

# FAST FACTS



V & M Star workers who want better wages, benefits, job security and a real voice in working conditions are organizing with UE.

## Who is the UE

UE is an independent national union with members in more than 20 states and a proud history dating back to 1936. UE represents thousands of workers in both the public and private sector.

UE represents thousands of workers at GE in Erie, PA; Wabtec in Wilmerding, PA; Ralston Foods in Lancaster, OH; and many other workplaces in our region.

## Why UE

We tried other unions before and came up short. UE has helped us put together a detailed organizing plan and is providing training to help us succeed against the expensive anti-union campaign that the company will run.

## What is the Contract

The contract is a binding agreement between workers and management. Workers get a voice in what is in the contract, and the contract must be followed by everyone. When you negotiate a contract, you start with the pay, benefits and working conditions you have now and build on them. You change the conditions you want and protect what you don't want to change. You don't start from "scratch." UE contracts can only be approved by a vote of the membership.

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## What are Dues

Most new locals set dues at two hours pay per month. Under this progressive system, a worker earning \$18 an hour would pay \$36.00 a month in dues.

No one pays dues until a contract is signed and acceptable raises and benefits have been negotiated. UE dues are among the lowest in the nation.

## Who Runs the Union

All important decisions in the UE are made by the members – people like you and your co-workers. Workers run their local unions and decide important questions such as what will be in the contract, who will negotiate the contract, and more. The Union is not a third party -- it is you.

## What About Strikes

Only you and your co-workers can decide whether or not to strike. The National Union cannot call a strike at your workplace. There are also many ways to get a good contract without a strike.



**United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers  
of America (UE)  
440-862-1295 or  
uekarenhardin@gmail.com**

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