

My Two Cent's Worth

By: Joseph Andalina

It's not unexpected

No, the recent ruling by SCOTUS on fair share dues was not unexpected. Labor, if they are honest, are not surprised. It was coming for a long time. Unions, like AFSCME, opened the door a long time ago by forcing fair share dues on employees who really did not need to be unionized. More on that in a moment.

Yes, I think individuals who do not want to pay dues but benefit from a bargained contract are selfish and think only of themselves. They are in all walks of life and since the rise of camera phones, there is a reason they call pictures of themselves "selfies."

Forget the satire. But fair share folks have been around a long time, this is nothing new. The Republicans just noticed in the last few years that this door was open — and they walked in. I saw the problem when I started MAP years ago. While MAP still has fair share members, there are not many. But over the years, we refined our union and some positions should not be unionized. Common sense.

But especially in law enforcement, cops, deputies, corrections and other units **need** not only wage and contract benefits, but legal defense. MAP initially started in legal defense and coalesced into collective bargaining in 1985 when it was legalized into Illinois law.

In today's hatred of all forms of policing, with accusations of improper conduct coming in every shift, the need for legal defense is pre-eminent. Doing this job without it is just asking for trouble. And trouble will come if you are **not** protected.

Your chief, sheriff, mayor, and supervisors and fellow employees will not help you, or have the wherewithal to do so. Accordingly, in my vision for all of this to be successful, I provided affordable union dues and **free** legal defense for any on-the-job allegations of misconduct not deemed criminal in the price of union dues.

You're a voluntary member, you receive **free** legal defense. You want to be fair share, you do **not** receive **free** legal defense. After a fair share member gets in trouble (and there are a few) they call and have seen the proverbial light. But they do not receive help for past misconduct allegations when they were fair share.

Also, MAP was not interested in taking \$45 a month, or \$500 a year, from a home care employee. My philosophy is to let them go. They can bargain with themselves for themselves. There are some positions that just do not need to be forced to be unionized or pay dues. Know the differences. MAP is not greedy. Our pitch for members is based in sound financial and ethical principles — not to fatten our rolls or coffers.

Labor screwed up; it wasn't unexpected. However, unions will live and live long enough to laugh

in the face of SCOTUS and Republicans.

Don't be without the voice of a union or legal defense. Be smart about it.

Vita e bella