

***Member Power
Teamster Power***



***Stand Together
Win Together***

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is it important for all Teamsters to become and stay active members of the Union?

When workers stand together as union members, we have the power to win better wages and benefits for ourselves and our families. When we do not stand together, we are weak and our wages go down.

The approximately 15,000 Teamsters at CSU and UC make the universities work. That's a lot of power, but only if we stand together as Teamsters.

Does member power affect the wages and benefits in our Contract?

Yes! Together, we bargain wages, benefits, and working conditions with the University. Teamsters Local 2010 members have won recent contracts guaranteeing substantial raises and protecting benefits for our members. We won these raises because our members stood together and took effective action by the thousands, including going on strike.

We've seen the importance of Union membership with the CX Unit at UC. Before becoming Teamsters, Union membership was low and we went years without any raises or a contract. Since then, we all worked hard to more than double Union membership and get thousands of workers active and involved in the Union. As a result, we have built a strong Teamsters Local that wins victories for our members.

In the past 10 years, Teamsters members have won nearly double the wage increases as non-Union workers (66.2% compared to 36.3%). UC Teamsters in the skilled trades won contracts guaranteeing wage increases of 22.8% to 30.9% over five years. That's the Union difference you can see in your paycheck. But we need to maintain our power if we want to protect our hard-won rights.

I heard that public sector workers are under attack. What's that all about?

Public workers are under attack by corporate lawyers and billionaires. In state after state, they have taken away Union rights, and then lowered wages and reduced benefits. They used the Supreme Court to take away our fair share rights, and to discourage participation and membership in our Union. Union-busting groups are encouraging our members to quit the Union. They want to weaken us so they can lower our hard-won raises and benefits.

What can we do to protect our wages and benefits from this attack?

We can protect our rights and our power by continuing to stand together as active Teamsters members. For starters, we need all CSU and UC Teamsters to commit to being and remaining Union members by signing the Teamster Member Power form, and by being active and involved in our Union.

What do Unions do for us?

In the non-Union workplace, Management and CEOs write the rules. They give themselves millions in compensation packages, while workers struggle to pay the bills.

By standing together as Teamsters, we have the power to bargain for guaranteed wages and to protect our rights at work. In addition to raising wages and increasing benefits through collective bargaining, Unions bring democracy and fairness to the workplace: we can't be disciplined without just cause; we have a grievance procedure and Union representation to enforce our rights; we have the right to elect our Union representatives and vote on the terms of our employment. These rights do not exist in non-Union workplaces.

Why is it fair for all of us to become and remain members of the Union?

In addition to winning improved wages and benefits, all workers should be members of the Union because it is fair to our co-workers. Our Union represents all workers. The resources our Union dues provide helps us bargain our contracts; represents us in grievances; and fights for fairness at work.

If some workers decide to quit the Union while continuing to accept the benefits of Union representation, they are "freeloading" on the backs of co-workers, making co-workers pay for their representation. This isn't fair. It divides us and makes us all weaker. This is what the anti-worker forces were counting on when they used their billions of corporate dollars to fund taking away our fair share rights - making us weaker so they can lower our wages and benefits.

If we don't fall for it, and if we all stand together as Union members, we can maintain our power and continue to win fair contracts and rights in the workplace.

Do my dues go to politicians?

No, in Teamsters Local 2010, dues money is not used for political campaigns. Teamsters have a separate political action fund called D.R.I.V.E. (Democratic Republican Independent Voter Education). D.R.I.V.E. supports political candidates who support workers, which enhances our power to win fair contracts.

Where does my dues money go?

Dues and fees are spent entirely on the work Teamsters Local 2010 does to build member power: bargaining wages and benefits; representing unit members; leadership and activist trainings; member meetings; member communications; and organizing new members into the Union.

How much money can I save by not paying dues or fair share fees?

We will all lose money if we choose not to stand together and pay membership dues or fair share fees. Union workers win higher wages and more rights than non-Union workers at all workplaces. But if members decide not to stand together in their Union, if they decide to quit and ride for free on the backs of their co-workers, our Union will not have the power to win fair raises and protect our contract. For example, in Wisconsin, soon after anti-union forces took away fair share rights, Union membership fell and employers froze workers' wages and slashed healthcare and retirement benefits.

Signing the Member Power form shows your commitment to uniting with your coworkers as Teamsters and sends a message to the universities that we have the power to win respect and fairness in the workplace.

When we stand together, we win together!