

How You Can Get Involved

Read your contract.

Ask your steward to explain parts that seem unclear. Also remember that the contract is a product of negotiations and sometimes interpretations will differ. It is important to check with the principal officer of the local if there is a difference of opinion about what the language means.

Insist on your rights.

Let your steward and other co-workers know if you think management is acting unfairly. If a manager asks you questions that might lead to discipline, you have a legal right to have your union steward present during the questioning.

Support your co-workers.

If someone else isn't being treated fairly, back them up. Our union is strong because we stick together. Our strength will determine the outcome at contract negotiations as well.

Back up your union leaders.

When they ask for your support, be there.

Support campaigns to win better contracts.

When meetings are called to prepare for bargaining, give your local your ideas for what to negotiate in your contract. Join in activities organized by the union to show management that you support your union. Help reach out to community groups if their support is needed.



Only a Union Contract protects the rights of workers in the workplace. The Union is its members. The more active the members, the stronger the union.

Back other workers' campaigns for fair contracts.

When other BCTGM members or other unions win better contracts, that helps set higher standards that make it easier for your group to negotiate improvements. Other workers may ask you to help them by boycotting a certain product, displaying a bumper sticker, or attending a rally to demonstrate your support, or respecting a legitimate picket line. Support them, and they will be there for you when you need them.

Solidarity is contagious!

Volunteer for an Organizing Drive

Your experience as a union member can be valuable in helping other workers attain justice on the job. If you have friends or family members who want to organize a union, be sure to let your local know. If the local is involved in organizing another plant in your area, help the local in communicating with these unorganized workers. Unorganized workers will trust you and listen to you when you talk about the advantages of belonging to an independent organization of, by and for working people.

Join Local/Plant Committees.

If your local union has organized committees to work on specific projects in your community (e.g., legislative and political issues) or in your workplace (e.g., health and safety), your participation can make a real difference!