

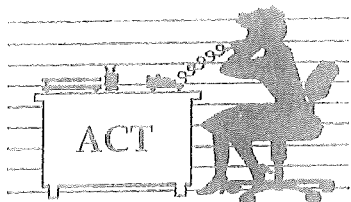


THE

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. 5
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From The President's Desk

EARLY BIRD NEGOTIATIONS OPEN

Negotiations 2014 are officially underway. The Association and the System exchanged proposals on Monday, February 24. The opening session was coupled with a dinner for both Teams which both the Secretary for Catholic Education and the Superintendent attended.

The first working session will be an all-day meeting on March 20, followed by another all-day session on March 27.

In its Opening Statement, the Association spoke of being "happy with both the new format for negotiations (the Early Bird) and the new attitude and atmosphere between us." This message was communicated as well in the Joint Letter which the Association and the System sent to all teachers and administrators.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

The Association pointed out that “the proposals we present to you today are reasonable and have come from our members through their contract surveys. The teachers told us what they wanted and needed. They voted approval of these proposals at the General Membership Meeting.”

The Statement made it clear that “No one wants a repeat of 2011. You have the Association’s assurance that we will do everything we can to reach a mutual agreement by the end of May, 2014.”

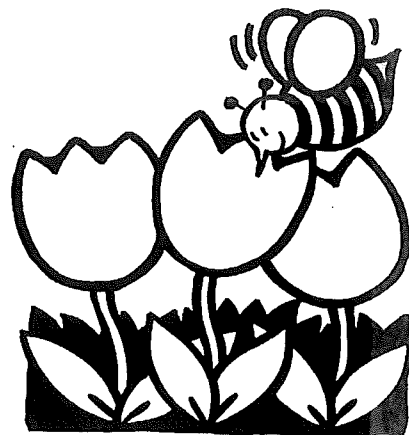
ACT has its “A” Team assembled and I am very fortunate to have Irene Tori, John Zoccola, Joe Schuler and Tom Imburgia with me at the bargaining table.

A copy of the ACT Proposals has been sent to each school for posting. The topics presented by the System include “Salaries and Benefits, Dates for Bumping, Extended Leave, Lesson Planning, Teacher Presence at Start and End of Day and When Administrative Openings Occur.”

As we work toward the May settlement date, ACT will be emailing updates to you, our members, on the progress of negotiations.

Please keep both Teams and the successful completion of the Early Bird in your prayers.

Rita



Mother, Friend, Teacher

Regina Fiedler! The words that come to mind are: mother, friend, teacher, in that order. While the Neumann-Goretti family remembers Regina as a teacher, she would first think of herself as a mother and then a friend. In conversations, Regina always referred to her children as "my Jimmy", my Gina", and "my John". She loved to share the accomplishments of her children with her friends at school. Nothing made her happier than being a grandmother. The joy that her granddaughters brought her was immeasurable. She was looking forward to the arrival of her third grandchild in the spring.



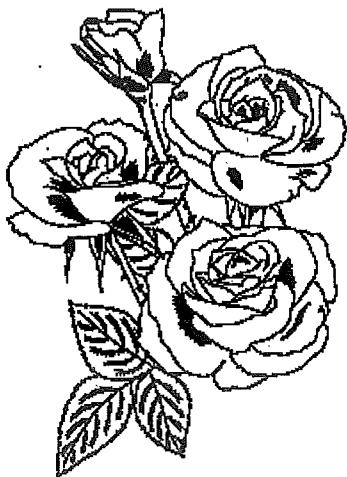
Regina had the right to be proud of what she provided in the way of quiet guidance to her children. They are successful and independent.

The way she mothered was the way she taught. Mrs. Fiedler accepted each student wherever they were. She never tried to change them. She always worked to lift their spirits. That is why she was not only a good teacher but a good role model for our children. The life lessons that they learned from her tenacity in battling cancer will serve them well.

Regina was an alumna of Little Flower. She received a strong foundation there. Her time at Little Flower taught her to be both selfless and hardworking. Evidence of these characteristics was seen in her mentoring of the students in CSC.

Regina was an original member of our beloved Neumann-Goretti. Her tenure here and her many years in grade school speak to her strong character and faith.

Regina Fiedler! Mother, friend, teacher! We will miss you.



**Patty Sticco
Peggy Clinton
Neumann-Goretti HS**

IMPORTANT

Negotiations are now underway. It is critical that you make sure that your personal data on the ACT portal 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 the ACT Office and she can 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.

ACT MEMBER SERVICE PROGRAM

The following tickets are available to purchase from the ACT Office.

AMC Movie Tickets	\$ 6.50
Regal/United Artists	\$ 7.00

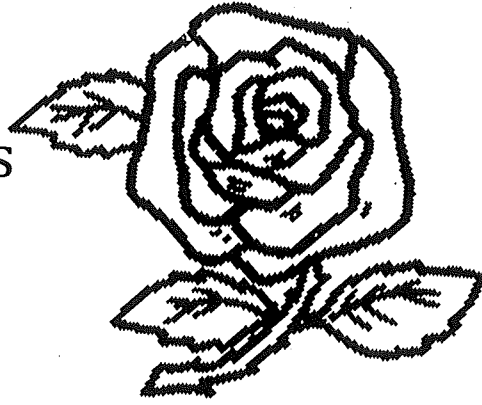
To request tickets, send a check made payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note indicating what tickets are being ordered and in what quantity.

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.

50 Years
of
Service



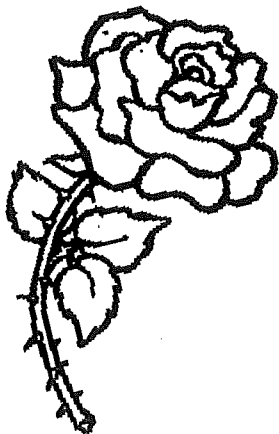
A
Golden
Celebration

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.

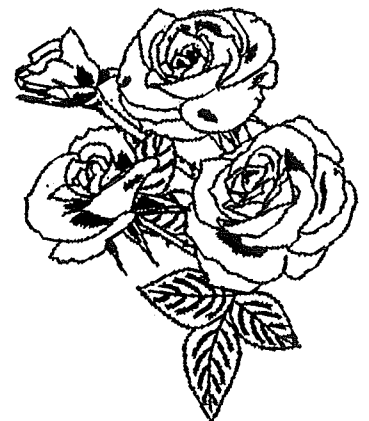
Paul Pedlow

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.



Michael Fiocco
Diane Casey
Joanna Catanzaro
Ellen O'Hara
Teresa Kramer



FSA REMINDER

If you were a participant in the 2013 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should have been exhausted by **December 31, 2013**. Any funds that remained in your account after December 31, 2013 have been lost to you. However, this does not mean that all your eligible expenses had 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**.



NOTICE

Voluntary Transfer

Applications for voluntary transfers must be submitted no later than April 1st.

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



ATTENTION UNION MEMBERS

Members of the Association of Catholic Teachers can receive a 15% discount on their **AT & T** monthly mobile phone bill. Proof of membership will be required. Mention Code 3508840.

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."

Archdiocesan High Schools

TAX INFORMATION

2013 DUES

\$531.34

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



Lancer's Local

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

The faculty wishes Theresa Ritter and Barry Harper well
as they recover from health issues.

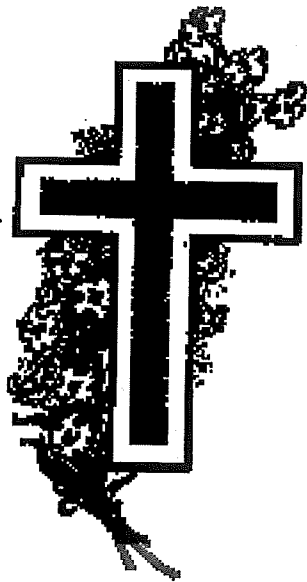
Holy Cross 2013 Union Dues

\$528.36

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



Alleluia



Easter

Celebrate

Rita, Irene and Ginny