

[MEMBER LABEL]

 Reclaiming the
P **romise**

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PITTSFIELD FEDERATION OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

LOCAL 1315



MAY 16, 2018 – JUNE 15, 2018



RETURN YOUR COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO

[RETURN LABEL]



Dear Member of Local 1315,

It's time to reclaim the promise of public education—not as it is today or as it was in the past, but as it can be—to fulfill our collective obligation to help all children succeed.¹

Reclaiming the promise is about fighting for public schools that are clean, safe, welcoming places for teaching and learning.²

Reclaiming the promise is about ensuring that teachers and school support staff are well-prepared, are supported, have manageable class sizes and workloads, and have time to collaborate to meet the needs of every child.³

Reclaiming the promise is about making sure our children have an engaging curriculum that focuses on teaching and learning, not testing, and includes art, music and the sciences.⁴

By uniting our voices and joining together around shared values and common goals, we can build a movement—parents, students, teachers, school staff and the broader community—with the power to reclaim the promise. We will get there by bringing together everyone who believes in the future of public education and focusing on finding solutions rather than winning arguments.⁵

We will help the Pittsfield Public Schools become the centers of our community, secure a voice and respect for those closest to the classroom, and fulfill public education's purpose as a propeller of our economy, an anchor of democracy, and a gateway to racial, social and economic justice.⁶

But the promise of public education is under attack by those who demand and pursue austerity, polarization, privatization and de-professionalization.⁷ [Janus vs. AFSCME, a case now before the US Supreme Court, is just the latest in this series of attacks.](#) It's about Freedom! This case is about wealthy corporations and right-wing politicians trying to eliminate our freedom to join together as a Union to create better lives for ourselves and our families.

The Pittsfield Federation of School Employees is a union of 300+ Bus Drivers/Attendants, Cafeteria Workers, Custodians, Paraprofessionals, and Secretaries committed to the promise of quality public education for all the children of Pittsfield. We are a "Union of Professionals", and we are committed to each other!

To achieve our promise, we need your help. We can neutralize [Janus vs. AFSCME](#) by coming together as a Union, but it all starts with you! Help us Reclaim the Promise! Our Membership Drive is on-going. *We need for all our members to complete and sign a revised Membership Application (attached to this letter). This is how we defeat the right-wing agenda of [Janus vs AFSCME](#). Please fill-out all the requested information, and return the completed/signed Membership Application to your Chapter Chairperson.* Not sure who you're Chapter Chairperson is? Go to Contact-Us section of the Local 1315 Website at <http://pittsfield.ma.aft.org/contact-us>. Let's make this happen!

In Solidarity,

Sandi Amburn, President

PO Box 2073

PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201-2073

WEBSITE

PITTSFIELD.MA.AFT.ORG

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
PITTSFIELD FEDERATION OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 1315



(PLEASE PRINT)

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

PERSONAL (NON-WORK) E-MAIL: _____

SCHOOL/BUILDING/ROOM #: _____

UNIT: (CHECK ONE)

BUS OPERATIONS CAFETERIA CUSTODIAL PARAPROFESSIONAL SECRETARIAL

EMPLOYMENT STATUS: (CHECK ONE) FULL TIME PART TIME (LESS THAN 20 HOURS/WEEK)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR DUES DEDUCTION

- I hereby request and accept membership in the Pittsfield Federation of School Employees, Local 1315 and I agree to abide by its Constitution and Bylaws. I authorize the union and its successor or assignee to act as my exclusive bargaining representative for purposes of collective bargaining with respect to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment with my employer.

- Effective immediately, I hereby authorize and direct my Employer to deduct from my pay each pay period and transmit to the Pittsfield Federation of School Employees, Local 1315 membership dues in the amount established or revised by the Pittsfield Federation of School Employees, Local 1315 in accordance with the Pittsfield Federation of School Employees, Local 1315 Constitution and By-Laws. There shall be no change in the amount of dues deducted without 60 days prior notice to me by the Pittsfield Federation of School Employees, Local 1315. If for any reason my Employer fails to make a deduction, I authorize the Employer to make such deduction in the subsequent payroll period.

I recognize that my authorization of dues deduction, and continuation of such authorization from one year to the next, is voluntary and not a condition of my employment.

In order to comply with the Internal Revenue Service ruling, be advised that your membership dues are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. However, they may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FULL DUES RATE | <input type="checkbox"/> HALF DUES RATE | <input type="checkbox"/> QUARTER DUES RATE | <input type="checkbox"/> EIGHTH DUES RATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 52 WEEK EMPLOYEE | | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 WEEK EMPLOYEE | |



A Union of Professionals

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LATEST SUPREME COURT CASE ATTACKING WORKING PEOPLE

WHAT IS THE *Janus v. AFSCME* CASE?

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case called *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31* that is being pushed by wealthy corporations and right-wing politicians to eliminate our freedom to come together in unions to create a better life.

For years, wealthy interests have sought to make dishonestly named “right-to-work” legislation the law of the land, and that’s what the *Janus* case would do. These laws are already in place in 24 states, tilting the power balance toward employers and weakening workers’ freedom to join together to secure better wages, working conditions and benefits.

Belonging to a union helps working people gain the freedom to prosper. This freedom comes not only from making a good living, but also from work-life balance, the ability to take a loved one to the doctor or attend a parent-teacher conference without fear of losing your job, and the ability—after a lifetime of work—to retire with dignity.

Many corporations, wealthy interests and the politicians in their corner want those freedoms for themselves but not for their employees or people in public service like teachers or healthcare workers. These anti-union forces have rewritten the economic and political rules to amass more wealth for themselves and secure as much influence as money can buy. They know that there is power in numbers, so they have plotted ways to gut union membership.

WHAT DO THEY WANT THE SUPREME COURT TO DO?

Those behind the *Janus* case want the court to overrule decades of precedent enabling public sector unions to charge a fair-share fee to nonmembers for the representation the unions provide. The goal is to cripple labor unions, weaken workers’ rights, and further exacerbate the imbalance of power in our economic, political and social systems. That’s why those behind *Janus* requested the Supreme Court to review the case right after the confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch, who has a record of siding with corporate interests against working people.

WHO IS BEHIND THIS CASE?

The National Right to Work Committee is part of a network funded by corporate billionaires to use the courts to rig the rules against everyday working people. For decades, the corporate CEOs and billionaires funding this case have used their massive fortunes to pay politicians and corporate lobbyists to chip away at the freedoms people in unions have won for every single one of us. And now they want the highest court in the land to take away our freedom to come together to protect things our families need: a living wage, retirement security, health benefits, the ability to care for loved ones and more.



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Janus is just one of the attacks on working people. *The Guardian* recently reported on a network of right-wing think tanks and funders plotting an \$80 million campaign in nearly every state to “defund and defang unions” because they know strong unions are the only thing standing between them and total control of our economy and democracy.

WHERE DID THIS CASE COME FROM?

This case originated from a political scheme by billionaire Bruce Rauner, governor of Illinois, to take away the freedom and opportunity of working people to join together in strong unions so that he could advance an agenda benefiting corporations and the wealthy. Rauner launched a political attack on public service workers immediately after taking office, filing a lawsuit on his own behalf to bar the collection of fair-share fees by public service unions. A federal judge ruled that Rauner could not bring this action because he was not himself an employee paying fair-share fees. But the legal arms of the National Right to Work Committee and the Liberty Justice Center were able to carry the case forward by planting plaintiffs as stand-ins for Rauner in the federal lawsuit. The district court dismissed the case, based on long-standing precedent. The plaintiffs asked the lower court to fast-track their appeal and rule against them in order to more quickly get the case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

WHAT ARE FAIR-SHARE FEES, AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Unions work because we all pay our fair share, and we all benefit from what we negotiate together. Public sector unions charge a fair-share fee to nonmembers for the representation the unions provide. No one is forced to join a union, and no one is forced to pay any fees that go to politics or political candidates. That is already the law of the land. Nothing in this case will change that. This case is about taking away the freedom of working people to come together, speak up for each other, and build a better life for themselves and their families.

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT *Janus*?

With so much at stake, we cannot let the anti-union forces weaken our union through the cynical ploy of *Janus*. We are working to help our members talk with one another about the value of belonging to our union. Speaking up for ourselves, for our students, for our patients and for our community is at the core of who we are. *Janus* will not change that, but we cannot let ourselves be silenced.

Working people form unions. We form unions so we can earn a good living while also having a life outside work. We form unions to ensure our voices are heard. We speak up for our schools and universities—to fight for smaller class sizes, safe and welcoming environments for students, and to defend academic freedom. We speak up for our hospitals to make sure patients come before profits through safe nurse-to-patient ratios. We speak up for public services by fighting privatization of these services. And we speak up for the needs of the communities we serve— by fighting bullying, by pushing childhood literacy initiatives, and by promoting access to voting and healthcare. This is the story we need to be telling.