



FAST FACTS

For Bellevue Drivers

Who is UE?

UE is an independent national union with members in more than 20 states and a proud history dating back to 1936. Our members in the rail industry transport train crews, build locomotives and manufacture air brakes and other equipment. We have negotiated contracts covering hundreds of Renzenberger drivers at rail yards in California Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and New Jersey.

Overall, UE represents tens of thousands of workers in many occupations, from bus drivers and factory workers to hospital employees and government clerks. UE members have union contracts with major employers, including state and local governments and companies like General Electric, ConAgra and Assa Abloy. You can learn more about UE by visiting ueunion.org.

What Has UE Accomplished at Renzenberger?

The new UE contract for California drivers provides \$2.55 in pay increases over four years. It also increases paid time off (PTO) and makes the road board function more fairly. UE contracts provide “just cause” protection against unfair discipline. More paid break time and scheduling improvements are among other concrete gains drivers’ have won in their UE contracts.

How Do We Make UE Our Union in Bellevue?

A majority of Bellevue drivers signed UE cards and asked the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to hold an election to make UE their collective bargaining representative. A “Yes” vote is a vote for UE. The election will be conducted by mail. The NLRB will mail out ballots on January 9. Mark your ballot and mail it back as soon as possible. Only ballots that reach the NLRB by January 23 will be counted. Your ballot is secret. Management does not see it.

Who Runs the Union?

All important decisions in UE are made by the members -- people like you and your coworkers. Rank-and-file members run their local unions, elect their own local union officers, and decide important questions such as what demands to make in contract negotiations, who will be on the negotiating committee and how local union funds will be raised and spent.

What are the Dues?

Dues will be \$30 per month. No one is required to pay dues until a UE contract with Renzenberger has been negotiated and approved by the membership.

What are My Rights?

You have the legal right to participate in union meetings and activities, sign union cards and petitions, hand out union literature (in non-work areas during breaks or off hours), and display your support for the union. These rights are protected by federal law. In UE you also have the right to a voice and vote in your union. Your democratic rights are protected by the UE Constitution.

What Will be in the Contract?

The contract is a binding agreement between workers and management. It is enforced on the job by union stewards chosen by the members and trained by UE. You and your coworkers will set the bargaining priorities and negotiate the contract with assistance from experienced UE staff. In UE, all contracts must be approved by vote of the membership.

Do Negotiations Start from Scratch?

No. Negotiations start with the wages, benefits and conditions that are currently in place. It is illegal for the company to change the status quo before negotiating with the union. The starting place for every set of UE negotiations with Renzenberger has been the status quo. The result has always been improvements.

What About Strikes?

Drivers in five states have successfully negotiated UE contracts with Renzenberger without ever going on strike. A strike is your tool; only you and your coworkers can decide whether or not to use it. The national union cannot call a strike at your yard. It is a local union decision and requires a vote by the members. There are many ways to get a contract without going on strike.

What Can I Do to Help UE Win the Election?

Wear a UE sticker. Sign the “Vote Yes” Petition. Talk to your coworkers. Make sure they have the facts. Make sure to fill out your ballot and send it back to the NLRB as soon as possible.

For more information:
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