

2007 John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship Winners

The annual John J. Reilly Memorial Scholarships have been awarded by NACST.

The scholarships were established to remember the founding president of NACST and are awarded annually to help defray the cost of a college education for outstanding children of NACST members.

The students will receive \$1000 in each of their four years of study, making each scholarship a \$4000 value over each student's course of collegiate studies.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2007 Scholarship:

Adrienne Boettcher

SLATA
St. Louis MO

Marissa Dwyer

ACT
Philadelphia

Sean Yeager

CTU
Camden NJ

from the President ...

ANOTHER CHALLENGING YEAR

As is my custom, at the end of every school year, I look back to see what kind of a year it was for unionized teachers in Catholic schools and Catholic school teachers who still seek to be what the U.S. Bishops tell us we are - "true partners in the educational enterprise."

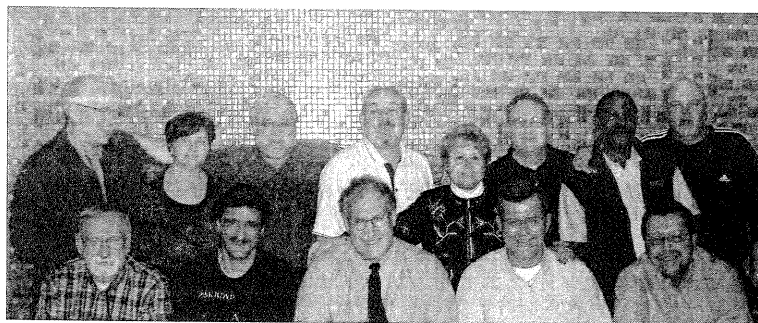
Back in September, all locals negotiating contracts settled, although, in Philadelphia, it was a real nail-biter, right down to the opening day of school.

In October, almost every NACST local was represented at the annual Convention. We gathered together to share our experiences and encourage one other as we continue to face the challenges of dealing with the employer Church.

December saw Bill Blumenstein and me conducting a Negotiations Workshop for the COACE Columbus Ohio Team as well as the COACE Team members from St. Francis de Sales in Newark, Ohio. Next school year, COACE will begin a year-long organizing drive. NACST will continue to offer assistance to COACE President, Kathleen Mahoney, and her teachers. This includes an Organizing/Negotiations Workshop in August.

The NACST locals in Scranton-Wilkes Barre and Altoona-Johnstown, PA were presented with unsettling news. The Scranton diocese was regionalizing the schools and significantly downsizing in the process. In

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*the St. Francis [Newark OH] Negotiation Team Meeting with
NACST Officers Rita Schwartz & Bill Blumenstein*

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The Demise of Workers' Rights

excerpts from a Labor Day 2006 article in *America* by David L. Gregory, professor of law at St. John's University and keynote speaker at the 2003 NACST Convention.

Originally, the [National Labor Relations] board was set up to enforce the National Labor Relations Act (1935), the cornerstone federal law that protects workers' rights to unionize in the private sector.

Senator Robert Wagner, the primary author [of the Act] had paid close attention to the church's labor encyclicals, which influenced not only his thinking but his language.

It is particularly worth noting this year, the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's first labor encyclical, *Laborem Exercens* (1981), that the statutory and policy language of the N.L.R.A. and the soaring rhetoric of the church's various labor encyclicals are congruent, symmetrical and synergistic.

Throughout Democratic and Republican administrations, from presidents Roosevelt to Carter, the Wagner Act and the National Labor Relations Board worked well.

The high point for labor unions, when one-third of the private sector workforce was unionized, was reached during the term of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Republican.

On Labor Day 2006, less than 8 percent of the private sector workforce is unionized.

The A.F.L.-C.I.O. has splintered, perhaps irreparably.

A number of major unions - among them the Service Employees, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, Teamsters and laborers - have left it to form the coalition Change to Win.

On one front, unions have achieved some recent success.

Unions have sought an alternative process called "card checking," which sidesteps the N.L.R.B.-supervised election altogether.

Card checking has proved to be quite effective: 70 percent of workers who have joined unions in the past year have done so through the card-check method, up dramatically from only 5 percent of workers 20 years ago.

Recently, the N.L.R.B. has suggested that it has strong philosophical misgivings about card checking.

But legislators have taken up the cause.

Currently there are 210 co-sponsors in the House, and 42 in the Senate, of legislation that would give unions the right to the card-check process, rather than leave it to the employer's discretion.

Overall, the situation for organized labor today is grim.

The array of anti-worker decisions coming from the current National Labor Relations Board is alarming.

Neither F.D.R. or Senator Robert Wagner, nor Popes Leo XIII or John Paul II, nor for that matter even Presidents Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford or Bush Sr. would understand, let alone appreciate, the convoluted rationale upon which the current board has constructed its jurisprudence.

I propose a general strike, but that is another matter for another Labor Day.

*from the President ...
cont'd from p. 1*

Altoona, the high schools were told that they were being privatized, making them no longer a system.

The overall plan has recently been finalized in Scranton, but as we all know, the devil is in the details. We wish Mike Milz and his teachers well as they attempt to deal with the new entities. We hear that organizing the new schools is going well.

The teachers' union in Altoona is still waiting to hear the particulars, but they are being told that there will be no loss of jobs or schools. That should make for a somewhat easier transition for Rick Hatch and his Executive Board.

In April, Mike Milz, Bill Blumenstein and I traveled to Baltimore for the NCEA Convention. Over the past two years, I have been meeting with both elementary and high school teachers in the Baltimore area. Their major complaint is not having a say over the conditions that affect their work life. That is the most important issue raised by teachers across the country who phone or e-mail the National Office.

St. Denis Teachers Association in Manasquan, New Jersey, organized and bargaining for 7 years, filed its first grievances this past spring. One of the grievances cited the principal for discrimination based on union activity. She basically told local president, Janne Darata, to "keep your nose out of things." Those "things" happened to be the principal's doing away with a teaching position at Easter and adding those classes to other teachers' rosters.

There is still no answer from Rome on the petition filed by the St. Louis elementary teachers charging their Archbishop with violating the teachings of the Church. The Apostolic Signatura, the Supreme Court of the Catholic Church, has been sitting on this case for over a year. The Archbishop refuses to recognize or bargain with any representative of the elementary teachers. The high school teachers union, SLATA, recently finished negotiations on their latest contract. One might wonder how Archbishop Burke can have such a double standard in place in regard to his teachers? One might also wonder why no one in the hierarchy is speaking out against this blatant breach of Church teaching?

It was, as always, an interesting and many times challenging and frustrating year for Catholic teacher unions, their leadership and their members.

I wish all of you a pleasant and relaxing summer.



Affiliated Locals

Altoona Johnstown Catholic School Teachers Association
(Diocese of Altoona Johnstown PA)
Richard Hatch

Association of Catholic Elementary Educators
(Archdiocese of St. Louis MO)
Mary Chubb

Association of Catholic Teachers
(Archdiocese of Philadelphia PA)
www.act1776.com
Rita Schwartz

Association of Catholic Teachers
(Diocese of Syracuse NY)
Bernadette Kapps

Boston Archdiocesan Teachers Association
(Archdiocese of Boston MA)
www.nacst.com/BATA/home.htm
Tom Norris

Catholic Teachers Union - NJ
(Diocese of Camden NJ)
www.ctunj.com
Bill Blumenstein

Central Ohio Association of Catholic Educators
(Diocese of Columbus OH)
www.coace.com
Kathleen Mahoney

Cleveland High School and Academy Lay Teachers Association
(Diocese of Cleveland OH)
Michael DeSantis

DELTA
(Diocese of Worcester MA)
Jonathan Meagher

Diocesan Elementary Teachers Association
(Diocese of Buffalo NY)
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Russ DelVecchio

Greater Hartford Catholic Education Association
(Archdiocese of Hartford CT)
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www.sdact.com
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Secondary Lay Teachers Association
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Union County Catholic Education Association
(Archdiocese of Newark NJ)
Phyllis Barone

Youngstown Confederation of Diocesan Teachers
(Diocese of Youngstown OH)
Barbara Demesko

**29th NACST
Annual Convention
October 5-7, 2007
Fairmont Copley
Plaza Hotel
Boston**



President Rita Schwartz, Executive VP Mike Milz and Secretary-Treasurer Bill Blumenstein at the 2007 NCEA Convnetion in Baltimore



NACST Officers meeting with the COACE Negotiation team [COACE President Kathleen Mahoney, 2nd from left]



NACST Executive Committee meeting with the SDACT Executive Board in March

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