

**Lay Faculty Association  
Local 1261  
Newsletter**

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**July & August, 2018**



The U.S. Supreme Court dealt a blow to organized public labor, ruling that non-members cannot be forced in pay fees to unions representing public employees such as teachers and police, shutting off a key union revenue source. **Local 1261 is a private union and this ruling does not apply to us.**

On a 5-4 vote powered by the court's conservative majority, the justices overturned a 1977 Supreme Court precedent that had allowed the so-called agency fees that are collected from millions of non-union workers in lieu of union dues to fund non-political activities like collective bargaining. In the 56 years of its existence the LFA has not made political contributions of any kind.

In May, 2018, a case (for at-will-employees) involving the rights of tens of millions of private sector employees, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 5-4 vote, delivered a major blow to workers, ruling for the first time that workers may not band together to challenge violations of federal labor laws.

Writing for the majority, Justice Neil Gorsuch said that the 1925 Federal Arbitration Act trumps the National Labor Relations Act and that employees who sign employment agreements to arbitrate claims must do so on an individual basis — and may not band together to enforce claims of wage and hour violations. In short, these employees must obtain their own attorney which can be expensive.

In the coming months, you will be receiving a letter informing you about our serious concerns of possible future Supreme Court decisions which may have a negative outcome on our Local's future and unions throughout the United States. Union members need to be fully aware of what "right to work" really means and what has happened to states who have adopted this change in labor law.

Hear the complete **Janus v. AFSCME oral arguments at the Supreme Court of the United States** on [YOUTUBE.COM](http://YOUTUBE.COM).



**is here! Relax!**

A teacher invited 80 students to her wedding because she couldn't picture getting married without them! Last month we had a teacher donate \$1,000,000.

The Fordham University Graduate School of Education and the Center for Catholic School Leadership and Faith-Based Education will recognize **Holy Trinity Diocesan High School** for its exemplary Catholic School Religious Education Program. The 24th Annual Catholic School Executive Leadership Dinner held on May 30, 2018 at Fordham's Lincoln Center Campus.

The spring 2018 season was the most successful athletic campaign for **St. Edmund Prep** in more than two decades!

It began with the Step Team winning the Thomas Jefferson Orange Wave Competition for the second year in a row. The Junior Varsity Softball capped off an undefeated regular season with an exciting win in the CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens A-Division Championship Game. The Junior Varsity Baseball team also enjoyed an undefeated campaign culminating in a CHSAA New York City Championship. Not to be outdone, the Varsity Baseball team followed up winning the CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens A-Division Championship game knocking off Msgr. Scanlan 7-6 at Jack Kaiser Stadium on the campus of St. John's University. The Varsity Softball team brought home another championship when they defeated St. Catherine's Academy on Wednesday June 6th. That championship took place on Crusader Field on the campus of Msgr. Scanlan High School.

Delegate Karla Nieves, wins a Power Women Award. That is the good news. The bad news, Karla has resigned as delegate at the **Child School** in order to go back to school.

## **The President's Message.....**

Negotiations at St. John the Baptist, and Holy Trinity, are progressing well. A tentative meeting is scheduled for July 31st. Negotiations at Christ the King are coming close to a settlement. Negotiations at Bishop Kearney are postponed until sometime in August. The Child School will reopen negotiations on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

I commend the Bargaining Teams at Xaverian High School and Archbishop Molloy High School for representing their faculty well at their negotiation sessions. Ratification of their Memorandum of Agreements is underway.

**\*A reminder to all teachers and staff who participate in the LIUNA Pension and / or the MTDC Medical:** Anyone wishing to retire **MUST** contact the LFA office at least **FOUR (4)** months before your intended retirement date.

\*CLARIFICATION:

### **The Janus v. American Federation of State, Country, and Municipal Employees, Council 31**

The Supreme Court decision on June 27<sup>th</sup>, ruled in favor of returning First Amendment rights to **public sector workers**. This means that **public servants** in 22 states no longer have to pay a government union as a condition of employment. **Dues and Agency fee agreements in the private sector remain the same.**

*Ciro Quattrocchi*