

Active Workplace Tips

Listen:

Find out what issues are important to your co-workers. You know what's important to you, but find out what's important to them. Ask questions and don't assume you know the answers.

Give Co-Workers a Reason to Be Involved:

Co-workers will get involved if they believe their issues are at stake and they can really make a difference. Nobody comes to a meeting? Start smaller with 1:1 conversations or small group meetings. Try incorporating food or social activity and make it fun. Start with a smaller challenge to achieve a unity building victory.

Be Honest:

If you don't know an answer to a question, admit it—but find out the answer and get back to the person quickly. You'll be respected for your involvement to member concerns.

Push Your Co-workers Harder:

It's easy to take on tasks yourself, harder to organize others to take action. A good workplace activist gets as many people involved as possible doing as much as possible. But you need to ask. It's not enough to bug people to be more active. You need to ask them to do specific assignments...until it becomes natural to take on more without being asked. Don't push so hard though that your co-worker avoids you! Know when to stop.

Stay Positive:

Making people feel good about getting involved encourages them to stay involved and encourages other people to join them. Raising your voice or complaining about co-workers who "won't do anything" doesn't help.

Publicize Your Victories:

Victories are always obvious. If nobody knows about them, people will assume there are none—and nobody wants to spend time beating their heads against the wall. Take responsibility for getting the word out on your Union bulletin board, a bargaining unit update, Local 8's website or newsletter or putting together a celebrating event.

Defend Each Other:

If a co-worker is treated unfairly, try to unite everyone to defend the person, even if he or she isn't a union supporter. Maybe it's time to start a petition or take some other kind of group action to show your employer you're united. But don't just complain—organize to act in a unified way.