Our Rights and Protections as Teamster Members

Every democratic organization has a set of rules them members set up so everyone knows what their rights and responsibilities are. The Teamsters have a Constitution and Local Union By-Laws which protects members’ rights. It guarantees all Teamsters democracy, freedom of speech and a voice in the decisions affecting their Union.

Once we join the Teamsters, we immediately gain these rights as Teamster members:

❖ **We** elect our own Union Stewards and Negotiating Committee for our workplace. These representatives are our co-workers, they will support and protect us on the job.

❖ **We** elect our Local Union Officers, including the Secretary-Treasurer, President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and three (3) Trustees, who make up our Local Union Executive Board. They will then manage the Local Union’s day to day business.

❖ Our elected negotiation committee will talk to us to determine what we would like to see in our contract proposal. Based on what we decide, our Negotiation Committee will prepare the final proposals to present to the Company.

❖ Our Negotiating Committee will update us on the progress of the negotiations, and talk with us throughout negotiations to discuss what new proposals should be presented to the Company.

❖ When our Negotiating Committee reaches a tentative agreement with the Company, *we* vote by secret ballot on whether we want to accept the contract. *There is no contract unless a majority of the members who vote are in favor of accepting one.*

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**As Teamsters, these rights are guaranteed!**