notice to vote for *their* coolest teacher. *The students at Pope John Paul II* voted Eric Wahl as their “Coolest Teacher.”

WAY TO GO ERIC!

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. 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.

SENIOR DELEGATE ELECTIONS HELD

The following members have been elected Senior Delegate
for the 2022-2023 school year.

Msgr. Bonner-Abp. Prendergast	James Vernon
Abp. Carroll	Anthony Polselli
Conwell-Egan	Christine Hanley-Maldonado
St. Hubert	John Masluk
Father Judge	John Cramutolo
Lansdale Catholic	
Little Flower	Michael Clymer
SS. John Neumann-Goretti	Christine Swift
Cardinal O'Hara	Thomas Imburgia
Pope John Paul II	Eric Wahl
Roman Catholic	James Flannery
Archbishop Ryan	Glen Galeone
Bishop Shanahan	Beth Saggars
West Catholic	Bridget Mierzejewski
Archbishop Wood	Joseph Webb

ACT wishes to recognize and give special thanks to our outgoing Senior Delegates: *Lou Valenti* (AC), *Anthony Perrucci* (FJ), *Anne Boland* (LF), *James Brennan* (RC), *Frank Costantini* (BS) and *Teresa McGill* (WC)

We would also like to recognize our outgoing Alternate Delegates: *Katheryn Tucker* (AC), *Joy Kots*, (FJ) and *Michael Clymer* (LF)

A special welcome to our new Senior Delegates: *John Cramutolo* (FJ), *Michael Clymer* (LF) and *James Flannery* (RC), and *Beth Saggars* (BS).

We would also like to welcome our new Alternate Delegates: *Kevin Gallagher* (AC), *Ellen O'Hara* (CO), and *Theresa Lazorko* (RC).

NACST NEWS

John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarships Awarded

Each year NACST awards two (2) \$4,000 scholarships (\$1,000 per year for each year of college) to children of **NACST** members. This year, the two recipients of the John J. Reilly Scholarship are both from ACT.

*At this time, we wish to congratulate **Bridget Gauntner** whose mother, Erin, teaches at Pope John Paul II High School and **Abigail Kearney** whose mother, Joan, teaches at Archbishop Wood High School. A National Review Committee selected Bridget and Abigail as this year's top scholars, earning each of them a \$4,000 scholarship over their four years of college.*

ACT is proud of your hard work and dedication that earned you this Scholarship. We wish you all the best as you embark on your college career.



*The ACT Executive Board and Staff
wish you and your family a
Relaxing and Safe Summer.*

CONGRATULATING OUR NEW RETIREES

Congratulations to the following ACT members on their retirement from the Secondary School System: *Wilma Berrios*, (Roman Catholic), *William Devlin* (Archbishop Wood), *Denise D'Onofrio* (Cardinal O'Hara), *Maureen Dougherty* (Archbishop Ryan), *James Hetherington* (Bishop Shanahan), *Stephen Langley* (Cardinal O'Hara), *James Lottes* (Bishop Shanahan), *Kathleen Melvin* (Lansdale Catholic), *Roberta Messa* (Cardinal O'Hara), *Robert Schmalbach* (Archbishop Wood), *David Smith* (Msgr. Bonner-Abp. Prendergast), *Justine Smith* (Msgr. Bonner-Abp. Prendergast), *Rose Marie Tecce* (Abp. Wood), *Eric Thomas* (Cardinal O'Hara), and *Mark Whitney* (Cardinal O'Hara).

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Retirement!

FYI: The final paycheck for teachers who are paid over twelve months is September 2, 2022.

IMPORTANT SUMMER INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: Beginning June 20, 2022, the ACT Office will operate on a summer schedule. The hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30, and Friday 9:30-3:00.

ADDRESS CHANGES -- If you are in the process of moving, or have already moved to a new address, don't forget to call the ACT Office with your new address and phone number. You can also visit the ACT Webpage and log-on to your personal page to update your information.

INSURANCE CARDS - If you are in need of a new dental, medical or vision card, contact Ginny at ginny@act1776.com.

FREEDOM CREDIT UNION – The Freedom Credit Union offers teachers and their families a wide range of financial opportunities. For more information visit the credit union's website at www.freedomcu.org. The phone number for the Freedom Credit Union is 215-612-5900.

CLEMENTON PARK AND SPLASH WORLD

Members of ACT are able to purchase Clementon Park tickets at a discounted rate by logging onto www.clementonpark.com and entering a special passcode.

Ticket Discounted Prices are as follows:

Adult Day Pass:	\$34.99
Child Day Pass:	\$24.99
Senior Day Pass:	\$19.99

Members will have access to the online code for the entirety of the 2022 operating season. E-tickets are not valid on buyout or blackout dates and cannot be used with any other promotions. This discount opportunity will expire at the end of the 2022 operating season.

Clementon Park does not offer rain checks or refunds for online discounts.

MOREYS PIERS, WILDWOOD, NJ

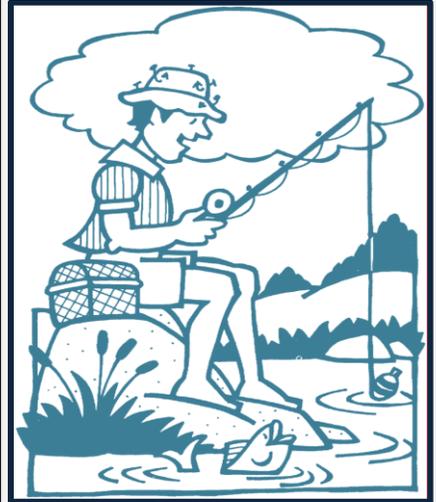


Members of ACT are able to purchase Moreys Piers tickets at a discounted rate by logging onto www.moreyspiers.com/corporate-codes and entering a special passcode for the login ID.

The discounted rates are as follows:

- VIP Ride and Waterpark Flex Ticket \$96.99
- VIP Waterpark Only Ticket \$50.15

Enjoy your summer!



*On behalf of all of the students whose
lives you make better –*

Thank You!