



STEWARD'S ARMY WORKSHOP 1
WHY DO WE MOBILIZE?

IBEW LOCAL 2222
MOBILIZATION TEAM

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STEWARD'S ARMY WORKSHOP 1

WHY DO WE MOBILIZE?

Please choose your answer from the following suggestions, if you feel that multiple answers are appropriate please rank each answer starting at 1 for the most important.

Q.

Why do we mobilize?

A} _____ To begin financial preparation for the expected work stoppage in August 2008.

B} _____ To establish greater communication within our organization.

C} _____ To send a message to Verizon corporation that we are ready to walk in '08 and we will not capitulate

D} _____ To Educate each other

E} _____ To Solidify Create Solidarity

F} _____ To encourage activism

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Why do we mobilize?

Answer A

To begin financial preparation for the expected work stoppage in August 2008.

1. Open a rainy day account. IBEW Local 2222 Leadership and your mobilization team have worked closely with the Telephone Worker's Credit Union to introduce a new account. The "rainy day" account basically works the same way a Christmas Club account does, The credit union will deduct a predetermined amount of money from your account, this amount is established by you, and will automatically deposit it into this rainy day account. The rainy day account will have a maturity date on or around the deadline for our contract August 2, 2008.
2. We suggest trying to pay down your debt as to help ease the financial struggles you will most likely encounter once we are out on the street.
3. Try to put off until after the August deadline to make any large purchases.
4. Save your income tax refund, put it away preferably in your new rainy day account.
5. Think about brushing up on a skill that you might be able to fall back on in case you need to pick up a part time job while we are on strike.
6. Help us to create some new ideas to help members better prepare for what looks like the inevitable.

Steward's Army Workshop 1 Why do we mobilize?

Answer B

To establish greater communication within our organization.

IBEW Local 2222 generally has 6 normal avenues of communication to its membership.

1. Monthly Union Meeting
2. Stewards / Bulletin Boards
3. Website
4. E-activist newsletter
5. Local 2222 call in tape
6. Workplace visits

In order for any of these types of communications to really make a difference the membership needs to do their part to stay informed. We supply the correct information and control rumors the best way possible but if members are not utilizing these avenues of communication then they will undoubtedly be provided misinformation.

As our contract deadline approaches your mobilization team will most likely use some more different and more secure types of communication to get information out to the membership to avoid broadcasting to management what our course of action will be.

The important thing to stress to members is to stay informed and to participate in one or all of these forms of communication. We are always available to answer any and all questions.

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Why do we mobilize?

Answer C

To send a message to Verizon Corporation that we are ready to walk in '08' and together will we not capitulate.

We think President Fitzpatrick said it best when he spoke to over 1200 members and supporters of Local 2222 on August 2, 2007 at our Mobilization kickoff Rally

“We paid the price to get here and we'll pay the price to stay.”

A lot of our members were not here in 1989 but have heard the stories about how members walked for 16 weeks and did not back down. It was difficult to say the least but if it had not been for their fortitude and determination to never give in; quite frankly most of us would not be here now. We most definitely would not have what we have now, bargained for wages, bargained for benefits, bargained for pension and above all bargained for job security. This company did not give us those things from the kindness of their hearts. Our members, those that came here before us fought for those things and we cannot forget the sacrifices they made, we need to fight as long and as hard with no backing down.

When our Union Leadership and negotiating team enter into bargaining we can compare it to going into battle. They need to know that we have their backs and we will always stand together no matter what.

Unity is the backbone of Organized Labor. It is our responsibility to fight for our jobs, who else can we depend on to do it for us?

We all hear the complaints from members about lack of overtime, discipline etc. We all need to encourage our co-workers and friends to put all that aside and help us to fight like hell for our jobs.

There is no time like the present to get active.

Organized Labor has been fighting for worker's rights for centuries.

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Why do we mobilize?

Answer D

To educate our members.

The steward's army was created with the intention of educating our members on many different issues.

Today's workshop has focused on why we mobilize. What we hope to achieve with this platform is to educate our members on what to expect as the contract deadline draws closer.

We want to be sure that we are all focused on the issues on the table. We want our members to know that the company is gearing up and will utilize many avenues to sway the public point of view and to make it seem as though we are fighting for something that we don't deserve.

We need to always remember that we made this company what it is today it is as much our company as it is theirs

We need to know that we are fighting for job security, benefits and pensions. Middle class America is disappearing with Corporations sending good jobs overseas; we need to protect our jobs by fighting for them.

An informed membership is a strong membership
stay involved.

Steward's Army Workshop 1
Why do we mobilize?

Answer E

To solidify our Solidarity

We have added many new members to our Union, with the welcome addition of the Service Reps in 2000 and the swearing in of new members at the union meetings. It is our responsibility to educate these members on the importance of solidarity.

United in one goal we are stronger than any billion dollar money hungry corporation.

If we stick together on one message: keeping our good union jobs here in middle class America we can conquer and win.

Talk to your co-workers; tell them about all the things we have struggled for. Job Security, Pensions, Free Healthcare ...the list goes on.

If it weren't for the Union how many of these jobs do you think would still be here in this country.

Job Security and the contract negotiated by our Union Leadership have kept these jobs in this country – make no mistake about it!

It was not the generosity of this company and its billionaire CEO's – it was YOUR

Union Leadership negotiating on your behalf.

Let's educate our fellow members on the meaning of SOLIDARITY!

It is your responsibility to leave here today to get at least one other person involved and active in this Union. Start with one person and see what happens

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Why do we mobilize?

Answer F

To encourage activism.

There are many ways our members can get active. We understand about busy schedules, day care, school, taking care of parents etc. We care about our members and their families every day – that's exactly why Local 2222 fights so hard on your behalf.

It doesn't take a lot to get involved. We have opportunities for everyone.

The Committee on Political Education {COPE} is a group of members who volunteer their time to work for various political candidates in all areas of the state. Whether you hold a sign for a few hours, stuff envelopes, make phone calls or work on Election Day we need people to help keep our friends in these elected offices. Sign up for COPE deduction, by signing the enclosed card you can have as little as \$1 a week taken directly from your paycheck and deposited in to the COPE Fund which helps us to help the candidates we can count on get elected. Its not rocket science to figure out that if we as a group Local 2222 help to get a candidate elected into office, that candidate will always remember who was there to help him along the way, we can rely on that elected official to help us when an issue or a bill is being negotiated in the legislature that will effect us.

We also have so many charitable organizations that we help, the most prominent one being the Home for Little Wanderers and the many events we organize on their behalf throughout the year.

It is your civic responsibility to get involved – but the rewards we all gain from your activism go along way in ensuring that we can call upon our friends and other unions to help when we really need them. Such as next August or when we have a rally, or a hearing at either City Hall or the State House or even in Washington DC our local's reputation as a civically minded and politically active union has helped us greatly in the past and will continue to help us as long as we have members who are willing to give their time energy and effort to those who need our help.

Get involved, Get active, it's rewarding for the Local and it's rewarding for you! For more information call the Union office or ask your steward.

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