

Supreme Court rules against collective legal action for nonunion workers. In a 5-4 decision announced on Monday, with Justice Neil Gorsuch writing for the majority, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that employers can prohibit their nonunion employees from bringing class-action complaints against their employer and require them to pursue any such complaints individually. The case, *Epic Systems v. Lewis*, involved a group of employees suing over allegations of wage theft. In her dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg called the decision "[egregiously wrong](#)" and likely to result in "huge under-enforcement of federal and state statutes designed to advance the well being of vulnerable workers." Read more about the decision [here](#) and [here](#).

The *Epic Systems v. Lewis* decision will not affect us directly because the case involves nonunion workers with individual employment contracts, while we have rights to collective action because we are unionized. But it does not bode well for other cases before the court that will affect people who have to work for a living, including at least one pending decision that is likely to have major impact on public-sector unions and their members. And ultimately, we are all in this together.

In other Supreme Court news, a decision in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, a challenge to the constitutionality of agency fees for public-sector unions, is expected in the next few weeks. If the court decides in favor of the plaintiff, as many legal experts believe it will, the decision would essentially establish so-called "right to work" rules as the law of the land and weaken public-sector unions nationwide. Read more about *Janus v. AFSCME* [here](#).

Nominations due by May 30 for WMU-AAUP Contract Administrator. Nominations, including self-nominations, are invited for Contract Administrator. The contract administrator, a chapter officer position, is the primary interpreter of the Agreement and coordinates with the grievance officer to assist faculty and enforce administrative contract compliance. The contract administrator is eligible for up to six credit hours of release time in the fall and spring semesters and may also be eligible for a summer stipend. The successful candidate will assume office no later than September 1, 2018, and is expected to serve the remainder of the current term, which runs through August 31, 2019. [Click here for the Contract Administrator job description](#).

If you are interested in applying or would like to nominate a colleague, please contact staff@wmuaaup.net (or reply to this email) by May 30, 2018. Candidate interviews with the WMU-AAUP Executive Committee will take place in June.

Update on Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) contract negotiations. We are happy to hear from the TAU leadership and negotiation team that the tone of discussions at the bargaining table has improved recently. However, we are concerned by reports that the two sides are still far apart on compensation, and we renew our call to the administration to get serious about a substantive compensation increase for these indispensable members of the university community. #TheyAreWorthIt #WeStandWithTAU

Montague House schedule:

- Summer office hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Closed for lunch 12 noon to 1 p.m.)
- Holidays: The WMU-AAUP office will be closed on Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day, and on Wednesday, July 4, for Independence Day.
- We will be closing at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, so that the officers and staff will be able to get out before Oakland Drive is closed for the Girls on the Run event. We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 25.

Fourth Friday Happy Hours. Because of the Memorial Day holiday weekend, there will be no Fourth Friday Happy Hour this month. But mark your calendar for 5-6 p.m. on Friday, June 22, and Friday, July 27, when we will reconvene at Arcadia Brewing Co., [701 E. Michigan Avenue](#), for summertime solidarity. As always, for dues-paying members, your first drink will be on us. We hope you'll join us for these fun and family-friendly events.