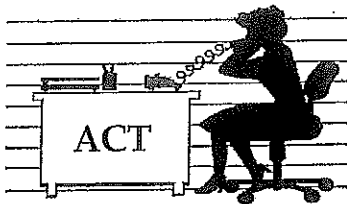


THE

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. 2
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - Oct. -- Nov. 2014



From The President's Desk

SINGING OUR TEACHERS' PRAISES

It was great to see so many of you at the October 31st In-Service Day at the Convention Center. Irene and I were happy to answer your questions as you stopped by our table. Speaking of our table, I first reported to you that we were not able to secure any exhibit space. However, there were a number of empty tables, so we just appropriated one of them.

The day, itself, brought high praise for our teachers from the Secretary for Catholic Education. "Yours is the work that matters most!" He commended "your goodness, your commitment and your selfless dedication to our mission."

The Archbishop, in his remarks and in his pastoral letter on Catholic education, also sang our teachers' praises. As I was quoted as saying by *The Inquirer*, "It's nice once in a while to have your archbishop say you're doing a good job."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

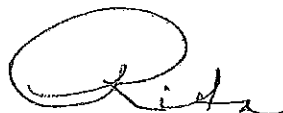
The Archbishop also listed the “multiple partnerships that have been fostered over the years.” He cited various groups without whom “we could not continue the mission of education in our Archdiocese.” Strangely, one partnership unmentioned by the Archbishop has existed for over 46 years. It is the collective bargaining relationship between the Association of Catholic Teachers and the Secondary School System. The Labor-Management Agreement contains language, in a number of areas, that both fosters the mission of our schools and presents ways to sustain our schools.

The Archbishop cited BLOCS, Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools, as “our main partner” in “our financial aid and scholarship opportunities for young people.” What you may not know is that BLOCS came into existence as a direct result of the formation of the Alternative Funding Committee. The Alternative Funding Committee was proposed by ACT and became part of our negotiated contract in 1976. The Committee was formed “to insure that the entire community is made aware of and offered the opportunity to help support Catholic schools,” with the purpose of “exploring the means necessary to acquire this support.” The AFC remains part of our Labor-Management Agreement and can be found in Article I, Section 5.

One of the most rewarding parts of any Archdiocesan In-Service Day is the reconnecting with colleagues from other schools we haven’t seen in quite a while. This and the proximity to the Reading Terminal Market made the early morning bus ride worth the trip.

Each of us should have come away from the day feeling better about ourselves as teachers and more positive about our schools’ futures. Let’s add these to our reasons to be grateful this Thanksgiving Day.

Have a wonderful holiday, everyone.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rita".

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION REGULATIONS

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall oversee the election process and enforce the election regulations.

Between the time nominating petitions are approved and the election is certified:

1. No declared candidates may visit the schools in order to campaign.
2. Any ACT Staff member who is running for elected office in any contested position shall not conduct any regularly scheduled school visits.
3. The Association will schedule a "Meet the Candidates" General Membership Meeting. The candidates will be afforded the opportunity to speak to the membership at this meeting. The meeting must occur prior to the mailing of the official ballot.
4. A one-page biography and platform submitted by each candidate shall be published and distributed to the eligible voting members with the official ballot.
5. No by-lined articles by any candidate for a contested position shall appear in the Association's newsletter, *The Spirit of '76*.
6. There shall be no personal attacks or derogatory campaigning by any candidate.
7. Only campaign literature approved by the Nominations and Elections Committee that has been published by the Association may be disseminated to the teachers.
8. All election regulations will be published in the Association's newsletter, *The Spirit of '76*, prior to the start of the election period. A copy of the regulations will be sent to all candidates.
9. The Association's Executive Board will review and, if necessary, modify the election procedures prior to the start of each election period.



More Notes 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 High School, 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,

Thank you for the \$500 check to be applied toward Alexander Chokas' tenth grade tuition. The check has been forwarded to the Judge Tuition Office for recording and deposit.

More than a few students need help with tuition. I am amazed each year with the sacrifices made by the parents, so their children may continue in Catholic school. The check from the Association of Catholic Teachers helps the entire Judge Community: parents, student and faculty.

May the Lord continue to help us in the fulfillment of our mission of Catholic education.

Sincerely,
James E. Dalton, OSFS
Principal

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

I'm a student at Archbishop Carroll, and I wanted to thank you for the \$500.00 scholarship toward my learning. I'll continue to work hard at Carroll, so thanks for awarding me in this way.

Sincerely,
Marc Munafo

To the Association of Catholic Teachers,

Thank you for your generous gift to our students. Your scholarship is an example of a commitment to the success of Catholic education. I look forward to our continued partnership as we promote our Catholic mission.

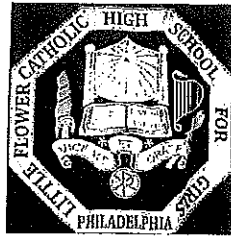
Gratefully,

Dennis M. Guida
President/Principal
Holy Cross High School

Lancer's Local

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

Once again, all full-time lay teachers are members of ACT.
HOLY CROSS IS 100% UNION!



In honor of the 75th Anniversary of Little Flower Catholic High Schools for Girls, the Administration warmly welcomes back former lay and religious faculty on **Sunday, December 21, 2014**. You are welcome to attend the **Christmas Concert**, which begins at **2:00 P. M.** in the School Auditorium. The Concert will be followed by supper in the Gym.

Please respond to lfevents75@littleflowerhighschool.org by **December 14, 2014** if you are able to attend. (If you are still in touch with retired former LF faculty, please share this invitation with them.)

Gratz College Announces Generous Tuition Awards for Educators

Gratz College is proud to announce a new fellowship program provided by the Samuel P. Mandell Foundation. Fellowships will be awarded over a three-year period to seven new qualified students in the **M.A. in Holocaust and Genocide Studies**.

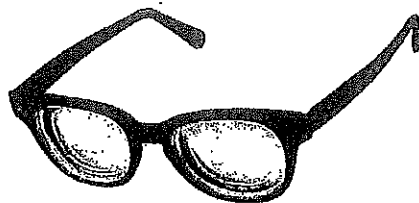
Applicants must be teaching full-time in a public or parochial school. Prospective students must meet all admission requirements by **December 1, 2014**. Fellowships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants must be able to complete the degree (36 credits) in a three-year period.

For more information, contact Mindy Blechman, 215-635-7300 ext. 154.

Seniority Lists Posted

Article V, Section 1a states "On or before October 31 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in the individual schools a complete listing of all teachers in the Secondary School System including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to system seniority and school seniority."

"Teachers shall have until December 15 to call attention in writing to errors or file grievances with the local school administration concerning their positions on the seniority roster."



SIGN UP NOW FOR THE

DAVIS VISION PLAN

OFFERED THROUGH THE

**ASSOCIATION OF
CATHOLIC TEACHERS**

**DEADLINE FOR ENROLLING IS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014.**

An application was emailed to each ACT Member.
An application can also be found on the ACT Website.

For more information, call the
ACT Office at 215-568-4175.

VOLUNTARY VISION PLAN **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

The deadline for enrolling in the **DAVIS VISION PLAN** is Friday, November 14, 2014. **Benefits will go into effect on January 1, 2015.**

Enrollment Information has been emailed to all ACT Members. If you did not receive this email, please contact the ACT Office and we will forward the information to you. **An application form is also available on the home page of the ACT Website.**

Please return your application and a check made payable to the **Association of Catholic Teachers** to the ACT Office at 1700 Sansom Street, Suite 903, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **no later than November 14, 2014.**

ATTENTION RETIREES

The Association would like to add your email address to our email list. If you would like to receive the newsletter, member service information, and other pertinent information by email, please let us know. Send a note to ginny@act1776.com and she will add your name to our list. We would like to remind you that all future newsletters and member services information will be posted on the ACT Website. If we have an email address for you, we will also send this information to you at your email address. If you do not have an email address, please check the ACT Webpage regularly so that you do not miss out on news that may be beneficial to you.

IMPORTANT

It is critical that you make sure that your personal data on the ACT website is accurate. Each teacher was provided with a username and password for the ACT Webpage where they can log in and update their personal information. Please check your information and make sure it is accurate. If you do not have your username and/or password, please contact Ginny at ginny@act1776 and she will provide you with this information.

Teachers who have provided us with a personal email address have been receiving information such as Executive Board Minutes and other updates via email. If you have not been receiving emails from the ACT Office, please provide us with your **PERSONAL** email address as soon as possible.

AMC and Regal/United Artists Movie Tickets

The Association has a **limited supply** of AMC Movie Tickets and Regal/United Artist Tickets for \$7.00 per ticket. Once these tickets are sold, future orders will cost \$8.00 per ticket.

If you will be ordering tickets for the holidays, please send your request along with a check made payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers no later than November 30th.

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. You may also call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or the Freedom Credit Union at 215-612-5900.

MEDICAL RATES FOR THE 2014-2015 PLAN YEAR

(NOVEMBER 1, 2014 - OCTOBER 31, 2015)

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 22 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 7, 2014 pay and ending with the pay of August 28, 2015)

	<u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u>		<u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u>	
Employee	\$ 70.96	(* \$9.80)	\$ 49.13	(* \$ 7.28)
Employee & child	\$143.56	(* \$19.82)	\$100.06	(* \$14.83)
Employee & children	\$160.21	(* \$22.12)	\$111.93	(* \$16.60)
Employee & Spouse	\$170.91	(* \$23.60)	\$119.37	(* \$17.70)
Full Family	\$187.31	(* \$25.86)	\$130.74	(* \$19.38)

*Increase over last year

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OVER 17 PAYS

(Beginning with the November 7, 2014 pay and ending with the pay of June 19, 2015)

	<u>PERSONAL CHOICE PPO</u>		<u>KEYSTONE EAST HMO</u>	
Employee	\$91.83	(* \$12.68)	\$ 63.58	(* \$9.42)
Employee & child	\$185.78	(* \$25.65)	\$129.49	(* \$19.20)
Employee & children	\$207.33	(* \$28.62)	\$144.84	(* \$21.47)
Employee & Spouse	\$221.18	(* \$30.54)	\$154.48	(* \$22.91)
Full Family	\$242.40	(* \$33.47)	\$169.20	(* \$25.09)

*Increase over last year

MONTHLY MEDICAL RATES
FOR EARLY RETIREES AGE 59-1/2 THROUGH 65

(NOVEMBER 2014 THROUGH OCTOBER 2015)

PERSONAL CHOICE - RETIREE'S MONTHLY PREMIUM

employee	\$10765.68 -10,000 = 765.68 divided by 12 = \$63.80
employee/child	\$21781.20 -10,000 = 11781.20 divided by 12 = \$981.76
employee/chren	\$24307.92 -10,000 = 14307.92 divided by 12 = \$1192.32
employee/spouse	\$25931.04 -10,000 = 15931.04 divided by 12 = \$1327.58
family	\$28419.72 -10,000 = 18419.72 divided by 12 = \$1534.97

KEYSTONE HMO - RETIREE'S MONTHLY PREMIUM

employee	\$8647.20 no teacher contribution
employee/child	\$17611.20 - 10,000 = 7611.20 divided by 12 = \$634.26
employee/chren	\$19698.84 - 10,000 = 9698.84 divided by 12 = \$808.23
employee/spouse	\$21008.88 - 10,000 = 11008.88 divided by 12 = \$917.40
family	\$23011.08 - 10,000 = 13011.08 divided by 12 = \$1084.25



Happy Thanksgiving

*From
Rita, Irene and Ginny*

