

Lay Faculty Association  
Local 1261  
Newsletter



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[WWW.LFA1261.ORG](http://WWW.LFA1261.ORG)  
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For some, they don't know what they have until it's gone!

**Right-to-work laws** may soon make American union membership — which, at 10.7 percent, is already at a record low — fall to even more calamitous depths.

Six states in the last five years have passed right-to-work legislation — laws that prohibit unions from requiring their members to pay dues, according to a report by Bloomberg. Although a right-to-work bill failed in New Hampshire on Feb 16th, it remains one of only two states to be controlled by both a Republican governor and a Republican legislature that doesn't have right-to-work legislation on the books; the other is Ohio. More ominously for unions, a case is pending before the Supreme Court, Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association that could deem mandatory union fees a violation of government employees' constitutional rights. If that happens, roughly half of America's 14.6 million union members would be impacted.

While it is difficult to anticipate how the widespread implementation of right-to-work policies would impact America's unions, it is telling that a 2015 study by the Economic Policy Institute discovered that right-to-work states have less than half of the unionization of other states — and their workers have lower wages.

### Education Tax Credits

The push for **Education Tax Credits** is on! Families, teachers, and friends – your support is needed! Please go to [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org), click on the Join Network and be a part of advocating for Catholics.

For those who are covered by the **Mason Tenders Welfare Fund health insurance** if you need information (recent letter from MTDC) about coverage the contact information is:

THE FUNDS' OFFICES ARE LOCATED AT: 520 EIGHTH AVE, SUITE 600 NEW YORK, NY 10018-4196  
TELEPHONE: (212) 452-9700 FAX: (212) 452-9729.

### **At Bishop Kearney High School**

Recently, students from WBKS, the student-run **Bishop Kearney** TV station, visited the headquarters of 21st Century Fox. Richard O'Brien, Senior Vice President and Creative Director for the Fox News Channel, led the students on a private tour of the graphics department, showing them advanced animation software as well as a sneak peak of the new opening for Fox & Friends.

The members of **Xaverian's** Class of 2016 were awarded in \$36,880,924 in scholarship funds. Congratulations!

At the JSA Winter Congress in Washington D.C., **Nazareth** students joined hundreds of other students and teachers from across the northeast for an exciting educational experience with student-run simulation of the United States congressional legislative process. Through engaging and spirited debates, the conference gave students the unique opportunity to think critically, express their opinions, and challenge the opinions of others in a tolerant, supportive atmosphere.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Catholic California high school has made millions of dollars from the initial public offering of shares in Snap Inc

The board of the Saint Francis high school in Mountain View, CA. agreed to invest \$15,000 in seed money in Snap in 2012, when the company was just getting started.

The school sold two-thirds of their shares at \$17 each, to raise \$24,000,000.00! Nice Job! Will teachers get a raise?

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

\*Bishop Kearney Teachers unanimously voted to accept the updated wording in the Contract and the Handbook.

\*The faculty at the Child Legacy School is still reviewing the Memorandum of Agreement and the Updated Handbook. A Ratification Meeting will be scheduled eventually.

\*The Lay Faculty Association has been working diligently to create an updated electronic database for all our active and retired teachers and staff. Please remember to keep your address current with the LFA office. Contact your delegate if you are working or call the office directly to update your information. Forms are also available on our website.

*"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."* ~ Rachel Carson, Silent Spring

*Ciro Quattrocchi*