

Pres Says....

Dear AEA Members,

I am using my column in this issue of the newsletter to answer some questions regarding the Janus Decision - A decision that if approved by the Supreme Court will have severe negative consequences for our union. We are anticipating a decision on a Monday in June – this month. (excerpted from a mailing for WEA to local presidents)

What is Janus?

- Janus v. AFSCME is a politically motivated attack to use the U.S. Supreme Court to divide and conquer our union by eliminating fair share fees.

What will this case do?

- If Janus wins, it would overturn a 40-year legal precedent, settled in the 1977 Abood case, and would abolish “fair share” fees in one fell swoop.
- I will make it harder for public employees, including educators, firefighters and nurses to come together to fight for the things we believe in. That includes fighting for our students, smaller class-sizes, education funding, better pay, and the ability to negotiate with our employers.

What is “Fair Share” or “Agency Fee”?

- Fair share (sometimes called “agency”) fees are the cost of union representation and bargaining.
- No one is forced to join a union, but unions are legally required to represent all workers. Educators (and other public employees) who don’t want to belong to a union only have to contribute to the costs of representation they receive.
- Since all workers enjoy the benefits, job security and other protections that the union negotiates, it is only fair that all contribute to the cost of securing those benefits.

When was the case heard?

- The hearing was Monday, February 26th.
- We expect a decision before June 30, the last day of the Court’s schedule

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Who is behind this case?

- Janus is the culmination of decades of attacks on working people by corporate CEO's, the wealthiest 1% and politicians who do their bidding to rig the system even more in their favor.
- The original plaintiff behind this case was Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, who launched an attack on public employees after taking office. After a U.S. District Court judge ruled he had no standing to bring suit, the National Right to Work Committee and Liberty Justice Center went looking for plaintiffs.

Why does it matter?

- Janus matters because it is part of a larger concerted effort to weaken our ability to advocate for students, public education and ourselves.
- In states where fair share has been banned, workers are worse off. If the Court bans fair share, it will make it harder for educators, firefighters and nurses to stand together to fight for our students, and our schools, and to negotiate for wages and benefits.

In Washington, when WEA members have joined together, we have demonstrated success in reducing class sizes, improving education funding negotiating better salaries and advocating for our students in our classrooms, schools and districts, and in Olympia.

Union members earn higher wages, with median weekly earnings of \$1,041 compared to \$829 for nonunion, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's a difference of over \$11,000 a year!

WEA asked several members who have worked in non-union states what the difference is, and here is one example of what they learned:

"What I learned when we moved to Washington is that you really need the balance of power that a union contract provides. Because educators have rights and responsibilities here in Washington, the quality of the education our students receive is much better than what we saw in Texas.

"In a school setting, all improvements build upon the ones that came before. If an educator isn't empowered to make suggestions to make things better for their students or their school, nothing will change, nothing will improve. And our experience in a non-union state was that there was no safety in speaking up. We weren't protected." – Dan Bell, Richland

Dianne Jordan



Sooner or later....

Retirement in your future?

Get your complimentary Financial 360 plan: a benefit for WEA members.

The Financial 360 plan analyzes your investment portfolio to ensure you are investing properly for retirement based on your time horizon and risk tolerance.

If you haven't had this done you can contact your local Valic Office. Valic and the WEA have partnered for 50 years to provide this benefit to WEA members.

Valic Washington District : 800-523-5332

Or

Mark Quenneville, CFP: 425-736-5096

The AEA awarded four scholarships this year to Auburn students pursuing a degree in education.

Congratulations!!



Haley Sue Hunsaker

Auburn Senior High School

David Phan

Auburn Mountianview High School

Autumn Chalmers

Auburn Riverside High School

Dustin Williams

Auburn Riverside High School

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How to Survive Year-End Stress

by Hilary Richardson, NEA member

Simple suggestions for beating the year-end stress and closing out the school year.

The principal wants your data from the entire year. Next week. Your evaluator wants to complete their final observation. Tomorrow. Every parent suddenly wants to know what their child can do to bring up their grade. Today. The custodial staff wants you to clean everything out of your classroom. And label it. By Friday. Your students are bouncing off the walls and driving you crazy.

Welcome to the end of the school year.

No matter where you teach, what grade, subject, or school, you will experience this end-of-year insanity. How can you deal with it and stay sane?

Know that you are not alone

Year-end stress and silliness is normal in schools. Unlike in other industries, everything around you has the same endpoint. Once summer break starts, the year is over. This means everyone in the building and district, from students to superintendents, must meet the exact same deadlines. Many people will be crankier and have less patience. Understanding this can really help you sympathize with others, including your students, and help you defuse situations that escalate due to short tempers and stress.

Be open with your students

Openly acknowledging my stress helps them understand and behave better. On particularly trying days, I start class with "I know I'm more short-tempered than normal today. I just want you to be aware so you understand it's not personal." Sometimes they will ask questions; I answer when appropriate and tell them I can't when not appropriate. But, it means they are prepared for me to be less tolerant, and they behave.

Realize students feed off adults

Stressed adults lead to stressed children. Add in the excitement of nicer weather and the impending summer break, and students are bouncing off the walls. Short-tempered teachers can quickly escalate situations, so letting students know upfront that today is a particularly bad day to act out can be very helpful. Remember, the students are also getting deadlines as the end of the year approaches: things like final exams and end-of-year grades. Some also will be worried about life issues like where they will find breakfast and lunch during summer break. Empathy is important during this time of year.

Change the setting

We all know exercise is a great de-stressor, so add movement into your lessons. Can your class go outside on a nice day? Do it. Just sitting outside for silent reading can dramatically lower stress. Instead of trash can basketball review, use laundry baskets and real basketballs outside. Any movement helps—you and your students.

With your space under control you'll be ready to prioritize and deal with everyone else. Keep breathing. Remember, "this too shall pass."

AEA Officers and

Executive Committee:

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Dianne Jordan

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pres@auburnea.org

Vice President:

Paul Cooper / Olympic MS

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Steve Goliff / LeaHill

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Elaine Hogg / AHS

Career & Tech. Ed. Rep:

Jim Wickens / ARHS

ESA Rep:

Deb Landis / AMHS

Get involved! Rep Council 2018-2019

It's that time of year again - time to select next year's Reps . We encourage you to think about becoming a Rep. Do you have returning Reps that are interested in serving next year or new people that want to get involved? *Hold elections in your school to see who will represent you at the monthly Rep Council meetings.*

Please let us know who will be representing your school for the 2018-2019 school year!!!

Listed below are the number of reps allowed for each school. For every 10 certificated staff (AEA members) you are allowed 1 representative. If you have 36 staff members we round up to 40, which entitles your building to 4 reps.

Alpac	4	Pioneer	3
AJ	4	Terminal Park	3
Annex	6	Washington	3
Chinook	4	Cascade	4
Dick Scobee	4	Olympic	5
Evergreen	3	Mt Baker	6
Gildo Rey	4	Rainier	5
Hazelwood	4	AHS	7
Ilalko	4	AMHS	8
Lake View	3	ARHS	8
Lakeland	4	WAHS	2
Lea Hill	3		



June 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Bargaining	2
3	4 Exec Board	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Bargaining School Board	12 Bargaining	13	14	15	16
17	18 Rep Council	19	20 Bargaining	21 Last Day Elementary	22 Last Day Secondary	23
24	25 Bargaining School Board	26	27	28	29	30

June 2017

- June 1st** **Bargaining 9-4 pm WEA**
- June 4th** **Exec Board**
- June 11th** **Bargaining 9-4 pm WEA**
School Board Meeting, James P Fugate Building
- June 12th** **Bargaining 4:30 - 8 pm WEA**
- June 18th** **Rep Council, Rainier Middle School**
- June 20th** **Bargaining 4:30 - 8 pm WEA**
- June 21st** **Last Day Elementary**
- June 22nd** **Last Day Secondary**
- June 25th** **Bargaining 8 - noon WEA , School Board Meeting**