

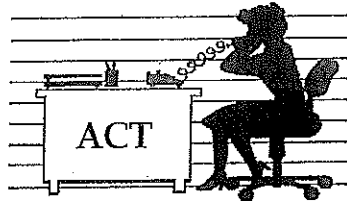
# THE

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. 5  
Fax 215-568-8270 - email ([nacst.nacst@verizon.net](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net)) - web site ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) - Feb.-Mar. 2015



## From The President's Desk

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** *Contract Negotiations and the Pension Plan*

As we all know, March 19 is the Feast of St. Joseph. It is also the date of the Association's General Membership Meeting at which the upcoming Contract Negotiations will be front and center on the Agenda. The Association and the System will, once again, be negotiating an Early Bird Contract. The ACT Team has been meeting to review your Contract Surveys and make sure what you need is reflected in the proposals.

Before the Negotiating Team presents our proposals to the System, the ACT membership first has to see them, discuss them, change them if they want and, then, vote to approve them. Once that is done, formal negotiations will begin.

Joining Irene and me on the 2015 Team will be John Zoccola (Wood), Joe Schuler (Conwell-Egan) and Tom Imburgia (O'Hara).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

**FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .**

Toward the end of May, close to Memorial Day, the General Membership of ACT will come together to vote on the Early Bird Contract. The Team will present the results of negotiations and you, the members, will vote YES to accept the contract or NO to reject the contract. It is our hope that negotiations can be successfully completed before the end of the school year. This sends everyone home for the summer knowing that school will start on time

The March 19 General Membership Meeting will also deal with another issue that is crucial to our membership, the Lay Employees Retirement Plan. You have recently received a letter from the Pension Office specifying what you will be receiving from the "frozen" LERP when you retire. The ACT Staff has spoken with a Pension Specialist about some of the options that might be presented to you. We have invited Scott Milstein, Joe Saskiewicz and Mike Sadek, representatives from our former annuity companies, to the General Membership Meeting to go over these options with you.

I hope to see many of you at the March 19 General Membership Meeting. It is important for you to be there.



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**FREEDOM CREDIT UNION**

The Freedom Credit Union offers teachers and their families a wide range of financial opportunities. Savings accounts, checking accounts, loans, MAC, IRAs, to name a few, are available to members of the credit union.

The Freedom Credit Union has four Philadelphia locations, as well as an office in Abington, Lansdale and Warminster. For more information visit the credit union's website at [www.freedomcu.org](http://www.freedomcu.org). You may also call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or the Freedom Credit Union at 215-612-5900.

# Archdiocesan High Schools

## TAX INFORMATION

2014 DUES

\$540.39

(13 pays x \$25.63 + 8 pays x \$25.90)

## *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."

## FSA REMINDER

If you were a participant in the 2014 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should have been exhausted by December 31, 2014. Any funds that remained in your account after December 31, 2014 have been lost to you. However, this does not mean that all your eligible expenses had to be submitted by December 31, 2014. You have 90 days after the close of the calendar year in which to submit eligible expenses for 2013. All eligible expenses for 2014 must be submitted by March 30, 2015.

## Lancer's Local

Issues or contractual items of interest to  
Holy Cross H. S. (Delran, NJ)

**Holy Cross 2014 Union Dues**

**\$530.04**

(6 months at \$52.92 plus 4 months at \$53.13)

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ACT MEMBERS

## ACT WEBSITE

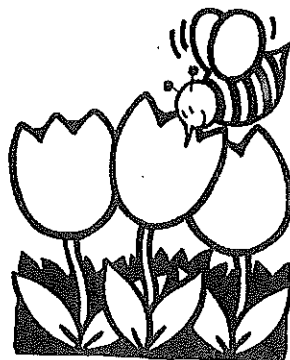
All teachers are asked to logon to the ACT Website (www.act1776.com) and verify your personal information. It is critical that we have your current information and that it is accurate, since this is a contract year. It is important that we have a PERSONAL email address for you, since contract information 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](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.

## MEMBER SERVICE UPDATE

As you know, 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. **ALL MOVIE TICKETS ARE NOW \$8.00.** 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.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR DENTAL PLAN AND PERIODONTAL COVERAGE

## CONNECTING ORAL HEALTH TO OVERALL WELLNESS THE PERIODONTAL LINK

In 2012, United Concordia joined with Highmark Health Services to conduct the largest study of its kind to better understand the link between oral health and medical costs. They examined 1.7 million people over a three-year period and found that significant health care cost savings were possible when individuals with certain chronic conditions addressed their gum disease. For example, they found that there was a 33% drop in hospitalizations, a 13% drop in doctor visits and an overall savings of \$1,814 annually when gum disease was treated and managed in individuals with diabetes.

Periodontitis is an epidemic. Researchers know that those bacteria are able to travel the body's pathways through the bloodstream and respiratory system because they have found oral bacteria in other areas of the body, such as the arteries, lungs, and brain.

As a result of this three-year study, United Concordia Dental created **Smile for Health Wellness** to help close the gap between oral health and total body health. By preventing and treating periodontal disease, the cost relating to infection and inflammation was greatly reduced. And as a result, there was also a positive effect on the overall health for individuals with certain chronic diseases.

**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](http://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.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING 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](http://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.

**Reminder:** As of January 1, 2015, you and each of your family members have \$1,000 in dental benefits to use for the 2015 calendar year.

# 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.)

### *Little Flower Catholic High School For Girls 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

#### *Upcoming Event*

*In honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Little Flower Catholic High School, the Administration warmly welcomes back our Alumnae and former lay teachers to the Open House on*

*Sunday, April 26  
1:00-3:00 P. M.*

*This will be the final 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.*

*At 3:30 in the auditorium, there will be a rededication of the school to St. Therese.*

*We hope you are able to return to dear LF.  
Your former students would love to see you!*

*Please respond to  
[lfevents75@littleflowerhighschool.org](mailto:lfevents75@littleflowerhighschool.org)*

*by April 17 if you are able to attend.*

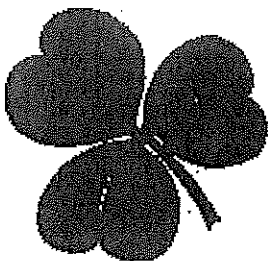
# *We Will Miss You, Dega!*

Just before Thanksgiving, Shanahan Lost one of its own. Bob Degnan, coach, teacher and ardent Shanahan supporter, passed away at age 77, following a heart attack. "Dega", as he was known to most, taught World History and Latin for 27 years, until his retirement in 2002. Even then, he stayed active in the school, first by working part-time in one of the offices and always by remaining one of the school's biggest boosters. All you had to do was log on to his Facebook page (yes, incredibly, Bob had a Facebook page) and you could see that he never really left Shanahan. Bob kept in touch with dozens of former students, parents and teachers, with Shanahan the glue that kept them together.



Of course, the other constant in Bob's life was Ireland. Green might have been one of the Shanahan colors, but it was also the color of Bob's blood. When he wasn't traveling in Ireland, he was making plans to do so. Bob had as many friends on that side of the Atlantic as he did here. That Bob was able to turn his history class into an Irish Studies course is probably not that surprising, but how he worked Ireland into a Latin class was something to behold.

Everyone who knew Bob will miss him and St. Patrick's Day will never be the same without him, but, for many of his students and friends from Shanahan, Bob will always be around.



**Dave McQuiston**  
*Social Studies Department Head*  
*Bishop Shanahan High School*



# *A Life Devoted to Catholic Education*

Mary Basile spent her life devoted to Catholic education. I knew that from the first time I met her in the Fall of 1982. She was one of several teachers who joined the O'Hara faculty after Notre Dame High School closed. The adjustment was tough since Notre Dame was much smaller than O'Hara, but Mary made the adjustment just fine.

Very often, her former students at Notre Dame, who spoke highly of her, would track her down and come in for a lengthy after school visit. That tradition continued with her students at O'Hara.



Late after school, Mary would stay around cleaning her classroom and putting it in order for the next day. It was nice to go in and "vent" or chat about the Flyers, for example.

On Mary's desk was a picture of Mary with, among others, her brother, Father Ozzie, and Mother Teresa. She was proud of Father Ozzie, and quite humbled to have met Mother (now Blessed) Teresa.

Mary was a woman of great faith, deeply devoted to her students. We are richer for having known her.

*Jane Wilson*  
*Retired Teacher*  
*Cardinal O'Hara High School*



# **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY  
MARCH 19, 2015**

**4:00 P. M.**

**Crowne Plaza  
Philadelphia Main Line**

## **AGENDA**

**Contract Proposals**  
New Business