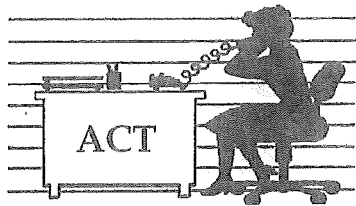


THE

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 XXXIV- NO. 4
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - Jan. - Feb. 2014



From The President's Desk

NEGOTIATIONS 2014

On Thursday, February 20th, the membership of the Association of Catholic Teachers will come together to vote approval of the contract proposals that the ACT Negotiating Team will be presenting to the Secondary School System at the opening of Negotiations on Monday, February 24th.

I am happy to report that the atmosphere surrounding contract negotiations in 2014 is much more positive than at this time three years ago. We certainly remember all too vividly the 2011 experience.

It is important for you, the ACT membership, to attend the February 20th meeting at 4:00 P.M. at the Crowne Plaza, City Avenue. Not only will you have the opportunity to authorize the proposals your Team will be submitting for negotiation, but you will also, in a very tangible way, be able to show your support for the ACT Negotiating Team.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the General Membership Meeting

ACT NEGOTIATING TEAM

Tom Imburgia (Cardinal O'Hara)

Joe Schuler (Conwell-Egan)

Rita Schwartz

Irene Tori

John Zoccola (Archbishop Wood)

Archdiocesan High Schools

TAX INFORMATION

2013 DUES

\$531.34

(13 pays x \$25.10 + 8 pays x \$25.63)

NOTICE

It's time to start thinking sabbatical!

Applications for sabbatical leave must be submitted no later than **March 3rd**.

It's time to start thinking about whether or not you want to apply.

National Association of Catholic School Teachers John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship

The National Association of Catholic School Teachers established the John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship to help defray the cost of a college education for outstanding children of NACST members. During their senior year of high school, \$4,000 awards are made to two students, \$1,000 in each of their four years of college study.

All sons, daughters and stepchildren of all active NACST members are eligible to participate in this scholarship provided they are in good standing in their senior year of high school. Application forms are available from the Senior Delegate of each high school. Deadline for submission of all applications is March 3rd.

Lancer's Local

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

The faculty welcomes back Mike Gould,
a long-time teacher and negotiating team member
who is returning to the faculty for the second semester.

Holy Cross 2013 Union Dues

\$528.36

(6 months at \$52.78 plus 4 months at \$52.92)

INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Did you know that you can logon to Independence Blue Cross web site at www.ibxpress.com and get all kinds of information at your fingertips? You can make sure all your family members are active on your policy, you can order identification cards for them and/or print temporary ID cards, you can check recent and past claims, find a provider, view the details of your benefits, and so much more.

In the same way, you can logon to the United Concordia web site at www.ucci.com and check the status of dental claims, find a provider, order a dental card, etc.

DENTAL BENEFITS

As of January 1, 2014, each teacher and their family members will have \$1,000 in dental benefits available to them for the 2014 calendar year. If you do not have a dental card or need an additional card, call or e-mail the ACT Office and one will be ordered for you.

VISION BENEFITS

Benefits are now available for teachers who signed up for the Davis Vision Plan. If you did not receive your vision card to date, please call or email the ACT Office.

Teachers who were on the plan last year will keep the same card. To locate a Davis Vision participating provider near you, go to www.ibx.com web site.

MEDICAL CARDS

If you are in need of additional medical cards, please call the Office of Catholic Education at 215-587-4520 or contact the ACT Office.

SHINGLES VACCINE (ZOSTAVAX)

Teachers age 60 or older are eligible for a shingles vaccine. **The correct process to receive the shingles vaccine (Zostavax) is to have the doctor order the vaccine from the Direct Ship program.** The prescription will be filled and mailed to the physician's office, then administered to the patient. **The correct phone number for Direct Ship is 1-800-691-3236.**



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 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, 2014, you and each of your family members have \$1,000 in dental benefits to use for the 2014 calendar year.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF YOUR DENTAL BENEFITS

The dental plan provided by the Association of Catholic Teachers Health and Welfare Fund is a plan focused on preventive care. You are not required to contribute toward the cost of this benefit. It is completely separate from your medical health insurance. Therefore, you should have a separate dental card that says "United Concordia".

Your Maximum Benefit for the calendar year 2014 is \$1,000 per person. Therefore, you and each covered member of your family have \$1,000 to be used for covered services which include the following:

PREVENTIVE & DIAGNOSTIC CARE (Plan pays 100% of UCR Charges)

- Routine exam (2 in a twelve month period)
- X-rays (subject to certain limits)
- Cleanings (2 in a twelve month period)
- Fluoride application (children under 19)
- Space maintainers (children under 19)

MINOR RESTORATIONS (Plan pays 100% of UCR charges)

- Fillings (amalgam, silicate, acrylic, synthetic, porcelain, composite fillings restoration)
- Inpatient consultation

GENERAL SERVICES (Plan pays 100% of UCR Charges)

- Repair of dentures (full or partial)
- Emergency treatment
- Simple extractions
- Endodontics
- Anesthesia

PERIODONTICS - subject to certain limits (Plan pays 50% of UCR Charges)

- Diagnosis and treatment planning
- Non surgical therapy
- Surgical therapy
- Maintenance/preventive procedures

Please note that caps, crowns, braces, dentures, oral surgical services and any other services relating to the preparation or build-up for these services are not covered under the dental plan.

MONTHLY GROUP MEDICAL RATES FOR RETIREES AGE 65+
(Effective January 1, 2014)

PERSONAL CHOICE 65:

Single Coverage: \$702.10

KEYSTONE 65 HMO:

Single Coverage: \$633.70

Retired teachers who are enrolled in any of the above plans are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part D. **You DO NOT need to enroll in an individual Medicare Part D plan, if you are enrolled in one of the above medical plans with the Archdiocese.** In fact, if you do, you will lose your Archdiocese medical and prescription drug coverage because the Archdiocese plans are now considered Medicare Part D plans, and you may not be enrolled in two Medicare Part D plans at the same time.

FOR TAX PURPOSES and/or FSA REIMBURSEMENT

DENTAL BENEFITS: If you are retired and/or on an Extended Leave of Absence beyond three semesters and paid for your dental benefits, the amount paid in 2013 is as follows: Individual Coverage = \$258.36, 2-Person or Family Coverage = \$658.32.

VISION BENEFITS: If you participated in the Voluntary Vision Program in 2013, the amount you paid for this benefit is as follows: Individual Coverage = \$79.32
2-Person Coverage = \$158.88 and Family Coverage = \$238.32.

FSA REMINDER

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

4:00 P. M.

**Crowne Plaza
Philadelphia Main Line**

AGENDA
Contract Proposals
New Business