



A Message from IATSE President, Matthew Loeb



Dear IATSE Sisters and Brothers,

Today, working families in America are at a crossroads. The choices facing us after the recent U.S. Supreme Court Case JANUS v. AFSCME Council 31 will decide the course of our nation. We can choose to either stand our ground and fight for our rights, or hide from these anti-union attacks.

The court case JANUS v. AFSCME Council 31 decided the question of whether or not public-sector unions would be forced to represent non-dues paying members. This decision was backed by special interests' groups actively working to weaken union voices and limit our power in numbers.

I am disturbed by the decision that has come forth from the United States Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the anti-union decision is reflective of our current political reality. Too few elected representatives are willing to put aside political division to stand with unions, and working families are paying the price. Make no mistake, no union will be sheltered from the ramifications of these court decisions. Whether you are a private sector, public sector, union or non-union employee, we all will feel the effects of lower wages, attacks on our pensions, and diminished health care.

Although, this decision does not bode well for our nation's unions, I have faith in the tenacity and perseverance of our union sisters and brother. We have faced these challenges before in the history of our union and won. We must move forward from today and continue to grow and strength our unions regardless of the laws. We did not need permission from our nation's government to form a union in 1893 and we do not need it now.

We see many working families successfully, fighting back against the corporate agenda that would diminish our power. Teachers in West Virginia won higher wages and better health care when they went on a wild-cat strike, and union voices spoke out in Pennsylvania when they rejected the anti-union candidate for congress by electing Conor Lamb with a pro-labor message. Our own IATSE members have won hard fought campaigns to organize new members again and again. We must continue to succeed in these efforts moving forward; this is the path that will ensure a strong IATSE.

I urge all officers in the IATSE to mobilize our members as political activists, fight against so called 'right to work' and other anti-union legislation, participate in the political process and demand that our elected leaders represent our interests in Washington D.C. The IATSE must get members registered and out to vote and invest in our political process. The 2018 elections will be a critical moment in our history to ensure IATSE workers have a voice at the table.