



What Does **NYSCOPBA** Do For You?

Supreme Court Case Designed to Destroy Workers' Rights and Benefits, Harm Working Families

As public employees, we find ourselves involved in many of the same battles with our employers as civilians do. But, as law enforcement officials, the very nature of our job and the dangerous working conditions that we operate under requires the protections that a union provides.

As most of you are aware, the U.S. Supreme Court last month heard oral arguments in *Janus v. AFSCME* - a landmark case that could forever damage America's labor movement. The justices will decide if it's constitutional for public labor unions to compel its members to pay dues. The court is expected to side against AFSCME and in favor of the municipal worker who brought the case. It will be a loss for all public labor unions, whose strength is derived from solidarity - remaining a singular voice at all times.

You may think the benefits and protections you enjoy as a NYSCOPBA member will remain the same if the court decides against AFSCME.

They will not. NYSCOPBA - indeed all public labor unions in America - will be weakened.

As a NYSCOPBA member, you are eligible for certain financial protections in the event that you are the subject of a disciplinary or legal action. Unforeseen events like this can have a potentially devastating financial impact on you and your family.

For example, members are eligible to receive **\$1,500** every two weeks from the **Rainy Day Fund** if you have been suspended from your position due to disciplinary action. Few, if any, labor unions in this country provide this benefit.

NYSCOPBA's **Legal Defense Fund** provides up to **\$25,000** in legal defense benefits for members charged with a crime for an on-the-job occurrence and, in some instances, for members who are under federal investigation. Again, NYSCOPBA virtually stands alone in offering this benefit.

We will be forced to make tough financial and program decisions if we lose dues-paying members.

More than one million dollars has been distributed to members through the Rainy Day and Legal Defense Funds while fighting allegations of wrong-doing by the Department as our sisters and brothers were performing their duty. In many of these cases, the member has returned to work after a lengthy arbitration process and received back pay (resulting in a refund to the Rainy Day Fund).

It is our hope that you never have to take advantage of these benefits, but as a member, you are eligible to receive them if facing disciplinary or legal situations. Your membership allows NYSCOPBA to maintain these funds and gives us the means to protect not only you, but all of our members who serve alongside of you. Your small investment is for the greater good and for your protection during hard times.

It's time to ask these important questions: Could you pay your mortgage if you found yourself in this position? Could you continue to provide for yourself and those dependent on you?

The benefits are clear. The future of our organization depends on your continued support.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Powers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

Michael B. Powers
President
NYSCOPBA