



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, BENSLEM, PA 19020 - 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXXIII-NO.9
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **MAY 2023**



From the President's Desk

VOTE ON THE CONTRACT

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY
JUNE 13, 2023
1:00 PM

Glaziers Local 252 of IUPAT
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

2980 Southampton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154

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From the President's Desk . . .

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It is unfortunate that the Association and the System have not yet been able to reach a settlement on a new Labor-Management Agreement. However, the Association and the System continue to hold negotiating sessions (June 7 and 9) with the goal of completing negotiations by the time the ACT Membership meets on June 13th.

It is very important that every ACT Member, from the newest hire to the most veteran teacher, attend this General Membership Meeting.

Every vote is needed in order for you to have a voice in your work life for the next few years. **THIS IS YOUR CONTRACT, YOUR FUTURE, YOUR UNION.**

Several of the System's proposals that are not in the teachers' best interest remain on the table. They include Salary, Medical, Grievance, the number of sections taught by part-time teachers, the accumulated sick day cap, as well as other significant changes in working conditions.

As a member of the Association of Catholic Teachers, attendance at this meeting should be your highest priority. This in-person meeting will give every Union member the opportunity to interact and discuss the terms of the new contract with those whom you see every day and those whom you haven't seen in some time. Once the discussion is over, you, the ACT members, will vote to accept or reject the new contract provisions. **YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.**

The ACT Negotiating Team will continue to work very hard to bring back a contract that you, the members, can accept.

As always, please keep both Negotiating Teams in your prayers.

Enjoy the well-deserved Memorial Day weekend.

See you on June 13th at 1:00 at the Glaziers Local 252 of IUPAT.

Irene

Correction: In the April edition of the *Spirit of '76*, Karen Scott Benjamin, who is celebrating 25 years of service, was incorrectly listed as teaching at Bishop Shanahan High School. **Karen proudly teaches at Saint Hubert High School in Northeast Philadelphia.** We apologize for the error.

Constriction 2023

The System released the Constriction numbers on May 9, 2023. Four positions in 3 schools are being cut.

1 BCIT, 1 Science, 1 Social Studies and 1 Theology positions are being constricted. Nine schools will have the same number of full-time teachers.

There are also 3 schools where a total of 9 positions are being added.

The Constriction Meeting is set for Thursday, June 15th, 10:30 A.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.

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!



**A teacher affects eternity; he can never
tell where his influence stops."**

-Henry Brooks Adams

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, John Corrigan, at the May 23, 2023 ACT Executive Board Meeting held via Zoom.

May 2023

Primary Election Results – The results of the PA Primary election for party candidates for the fall general election can be found here. Some important upcoming contests include statewide races for the PA State Courts (Supreme, Superior, Commonwealth, Common Pleas), City of Philadelphia (Mayor, Council, Courts, Row Offices), County Commissioners, Township Officials, local school boards, and various Ballot Questions.

Statewide Elections: <https://www.electionreturns.pa.gov/> Philadelphia and Counties: <https://6abc.com/politics/elections/local/> Special Elections.

The special election results for two PA House seats from May 16, 2023:

PA House District 108 – Michael Stender (R) defeated Trevor Finn (D) and Elijah Sretching (L) 70.7% to 25.7% and 3.7%, respectively, in District 108. He succeeds Lynda Schlegel Culver (R), who resigned on Feb. 28 after she won a special election in the Pennsylvania State Senate.

PA House District 163 – Heather Boyd (D) defeated Katie Ford (R) and Alfe Goodwin (L) 59.9% to 38.8% and 1.3%, respectively. Boyd succeeds Michael Zabel (D), who resigned on March 16.

The Democrats maintain a single-vote House majority (102D-101R). They've chosen Rep. Joanna McClinton (D-191: Phila, Delco) as the first woman Speaker of the Pennsylvania House.

Legislative Update (Spring 2023)

PA Senate Bill 84 [SB84] – Religious Garb Bill. PA Senate Education Committee passed Senate Bill 84. This would change PA law to allow teachers to wear religious clothing or symbols. Sponsors of the bill include Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill and Sen. Judy Schwank. (January)

PA Senate Bill 512 [SB512] Sen. Katie Muth (D-Montgomery) sponsored two bills that seek to “ensure protection against sudden cardiac arrest in Pennsylvania schools.” This bill would require schools to have automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) on-site with staff trained to use AEDs nearby.

PA Senate Bill 513 [SB513] requires school sports coaches and supervisors of after-school activities to be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and using AEDs. The Commonwealth is one of the few states with no requirements for schools to possess and maintain AEDs.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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PA House Bill 1097 [HB 1097] Introduced and referred to the House Education Committee (May 5): This bill amends the Public School Code to add a moment of silence on Sept. 11. It also directs the Department of Education to establish a model curriculum for instruction on the events and significance of Sept. 11, 2001 within 12 months of the bill's effective date. The bill does not require schools or nonpublic schools to implement, adopt or use the curriculum, materials and other resources made available by the Department of Education.

PA Senate Bill 647 [SB647] Passed in the Senate by a 44-5 vote (May 8): This bill amends the Public School Code of 1949 to require completion of a personal financial literacy course in high school and directs the State Board of Education to revise the State standards for Economics, Family and Consumer Science, and Career Education and Work.

PA Senate Bill 456 [SB456] – Preamble. Second consideration, Rereferred to Senate Appropriations (May 10): This bill would require schools to display the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States in the entranceway of each school building.

US Congress

US House Republicans passed an education bill that emphasizes parental rights in public-school classrooms. The legislation, titled the Parents Bill of Rights, passed 213-208, and heads to the Senate for consideration. It is unlikely, however, that the Democratic-controlled Senate will take up the measure. US House Democrats introduced their own "Bill of Rights for Students and Parents," a resolution that supports inclusion of learning about diverse groups.

Rest in Peace

+ William Riley, Retired, Bishop Shanahan High School +

If anyone would like to submit an ***In Memoriam*** article for Bill or for any of our recent retirees, you are most welcome to do so. You can submit your article to act@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. (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.

AMC MOVIE TICKETS

The Association of Catholic Teachers has a limited supply of **AMC Movie Tickets** on hand for **\$10.50 per ticket**. If you are interested in purchasing any tickets, please send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note stating how many tickets you are purchasing. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

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. Information on how to join BJ's or renew your membership was emailed to ACT members on May 8, 2023. An application is posted on our website at www.act1776.com. **The deadline to join/renew is May 31, 2023.**

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.

ALWAYS REMEMBER



Memorial Day 2023

“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.

TUESDAY

JUNE 13, 2023

1:00 PM

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AGENDA

CONTRACT VOTE

New Business