



Catholic Teachers' Union

Record

Newsletter of the Catholic Teachers' Union Vol. 18 No. 4 May 2008

St. Joseph HS Re-Incorporation

St. Joseph Regional High School in Hammonton has filed new corporation papers with the state of New Jersey.

Copies of the incorporation documents have been provided to CTU by the diocese.

The St. Joseph paperwork uses language very similar to the documents incorporating the three diocesan schools [CCHS, HSHS, PVI].

CTU President Bill Blumenstein requested the St. Joseph documentation to determine if St. Joseph High School is now a diocesan school.

Under terms of the October 2001 Settlement Agreement and Release [which ended the union's lawsuit in NJ state court challenging the school's break from the diocesan bargaining unit in the midst of the 1997 strike] any new diocesan high schools are automatically

- cont'd on p. 3

Universal Health Care / Congressional Bill HR 676

CTU President Bill Blumenstein attended an April 19 meeting on universal health legislation introduced by MI Representative John Conyers in the current congress. The meeting was sponsored by the organization Healthcare-NOW.

Healthcare-NOW is a coalition of national unions, community activist organiza-

tions and healthcare groups supporting the legislation's proposed guaranteed national health insurance program.

The proposed legislation, HR 676, calls for a national single-payer healthcare system, an "improved Medicare for all."

Under the terms of the plan, everyone will contribute to the system and everyone will be covered.

- cont'd on p. 2

CTU Reilly Scholarship Nominees

Congratulations to the 2008 CTU nominees for the NACST John J. Reilly Scholarship. The CTU grants of \$500 per year for four years of post-secondary education are awarded this year to:

Amy Erhard,
a senior at CCHS &
daughter of CTU member
Donna Erhard [PVI]
and
Shane Harris,
a senior at PVI &
son of CTU member
Donna Harris [PVI].

The grant winners were chosen from among 8 applicants for this year's scholarship.

The grant winners' applications have been forwarded for the NACST scholarship committee, which will announce its decision before the end of May.

The Reilly Scholarship, established in memory of the first National Association of Catholic School Teachers President John J. Reilly, is awarded annually to 3 children of affiliate members.

The scholarship is \$1000 per year for all four years of the student's college education.

Upcoming Contractual Dates

May 15

constriction notification
Dept. Chair Appointments

June 1

medical opt-out payment
[7 months]

June 5

tentative roster

Early Retirement Options

CTU has contacted the Superintendent's Office to learn whether or not the second early retirement option will be offered this year.

The Superintendent will inform the union by May 15 if the option, which would be open for any member who will be 60 by January 31, 2008, will be available.

As always, the first early retirement option [contract XI.H.1.] is available for teachers who are 62.

Members interested in either early retirement option should contact the union office [ph 856-546-5850] after May 15.

The union will also send out a members' email after that date with notification about whether or not the second option is available.

Universal Health Care *from p. 1*

In the face of the current erosion of employer-provided health insurance, several prominent national unions have endorsed the system.

To decrease the cost of providing health coverages, the proposed system will eliminate for-profit health insurance companies [which typically operate with 15-30% overhead costs] and put in place a public agency similar to the current Medicare program [which operates with less than 3% overhead costs].

The proposed system puts no restrictions on an individual's choice of doctor and covers all health care services, including prescription drugs, without co-payments, deductibles or employee contributions to premiums. Doctors will not become government employees, as is the case with some national healthcare systems such as the one in Great Britain.

Unions, which continue the fight to maintain employer provided health benefits for members as health care costs continue to rise drastically, have set up an information website at:

www.unionsfor singlepayerHR676.org.

Congressman Conyers is the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. HR 676 was first introduced by Mr. Conyers five years ago and now has 87 co-sponsors from both national political parties.

Healthcare-NOW is calling for citizens to contact congressional representatives to urge co-sponsorship of the legislation and scheduling public hearings on the issues.

More information about the legislation and the national coalition Healthcare-NOW is available at:

www.healthcare-now.org.

Information about the status of HR 676 and contact information for NJ Representatives can be found at:

www.house.gov.

CTU officers would like member feedback on the issue. Please email us at ctunj@comcast.net with your questions and comments on the issue.

St. Joseph High School

from p. 1

covered by the contract negotiated for the three big schools.

The diocese had argued that the Hammonton school's status as a parish school allowed the diocese to recognize the school as a bargaining unit separate from the other diocesan high schools.

CTU has forwarded the school's paperwork to Ben Eisner, the union attorney who handled the 1997 legal action for CTU, to see if the change in the school's status means that St. Joseph teachers are now automatically covered by the current CTU labor agreement.

St. Joseph teachers have contacted CTU to discuss representation by the union.

Bill Blumenstein and Chris Ehrmann will meet with the Hammonton teachers May 2 to discuss all representation and bargaining issues connected with the school's new status.

2007-2009 Executive Board

President:

Bill Blumenstein (PVI)

Executive Vice President:

Chris Ehrmann (CCHS)

Area Vice Presidents:

Kevin Gallagher (PVI), Landa Mathis (Holy Spirit), Terry Sachson (CCHS)

Treasurer:

Wayne Nystrom (CCHS)

Executive Secretary:

Maureen Simzak (PVI)

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*

SDACT Recognition Withdrawn

CTU members joined with members from other NACST affiliated locals February 10 at a rally organized by the national to protest the Scranton diocese' withdrawal of recognition of SDACT as the bargaining representative for the Scranton Catholic schools.

The Scranton union has represented teachers at diocesan elementary and secondary schools for more than thirty years.

After a diocesan-wide reorganization of the schools last year, the diocese informed SDACT January 24, 2008 that it would no longer be recognized as the teachers' bargaining agent in the newly formed schools.

NACST President Rita Schwartz led 75 affiliate members, local labor leaders, and SDACT members in the protest at St. Charles Seminary in

the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

The protest was held there since the Scranton Ordinary regularly spends time at the seminary each week.

Throughout March and April the Scranton union has been holding "rolling strikes" and sick-outs, shutting down individual schools.

The local Ordinary has informed the Scranton and Wilkes Barre media that his decision is final and will not be reversed.

SDACT has solicited parental action and moves by other union members to support their members' efforts for recognition.

SDACT posts regular news updates and proposed actions supporters can take at:

www.sdact.com/blog.

Annual General Membership Meeting

Thursday June 12, 2008

6:00 p.m.

The Tap Room

[formerly R Mac's Pub]

Haddon Twp. NJ

****please let your delegate know by *June 4* whether or not you will attend the meeting****

agenda items include preparations for negotiations next year

- directions available online at ctunj.com or from your delegate

Following registrations, delegates at the April 17 union meeting reported that no constrictions are being anticipated for the upcoming year.

*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