

THE

SPIRIT

OF '76

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

50+ Years Strong
1966-2016

3070 BRISTOL PIKE, BLDG. 2, SUITE 101, BENSALEM, PA 19020- 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXXII-NO.8
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **MAY 2022**



From the President's Desk

Early Bird Negotiations 2022 General Membership Meeting on June 1st

Early Bird Negotiations have been continuing throughout the month of May. Negotiations opened on April 28th, and working sessions were held on May 4th, May 11th, and May 17th, with other sessions scheduled for May 25th and May 31st.

During every session, the ACT Negotiating Team has delivered one message—you, the teachers need, but, most importantly, deserve, a significant salary increase, no change in medical contributions, and a multi-year Agreement. The ACT Negotiating Team has stressed that a new Labor-Management Agreement, which recognizes the teachers' value and shows appreciation for all that you have done to

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From the President's Desk . . .

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give your students the best education possible, especially over these last two years, will give stability to the System going forward and will allow for the hiring of new teachers as well as the retention of the current teachers.

On June 1st, all ACT members will gather at the Alloy King of Prussia Hotel to vote on the System's contract offer. You will decide if these provisions meet your financial needs.

It is very imperative that every ACT member, from the newest hire to the most veteran, attend this General Membership Meeting. All of your votes are needed to shape your work life for the next few years. **This is YOUR CONTRACT, YOUR FUTURE, YOUR UNION.**

Please make attendance at the June 1st General Membership Meeting at the Alloy King of Prussia Hotel a very high priority. The Meeting to discuss and vote on the terms of the new contract will begin at 4:00 P. M.

In order to give you some extra travel time on June 1st, the Association requested that the System waive the teachers' contractual obligation to remain in the school building for 15 minutes after the last bell of the school day, and the System agreed. The Association appreciates the System's cooperation so that everyone can attend this very important meeting.

Enjoy your well-deserved Memorial Day weekend.

See you on June 1st at The Alloy King of Prussia Hotel, 301 West DeKalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA 19406, at 4:00 P.M.

Irene

Sabbaticals Awarded for the 2022-2023 School Year

Two ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2022-2023 school year. One full year sabbatical is available. Two teachers are receiving one semester each.

The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were *Christine Hanley-Maldonado* (Conwell-Egan), *Bridget Mierzejewski* (West), and *Kathleen Toenniessen-Innes* (O'Hara). Representing OCE were *Michele Beachy* (Interim Asst. Superintendent for Secondary Schools), and *Dr. Patricia Rigby* (Asst. Superintendent for Secondary Schools).

The Association extends best wishes to the following recipients:

James Greene (47 years) – Father Judge High School (one semester)

Loraine Carpenter (28 years) – Abp. Carroll High School (one semester)

Constriction 2022

The System released the Constriction numbers on May 6, 2022. Fourteen positions in 6 schools are being cut.

1 BCIT, 4 English, 1 Fine Arts, 3 Math, 2 Science, 1 Social Studies, 1 Theology, and 1 World Language positions are being constricted. Seven of the 14 positions will be absorbed by resignations and retirements, which leaves 7 teachers who will need jobs in other schools.

There are also 4 schools where a total of 10 positions are being added.

The Association is working closely with the Office of Catholic Education to ensure that all timelines of the Constriction process are followed. Competencies need to be verified. Since there are many more openings than constricted teachers this year, bumping may not be necessary in some subject areas.

The Constriction Meeting is set for Wednesday, June 15th, 12:45 P. M. via Zoom.

If there are any questions about Constriction, please call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or email us at act@act1776.com.

+ Rest in Peace +

+ John Cullen, Lansdale Catholic High School +

+ James A. McIntyre, Lansdale Catholic High School +

If anyone would like to submit an *In Memoriam* article for John and/or Jim, you are most welcome to do so. You can submit your article to act@act1776.com.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the May 18, 2022 ACT Executive Board Meeting held 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**

II. HB1330: Online Course Initiative

An act, providing for supplemental online courses initiative and establishing the Online Course Clearinghouse Restricted Account.

Last Action: Referred to Senate Education Committee on April 21, 2022.

III. HB972: Protect Women's Sports Act

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

Last Action: Referred to the Senate Education Committee on April 21, 2022.

IV. HB2169: Lifeline Scholarship

An act establishing the Lifeline Scholarship Program to give students and parents residing within the lowest-achieving public school districts options to pursue a high-quality education through educational funding.

Last Action: Referred to the Senate Education Committee on April 28, 2022.

V. HB2022; HB2023; HB2024: School-Based Mental Health Services

Three separate acts providing for mental health awareness, instruction, and education.; creation of an in-school pilot grant program.

Last Action: Laid on the House Table, April 25, 2022.

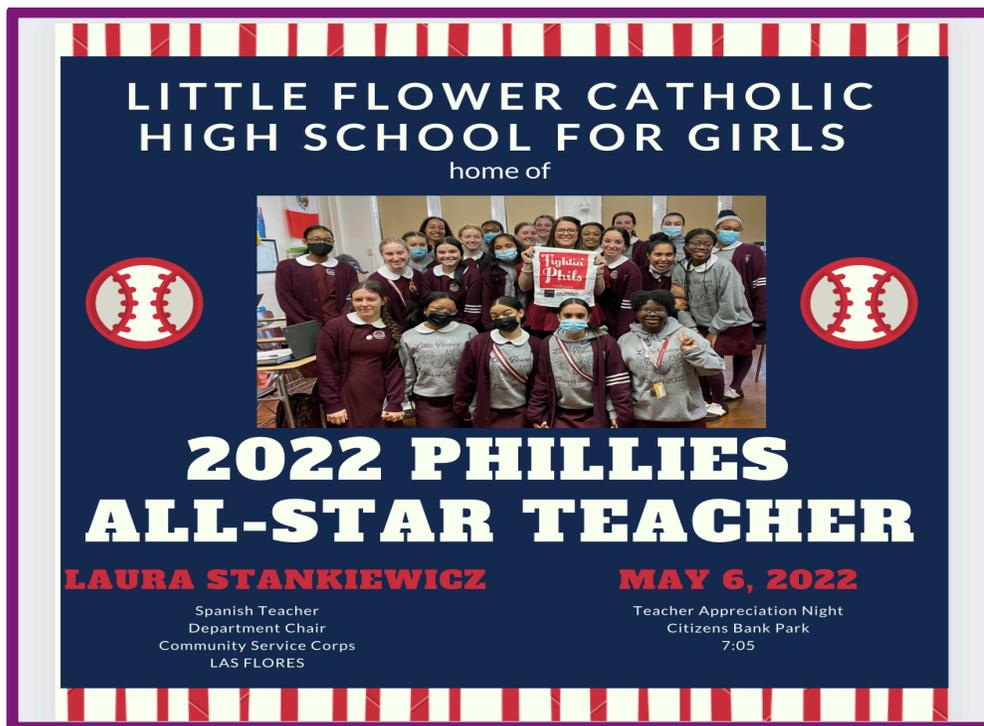
N.B. "Laid on the Table" - the bill may be considered at a later date.

TEACHERS IN THE NEWS

The Philadelphia Phillies

22nd Annual Teacher Appreciation Night

On Friday, May 6, 2022, the *Philadelphia Phillies* recognized **Laura Stankiewicz**, World Language teacher and department head at Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls, as one of ten educators in the Philadelphia region who is making a difference in the lives of her students and the community.



**Congratulations, Laura, on being an
All-Star Teacher!**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Lifeguard and PMA Job Opportunities

The Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department is recruiting for summer pool staff. If you would be interested in working for the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department this summer, contact Alexander Hughes-Taylor, CPRP, Acting Aquatics Coordinator, at 215-683-3663 or email him at Alex.Hughes-Taylor@phila.gov.

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.

BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB

Members of the Association of Catholic Teachers can join BJ's Wholesale Club or renew their BJ's membership at a discounted rate. An application to join BJ's or renew your membership was emailed to ACT members on May 11, 2022. There is also a copy of the application on our website at www.act1776.com. **The deadline to join/renew is May 31, 2022.**

All applications with payment should be sent directly to the BJ's Representative, Cheryl Fontana at P.O. Box 83, Downingtown, PA 19335. Please make your check payable to BJ's Wholesale Club. If you are paying by credit card, you may email your application to cfontana@bjs.com.

***DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, THE NATION CELEBRATES
MOTHERS, NURSES, POLICE OFFICERS, AND TEACHERS***

*The Association of Catholic Teachers recognizes all of our members and
their family members, who are mothers, nurses, police officers
and, of course, teachers!*



Thank you for all that you do to make this world a better place!



On Wednesday, May 18, 2022,
Kathleen Toenniessen-Innes,
*ACT Vice-President, and Cardinal
O'Hara Theology Teacher*, was
recognized for her nursing.

Kate was a recipient of the

***Main Line Today's
2022
Excellence in Nursing Award.***

Congratulations, Kate!

IN MEMORIAM



BARBARA FUTEJ
1944 – 2022

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

These are definitely the words that Barb lived by every day here at Bishop Shanahan High School and in her life at home. Barb always had a smile on her face and, if there was a problem that needed to be solved, she worked through it with you, together. Barb was not just a colleague, she was a friend to everyone. Barb loved the beauty of others, the beauty of science, and especially the beauty of the environment. Barb loved each and every one of her students and saw potential in each of her students. Barb stood up for her convictions and was definitely not afraid to let them be known. Many lives here at Bishop Shanahan have breathed easier because of Barb’s caring spirit, her willingness to help both in and out of the classroom, and her dedication to her love for science and education!

To me, Barb was a teacher mentor that I will always credit for my passion as an educator. Barb thought nothing of taking me under her wing and helping me with lesson plans, labs, projects... She always had something ready for me to use. I said to her one day “I cannot wait for the day that I can return the kindness you have shown me”. She smiled and said “That day will come, and it did, thanks to her! Barb’s kindness went beyond the classroom. She also mentored me on how to properly wear a scarf, when it would become time to let my graying hair go natural, and in lending me costumes for a theater performance. Barb and I shared a lot from a past career in the laboratory sciences, taking on education as a second career, love of science, love for the environment, and participating in the same community theater.

Barb, you will forever remain in our hearts here at Bishop Shanahan. We were blest to have you as a colleague, a mentor, but most of all a friend.

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Written by: Lisa M. Rossana
Bishop Shanahan High School

ALWAYS REMEMBER



Memorial Day 2022

“This is a day we pay homage to all those who didn’t come home. It is not Veterans Day; it’s not a celebration. It is a day of solemn contemplation of the cost of freedom.” Tamra Bolton

Let us always remember those who served, fought bravely, and gave up their lives so that we may have the freedom to enjoy ours. Rest in Peace beloved soldier, and thank you for your tremendous sacrifice!



“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.”

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLEASE MAKE ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING A PRIORITY.

WEDNESDAY,

JUNE 1, 2022

4:00 PM

at

THE ALLOY KING OF PRUSSIA

A DOUBLE TREE by HILTON

301 West DeKalb Pike

King of Prussia, PA 19406

AGENDA

CONTRACT VOTE

New Business