

THE
SPIRIT OF '76

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

1700 SANSOM STREET • SUITE 903 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 • 215-568-4175 • VOLUME XXVIII
No. 7 - Fax 215-568-8270 - E-mail (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - website(www.act1776.com) - May-June 2008



From The
President's Desk

THE DECISION IS YOURS

On October 22, 2007, when the Association and the System signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Contract Negotiations 2008," both were truly optimistic that we could limit contract talks to the financial issues and reach a settlement prior to June, 2008.

Now, seven months later, the Association and the System have two negotiating sessions remaining to hammer out an Agreement that the ACT Executive Board can recommend to the membership and that the membership will ratify. As I write this letter, we are working very hard to do just that. However, we're not there yet.

As with the Win-Win Process, the Negotiating Teams have had to get their minds to focus on May 27th as Labor Day. The ACT members need to arrive at the meeting on May 28th as if it were the Tuesday after Labor Day. This mindset is extremely important, because the Memo of Understanding carried with it the following caveat:

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Should a contract not be ratified by the membership of the Association of Catholic Teachers and approved by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia prior to June, 2008, the System and the Association would resume traditional bargaining and both sides would present proposals on all articles and sections of the contract.

None of us wants to revisit 2006 when punitive language and anti-teacher proposals dominated the summer talks. If the financial package is not approved by the Executive Board and the ACT membership, the summer of 2008 will be "déjà vu all over again."

The ACT Negotiating Team has been working extremely hard to bring back to you, the Association membership, a contract you can ratify. You will be the ones to decide that on May 28th at 4:30 P.M. at Penns Landing Caterers.

I urge all of you to be there.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

On May 19th, the Association and the System met to review the competencies of every constricted teacher. As I have said so often, having more than one competency is really important to teachers who face Constriction. It enables them to bump interdepartmentally within their school if there is someone with lower school seniority in the other competency. The bumped teacher would then be placed on the Constriction List. Additional competencies will also be helpful as teachers select their new schools at the Constriction Meeting on June 11th. Choosing a split roster as well as a school closer to home are real possibilities.

At the present time, there are 28 teachers remaining on the List, 5 in Business, 8 in English, 2 in Fine Arts, 1 Librarian, 1 in Math, 3 in Bio/Phys Sci, 4 in Social Studies, 3 in Theology. One teacher does not have 24 credits in an academic area.

The Association and the System will also be meeting on June 2nd to make sure there are sufficient openings for the teachers on the List. If not, the lowest teachers in System Seniority in a particular subject area will be bumped out and their positions will be posted on the Constriction board.

Please don't hesitate to contact the ACT Office with any questions concerning Constriction.



Sabbaticals Awarded for 2008-2009

Three ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2008-2009 school year. Two full year sabbaticals are available. One teacher is receiving a full year sabbatical and two teachers are receiving one semester each. The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were John Zoccola (Archbishop Wood), Joseph Schuler (Conwell-Egan) and Irene Tori (ACT Staff). Representing OCE were Stephen Pawlowski, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Staff Relations, and Theresa Ryan-Szott, Director of Secondary Personnel.

The Association extends best wishes to the following recipients:

Ed Purnell (47 Yrs.) - Bishop McDevitt (full year)
Connie Sullivan (41 Yrs.) - Cardinal Dougherty (one semester)
Joe Blaney (40 Yrs.) - Archbishop Wood (one semester)

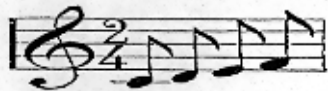
RYAN HONORS ITS OWN

On Sunday, April 6, 2008, Archbishop Ryan High School presented its *Spirit of Ryan Award* to Theology teacher, Ed Lawrence. This award is given to a faculty member who has demonstrated loyal service and commitment to the school's motto, *In Vite Mane*, "Remain on the Vine".



Jerry O'Connell, the Director of Guidance, and Sharonmarie Biasini, a Mathematics teacher, received the Father Rene Barczak, OFM Award for Service and Dedication to Archbishop Ryan High School.

Congratulations, Ed, Jerry and Sharonmarie!



Another Note Of Thanks !

From: John J. Reilly Scholarship Award Winners

"Each year, the Association's Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9th grader in each Diocesan high school and at Holy Cross 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 10th grade tuition."

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

I want to thank you and let you know how grateful I am for receiving the Catholic Teachers award scholarship this year. This award will help me to obtain a quality education and will greatly help my parents from a financial perspective. My parents currently have three of us in Catholic high school and I have a younger sister in grade school, so this award helps with the financial burden.

I am the fourth generation of my family to attend Northeast Catholic and I enjoy being at the school. I have wonderful teachers and I am especially enjoying the art program. Your generous gift makes a difference to students like me. Once again thank you and please thank everyone else who is involved with these awards.

With Sincere Appreciation,
Philip Hooten

Summer Programs for Teachers Offered by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

The Great Depression

Tuesday, August 5th (Federal Reserve Bank, 7th & Arch Streets) or
Friday, August 8th (Gettysburg College) or
Wednesday, August 13th (Carnegie Library Center, Richard Stockton
College of New Jersey)

Hours 8:30 A. M.- 3:30 P. M.
Cost \$20.00 (Register online by July 25, 2008)

Making Sense of Money and Banking

July 14th to 18th (Federal Reserve Bank, 7th & Arch Streets)

Hours 8:00 A. M. - 3:30 P. M.
Cost \$50.00 (Register online by July 1, 2008)

Register for both programs at
www.philadelphiafed.org/education



SUMMER NOTES



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. It is extremely important that we have your current address so we can update your records and keep you informed of openings as they occur.

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 nacst.nacst@verizon.net.

MEDICAL CARDS -- If you are in need of additional medical cards, please call the Office of Catholic Education at 215-587-3689.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have Personal Choice insurance and received a letter from Blue Cross that your dependent student is being removed prior to October 31, 2008, please call Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 as soon as possible.

MOONLIGHTING BOOKLET: Due to a lack of ads, the Moonlighting Booklet will not be published this year. The few ads that were submitted will be highlighted on the **Member Services** page of this newsletter.



MEMBER SERVICES

The following tickets can be purchased directly from the ACT Office.

MOVIE TICKETS AVAILABLE

AMC Theatres ----- \$6.00
Regal/United Artists Theatres \$6.00

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE TICKETS

(regular price \$19.25) ----- \$13.00

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

(regular price \$12.00) \$7.50

WILDWOOD TICKETS

All-Day Waterpark Only Ticket ----- \$39.00
All-Day 3 plers Rides/Waterpark Combo -- \$25.00

To purchase any of the above tickets, send a check payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with your ticket request.

Discount cards are available for Dorney Park, Great Adventure, Caesars Pocono Resorts and Hershey Park. Send an email to nacst.nacst@verizon.net to request discount coupons.

HEARING AIDS

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**PAMELA IS THE WIFE OF RAY ANGER WHO
TEACHES AT MSGR. BONNER-ABP. PRENDERGAST
HIGH SCHOOL**

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Ray teaches at Father Judge High School.

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**JOE IS A TEACHER AT
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**GREGORY IS A TEACHER AT
KENNEDY-KENRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

"Rally For Rights"

Labor on the Square

Come join the many supporters of the
**Scranton Diocese Association Of Catholic Teachers
(SDACT)** as they continue their battle for their
right to organize.

Saturday, June 14th, 2008

1:00 PM

Public Square

Wilkes-Barre, PA

- Speakers on **labor rights** from the labor community and elected officials
- Food
- Music
- Balloons
- T-Shirts
- Face Painting

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

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

4:30 P. M.

AGENDA

CONTRACT RATIFICATION