

OATA Newsletter

January/February 2018



Your Team:

Wendy Bergman
President

Jacob Hammond
Vice President

Cindy Kowalik
Secretary

Amy Sparrow Percy
Treasurer

Don Peet
MHS Building Rep

Heather Shadle
MHS Building Rep

Adam Reeb
Elementary Building Rep

Corinne Coffta
Elementary Building Rep

Denise Glidden
Retirement Rep

Corinne Coffta
Teachers' Center Rep

Updates and Reminders:

- Check out our **OATA website** regularly for updates and upcoming events at <http://oakfieldalabamata.weebly.com/>
- For APPR Info, check out the OATA website!
- **Email** us at: oakfieldalabamata@gmail.com
- Look for **retirement Information** on Denise Glidden's [website](#).
- **TEACH ACCOUNT** - Reminder to log on to your TEACH account to register. It is recommended you do this during your birthday month. [TEACH Login](#)

Think You're Experiencing a Problem



1. Take a look at the contract and locate the section that you believe is being violated.
2. Make an appointment with your building representative. Bring the contract to your appointment.

Building Representatives:

Elementary Representatives: Adam Reeb & Corinne Coffta
MHS Representatives: Don Peet & Heather Shadle

3. Point out the section that you believe is being violated. Your representative will work with you to determine whether or not the contract is being violated.

If the contract is not being violated but you don't agree with how it is written, keep this in mind for future negotiations! It is NEVER too early to think about negotiating a future contract!

Janus v. AFSCME

Who is Janus? And why should you care?

(Article Found on NYSUT page)

Here's the thing about existential threats: You have to take them one at a time.

A year and a half ago, the U.S. Supreme Court decided for the defendants in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*. In a 4-4 deadlock, the court upheld decades-old precedent that says those who benefit from union representation must pay fair-share fees. We won! Right?

Well, the 4-4 tie was, of course, precipitated by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

GET READY FOR THE BIG REMATCH.

The Supreme Court in September agreed to hear *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, a case that again challenges fair-share fees and threatens public sector unions. *Janus* culminates decades of attacks on working people by corporate CEOs, the wealthiest 1 percent, and the politicians who do their bidding.

So, how much do you know about the next battle over "fair share?" Here are some things to know...

1. Who is Janus?

Mark Janus, a child support specialist at the Illinois Department of Healthcare Services, who benefits from union representation but does not want to pay his fair share for those benefits.

2. Janus v. AFSCME aims to:

Limit the freedom of working people to join together in unions.

3. People keep talking about Abood. What is that?

The 1970s case in which the Supreme Court determined it was fair and reasonable to expect people who benefit from union representation to pay something for it.

4. Who really initiated Janus?

Billionaire Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner in an overt political attack on public sector workers. He was later found to have "no standing" to bring suit. Undeterred, Janus, was then used to sign on instead.

5. Who said: "At the end of the day, your union fights to protect your salary, pensions and rights in the workplace."

NYSUT President Andy Pallotta

Educator's Voice is NYSUT's Journal of Best Practices in Education. Published annually, it is created *by our members for our members*. Do you have a project or practice that works well in your classroom – something you are passionate about and would like to share with other educators across the state? This is an opportunity to write about it – and to become published in our member journal. There is no previous experience needed and you do not have to be a professional writer to be published in *Educator's Voice*.

Every article starts with a short proposal. We are currently seeking article proposals on Culturally Responsive Teaching. Use the link provided to learn more about how to submit a proposal.

Once accepted, our authors receive a great deal of editorial support and writing guidance throughout the year-long publication cycle. The result is a professional, research based publication that can be shared with your colleagues and used for professional development. Authors or author teams can collaborate across schools or with partners in higher education. At least one author must be a NYSUT or affiliate member.

Educator's Voice is a unique publication. Please take a moment to browse through past editions on our website. And while you are there – check out our featured author videos too! The next one could be you!

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/educators-voice>

APPR Reminders

Remember to schedule a post observation conference after your first announced walk through. You need to discuss sections:

4a (Reflecting on Teaching)

4c (Communicating with Families)

It is up to **you** to initiate the conversation and to include the information you want your evaluator to know.

Your UNANNOUNCED Walk Through Is Completed!

(or will be completed soon)



Now What?!?!?

- Check your scores on your unannounced walk through.
- Pay attention to any n/a's or anything **lower than a 4**.
- These are the domains you will want to pay attention to in your following two announced walk throughs.
- Remember! Your highest score on the domain in ANY of the walk throughs will count towards your final score!

Janus Has Started!

[Click Here To Read About It](#)

STAY with the UNION

[Click Here](#)

Upcoming Events

- March - 1-1 Conversations with Union Reps will be happening!
- June 14th - Corporate Challenge in Buffalo, NY

Membership has its privileges!

Your union is steadfast in its fight for better contracts, safer working conditions, fair pay, advocacy, and upholding the labor rights of the dedicated women and men proudly working in the education and health care industries on a daily basis.

But your NYSUT membership does so much more! It also provides you with the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Endorsed By:

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**



As an Example: With the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home insurance program, NYSUT members receive special group rates on auto insurance, homeowners insurance as well as motorcycle, boat, personal property and other types of insurance -- rates that are NOT available to the general public.

That is why we encourage you to always look for the “Endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits” logo before you or your loved ones make any purchasing decisions.

Visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.



Newly endorsed Member Shopping Program available for use!

We heard the requests of the NYSUT membership and spent months diligently researching new member shopping program options. The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation is pleased to announce that the Purchasing Power Member Shopping Program is now available for use by eligible NYSUT members.

Purchasing Power is an online shopping option that offers another way to purchase brand-new, brand-name products and pay for them over time through the ease of payroll deduction or ACH withdrawals. Eligible NYSUT members can enjoy access to products such as computers, appliances, jewelry, furniture, televisions, electronics, travel packages and much more.

While Purchasing Power is not a discount program, it can save you money and stress compared to high-interest credit cards or rent-to-own stores. As always, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

Visit nysutmbc.purchasingpower.com or call **800-537-3135** to learn more.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.