



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT OF '76

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From The
President's Desk

NEGOTIATIONS 2011

Happy New Year to everyone.

As we begin 2011, the Association's main emphasis will be shifting to the upcoming contract negotiations. As you know from the Executive Board Minutes, ACT has submitted a proposal to the System for an Early Bird contract. The 2008 Early Bird was tremendously well-received by teachers, administrators and parents. With all that is happening - the Blue Ribbon Commission, the enrollment outlook for 2011-2012 and the ever-present Constriction of teachers - it would be a true win-win situation if streamlined negotiations could be completed by the end of the school year. ACT is hoping to receive word from the System soon.

While I am on the subject of negotiations, I want to make note of the passing of someone who was there for ACT in our formative years. Harold Ash, who was connected to both the Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers, passed away on December 6th at the age of 94. The PA Federation assigned Harold to help the fledgling Catholic teachers union, Local 1776, negotiate its first collective bargaining agreement in 1968. Under his wise and capable guidance, ACT's teacher negotiators produced a contract that remains a model for Catholic schools.

Thank you, Harold. I will surely be thinking of you this spring as ACT sits at the bargaining table hammering out collective bargaining agreement number 18.

National Association of Catholic School Teachers John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship

The National Association of Catholic School Teachers established the John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship to help defray the cost of a college education for outstanding children of NACST members. During their senior year of high school, \$4,000 awards are made to three students, \$1,000 in each of their four years of college study.

All sons, daughters and stepchildren of all active NACST members are eligible to participate in this scholarship provided they are in good standing in their senior year of high school. Application forms are available from the Senior Delegate of each high school. Deadline for submission of all applications is March 1st.

NOTICE

It's time to start thinking sabbatical!

Applications for sabbatical leave must be submitted no later than
March 1st.

It's time to start thinking about your decision to possibly apply.
Forms for application will be posted in each school in February.

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)

Archdiocesan High Schools

TAX INFORMATION

2010 DUES

\$500.88

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

BIG LOU

To Judy, he was "Big Lou."
Judy, his lifelong love...
To son Matt, he was "Pop."
To daughter Joanne, he was "Dad."
To his adoring grandchildren, he was "Grampy."
To his friends – *many friends* – he was just Lou.
He never needed a last name.



His hats included husband, father, and grandfather.
Official, coach, moderator, colleague,
partner, philosopher, Hawk,
teacher, mentor, Christian
...especially Christian.
Best friend.

And how can one ever replace a best friend?

Regretfully, a better friend to me
than I could ever have been to him.
Loyal. Hospitable. Gregarious (he could talk ...).
Honest. Non-judgmental. Generous.
Mentally and physically strong.
Mushy inside.

Lou was what he said he was.
A truly rare quality.

Whenever faced with difficult choices in *my* future,
I will simply ask
"What would Lou do?"

John Molnar
Archbishop Ryan HS

*He was a man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again.*
- Hamlet

ACT GOING GREEN

Beginning in January 2011, the ACT Office will begin emailing the monthly Executive Board Minutes, the monthly letter to the members, member service announcements, and any other information deemed pertinent to our members. You will, however, continue to receive the monthly newsletter in printed form.

ACT MEMBER SERVICE PROGRAM

The following tickets are available to purchase from the ACT Office.

Franklin Institute Tickets	----	\$13.00
AMC Movie Tickets	----	\$ 6.00
Regal/United Artists	----	\$ 6.50
National Constitution Center	----	\$ 9.00
Philadelphia Zoo	----	\$13.00

To request tickets, send a check made payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note indicating what tickets are being ordered and in what quantity.

RETIREMENT INFORMATION

Pension Statements have been mailed to teachers. If you did not receive a pension statement, contact Patricia Richmond at the Pension Office at 215-587-0570.

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.

INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Did you know that you can logon to Independence Blue Cross web site at www.ibxpress.com and get all kinds of information at your fingertips? You can make sure all your family members are active on your policy, you can order identification cards for them and/or print temporary ID cards, you can check recent and past claims, find a provider, view the details of your benefits, and so much more.

In the same way, you can logon to the United Concordia web site at www.ucci.com and check the status of dental claims, find a provider, order a dental card, etc.

DENTAL BENEFITS

As of January 1, 2011, each teacher and their family members will have \$1,000 in dental benefits available to them for the 2011 calendar year. If you do not have a dental card or need an additional card, call or e-mail the ACT Office and one will be ordered for you.

VISION BENEFITS

Benefits are now available for teachers who signed up for the Davis Vision Plan. If you did not receive your vision card to date, please call or email the ACT Office. Teachers who were on the plan last year will keep the same card. The card should say *DAVIS VISION*. To locate a Davis Vision participating provider near you, call 1-888-393-2583 or go to the www.ibx.com web site.

MEDICAL CARDS

If you are in need of additional medical cards, please call the Office of Catholic Education at 215-587-4520 or contact the ACT Office.

FLU SHOT REIMBURSEMENT FORMS

Flu shot reimbursement forms can be obtained by calling the ACT Office or can be downloaded from the ACT web page.

MONTHLY GROUP MEDICAL RATES FOR RETIREES AGE 65+
(Effective January 1, 2011)

SECURITY 65 PLAN C with Major Medical:

Employee Only: \$470.09
Employee & Spouse: \$940.18

PERSONAL CHOICE 65:

Employee Only: \$626.80
Employee & Spouse: \$1253.60

KEYSTONE 65 HMO:

Employee Only: \$586.60
Employee & Spouse: \$1173.20

Retired teachers who are enrolled in any of the above plans are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part D. **You DO NOT need to enroll in an individual Medicare Part D plan, if you are enrolled in one of the above medical plans with the Archdiocese.** In fact, if you do, you will lose your Archdiocese medical and prescription drug coverage because the Archdiocese plans are now considered Medicare Part D plans, and you may not be enrolled in two Medicare Part D plans at the same time.

FOR TAX PURPOSES and/or FSA REIMBURSEMENT

DENTAL BENEFITS: If you are retired and/or on an Extended Leave of Absence beyond three semesters and paid for your dental benefits, the amount paid in 2010 is as follows: Individual Coverage = \$247.10, 2-Person or Family Coverage = \$629.72.

VISION BENEFITS: If you participated in the Voluntary Vision Program in 2010, the amount you paid for this benefit is as follows: Individual Coverage = \$79.32
2-Person Coverage = \$158.88 and Family Coverage = \$238.32.

FSA REMINDER

If you were a participant in the 2010 FSA Program, please remember that all monies in your account should have been exhausted by December 31, 2010. Any funds that remained in your account after December 31, 2010 have been lost to you. However, this does not mean that all your eligible expenses had to be submitted by December 31, 2010. You have 90 days after the close of the calendar year in which to submit eligible expenses for 2010. All eligible expenses for 2010 must be submitted by March 31, 2011.