

PRESERVING OUR RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JANUS VS. AFSCME

WHAT IS JANUS VS. AFSCME?

On June 6, 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court received a petition to hear *Janus v. AFSCME*, a case challenging our right to collect fair share fees in the public sector. Under current law, every union-represented teacher, police officer, caregiver or other public service worker may choose whether or not to join the union — but the union is required to negotiate on behalf of all workers whether they join or not. Since all the workers benefit from the union's gains, it's only fair that everyone chip in toward the cost; the *Janus* case would preserve the responsibility of unions to represent unit members but eliminate the fees paid by non-members. It is expected that the Court will hear the case in winter and issue a decision by June 2018.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT PFT FACULTY RIGHTS?

If, as widely expected, the court rules in favor of Mark Janus, it will put an end to the practice of public sector unions charging agency fees to non-members. This will reduce the financial resources the PFT uses to defend our members and to fight for quality public education in the Peralta Community Colleges. The forces pushing this case (e.g., The National Right to Work Legal Committee and the Liberty Foundation), understand that the loss of the fair share fee could dramatically reduce the ability of working people to fight for fair wages, secure retirements, a clean and safe environment and a decent quality of life for our families. Should the U.S. Supreme Court rule in favor of *Janus* the PFT estimates that it will lose approximately 30% of its membership.

HOW CAN WE PRESERVE OUR RIGHTS?

Our best defense against this attack is an active union membership who understands and communicates the value of our union to colleagues. Check out [this flyer for some of our recent accomplishments](#). It's more important than ever for faculty (instructional, counselors, nurses, and librarians) in the Peralta Colleges to be fully engaged and committed members of our union, the Peralta Federation of Teachers. We will be engaging in a membership drive and member activities to make our union even stronger so that we can continue to fight for our rights to quality working conditions, salaries and benefits – we hope that you'll join us.

“The wealthy corporate special interests behind this case want to undermine that freedom. They want to take away the power in numbers that working people need to win better lives for ourselves, our families and our communities. But no matter how much money the billionaires throw at us, no matter how craven and vicious their attacks, social and economic justice for all are visions we'll never quit working to achieve.”

— Roberta Lynch, Executive Director of AFSCME Council 31, which represents 100,000 active and retired public service workers.