



Catholic Teachers' Union

Record

Newsletter of the Catholic Teachers' Union Vol. 19 No. 1 September 2008

CTU Meets with New Superintendent

On July 28 President Bill Blumenstein and Exec VP Chris Ehrmann met with the new Superintendent Miss Mary Boyle. Also in attendance was the new Executive Director of Catholic Schools, Nick Regina.

Topics presented at the "get acquainted" meeting included a CTU request for information as soon as possible about the schools' plans for this year's negotiations.

Another major topic was the St. Joseph Hammonton situation. Since moving from its status as a parish school, CTU has been holding discussions

with diocesan officials about the St. Joseph teachers' status under the 2001 Settlement Agreement between CTU and the diocese. If the school is now incorporated as a diocesan school, the agreement indicates that the teachers are covered by the CTU negotiated contract.

Union and diocesan attorneys are in the midst of talks about the meaning of the changed status at the school and its effects on the teachers' employment. Miss Boyle and Mr. Regina indicated that they would continue to look for a resolution of the issue.

General Membership Meeting

Sixty-three CTU members attended the annual general membership meeting held June 12 at the Tap Room in Haddon Twp.

Members from all units represented by CTU were present.

Among the topics presented was a note about the diocesan deferred salary compensation plan for payment over twelve months instead of ten. The union continues to take the position that such deferral is not beneficial to teachers.



Blumenstein suggested that teachers set up/use ABCO credit union accounts to make the funds available to teachers during the extra two months.

Treasurer Wayne Nystrom presented the annual financial report, which indicates that CTU is in good financial shape. Complete copies of the report are available from union delegates.

WCHS reported that one position at the school was constricted although no teacher lost a job because of the constriction.

Negotiations

With the conclusion of the 2005-2009 contract the diocese and schools will have to decide whether schools will negotiate individually with CTU or remain grouped under one contract.

Through the expiration of the 2009 contracts the 3 big schools and Special Education were covered by a single agreement.

Sacred Heart and Wildwood Catholic [under contract until 2010] have negotiated separate CTU-school contracts.

If the diocese makes the decision to break apart the "Big Unit," each school and the Special Education program would engage in separate negotiations in a process similar to that which currently takes place at Sacred Heart and Wildwood Catholic.

At a July 31 Executive Board meeting, CTU officers discussed possible negotiation scenarios for either situation.

CTU is waiting for the diocesan/schools' decision to begin selection of negotiation teams.

Members wishing to serve on negotiations are to complete the application at the beginning of September.

ctunj@comcast.net www.ctunj.com

Upcoming Contractual Dates

complete roster
August 18

correction of deviations from roster numbers
September 10

accumulated sick day notification
September 30

reimbursement for spring and summer 2008 graduate courses
October 1

From the Editor: Negotiation Unknowns

There is simply one point to remember as the expiration of the current contract approaches.

CTU has been, and remains, the bargaining agent selected by teachers at the diocesan high schools, Sacred Heart, Wildwood Catholic, and the Special Education program.

Regardless of the number of contracts which will ultimately be negotiated CTU members continue to direct the protection and enforcement of their labor rights through CTU.

Some members are concerned that the separation of the schools will weaken union members' strength.

That will happen only if members stop communicating their issues, concerns, and support to union officers and delegates.

CTU officers remain firmly committed to working on behalf of members, at their direction, as the unknowns of the current negotiation year are settled.

Contract Extension to be Requested Again

The Executive Board voted at the July 31 meeting to contact the dioceses to request a contract extension.

The proposal is to continue all provisions of the current contract for two more years, except salary and contracted stipends.

The union's proposal is to increase salaries and stipends at 4.75% for each of the two years [the percentage increase in the final year of the current contract].

CTU made the same request last year.

It was rejected by the diocese.

Union Website Revisions

Recent visitors to *ctunj.com* will have noticed that the members only pages have begun to change.

Union Coordinator Chris Ehrmann is in the process of updating links to Executive Board and Delegate meeting minutes posted to the site.

The change is necessary because of the move from a previously used version of a webpage design program.

Links to websites for all benefit providers are also being updated.

The process should be complete by the beginning of the school year.

Members may experience difficulties accessing information until the process is complete

An email to the union at *ctunj@comcast.net* requesting information not readily accessible until the process is complete will receive a quick reply from the Union Coordinator.

The process is happening now so that the dissemination of information during negotiations will be accurate, complete, and timely.

Delegates' Meeting August 18

please contact your delegate if you have any questions, issues you would like discussed by the Executive Board and delegates at the meeting

2007-2009 Delegates

- Julie Bittinger, *Camden Catholic*
- Linda Mulvihill, *Holy Spirit*
- Mary Kay Rossi, *PVI*
- Linda Snyder, *Sacred Heart*
- Vicki Trainor, *Special Education*
- David Watson, *Wildwood Catholic*

Beginning of Year Union Forms

As always, accurate bargaining unit member information is essential for representation with the schools.

With a negotiation year about to begin, members are asked to be especially attentive to the information on Blue Sheets, including both salary and insurance information.

Delegates will be distributing negotiation questionnaires and team application forms at the local school meetings.

The Faller Group

CTU officers Bill Blumenstein, Maureen Simzak, and Chris Ehrmann met July 22 with Chip Faller of Retirement Annuity Consultants, brokers/dealers for the teachers' 403(b) plans.

Faller detailed the effects on teachers as RAC changes to the Faller Group and gives up its broker/dealer functions for the teachers' 403(b) plans.

Since the establishment of the employer contribution program to Great West, RAC has been both investment consultant and broker/dealer.

Now, the Faller Group has contracted with Lincoln Investments to be broker/dealer for the plan.

The Faller Group will continue as investment consultants.

The change does not increase any plan fees or expenses for teachers.

Chip Faller will continue to visit the schools to discuss retirement plans and options for teachers.

At the June General Membership Meeting ...

... Paul VI Members



... CCHS Members

... Dave Watson, WCHS delegate



New Medical Insurance Carrier

On September 1 the Horizon Blues will pick up medical insurance coverages for all diocesan employees, including CTU members.

With the switch from AmeriHealth to Horizon *no changes in union contracted coverages* will take place.

Members currently on the HMO plan will switch to the Horizon Point of Service [POS] plan, at no cost for the premium.

Members currently under the PPO plan may choose the Horizon PPO coverage with partial payment of the premium.

Enrollment forms were due to the school offices in mid-July. Teachers who did not return forms were placed in the POS plan and must choose a primary care physician. Those who did not do so, contact diocesan HR representative Candy Newhouse at 856-583-2872.

Prescription coverage remains with Express-Scripts and dental is still carried by Delta Dental.

Information about the Horizon services is available at www.horizon-bcbsnj.com/.

The site includes an easily maneuvered health care service provider directory.

When consulting the site, members ought to be aware that the new Horizon coverage is not the Horizon HMO plan - it is the Horizon POS plan.



Sacred Heart Members at the June General Membership Meeting

CTU RECORD is a publication of the Catholic Teachers Union. Direct comments and inquiries to: Chris Ehrmann, Editor, 8 N. Barrett Ave., Audubon, NJ 08106 * ctunj@comcast.net * www.ctunj.com.

CTU Record

8 N. Barrett Ave.
Audubon, NJ 08106