



Benefits of Affiliation With The Ohio AFL-CIO

The most important reason for affiliating with the Ohio AFL-CIO is that your union can contribute greatly to building power for all working families in Ohio – the power to define a vision for working people in our community, to realize that vision, to be among the players that determine the kind of state we have and the services provided to workers, students and the needy – the power to win! Your union can help to create a more powerful labor movement that will elect progressive candidates to public office – a movement that will enact ordinances and policies that improve the quality of life for working families and those at the lowest rungs of the economic ladder. Some Specific benefits include:

POLITICAL POWER

Integration of your union's membership files as defined by your International Union with the files of 650,000 members for Labor's coordinated political programs so we can elect endorsed candidates in local, state and federal races and approve endorsed levies and ballot initiatives.

Coordinated political campaigns with the Ohio AFL-CIO which use the most sophisticated technology including list enhancement, mapping and creation of walk lists, customized leaflets that may include your union's priority issues, and membership contact programs at worksites, in neighborhoods and by mail and phone that educate all AFL-CIO union members on our issues and our endorsed candidates.

ISSUE ADVOCACY

A powerful advocate at the state capital to speak with one voice on legislation and initiatives such as collective bargaining, prevailing wage, labor law, state budgets, pensions, health care and education policy. Not only has a united Ohio labor front withstood attacks on collective bargaining and workers' rights over the last decade but it provided opportunities to enact a minimum wage constitutional amendment, protect injured workers' rights, restore prevailing wage in school construction, create Ohio's Best Rx prescription drug program and adopt a state budget that benefits working families.

LEGAL PROTECTIONS

Workers statewide have benefited from Ohio AFL-CIO legal action to stop anti-labor policy from being implemented. In recent years, the courts have sided with Ohio AFL-CIO led litigation to halt several campaign finance reform efforts that sought to eliminate or limit union members from having a collective voice in Ohio's electoral political process.

SOLIDARITY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Over 700,000 Ohioans belong to Working America – the AFL-CIO's allied organization for workers without a union in the workplace – that is critical to our political and policy related work. In a key election or when community support is needed Working America members can make the difference.

Mobilization of Ohio AFL-CIO union members, coalition partners and constituency groups during a contract campaign or community issue with rallies, demonstrations and other solidarity actions. Support from Community Services liaisons who provide advice and assistance when our members are on strike, laid off or simply down on their luck.

COMMUNICATIONS

To keep members informed on policy, politics and other news inside the house of labor the Ohio AFL-CIO offers its members the Electronic Newsletter for Activists, Capitol Report, Working Families Toolkit, Committee Reports and of course the website – www.ohafclcio.org – where the most comprehensive and up to date information for union members is contained. In addition, regular written communication from the President provides for a well-rounded complement of written and electronic communications.

TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

A variety of training programs and conferences will keep union leaders and activists informed on the issues that matter most to working families. Regular events such as training in political action, the Legislative Conference at the Capitol and the Workers Compensation School are rated high amongst our members. A host of other workshops and training programs are called as needed on the important issues of the day.

AGENDA SETTING

A seat at the table where decisions are made by the Ohio AFL-CIO, so your union can be assured that issues important to your members are in the forefront when decisions are made about labor's priorities.



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