

You Are Invited!

Railroad Workers United invites all railroad workers, retirees and family members from all crafts, unions and carriers across North America to join us. In addition, we offer *Solidarity Memberships* to those non-railroaders who support our goals and objectives and would like to play a role in building the organization. Note: Solidarity Members pay one half of the regular dues rate. They have full voice in the organization but no vote. See the RWU website at www.railroadworkersunited.org for more information. You can join online there or by filling out the form below and mailing it in with a minimum of one year's dues to the address at the bottom of the form.

Join Railroad Workers United!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Union _____ Local # _____ Employer _____

Terminal _____ Years of Service _____

Union Position (if any) _____

I'd like to join as a Regular Member for (check one):

1 year \$50.00 2 Years \$90.00 3 Years \$120.00

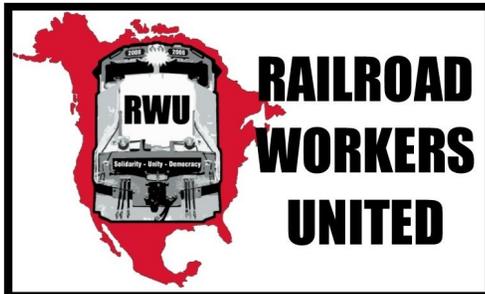
Sign me up as a Solidarity Member (check one):

1 year \$25.00 2 years \$50.00 3 years \$75.00

Clip and mail together with your dues to:

RWU P.O. Box 2131 Reno, NV. 89505

OR join on-line at www.railroadworkersunited.org



Building a Coalition of Railroad Workers and Our Allies



Railroad Workers United
P.O. Box 2131
Reno, NV 89505
www.railroadworkersunited.org
info@railroadworkersunited.org
202-798-3327

Building a Coalition of Railroad Workers and Our Allies

Railroad workers have long come together to improve wages, benefits and working conditions. There was a time when we were nearly two million strong in the U.S. alone and our collective voice and our actions carried a lot of weight.

Today, due to rail line abandonments, consolidation of facilities, contracting out work, and technological innovation, the railroad workforce in the U.S. has decreased by roughly 90%, dropping to around 200,000 from its high point nearly a century ago.

Railroad Workers Need Allies

All groupings seek out allies to assist them in their efforts, and railroad workers are no exception. To win our demands and improve our lives both on and off the job, RWU believes it is imperative that we unite - first and foremost - as railroad workers, and build solidarity across craft, group, union, and carrier throughout North America. But in addition, we must seek out and build coalitions with natural allies including, but not limited to, the following groups and sectors:

- Transport workers along the supply chain, including those in trucking, longshore, and warehouse.
- Community activists and citizens that are concerned with the safe passage of trains through their back yards.
- Environmental activists concerned with the safe transport of hazardous materials and the protection of lands and ecosystems along the railroad right-of-way.
- Advocates of upgraded and expanded freight and passenger rail service.
- Rail passengers concerned with convenience, on-time performance, safety, frequency, and accessibility.

Building the Coalition

Railroaders cannot expect our potential allies to be in full agreement with all of our goals and objectives all of the time, just as we cannot be in complete agreement with every aspect of our coalition partners' respective agendas. This the nature of coalitions and alliances. Nevertheless, we can work together on issues where we find common ground. Here are a few examples:

- Supply chain workers can support of each others' actions, thereby building an effective defense against the logistics industry that relies on all of us for its success;
- Railroad conductors and engineers can support the efforts of crew van drivers to organize by distributing leaflets and talking union to van drivers;
- Environmental organizations and railroad workers can work together to ensure safe movement of hazardous trains with adequate train crew staffing, appropriate train tonnage and length, proper track maintenance, etc.;
- Passenger train advocates and railroaders can work hand in hand to lobby for improved and expanded passenger train service.

RWU Current Coalition Partners and Allies

Railroad Workers United is proud to support, and in certain cases be an affiliate member* of a number of organizations, including the following:

- Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).
- International Longshore and Warehouse Workers Union (ILWU).
- United Electrical (UE), the union of GE diesel locomotive builders and crew van drivers.
- Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED)*
- Labor Network for Sustainability (LNS)*
- National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP)*
- Rail Users Network (RUN)*
- Solutionary Rail*
- Crude Awakening Network*
- National Workers Solidarity Network*

In 2015, RWU reached out to dozens of organizations and individual activists and sponsored a series of rail safety conferences entitled: The Future of Railroads: Safety, Workers, Community & the Environment." We were able to garner the support of dozens of citizens organization including: ● A. Philip Randolph Institute - Seattle Chapter ● Asian Pacific Environmental Alliance ● Center for Biological Diversity ● Climate Solutions ● Communities for a Better Environment ● Forest Ethics ● Greenpeace USA ● Industrial Workers of the World (various Branches) ● International Longshore & Warehouse Union (various locals) ● Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Council ● National Association of Retired & Veteran Rail Employees (NARVRE) ● Power Past Coal ● Richmond Environmental Justice Coalition ● Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA) ● Rising Tide ● Sierra Club ● Sunflower Alliance ● System Change - Not Climate Change ● The Lands Council ● Transport Workers Solidarity Committee ● Washington Environmental Council ● Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility ● Washington State Council of Fire Fighters ● 350 - Seattle and Sacramento.

For many of these groups, it was the first time that they had ever interfaced with working railroaders and were exposed to our issues and concerns. Likewise, for many railroad workers, it was their first exposure to those of community organizations. For both it was an eye opening experience to learn of the enthusiasm and support that all of us have for such an alliance of railroaders and community activists.

Conclusion

Recent experience has taught RWU that rail industry issues of importance - opposition to single employee train crews, abatement of chronic fatigue, an end to excessively long and heavy trains, proper track and equipment maintenance, the promotion of good paying union jobs, quality healthcare, and expanded rail employment - are also issues of importance to many outside the railroad workforce. A myriad of organizations exist that are willing and able to assist us in our struggles. Likewise, we have learned that we have the ability to aid and assist them in theirs. There is fertile ground to grow and develop these coalition to our mutual benefit. It is time for rail workers and our unions to begin building the alliances that can bring vital improvements to our jobs, lives, communities, and the environment.