

The Structure of the Local Union

Every local union has a minimum of five officers prescribed by the International Constitution—a President, a Financial Secretary and three Trustees. Some Local Union Bylaws provide for additional officers. All officers are elected by the membership in elections that take place on a regular basis as spelled out by the Local Union Bylaws. Some locals also elect, appoint or employ business agents to represent members and help the officers coordinate union activities. Other positions that may be included in the Local Union Bylaws are: Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms. Stewards are

then elected or appointed to represent members at the plant level. The steward is the first line of defense for local union members.

Your union steward is your first line of communication within your local union. The steward is there to assist you in any employment related problems you have and to answer questions. By law, a steward is on an equal footing with management when dealing with violations of the contract. The shop steward system means you never have to be alone when trying to resolve a dispute with management.

