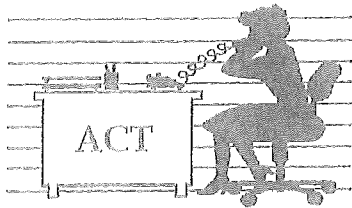


THE

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. 6
Fax 215-568-8270 - email (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - May - June 2014



From The President's Desk

THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS

Spring has finally arrived and with it a host of activities for the Association and the ACT Staff to tackle.

First, and foremost, contract negotiations are ongoing. We are working toward a finish date in late May. There are some sticky issues, to be sure, but there are many fewer than three years ago and the atmosphere at the table is much different. The Association has every expectation that there will be a contract to be presented to the membership at the meeting on May 28. The meeting will begin at 4 P.M. at the Sheet Metalworkers Hall on Columbus Boulevard. Please make your attendance a priority.

Some good news to report – the issue of administrators returning to the bargaining unit has been resolved. The contract language and intent will be followed; the administrators who came from the bargaining unit have the right upon resignation or termination to return to the classroom.

The Association and the System created a Joint Committee to resolve the handling of allegations of sexual misconduct. The document we have mutually agreed upon should be signed in the next few weeks.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

The annual rite of Constriction has begun with each school being notified by the Office of Catholic Education as to the number of positions to be cut. Teachers whose positions will be affected should be told within the next three weeks.

Well over a dozen teachers have already announced their intention to retire at the end of the school year. Hopefully, the openings created by these retirements will limit the number of actual jobs affected. As always, ACT will monitor the Constriction process. Teachers should contact the ACT Office with any questions.

The date of the freezing of the Lay Employees' Retirement Plan grows closer. As of July 1, 2014, the Pension Plan that is will be frozen and a new plan, a 403b (annuity) will become the Plan for all Archdiocesan lay employees. The Chief Financial Officer of the Archdiocese has been keeping the Association in the loop as things happen and decisions are made.

The Association of Catholic Teachers Health & Welfare Fund will be sponsoring Retirement Seminars for our teachers during the month of May.

Unfortunately, there are some problem areas. One is potentially very serious and may impact on the contract. It deals with the annuity companies. You have all received notification about the Archdiocese choosing Vanguard for the new 403b Pension Plan. That is their decision to make. What is not their decision to make is where the teachers can elect to place their own money. The letter sent to all lay employees states that this money, too, must go into Vanguard.

The Labor-Management Agreement is very clear that any change in the annuity companies must be by mutual agreement between the Association and the System. Therefore, it is the Association's position that those teachers who already have an annuity with VALIC, Lincoln or Fidelity can opt to stay with these companies. They can also elect to place their money in Vanguard, if they choose. The Archdiocese and the System do not agree. Therefore, it was necessary for the Association to file a grievance charging the System with a violation of the contract language in Article XIII, Section 10. This will also create a problem at the negotiating table. We will keep you updated on this as well as the progress of negotiations.

The next four weeks will, indeed, be busy ones. We ask you all to keep the negotiators for both the Association and the System in your prayers as we labor to come to agreement on the Early Bird contract.

One final reminder to all of you about the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. It is extremely important for you to vote yes or no on the proposal the ACT Negotiating Team will be presenting. In order to exercise your right as a Union member, you must be there. Keep in mind; what the membership decides on May 28th will affect your wages, benefits and working conditions for the next three years.





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 2013-2014 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.

Lancer's Local

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

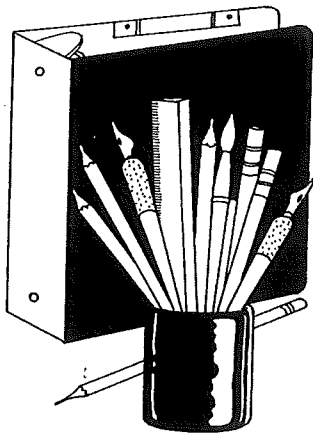
Congratulations to
Guidance Department Chair, Jennifer Kelly,
and Senior Delegate, Walt Walsh,
who were married on April 12, 2014.



*2014 Association of Catholic Teachers
John J. Reilly
\$500.00 Scholarship Awards*

Our 9th Grade Scholars

Emily Rockenbach – Monsignor Bonner &
Archbishop Prendergast
Marc Munafo – Archbishop Carroll
Mikayla M. Griffin – Conwell-Egan
Katerina I. Evangelou – John W. Hallahan
Beau Bruneau - Holy Cross
Thomas Jillions - Holy Cross
Ashley Diamond – Saint Hubert
Alexander B. Chokas – Father Judge
Kerry Marie Silidker – Lansdale Catholic
Laura Porretta – Little Flower



Marie Estampa – Bishop McDevitt
Julianna Scarduzio – Sts. John Neumann
& Maria Goretti
Emily Ann Markley – Cardinal O’Hara
Ryan M. DiLeva – Pope John Paul II
Nicholas Bishop – Roman Catholic
Katie Hancin – Archbishop Ryan
Kathryn McGonaghe – Bishop Shanahan
Jo’nelle Grant – West Catholic
Erin Lalli – Archbishop Wood

Sabbaticals Awarded for 2014-2015

Four ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2014-2015 school year. Two full year sabbaticals are available. Four teachers are receiving one semester each. The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were Julie Teson (Fr. Judge), Joe Schuler (Conwell-Egan) and Irene Tori (ACT Staff). Representing OCE were Kevin Kijewski (Associate Superintendent for Secondary Schools) and James Molnar (HR Manager for Secondary Schools).

The Association extends best wishes to the following recipients:

Craig Hardy (45 years) – Bishop Shanahan (one semester)
Michael Wetzel (44 years) -- Bonner-Prendergast (one semester)
Kathryn Bauman (43 years) – Pope John Paul II (one semester)
John Amorim (28 years) – Archbishop Ryan (one semester)

DISCOUNT MOVIE TICKETS AVAILABLE

AMC AND REGAL/UNITED ARTISTS **MOVIE TICKETS**

Tickets can be purchased from the ACT Office. AMC Tickets cost is \$6.50 and Regal tickets cost \$7.00. Send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note indicating which theater and how many tickets you are purchasing.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

ACT OFFICE HOURS -- During the summer, the Office will be open between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

ADDRESS CHANGES -- If you are in the process of moving or have already moved to a new address, don't forget to call the ACT Office with your new address and phone number. You can also visit the ACT Webpage and log-on to your personal page and update your information.

DENTAL AND VISION CARDS -- If you are in need of additional dental and/or vision cards, please call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or e-mail your request to ginny@act1776.com.

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

RETIREMENT INFORMATION -- The ACT Office has put together some medical information (rates, comparison sheets and contract provisions) for teachers who are considering retirement in the near future. If you are considering an early retirement or if you will be reaching the age for normal retirement, call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 for your retirement packet. You may also email your request to ginny@act1776.com.

FREEDOM CREDIT UNION – The Freedom Credit Union offers teachers and their families a wide range of financial opportunities. Savings 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.

AT & T DISCOUNT OR ACT MEMBERS: ACT Members can receive a 15% discount on their **AT & T** monthly mobile phone bill. Proof of membership will be required (ACT Union Card).
Must Mention Code 3508840.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014

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

4:00 P. M.

AGENDA

NEGOTIATIONS