

THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT

OF '76

50 Years Strong
1966-2016

1700 SANSOM STREET – SUITE 903 – PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 – 215-568-4175 – VOLUME XXXVII-NO.6
Fax 215-568-8270 – email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) February 2017

From the President's Desk

MAKE THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING A PRIORITY

We are about one month away from the opening of Negotiations. Preparations for the talks continue at the ACT Office. Now that the Contract Surveys have been returned, the ACT Negotiating Team will be drawing up proposals based on what you, our members, want in a new Labor-Management Agreement and, as importantly, what you don't want.

The 2017 ACT Negotiating Team was selected by the ACT Executive Board at its February meeting. The six Team members are Glen Galeone (Archbishop Ryan), Tom Imburgia (Cardinal O'Hara), Theresa Lazorko (Roman Catholic), Irene Tori (ACT Staff), Lou Valenti (Archbishop Carroll) and me.

It is the first time in six years that the entire Contract is open for negotiation. Again, while I am very much aware of our members' strong preference for a multi-year Agreement, I also am cognizant of the unsettled climate nationwide in the area of medical insurance. We don't have any forecast on what the future of the Affordable Care Act will be 5 weeks from now, let alone 18 months from now.

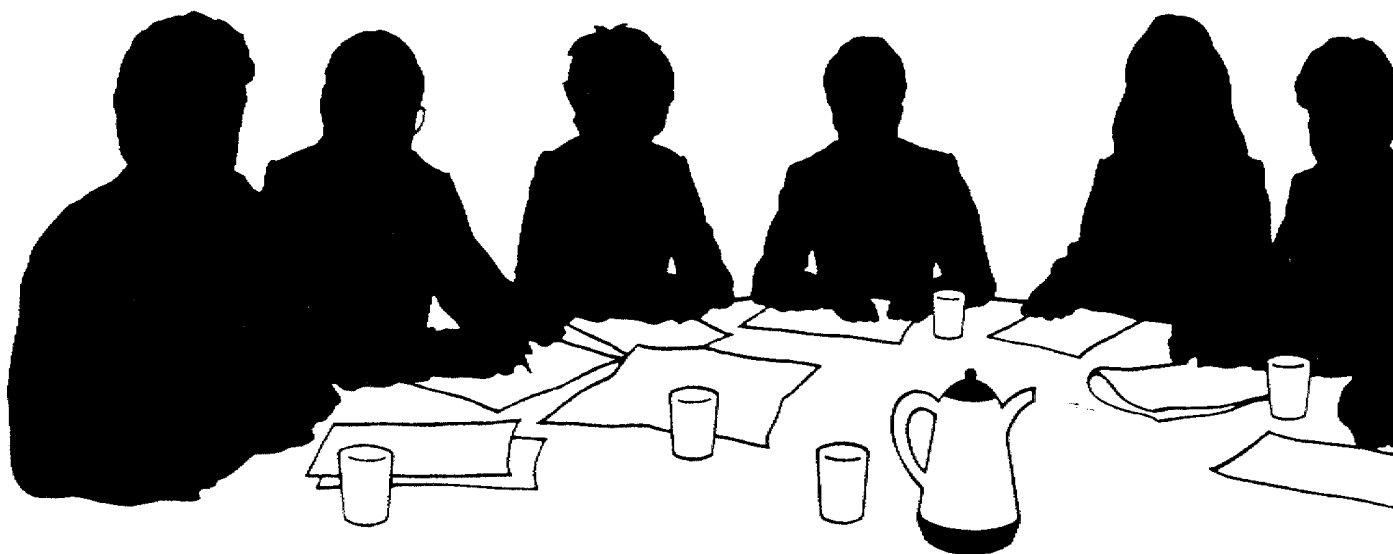
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I stressed with the System's chief negotiator that the completing of contract talks by the end of the school year should be our top priority. At a time when the emphasis is on growing the schools, it would be counter-productive to have bargaining drag on all summer and, possibly, beyond. He agreed, but said that about 60 of the System's issues from last year's Interest Based Bargaining would still be on the table this year.

One of the most important parts of being a member of the Union is your ability to vote on the salary, benefits and working conditions that affect you and your families. On Wednesday, March 15 at 4:00 P.M., the members of ACT will come together at the Marriott Courtyard on City Avenue (former Crowne Plaza) to review the proposals the Negotiating Team will be presenting to the System. You, the members, will not only vote to authorize the proposals, but you will also, in a very tangible way, show your support for the ACT Negotiating Team.

Please make the March 15 General Membership Meeting a priority.

Rita



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES APPROACHING

National Association of Catholic School Teachers John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship

An application for the John J. Reilly Scholarship can be found on the home page of the ACT Website at www.act1776.com. **Deadline for submission of all applications is March 10th.**

THE CHARLOTTE DRUMMOND FOUNDATION Memorial Scholarship

An application for The Charlotte Drummond Foundation Memorial Scholarship is posted on the homepage of the ACT Website at www.act1776.com. **The deadline for submission is March 1, 2017.**

SABBATICAL LEAVE APPLICATIONS DUE

Applications for Sabbatical Leave are posted at individual schools. A copy can also be found on the ACT Web page at www.act1776.com

Applications for sabbatical leave must be submitted no later than March 1st.

VOLUNTARY TRANSFER, TEACHER SWAP, TEMPORARY TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

Teachers interested in applying for a voluntary transfer, teacher swap, or temporary transfer should file their application no later than **April 3, 2016**. Applications should be posted in the schools after March 1, 2017.

LANCER'S LOCAL

Issues or contractual items of interest to
Holy Cross Academy (Delran, NJ)

Holy Cross Academy
Union Dues for 2016
\$534.00

ACT CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

For the past year, ACT's Executive Board has been working to update the Association's Constitution and By-Laws. A referendum vote was conducted in each school which resulted in two-thirds of the membership ratifying the changes. A copy of the updated Constitution and By-Laws is located on the ACT Website under the ["About ACT"](#) tab.

ARCHDIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS

TAX INFORMATION

2016 DUES

\$551.24

(13 Pays X \$26.20 + 8 Pays x \$26.33)

ACT WEBSITE

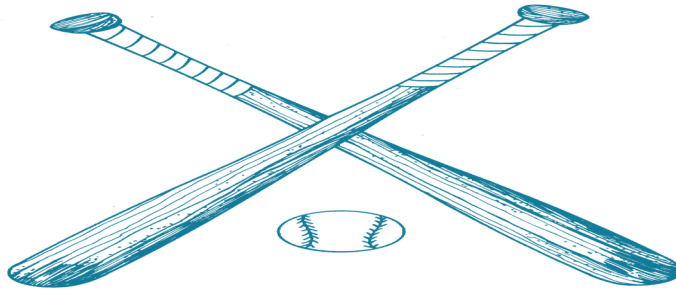
All teachers are asked to logon to the ACT Website (www.act1776.com) and verify your personal information. It is critical that we have your current information and that it is accurate, since this is a contract year. **It is important that we have a PERSONAL email address for you**, since contract information and updates, Executive Board Minutes, 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 log-on information in their welcome packet.) 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.

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

“PLAY BALL”



SECOND ANNUAL *ACT DAY AT THE* **PHILLIES**

Last year's outing at the Phillies game to celebrate ACT's 50th Anniversary was well received. Those who attended the game had a great time, in spite of the weather. It was *especially* nice to see so many of our retirees attend. We got many requests to make this an annual event. Therefore, this year's *ACT Day at the Phillies* will take place on **Sunday, May 7, 2017**. The Phillies will be playing the **Washington Nationals** that day at **2:35 P.M.** We have a limited number of tickets available. If you would like to attend the ACT day at the Phillies, please contact Ginny at the ACT Office with the number of tickets desired. Tickets cost \$14 each. Please add a \$1.50 **per order** for shipping and handling. An ticket order form is posted on the ACT Webpage at www.act1776.com.

Ticket money is due by March 24th.
Please make checks payable to the
Association of Catholic Teachers.

RETIREEES' ROUNDTABLE

We look forward to hearing from you You can email us at act@act1776.com or nacst.nacst@verizon.net.

ACT Congratulates *Antoinette Galdi* and *Geraldine Garofalo* on their recent retirement. Toni and Gerri have each given 43 years of service to the students of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. *Best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.*

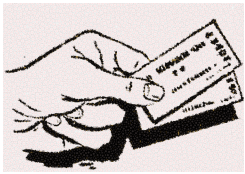
MONTHLY GROUP MEDICAL RATES FOR RETIREES AGE 65+ (Effective January 1, 2017)

PERSONAL CHOICE 65

Single Coverage: \$833.50

KEYSTONE 65 HMO

Single Coverage: \$712.40



MOVIE TICKETS

ACT Office keeps a limited supply of movie tickets on hand for teachers to purchase at a discounted rate. We have REGAL/UNITED ARTISTS and AMC Tickets Available. **AMC Tickets are now \$10.50 per ticket. Regal Tickets are now \$8.75 per ticket.** If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with your request. If you will be ordering large quantities, please call Ginny in advance to make sure your request can be filled in a timely manner. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request.

IN MEMORIAM

FELICIA RZEZNIK

Before the Thanksgiving holiday Pope John Paul II High School lost one of their recently retired teachers, Felicia Rzeznik. Felicia taught in the diocese for many years. Her career included teaching at Archbishop Carroll, Pius X, Kennedy-Kenrick and Pope John Paul II before retiring to see the world and visit her beloved Poland.

Felicia was passionate about her subject and loved sharing her knowledge of history. She was dedicated to her students and would go out of her way to make sure they succeeded in her class. As yearbook coordinator at Kennedy Kenrick, Felicia received many accolades from Columbia Publishing and involved herself in numerous programs in the school.

As a teacher Felicia shined but it was her loyalty and friendship that was her most endearing quality. Even in her retirement Felicia volunteered helping friends still in school and returned to the classroom as a substitute when finding a replacement was difficult. She always looked for ways to donate her time and talents to help others. It was her dream to retire and travel with her husband returning to her family homeland. Fortunately, she was able to do this before her health began to fail.

My memory will always be of an energized woman thoughtful of others and willing to help in any way she could.

You will be missed my friend.

Mary Jo Tella
Pope John Paul II High School

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 15, 2017**

4:00 P. M.

**Courtyard by Marriott (formerly Crowne Plaza)
City Avenue**

AGENDA

Contract Proposals
New Business