



# 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

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## From The President's Desk

### THE "NEW" EXECUTIVE BOARD

With the recent Executive Board election, we are seeing a number of changes in the leadership of the Association. Although, there are only two new members on the Board, several of the remaining officers have switched hats and are assuming new roles within the Association.

We are saying goodbye to Rob Wills, ACT Legislative Rep. Rob served for one term, but found that he could not continue to give the amount of time his position brings with it. We thank Rob for his involvement and his insights.

For 23 years, Nan Sulik has been a trusted member of the Executive Board. Nan has worked tirelessly as our Treasurer. She moved this union from the abacus to the computer, no easy job for her as she dealt with some of her technologically-challenged colleagues. Nan has been a close personal friend of mine for over 30 years since our teaching days at St. Hubert. I can't thank her enough for her steady head and hand, especially during this past year's financial crunch and as chair of the Board's Financial Committee. Somehow, thank you just doesn't seem sufficient. I will truly miss you, my friend.

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(President's Desk - from page 1)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

We welcome Maureen Colanzi and Chuck Panepresso to the ACT Executive Board as Executive Secretary and Member at Large, respectively. Both Maureen and Chuck served on the recent ACT Negotiating Team and we are happy to have their interest and enthusiasm.

Irene Tori has taken on a new and, certainly, more diverse role as the Association's Vice President. Irene has served as Executive Secretary for over 20 years. When you couple this with her work as a member of the ACT Staff, Irene brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new position.

Ellen Donato, formerly a Member at Large, has assumed the office of Treasurer. We are happy to have her take on the handling of the finances. Ellen ably represents ACT on the Pension Board of Trustees, as well.

Mike Galante, former Member at Large, has taken on the duties of ACT Legislative Rep. He is already hard at work and has talked with me about some of his plans.

Joe Schuler, former ACT Staff member, continues in a Member at Large position. John Zoccola moves from ACT Vice President to Member at Large. John was my strong right hand as Vice President as he was on the Negotiating Team. I am happy that he is remaining on the Executive Board.

The "new" Executive Board takes office on January 1, 2007. The next ACT election will be in the spring of 2007, when the four Area Vice Presidents' offices will be open.

A special word of appreciation to Frank Fedele and Vince Toner, both from North Catholic, who served as the Nominations and Election Committee. They worked long and hard verifying petitions, checking Signature Sheets and envelopes and counting and certifying ballots.

My best wishes to all of you and your families for a happy and blessed Christmas. Enjoy the break.



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

# EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>RITA C. SCHWARTZ</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY</b>	<b>MAUREEN COLANZI</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>ELLEN DONATO</b>
<b>LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>MICHAEL GALANTE</b>

\*\*The above positions were uncontested. Therefore, the Executive Secretary, in the presence of the Nominations and Elections Committee, cast the one ballot necessary to elect each individual to his/her respective office.

<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>VINCENT BIZZARRO</b>	<b>221 votes</b>
	<b>IRENE TORI</b>	<b>521 votes*</b>
<b>MEMBER-AT-LARGE</b>	<b>PATRICIA HICKS</b>	<b>291 votes</b>
	<b>CHARLES J. PANEPRESSO</b>	<b>389 votes*</b>
	<b>JOSEPH F. SCHULER</b>	<b>484 votes*</b>
	<b>ROBERT ZINGLE</b>	<b>212 votes</b>
	<b>JOHN ZOCCOLA</b>	<b>557 votes*</b>

(\* Indicates elected members of the Executive Board.)

<b>Total Number of Buildings Submitting Ballots</b>	<b>20***</b>
<b>Total Ballots Received</b>	<b>746</b>
<b>Invalid Ballots</b>	<b>2***</b>
<b>Total Valid Ballots</b>	<b>744</b>

\*\*\*No ballots were received from West Catholic. The reasons for the two ballots being invalidated were that the printed envelope was not signed in one instance and that one ballot was postmarked after the election period had closed.

The Election Results were tabulated and certified on Wednesday, November 29, 2006, by the Nominations and Elections Committee--Frank Fedele (North) and Uince Toner (North).

# *The Spirit of '76*

## NACST Convention 2006

John Zoecola, ACT Vice President, opened the NACST Annual Convention on October 7, 2006 with an inspiring welcome to the assembled delegates. He reminded the delegates that the spirit of '76, which led to the forming of a new union against an organized hierarchy in 1776, is very much alive in the ACT Local 1776 Union and the National Union as well.

Bruce Endy, legal counsel for ACT and NACST, outlined a history of unionization in the Church in the main address to the convention. Too many church leaders have actively resisted and undermined unionization of Church employees and continue to do so. For those of us who too often forget the value of our Union, Bruce explained what it means to be an "at will" (i.e. non-union) employee. Such an employee can be fired for any reason (except the obvious categories of race, gender, age) or for no reason at all. No due process is required.

What does history tell us about our ability to trust Church leaders to act with good and right judgment? Our Union holds church management accountable for its actions. It levels the playing field so we are not approaching the church like beggars seeking a few crumbs from those benevolent enough to give them. Our Union calls the Church to be its best self, to be faithful to its own teachings, to lead by example. It gives the Church the opportunity to model for the business world the right to fair wages, due process and participation in the work place. We are part of the church mission not only in our efforts to teach as Jesus but also in modeling for the Church a more respectful way of dealing with people. As Rita said in her State of the Union address, we have to make the Church "be the Church *they* say everyone else should be."

Someone needs to remind our bishops, who often express concern about "cafeteria Catholics," that they can't pick and choose by which Catholic teachings they will live. While putting lay employees under a microscope to authenticate our Catholicity, these "cafeteria bishops" blatantly disregard the 100 plus years of Catholic social justice teaching.

As I listened to the different speakers, I thought of how proud I am to belong to a Catholic teachers' union. I'm proud to be a thorn in the side of those Church leaders who believe they have a right to unilateral decision making. I don't just teach Catholic social justice in the classroom. I believe it and help the Church to do so as well.

**Mary Edwards**  
**Senior Delegate**  
**Archbishop Ryan**

## IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION

### INTRODUCING “NO PAY COPAY”

January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007

From January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007 you will pay nothing to fill or refill your **generic** prescriptions at a participating Futurescripts retail pharmacy or through the mail order service. You will not need to fill out any reimbursement form. Your copayment amount will automatically be waived for all covered **generic** prescription drugs processed during the promotion.

If you use the mail order service for your **generic** maintenance drugs, depending on your current drug supply, you may be able to send in a prescription on January 1st, and then again, during the last week in March and have both copayments waived if the second prescription was able to be processed on or before March 31, 2007.

If you have any questions concerning this promotion or your health benefits, in general, please don't hesitate to call Ginny at the ACT Office at 215-568-4175.

### FLU SHOT REIMBURSEMENT

#### GETTING A FLU SHOT AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Flu shots are covered under both the Personal Choice and Keystone Health Plans. The flu shot is covered at 100%, however, the doctor may charge a copay for the office visit.

#### GETTING A FLU SHOT AT A LOCATION OTHER THAN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

If you get a flu shot outside of a doctor's office, such as the local supermarket or drug store or even at an area school, Blue Cross will reimburse you the amount paid up to \$25. To get reimbursed, you will need to submit a Flu Shot Reimbursement Form and include your receipt, (keep a copy for your records) You can get a Reimbursement Form from your Senior Delegate or by calling the ACT Office at 215-568-4175.

Please note: When submitting a claim for reimbursement, you may get an Explanation of Benefits stating that they applied the \$25 allowance toward your out-of-network deductible. If this happens, you will need to follow up with Blue Cross and ask them to reprocess the claim correctly since flu shots are covered without having to meet any deductible obligation.



2006 ACT NEGOTIATING TEAM

MIKE GALANTE (Lansdale), IRENE TORI (ACT Staff), JOE SCHULER (Conwell-Egan), RITA SCHWARTZ (ACT Staff), ELLEN DONATO (Bonner-Prendergast), JOHN ZOCCOLA (Wood), MAUREEN COLANZI (O'Hara), CHUCK PANEPRESSO (Ryan), MIKE CUNNINGHAM (Shanahan).

## DAVIS VISION PLAN

Teachers who were on the Clarity Vision plan for the 2006 calendar year and who have sent in an application for the new Davis Vision Plan for the 2007 calendar year, should have already received their new Davis Vision Card to be used after January 1st.

If you were not on the Clarity Vision plan for the 2006 calendar year and have sent in an application for the Davis Vision Plan for the 2007 calendar year, you will have your identification cards mailed to you before the end of the year.

Lastly, if you were on the Clarity Vision plan for the 2006 calendar year and do not wish to enroll in the new Davis Vision Plan but received a Davis Vision identification card in the mail, please disregard the mailing. Your vision coverage will be terminated effective at midnight on December 31, 2006.

## DENTAL BENEFITS

As of January 1, 2007, each teacher and their family members will have a \$1,000 in dental benefits available to them for the 2007 calendar year.

## Lancer's Local

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

The faculty sends its prayers to Principal, Joe Lemme, during his leave of absence.

The faculty wishes Acting Principal, Dennis Guida, well in his new position.

Preparations for the implementation of Block Scheduling in the 2007-2008 school year continue.



**Merry  
Christmas**

**AND  
Happy  
New  
Year**



**From  
Rita, Irene, Ginny and Mia**