

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming New Duespayers and Members

UNA representatives should not be shy about welcoming new employees to our union and encouraging their participation in UNA activities. When new employees are hired into a unionized workplace, they often have little knowledge of unions in general, let alone the union that represents them. What they see and learn in their first days on the job may influence how committed they are to UNA for years to come. If you can make a positive impression on your new co-workers during this “just hired” period, you will be making a huge contribution to the continued success of UNA.

Signing Up Members

As soon as a duespayer signs a UNA membership card, they automatically become a member of the UNA Local at that worksite. Even if a new employee is already a UNA member at another worksite, they need to sign a new card with each new employer. This ensures they are registered as a member of the correct Local with the Alberta Labour Relations Board.

Key items to discuss with new members:

- › Your name and your role in UNA
- › UNA’s full name and how many members it has – the United Nurses of Alberta, with more than 30,000 members
- › The name and number of your Local
- › UNA’s structure
- › Why members pay union dues and the benefits the union brings
- › Where and how the member can get in touch with the union – names and phone numbers for union representatives, Executive Officers, and UNA’s offices
- › Downloading the UNA app
- › Signing up for and using UNANet
- › What a Collective Agreement is and what it does for duespayers
- › Which agreement they fall under and where to find it
- › How members have input into bargaining – they elect their bargaining committee, are consulted about bargaining priorities, and get to vote on every agreement
- › How to report contract, OH&S, and Professional Responsibility concerns
- › Who to approach with questions or issues
- › Any key provisions of the Collective Agreement – hours of work, pay, vacation, overtime, sick benefits, education allowances, recognition of previous experience
- › Ways the member can get involved in UNA – attending meetings, attending Provincial meetings and workshops, and using UNANet
- › What a Unit/Office Representative does, who their Rep is, or how to become a Rep
- › Upcoming meetings and events
- › Any other questions the member may have.