

# THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

# SPIRIT

# OF '76

50 Years and Counting  
1966-2016

1700 SANSOM STREET - SUITE 903 - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 - 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXVI-NO.5  
Fax 215-568-8270 - email ([act@act1776.com](mailto:act@act1776.com)) - website ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) MARCH. 2016

## *From The President's Desk*

### **HOLY CROSS OPENS NEGOTIATIONS PHILADELPHIA STILL IN SEARCH OF A PROCESS**

By now, you have received the news that the General Membership Meeting originally set for March 31 has been postponed and will be rescheduled as soon as the process for negotiations has been determined.

Back in December, when the Association notified the System of its intent to reopen negotiations and requested that the Early Bird format be used, it was with the intent that contract talks would have been underway at this point. This is especially important if the System and the Association expect to complete the process prior to the end of the school year so that a ratification vote on a new Agreement can occur before June 17.

(Continued on Page 2)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

As it stands now, we are still two parties in search of a process.

I am happy to report that Early Bird negotiations are underway at Holy Cross High School in Delran, New Jersey. ACT members there voted approval of the contract proposals at a Membership Meeting on March 7. Negotiations opened at the school on March 14 and the first working session is on the calendar for after the Easter break.

The ACT Staff is also busy with over a dozen grievances at various levels of the procedure as well as a number of teacher issues. There has been no official word yet on Constriction and rostering for next year is progressing in the schools. As always, ACT will monitor any Constriction to ensure that the process is done in conformity with the Labor-Management Agreement.

The Celebration of ACT's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be occurring throughout the spring. Ticket sales for ACT Day at the Phillies are going well.

Have a blessed Easter.

*Rita*



50 YEARS

OF

SERVICE



A

GOLDEN

ANNIVERSARY

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

congratulates its members who are celebrating their  
50<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Secondary School System  
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

*Gino LoMaistro*

*Joseph Velten*

\*\*\*\*\*

25 Years of Service - A Silver Celebration

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

congratulates its members who are celebrating their  
25<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Secondary School System  
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

*John Corrigan*

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS

congratulates its members who are celebrating their  
25<sup>th</sup> year of service at Holy Cross Academy of the Diocese of Trenton.

*Collette New*

# Archdiocesan High Schools

## TAX INFORMATION

2015 DUES

**\$546.30**

(13 pays x \$25.90 + 8 pays x \$26.20)

## Seniority Lists Posted

(for school only)

Article V, Section 1b states “On or before April 1 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in each school a complete listing of all full-time teachers in that school including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to school seniority.”

“Teachers shall have until May 1 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)

The Association of Catholic Teachers congratulates *Collette New* on her 25 years of service at Holy Cross Academy, Delran, New Jersey.

### **Holy Cross 2015 Union Dues \$532.42**

(6 months at \$53.13 plus 4 months at \$53.41)

Negotiations for a new labor-management agreement opened on March 14, 2016. The School and the teachers have agreed that negotiations will be conducted using the early bird format.

## **NOTICE**

### **Voluntary Transfer**

Applications for voluntary transfers must be submitted no later than **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

(Forms are posted in the schools.  
The application form can also be found on the ACT web site.)

## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

The Women In Leadership Seminar, a program focused on inspiring young women to follow their dreams and aspirations, was held at Holy Family University on March 11, 2016. The Keynote Speaker was *Kathy Ott Lovell*, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of Philadelphia. Presenters included *Lois Amythor Burns*, Legal Counsel and Chief of Staff for Pamela A. Witmer, Pennsylvania Utility Commission; *Michele Farrell*, Warden - Riverside Correctional Facility; *M. Dana Rodden*, Head-Enterprise Channel Marketing Unit, U.S. Pharmaceutical Business, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals; *Lynn Tarini*, Director of Communications, GlaxoSmithKline; *Karen Toner*, Manager - Marketing Strategies and Programs, Audit Marketing, KPMG LLP and Pennsylvania State Representative, *Martina White* of the 170<sup>th</sup> District (Bustleton, Somerton, Parkwood), *all of whom are graduates from Archdiocesan secondary schools and academies*. Seminar attendees included students from *Conwell-Egan, Saint Hubert, John W. Hallahan, Little Flower, Archbishop Ryan and Nazareth Academy*.



From left to right,  
*Irene Tori*, ACT  
Vice President,  
*Lois Amythor  
Burns*, Legal  
Counsel and Chief  
of Staff for Pamela  
A Witmer, *Michele  
Farrell*, Warden -  
Riverside  
Correctional  
Facility, and ACT  
President, *Rita  
Schwartz*.

## Managing your health with [ibxpress.com](http://ibxpress.com)

On [ibxpress.com](http://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](http://ibxpress.com).

To register, simply go to [ibxpress.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.blue365deals.com) to see the latest discounts.

**FOR TEACHERS COVERED UNDER  
PERSONAL CHOICE**

(GROUP NUMBER 10101056)

**THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE COVERED 100% AFTER MEETING A  
\$100 INDIVIDUAL DEDUCTIBLE  
OR THE \$200 FAMILY DEDUCTIBLE:**

- LABORATORY (blood work)
- PATHOLOGY (scrapings/biopsies)
- HOME HEALTH CARE
- HOSPICE
- SKILLED NURSING
- CHEMOTHERAPY
- RADIATION
- DIALYSIS
- OUTPATIENT PRIVATE DUTY NURSING

Teachers on Personal Choice must meet the \$100 deductible each year from January to December. However, an exception was made for this year only. Any money applied toward your deductible in the months of November and December 2015, were to be rolled over into the 2016 calendar year.

**With this being said**, it has come to our attention that this did not happen, and teachers are being charged a second deductible. Blue Cross is currently “fixing” the problem, and adjusting claims. If this has happened to you, please contact Ginny at 215-568-4175 or email her at [ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com). She will need the date of service as well as the claim number for reprocessing purposes.



## [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. 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.

### [DISCOUNT MOVIE TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH ACT OFFICE](#)

#### [AMC AND REGAL/UNITED ARTISTS MOVIE TICKETS](#)

Tickets can be purchased from the ACT Office. **AMC Tickets cost \$9.00 and Regal tickets cost \$8.50.** To order, send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note indicating the theater as well as how many tickets you are purchasing. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your ticket request.

# ACT

*50 Years and Counting  
1966-2016*

**---50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY---**  
**ACT DAY AT THE PHILLIES**

Sunday

May 1, 2016

(Feast of St. Joseph the Worker)

**GAME  
TIME:** 2:35 PM

Philadelphia Phillies  
*versus the*  
Cleveland Indians

All ACT Members (including retirees) and their families and friends are invited to celebrate ACT's Golden Anniversary on Sunday, May 1, 2016. Ticket cost is \$15. A ticket order form is available on the ACT Website at [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com).

If you have any questions concerning this event, please contact Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or [ginny@act1776.com](mailto:ginny@act1776.com).

**Deadline for ordering tickets: Friday, March 25, 2016.**

**THE GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**SCHEDULED FOR  
THURSDAY  
MARCH 31, 2016  
HAS BEEN POSTPONED**

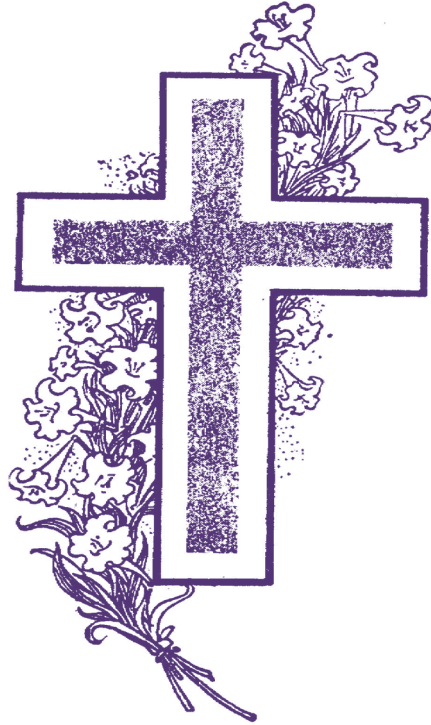
**Crowne Plaza  
Philadelphia Main Line**

**AGENDA**

**Contract Proposals**

New Business

*ALLELUIA*



*HAPPY EASTER*  
*Rita, Irene and Ginny*