



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT '76 OF

1700 SANSOM STREET • SUITE 903 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 • 215-568-4175 • VOLUME XXVII
No. 8 - Fax 215-568-8270 - E-mail (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site (www.act1776.com) - May/June 2007



From The
President's Desk

CONSTRICTION 2007

As we near the end of the school year, the most important item on the Association's agenda is the Constriction process and the teachers whose jobs will be affected. Constriction has been around for over 30 years and the guidelines have remained basically the same; however, Constriction has never been something anyone has been comfortable with.

The teachers whose positions will be eliminated have been notified and asked to complete a Competency Form. Those with a second competency can bump interdepartmentally within their school if there is someone with lower school seniority. Those bumped out are added to the Constriction List.

On May 16th, the Association and the System checked each constricted teacher's transcripts to verify competencies. It is extremely important for all teachers who might be affected by Constriction in the future to look over their transcripts to see if they are close to an additional competency. Even if they are not able to bump within their school, having a second competency may get them a new position closer to home.

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From the President's Desk
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Based upon the files that we have checked so far this year, two teachers have no competency in any subject area; therefore, if they cannot produce documentation proving that they have the needed number of credits, they will be unable to select a new teaching position.

On May 31st, the Association and the System will again meet to go over the list of openings. Where there are not sufficient openings in a particular subject area, the teachers lowest in System Seniority will need to be bumped out of their positions and laid off. Their names will be added to the Constriction List.

At the present time, there are 36 teachers on the Constriction List: 3 in Business, 6 in English, 2 in Fine Arts, 2 in Guidance, 4 in Math, 5 in Science, 6 in Social Studies, 4 in Theology and 4 in World Languages.

The Constriction meeting is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 13th. At that time, constricted teachers will select their new schools based on their system seniority and academic competency. Those for whom there are no permanent positions may select a substitute position until a permanent one occurs. Those who select a permanent position that is an hour or more away from their homes, can fill out a hardship form. Should a position open closer to their homes between the Constriction meeting and the end of the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year, the teachers will be offered that position.

Hopefully, no teachers will leave the June 13th meeting without a position. If some teachers are laid off, our experience has been that they will be back to work in September. Let's think positive.

Teachers affected by Constriction who have any questions or concerns about the process should 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 nacst.nacst@verizon.net.

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	Joseph McGovern (Lansdale)
Northeast	Paul Pedlow (Ryan)

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

Southwest	Patricia Hicks (O'Hara)	83 votes
	David McQuiston (Shanahan)	133 votes

The Election Results were tabulated and certified on Monday, May 21, 2007 by the Nominations and Election Committee-- Frank Fedele (North) and Vince Toner (North).

ACT congratulates Tom, Joe, Paul and Dave.

WHAT TEACHERS MAKE

As the end of the school year approaches and you wonder, "Have I made a difference this year?", the following e-mail received by the ACT Office should answer that question for you. Have a great summer!

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a corporate exec, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?" He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers: "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

To stress his point he said to another guest, "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"

Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness, replied, "You want to know what I make?" (She paused for a second, then began...)

"Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a B+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental.

You want to know what I make?" (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.)

"I make kids wonder.

I make them question.

I make them criticize.

I make them apologize and mean it.

I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions.

I teach them to write and then I make them write.

I make them read, read, read.

I make them show all their work in math.

I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know in English while preserving their unique cultural identity.

I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe.

I make my students stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, because we live in the United States of America.

Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life.

(Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.)

"Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant.

You want to know what I make? I make a difference. What do you make?"

Sabbaticals Awarded for 2007-2008

Two ACT members have been granted a Sabbatical Leave for the 2007-2008 school year. One full year sabbatical is available and two teachers are receiving one semester each. The Sabbatical Leave Committee members from ACT were John Zoccola (Archbishop Wood) and Irene Tori (ACT Staff). Representing OCE were Dr. Thomas O'Brien, Superintendent of Schools, 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:

Fran Dougherty (44 Yrs.) - North Catholic (one semester)
Bob Kozlowski (37 Yrs.) - Father Judge (one semester)



More Notes 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 would like to thank not only you, but also the rest of the Association of Catholic Teachers for the generous scholarship. My mother also wishes to thank you; the money is a blessing and is greatly appreciated. It was a pleasant and unexpected gift.

When I found out I was ranked number 1 in my freshman class, I was proud and excited and the scholarship only adds to my excitement. Thank you also for recognizing my efforts and your wishes for my continued success.

Sincerely,
Christina Hauck
St. Hubert

Dear Ms. Schwartz,

Thank you for the very generous scholarship. This scholarship will help me continue my Catholic education. Catholic education has kept God in my life and I want to continue to nurture this relationship with God through my attendance at an Archdiocesan high school. Attending an Archdiocesan high school definitely fosters my desire to be like Christ and helps me stay connected to God. Once again, thank you for helping me continue my Catholic education.

Sincerely,
Michael McCall
Northeast Catholic High School



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 Pat Salera at 215-587-3689 or e-mail her at psalera@adphila.org

ACT MEMBER SERVICE PROGRAM

Franklin Institute Tickets	-----	\$11.00
AMC Movie Tickets	-----	\$ 6.00
Regal/United Artists	-----	\$ 6.00
Morey's Piers		
- Combination Waterpark/Amusement		\$37.50
- Waterpark Ticket Only	-----	\$23.25
National Constitution Center	-----	\$ 5.50
*Philadelphia Zoo	-----	\$12.00



*Please note that the recent Member Service Mailing lists Zoo tickets at \$11.00. After preparing that mailing, we received notice that ticket prices were raised to \$12.00.

Discount coupons are available at the ACT Office for Dorney Park, Great Adventure & Hersheypark.



