

Union Membership and Contract Campaign Q & A

Q: Why do I should I sign up as member of the union?

A: The first part of the form to fill out is a membership form. Under CWA rules, only members can vote on the contract, elect bargaining representatives, fill out bargaining surveys. CWA believes that as a union, we are only as powerful as our members are active and engaged. When we sign up as members of the union we send a message to management that we are united going into these contract negotiations.

Q: What are dues and when do they start?

A: The second part of the form is a dues authorization form. Even though you are filling out the form now, dues DO NOT begin until we vote for and ratify a contract. And once we vote in a contract, dues will be 1.3% of our paycheck. That's \$1.30 for every \$100.

Q: What is the third section of the form about political action?

A: The third section is the political action card. This is a voluntary contribution for political action to support candidates that support working families and the laws that pertain to working conditions. Without this kind of funding we would not have been able to make the election rules fair – which helped us win our union. We ask members to contribute \$1 per month. There would be no deduction until you ratify a contract.

Q: How do I run for the negotiating team?

A: We will have 3 agents along with Jimmy Tarlau from CWA who negotiate with management. We will also have a large Bargaining Advisory Council that advises those negotiators and communicates with coworkers about what's going on. Each station elects bargaining council members and then those bargaining council members elect three of them to sit at the table with management. For determining how many bargaining council members each station has -- there can be one bargaining council member for every 50 agents. So LaGuardia will have 4 members, Boston 2, and every airport with less than 50 can have one bargaining council member. To sign up, fill out a form and give it to your shop steward. If there are many sign ups, we'll hold an election to determine the member(s).

Q: How do we determine our demands for the contract?

A: Volunteer Shop Stewards at each station will have membership forms and bargaining surveys for you to fill out. Make sure you fill out both and return it to the shop steward. Your shop stewards are responsible to get these forms to CWA representatives in your location. Bargaining council members will keep you informed as negotiations progress and get your feedback to the negotiators.

Q: How do I know who the shop stewards at my station are?

A: Your shop stewards should be telling you that they are volunteering to fill that role right now. If you have not heard from them, call CWA and we can put you in touch with the stewards at your station. CWA local 3641 President Janice Garris can be reached at;

877-665-9940..