



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 XXXVIII-NO.6
Fax 215-568-8270 – email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) **February 2018**

From the President's Desk

NEGOTIATIONS 2018: GETTING TO THE BARGAINING TABLE

If it's March, it must be Negotiations. Unfortunately, that has been our mantra for the past four years.

There is no one who dislikes a one-year contract more than I do. My reality, however, is that a multi-year contract cannot be brought back to you, the members, unless it provides sufficient salary increases while keeping medical premiums in check. It is equally important to ensure that the other nineteen Articles of the Labor-Management Agreement, especially those providing for your job security and fair treatment, remain intact.

Now that your Contract Surveys have arrived at the ACT Office and we know what you, the members, want in the next Labor-Management Agreement, the ACT Negotiating Team will begin putting it all together. Speaking of the ACT Negotiating Team, they were selected by the Executive Board at its February 27 Meeting. I am very happy to have Irene Tori, Tom Imburgia and Theresa Lazorko joining me at the bargaining table once again.

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As soon as the Proposal is completed, we will present it to you, the ACT members, at a General Membership Meeting.

After our down-to-the-wire contract settlement last September, ACT had hoped for an Early Bird this year. However, our request was not acceptable to the System. Instead, the System wants contract talks similar to last year's, which ended at 6:30 A.M. on September 5, the opening day of the school year. At the same time, the System tells us it is committed to working with us to complete an early settlement. Confused? I certainly am.

To add to the confusion, when I ask to set an opening date for negotiations, which I have on several occasions, I am told that they will get back to us when they are ready.

Please be assured that once we get to the table, the ACT Negotiating Team will do all that it can to negotiate in good faith an Agreement that will provide for you, our members, fair and just working conditions and a salary increase and medical premium that you find acceptable.

Rita

The Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, Health and Welfare Fund is sponsoring an Educational Conference for Teachers on March 9th and 10th, 2018 at the Sheraton Philadelphia, 201 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. There will be over 50 topics from which to choose, along with workshops, panels, Q & A sessions, and vendor displays. Debra McCloskey Todd, Pennsylvania State Supreme Court Justice, will be the special guest luncheon speaker. Luncheon cost is \$3 for PFT Members; \$5 for all Non-Members. Reception and 3 sessions cost is \$1 for PFT Members and \$3 for all Non-Members.

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 9th.**

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 2, 2018.**

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 2, 2018.**

**Applications will be posted in the
schools after March 1, 2018.**

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY (Delran, NJ)

TAX INFORMATION

Union Dues or 2017

\$534.00

ARCHDIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS

TAX INFORMATION

Union Dues for 2017

\$537.31

(13 Pays X \$26.33 + 7 Pays x \$27.86)



GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION

LA SALLE OFFERS THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

Master of Arts in Education

Master of Arts in Education with Concentration in:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Instructional Coaching

Master of Arts in Education with Certification in:

- Early Elementary and/or Special Education
- Dual Middle-Level Sciences and Math and/or Special Education
- Secondary Education with or without Special Education
- Special Education

Additional Pennsylvania Certifications, Pennsylvania Endorsements, and La Salle Certificates in:

- Special Education
- English as a Second Language
- Instructional Coach

Continuing education (Act 48 credits) for practicing teachers

Information about financial aid and scholarships may be obtained from the Director of Graduate Programs in Education or by contacting the Director of Student Financial Services, La Salle University, 1900 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141, 215-951-1070. [Full-time teachers within the local Archdiocese or Diocese may receive a 30 percent tuition discount.](#) For more details please contact the Graduate Education office. For more information or to apply to this program, visit lasalle.edu/gradapp or contact Greer Richardson Ph.D., Director, Graduate Programs in Education, La Salle University, 1900 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141, 215-951-1593.

RETIREES' ROUNDTABLE

The following article was submitted by Earl Meyer, retired teacher from Archbishop Ryan High School.

HEART

It is always good to go back to the place where you worked, especially when you are retired! I went to the school I taught in for 41 years for an end of the year lunch.

But it was an experience that wasn't just about that day.

The past, present and future was what I experienced.

I walked in the front door to be greeted by a student I had taught a few years ago who was also back for the lunch. I was immediately put into teacher mode.

Teachers know exactly what I mean.

I walked a little bit down the hall, and I went through a time portal. It carried me to 1974. I passed a room that used to be the classroom of a teacher that became my best friend. We shared our pasts with each other as we talked every day.

She became the love of my life, my wife. I saw her for a moment in front of the classroom as I passed the open door. We have shared 41 years together.

I passed a room where class was just ending. I looked in at the future of our country. The eagerness of the students as they hurried to finish their assignment. That same room was where I was teaching when I got a phone call from my wife that she was in labor. I didn't finished that class but began another chapter in our lives.

That same day happened again when my second child was born two years later.

I walked upstairs and was greeted by a teacher that I had known for a long time. He was about to retire. I saw the past in his face, the present in his speech, and the future in his step. A few doors down, I looked in a room and I saw two young children.

It was the room where I brought my children when my wife had to work, and we had no other choice. It was nice of the school to allow this.

I looked again into the room and they were gone.

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RETIREES' ROUNDTABLE

(Continued)

I passed the auditorium where my wife and I sat for so, so many performances where our children were involved. I heard them singing. I had one more stop before lunch.

The room where I actually taught my daughter.

I closed my eyes and saw in my mind that little girl sitting there.

I hope she was proud of her father in front of the classroom.

I met a few of the people that were retiring this year and they told me of their future plans. I smiled and said that they should not forget the past and live in the present.

And I remembered the day I retired, like yesterday. Then I looked forward.

As I was leaving, I passed a stairway leading upstairs. I heard the voices of two children, one very young. I ran to the first room at the top of the stairs and remembered the day

I brought my first grandchild to school. She sat there all day, better than some of the teenagers I was teaching. Quickly I ran down the hall to the smart board I had taught on in my last few years. And there I pictured my second grandchild, barely able to reach the ledge, writing ABC on the white surface.

Yes my family had been tied to my job, but in reality my family was the beating heart behind my teaching.

I walked out the door, glancing back for a second, then driving home and into the family I love...and the future.

ACT Congratulates Douglas Grunklee on his retirement from the Secondary School System. ***Doug retired after 44 years of service to the students in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, teaching at Lansdale Catholic and Pope John Paul II High Schools.*** Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement, Doug!

Hold the Date! ***The Second Annual Retirees' Luncheon*** will be held on ***Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at Randi's Restaurant in Northeast Philadelphia.*** Information will be emailed in March to retirees on our email list. *In the meantime, please spread the word!*

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.

ATTENTION PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Counselors are needed for University of Pennsylvania's summer basketball camp in June. The summer camp will be held at the Palestra. If interested, contact Joe Mihalich, Assistant Coach, Men's Basketball, University of Pennsylvania, at jmih@upenn.edu (best) or by phone 215-898-6150.



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 \$10.50 per ticket. Regal Tickets are \$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. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request.

THIRD ANNUAL ACT DAY AT THE PHILLIES



April 22, 2018

Game Time: 1:35

Philadelphia Phillies

versus the

Pittsburgh Pirates

All ACT Members (including retirees) and their families and friends are invited on Sunday, April 22, 2018. Ticket cost is \$14 plus \$1.50 per order for shipping and handling. **A ticket order form is available on the ACT Website at www.act1776.com.** If you have any questions concerning this event, please contact Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or at ginny@act1776.com.

Deadline for ordering tickets: Friday, March 16, 2018.