



Protect and Expand Union and Workers' Rights

WHEREAS, In recent years the number of workers seeking to organize unions in their workplace has skyrocketed to levels not seen in decades; and

WHEREAS, Union organizing is occurring in industries and jobs that have been traditionally non-union and these actions have often been led by young workers who understand that their employers are treating them poorly, paying them badly and the workers know that the only way to fight back and achieve justice in the workplace is to form a union. The UWUA has actively supported these workers in their fight for a union; and

WHEREAS, the UWUA has reemphasized the need for our Union to organize the unorganized in the utility industry, both among traditional utility worker jobs and in emerging technologies such as wind, solar, battery storage and other new forms energy. Our Union now has hundreds of renewable energy workers in our ranks, and we will continue to have membership growth in this area; and

WHEREAS, The UWUA has recently scored union organizing wins in the South where union density is low and employer opposition to unionization is often more aggressive than in other areas of the country. The UWUA continues to seek to organize all workers that want a voice on the job regardless of geographic location, industry, or job classification; and

WHEREAS, Unionized workers are also fighting back by engaging in strikes and other job-related actions to achieve better wages, benefits and working conditions; and

WHEREAS, The UWUA and its Local Unions have fought for and achieved strong contracts with signatory employers. These contracts are only achieved because of the hard work, strength, and solidarity our Union practices on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Recent polling shows the positive approval rating for unions is the highest it has been in decades. This public support has helped unions win good contracts and organizing victories; and

WHEREAS, Despite worker activism and public support, state and federal law too often give an unfair advantage to employers to fight unionization even in the face of pro-union support by their own workers. Even when workers win elections, it is often very difficult for unions to negotiate a first contract. The UWUA supports comprehensive pro-union, pro-worker labor law reform at the federal, state, and local level. The UWUA also supports the abolition of so-called right to work laws and the reversal of the Supreme Court's outrageous decision in Janus v. AFSCME Council 31. Right to work laws and court rulings foster disunity by encouraging workers to freeload off their union brothers and sisters. It also provides employers with a tool to spread division among our ranks and use that division to gain leverage at the bargaining table.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The UWUA will redouble our efforts to organize the unorganized in the utility industry and beyond to rebuild union density and improve the lives of workers through the power of solidarity and collective bargaining; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The UWUA will show solidarity and support for all workers in their fight to organize unions in their workplace and win better wages, benefits, and working conditions through unionization and collective bargaining; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The UWUA will continue work to build power in our Local Unions so they can continue to achieve wins at the bargaining table to improve the lives of our members and their families; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, The UWUA will continue to be active in the political arena in supporting pro-union candidates who are committed to pro-union labor law reform and the abolition of the scourge of so-called right to work laws.