

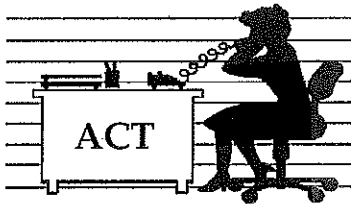
THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT '76

OF

1700 SANSOM STREET - SUITE 903 - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 - 215-568-4175 - VOLUME XXXV- NO. 6
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (macst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - April 2015



From The President's Desk

NEGOTIATIONS, THE CONTRACT VOTE AND OTHER ITEMS ON THE ACT AGENDA

Early Bird Negotiations opened on Monday, April 13 with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding that contains the parameters of the 2015 contract talks. Existing language will be retained for all contractual provisions except those concerning salary and benefits, which are the only areas open for negotiation. In addition, the System and the Association agree to reach a contract settlement prior to June 1, 2015.

The Association presented to the System the proposals approved by the ACT membership at the March 19 General Membership Meeting. The System then presented their proposals to the Association.

The Association's Opening Statement spoke of how the Association and the System have worked well together this past year and that we hope this good working relationship continues. I told the System how happy I was to have my "A Team" with me at the table - Irene Tori, John Zoccola, Joe Schuler and Tom Imburgia.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

The Association pointed out that the keystone of the contract will be medical insurance coupled with salary, as it was last year. The ACT proposals presented, we felt, were most reasonable and had been approved by our membership.

We gave the System our assurance that the Association will do everything we can to come to an agreement by the end of May.

As always, the ACT Team will keep you, the members, updated on the progress of negotiations. On Wednesday, May 27, the results of the Early Bird Negotiations will be brought to the ACT membership for a vote.

There are, also, other items on the Union's agenda. For those of you who received the letter from the Archdiocese concerning the Pension Lump Sum offer, there are still a few weeks left before the window closes. It is important that you think carefully about the offer and speak with a financial advisor before making a decision.

At this point in the school year, there is usually word on Constriction. Of concern to me, as I write this letter to you, is that nothing at all has been forthcoming from the Office of Catholic Education. Schools have begun the rostering process and Preference Forms have been distributed. However, there is no information on the number of teachers or schools that might possibly be affected by Constriction.

As you continue your hard work during this, the last quarter of the school year, take a moment to celebrate on Friday, May 1. This is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, patron saint of unions.

I look forward to seeing you at the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 27.





I See A Future Where, More Than Ever Before

... Teachers Need An Advocate

Do you have what it takes to be a Senior Delegate?

If Social Justice in action, teacher dignity and respect are issues that you find important, and, if you would like to work with these issues, then consider running for Senior Delegate at your school.

SENIOR DELEGATE ELECTIONS (MAY 15TH – JUNE 1ST)

Senior Delegates received a stipend of \$500 for the 2014-2015 school year.

Responsibilities Include:

1. Act as a liaison between your members and administration.
2. Provide representation for your members in situations where any member reasonably feels that disciplinary action may occur.
3. File grievances to settle issues of opposing interpretations of the contract.
4. Encourage members to become familiar with and support the contract.
5. Conduct meetings at the local level.
6. Attend all meetings to represent your school.
7. Encourage your members to attend all general membership meetings.
8. Keep the Executive Board informed of local issues.
9. Be responsible for conducting all union elections in the school.
10. Be responsible for the ACT Bulletin Board.
11. Distribute information from the ACT Office to the teachers.
12. Perform duties assigned to you by the Executive Board.
13. Be responsible for signing up new members and maintaining the good standing of present members.

This is a good time to, once again, thank all of the Senior Delegates who have served the Union and their own school members so well this year. The ACT Office and the Executive Board need and appreciate your work.

50 Years
of
Service



A
Golden
Celebration

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS
congratulates its members who are celebrating their
50th year of service to the Secondary School System
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Domenick D'Orazio

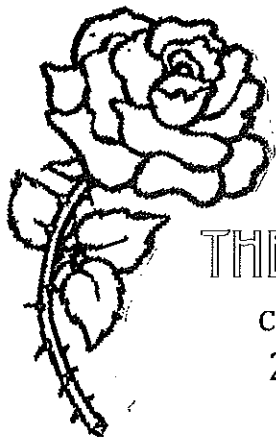
John Sullivan

Robert Durkin

Joseph Schuler

Robert McLaughlin

Barry Kirsch



25 Years of Service
A Silver Celebration

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS
congratulates its members who are celebrating their
25th year of service to the Secondary School System
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Judith Owens

Sheila Tobin

Nancy Legradi

Monica Leaf

Joanne Werts

Lancer's Local

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

Congratulations to



Pamela Tosto

Richard Matwiejewicz

Jeffrey Moloney

Paul Moynahan



who were honored by Holy Cross Academy
at a Retirement Celebration
on April 19, 2015.

Pam, Rich, Jeff and Paul will retire in June.

Thank you for all your years of service to Holy Cross.

You will be missed!

Sabbaticals Awarded for 2015-2016 School Year

Four ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2015-2016 school year. Two full year sabbaticals are available. Four teachers are receiving one semester each. The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were Joe Schuler (Conwell-Egan) and Irene Tori (ACT Staff). Representing OCE were Kevin Kijewski (Associate Superintendent for Secondary Schools), James Molnar (HR Manager for Secondary Schools) and Michele Beachy (Principal, Hallahan).

The Association extends best wishes to the following recipients:

*Edward Macko (40 years) – Archbishop Ryan (one semester)
Maureen Keppard-Pedlow (40 years) – Father Judge (one semester)
Sharonmarie Biasini (40 years) -- Archbishop Ryan (one semester)
Maria Mannato-Kane (36 years) – Neumann-Goretti (one semester)*

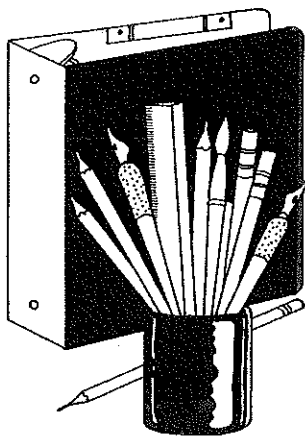
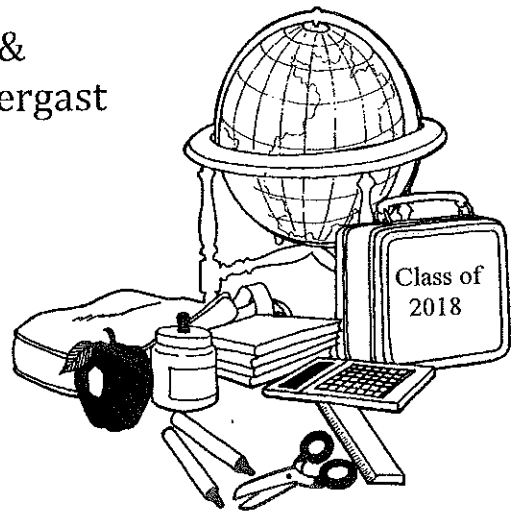
IT IS OPEN ENROLLMENT TIME FOR BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB

Members of the Association of Catholic Teachers can save up to \$20 on their BJ's Membership by joining or renewing during the Association's open enrollment period. Each teacher was sent (via their personal email address) enrollment information as well as the application form. There is also a copy of the application form on the ACT website at www.act1776.com. Applications should be returned to the ACT Office, 1700 Sansom Street, Suite 903, Philadelphia, PA 19103 with a **check made payable to BJ's Wholesale Club**.

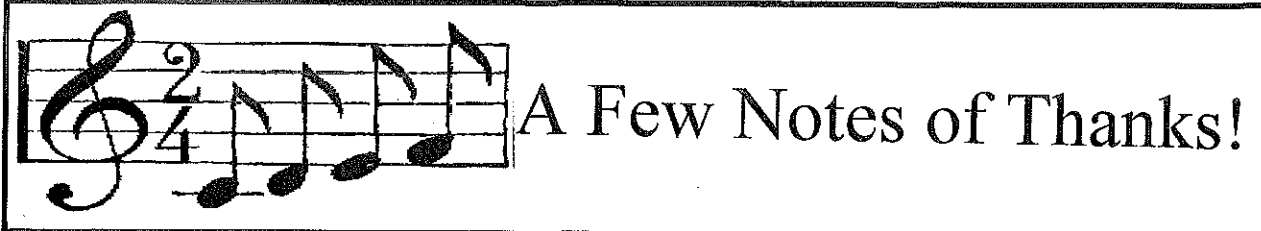
*2015 Association of Catholic Teachers
John J. Reilly
\$500.00 Scholarship Awards*

Our 9th Grade Scholars

Theodore Greiner – Monsignor Bonner &
Archbishop Prendergast
Kathryn Stringer – Archbishop Carroll
Rachel Hollenczer – Conwell-Egan
Danielle Skrocki – John W. Hallahan
Brianna Parise - Holy Cross
Chloe Manzi – Saint Hubert
Thomas Beudet – Father Judge
Claire Ussai – Lansdale Catholic
Anna O’Neill – Little Flower



Julia Rock – Bishop McDevitt
Anh Nguyen – Sts. John Neumann
& Maria Goretti
Elizabeth A. Mancini – Cardinal O’Hara
Sydney Bucher – Pope John Paul II
Eric Peters – Roman Catholic
Alyssa Sliwa – Archbishop Ryan
Ann Weyand – Bishop Shanahan
Jalen Hutchins – West Catholic
Julie Montague – Archbishop Wood



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 Ms. Schwartz,

What a wonderful surprise I received in the mail today! I was so happy to see that my daughter, Julia Rock, was awarded the \$500.00 Association of Catholic Teachers scholarship for Bishop McDevitt High School.

Julia has had a fabulous experience at Bishop McDevitt her freshman year and much of the credit can be given to the dedicated teachers and administrators at Bishop McDevitt. All of her teachers are of the highest caliber and have truly inspired her in both her school work and her Catholic identity. It has been such a great experience for Julia and also for myself and my husband. We are so lucky to have her in such an outstanding school.

Please know that as educators and administrators, you are truly appreciated and all of your efforts are also deserving of recognition and pride!

Thank you so much for the award. Julia will continue to strive for academic excellence and will continue to be a shining example of all that can be accomplished in our Archdiocesan high schools.

Thank you,
Lisa Rock
Cardinal Dougherty '82

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A Few Notes of Thanks!
(continued from Page 8)

Rita,

Thank you and ACT for awarding a scholarship for Thomas Beaudet for the 2015-2016 school year. You will be pleased with Thomas and his work ethic. It is money well spent.

God Bless.

Sincerely,
James E. Dalton, OSFS
Principal

Dear Association of Catholic Teachers,

On behalf of Holy Cross, thank you for recognizing Brianna Parise with a \$500 scholarship. Our partnership in providing a Catholic education benefits all of our students. I look forward to working together in the future.

Gratefully,

Dennis M. Guida
President/Principal

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."



Manage Your Benefits Online With **My Dental Benefits**

After your plan's effective date ...

- Go to UnitedConcordia.com/mdb
- Enter the ID number found on your insurance card and birthdate

A **My Dental Benefits** account helps you:

- Check claims and payments
- Monitor deductibles and maximums
- Print ID cards
- Elect paperless EOBs
- Evaluate your oral health with *My Dental Assessment*

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ACT MEMBERS

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. 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.

MOVIE TICKETS

The ACT Office has movie tickets available to ACT members at a discounted rate. You can purchase tickets for either AMC Theaters or Regal Theaters. **AT THE PRESENT TIME, ALL MOVIE TICKETS ARE \$8.00.** I have been notified that Regal tickets will increase to \$8.50. Therefore, once I place my next, the new price will go into effect. There are no restrictions when using the tickets. If you would like to purchase tickets, please send a note indicating which tickets you would like to purchase and in what quantity. **Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request.**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 27, 2015**

4:00 P. M.

**PENNS LANDING CATERERS
1301 S. COLUMBUS BOULEVARD**

AGENDA

EARLY BIRD CONTRACT VOTE