

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.2
Fax 215-568-8270 – email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) October 2017

From the President's Desk



AN AUTUMN UPDATE



It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the first quarter. Much has been happening to keep the ACT Staff busy. Needless to say, we needed a little sleep after our Labor Day all-nighter, but Irene and I hit the ground running the day after the contract was ratified.

ACT and the System have met to review the changes in the contract language. We are hoping to have a signed Labor-Management Agreement soon. As with the previous one-year Agreements, ACT will email a copy to each teacher. The same will occur with the Holy Cross contract, which is also one-year. We are just beginning our language change check there.

Speaking of negotiations, the ACT Executive Board, at its October meeting, was most emphatic that the all-summer-down-to-the-wire bargaining where all twenty-one articles were on the table should not be repeated any time soon. With that as my message, I wrote to the Secretary for Secondary Education and presented the Association's request for an Early Bird Contract. "Streamlining negotiations to reduce talks to a few significant contract areas and reach a contract settlement prior to the close of the 2017-2018 school year can only be a win-win for both the System and the Association. This would also be in the best interest of our teachers, our students and their families."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

The ACT Staff has also been handling several issues that are exasperating, to say the least. The first payday of the school year under a new payroll company produced incorrect salary amounts for an incredible number of teachers. Unfortunately, many of the mistakes continued with the second pay. Currently, the snags are down to a very small number. I would like to say thank you to Karen Churchville from the Office of Educational Financial Services. Karen worked days, nights and weekends to right every wrong paycheck. If any teacher is still experiencing a pay problem, please give us a call at the Office and we will get it straightened out.

Another issue that has caused concern among our teachers is the schedule for the upcoming Metanoia Rally at the Liacouras Center. These problems came to the Association's attention rather late. Even though the Agenda contains several contractual issues, and, as such, mandated that the Association be involved, the System was less than forthcoming, even when the Association contacted the Office of Catholic Education with the questions being raised by our teachers.

On October 24, 2017, I wrote to all teachers about Metanoia. ACT has no problem at all with the event. Our concern was with the serious contractual violations associated with teachers being "assigned" to accompany the students, the all-day supervision, no break for lunch and the return time to the schools. I made it very clear to the Superintendent that I was positive that "our teachers will volunteer. That is what they do. That is who they are. However, they should not be taken advantage of, and that is what the Association fears will happen."

Happily, we do have answers to the questions we raised about supervision, assigning teachers, lunch and the time the buses will return to the schools. I believe the clarifications were sent to all schools as well. There will be breaks provided for "lunch and personal needs" and there will be volunteers to assist with supervision. There will be a boxed lunch for teachers. The buses will also be back to the home schools in time for regular dismissal. I am sure that the Metanoia experience will be a worthwhile one for both teachers and students.

One last bit of news. Very good news, in fact. The data is in on the second semester of 2017 teacher evaluations.

Tenured Teachers - 96.55% of our teachers are Proficient or Distinguished. This includes 15 Guidance Counselors and Librarians.

Non-Tenured Teachers - 93.2% of our teachers are Proficient or Distinguished. This includes 7 Guidance Counselors and Librarians.

Happy Autumn and Happy Halloween to our amazing teachers.

Rita

Lancer's Local

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

*Congratulations to Holy Cross Academy
on their 60th Anniversary!
1957 - 2017*



2017 – 2018

ACT EXECUTIVE BOARD

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NOVEMBER 1 BEGINS THE NEW MEDICAL PLAN YEAR

THINGS TO KNOW CONCERNING YOUR INSURANCE 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, 2017. 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; 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).

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, 2017. 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.

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; 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).

**MEDICAL RATES
FOR THE 2017-2018 PLAN YEAR
(NOVEMBER 1, 2017 - OCTOBER 31, 2018)**

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 22 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 10, 2017 pay and ending with the pay of August 31, 2018)

| | <u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u> | | <u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u> | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Employee | \$ 81.17 | (* 0) | \$ 52.30 | (* 0) |
| Employee & child | \$164.22 | (* 0) | \$106.52 | (* 0) |
| Employee & children | \$183.27 | (* 0) | \$119.15 | (* 0) |
| Employee & Spouse | \$195.50 | (* 0) | \$127.07 | (* 0) |
| Full Family | \$214.27 | (* 0) | \$139.18 | (* 0) |

***Increase over last year**

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 17 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 10, 2017 pay and ending with the pay of June 22, 2018)

| | <u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u> | | <u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u> | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Employee | \$105.04 | (* 0) | \$ 67.69 | (* 0) |
| Employee & child | \$212.52 | (* 0) | \$137.85 | (* 0) |
| Employee & children | \$237.17 | (* 0) | \$154.19 | (* 0) |
| Employee & Spouse | \$253.00 | (* 0) | \$164.44 | (* 0) |
| Full Family | \$277.28 | (* 0) | \$180.11 | (* 0) |

***Increase over last year**

TEACHERS WHO ARE SWITCHING MEDICAL PLANS CAN GO TO THE IBX WEBSITE AT WWW.IBX.COM AND PRINT OUT A TEMPORARY IDENTIFICATION CARD WHICH CAN BE USED UNTIL YOUR PERMANENT CARD ARRIVES IN THE MAIL. YOU WILL NEED TO CREATE A USER NAME AND PASSWORD, IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A REGISTERED USER ON THE IBX WEBSITE.



A NOTE OF THANKS

From: John J. Reilly Scholarship Award Winners

“Each year, the Association’s Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9th grader in each Archdiocesan high school and at Holy Cross Academy, Delran, New Jersey who has the highest general average as of the end of the first semester. If that student is already on scholarship, it is given to the highest student not receiving financial assistance. The \$500 Scholarship is sent to each school to be applied to the student’s 10th grade tuition.”

Dear Rita,

On behalf of the entire Bishop Shanahan community, I wish to thank you for your very generous tuition award of \$500.00 to Bishop Shanahan High School. Per your request, this award will be applied to the tuition of Ryan Doherty.

This year Bishop Shanahan celebrates its 60th anniversary year. Throughout those 60 years, countless Shanahan students have benefitted from the generosity and kindness of people like you who have ensured that they receive a quality education within a vibrant faith community. With this gift, you are part of a long legacy of supporters who believe in the value of Catholic education at Shanahan.

May we all continue to grow as “People of God, People for Others.”

*Sr. Regina Plunkett, IHM ‘64
President, Bishop Shanahan High School*

ACT Congratulates Bishop Shanahan High School on their 60th Anniversary.

SOME MORE NOTES OF THANKS

To the Association of Catholic Teachers,

On behalf of Holy Cross and the Ronquillo family, I want to thank ACT for this year's tuition grant. Your support of Catholic education and our students' achievements is appreciated. I look forward to working together in the future.

*Gratefully,
Dennis M. Guida
Principal*

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

I would like to thank both you and the Association of Catholic Teachers for presenting me with this scholarship. It was an unexpected but pleasant surprise. I sincerely appreciate you and the Association taking notice of my hard work. Thank you again!

*Bethany Belkowski , Class of 2020
Pope John Paul II High School*

Dear Rita,

On behalf of myself and Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School, I would like to thank you and the Association of Catholic Teachers for your generous gift to our students.

Thank you again for enabling such worthy families to send their child to receive a quality Catholic education. I write with great certainty that these students will be the great contributors to their communities in the future.

*Scott Fremont '98
Director of Institutional Advancement*

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

We would like to thank you and the Association of Catholic Teachers for the generous donation that was awarded toward Olivia Bigboy's tenth grade tuition. We are very proud of Olivia's continued efforts and achievements.

The support of the Association of Catholic Teachers is greatly appreciated. Your annual contribution has a positive impact not only on our students and their education, but on their families as well.

*Sincerely,
Mr. Gerard J. Laskowski, Principal*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS WITH CHILDREN AWAY AT COLLEGE WHO HAVE KEYSTONE HMO FOR THEIR MEDICAL INSURANCE

KEYSTONE HMO: If you have children attending college outside of the Keystone Network (Philadelphia and five-county area), **your children will be covered for Emergency and Urgent Care visits only**. **Your child will have to come home for routine and preventive care**.

If your child should have a medical emergency, he or she has two options available:

- In a true emergency, go to the nearest ER.
- In an urgent care situation, find a provider in the area. Call **1-800-810-BLUE** (1-800-810-2583) to find an in-network provider in the area. You may also visit an urgent care center for medical issues if an in-network provider is unavailable and if you do not require the medical services of an emergency room.
- Prior to visiting a physician office, it will be necessary for you to obtain a pre-approval.

GUEST MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING COLLEGE OUTSIDE OF THE KEYSTONE HMO NETWORK

If your child is attending college in a state that would require him or her to travel a great distance to get home for routine and/or preventive care, he or she may be eligible to participate in a Guest Membership Program. Guest membership is a temporary courtesy enrollment in another HMO (Host) plan that enables members who are living away from home (90 or more consecutive days while attending school) to receive a comprehensive range of medical benefits, including routine and preventive services. A Guest Member remains an IBC member, but is also enrolled to receive benefits of the host plan while in their service area.

HOW TO OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF THE AREA

(PERSONAL CHOICE) If you are traveling across the country and require medical care, simply present your ID card to any participating Blue Cross® and/or Blue Shield® PPO provider across the country and your costs are the same as if you were being treated by an in-network local doctor or hospital.

If you run into a medical emergency when you are far away from home, you have two different options:

- In a true emergency, go to the nearest ER.
- In an urgent care situation, find a BlueCard provider in the area. Call **1-800-810-BLUE** (1-800-810-2583) to find an in-network provider in the area. You may also visit an urgent care center for medical issues if an in-network provider is unavailable and if you do not require the medical services of an emergency room. You may also visit the BlueCard Doctor and Hospital Finder at www.bcbc.com.



Out of the area and need care?

Call **1-800-810-2583** to find an in-network provider in the area.

Then, if services require preauthorization, Call 1-800-275-2583.

(KEYSTONE) If you run into a medical emergency when you are far away from home, you have two different options:

- In a true emergency, go to the nearest ER.
- In an urgent care situation, find a provider in the area. Call **1-800-810-BLUE** (1-800-810-2583) to find an in-network provider in the area. You may also visit an urgent care center for medical issues if an in-network provider is unavailable and if you do not require the medical services of an emergency room.
- Prior to visiting a physician office, it will be necessary for you to obtain a preapproval.

Managing your health with ibxpress.com

On ibxpress.com you can conveniently and securely view your benefits and claims information and use the tools that help you take control of your health. As an independent Blue Cross member, you and your dependents 14 years of age and older can create your own accounts on ibxpress.com.

To register, simply go to ibxpress.com, click *Register*, and then follow the directions. You will need information from your ID card to register, so be sure to have it handy.

Once you're registered, log on to ibxpress.com to:

- view your benefits information;
- review claims information;
- review annual out-of-pocket expenses;
- request a replacement ID card and print a temporary ID card;
- change your PCP (Keystone);
- view and print referrals;
- download forms.

The ibxpress.com website also provides you with tools and resources to help you make informed health care decisions.

- Provider Finder and Hospital Finder
- Symptom Checker
- Health Encyclopedia
- Treatment Cost Estimator
- Personal Health Profile
- My Health Assistant
- Health Trackers
- Personal Health Record

[SAVE MONEY WITH WELLNESS DISCOUNTS FROM BLUE365](#)

You can enjoy exclusive value-added discounts and offers on programs and services from leading national companies. Blue365 gives you an easy-to-use, valuable resource to save on healthy programs and services. Visit www.blue365deals.com to see the latest discounts.

TEACHERS IN THE NEWS



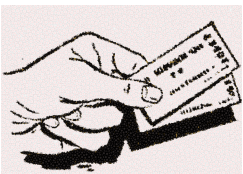
Congratulations to Barry Kirsch from Archbishop Carroll High School who was recently inducted into the Archbishop Carroll Hall of Fame. Barry was honored for his 50 years of service to the Archbishop Carroll community as a teacher, coach and pro-life moderator.

VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN – DAVIS VISION

The plan year for teachers currently enrolled in the Voluntary Vision Plan ends on December 31, 2017. If you have not used the plan this year, try and do so before your benefits expire. Enrollment information for the Voluntary Vision Plan through Davis Vision for the 2017 calendar year will be emailed to teachers early in November. Teachers wishing to enroll into the plan will need to submit a completed application form along with payment by Friday, December 1, 2017.

Attention! Long-term Substitutes

Long-term Substitutes hired before November 1, 2017 for the full school year can enroll in the dental plan, provided they pay the full premium. The rates for the coming plan year are \$21.53 per month for individual coverage or \$54.86 for two or more family members. If you would like to enroll in the dental plan, please contact Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175. You will be billed quarterly for your dental premium.



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 currently \$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.

Please call before sending your check, so we can reserve your tickets.

YOUR BENEFITS UNDER THE UNITED CONCORDIA DENTAL PLAN

(CONCORDIA FLEX uses the ADVANTAGE NETWORK)

BENEFIT CATEGORY

PLAN PAYS

| BENEFIT CATEGORY | PLAN PAYS |
|--|------------|
| Class 1 – Diagnostic/Preventive Services | |
| ➤ Exams | 100% |
| ➤ Cleanings and Fluoride Treatments | 100% |
| ➤ X-rays | 100% |
| ➤ Space Maintainers | 100% |
| ➤ Palliative Treatment (Emergency) | 100% |
| Class 11 Basic Services | |
| ➤ Basic Restorative (Fillings, etc) | 100% |
| ➤ Simple Extractions | 100% |
| ➤ Endodontics | 100% |
| ➤ General Anesthesia | 100% |
| ➤ Surgical & Non-surgical Periodontics | 50% * |
| Class 111 – Diagnostic/Preventive Services | |
| ➤ Oral Surgery | N/A |
| ➤ Inlays, Onlays, Crowns | N/A |
| ➤ Prosthetics (Bridges, Dentures) | N/A |
| ➤ Repairs to Inlays, Onlays and Crowns and Prosthetics | N/A |
| Orthodontics (Dependents to any age) | N/A |

Included Plan Features

** Smile for Health – Wellness Program*

Provides periodontal care for people with certain

Chronic medical conditions: diabetes, heart disease, lupus, oral cancer, organ transplant, rheumatoid arthritis and stroke

- Covers 1 additional periodontal maintenance per year and all are covered at 100%
- Scaling and root planing are covered at 100%
- 4 periodontal surgery procedures are covered at 100%

Maximum benefit per calendar year is \$1,000 per teacher and covered family Member.

HOW TO RECEIVE NON-COVERED SERVICES AT A DISCOUNT UNDER YOUR UNITED CONCORDIA DENTAL PLAN

This is a reminder that teachers and their family members who are covered under the dental plan have access to the Concordia Advantage dental network, which offers discounts for all services — covered or not.

This means you can:

- 1 - Receive non-covered services at a discount
- 2 - Save on services that exceed your \$1,000 annual maximum

If your dentist has signed on to the above agreement and you are in need of dental work that is not covered under our dental plan, it is recommended that you get the treatment plan in writing on letterhead. The treatment plan should include procedure codes for each service and the amount being charged. Once you have the treatment plan in writing, you can contact UCCI at 1-800-332-0366 and find out what their allowance is for each procedure code. This is the maximum that your dentist should charge you for that service if he has signed onto the extended agreement.

You can check to see if your dentist is participating in this agreement by logging on to the United Concordia website at www.ucci.com and clicking on the link “**find a dentist**”. [If your dentist has a black square next to his name, then he has agreed to charge his/her patients the United Concordia allowance.](#)

If you have experienced any problems concerning this agreement, please send an email to the ACT Office outlining your problem. The email should contain your dentist’s name and address, the date of service, the procedure codes billed, and the amount you were charged. We will forward this information to our dental representative at United Concordia.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR DENTAL PLAN AND PERIODONTAL COVERAGE

Under your dental coverage with United Concordia, periodontics is covered at 50%. However, teachers with any one of the following chronic diseases will have periodontics covered at 100%. These chronic conditions are as follows: Diabetes, Heart Disease, Cerebrovascular Disease (stroke), Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, Organ Transplants, Head and Neck Radiation Therapy.

In order for you to receive 100% coverage on Periodontics, you will need to go to the United Concordia website at www.UnitedConcordia.com. Sign in or create a *My Dental Benefits* account. This is where you will sign up for the *Smile for Health Wellness Program*. Once your medical condition is verified, United Concordia will turn on the added periodontal coverage. You may also contact United Concordia at 1-800-236-9168 for additional information.

ACT School Visit Schedule 2017-2018 School Year

| NAME OF SCHOOL | ACT VISITOR | DATE | DAY |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Bonner-Prendergast | Rita | January 23 | Tuesday |
| Carroll | Irene | October 23 | Monday |
| Conwell-Egan | Irene | January 11 | Thursday |
| Hallahan | Irene | January 31 | Wednesday |
| Holy Cross | Irene | January 17 | Wednesday |
| St. Hubert | Rita | January 30 | Tuesday |
| Fr. Judge | Irene | February 8 | Thursday |
| Lansdale | Rita | November 28 | Tuesday |
| Little Flower | Rita | February 6 | Tuesday |
| McDevitt | Irene | February 14 | Wednesday |
| Neumann-Goretti | Rita & Irene | November 14 And March 20 | Tuesday Tuesday |
| O'Hara | Rita & Irene | December 5 | Tuesday |
| Pope John Paul II | Rita & Irene | December 19 | Tuesday |
| Roman | Irene | February 28 | Wednesday |
| Ryan | Rita & Irene | February 20 | Tuesday |
| Shanahan | Irene | December 14 | Thursday |
| West Catholic | Irene | March 6 | Tuesday |
| Wood | Rita | March 6 | Tuesday |
| | | | |

Happy Halloween



from

*Rita, Irene,
and Ginny*

CONTACT US AT
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