



# CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

8 N. Barrett Ave.  
Audubon, NJ 08106

(856) 546-5850

[ctunj@ctunj.com](mailto:ctunj@ctunj.com)

[www.ctunj.com](http://www.ctunj.com)



## From the President

Fellow CTU Members,

It's finally summer! I hope it's a time of rest and relaxation, even for those of us who work in the summer.

Our general membership meeting at Pinsetters Bowl and Bar was great fun. It's good to get together and have some fun, see people outside of work, and spend some time with our colleagues from other schools. We wished Kevin Gallagher, our Vice President at large, good luck as he stepped down from the Executive Board. Kevin has been involved with CTU for almost 40 years. He served as delegate at PVI for most of that time and then moved on to the executive board for 15 years. We call Kevin our walking constitution. He knows that document front and back. He is our historian as well, reminding us of important union events and dates. He's our note taker, negotiations minute man and a slew of other jobs that I'm sure I'm missing. Every organization needs a Kevin, but often it's the Kevins that go under appreciated. Kev, I hope you never felt that way and I hope you know that you will leave a gap in the CTU that won't easily be filled.



## Thank you!

This is my last newsletter to you. I hand the baton over to Bob Cranston as your new CTU President. I got involved with the union, not for the money, certainly not, but because I didn't like seeing my coworkers mistreated or taken advantage of. It has been my honor and privilege to serve alongside Bob and the other board members who work tirelessly for you. There's a ton of stuff that goes on that you are not privy to and these guys make sure you don't have to worry. I wish them the best of luck and know that you can count on me for anything you need to continue to serve the members of the CTU.

Mary Kay Rossi  
CTU President



### Executive Board

Mary Kay Rossi (PVI)  
President

Bob Cranston (CCHS)  
Executive Vice  
President

Maureen Simzak (PVI)  
Executive Secretary

Matt Hoover (CCHS)  
Treasurer

### Area Vice Presidents

Len Cava (PVI)

Kevin Gallagher (PVI)

Scott Higbee (HSHS)

### Delegates

Scott Higbee (HSHS)

Bob Moffett (CCHS)

Kelly Ogle (PVI)

### Helpful Links

[Horizon \[Medical\]](#)

[Express Scripts  
\[Prescription\]](#)

[Delta Dental of NJ](#)

[Vision Benefits of  
America](#)

[Life/Long Term  
Disability](#)

[403\(b\) \[Retirement  
Plan\]](#)

[ABCO Credit Union](#)

[Camden Diocese  
Human Resources](#)

Layout/Editor: Len Cava (PVI)



# CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

## General Membership Meeting '23

What a great ending to another school year! CTU hosted their annual General Membership Meeting at Pinsetters in Pennsauken, NJ on Thursday June 15. At that time the members voted on a change to our CTU Constitution ratifying our Union Dues Structure for the upcoming school year. Please see our members only page, click on the CTU Constitution, and scroll to the last page to see the approved Dues Structure change.

Also taking place were our executive board elections. All members ran unopposed. Executive Secretary Maureen Simzak cast a single vote ratifying the election of officers. Many thanks to PVI's Lisa Foster for overseeing the election of officers.

### Newly Elected Executive Board:

Bob Cranston, CC- President

Ben Jones, PVI - Vice President

Maureen Simzak, PVI- Executive Secretary

Jamie Bottino, PVI - Treasurer

Our members also enjoyed a night of buffet style dinner, drinks, and, at the conclusion of the meeting, a few fun hours of bowling. Thank you to all members who were able to attend.

Len Cava  
CTU Area Vice President





# CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

## Treasurer's Report

As of the end of May 2023, CTU is operating at a balance of \$178,100.57. This is a healthy balance for us, and there have not been any atypical major expenses to report within the last year.

I am confident that as my term as treasurer comes to an end that CTU is in a strong and sustainable place financially, and I would like to thank Mary Kay and the other members of the executive board for their support

and guidance throughout my two years in the role. As always, detailed quarterly financial reports can be found on the CTU membership page. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Matt Hoover  
Treasurer

**Thank you!**

## Report on Schools

### Camden Catholic High School

- Teachers at Camden Catholic have ratified a new four-year contract beginning September 1, 2023.
- English teacher Donna Maccherone is retiring from CCHS at the end of this school year after 39 years. We thank Donna for her many years of teaching and wish her much enjoyment in her retirement.

- President Mary Whipkey will be retiring from CCHS at the end of June and will be replaced by new President, Mr. Rory Sweeney. We would like to thank Mary for all of her years of service at Camden Catholic.

Bob Cranston  
Executive Vice President

### Paul VI High School

This year Paul VI opened under a new principal, Philip Gianfortune. Phil was a very refreshing addition to Paul VI. He was easy to work with and is open to communication and collaboration. He didn't make too many changes in his first year but rather took the first year just to see how everything typically runs with the hope of implementing some policy improvements next year. It seems his biggest focus will be on school security.

We received the calendar for the upcoming school year and everything looks standard. The good news is that PVI will not be opening before Labor Day as we did last year.

For the 2023-2024 school year, things are looking good. This year's senior class graduated 213 students. The incoming class is currently enrolled at 291, and it seems likely PVI will open the year with over 300 freshmen. Because of the increase in enrollment, the school has hired an additional religion teacher for next year.

There were no retirees this year; however, one teacher is leaving us for a public school teaching and coaching position. He will be a loss to the PVI community, and we wish him the best of luck in his new role. With that, PVI is looking for a full-time history teacher to fill that position. The school is also in need of long-term subs for art and mathematics. Additionally, the school is looking to fill a non-union position for a full-time mental health/crisis counselor.

As far as the physical state of the school is concerned, administration has already begun implementing some improvements over the summer. The school will spend \$400k in government funding through EANS money (Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools) to upgrade the Wi-Fi, servers, and entire wireless infrastructure. New LED lights will also be installed in all classrooms. The hallway lighting was upgraded last year. Also, the hallways will be freshly painted. Overall, Paul VI is in good physical and financial standing.

Kelly Ogle  
PVI Delegate





## Report on Schools *continued*

### Holy Spirit High School

During much of the school year we had celebrations for our 100th Anniversary. Each of these events was well-attended and very entertaining. The Holy Spirit community is extremely proud of this accomplishment and is shooting for another 100 years.

What is on everyone's mind is the enrollment, which has been fairly stable at about 340 students. We graduated 85 seniors this year and have just under 80 new freshmen registered for next year. Historically this number has risen slightly during the summer months, so there is still some optimism that we will replace the graduating students.

Contract negotiations went smoothly, and, after a slight delay in the school's decision on their proposal for the cost to the faculty for medical benefits, we came to a tentative agreement and presented it to the faculty. The proposal was for a two-year contract with a salary increase of 2.0% the first year, and a 2.5% increase in the second year. This year we paid 9.5% of the medical costs. Under the new agreement the faculty will pay 10% the first year, and 10.5% in the second year. The contract was ratified by a vote of 17-0, with 5 not voting.

Spirit has several open positions for next year, with some already filled at the time of this newsletter. One of the openings is for a full-time history teacher which was created by the retirement of Dave Pfeifer, who began teaching at Holy Spirit in November of 1970! (To put that into perspective, I graduated from Holy Spirit in June of 1970.) Dave leaves Holy Spirit with the gratitude

of the many colleagues and students who were fortunate to have Dave as a teacher and co-worker.

In addition to Dave Pfeifer, Father Perry Cherubini has decided to step down as President of Holy Spirit. There are no immediate plans to hire a replacement for that position. We thank Fr. Perry for his many years of loyal service to the school.

As we all (smiling broadly) head off into our summer break, we want to thank Kevin Gallagher for all of his years serving as an Area Vice-President on the CTU Executive Board. Those of you who know Kevin better than I do would not be surprised to learn that whenever the board had a question about the contract, we could always count on Kevin to explain the meaning, the article number and the paragraph where it could be found. Not only that, Kevin could also go back in time and explain why certain contract language was put in the contract. That kind of expertise will definitely be missed. Thank you, Kevin.

We also thank Mary Kay Rossi and say goodbye. Mary Kay took on the gigantic challenge of serving as our president. Most of the union members have very little knowledge of what the head of our union does (maybe including me). Being around Mary Kay for these past few years has been a joy. I was not only a witness to her leadership but also saw her tenacity, especially during the several contract negotiations we conducted together.

Have a great summer.

Scott Higbee  
CTU Area Vice President

## Contact Information

Medical Plan	<u>800-355-2583</u>	<a href="http://www.HorizonBlue.com">www.HorizonBlue.com</a>
Prescription Plan	<u>800-451-6245</u>	<a href="http://www.Express-scripts.com">www.Express-scripts.com</a>
Dental Plan	<u>866-328-1319</u>	<a href="http://www.Deltadentalnj.com">www.Deltadentalnj.com</a>
Vision Plan	<u>800-432-4966</u>	<a href="http://www.VBAplans.com">www.VBAplans.com</a>
Life/Long-Term Disability	<u>877-225-2712</u>	<a href="http://www.Unum.com">www.Unum.com</a>
Issues: Contact Candy Newhouse	<u>856-583-2872</u>	<a href="mailto:candynewhouse@ajg.com">candynewhouse@ajg.com</a> <a href="mailto:cnewhouse@camdendiocese.org">cnewhouse@camdendiocese.org</a>



# CATHOLIC TEACHERS UNION

## Shoutout to our Retirees

# Thank you Mary Kay and Kevin

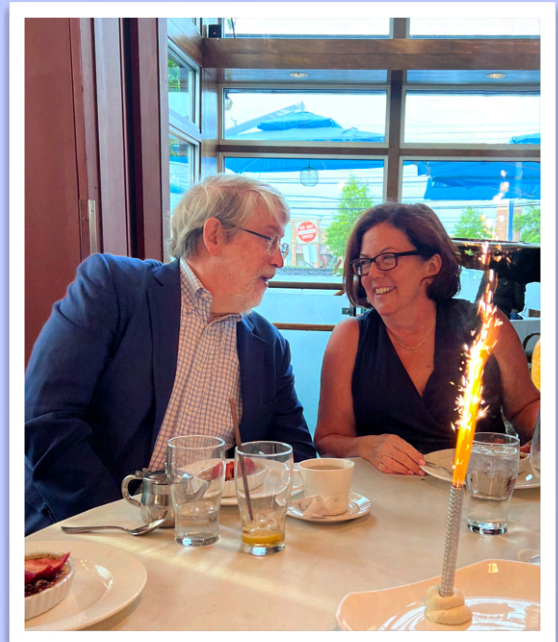
A huge shoutout goes to our retirees:

Mary Kay started working for the union as a delegate for Paul VI in 2005. She was on top of every issue for us. Thanks is not enough. Mary Kay became our CTU President in 2017, where she has continued to do an outstanding job. Mary Kay will continue to assist the executive board going forward. We can't say enough about her dedication, hard work, and tireless energy for all of us. She has been an inspiration. Thank you, Mary Kay!

Kevin Gallagher has amazingly worked for the Union for a total of 32 years. Kevin started working in the union as a delegate for Paul VI from 1991-2005. He then went on to serve as area vice president from 2001-2023. We can't begin to enumerate his value as our encyclopedic historian. To our legendary eyes and ears, thank you, Kevin, and expect to hear from us in the future!

Both of these outstanding teachers have given endless hours of their time in service to our members. We wish them the best of luck!

Len Cava  
CTU Area Vice President  
&  
Maureen Simzak  
CTU Executive Secretary



# Have a Great Summer!