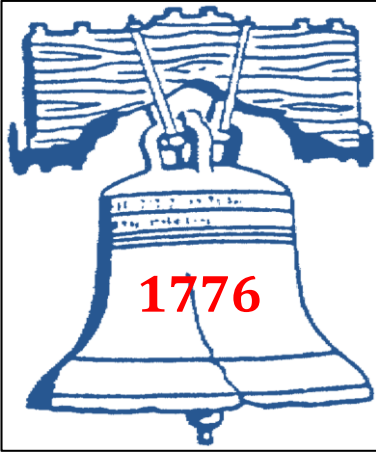


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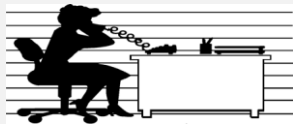
The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers



SPIRIT OF '76

55+ Years Strong
1966-2024

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Fax 215-568-8270 – email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) APRIL 2024



From the President's Desk

Congratulations on a Job Well Done! (First Semester Evaluation Data Results)

As I have said in previous newsletter articles, you always rise to all of the challenges you face in the classroom. I have applauded and continue to acclaim all that you have done and are doing for your students.

Now, the data from the First Semester Evaluations is further affirmation of all that you have accomplished during this school year.

98.18% of tenured teachers, including Guidance counselors, received a Distinguished or Proficient rating from their administrative evaluator. 99.4% of tenured teachers, including Guidance counselors, received these ratings from their department heads.

(Continued on page 2)

84% of non-tenured teachers, including Guidance counselors, received a Distinguished or Proficient rating from their administrative evaluator. 85% of non-tenured teachers, including Guidance counselors, received these ratings from their department heads.

What impressive statistics! Congratulations to each and every one of you!

We are now in the fourth quarter. There is just less than two months left in the 2023-2024 school year. The end is getting closer with each passing day. As exhausted as you may feel, you can do this! You can make it to June 14th. Know that the Association of Catholic Teachers is here to help you remain strong as you continue to do all that you can for your students.

Congratulations once again on your accomplishments during the first semester evaluation period. I am sure that the data will be just as impressive for the second semester.

Have a great rest of the school year.

Irene

Rest in Peace



+ James Rosano, retired, Archbishop Ryan High School +

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by ACT Legislative Representative, John Corrigan, at the ACT April Executive Board Meeting held via zoom on March 21, 2024.

Legislative Update

House Bill 2036 (H.B. 2036): EITC & OSTC Funding. On February 27, 2024, PA Representative Joe Ciresi (D-Montgomery County: Pottsgrove, Pottstown, Spring-Ford), along with 17 co-sponsors, has introduced legislation with the potential to have a significant impact on the Educational Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. According to Voter Voice of the PA Catholic Conference, this bill would have detrimental effects on parental choice in education in PA in the following ways:

- Cut family income limits for students participating to 200% of the federal poverty level (This would cut the current family EITC & OSTC eligibility in half).
- Eliminate support level factors for families with students with a disability.
- Impose new reporting requirements on scholarship organizations to report data on every student given a scholarship, and for every applicant who was “denied.”
- Impose new reporting requirements on schools--affecting every nonpublic school in the State.
- Give the State discretion to impose new reporting requirements without legislative approval.

Voter Voice is encouraging all those who support the EITC and OSTC programs to contact their elected officials.

PA Student Teacher Support Program

State Senator Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia; Appropriations Chair) recently promoted the new \$10 million investment secured through his legislation (Senate Bill 300 - 2023) to provide up to \$15,000 stipends for student teachers in PA through PHEAA. Senator Hughes cited a 71% decline in teacher certifications from 2011-2022. Senator Hughes also said he will be advocating for Governor Shapiro’s \$15 million budget proposal this year.

<https://www.senatorhughes.com/fighting-for-investments-in-teachers/>

[https://www.pheaa.org/partner-access/schools/pa-student-teacher-support-program/Education Developments](https://www.pheaa.org/partner-access/schools/pa-student-teacher-support-program/Education%20Developments)

50 YEARS

OF

SERVICE



A

GOLDEN

ANNIVERSARY

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

congratulates

Glen Galeone, Archbishop Ryan High School

who is celebrating **50** years of service to the students of the Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

25 Years of Service - A Silver Celebration

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

congratulates its members who are celebrating **25** years of service to the Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Mario Barrucci
Rosanne Betham
Christine Fitch
Donna Hnosko
Richard Knowlton
Deborah Lynch
Christina Mulligan
Evan Ortiz
Joseph Rome
Stefanie Salvatore
Christine Tickman
Steven Tighe
Wendi Wiley
John Woehlcke

St. Hubert High School
Msgr. Bonner-Abp. Prendergast High School
Lansdale Catholic High School
Archbishop Ryan High School
Pope John Paul II High School
Lansdale Catholic High School
Archbishop Carroll High School
Conwell-Egan Catholic High School
Father Judge High School
Archbishop Ryan High School
Cardinal O'Hara High School
Pope John Paul II High School
Conwell-Egan Catholic High School
Archbishop Carroll High School

Education Developments

PA Rep. Thomas Kutz (R) and Rep. Justin Fleming (D) are teaming up to introduce a bipartisan bill to require the Pennsylvania Department of Education to create a comparison tool on its website that would allow high school students to compare costs of college options which can often be a challenge. The motive is to make sure high school students have all the information available to make such a big financial decision as college selection.

In the recent SOTU Address, President Joe Biden advocated for raising teacher pay and increasing access to early childhood education, and he highlighted his administration's efforts to promote tutoring, summer learning, and career and technical education.

The U.S. Department of Education is likely to finalize two key Title IX proposals related to federal anti-discrimination laws. Changes to implementation include shortening investigation and resolution timelines.

Earth Day 2024

As April comes to a close and we look forward to May flowers,



let us always remember to leave the Earth a better place than we found it.

FORMER LONGTIME ACT PRESIDENT AND RETIREE IN THE NEWS

On Friday, April 12, 2024, retired ACT Member and former long-time ACT President, Rita C. Schwartz, was honored by the Catholic Education Special Interest Group (SIG) of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) for her extraordinary service to Catholic education in Philadelphia and the United States.

The Catholic Education SIG is a group of researchers and educators who support, promote, and disseminate information, research, and evaluation of Catholic education. "As a professional organization, we value the distinct gifts of Catholic school teachers and the mission of Catholic schools, *which you have dedicated your life to supporting*. We recognize that your years of work organizing teachers in Catholic schools embodies the call of Catholic Social Teachings to uphold the dignity of work and rights of workers."



Rita began her career in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1963 when she accepted a teaching position at St. Hubert Catholic High School for Girls. She was actively involved in the formation of the Association of Catholic Teachers and became President of the Association in 1984. Rita remained President for the next 36 years, negotiating sixteen contracts, and helping teachers across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Rita was also President of the National Association of Catholic School Teachers for 28 years. As President, Rita helped teachers across the United States form unions at their schools or in their dioceses. Rita has always fought for social justice for all Catholic school teachers.

Rita retired from the Association of Catholic Teachers in December of 2020. In December of 2023, Rita retired from the National Association of Catholic School Teachers, and is now enjoying a well-deserved rest.

Congratulations, Rita, on your Award! The recognition is well-deserved! Teachers everywhere are thankful for your guidance, leadership, and your dedication to social justice for Catholic school teachers everywhere.

Senior Delegate Elections

(May 15th – June 1st)

Teachers need an Advocate. *Do you have what it takes to be a Senior Delegate?* If Social Justice in action, teacher dignity and respect are issues that you find important, and, if you would like to work with these issues, then consider running for Senior Delegate at your school.

Responsibilities Include:

1. Act as a liaison between your members and administration.
2. Provide representation for your members in situations where any member reasonably feels that disciplinary action may occur.
3. File grievances to settle issues of opposing interpretations of the contract.
4. Encourage members to become familiar with and support the contract.
5. Conduct meetings at the local level.
6. Attend all meetings to represent your school.
7. Encourage your members to attend general membership meetings.
8. Keep the Executive Board informed of local issues.
9. Be responsible for conducting all union elections in the school.
10. Be responsible for the ACT Bulletin Board.
11. Distribute information from the ACT Office to the teachers.
12. Perform duties assigned to you by the Executive Board.
13. Be responsible for signing up new members and maintaining the good standing of present members.

Senior Delegates received a stipend of \$250 for the 2023-2024 school year.

*This is a good time to once again, **thank** all of the Senior Delegates who have served the Union and their own school members so well this year. The ACT Office and the Executive Board need and appreciate your work.*



ACT WEBSITE

All teachers are asked to logon to the ACT Website (www.act1776.com) and verify your personal information by June 1, 2024. 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.

SCHOOL SENIORITY LISTS POSTED

Article V, Section 1b states “**On or before April 1** of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in each school a complete listing of all full-time teachers in that school including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to school seniority.” “Teachers shall have until **May 1** to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster.”

UNITED CONCORDIA DENTAL PLAN

Please be aware that if you are making changes to your dental coverage such as adding or deleting dependents, you must complete a [United Concordia Enrollment/Change Form](#) and return it to the ACT Office. The form can be found on the ACT Website at www.act1776.com. The form can be returned via email to ginny@act1776.com or faxed to Ginny’s attention at 215-568-8270. Forms must be completed and returned within 30 days of the event. (marriage, birth, etc.)

Retired ACT Members are invited to attend a

RETIREES' LUNCHEON

May 15, 2024
12: 00 – 3:00 PM

THE WATERFALL ROOM

2791 Southampton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154



An order form is posted on the ACT Webpage at www.act1776.com. Ticket price is \$40 per person. You may bring a guest.

Your order form along with payment is due by April 30, 2024.

Make checks payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers and mail to Association of Catholic Teachers, 3070 Bristol Pike, Suite 2-101, Bensalem, PA 19020.