

# UE YOUNG ACTIVIST PROGRAM



**W**e must find and develop new leaders for the future in order for UE to survive in the decades ahead. There must be new leaders willing and trained to lead. They must be prepared to carry forward our union's unique perspective and continue the practice of militant, democratic, rank-and-file unionism. Our leadership ranks are far too thin today, too often leaving a single leader, or a few key activists, to shoulder all of the responsibilities of leading and maintaining a local union. More activists in position to assist our local union leaders means those leaders and their locals can more aggressively pursue the mission of our union – fighting for justice on the job and in our society. It also means there will be replacements to fill their positions when those leaders choose to step aside. The energy of young activists has propelled UE forward at key points in our history. It can do so again in the 2010's.

The Young Activist Program aims to **bring UE members ages 35 and under to exciting union and movement events**, expose them to the union's broader social justice agenda and involve them in union activity in their home locals and communities. The program will introduce these young activists to other UE activists, including young activists like themselves, and link them together using new social media, such as facebook. Launching this program means listening to the concerns and perspectives of our young members – and acting on them where possible.

Our goal in the first year of the program will be to recruit 30 or more participants for the program, engage them in one or more program activities and **identify from this group at least one dozen young members who will continue forward as UE activists.**