

## **Democratic Engagement RA Resolution**

Referred to PAT by Executive Board with Due Pass Recommendation. To be debated at April 17 RA

### **ACKNOWLEDGING:**

The strength of our union relies on the strength of our relationships and the engagement of members.

The solutions to the problems and threats our union faces can and should be developed by the members of the union. We are capable, smart, and able to take on these issues when given ample time, trust, and support.

Currently there is no consistent dedicated time for democratic member engagement at Representative Assemblies (RAs).

In the wake of Janus we need to strengthen internal union organization and member engagement in union business. In order to counter the rhetoric of anti-union forces, such as the Freedom Foundation and ALEC, that unions limit free speech and worker choice, we should create dedicated space for democratic engagement.

Dedicated time for the concerns of rank and file members at RAs would not only model organizing and issues based conversations for reps, but problem solving and actions resulting from these conversations will build power with rank and file members.

Instead of deferring to the union office to solve singular concerns, members with common cause would be able to problem solve and tackle issues in solidarity with fellow union members. We would be building an organizing union rather than a service union.

In order to realize our mission as public educators, we must be willing to use our collective power to demand the schools all students deserve. In order to confront, fight and win larger scale attacks on public education we must empower our members to organize and lead the fight.