

AFUM FLASH UPDATE

www.AFUM.org or www.AFUM.info

6/30/2018

Contract Update

The second salary increase (1.5%) of the current contract starts July 1. In addition, retro pay overloads will be included in this June paycheck. Post-tenure and promotion raises will occur September 1.

Reopener negotiation meetings with UMS dealing with on-line compensation have been scheduled for this summer.

A Bargaining Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for November near Bangor to develop issues for the next contract. Negotiations expected to begin in early 2019.

JANUS: The two-faced liar

By a 5-4 vote the Supreme Court has “weaponized the first amendment” and “And maybe most alarming, the majority has chosen the winners by turning the First Amendment into a sword, and using it against workaday economic and regulatory policy”. From the dissent by Justice Elena Kagan.

The extreme right has made no secret that Janus is the latest attempt to damage, then destroy, unions. With names from 1984 speak, The Freedom Foundation, supported by the Koch Brothers, the DeVos Foundation and others, last year sent a fund-raising letter says they have a “proven plan for bankrupting and defeating government unions”.

As a Union we are required to represent all unit members. The “proven plan” is to make sure fewer and fewer people pay in to support members and negotiate and defend the contract. After all, why pay when you can get many of the same services for free? While pretending to look out for your interests, these extremist

groups are planning extensive tv and social media blitz to get people to stop paying dues. Why? Because Unions help level the playing field and help workers and society. If the extremists can bankrupt unions or get them to spend all their time chasing money, we won't be as effective advocating for justice.

What does this mean for AFUM?

Become an ACTIVE MEMBER of YOUR UNION. Help recruit new members. Advocate for justice and fairness. Work to make our Universities better for students, our communities, and for ourselves.

You can fight lies about unions and you can contribute to the MEA or the NEA Fund PACs.

Fact: Unions may not use any union dues to support candidates. Any such support comes from voluntary PAC contributions from members

The Future

I have asked the AFUM Executive Board to put special focus on an issue for the upcoming year, Post-Tenure review. Post tenure review is too often misused by administrators and sometimes by faculty peers. You can expect future issues of the AFUM Update and communications from your Chapter President to focus on proper use, and ending abuse, of post-tenure.

In addition, AFUM is continuing to focus on academic freedom and speech rights. Special attention is being focused on effects of EO/HR investigations that limit speech and freedom, and speech restrictions imposed on faculty in Cooperative Extension (an on-going grievance).

May you and yours have a Happy and Safe 4th!