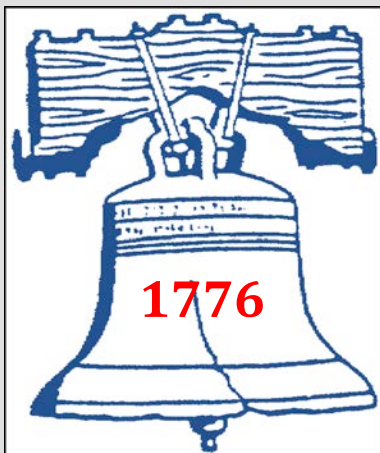


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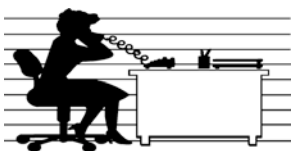


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From the President's Desk

Some End-of-the-School-Year Updates

Congratulations! You made it through another challenging school year. Now it is time to relax and rejuvenate.

As you know, on June 13th, the teachers rejected the System's June 9, 2023 Comprehensive Offer by an overwhelmingly negative vote of 16-224. Therefore, negotiations will continue throughout the summer. At the direction of the ACT Membership, the Association reached out to the System on June 20th about resuming negotiations. The System and the Association are currently working on dates to hold contract talks.

As announced at the June 13th General Membership Meeting, the next General Membership Meeting to vote on the System's final contract proposal will be Thursday, August 31st. This meeting will be in person with the time and a central location to be determined.

Once the System's Comprehensive Offer was rejected, the ACT Membership authorized the Executive Board to call a strike, if necessary, as of September 1, 2023. Thus, attendance at the August

(Continued on Page 2)

31st General Membership Meeting should be your highest priority. Your vote on the contract as well as how to proceed should the contract proposal be rejected again will be extremely important.

Another important date for all teachers is Tuesday, August 29. During the school year that just ended, the Archbishop approached both the Association and the System with his request to have one of the two teacher days in August be a universal professional development day.

The System and the Association, with the approval of the ACT Executive Board, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that stated Tuesday, August 29, 2023, would become a universal professional development day. Also included in the MOU was that the System, if at all possible, will provide Act 48 credits for the August 29th universal professional development day and that the August 29th universal pd day will be one of the five professional development days you are required to attend during the 2023-2024 school year. It will be one of the 190 days for which you are paid.

The Association had received feedback from the members about the distances and time it took to attend the universal pd days during the 2022-2023 school year. That is why the Association stipulated in the MOU that

"In order not to cause an undue burden on any teacher, the System in consultation with the Association, will make every effort to schedule this event at a centrally located, air conditioned facility."

For the vast majority of you, the Bishop Shanahan High School location is not centrally located and an undue burden will be placed upon you. I will be there and am looking forward to seeing you on August 29th at Bishop Shanahan for the universal professional development day.

As with the other professional development days, the policy regarding reimbursement for mileage and tolls will be the same—

Teachers can submit to their principal the mileage (whatever exceeds the normal commute to school) and any tolls incurred. The federal mileage reimbursement is \$.655 per mile. Teachers will need a receipt for the tolls.

Also in the MOU, since the August pd days have to be consecutive, the other day will be at the local schools on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

I know August 29th is two months away and you are just trying to get into summer mode, but if you have any questions about this event, please feel free to contact the ACT Office.

I will see you on August 31st for the General Membership meeting to vote on the new Labor-Management Agreement.

In the meantime, please enjoy your summer.

Irene

The Association of Catholic Teachers wishes to thank *Thomas McKeever*, ACT Central Area Vice President, and *David McQuiston*, ACT Southwest Area Vice President, for their many years of service on the ACT Executive Board and to the ACT Membership.



Both men have been on the Executive Board since the mid 1980's and will retire from the Board at the end of August to begin a well-deserved retirement.

Congratulations and Thank You!

SENIOR DELEGATE ELECTIONS HELD

The following members have been elected Senior Delegate for the 2023-2024 school year.

Msgr. Bonner-Abp. Prendergast
Abp. Carroll
Conwell-Egan
St. Hubert
Father Judge
Lansdale Catholic
Little Flower
SS. John Neumann-Goretti
Cardinal O'Hara
Pope John Paul II
Roman Catholic
Archbishop Ryan
Bishop Shanahan
West Catholic
Archbishop Wood

James Vernon
Anthony Polselli
Christine Hanley Maldonado
John Masluk
John Cramultolo
Melissa Hart
Michael Clymer
Peter Ferris
Thomas Imburgia
Eric Wahl
James Flannery
Glen Galeone
Joseph Aquilante
Bridget Mierzejewski
Joseph Webb

ACT wishes to recognize and give special thanks to our outgoing Senior Delegate at Bishop Shanahan: [David Sommers](#).

We would also like to recognize our outgoing Alternate Delegates: [Anne Boland](#) at Little Flower, [Theresa Lazorko](#) at Roman Catholic and [Joseph Aquilante](#) at Bishop Shanahan.

A special welcome to our new Senior Delegate at Bishop Shanahan High School: [Joseph Aquilante](#).

We would also like to welcome our new Alternate Delegates: [Eugene Halus](#) at Little Flower, [Joseph Sinclair](#) at Roman Catholic and [Lisa Rossana](#) at Bishop Shanahan.

FYI: The final paycheck for teachers who are paid over ten months is 7/7/23.

The final paycheck for teachers who are paid over twelve months is 9/1/23.

TEACHER IN THE NEWS

During Father Judge High School's Commencement Exercises, Judge President and Alum, Brian King, awarded an honorary Judge Diploma to one of its faculty members, John Cramutolo, who is celebrating 50 years of service at Father Judge this year. Below is a copy of Brian King's speech.



"We have one last diploma to distribute: One that I am humbled, happy, and honored to be awarding.

Oxford Dictionary defines DEDICATION as a Noun and reads "*the quality of being committed to a task or purpose.*" On September 9/01/1973, John Cramutolo entered the halls of 3301 Solly Avenue and began his life's work as a dedicated servant of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Secondary School System. For 50 years, Mr. Cramutolo has embodied what it means to be a Salesian Gentleman, a professional educator, and one who is not afraid to speak up for what he feels is best for the institution and his students.

He has served in roles ranging from teacher to Department Chair and Union Rep to Year Book Moderator.

I can honestly tell you today, that I would not be standing here, nor would I possess the ability to articulate the strategic vision of this institution without Mr. Cramutolo, who I had for English in my Freshman Year and AP English in my Senior Year. While he certainly gave me my deserved fair share of JUG, he will go down on my list of Top 3 Teachers at FJ. He held a high bar, he made you go deeper, made you expand upon your vocabulary, and he never ever gave an inch of slack. He wanted you to look the look, talk the talk, and show the world what JUDGE GUYS could do if they put their mind and effort into it.

I stand here today and on behalf of ALL the Crusaders who sat before you in the classroom, whose lives you changed for the better through your dedicated work each and every day.

AND WHILE I AM SURE YOU WOULD LIKE TO STRANGLE ME RIGHT NOW, I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO please come forward to BE THE LAST MAN TO WALK ACROSS THIS STAGE TODAY AND RECEIVE YOUR HONORARY DIPLOMA FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE.

PLEASE COME FORWARD."

IMPORTANT SUMMER INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: Beginning June 19, 2023, 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.

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.

Happy Fourth of July!



Special Note: In the Special Edition of the ACT Newsletter, honoring our members who have reached 25 and 50-year milestones in their careers, the Association incorrectly listed Christopher Vitale as an English teacher. Chris is celebrating 25 years of service and teaches Science at Archbishop Ryan. The editor apologizes for the error.

AMC MOVIE TICKETS

The ACT Office has a limited supply of AMC movie tickets on hand for teachers to purchase at a discounted rate. **AMC Tickets are \$10.50 per ticket.** If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with your request. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request.

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:	\$29.99
Child Day Pass:	\$19.99
Senior Day Pass:	\$19.99

Members will have access to the online code for the entirety of the 2023 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 2023 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 \$101.86
- VIP Waterpark Only Ticket \$56.95

Congratulating Our New Retirees

Congratulations to the following ACT members on their retirement from the Secondary School System: *Rosemarie Biron* (Archbishop Ryan), *Joseph Farinella* (Roman Catholic), *Richard Kauffmann* (Bishop Shanahan), *David McQuiston* (Bishop Shanahan), *Eugene Murphy* (Archbishop Carroll), *Michele Murphy* (Pope John Paul II), *Joseph Murray* (Father Judge), *Anne Mushrush* (Cardinal O'Hara), and *Arnold Ronzoni* (Little Flower).

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Retirement!

SUMMERTIME IS HERE. RELAX & ENJOY!

Remembering Bill Riley

Bill Riley (RIP) was my freshman year homeroom teacher at Archbishop Carroll for Boys in the fall of 1977. He was the first Catholic high school faculty member I met. He said, "high school would pass by like a walk around the block" – he was right!

He was also one of the main sources of student mimicry. It was very popular to be able to do a good *Mr. Riley* impression.

I saw him several years ago at a contract meeting at City Avenue. Even in retirement, Bill was an active supporter of ACT.

Rest in Peace, Bill.

Written by: John Corrigan
Roman Catholic High School
ACT Legislative Rep

Retired Teacher Turned Author

I started writing my first book in 1987 when I bought a computer and wanted to learn word processing. So, I decided to write a story. Over the years, I worked on the tale, tweaking it here and there.

When I left the classroom after 46 years as a Theology teacher, I finally had the time to focus on my writing. And the creative ideas started flowing. I began writing short stories: horror, suspense, mystical, historical, supernatural, and life itself—quite a wide range of topics.

I discovered Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP), and the rest is history, as they say. I have self-published three books so far: two collections of short stories, “Welcome to My World” and “Welcome to My World Volume 2.” Both volumes of “Welcome” together comprise 40 short stories.

The novel is “Elemenope: Out There Where Dreams Come True.” I consider it a fantasy/reality story for children of all ages. It’s about a young boy and his dog who venture into a fascinating new world, searching for a flower to restore his extremely ill mother to good health. Along the way, he faces many obstacles and interesting people and creatures.

I’m currently writing the sequel to my novel, “Elemenope.” However, I must admit writing a sequel has been a real challenge. And honestly, so has self-publishing. Although it has given me total creative control over my writing, it has sometimes been a struggle, especially with the intricacies of manuscript formatting for KDP publishing. Nevertheless, dedication and stamina have resulted in these three books getting self-published with a fourth in the wings.

My three books are available on Amazon in paperback, and right now, all but my most recent book are also available in e-format for Kindle.

If you would like to discuss my works of fiction or the challenges and rewards of self-publishing, I can be reached at: carlatori1951@gmail.com. I’d really like to hear from you.

Thank you for supporting my endeavors as an up-and-coming new author. I appreciate it.

Take care,

Carl A. Tori

We would love to hear how our retirees are spending their days since leaving the classroom. If you would like to send in an article telling us about a hobby started or places traveled, please feel free to send it to act@act1776.com with the subject line ACT Newsletter.

Enjoy your summer!



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

Thank You!