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Fwd: As expected, court sides with Janus

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>
To: Dara Thompson <dthompson@panaschools.com>

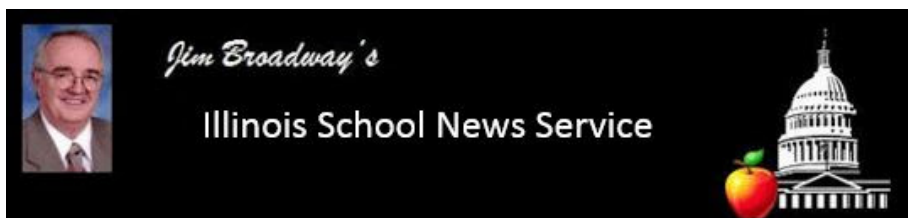
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From: **State School News Service** <j.m.broadway74@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 27, 2018 at 10:44 AM
Subject: As expected, court sides with Janus
To: jbauer@panaschools.com

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[We regret that this issue cannot be posted to the web at this time.]

As expected, court sides with Janus

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

On the last day of its session, and by the narrowest of margins, the U.S. Supreme Court this morning handed down a ruling on [Janus v. AFSCME](#), the ruling that was expected to signal the start of a slow disappearing act for public sector employee unions throughout Illinois and the nation.

In overturning a 40-year precedent, the court ruled 5-4 that non-union members cannot be forced to pay "agency fees" to unions representing public sector employees. Instead, a non-union member hired in a job whose benefits are negotiated through a collective bargaining process must be given a "free ride."

The outcome of this historic litigation must be viewed as a victory, not only for non-union members who are willing to take benefits won by others without contributing to the costs, but also for Gov. Bruce Rauner. It was, after all, an employee of one of his agencies who was the plaintiff in a suit he strongly supported.

It's not as if the ruling was unexpected. A similar case deadlocked last year only because of the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. The outcome was predicted long ago by such distinguished publications as [In These Times](#) and [Huffington Post](#) and, notably, Illinois School News Service. The 2016 elections ordained it.

The unions will unravel over time, not all at once. Agency fees will stop being charged to non-members immediately, of course, but the decisions by individual public

employees to join or remain as union members - or to defect - will happen in the passage of time, most in the near term, then slowing, but with inevitable results.

The public sector unions will go the way of the private sector unions. The people who actually work for a living will have no one to represent them in discussions with managers who do in fact represent numerous "others" - the business owners or stockholders and shareholders of corporations - about the terms of their work.

It has taken a good while to reach this pass. The freight train first started rolling down the tracks on November 4, 1980. Since then, the economic well-being of Americans from the middle-class downward has been eroded in a multitude of ways. The Janus verdict is just the latest of numerous erosions.

We'll put off until later any recitations of the decline of the American middle class. Suffice it to say that five members of the U.S. Supreme Court - over the objections of the other four members - have placed an indelible mark on the future of the country, on the lifestyle of the non-wealthy working class.

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