



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT

OF '76

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From The President's Desk

CONSTRUCTION

As I travel around the System on my school visits, the burning questions on the minds of many teachers deal with Construction - namely, when will the teachers know and how many constricted positions will there be?

The Construction Process which usually heats up in March has been pushed back to April in the hope that enrollment numbers, both in recruitment and retention, will be more solid at that point. With the current state of the economy, however, nothing is certain.

Listed below are some important dates for the 2009 Construction:

March 30 - schools will be notified of their construction number.

April 3 - the department(s) to be constricted will be determined by the individual school and forwarded to the Office of Catholic Education.

April 13 - the week of April 13, the principal will personally meet with each teacher in the school whose name is on the tentative Construction List.

April 17 - by April 17, teachers on the tentative Construction List will receive a letter from the Superintendent of Schools. They will also be asked to complete a Competency Form.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

- April 30 - Competency Forms due in the Office of Catholic Education.
- May 5 - The System and the Association will meet and mutually agree to the competencies.
- May 15 - by May 15, teachers on the List who wish to bump inter-departmentally within their school must notify their principals.
- May 26 - by May 26, teachers who are bumped must complete a Competency Form.
- May 29 - by May 29, if the need arises, teachers with lowest system seniority and not on the List will receive bump letters from the Office of Catholic Education.
- June 10 - Constriction Meeting at which teachers select new positions.

Some details to remember:

Teachers constricted in an individual department should be the lowest in school seniority. If teachers have split rosters, their department is determined by the discipline in which they teach three or more sections.

If a teacher is provisional, none of the provisional years of teaching in a field outside the area of competency will be counted toward competency.

In order for teachers to claim a second competency, the credits must be acquired by May 15. For teachers hired from 1982 on, 24 credits are needed for competency in a subject area. Teachers are encouraged to submit additional credits toward a second competency as soon as possible.

There are a number of other parts to the Constriction Process. Teachers on the Constriction List will be given a complete copy of the Constriction Guidelines.

ACT carefully monitors the Constriction Process. Teachers should contact the ACT Office with any questions or concerns.

The April 2, 2009 General Membership Meeting will be devoted to answering any and all questions about Constriction. Hope to see all of you there.



Seniority Lists Posted

(for school only)

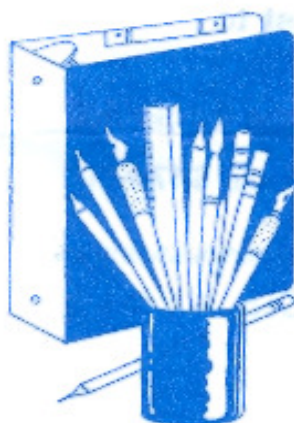
Article V, Section 1b states "On or before April 1 of each school year, the Secondary School System shall supply to the Association and shall post in each school a complete listing of all teachers in that school including those on approved leaves of absence arranged according to school seniority."

"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."

The 2008 Association of Catholic Teachers John J. Reilly \$500.00 Scholarship Awards

Our 9th Grade Scholars

Matthew Onimus - Monsignor Bonner &
Archbishop Prendergast
Jessica Lafferty - Archbishop Carroll
Alicia Rusnak - Conwell-Egan
Destiny Marquez - Cardinal Dougherty
Brandi McFarland - John W. Hallahan
Charmaine Cavan - Holy Cross
Kathleen MacFeeters - St. Hubert
John Landis - Father Judge
Lindsay Miller - Kennedy-Kenrick
Jordan Janinek - Lansdale Catholic
Kerry Glova - Little Flower



Rachel Jenkins - Bishop McDevitt
Kevin Ng - Sts. John Neumann
& Maria Goretti
Timothy Nean - Northeast Catholic
Jennifer Glace - Cardinal O'Hara
Julia Yearwood - St. Pius X
David Thomas III - Roman Catholic
Allison Umile - Archbishop Ryan
Ann Gill - Bishop Shanahan
Elena Marrero - West Catholic
Michael Heggan - Archbishop Wood

- Congratulations From ACT -

BJ'S OPEN ENROLLMENT

The BJ's enrollment information and application was sent out in a recent Member Service mailing. The deadline to return the application to the ACT Office is April 24, 2009.

Make checks payable to BJ's.

MOONLIGHTING BOOKLET

Advertise your hobby or business in the Association's
Moonlighting Booklet.

The deadline to submit a business card or an ad is April 17, 2009.

Voluntary Transfer

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

(Forms will be posted in the schools by March 1st. The application form can also be found on the ACT web site.)

Lancer's Local

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

The 2008-2012 contract has been printed and delivered to the School.

Tax Information: Union Dues for the Year 2008 are \$474.60.

%%%%%%%%%

Archdiocesan High Schools TAX INFORMATION

**2008 DUES
\$470.82**

(13 pays X \$23.31 + 7 pays X \$23.97)

LOOKING BACK ON 25 YEARS

Wow! Twenty-five years...more than half of my lifetime...where have the years gone? When I think about all those years, it is my faith in God and other people who have gotten me to where I am today...my family, friends, colleagues and students. As a product of Catholic schools (St. Cecilia '75, Cardinal Dougherty '79, LaSalle College '83), I have never known anything else. I actually back-doored my way into teaching thanks to my former CD track coach and his invitation to help him with coaching duties at CD. I loved the experience so much that I left my actuarial assistant job for the bright promise of teaching mathematics to the students of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Back in 1984 when I started teaching at Bishop Conwell HS, the most important thing was "How high can you make your hair?" I remember the student council campaign speech by a junior that boasted that she used one whole can of hair spray each day in her get-ready-for-school routine. That young lady went on to win the election. I remember staying after school to chat with students. At the wise old age of twenty-three, my students thought I had so much wisdom...my, how times have changed! My proudest accomplishments were those that my former students made: adopting children from China, publishing books, teaching English in foreign lands, to name a few.

Things were in a whirlwind in 1993 when Bishop Conwell and Bishop Egan merged at the Bishop Egan site to form the new Conwell-Egan Catholic HS. The boys did not want "us" in "their" building, and let "us" know that every chance they got. I think I called more parents that year than I have ever called in all my years of teaching. But things settled down as the boys finally saw some of the benefits of co-education. I entered the world of technology as the graphing calculator finally caught on and I eventually got a computer in my classroom. There, too, I got to say, "Goodbye!" to the bubble sheets and "Hello!" to doing my grades on the floppy disk. Again, my students made me feel accomplished. Studying aeronautics in Florida, attending Princeton, playing for an NFL team are just a few of their many achievements. One of my former students even taught my daughter at Bishop McDevitt this past year (Thanks, Amy!). Talk about passing on the torch!

Being the lowest in seniority in the math department for all my years at Bishop Conwell and Conwell-Egan, it seemed that I was frequently on the Constriction List, being spared when people retired, took voluntary transfers or enrollment numbers changed. Just when I thought that I was never going to leave...I was bumped and landed at Lansdale Catholic. These three years at LC have flown by, yet it seems that, since I am so much a part of life at LC, I have been here forever. Technology seems to be the biggest change - finally getting rid of the annoying floppy disks, doing grades right on-line, learning, testing and implementing the tools of web 2.0 and trying to balance all the new technologies that come at us every day with the best educational content possible. I know that I have a long way to go in that department, but, once again, what hasn't changed is the people - always accepting and willing to lend a helping hand or sympathetic ear, knowing when you need a good laugh or a strong shoulder.

Yes, it is the people that have made these twenty-five years fly by...my parents, my brothers and sisters, my husband and kids, and all of you that have touched my life in so many countless ways. I could not even begin to name you all...I'd forget someone. Thank you all for touching my life and giving it meaning. Thank you!

*Anne Templeton
Lansdale Catholic*

Requiescat in Pace

Robert W. Senske

1927-2009

Born in Center City (Rittenhouse Square Area, St. Patrick's Parish) in 1927, Bob Senske was a teacher and coach at Bishop Neumann-St. John Neumann High School for 33 years. A 1945 graduate of Southeast Catholic, Bob entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary where he studied for nine years. However, at some point in those nine years, Bob decided that God had other plans for him. In 1956, he left St. Charles with his many degrees and headed for Bishop Neumann High School.

Over his years at Neumann, Bob became known as the quintessential "Pirate". While teaching everything from English to Phys Ed and Health, to German and Latin, Bob was the guru of School Spirit. His homeroom won every chance drive competition, and, if asked, "What homeroom is this?" by a stranger, a voluminous "D5" would resound.



It wasn't Spirit Day at Neumann unless Bob had his straw hat with a sign tucked in the orange and black ban, "Neumann-Southern tickets \$5". In fact, at pep rallies, Bob would don his orange and black beanie from his days at Southeast and pick up a pair of pom poms to lead the student body in a few cheers.

While Bob liked teaching, he loved coaching. His expertise lay in football and baseball. In football, he was the Catholic League's freshman coach with the most wins. He also served as an assistant varsity coach to the Catholic League legend, Paul J. Bartolomeo. In baseball, he was known as one of the best pitching coaches in the Catholic League. If Bob wasn't coaching, he was cheering on the team, any Pirate team.

Bob took early retirement in 1990 but remained at Neumann for 14 more years. During this period, he served as a volunteer in the Alumni Development Office, helping wherever he could.

In failing health, Bob retired in 2004. He passed to eternal rest on February 17, 2009 after complications from Alzheimer's disease.

From 1941 until his death, Bob's loyalty to Southeast-Neumann, the Norbertine Fathers, and The Millay Club never ended. In a funny twist of fate, Neumann-Goretti's boys' basketball team enjoyed a decisive victory over Roman for the Catholic League Championship on February 23, 2009--the day Bob was buried. He was probably rooting for "His Team"!

*Walt Belovitz
Senior Delegate
Neumann-Goretti*

ELECTION AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

By ACT Constitution, the 4 Area Vice Presidents are to be elected in May of odd numbered years by the active membership of their area.

ELIGIBLE MEMBERS WHO WISH TO RUN FOR OFFICE SHALL FILE A PETITION WITH THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE BY **April 10th** AND IT SHALL BEAR THE SIGNATURES OF **TWENTY-FIVE (25) REGULAR MEMBERS AND THEIR SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS.**

THESE PETITIONS SHALL STATE:

"I (NAME OF CANDIDATE) WISH TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF (NAME OF AREA) AREA VICE PRESIDENT, AND WILL SERVE IN THAT OFFICE IF ELECTED."

The areas and schools each represents are as follows:

NORTHEAST: Conwell-Egan, Holy Cross, Father Judge, Northeast Catholic, Saint Hubert and Archbishop Ryan

NORTHWEST: Cardinal Dougherty, Lansdale Catholic, Bishop McDevitt, Archbishop Wood, as well as Kennedy-Kenrick and Saint Pius X (which, in September 2010, will become Pope John Paul II)

CENTRAL: John W. Hallahan, Little Flower, Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti, Roman Catholic and West Catholic

SOUTHWEST: Monsignor Bonner-Archbishop Prendergast, Archbishop Carroll, Cardinal O'Hara and Bishop Shanahan

IN THE EVENT THAT NO PETITIONS ARE RECEIVED FOR NOMINATIONS TO A PARTICULAR OFFICE BY APRIL 10, ONLY IN THIS EVENT SHALL THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MAKE ANY NOMINATIONS. IN THIS EVENT THEY SHALL NOMINATE AT LEAST TWO (2) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS FOR THE SPECIFIC OFFICE(S) BY APRIL 16.

BALLOTS MUST BE SENT OUT NO LATER THAN MAY 1 AND MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 2009.

ANY MEMBER WHO WISHES TO HAVE HIS OR HER NAME PLACED IN NOMINATION MUST USE THE ABOVE PETITION AND MUST **RETURN THE PETITION WITH THE SIGNATURES OF 25 REGULAR MEMBERS BY April 10, 2009.**

ADDRESS ALL PETITIONS TO:

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
C/O ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC TEACHERS
1700 SANSOM STREET, SUITE 903
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103**



ACT

**General Membership
Meeting**

Thursday

April 2, 2009

4:00 P. M.

Crowne Plaza

Philadelphia

Main Line

**State of the Union
Constriction**

Meet the candidates
for the office of
Area Vice President.