Building the Movement for Change

Railroad workers are rightfully fed up. But no one is going to save us but ourselves. How do we do it?

- Talk to your co-workers and find who is willing to take action.
- Build a "caucus" of like-minded rails wanting to make change.
- Put together a coherent platform for change (see this leaflet).
- Put together a slate of members to run for Executive Board at the local, GCA, and/or national level.
- Consult with others who have trod this road before you - Railroad Workers United, Teamsters for a Democratic Union, Unite All Workers for Democracy, the Association for Union Democracy, and others.
- Put up a website, Facebook Page, create leaflets, flyers, and build your visible presence on and off the job (RWU can help!).
- Attend union meetings/conventions, put motions on the floor for change, and force your existing leadership to show their true colors.
- Stand your ground, have the courage of your convictions, take a principled stand based on the tenants of this flyer, and you will win!

Sign me up as a Member of Railroad Workers United

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Post Code _____

Country _____ Email _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Union _____ Local # _____

Railroad _____ Craft _____

Work Terminal _____ Year of Service _____

Position(s) held in your union (if any) _____

I am a (check one): __ RR Employee __ RR Retiree __ RR Family Member __ Other__

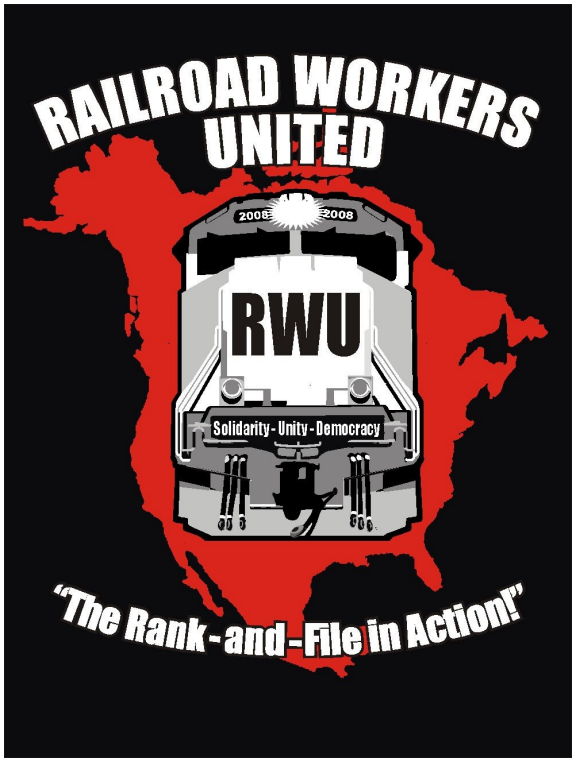
Please check to affirm this statement: ___ *"I am not a manager/officer of a railroad."*

Mail this form together with at least one year's due ($50.00) to:
Railroad Workers United
P.O. Box 2131
Reno, NV 89505

Or apply and pay dues online at www.railroadworkersunited.org

The RWU Plan for Union Members Running for Rail Union Office

A 12-Point Program



Railroad Workers United
www.railroadworkersunited.org
info@railroadworkersunited.org
202-798-3327

RWU 12 Point Platform for Candidates Who Run for Rail Union Office

RWU urges candidates for union office to include the following in their platforms and make a public commitment to:

1 - Supporting a single bargaining coalition of all rail unions within which no union settles until all settle, one based on rock-solid unity and solidarity.

2 – Exploring the possibilities of merging with other unions to the ends of achieving a single union of all rail workers.

3 - Supporting one-member-one-vote for all union offices at the local, GCA, and national division levels.

4 – Advocating some form of term limits where leadership serves a term or two, rotates back into the craft for a term, and is then eligible to run again.

5 – Advocating some form of provision to work the craft regularly while in office so as to keep in touch with the changing nature of the job and current working conditions of employment.

6 – Restricting the wages of union officers so they do not exceed the highest annual wage achieved when working in the craft.

7 - Limiting all union officer wage and benefit increases to be strictly tied to what the members receive through contractual agreements with the carriers.

8 - Creating an open bargaining process where the contract bargaining is brought into the light of day from behind closed doors, where members are informed of every step of the process.

9 - Involving the membership in the bargaining process by organizing and preparing the ranks for action at every step as bargaining proceeds.

10 - Forcefully articulating the union's program and our perspective to the media, the greater labor movement, and to the American people.

11 - Working in solidarity with other unions, worker groups, environmental organizations, citizens' groups, rail advocacy groups, and others in order to overcome our isolation and build power.

12 - Conducting national conventions in conveniently located rail hub cities such as Chicago, Kansas City, and St. Louis as opposed to cities like Las Vegas and Miami

A New Direction for Our Rail Unions - Solidarity, Unity, Democracy!

Railroad workers quality of life on and off the job has seriously degenerated over the last few decades. As we saw most recently in 2022, when negotiations reach an impasse and a potential strike is posed, the carriers play the Railway Labor Act card. Democrats and Republicans shriek about potential economic doom to justify denying us our human right to withhold our labor when all else fails. Our unions' leadership calmly accept these terms of engagement rather than challenge the status quo. Changing the course of our unions is not just a question of replacing the existing officials with new ones. To move in a new direction where rank & file rail workers can win better contracts, better wages, benefits and working conditions will entail a whole new approach. Changing the faces at the top alone is not enough. We need to make institutional changes - many of which are outlined above - to hold our leaders accountable to the members whom they ostensibly represent. But it is not just a question of electing the right leaders, and it is not just a question of instituting the right program. We need to change the entire *culture* in our unions, in our workplace. The union is not an insurance company, and the labor movement is not a spectator sport. Every union member needs to become an active and vibrant participant in the day-to-day operation and function of the union. That means we stick together, pay attention, debate and discuss the issues, stand up for one another on the job, refuse to accept unfair treatment at the hands of dictatorial supervisors, and that we - every day that we come to work – are the UNION! Because even the best, most well intentioned members who run - and win - union office are relatively powerless without an active, inspired, informed, educated and mobilized rank & file behind them. The 12 points outlined above cannot get the job done alone. Once elected, union leaders need to involve the membership in the process at every step, keeping them informed, soliciting their action and mobilization, and never taking action separate and apart from them but always in concert with them. RWU urges all railroad workers to get involved, to exert your solidarity and power every day you go to work, to build internal caucuses that can vie for power at the local, GCA, and National Division level of your union, to run for office, and to champion a new direction!