

# Why Do I Have a Local Union Number

**W**hen you joined the BCTGM, you became a member of a local union. Your local union organizes and represents workers in our industries in defined geographic areas or at a specific facility. The local has the main responsibility for enforcing your rights under the union contract. There are many BCTGM local unions throughout the United States and Canada. Your local number is a way of identifying your area and the workers who make up the union. All of the local unions together make up the International BCTGM, which coordinates actions and defends workers rights and living standards throughout both countries.

The local union negotiates most BCTGM contracts. In some companies or industries, regional or national agreements provide for common terms to be applied to local contracts. In such situations, local officers and members work with the International Officers to negotiate the standardized language addressing national or regional issues while local officers lead bargaining to resolve specific local issues.

There are two important documents that explain the structure and function of both the local and International Union: the BCTGM Constitution and the Local Union Bylaws. These two documents spell out how decisions are made, who the officers are, and the rights and responsibilities of officers and members.

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