



24 Ways to Participate In Your Union

*From solid member to Local President, from 5 minutes to a life's work –
your participation at any level makes the Union stronger*

- **Locate and read your contract –**
Increase your knowledge of your rights and how they are enforced.
- **Read your union's notices –**
e-mails, newsletters, meeting notices
better information means better decisions.
- **Check the Union website-**
for updated information on Union
issues, actions and events.
- **Nominate trusted people -**
to serve you and co-workers as union
officers, delegates, bargaining team.
- **Vote in union elections –**
good union governance depends
on strong officers and negotiators.
- **Attend your Local meetings -**
get up to date information and have
a voice in critical Union decisions.
- **Express concerns on workplace
issues –** introduce yourself to your
Steward and tell them what's up.
- **Participate in Union surveys –**
a few minutes investment means the
Union can better reflect your views.
- **Wear an AFSCME pin or t shirt –**
make it visible that you strongly support
the Union's issues, efforts and campaigns.
- **Register to vote –** registering means
you'll have a voice if the next election in-
volves Union rights, issues, candidates .
- **Cast your ballot –** make sure what
you've won in the workplace and contract
isn't lost or weakened in the election process.
- **Take pictures at Union events –**
you preserve the Union's history, and the
Union's website pops with member pictures .
- **Attend a Union social event –** or
volunteer to help. Getting to know fellow
members strengthens unity – and it's fun.
- **Keep up the Union bulletin board –**
current newsletters, steward/officer con-
tact info, meeting schedules, union issues.
- **Step up on workplace issues –**
Schedule doesn't work? Safety an issue?
Offer to work on them with your Steward.
- **Attend a rally, carry a sign –** you'll
increase the clout - for your own Local's
bargaining or another union's struggle.
- **Serve on a committee –** whether
a Union by-laws or elections committee or
one at work, you'll help members, and learn!
- **Talk to your church or community –**
about the importance of your (and co-
workers') work and union efforts.
- **Work on a union/community project –**
you'll help the community group and help
your Local build critical community alliances.
- **Write a letter, make a call –** when a
critical vote loom on a bill that affects jobs
and members, nothing beats personal contact.
- **Work a phone bank shift –**
or walk a precinct for a ballot issue
or candidate important to the Union.
- **Become a Steward –** members need
help in protecting and enforcing their rights;
as Steward you'd be on the job to help them.
- **Run for a delegate position –**
delegates serve the Local's interests at
bodies like the Labor Council and Council 57
- **Serve as a Local officer –** serving as an
officer or board member can help your Local
face challenges beyond the workplace level.