

Why Are Your Dues Important?

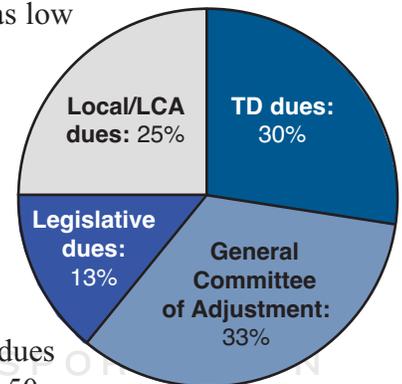
SMART Transportation Division members benefit from many years of successful collectively bargained negotiations and enjoy some of the most progressive benefits and services in organized labor. Benefits of membership include: excellent wages; seniority rights; health, welfare and pension benefits; paid 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 areas of contribution are:



TRANSPORTATION DIVISION DUES: This is the only part of a member's dues payment that supports the entire organization. Currently, each member pays \$33.50 per month. Of this amount, 25¢ goes into the Strike Fund, 50¢ goes to the Public Relations Fund, \$2 into the Convention Fund, \$1 into the Maintenance of Membership Fund, and \$1.25 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 (GCA) 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.

STATE LEGISLATIVE BOARD (SLB) DUES: This amount goes to operate the state legislative board and is set by a vote of the local legislative representatives who are members of the 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 support the cost of operating the local, such as wages of the officers, rent, supplies and other expenses. The level of dues is set by a vote of the members of the local.

LOCAL COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT (LCA) DUES: These dues are devoted to providing representation and protecting you and your job at the local level when your livelihood is at risk. The level of dues is set by a vote of the members of the 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 18 percent more than non-union workers, and their fringe benefits are typically worth two to four times as much. Also, 92 percent of union workers have health insurance, compared with 68 percent of 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 membershipservices@smart-union.org.