



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT '76 OF '76

1700 SANSOM STREET • SUITE 903 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 • 215-568-4175 • VOLUME XXXI

No. 5 - Fax 215-568-8270 - e-mail (nacst.nacst@verizon.net) - web site(www.act1776.com) - Feb.-Mar. 2011



From The President's Desk

AS NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN, IS IT OPEN SEASON ON OUR TEACHERS AND OUR CONTRACT?

As we move ever closer to the opening of contract negotiations, I begin to wonder about the type of proposals the System may bring to the bargaining table. Of course, there will be the ones that deal with Salary and Benefits; that's to be expected. What is of some concern to me, since the System rejected the Association's proposal for an Early Bird Contract, are the attitudinal issues with which ACT and our teachers have been faced recently.

Teachers who are called into Principals' Offices or to the Office of Catholic Education have often been treated in an adversarial and disrespectful manner. Too many times, teachers are being deemed guilty until proven innocent.

The latest incident of teacher as well as union disrespect was the attempt by OCE to conceal an improper document at the bottom of a packet of material that was being given to a teacher. This is currently being grieved.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

It would not be surprising if the ACT Negotiating Team finds itself faced with proposals from the System that attempt to make "substantive" changes in working conditions, medical insurance and teachers' rights, such as occurred in the negotiations of 2006.

We hear the System talk, over and over, of mission and witness. We read about how Catholic our identity needs to be. Well, words are one thing; actions, quite another.

The ACT Negotiating Team is prepared, whatever we may encounter. We will tolerate no disrespect of our teachers or our contract. We know that the membership is with us and will do what is necessary to preserve the heart and soul of our collective bargaining agreement.

On Monday, March 21st at 4:00 P.M. at the Crowne Plaza, City Line, the ACT Negotiating Team will present the Association's 2011 Contract Proposal to the ACT General Membership for their approval.

See you there.



On February 24th, Rita Schwartz and Irene Tori participated in Philadelphia's Wisconsin-We are One! rally to support the public sector employees in their fight to protect their collective bargaining rights.

Fond Memories

From January 1982 until 1989, I taught at North Catholic. During my first year there, I had a traveling roster and shared classrooms with various teachers. One of them was Joe Oliver.

I used to wait out in the hall for the bell to ring and listen to Joe teach. He was always vivacious and humorous and I could tell that the kids really enjoyed his class. One little trick that he did was to wear sunglasses (the kind that have mirrored lenses so that the kids couldn't see his eyes). No one dared cheat in Joe's room because they couldn't tell where he was looking. I thought that was such a hoot. I actually learned quite a bit while listening in on Joe's classes--mostly that learning can be fun and productive at the same time.

Joe was always the gentleman, and he treated me (one of only a few women at North in the 80's) with kindness and respect. His humor was sharp, and his belly-laugh filled the faculty room as he too could appreciate others' wry wit. I am certain that Joe Oliver will be fondly remembered by his students and co-workers alike. He shall be missed.



Tina Hannigan Amato



**IMPORTANT MEDICAL NOTE CONCERNING EXTENDED
COVERAGE FOR ADULT CHILDREN UNDER AGE 26
WHOSE BIRTH DATE FALLS BETWEEN
NOVEMBER 1, 2010 AND APRIL 30, 2011**

Please be aware that if you have an adult child on the Archdiocesan medical plan who will turn age 26 between November 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011, coverage for that adult child will end on April 30, 2011.



NOTICE

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.)

Archdiocesan High Schools

TAX INFORMATION

2010 DUES

\$500.88

(13 pays x \$24.75 + 7 pays x \$25.59)

Lancer's Local

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

**Tax Information: Union Dues for the Year 2010 are
\$506.52.**

(6 months x \$50.26 + 4 months x \$51.24)

Teachers in the News

Several teachers at Holy Cross High School were honored for their years of service to the school. The following picture and article appeared in the February 3, 2011 edition of *The Monitor*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton, NJ. Long time Holy Cross teacher, Dennis Dranchak, is pictured shaking Bishop O'Connell's hand.

Special Honors

During each Catholic Schools Week in Holy Cross High School, Delran, it's a tradition to recognize faculty and staff members for their years of service to the school community. The teachers and staff who were honored this year were: Dennis Dranchak and Eric Wilkinson,

40 years; Barry Harper, 35 years; Richard Matwiejewicz, 30 years; Daniel Dockery and Denise Wright Peters, 25 years; Colette New, 20 years; Theresa Snyder and Lisa Leibrand, 10 years; Kevin Esmond, James Ponter and William Royds, five years. Bishop O'Connell is pictured shaking hands with Dennis Dranchak while JoAnn Tier, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, looks on.



Congratulations to Gerri Garofalo, a Social Studies teacher at Archbishop Wood High School. Gerri was one of fifteen exceptional Philadelphia area teachers to receive the National Liberty Museum's *Teacher As Hero* award on January 27th. Gerri's work in mentoring new teachers in diversity training and her efforts to combat cyber-bullying earned her the award.

Gerri's achievements were highlighted in the January 27, 2011 edition of *The Catholic Standard & Times*.



ACT

**General Membership
Meeting**

Monday

March 21, 2011

4:00 P. M.

**Crowne Plaza
City Line Avenue**

Contract Proposals

New

Business

