

THE MEMBERSHIP



The Newsletter of The West Genesee Teachers' Association <http://www.wgta.net>

What are the motives behind the Janus Court Case?



On Monday, Feb. 26, one of the biggest labor stories in a decade unfolded as the Supreme Court heard opening arguments in *Janus v. AFSCME*. Both sides claim to be pro-worker; however, right-wing groups funding the lawsuit have expressed far different motives. *In These Times* magazine and the *Center for Media and Democracy* conducted a joint investigation. They found that Janus backers are intent on “defunding” and “bankrupting” unions in order to deal a “mortal blow” to labor unions in America.

To date, seventeen briefs were filed by right-wing groups in a multi-faceted, multi-million dollar, coordinated effort to defund unions and obstruct their ability to protect workers' rights. Janus is funded by the *Bradley Foundation* or the Koch-linked *Donors Capital* and *Donors Trust*. Bradley, ALEC, SPN and the Koch brothers' *Americans for Prosperity* have been key players in legislative and litigation strategies that systematically attack public sector unions in state after state. Look at what happened to teachers once Wisconsin became a “Right to Work” state. The effects were devastating for Wisconsin's teachers:

WISCONSIN EFFECT *(Superior School District)*

- Teachers take home pay was reduced by \$8,000 in the first year.
- Teacher's health insurance deductible changed from \$1,000 to \$6,000 in the second year of 'Right to Work.'
- 25 additional minutes were added to each work day and three additional days were placed in the school calendar.
- Statewide, there is no longer a just cause (tenure) provision regarding employment. Districts can let teachers go at the end of each year without justification.
- Employees can no longer carry over sick days from year to year.

— John Mannion, WGTA President

"A **Celebration** to last throughout the years
 So bring your **Good Times**, and your laughter too
 West Genesee is going to celebrate
 the **25+ year Club** with you."
Congratulations and Thank You!

William Copley	Transportation	25 Years
Michelle Jones – Tamblin	Transportation	25 Years
Timothy Groat	East Hill	25 Years
Tim Meaney	East Hill	25 Years
Robert Michaels	Onondaga Road	30 Years
Joan Rimualdo	Onondaga Road	30 Years
Diana Neves	Split Rock	25 Years
Mary Weaver	West Genesee Middle	25 Years
Susan Gifford	West Genesee Middle	30 Years
Cynthia Kurz	West Genesee Middle	30 Years
Karen Sullivan	West Genesee Middle	30 Years
Richard Duggan	West Genesee Middle	45 Years
Frank Colabufo	West Genesee High	25 Years
Craig Dowler	West Genesee High	25 Years
Clark Martin	West Genesee High	25 Years
Jennifer Roethel	West Genesee High	25 Years
Eileen Shackleton	West Genesee High	35 Years



We Are in Desperate Need of Tradespeople



There's a growing shortage of these skilled workers that perform essential jobs. Even in a strengthening economy, more experienced and older trade workers are retiring.

Unfortunately, there aren't enough younger people poised to take their places.

If this trend continues, this could blossom into an acute skilled worker shortage that touches everyone. It will mean higher costs or delays for those building new office towers, rehabbing houses, or merely dealing with annoying, everyday emergencies like clogged pipes.

Some schools, unions and companies are working to ease the labor crunch. That's an important mission, and more organizations need to get on board.

"This could be a very large problem," says Mark Klein, co-president of Lincolnshire-based Klein Tools, which makes products for the electrical industry and electricians. "It's a huge supply and demand issue."

According to an analysis of independent research commissioned by Klein, a recent survey of more than 600 union and nonunion electricians found that 56 percent said more experienced electricians are leaving the field, compared with 44 percent in 2015.

According to the Washington D.C.-based National Association of Home Builders, 40 percent of those asked say they are concerned there won't be enough qualified electricians available to meet demand in the coming years . A similar dynamic is running through plumbing, carpentry, and other construction-related trades where the median worker age is over 40 years old and the need for new workers is building.

(cont. on page 3)

Why did this job crunch happen?

The Great Recession and subprime mortgage meltdown of the late 2000s and early 2010s took a toll on the economy. This economic disaster meant a loss of nearly 1.5 million construction-related jobs, with hundreds of thousand workers leaving the field for good. Many independent contractors also went out of business.

Unfortunately, building these construction businesses did not occur for various reasons. Unions, which also were reeling from related economic hardships, cut back on paid apprenticeships. That kept many young people out of the trade job pipeline.

There's another hurdle to attracting new trade workers, lack of exposure at an early age. Due to the lack of high school shop classes and other related "build-it-yourself" experiences, students do not get a chance to envision the trades as a career option versus a four-year college degree.

We need to appreciate that some people have a talent for working with their hands and solving those daunting difficult problems that come with creating and fixing things.

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Dates to remember!!



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP AND LUNCH
Tentative Date: **SATURDAY, May 5, 2018, 10AM - 12PM**



“DINNER OF 100” at Coleman's
Wednesday, JUNE 20, 6PM - 9PM FREE TO THE FIRST 100 WGTA
MEMBERS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS! FREE DRINKS, FREE FOOD,
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Pick up some WGTA Merchandise at Just the Right Stuff;

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[WGTA Apparel Store](#)

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Your monthly bills won't stop if you become unable to work

Insurance is the type of product that you hope you never have to utilize. In the event that you need to use it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your individual needs.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed voluntary Disability Insurance Plan -- provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and are unable to work.



Disability insurance can be customized to fit within your budget and still provide peace of mind until you are able to get back on your feet and return to work. Applications for the new NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Disability Insurance Plan are now available, with coverage effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2018 from the Plan Administrator, Mercer Consumer.

For more information and/or to get an application, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.

Call to Action: Proposals requested for NYSUT *Educator's Voice*



New York State's classrooms are among the most diverse in the nation. In recognition of this, NYSUT is currently seeking article proposals on **"Culturally-Responsive Teaching"** for consideration in its annual edition of *Educator's Voice*, a *Journal of Best Practices in Education*. **The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2018.**

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 a great opportunity to write about it and become published in NYSUT's member journal, a publication created by NYSUT members for NYSUT members. No previous experience is needed nor do you need to be a professional writer to be published in *Educator's Voice*.

Once accepted, 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.

For more information and/or to download the author submission form, visit <http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice>.

Previous editions of this publication are available at [https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/educators-voice](https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/educators-voice).



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