



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT
OF '76

1700 SANSOM STREET • SUITE 903 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 • 215-568-4175 • VOLUME XXVI
No. 4 • Fax 215-568-8270 • E-mail (nacsl.nacst@verizon.net) • web site (www.act1776.com) • January 2006



From The President's Desk

NEGOTIATIONS 2006

The Association has officially notified the Secondary School System of our intent to open negotiations for a new Labor-Management Agreement. We, once again, asked to discuss the use of the Win-Win Method of Contract Negotiations. Win-Win, which is non-adversarial collective bargaining, would condense negotiations into an intensive month-long process, thereby creating a finished contract before the end of the school year. The System, however, wants to stick with traditional collective bargaining.

On January 4th, the ACT Executive Board interviewed a number of candidates and selected nine of our members to serve on this year's Negotiating Team. They are **Maureen Colanzi** (Cardinal O'Hara), **Michael Cunningham** (Bishop Shanahan), **Ellen Donato** (Archbishop Prendergast), **Michael Galante** (Lansdale Catholic), **Charles Panepresso** (Archbishop Ryan), **Joseph Schuler** (ACT Staff), **Irene Tori** (ACT Staff), **John Zoccola** (Archbishop Wood) and myself. The Team's first meeting was

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

January 18th; meetings will continue weekly as we prepare the contract proposal to be presented to the ACT membership at the General Membership Meeting which will take place on Wednesday, March 15th at 4:00 P.M. at the Holiday Inn, City Avenue. Thereafter, it will be handed across the table to the System at the opening of contract talks.

When we sit across the table from the System's negotiators, we, the ACT Negotiating Team, speak for you. Because it is vital for us to know what you are thinking and what you want and don't want, Contract Surveys were sent out to all members to ask for your thoughts on Salary, Benefits and Working Conditions. As Irene, Joe and I visit all schools, we also are hearing from teachers about the upcoming contract negotiations and the issues important to them.

At the March General Membership Meeting, you will have the opportunity to discuss the contract proposal, tweak it, if necessary, and, then, vote your approval of the document that will be officially presented by the ACT Team.

We truly hope that a mutually acceptable new Labor-Management Agreement can be completed prior to the end of the school year. The ACT Team will do all that we can to make this happen. However, if you were to study the almost 40-year history of collective bargaining between the Association and the System, it seems highly unlikely that an early settlement will occur.

The ACT Team will be keeping you updated during the school year and, most likely, throughout the summer, as well.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday
March 15, 2006
4:00 P. M.
Holiday Inn - City Line Avenue

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, \$5,000 awards are made to three students, \$1,250 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 1st.

NOTICE

It's time to start thinking sabbatical!

Applications for sabbatical leave must be submitted no later than **March 1st**.

It's time to start thinking about your decision to possibly apply.

Forms for application will be posted in each school in February.

Lancer's Local

Issues or contractual items of interest to Holy Cross H. S. (Delran N.J.)

The faculty wishes Mike Luke well in his new career and thanks him for all his years of service to Holy Cross.

The faculty sends its best wishes to Denise Peters and her family as Denise begins her leave.

The new contract language is being reviewed by ACT.

Tax Information: Union Dues for the Year 2005 are \$400.

**MONTHLY GROUP MEDICAL RATES
FOR RETIREES AGE 65+**

(Effective January 1, 2006)

SECURITY 65 PLAN C with Major Medical:

Employee Only: \$490.62
Employee & Spouse: \$981.24

PERSONAL CHOICE 65:

Employee Only: \$392.61
Employee & Spouse: \$785.22

KEYSTONE 65 HMO:

Employee Only: \$368.57
Employee & Spouse: \$737.14

Retired teachers who are enrolled in any of the above plans are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part D (the portion of Medicare that will cover prescription drugs beginning January 1, 2006). **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.

Archdiocesan High Schools

TAX INFORMATION

2005 DUES

\$400.00

The blessings of a career well-chosen



DEDICATED TO TEACHING — Beth Hanselmann a member of the mathematics faculty at Bishop McDevitt High School was recently honored for "excellence and dedication" in teaching. Hanselmann has been a teacher for 35 years, 14 of them at Bishop McDevitt.

Beth Hanselmann came to Bishop McDevitt 14 years ago from West Catholic High School, where she taught Physical Science. Beth has been a teacher in our system for 35 years. Beth graduated from Immaculata with her degree in Math.

During her years at Bishop McDevitt, Beth has been an asset to the Math Department by the concern she shows for her students. Beth opens the faculty dining room very early every day and she also tutors in the morning after eating breakfast and chatting with the early morning crew. She can also be found tutoring in the afternoon after school. In her spare time, Beth is the moderator of Mathletes.

It was fitting that she was honored by these awards—The Golden Heart Group Award for Excellence and Dedication in the Teaching Profession and the Congressional Certificate of Merit in Recognition of

Outstanding Achievement from U. S. Representative Allyson Schwartz of Montgomery County—because that is what Catholic education is all about, helping the youth of today.

Lucille Traynor
Math Chairperson

Beth Hanselmann is one of the most optimistic, caring, observant and friendly people that I know. She will always make time to help a struggling student or a friend in need. She is so observant that she once was offered a job with the FBI! She pays much attention to detail; her work is always neat and precise.

Sue Davenport
Math Department

The blessings of a career well-chosen

THANK YOU, JIM

On November 19, 2005, the Association of Catholic Teachers lost one of its founding members and early Presidents, James F. McGrath. Jim served as Ad Hoc President between March and October of 1966 and Vice President from October, 1966 to September, 1967. He was elected President of ACT in September, 1967 and served in that capacity during the negotiating of our first Labor-Management Agreement.

Whether as President, Executive Board member or Delegate from his school, Monsignor Bonner, Jim's heart and soul were always with the union he had helped to found.

I served on the Executive Board with Jim from 1966 to 1968 and on Negotiating Teams from 1967 through 1970. As a relatively new teacher in the System and new, as well, to the Catholic Teacher Union movement, I marveled at Jim's negotiating style. He would often quote extensively from the Documents of Vatican II while, at the same time, reading from the most recent Cost of Living Index. He had an uncanny knack for using just the right statement at the right time.

We have, certainly, come a long way from those early formative years. We say thank you, Jim, for all you did to make the Association of Catholic Teachers the strong organization it is today.

