

My Two Cent's Worth

By: Joseph Andalina

Second time the charm?

Depends on where you stand. For labor, this is a must win. The US Supreme Court has decided to resurrect the 2016 case *Janus vs AFSCME*.

The highest court will try for a second time to decide if millions of government workers can refuse to pay union dues, specifically fair share.

With the earlier death of a justice, this case resolved to a 4 – 4 tie, which means that the 1977 ruling *Abood vs Detroit Board of Education* prevailed and kept fair share dues constitutional, as long as dues were not used for political activities.

The issue is to whether or not a union should allow “free riders,” those workers who benefit from a contract but do not pay dues.

Rauner the Bruce, of course, is as happy as a clam. With a new conservative court appointee, a conservative governor, think tanks, and other republicans are banking on a win where the court would rule against labor.

The Bruce calls it “transformative” for the state, America, and the taxpayer. He despises unions because of the clout they have with democrats and due to a union’s ability to bargain for better working conditions and wages via a collective bargaining contract.

The bad guys feel they have a 90 percent chance of winning, which means unionization in Illinois could find itself going down the proverbial tubes!

Without this guarantee of union dues, there will be a whole lot of shakin’ going on. And if the worst happens and unions lose members and dues, say hello to the good old days where negotiating means sitting there on an individual basis with your hat in your hand begging.

Once the contracts disappear, wages and benefits are cut, and your retirement dreams become just that — a dream — the unions will again rise from the ashes.

When workers are dismissed on a whim with no legal recourse but your own pocket, workers will realize how “fubar’d” it all is.

Labor, however, has a 40-year history of precedent here. Let’s hope that the US Supreme Court does, in fact, honor its earlier ruling in this issue.

Vita é bella.