



ALBANY, N.Y. June 27, 2018 — New York State United Teachers today released the following statement reacting to the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in Janus v. AFSCME:

“Wealthy special interests have been fighting for years to undercut unions and roll back the benefits earned by working families. Today’s Supreme Court decision in Janus vs. AFSCME shows how far they are willing to go to attack working families. Anti-union forces think they can seize this opportunity to convince our members to abandon our union in an effort to diminish their voice in the workplace and weaken their strength at the bargaining table.

“But we are ready for this fight. Our members know that strong unions and collective bargaining are the keys to securing higher wages, quality health care and a secure retirement. They know that strong unions provide our members a voice in the workplace and in the halls of power.

“We have fought long and hard to protect our brothers and sisters in the labor movement, and we are not going to back down now. Our movement is stronger than ever. We are committed to working like never before to encourage every member to stick with our union.”

New York State United Teachers is a statewide union with more than 600,000 members in education, human services and health care. NYSUT is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO.

Union leaders across the state are ready to rally in solidarity after anti-labor U.S. Supreme Court decision

Source: NYSUT Media Relations

ALBANY, N.Y., June 27, 2018 — On the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court’s attack on working families, teachers, police officers, firefighters and other public employees, labor leaders around the state are rallying in solidarity. Together, they are sending a resounding message that the wealthy anti-union forces behind today’s decision cannot break our commitment to economic justice and opportunity for all workers.

Today, NYSUT local union leaders will discuss the Janus ruling, and its impact locally, with reporters at the following press events statewide.

- CAPITAL REGION: Juliet Benaquisto, president, Schenectady Federation of Teachers Seth Cohen, president, Troy Teachers Association
- LONG ISLAND: Ron Verderber, president Jericho Teachers Association Perry Fuchs, president Plainedge Federation of Teachers Christine Corbett, president Westbury Teachers Association Kathy Dein, president North Babylon Teachers Organization Barbara Hafner, president, West Hempstead EA
- SYRACUSE: John Kuryla, president, North Syracuse Education Association Phil Cleary, vice president, North Syracuse Education Association Rob Wood, president, Rome Teachers Association
- ROCHESTER: Jim Buck, president, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Educators Association Chris Potter, president, Gananda Teachers Association, Michelle Shenton, president, Phelps-Clifton Springs Faculty Association
- ELMIRA: Kathy Pilling-Whitney, president, Elmira Teachers Association Joseph Herringshaw, president, Vestal Teachers Association
- WESTERN NEW YORK Joe Cantafio, president, West Seneca Teachers Association

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Germany, 1930's

First they came for the Socialist, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionist, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

German Pastor Martin Niemöller (1892-1984)

America, 2018

First they came for the Mexicans, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Mexican.

Then they came for the Muslims, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not an Muslim.

Then they came for the LGBTs, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not a LGBT.

Then they came for Blacks, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not Black.

Then they came for DACA dreamers, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not a dreamer.

Then they came for the Trade Unionist, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

RC39 needs member participation

RC39 President Pete Herron

The RC39 newsletter is by and for its members. All members are encouraged to submit (email preferred) an article. The article can be a creative writing piece, something on a retiree issue (union, health insurance, pending legislation, etc.), travel, hobbies, volunteer activities, or whatever you think would be of interest to RC39 members.

RC39 needs new leadership. All RC39 deliberations are done by email. Members can request to be placed on the RC39 officer email list. Everyone on the list will be able to participate in all email discussions. Only elected officers will be able to vote. This is a great way to learn what is involved in being a RC39 officer.

You can contact me at rc39pete@optonline.net, or 98 Rocky Point Landing Rd., Rocky Point, NY 11778. Looking forward to hearing from you.

RC39 Website

Check out RC39 website <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/> where you can read recent NYSUT RC39 newsletters, AFT and NYSUT news releases, and much more.

Retiree Council 39 Election Report

In the last RC39 newsletter the Nominating Committee's slate was published and members were invited to submit additional nominees. No additional nominees were submitted. Since all positions were uncontested there was no need to conduct a mail election. Corita Kong, the RC39 Secretary cast her vote for all candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee. All officers, listed below, will serve for three years beginning July 1, 2018.

Peter Herron-President, First Delegate to the NYSUT, Representative Assembly and AFT Convention

Judith R. Holmes-Vice President, Delegate to the NYSUT, Representative Assembly and AFT Convention

Shaun Gerien-Secretary, Delegate to the NYSUT, Representative Assembly and AFT Convention

Joan Prymas-Treasurer, First Alternate Delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly and AFT Convention

Tim McLean-Director-at-Large

Lou Harmin-Director-at-Large

Union leaders are ready to rally

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Cheryl Hughes, secretary, Kenmore Teachers Association

• TARRYTOWN: Kara McCormick, president, White Plains Teachers Association Kathleen Fox, president, Edgemont Teachers Association

WATERTOWN: Union representatives from the Watertown Education Association, Copenhagen Teachers Association, Indian River EA and South Jefferson TA

The Janus case — challenging the payment of mandatory dues and threatening public-sector unions — culminates decades of assault on working people by right-wing ideologues and wealthy special interests. The case overturns a 1977 U.S. Supreme Court decision establishing that it is fair and reasonable that those who benefit from union representation, even if they don't join the union, should pay for it through dues and fair-share revenues. Dues and fair-share revenues fund a wide range of union services, including collective bargaining and legal representation.

For more information on today's events, please contact NYSUT Media Relations.

Your Health Connection

By Frances S. Hilliard, RN, MS
Professor Emerita, Nassau Community College

Are certain foods good for your eye health? Carrots have long been known as having a positive effect on vision; however, a number of other foods are beneficial to your eyes. Dark, leafy greens (such as spinach, kale, or collard greens) are rich in lutein and zeaxanthin, two chemicals which help guard against eye damage that can lead to macular degeneration. Lycopene, a natural pigment found in tomatoes, apricots, papayas, guava, watermelon, and pink grapefruit, has an anti-inflammatory effect, and reduces free radical damage to eye cells. Fish that are rich in omega-3 fatty acids (such as salmon and albacore tuna) may also benefit your eyes.

If you don't think you're getting enough of these nutrients in your diet, speak to your health care practitioner about supplements. There are supplements on the market that are specifically designed for eye health.



New Health Column, "Your Health Connection" Makes Its Debut

Readers have shown great appreciation for the many health recommendations Frances Hilliard has given us in her full length RC39 newsletter articles. In addition to Fran's longer health related articles, she has offered to submit short health hints in a new column that will be particularly beneficial to older people.

Retiree Council 39 Board of Directors

President, First NYSUT and AFT Delegate, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster: Peter Herron

Vice President, NYSUT and AFT Delegate: Judith Holmes

Secretary, NYSUT and AFT Delegate: Shaun Gerien

Treasurer, NYSUT and AFT Alternate Delegate: Joan Prymas

Director-at-large: Lou Harmin

Director-at-large: Tim McLean

Send your comments, suggestions, and inquiries to NYSUT RC39 Officers, 98 Rocky Point Landing Rd., Rocky Point, NY 11778 or rc39pete@optonline.net.

RC39 Newsletter is looking for comments, suggestions and articles from its members.



Send your comments, suggestions, or article to Peter Herron at rc39pete@optonline.net or mail to 98 Rocky Point Landing Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778. Your article will be published when space is available. RC39, NYSUT, and AFT news will be given priority.



Address Change

Do not let a new address keep you from receiving NYSUT RC39 newsletters. There are three ways to update your address. Contact NYSUT Member Records at 1-800-342-9810 ext. 6224. Send written changes to: NYSUT Member Records, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110, or e-mail changes to member@nysutmail.org. If you are a snowbird, give Member Records a few weeks notice to change its address records each way.

Have you paid your voluntary RC39 contribution for 2018?

If you have not sent in your voluntary NYSUT RC39 annual contribution, now is as good a time as ever. Just send your check along with the form below to the RC39 treasurer. It is your contributions that enable RC39 officers and delegates to represent you at NYSUT conferences and meetings.

Retiree Council 39 Voluntary 2018 Participation Fee form

Name _____ e-mail _____
 Address _____ Phone (____) _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
 College retired from _____ Year of Retirement _____
 Please check amount of your voluntary participation fee: \$25 _____ Other \$ _____
 Send your check, made out to NYSUT RC39, along with this completed form to:
 Ms. Joan Prymas, RC39 Treasurer, 141 Montgomery Street, Ilion, NY 13357