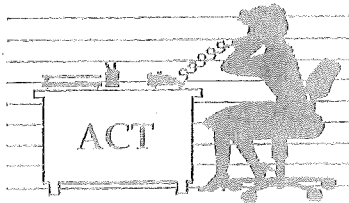


# THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

# SPIRIT '76 OF

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Fax 215-568-8270 - email ([nacst.nacst@verizon.net](mailto:nacst.nacst@verizon.net)) - web site ([www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com)) - May-June 2013



## From The President's Desk

### LIFE WITHIN THE SYSTEM: THE LATEST CHAPTER

As we reach the end of the school year, I wanted to give you one final update on life within the System. First, I would like to talk about where we are with regard to the relationship between the Association and the School System. As you know, it has not been the best of years. Unfortunately, not much has changed, and that, to say the least, is unfortunate.

Soon after my letter to you on April 17<sup>th</sup>, I was contacted by the Faith in the Future Foundation. They asked for a meeting to discuss my letter. At the meeting on May 14, quite a bit of time was spent talking about the importance of a good relationship between ACT and OCE. I made it very clear that such a relationship is nothing without trust. I was told by the Foundation that we had to move forward, not to dwell on what had happened. My response was that trust is not a button that you can turn on and off. To me, it is the cornerstone of any relationship. Once trust is breached, it takes time for it to come back, if it ever does.

I will say that communication has improved a bit. Unfortunately, that doesn't stop the filing of grievances when the Superintendent violates the Labor-Management Agreement. I believe we are up to 20 at this point. This is time-consuming and I can think of lots of ways I would rather spend my time representing you, but it's all part of the job.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

The latest grievance response from the Superintendent (May 31) is a classic “do you walk to work or carry your lunch.” During a meeting on May 22, we discussed with the Superintendent how administrative postings must be handled according to the contract. I was hopeful that this would resolve the issue and the grievance that had been filed. However, when ACT received the Superintendent’s written response to the grievance, the Superintendent’s position had changed completely. Needless to say, the grievance will be moving to the next level.

Working to get teachers reinstated who were fired without just cause and without corroborating evidence, continues. Making sure that all the processes and procedures outlined in the contract are followed also takes up quite a bit of our day. This is where better communication from the Superintendent would be truly helpful.

Just a word about Constriction. We all know that Constriction is never good. I keep hearing from the Foundation that they don’t want any Constriction. From their lips to God’s ears. Having said this, we all know that there will be Constriction. The numbers are somewhat smaller than they have been over recent years, but teachers will still be losing their positions at their schools. Hopefully, the number of lay-offs will be small, if any. We will keep you posted via email and on the website.

As you leave your classrooms and set out for a much-needed and totally deserved summer rest, please note that next year, 2014, is a negotiating year. The Association continues to push for an Early Bird contract, since the one completed in May of 2008 was greatly appreciated by our teachers, administrators and parents. All of us, administrator and teacher alike, should be exerting our considerable energies into keeping our schools alive and well. We don’t need a repeat of September 2011. I will be contacting the newly appointed Secretary for Catholic Education/COO as well as others in the Diocesan Office to seek an Early Bird for 2014. Keep your fingers crossed.

Have a wonderful summer.



Congratulations to ACT President, Rita Schwartz, who with St. Hubert Advisory Board President, Marie Gallagher, received an award from Holy Family University, presented by Holy Family President, Sr. Francesca Onley, on May 29, 2013:

*In Grateful Appreciation  
of  
A Lifetime of Commitment*

*Holy Family University  
2013*

## *A True Champion of Catholic Education*

On May 2, 2013, we lost a staunch friend of Catholic education and Catholic school teachers. Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Bishop Joseph P. McFadden would tell you he was an exceptional person. I first knew Joe McFadden as a lay teacher and coach at West Catholic High School for Boys. He also served as a junior delegate to the House of Delegates, the legislative assembly of the newly recognized Association of Catholic Teachers. He left our ranks to enter the seminary, and, after ordination, served, for many years, as Secretary to Cardinal John Krol. He came back to education as the President of Cardinal O'Hara High School. In 2004, as the Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden, he was placed in charge of education within the Archdiocese, a position in which his lifelong love for our schools, our students and our teachers became even more evident.

Bishop McFadden and I worked well together. This was especially evident during that long Labor Day night in 2006 when an almost certain strike was transformed into a fair and equitable contract. He was also part of the Early Bird settlement in 2008. When the Bishop left us to become the Ordinary of the Diocese of Harrisburg in 2010, I wrote to thank him for his "tremendous commitment to our schools and, most especially, our teachers. You have been a true friend and champion."

Not only has Catholic education lost a champion, I have lost a good friend.

On May 16, 2013, the Association's Executive Board voted unanimously to confer Honorary Membership in the Association of Catholic Teachers on Bishop Joseph P. McFadden. The certificate of Membership was given to Bishop McFadden's family at the reception following the Memorial Mass at our Cathedral on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, what would have been his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Since Joe McFadden began his career as an ACT Member, it is only fitting that he should return to us now.



ACT President, Rita Schwartz, presents the certificate conferring honorary membership in ACT to Bishop Joseph P. McFadden to his sister, Ellen, and his brother, John.

# AREA VICE PRESIDENTS ELECTION RESULTS

There was only one candidate for the Central, Northwest and Northeast areas. Following the provisions of the ACT Constitution, Irene Tori, Vice President, cast the one ballot needed to elect the following Area Vice Presidents:

Central	Thomas McKeever (Roman)
Northwest	Kathy Kopf (Pope John Paul II)
Northeast	Paul Pedlow (Ryan)

There was a contested election in the Southwest Area.  
The results of the election are as follows:

Southwest	Thomas McCracken (O'Hara)	63 votes
	David McQuiston (Shanahan)	103 votes

The Election Results were tabulated and certified on May 15, 2013 by the Nominations and Election Committee--Chuck Candelora (Hallahan) and Mary Ellen Kelly (Hallahan).

ACT congratulates Tom, Kathy, Paul and Dave.

## *Rest in Peace, Gerry!*

Gerry Brennan arrived at Shanahan as our new librarian only this past September, another victim of Constriction. While her time here was brief, those who got to know her discovered a woman who was dedicated to Catholic education and who would do anything she could to help student and teacher alike.

Gerry never allowed health issues to interfere with her work. The Shanahan community mourns her loss and regrets that her time with us was all too short.



*Stephanie Belefonte*  
*Bishop Shanahan High School*

Gerry also taught at Conwell-Egan for three years and at Cardinal O'Hara for one year. The Conwell-Egan and O'Hara communities echo Stephanie's sentiments. Gerry's time with them was all too short. May she rest in peace!

### **Lancer's Local**

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

**The 2012-2016 Labor-Management Agreement  
was signed on April 17, 2013.**

**The contract has been printed and will be distributed to the  
teachers before the end of the school year.**





## More Notes of Thanks!

**From: John J. Reilly Scholarship Award Winners**

**“Each year, the Association’s Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> grade tuition.”**

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the \$500 scholarship the Association of Catholic Teachers granted me.

My parents and I greatly appreciate the generosity you and your organization have shown; I myself also appreciate the recognition. As a daughter of avid Catholic education supporters, it is exciting to see that my Catholic education will be able to be further pursued. I will make sure to work hard to keep the grades required to receive this privilege.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
*Tracy Glova '16*  
*Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls*

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

Thank you for the \$500 ACT scholarship. My parents and I gratefully appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
*Allisen Hooven*  
*St. Huberts*

# SUMMER COMMUNICATION

This is a reminder that the ACT Office has gone green as of January 2011. Teachers who have provided us with a personal e-mail address have been receiving information such as Executive Board Minutes and other updates via e-mail.

Please note that department head, administrative, coaching and moderator openings will be posted on the ACT web site, [www.act1776.com](http://www.act1776.com), as they occur. They will also be e-mailed to you via your personal e-mail address.

**Information that you need to know over the summer will be sent to your personal e-mail address.** If you have not provided us with a personal e-mail address, please do so. Otherwise, you will not receive any information from ACT. Association information will not be sent to a school e-mail address.

Also, each ACT member was provided with a user name and password for the ACT Web page. Please log in and, if necessary, update your personal information. If you do not have your user name and/or password, you can contact Ginny at the ACT Office and she will provide you with this information.

**The summer editions of the ACT newsletter, *The Spirit of '76* will be sent to you by regular mail.** Please make sure we have a current mailing address if you have had a recent move.

## Have a great summer!

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### *Teachers in the News*

Congratulations to Phil Roche, an English teacher and Crew Coach at Father Judge High School. Phil ('69) was inducted into Father Judge High School's Hall of Fame on Thursday, May 9, 2013.

Congratulations to Ed Macko, an English teacher and Girls' Swim Coach at Archbishop Ryan High School. Ed's tenure as a Swim Coach was highlighted in the March 6, 2013 issue of *The Northeast Times*.

Congratulations to John Dunlop, Business teacher and Soccer Coach at Father Judge High School. John was honored at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Sports Awards Banquet as the Boys Soccer Coach of the Year.



# ACT MEMBERSHIP LOWERS THE COST OF SUMMER FUN

***Traveling to Wildwood this summer?*** Visit [www.MoreysPiers.com/ETicket](http://www.MoreysPiers.com/ETicket) to purchase your tickets. To take advantage of *members only* savings, you will need the login code specific to the Association of Catholic Teachers. ACT Members should have received this login information in a recent Member Services E-mail. If you did not receive this email, or if you have misplaced the login information, please call the ACT Office and we will give you the login code.

***Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA*** – The ACT Office has coupons available for these parks. Save \$15 at Busch Gardens and save \$10 at Water Country USA. Call the ACT office if you would like a coupon.

***Remember Clementon Amusement Park?*** Last year's Solidarity Picnic was a blast! If you or your family will be visiting Clementon Amusement Park this summer, we have arranged for special discounts there as well. You will need to order your tickets on-line using a special promo code specific to our group. If you are in need of the promo code, call or email the ACT Office.

***Cove Haven – Paradise Stream – Pocono Palace*** ACT members get exclusive savings off all-inclusive vacation packages to Pocono Mountain resorts! You must use your Getaway Club number when booking. Contact the ACT Office for your promo code.

***Dorney Park Anyone?*** You can save up to \$13.99 per ticket when ordering your tickets on-line and using the promo code for the Association of Catholic Teachers. If you are in need of the promo code, call or email the ACT Office.

***How about a Movie?*** The Association of Catholic Teachers has movie tickets available for the discounted price of \$6.50. The only restriction is you must wait ten days after a new release to use them, or you will pay a \$1.50 surcharge at the theater. Either way, it is a good deal considering the price of a movie these days is \$10 or above.

The Association has two movie tickets available. **Regal/United Artists** and **AMC**. The movie ticket program has been very popular with the members. We sell approximately 1000 tickets a year. To order movie tickets, you would need to send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note indicating which theater ticket 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.freedomcu.org). You may also call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or the Freedom Credit Union at 215-612-5900.

