

# Why Are Your Dues Important?

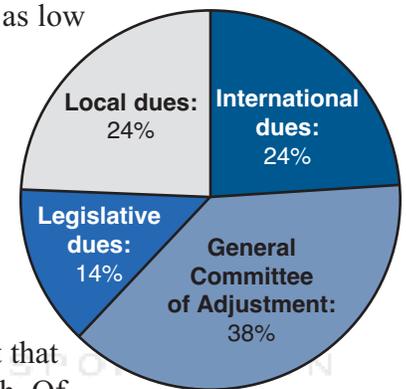
SMART Transportation Division members benefit from many years of successful collectively bargained negotiations and enjoy some of the most progressive benefits and services in organized labor. Benefits of membership include: excellent wages; seniority rights; health, welfare and pension benefits; paid vacations and holidays; experienced representation, and legislative strength. Additionally, SMART TD general committees, state legislative boards and local officers work hard to see that members' contracts are not violated, that their work rules are reasonable, their wages are protected and their working conditions are as safe as possible.

However, it costs money to maintain these advantages of membership. Since its formation as the UTU in 1969, SMART TD leaders have fought to keep dues contributions by members as low as possible while simultaneously taking care of members' interests.

## Where does the money go?

There are several different union divisions to which a member pays dues.

**Unless a member volunteers to donate to the SMART TD Political Action Committee, no amount of money is taken from these dues to directly fund any political activity.** The four areas of contribution are:



**INTERNATIONAL DUES:** This is the only part of a member's dues payment that supports the entire organization. Currently, each member pays \$31.50 per month. Of this amount, 75¢ goes into the Strike Fund, 25¢ goes to the Public Relations Fund, \$2 into the Convention Fund, \$1 into the Maintenance of Membership Fund, and \$1 for education and training programs. The remaining amount pays for offices in Cleveland and Washington, D.C.; full-time legal counsel; salaries of officers and staff, and all operating expenses, including dues to the AFL-CIO and CLC.

**GENERAL COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT DUES:** This amount is established by the general committee of adjustment to generate funds to take care of members' interests on individual properties. The amount paid in this category differs from property to property. This rate is set by the local chairpersons who are under the jurisdiction of the General Committee of Adjustment.

**LEGISLATIVE DUES:** This amount goes to operate the state legislative board in the member's state. The amount is set by a vote of the local legislative representatives who are members of the state legislative board. This legislative fund protects members on the state level by promoting policies and programs that deal with on-the-job safety and sanitation, and many other job-related problems. It is not used to assist political candidates.

**LOCAL DUES:** Local dues are separated into two categories: local dues and local committee of adjustment dues. These dues support the costs of both, providing representation at the local level and the costs of operating the local, such as wages of the officers, rent, supplies and other expenses. The level of dues in each of these categories is set by a vote of the members of the local and local committee of adjustment.

## Union membership doesn't cost, it pays!

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, union workers are paid about 21 percent more than non-union workers, and their fringe benefits are typically worth two to four times as much. Also, 93 percent of union workers have health insurance, compared with 69 percent of non-union workers. Union workers also see their wages and benefits go up faster than non-union workers.

SMART TD has long recognized that it must aggressively work to keep the wages and benefits enjoyed by its members the highest in the transportation industry. Members' dues continue to make that possible.

For additional information, email [memberservices@smart-union.org](mailto:memberservices@smart-union.org).