

# THE

# SPIRIT

# OF

# '76

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

*50 Years Strong*  
1966-2016

1700 SANSOM STREET – SUITE 903 – PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 – 215-568-4175 – VOLUME XXXVIII-NO.9  
Fax 215-568-8270 – email ([act@act1776.com](mailto:act@act1776.com)) - website ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) **MAY 2018**

## *From the President's Desk*

### **THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS: THE OUTLOOK IS FAR FROM ENCOURAGING**

We are less than a month away from the end of the 2017-2018 school year. It should be a time for all teachers and students to be anticipating a relatively stress-free summer after a job well done.

Unfortunately, this summer, as happened last summer, we will enter June, July and August with uncertainty and an unresolved contract.

ACT has stressed to the Secondary School System the need to complete negotiations prior to the end of the school year. It does none of us any good to prolong contract talks through the summer and, possibly, beyond. It has, certainly, not helped enrollment in the past and it won't now.

System proposals such as the ones listed below will, definitely, prevent a contract from being ratified whether in June or September.

**Teachers out sick and collecting Disability, which is 60% of gross salary, would pay 100% of the medical premium (this could be anywhere from \$992.04 monthly or \$11,904.48 yearly for Individual to \$2,618.83 monthly or \$31,425.96 yearly for Family).**

*(Continued on Page 2)*

Teachers in schools with fewer than 600 students could be given three preparations.  
in addition to staying 15 minutes after the last bell of the school day, teachers would be required to be present 10 minutes before homeroom/first period.  
In addition to the 10 Faculty Meetings and 10 Department Meetings each year, there would be 10 Professional Learning Community Meetings that could be scheduled to last 1 hour beyond the normal school day.  
Department Heads would only be appointed for departments of 3 or more full-time teachers.  
Department Head term limits: 2 Terms for Full DH (8 years) and 3 Terms for Acting DH (6 years).  
Medical plan changes if premium increases by 3% or Consumer Price Index, whichever is higher.  
Medical plan premium may be increased if the rate exceeds 3%.  
Raise offer is still \$500.00  
1-Year Contract.

The Managerial Prerogative Clause, Article I, Section 8 is again on the table with the System attempting to weaken the Association's ability to ensure that the terms of the Agreement are followed.

The members of the Association of Catholic Teachers, Local 1776, will come together on May 30 to discuss the status of Negotiations. The outlook is far from encouraging.

If the System continues to push for anti-teacher and anti-union proposals, much as they did last year, the outcome will most likely be a September that no one wants.

**It is imperative** that the members of the Association of Catholic Teachers, Local 1776 come to the **Courtyard Marriott at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, May 30** to let the ACT Team and, as importantly, the Secondary School System, know exactly how the Union membership feels about the status of negotiations.

*Rita*

**Please note:** *If you are having difficulty contacting the ACT Office this week, it is due to a Verizon problem that affected our building and surrounding buildings in the area. The heavy rain over the past weekend caused underground wiring to become wet, which resulted in a power outage leaving us without phone and internet service. As of Wednesday, May 23, 2018, we are still without service. The problem should be resolved no later than Saturday, May 26, 2018, according to Verizon. We are able to access email through our personal phones and at home, so please use email to contact us.*

# CONSTRICTION 2018

The System finally released the Constriction numbers on May 16. 33 positions in 14 schools are on the chopping block.

6 Social Studies	3 Business (BCIT)
5 Science	2 Fine Arts
3 English	1 Health/Physical Education
4 World Language	1 Bonaventure
3 Theology	1 Library
3 Math	1 Guidance

Ten of the 33 positions will be absorbed by resignations and retirements, but that still leaves almost two-dozen teachers who will need jobs in other schools.

The Association is working closely with the Office of Catholic Education. Competencies need to be verified and bumping may be necessary in some academic areas. It is also important that the timelines of the Constriction Process are followed.

The Constriction Meeting is set for Wednesday, June 13, 1:00 P.M. in the auditorium at the Archdiocesan Office Building.

If there are any questions about Constriction, please call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or email us at [act@act1776.com](mailto:act@act1776.com).

---

## ALWAYS REMEMBER

### Memorial Day 2018

*While we celebrate with family and friends all that is good in our lives, let us always remember those who served, fought bravely, and gave up their lives so that we may enjoy ours.*



*“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.”*

*Rest in Peace beloved soldier, and thank you for your tremendous sacrifice*

# FIFTY AND TWENTY-FIVE YEAR CELEBRATION

The Association of Catholic Teachers honored teachers celebrating their Golden and Silver Jubilee at a luncheon held at Toscana 52 in Feasterville on Sunday, April 29, 2018.



*Pictured above, left to right,*

*Joseph Sinclair, Roman Catholic (25 years),*

*John Pensabene, Roman Catholic (25 years),*

*Rita C. Schwartz, ACT' President*

*Eileen Hildenbrand, Lansdale Catholic (25 years)*

*Stacia Ficcaro, Pope John Paul II (25 years),*

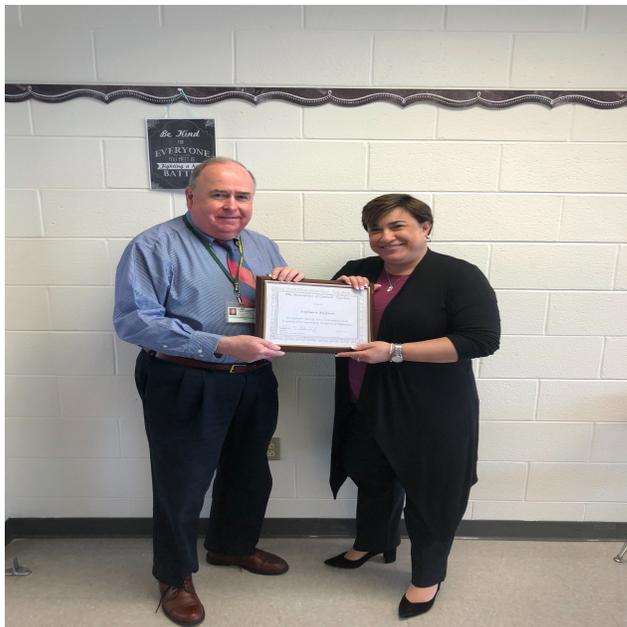
*and*

*ThomasMcKeever, Roman Catholic (50 years).*

*(Continued on page 5)*

# FIFTY AND TWENTY-FIVE YEAR CELEBRATION

***Congratulations** go out to **Patricia Martin**, who is celebrating 50 years of service in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and to **Stephanie Belefonte, Susan Devlin, Mary Green, Ann Tracy Lyman, Eugene Murphy, Sean O'Hara, and Randy Voldish** for their 25 years of service in the Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*



*ACT Executive Board Area Vice-President and Bishop Shanahan teacher, **David McQuiston**, presents fellow Bishop Shanahan teacher, **Stephanie Belefonte** with a plaque in honor of her 25 years of dedicated service to the students in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*

***Congratulations,  
Stephanie!***

---

## ACT WEBSITE

All teachers are asked to logon to the ACT Website ([www.act1776.com](http://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](mailto: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.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following Legislative Report was submitted by *ACT Legislative Representative, David Sommers, at the ACT Executive Board Meeting held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018.*

## PA House:

### 1. **HB1228**

An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto, "in school health services, providing for sun protection of students, including the application of nonprescription sunscreen."

2. **HB564 Civics Graduation Assessment** The act would amend requirements in high schools providing for assessment of civic knowledge. **Last action:** Referred to Senate Education Committee on April 30, 2018.

## PA Senate:

1. **The PA Senate Education Committee** held a series of (April 18/20, 2018) public hearings on the issues and any potential alternatives to the current **ACT 88**. This act relates to the collective bargaining process and possible teacher strikes.
2. **SB1090 Anti-Hazing Legislation** Under the proposed bill, hazing would become a third degree felony. Laws would be strengthened overall with possible prison sentences. The bill is partly due to the death of a Penn State University student in 2017. **Status:** The Senate voted unanimously for final passage on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. The bill now moves to the PA House.
3. **SB1142: Safe2Say Program:** This bill would establish the **Safe2Say Program**, providing methods of anonymous reporting concerning unsafe activities in schools. **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, April 25, 2018.
4. **SB1103: School Safety Assessment:** An Act to amend the Public School Code of 1949, in regard to safe schools, and further providing for Office for Safe Schools and providing for school safety requirements. **Last Action:** Referred to Senate Education Committee on April 5, 2018.

## U.S. House:

1. **Violence Protection at K-12 Schools (HR4909)** Passed 407-10 on March 14, 2018 in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would provide federal grants (\$75 million) to fund security improvements and training in K-12 schools. The bill now moves to the U.S. Senate. This bill prohibits funding of programs that would arm teachers.
2. **H.R.5460 Holocaust Education Program** This bill would authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible schools to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust. **Last action:** Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on April 10, 2018.
3. **H.R. 5509 National Science Foundation Grants** Legislation to direct the National Science Foundation to provide grants for Research regarding STEM education approaches, STEM-related workforce, and for other to be defined purposes. **Last action:** Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on April 13, 2018.

Gerrymandering Town Hall Meeting  
Held on April 19, 2018

A representative from [Fair Districts Pennsylvania](#) talked about the Gerrymandered history and nature of Pennsylvania's Federal and State districts. Current Bipartisan proposals exist that need public support from the legislature. [SB22](#) and [HB722](#) represent bipartisan proposed legislation to correct the gerrymandering problem. These two bills are currently working their ways through the legislative process. There are many obstacles that must be overcome for any real reform to take place.

Please sign the online petition to show your support for ending gerrymandering in Pennsylvania.

**Visit:** [www.FairDistrictsPA.com](http://www.FairDistrictsPA.com)

# **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO**

*Alondra Gonzales, Freshman at Conwell-Egan High School and  
Benushi Jean-Pierre, Freshman at West Catholic High School.*

**Both students will receive a \$500 Scholarship from the**

**Association of Catholic Teachers**

**which will be applied to their tenth grade tuition.**

*Dear Rita Schwartz,*

*I am writing to express my gratitude for the \$500 scholarship. I was thrilled to learn of my selection and was very excited to share the news with my family. I am truly honored to have been selected by the Association of Catholic Teachers.*

*I appreciate the support from the Association of Catholic Teachers and promise to continue to work hard each day to achieve my academic best.*

*I am thankful for both my education at Pope John Paul II High School and the Association of Catholic Teacher's generous investment in my education.*

*Please feel free to share this email with all those that made this scholarship possible.*

*With gratitude,  
Gabrielle Piccirilli,  
PJP 20121*

## **BJ's Wholesale Club**

If you joined BJ's Wholesale Club or renewed your BJ's Membership through the Association of Catholic Teachers' recent group enrollment, you should have received an email last week letting you know that your application has been processed. For renewals, BJ's added 12 additional months onto your current card. If you are new to BJ's, the email would have provided you with a membership number as well as instructions on how to obtain your membership card through your local BJ's Wholesale Club. If you did not receive an email from BJ's, please contact the ACT Office.

# **TEACHERS IN THE NEWS**

Congratulations to **Tom O’Leary, Carl Tori, and Michael Costanzo**, Theology teachers at Archbishop Ryan High School on receiving the **Archbishop Ryan Alumni Association “Spirit of Ryan Award.”** This award recognizes faculty, staff, and Alumni who give of their time and selves to the Archbishop Ryan community, thereby *“Fostering the Spirit of Archbishop Ryan High School.”*



*The Spirit of Ryan Awards are given annually to individuals who promote the values and traditions of Archbishop Ryan High School. Honorees have shown outstanding service to Ryan through work on alumni programs, advisory committees, activities and athletics, and other efforts that ensure the success of the school and advance the mission of Archbishop Ryan High School. Recipients may include faculty or staff members, business or community leaders, alumni volunteers, and/or loyal donors.*

## **MOVIE TICKETS**

The 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.

# ACT DAY AT THE PHILLIES

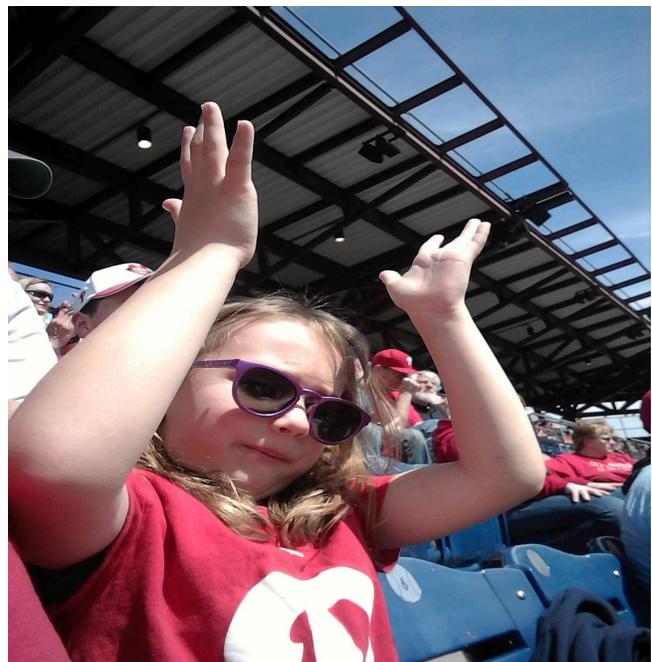
**As they say, three's the charm!** After two years of *cold, rainy* weather at the Phillies outing, we were blessed with a gorgeous day on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>! ACT members (active and retired) and their families came out to watch the **Philadelphia Phillies take on the Pittsburgh Pirates** and win the game 3-2 in the eleventh inning. **(This is the third year that the Phillies have won in grand fashion at a game attended by our group. I think it is safe to say that we bring the Phillies good luck!)**



*Paige Costello, daughter of Melissa Costello, teacher at Father Judge High School, celebrated her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Phillies game on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. A member of the Phillies Staff, on behalf of the Phillies Phanatic, sang "Happy Birthday" and bedazzled Paige's hair with confetti for a fun and memorable moment!*



**Happy Birthday, Paige!**



**See all the pictures taken at the game posted on the ACT Website's Homepage**

# ADVENTURE AQUARIUM

Camden, NJ



ACT members can now save 20% when purchasing tickets for Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ. [Simply logon to adventureaquarium.com](http://adventureaquarium.com) and use the promo code. Using the ACT promo code, you will be able to purchase an adult ticket at \$19 (Regular price is \$29.99), and a child's ticket at \$15.50 (Regular price is \$21.99.) If you need the code, please email Ginny at [ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com) and she will send it to you.



## **ADVENTURE AQUARIUM OFFERING SPECIAL \$10 MILITARY TICKETS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**



*This Memorial Day Weekend, Adventure Aquarium is honoring all active and retired members of the military with a special \$10 general admission offer with valid military ID.*

**This offer is available at Box Office only, Saturday, May 26 through Monday, May 28, 2018 with a valid military ID.**

# **RETIREES ROUNDTABLE**

**The Second Annual Retirees Luncheon was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at Randi's Restaurant in Northeast Philadelphia. Once again, we are pleased to report that it was a huge success! Sixty retirees attended the luncheon, representing numerous schools past and present. It was a fun time to catch up and socialize with former colleagues and friends. Attendees were eligible for numerous door prizes, and were also able to participate in a 50/50 jackpot. Archbishop Wood retiree, Joe Velten, won half of the \$390 jackpot. The other half was deposited into the ACT Scholarship Fund. **It was definitely a fun afternoon and it was great to see everyone in attendance!** We look forward to holding the event again next year.**

**See pictures of the day's events posted on the ACT Website's Homepage!**

**Thank you for coming!**



\*\*\*\*\*

**Congratulations to Nancy Legradi, (retired, Roman Catholic, 2016), who became a **Golden Girl** at Hallahan's recent **"Fifty and Beyond"** celebration on May 2, 2018.**

**Nancy is a 1968 graduate of John W. Hallahan High School.**

\*\*\*\*\*



**Congratulations to Edward Macko (retired, Archbishop Ryan, 2016) on receiving the Archbishop Ryan Alumni Association's "Spirit of Ryan Award."**

# IN MEMORIAM

## *Kathleen Bradley-Smith*



The start of a school year is not only daunting for new students. Teachers can experience similar feelings of uneasiness as well. In September of 2012, I began teaching at Lansdale Catholic High School after being constricted from another school. The faces were unfamiliar, the routines were a little different and I was feeling overwhelmed. That was when Kathleen Bradley-Smith walked into my life. She introduced herself, took my hands and exclaimed, "Well you are just as cute as a button!" That was the day I met my very best friend.

Kathleen's warm and welcoming heart was so unique and special. She had a quiet, calm voice combined with a sharp and sometimes wicked sense of humor. She was kind, caring and delightfully quirky. She loved to have fun and maybe even stir up a little trouble once in a while.

The students in Kathleen's theology classes knew that they were loved and valued. She had an incomparable ability to make each child feel special. She addressed her students as "Little Ones", she listened to their struggles, she worried about them and always seemed to know when to brighten up their day with a little treat or surprise. As she began each class with daily prayer, she would take the hand of the student she was standing next to at the time. No one ever really knew whether to squirm with embarrassment or to delight in the honor of holding her hand to pray. Most of them seemed to choose the latter.

Kathleen shared a lifetime of experiences with her students, regaling them with stories of her high school days at Little Flower, her life in the convent as a Sister of Saint Joseph, or from her many years teaching in various Philadelphia schools. Her tales were always exciting and outlandish. (I guess we will always be left wondering which ones were factual and which ones she elaborated.) Kathleen played so many roles throughout her lifetime, but it was obvious to all that the ones she cherished the most were being mother to Gavin and grandmother to Tessa and Dugan. Her family brought her so much joy.

What Kathleen wanted most for her students was for them to develop a strong relationship with God and to treat others as Jesus did. Her students learned to care for one another, to feel empathy, to help those less fortunate. They learned these things because Kathleen demonstrated them through her quiet, graceful example.

Kathleen knew she was loved by God and she confided that she was pretty certain that she was one of "His favorites". I know that she is happily at home with Him now. To love Kathleen and to be loved by her was the most wonderful blessing. A beautiful and treasured friend is gone, but the love still endures.

"Goodbye, Little One. Goodnight and God Bless You."



**Written by Elizabeth Williamson,  
Lansdale Catholic High School**

# IN MEMORIAM

## Frank Perri



### My Very Fond Recollections of Mr. Perri

I considered myself lucky in my freshman year of 1957-58 as a student at Bishop Neumann High School because of whom I did not have as my World History teacher. I had heard a lot of chatter among the "cool" guys, who normally were not easily intimidated, about a very scary history teacher whose name was Mr. Perri. When I actually saw him for the first time that September, I knew I had dodged a bullet-----at least for freshman year. My good friend Angelo (one of the cool guys) did not consider himself as fortunate as I was. He had Mr. Perri. After school he often looked worried at best and downright disheveled at worst. I really believe that Frank Perri's stern, fierce-looking countenance alone was enough to stop any of the kids from acting up at all.

In September of 1965, after graduating college, I joined the faculty of Neumann. Frank Perri still intimidated me. He didn't seem to have much of a desire to establish a relationship with us young teachers. However, my colleague George Fieo and I began to tell Frank how much we enjoyed the theater productions that he would put on. We genuinely liked his plays and he knew we were sincere. Late in my second year of teaching, Frank began to invite us to his home after school for some food and conversation. We were thrilled; we were enamored of him and his no-nonsense effectiveness in class. George and I would play monopoly with his eight year-old daughter, Frances, and let her win. Not only did Frank seem to appreciate this, but through his stern demeanor we picked up the message he conveyed to us: you HAD BETTER make her win.

Frank never deviated from his strict classroom manner through fifty years of teaching at Neumann. After Neumann and Goretti merged in 2004, he continued doing the plays through 2017. The many, many actors who participated in his musicals were fiercely loyal to him. He never was at a loss to find former students and actors who gladly were willing to help him in his productions.

Yes, Frank was loved by many. But when I think of him, I call to mind the scene in the movie "Good Fellas" in which Sonny informed his young admirer that it was better to be feared than to be loved. I kind of think that, among the students who met Frank along the way and interacted with him in various ways, some would say that he was more feared than he was loved.

*I won't forget you, Frank*

*Sleep easy, Mr. Perri,*

Danny D'Orazio,  
Neumann-Goretti

# **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**PLEASE MAKE ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING A PRIORITY.**

**WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 30, 2018  
4:00 PM**

**Courtyard Marriott - City Avenue  
4100 Presidential Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19131**

## **AGENDA**

### **Status of Negotiations**

Constriction  
New Business