



TCNJ's Local 2364 is affiliated with the **Council of New Jersey State College Locals**, the bargaining agent for more than 7,000 professional staff, librarians and full-time, part-time and adjunct faculty at the nine state colleges/universities of New Jersey.

Dear TCNJ Campus Community,

Welcome to our Union local's monthly newsletter. We are hoping to share information about what your Union is doing to further education on campus and positive relations with the greater community.

Meeting Schedule

Our local meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm in the Social Sciences Building, Room 326. Our next meeting of the fall semester will be on November 20 (which, as noted below, coincides with our **statewide day of action**). Our last meeting of this semester is December 18.

The Time to Act is Now

Dear AFT Brothers and Sisters,

You asked for it and we are doing it, but only if you lead it. Our statewide AFT Council has declared **November 20** a unified day of action across all nine state college campuses.

As I said in my email to the membership about two weeks ago, we need you to step up and organize whatever activity you want on that Wednesday. If you want a protest march, we have the signs (and a bullhorn—we will buy the batteries). If you want to do something else, lead on. And after your chosen protest, we will have our monthly membership meeting, where we will discuss and vote on the next step in our campaign to secure a fair contract.

Please reach out to me or to Dave Prenskey about how you plan to get involved on this crucial day of action. The College Presidents are acting together to block a contract and we need to act together to show that we are stronger than they are.

Most of the state unions have settled their contracts. We deserve the same respect.

In solidarity,
Nancy Lasher, President, TCNJ Local 2364

Local News

As we enter our sixth month without a contract, members have continued discussing how we can register our protest. At our last union meeting we agreed to boycott the TCNJ Fifth Annual Day of Giving, which will take place on November 7, 2019.

Last year faculty, staff, alumni and students gave over \$320,000 to the college in 24 hours. This year, many members feel that while we continue to work without a contract we should not be expected to provide extra financial support to the institution beyond what we are already doing in our work every day.

The statewide AFT Council has declared November 20 (the date of our next general meeting) a day of unified action across the nine state campuses in our bargaining unit. As President Nancy Lasher says in her column, "The Time to Act is Now."

Please contact Nancy, vice president Dave Prenskey, or any other member of the local AFT executive board if you have ideas or want to get involved in planning the protest.

AFT Benefits

Every month we highlight a new benefit or one that you may not be aware you have from the AFT. As an active, working member you have a \$5,000 accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy from The Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

Whether an accident resulting in a covered injury or loss of life happens at work or elsewhere, the insurance coverage pays you or your beneficiary a cash benefit within 90 days.

Did You Know? John Marshall

John Marshall, Outreach/Communications Officer for the local is the Assistant Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF) at TCNJ. In this role he works with students who come from historically underserved and impoverished areas who may not have had the best preparation for college. He helps them navigate college, achieve their goals and assists in their academic, professional and social development. He is the EOF liaison to the schools of Science, Engineering, and Nursing, Health and Exercise Science.

In his work for the local John redesigned our webpage, created content, and developed and maintains our off-campus group communication system which has been so important during contract negotiation. John got involved with the local because he wanted to “help form a stronger more unified community of professionals who can have more say in our governance and future.”

Luckily, John’s hobbies of photography, website creation, and content creation have been put to excellent use in his role in the union.

Post Janus: Have Unions Lost Members and the Power to Protect Workers?

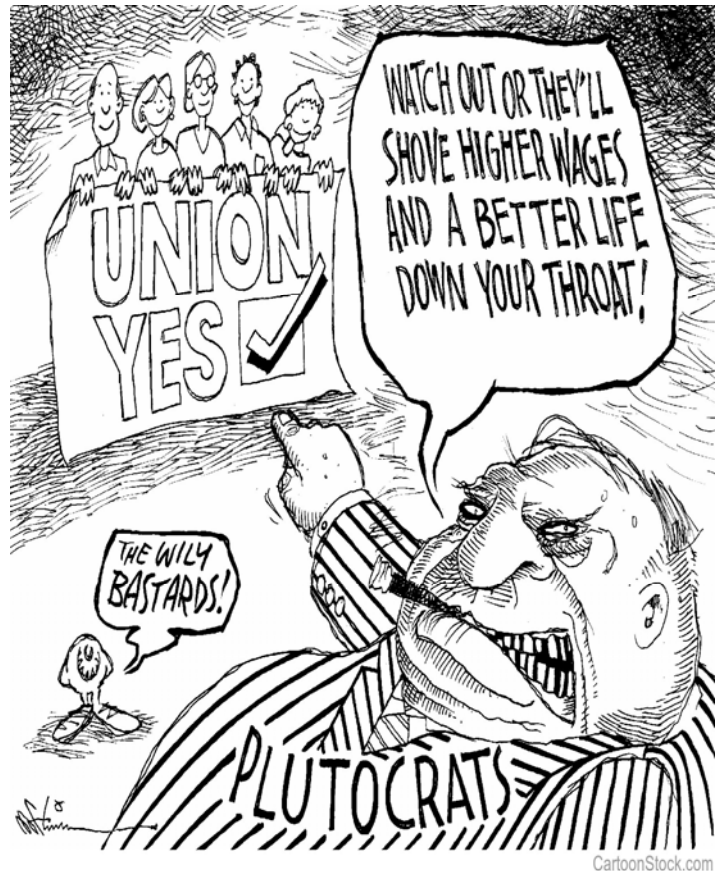
The Supreme Court decision in *Janus v AFSCME* last summer was the fruit of a long effort by right wing groups. Although they positioned it as a free speech case, internal documents obtained by The Center for Media and Democracy showed that one of these groups, the State Policy Network (SPN), expected “defunding” and “bankrupting” unions to deal a “mortal blow” to workers’ rights and progressive politics in America.

So, almost 18 months after the decision, how have unions fared? The union named in the lawsuit, AFSCME, reported gaining 28,000 new members in 2018 although it lost 118,000 agency fee members. The AFT reported gaining 100,000 members in the lead-up to and the wake of the *Janus* decision even though it lost 85,000 agency fee members.

Public perception of unions has also improved since the decision. In a Pew Research Study conducted last summer more than half of all Americans and 68% of

those under 30 had a favorable view of unions, and many of those who were questioned said that the reduction in union membership has been mostly bad for working people. According to a survey conducted this summer by researchers at MIT’s Sloan School of Management, nearly 50 percent of non-unionized state workers currently want to join a union, up significantly from the one-third of state workers who said they wanted to join a union in the two prior national surveys in 1977 and 1995.

Janus was undoubtedly a blow to unions but perhaps it has refocused public workers on attempting to achieve together “what would be impossible alone—better and more-efficient services, dignity and a voice at work, and fair compensation and benefits for the work they do. We are proud to support it.” [Randi Weingarten, President of the AFT, June 2019]



Contact Us

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