

The Facts

About the Teamsters

Teamster Dues

More than 1.4 million working men and women just like us are united in the Teamsters Union.

Teamsters support their union in many ways. One way is by paying dues, in much the same way many Americans give to their churches or other organizations in the community.

These dues enable the Teamsters Union to have the resources to stand up for good jobs and benefits, decent working conditions, and a better future for our families.

That's why union members in private industry earn 28 percent more on average than nonunion workers and receive 54 percent more in benefits.

None of this would be possible without the strength that comes from our Teamster dues. There is no such thing as something for nothing.

Remember, the boss pays his dues, too—to his country club or Chamber of Commerce.

Management knows the power of Teamster unity. That's why they want to distract and deceive you with lies about Teamster dues.

Let's look at the truth:

FACT: Teamster dues average two hours of our wages per month.

FACT: Most of our dues stay in our local union. Dues fund activities that give us more power with management at the bargaining table, at the statehouse and in the community. Dues enable us to pay attorneys to assist us in negotiations, grievances, and arbitration.

Our dues also support research into our company and industry so we can have our own INDEPENDENT information without relying on what the boss might tell us.

Financial statements, detailing how our dues money is spent, are submitted to the executive board of our local union on a regular basis. These same financial statements are available for review by ANY member, at ANY time of the year.

FACT: Dues are set by the Teamsters Constitution.

Do YOU get to vote on whether your employer cuts your pay? Or whether he requires YOU to pay work-related expenses? Or whether he increases the co-pay or deductible on YOUR family's health coverage?

No, you don't. You only get a say in what happens on the job AFTER you win a legally binding Teamsters contract.

FACT: Fines were originally established to prevent members from acting contrary to the interests of their co-workers. Some Teamsters locals have fined individual members for conduct that puts all members at risk (like committing violence on the picket line). Today, fines are rarely assessed.

