

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 XXXVII-NO.3
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) November 2016

From the President's Desk

YOUR VOTE - YOUR UNION

The entire country has just experienced an election that will have us talking and arguing for years to come. There were many issues to consider for both parties and we will need to wait and see what, if any, consequences will result.

Although our local Executive Board election can't hold a candle to what just occurred nationally, all elections are important to those who will be affected by them. The current ACT Officers serving as President, Vice President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer ran unopposed. Our Executive Secretary will cast one ballot for each and that will certify their election.

As you know, there is a contested election for Member At Large. When your ballots are counted shortly after Thanksgiving, the three teachers with the highest votes will join the Executive Board in January when the new term begins.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

I want to thank the four ACT members who placed their names in nomination for Member At Large. One is currently serving in that capacity on the Board. These teachers have expressed their desire to serve the Union membership.

I hope all ACT Members have exercised their right to vote or will have by early next week. Your vote is extremely important, whether it is for an Executive Board election, the amending of the Constitution and By-Laws, or a Contract ratification. In fact, being able to vote, by which you have a say over the issues that affect you and your Union, is an essential component of your Union membership.

There is, however, a corresponding responsibility. You need to become active and involved in your Union. Our Church has long recognized the right to unionize and to participate in union activity without risk of reprisal. Canon Law, Papal Encyclicals as well as Pastorals promulgated by the Bishops of the United States, all speak to these inherent rights.

You will soon be asked to consider being a member of the ACT Negotiating Team. In addition, you will receive a Contract Survey so that you can tell the Team what will make your life better both at work and at home. You will then be offered the opportunity to attend a General Membership Meeting where the Bargaining Proposal will be approved. You have to be present at the meeting to vote on the proposal.

The final vote, hopefully before the end of the school year, will be to ratify the Contract that ACT and the School System negotiate. You have the ability to not ratify the Contract, too. In accord with the Constitution and By-Laws, you will have to be present at this meeting in order to vote, as well.

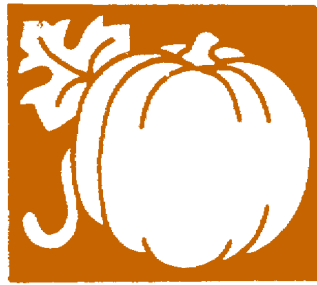
It is crucial that all ACT members become more active in the Association of Catholic Teachers. You are the Union.

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Rita

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS **ARE NOW UNDERWAY**

The Association of Catholic Teachers is currently looking to fill three Member-at-Large positions on the Executive Board. On the ballot this year are William Finnegan (Archbishop Ryan High School), Michael Sheehan, (Sts. Neumann & Goretti High School), David Sommers (Bishop Shanahan High School), and Kathleen Toenniessen (Cardinal O'Hara High School). The three candidates receiving the most votes will be appointed to the Member-at-Large positions. Voting is currently underway at each school and will conclude before the Thanksgiving holiday.



Seniority Lists Posted

Article V, Section 1a states “On or before October 31 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in individual schools a complete listing of all teachers in the Secondary School System including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to system seniority and school seniority.”

“Teachers shall have until December 15 to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster.”

Lancer's Local

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

Holy Cross Academy is currently in the process of selecting a negotiating team for their upcoming contract negotiations.

MEDICAL RATES FOR THE 2016-2017 PLAN YEAR (NOVEMBER 1, 2016-OCTOBER 31, 2017)

MONTHLY PREMIUMS

| | <u>PERSONAL CHOICE</u> | <u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Employee | \$ 992.04 | \$ 799.06 |
| Employee & child | \$2007.11 | \$1627.39 |
| Employee&children | \$2239.93 | \$1820.30 |
| Employee & Spouse | \$2389.49 | \$1941.35 |
| Full Family | \$2618.83 | \$2126.37 |

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

THINGS TO KNOW CONCERNING YOUR MEDICAL PLAN

PERSONAL CHOICE PLAN

(GROUP NUMBER 10101056)

If you signed up for Personal Choice during the open enrollment period, your coverage goes into effect on November 1, 2016. You should receive your identification card in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, if you need to use the plan, give your provider the group number listed above, and use your social security number for an ID number. The provider should be able to contact Personal Choice and verify your coverage with that information.

Brief Outline of In-Network Coverage:

Preventive Care for eligible services covered 100%; Doctors' office visits-\$30 copay; specialist-\$40 copay; urgent care-\$40 copay; emergency room \$125 copay; outpatient surgery \$125 copay; inpatient hospitalization \$200 copay; radiology-\$40 copay; speech, physical & occupational therapies-\$30 copay visits 1-30 and \$40 copay visits 31-60.

The following services are covered 100% *after* meeting a **\$100 individual deductible or the \$200 family deductible**: Laboratory/pathology; home health or hospice; skilled nursing; chemo, radiation, and/or dialysis; outpatient private duty nursing.

Prescription Drugs are covered as follows:
Generic on Preferred Drug List \$15 copay (\$30 mail order) Brand on Preferred Drug List \$30 copay (\$60 mail order), Non-Preferred Not on Preferred Drug List \$45 copay (\$90 mail order).

KEYSTONE EAST HMO

(GROUP NUMBER 10101054)

If you signed up for Keystone East HMO during the open enrollment period, your coverage goes into effect on November 1, 2016. You should receive your identification card in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, if you need to use the plan, give your provider the group number listed above, and use your social security number for an ID number. The provider should be able to contact Keystone and verify your coverage with that information.

Brief Outline of In-Network Coverage:

Preventive Care for eligible services covered 100%; Doctors' office visits-\$30 copay; specialist-\$40 copay; urgent care-\$40 copay; emergency room \$125 copay; outpatient surgery \$125 copay; inpatient hospitalization \$200 copay; radiology-\$40 copay; speech, physical & occupational therapies-\$30 copay visits 1-30 and \$40 copay visits 31-60.

Note: When receiving any of the following services, **lab, radiology, therapy, durable medical equipment, you must go where your PCP sends you.**

NEW: The following services are covered 100% *after* meeting a **\$100 individual deductible or the \$200 family deductible**: Home health or hospice; skilled nursing; chemo, radiation, and/or dialysis; outpatient private duty nursing; cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation therapy; spinal manipulation.

Prescription Drugs are covered as follows:
Generic on Preferred Drug List \$15 copay (\$30 mail order) Brand on Preferred Drug List \$30 copay (\$60 mail order), Non-Preferred Not on Preferred Drug List \$45 copay (\$90 mail order).



VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

The deadline for enrolling in the **DAVIS VISION PLAN** is Monday, November 28, 2016. **Benefits will go into effect on January 1, 2017.**

Enrollment Information has been emailed to all ACT Members. If you did not receive this email, please contact the ACT Office and we will forward the information to you. **An application form is also available on the home page of the ACT Website at www.act1776.com.** There is also a list of covered services posted.

Please return your application and a check made payable to the **Association of Catholic Teachers** to the ACT Office at 1700 Sansom Street, Suite 903, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **no later than November 28, 2016.**

PLEASE NOTE: Teachers who have Keystone HMO for their medical benefits have a vision benefit already built into their plan and may not need to purchase the Voluntary Vision Insurance. It is advisable to compare the two coverages.



LESSON PLANS AVAILABLE

In July of 2016, Immaculata University had the honor of hosting a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute titled, *Duffy's Cut: Investigating Immigration, Industrialization, and Illness in 19th Century America: "A Perfect Storm."* Twenty-nine school teachers, grades 6 through 12, traveled from around the country to participate in the Institute. The program utilized an interdisciplinary approach as it focused attention on the history surrounding Duffy's Cut, a railroad site where 57 Irish Immigrants died of violence and illness in 1832. The visiting NEH Scholars focused on the history, archaeology, forensics, literature, and other disciplines as they connected to the Duffy's Cut site. Additionally, they explored the impact of immigration nativism, industrialization, and the public health issues that characterized the 19th Century. During the Institute, NEH scholars developed a curriculum plan that integrated the learning concepts gained from the study of immigration, industrialization, and illness into their classroom teaching.

NEH and Immaculata University are pleased to make these lesson plans available to educators to use in their classrooms. The lesson plans can be found at <http://neh.immaculata.edu/portfolios.html>.

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.

2016 Association of Catholic Teachers John J. Reilly Scholarship Awards

Below are a couple of excerpts from *thank you letters* received by the ACT Office.

Dear Rita,

I am writing to express our deepest thanks for your recent donation of \$500.00 to the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. Generous gifts from donors like you provide the financial and moral support needed to continue our mission of educating young women with **Faith, Purpose, and Vision**.

Our **very big thanks** for your generosity and we look forward to a continuing partnership with you.

Gratefully yours,

Denise Kassekert
President

Dianna Geist
Director of Major Gifts

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

In a time of many worthy requests for your charitable dollar, please accept our grateful appreciation for your recent Scholarship donation of **\$500.00 for the 2016-2017 Annual Fund**.

In the words of Saint John Paul II, *"Few efforts are more important for the present and future well being of the Church and of the nation than efforts expended in the work of education."*

Remembering you and all our benefactors in our daily Mass and Eucharist,

Mr. James W. Casey
President
Lansdale Catholic High School

Mr. Richard Lanahan
Director of Institutional and
Major Gifts



MOVIE TICKETS

Movie tickets make a wonderful **Christmas gift** for all those on your Christmas list. 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 \$9.00 per ticket. Regal Tickets are currently \$8.50 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.

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS, 1700 SANSOM STREET – SUITE
903,
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103, 215-568-4175
act@act1776.com or nacst.nacst@verizon.net.

THANK YOU!

**TO ALL OF OUR VETERANS
FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.**



ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

OFFICE HOURS: The ACT Office will be closed on November 24th and November 25, 2016. The office will reopen on Monday, November 28, 2016 at 9:00 AM. We will be checking email and voicemail during the holiday break.

ADDRESS CHANGES -- If you are in the process of moving, or have already moved to a new address, don't forget to call or email the ACT Office with your new address and phone number. You can also visit the ACT Webpage and log-on to your personal page to update your information.

IF YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED, OR WILL CHANGE OVER THE SUMMER, PLEASE NOTIFY THE ACT OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

RETIREMENT INFORMATION -- The ACT Office has put together some medical information (rates, comparison sheets and contract provisions) for teachers who are considering retirement in the near future. If you are considering an early retirement or if you will be reaching the age for normal retirement, call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 for your retirement packet. You may also email your request to ginny@act1776.com.

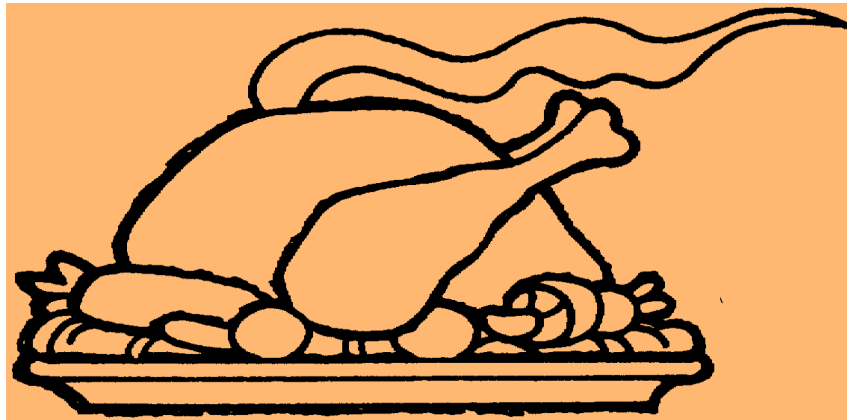
FREEDOM CREDIT UNION – The Freedom Credit Union offers teachers and their families a wide range of financial opportunities. For more information visit the credit union's website at www.freedomcu.org. The phone number for the Freedom Credit Union is 215-612-5900.

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CONTACT US AT

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS
1700 SANSOM STREET – SUITE 903,
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103, 215-568-4175
act@act1776.com or nacst.nacst@verizon.net

*Wishing you
and your family a*



*Happy Thanksgiving
Rita, Irene, and Ginny*