Shop stewards have a front row seat to the most important events at the workplace.

From closed door disciplinary meetings to helping develop new union policies, shop stewards always play a critical role.

As a shop steward, you will help save jobs. You will directly enforce the legal rights of your coworkers. You will be at the table as important decisions are being made. And you will help to create the IAM of the future.

And it won’t end there.

By becoming a steward, you will be living up to a higher standard. You will be tasked with upholding and defending the contract, defending the dignity of your fellow workers, and advancing the cause of workers’ rights.

CONTACT A MEMBER OF YOUR LOCAL GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHOP STEWARD PROGRAM IN YOUR AREA.
"I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN TO ME."

Unfair discipline can happen to anyone, at any time. And, it is always a surprise. Sudden job loss can be devastating. Most of us would not be able to replace our current paychecks in time to stay in the homes that we hoped to raise our children in, or to prevent humiliating repossessions and loss of financial independence. Our jobs help us define the way we see ourselves, and give us the opportunity to hold a dignified place in our communities.

Nobody ever expects to be treated unfairly at work. Very often, the employees that go into these situations are unprepared to defend themselves. Often, they will not understand the danger that they are facing until it’s too late. The very fact that unfair discipline is always a surprise makes it particularly difficult to prepare for. In such conditions, anyone can stop thinking clearly. That is why workers need Shop Stewards to assist them when facing managers.

Our union is organized into collections of local lodges, which are grouped into separate “Districts.” Including our District, which is District 141. The Districts Form “Territories,” which together make up the Grand Lodge. IAM members that work for airlines and railroads fall into the Transportation Territory, and this includes District 141.

District 141 has 42,000 members including retirees. The Grand Lodge includes everyone in the IAMAW, and has more than 600,000 members!

At the front of all of this are Shop Stewards. As a Shop Steward, you are the gatekeeper into the larger union for your coworkers.

If there is even the smallest chance of discipline, no one should ever go into a meeting with management without a steward present.

WORKPLACE DEMOCRACY

You will be the first contact that most members will have with union activism.

This makes you the most important activist part of the IAM for the vast majority of members.

IAM141.ORG