



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT OF '76

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### From The President's Desk

Dear ACT Member,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer break and had a fun Fourth of July.

I thought it might be good to give you an update on what happened during the final weeks of school and what the ACT Staff has been involved with so far this summer.

On June 12th, the Association's Senior Delegates had their final meeting of the year. We said goodbye and thank you to six Senior Delegates, some with longtime service, and we welcomed new Delegates who are beginning their term at a challenging time, a negotiating year.

The Constriction meeting took place on June 13th. Constricted teachers and those who were bumped from their positions to provide jobs for more senior teachers came together in the auditorium of the diocesan office building. At the end of the meeting, 20 teachers left with positions while there was no job to select for 7 teachers. For the moment, they are laid off. Hopefully, September will find everyone back to work.

You received two notices in the closing days of the school year. The first notified you that there will be a three week pay gap in September. Every 6 to 7 years, we face a calendar

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

glitch which makes the first pay date of the new school year before the teaching year really begins. The new contract changed the language. Teachers will still be paid every other Friday, but as of September, 2007, "starting the second Friday after the start of school." This should take care of the glitch once and for all. If you have any questions, please give us a call at the ACT Office.

The second paper was a one-page notice entitled "Administrator and Teacher Dress Code." There was quite a bit of confusion as to where this "Dress Code" originated, since there was nothing on the paper to identify who had sent it. Many teachers erroneously thought that it came from their principals. The Dress Code was sent out by the Office of Catholic Education. The operative words here are "guidelines" and "should." Even with "should," though, teachers need to be aware that certain clothing is "unacceptable." "Examples of professional dress" are just that, examples. Come September, administrators and teachers need to rely on a little common sense. That should be sufficient.

The System wanted a Lunch Policy in place beginning in September, 2007. There was discussion between the Association and the System throughout the school year as to what constitutes a lunch. There was even talk of moving everyone back inside the Faculty Dining Room and have a limited menu (there are a few schools that continued to have lunch served inside the Dining Room and never went on-line). There are still one or two details that need to be finalized; however, this is what ACT and OCE have agreed to:

There is one lunch per teacher per school day.

Schools that were on-line, remain on-line; schools in which teachers had their meal provided in the Faculty Dining Room will continue with that format.

Items which are not included in the meal include

Prepackaged items such as Lays Products, Nabisco,  
Novelty Ice Cream, Candy, Premium bottled beverages such as Vitamin Water, Snapple,  
100% Juice, Pepsi and Coke containers, Powerade/Gatorade.

These items are available for purchase.

If there are questions about Lunch and what is or is not available for teachers, please contact the ACT Office.

One last item of importance: On June 27th, State Representative Richard Grucella introduced legislation in the House to provide technology funding for non-public schools. House Bill 1646 would appropriate \$30 for each student in non-public schools to be funneled through the link-to-learn program. The funding would be for "educational technology, hardware, software and infrastructure improvements." Similar legislation is being introduced in the PA Senate by State Senator Robert Tomlinson. You can go to the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference web site ([www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org)), click on Contact Your Legislator, click on Technology Funding and follow the directions. Urge both your State Senator and State Rep to sign on to this legislation.

The ACT Office is open throughout the summer. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or problems.

