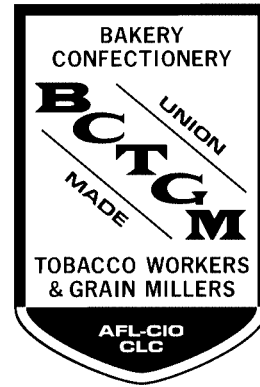


# The International Union

The International Union is made up of all the BCTGM local unions combined. International union officers and staff organize workers and coordinate the efforts of local unions throughout the United States and Canada. All BCTGM locals have access to the services available from the International Headquarters in Kensington, Maryland. The International Union in turn affiliates with the larger federations of unions in the U.S.—the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); in Canada—the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC); and, globally—the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF).



The International Union supports locals with...

- Organizing new members to increase everyone's bargaining power.
- Mobilizing members and coordinating activity so we can all work toward common goals in contract negotiations, political action, and organizing.
- Communicating information to members and the general public.
- Training and educational programs for local leaders, stewards, and members.
- Providing advice and assistance from experienced organizers, negotiators, educators, researchers, attorneys, safety and health professionals, auditors and communications specialists.

The International Constitution lays out the structure of the BCTGM and the duties and responsibilities of all International officers and members. All of the elected leaders of the Union came from organized facilities just like yours in our industries. They became active in the union, often as stewards, and were recognized by their co-workers as leaders.

Every four years, union members elect delegates to an International convention, which elects International Officers and sets policy for the BCTGM. The convention is the ultimate governing body of the union. Delegates also elect the General Executive Board, made up of elected International officers and local representatives, which is the policy-making body of the BCTGM between conventions.



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