

10 Minute Meeting February 2018

Public sector Unions are under attack. Oral arguments in Janus v. AFSCME (similar to Friedrichs v. CTA) will be heard by the Supreme Court 02.26.18. This is a blatant political scheme to weaken unions by defunding them. We need your help to fight back and spread the word on the threat this case poses to all workers, their families and the public services that affect all of our communities. Please see the reverse side of this paper for more information on what we may do to support our union.

Institutional

1. Scholarships – There is a new Professional Development application form at **smmcta.com** under resources. (If there is conference or workshop you would like to attend, please apply for tuition).
2. Elections
 - A. Our own Claudia Bautista, Spanish teacher extraordinaire, is running as a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly in Minneapolis in July. Ballots will arrive this week, election must take place between now and March 15th, due in our office by Friday, March 16th.
 - B. Local Election - Interested in running for SMMCTA as an officer or executive Board member? Announcement of vacancies will be the beginning of March 5th. The election timeline and declaration of candidacy forms will be available on our website then.
3. Grievances –
 - A. Teacher Eval. changed to Satisfactory due to not following contractual timeline
Good work Catherine and Jenny.
 - B. Itinerant Parking – No progress
4. Insurance –
 - A. Shannon Leonard of *The Standard* Insurance has opened the campaign for Disability Insurance from 3/1 to 3/31 (Disability insurance signup is only available every 3 years so make a plan to have her meet with new members and those without disability insurance.)
 - B. Issa Guererro from *California Casualty* is available for car and other insurance. Car giveaway for winner of an art contest on distracted driving. Please see you site rep for more info.

Instructional

1. Interim Assessments – At several sites tech help is inadequate. Computers were not ready. Many are broken and or too old to handle the test. At the secondary level, teachers have been left stranded, trying to come up with working computers available during their test schedule. Admin reports no money for new equipment
2. Administrative Review - Committee meeting 2/15/18
3. WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) – High School teachers did a terrific job

Social Justice

1. Five members of the Executive Board will attend a Social Justice Retreat on May 5
2. Middle school teachers unsatisfied with the Olweus program. The delivery schedule is working, but teachers are not finding it ineffective.

Next Rep meeting – Monday, March 19, 2018 4:00-5:30 PM

What is *Janus v. AFSCME*?

This case was brought by the legal arm of the “National Right to Work Foundation” and the “Liberty Justice Center” and is an attack on working people by corporate CEOs, the wealthiest 1% and the politicians who do their bidding to use their fortunes and influence to rig the economy in their favor. These same forces have worked to dismantle voting rights, attacked immigrants, and undermined civil rights protections.

They are urging the Supreme Court to weaken unions by defunding them and outlawing “Fair Share” fees. They know a decline in union membership takes away our combined powerful voice to speak for all workers, their families and our communities. Unions have and do play a crucial role in creating and protecting the American middle class by providing workers with economic stability through a living wage, retirement security, affordable healthcare, leave time and sensible workplace conditions. Unions advocate for equal opportunities for woman and people of color who are often disadvantaged due to discrimination and prejudice.

Under current law, every union-represented teacher, police officer, caregiver or public service worker may choose whether or not to join the union – but as the union is *required* to negotiate on behalf of all workers, and all workers benefit from the gains Unions bargain for, it’s fair that everyone chip in toward the cost. Which is why SCOTUS ruled, in a unanimous decision, the cost-sharing arrangement known as “fair share”. No one is or will be required to join a union, and no one is required to pay fees that go to political candidates, but we must have a unified voice to negotiate and this case seeks to defang, defund and divide us.