

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.4
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (act@act1776.com) - website (www.act1776.com) December 2016

From the President's Desk

A LOOK BACK AND A PREVIEW OF THINGS TO COME

As we approach the end of 2016, I wanted to bring you up to date on what has been happening and what is on the horizon for 2017.

The referendum to amend the ACT Constitution and By-Laws has been completed and the changes have been approved by the membership. The Executive Board election has also been completed. The only contested position was Member At Large. We are pleased to offer our congratulations to Bill Finnegan (Ryan), Michael Sheehan (Neumann-Goretti) and Kate Toennissen-Innes (O'Hara) and welcome them to the ACT Executive Board. They assume their Member At Large positions in January. There were no nominees for Legislative Representative. At its December meeting, the Executive Board offered the position to outgoing Board member, David Sommers. He accepted.

The remaining officers of the Executive Board ran unopposed. They are President - Rita Schwartz (ACT Staff); Vice President - Irene Tori (ACT Staff); Executive Secretary - Tom Imburgia (O'Hara); Treasurer - Theresa Lazorko (Roman). The four Area Vice Presidents do not run for office until the spring.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

At the December meeting, we said farewell and god speed to two long-time members of the Board: Member At Large, John Zoccola and Legislative Representative, Joe Schuler. John and Joe have given decades of service to the Association and its members. In addition to their time on the Executive Board, each served as their schools' Senior Delegate. They worked on a number of ACT Negotiating Teams and we were also fortunate to have had both John and Joe as members of the ACT Staff. John and Joe, we thank you for all that you have done. You will truly be missed.

On December 12, 2016, I wrote to the Secretary for Catholic Education to inform him of the Association's intention to open negotiations for a new Agreement. As you are all aware, our current Contract expires August 31, 2017. For the past three years, we have negotiated one-year Early Bird Agreements that deal with salary and benefits only. It has not been possible for the Association and the System to secure a multi-year Agreement, mainly because we could not work out a premium for medical insurance that would also produce a decent pay raise. It seems that this coming year the uncertainty surrounding the Affordable Care Act will, again, make a multi-year contract very hard to attain. For that reason, my letter to the Secretary for Catholic Education requested another Early Bird Contract. "Given the uncertain political situation in regard to the Affordable Care Act, the Association feels that this would impede any negotiation beyond one year." There has been no response thus far from the System.

The teachers at Holy Cross Academy will also be negotiating a new Contract in 2017. The Association and the Holy Cross administration agreed last spring to a one-year extension of the 2016 Agreement. The Holy Cross Team has been selected and Surveys are out to the members.

The New Year will bring many challenges for the Association of Catholic Teachers and its members. Negotiations and Constriction are two crucial issues that will impact our lives, but, as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child, let us put all of this out of our minds and concentrate on the wonders of the Christmas season.

We wish all of you and your families a Blessed Christmas.

Rita

VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN

Benefits for the Voluntary Vision Plan go into effect on January 1, 2017. If you signed up for the vision plan for the upcoming year, you should be receiving your ID card soon unless you were on the plan last year, in which case, you will use the same card. If you were on the plan last year and are in need of a card, please email Ginny at ginny@act1776.com.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the Executive Board Election were tabulated and certified on November 30, 2016 by members of the Nominations and Election Committee, John Zoccola and Joe Schuler.

There were four candidates running for Member-At-Large. The three candidates receiving the highest votes were William Finnegan (AR), Michael Sheehan (NG), and Katie Toenniessen (CO). Their two-year term will begin in January. We congratulate them and wish them well.

The Board wishes to thank outgoing members, Joseph Schuler, David Sommers, and John Zoccola for their service on the Board and on behalf of all the members for whom they served.

Merry Christmas

ARCHDIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS

TAX INFORMATION

2016 DUES

\$551.24

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

Lancer's Local

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

The 2017 Holy Cross Negotiating Team is

Joseph Dvorak, Jennifer Kelly, James Nolan,
Walter Walsh, and Randy Wilkinson.

Rita Schwartz and Irene Tori will be there from ACT.

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY TAX INFORMATION

2016 UNION DUES

\$534.10



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

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 now \$10.50 per ticket. (A recent notice said they were \$9 per ticket; however, those tickets sold out and when I reordered tickets, they are now up to \$10.50) Regal Tickets are now \$8.75 per ticket up from \$8.50** 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.



CONTACT US AT

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IN MEMORIAM



LOUIS J. AMICI
(1947-2016)

For many years, Lou has been a colleague and a friend. He has proven to be a giving and caring person who never shirked his responsibilities to God, family and community. He was a loving husband, devoted father, doting grandfather and caring teacher. These are his defining characteristics.

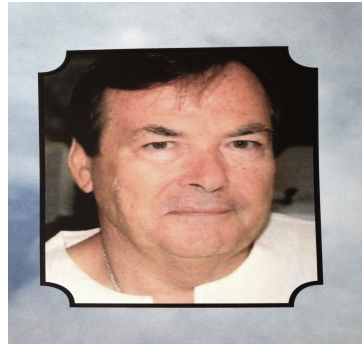
Lou was a person to whom the word responsibility was key. He, along with his wife of many years, Maryanne, instilled this in their children, along with the importance of family. Also in his teaching, and his service in administration, Lou felt that a key lesson for his students was responsibility.

Lou was a person who believed in being of service to others. He was very involved in politics, especially in local politics. His aim was to help his community be the best that it could be for the citizens. Also, Lou used his God-given talents in the musical field. He sang in various churches to help enhance their religious services. But most of all, Lou loved the mummings. He proudly marched in with the brightest smile as he talked about the many Mummings Parades in which he was involved. I can just imagine him in his eternal glory playing “When Dem Saints Come Marching In” as he greets the new arrivals in heaven.

Rest in peace Lou; you fought the good fight, you ran the race and you now have crossed the finish line.

Edward Garbacz
Retired teacher

IN MEMORIAM



WILLIAM FEELEY

It is impossible for me to think of Saint John Neumann High School, or currently of Neumann Goretti, without picturing Bill Feeley walking its halls, his booming voice easily heard over the din of often noisy hallways. For more than 40 years, Bill Feeley was the iconic teacher for, first the boys, and then the boys and girls of South Philadelphia. But that sentence doesn't come close to summing up what Bill meant to our school. I, and many of the teachers of my generation, were mentored by Bill Feeley, and whatever good we have accomplished, in or out of the classroom, is a part of his legacy.

Bill loved teaching, but even more, he loved all of the extracurricular activities that showcased the energy and spirit of the school. His enjoyment of these activities was contagious and, pied piper like, he drew the kids along with him. Every year, his sophomore students would write Halloween plays and perform them in the auditorium for classes who wished to come down to see them. He led an annual trip to New York, giving students the freedom to explore the city for two hours and then in the afternoon coming together to see their first Broadway Play, eating dinner in New York and finally heading home exhausted and exhilarated. His former students still talk about those trips. But for Bill, the highlight of his year was leading the Usher Corps, a select group of underclassmen who would serve as ushers at Graduation and other formal school events. Bill absolutely reveled in this activity.

This past month, we have had to say goodbye to Bill, a task that was harder for us to do than we had, at first, realized it would be. Most people would sum up Bill's over 40 years of service with the word "Teacher." But those of us who worked with him or were taught by him know that this word is inadequate. He was a coach, a mentor, and a friend. For over 40 years he taught much more than just literature. He taught life lessons that his students carried with them long after they graduated and moved on.

Bill, we miss you and we love you.

Michael Sheehan
SS. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School

Wishing you and your family



*A Blessed Christmas
and
Happy New Year.*

Rita, Irene, and Ginny