

What is a Steward?



As an SEIU 521 Steward, your job involves much, much more than handling grievances. Grievances are important. They are often the most visible and dramatic aspect of the union's presence. Sometimes they'll take up most of your time as a Steward. But grievances should never be confused with your chief responsibility as a Steward: to build a united, organized, and involved union membership in your workplace. Without this involvement and solidarity, no union in the world can protect and serve its members.

**As a leader in the workplace, you'll have a very important role.
That's because SEIU 521 Stewards are ...**

Organizers

SEIU 521 Stewards are responsible for organizing the whole workplace to deal with problems as a united group.

Problem solvers

The Steward is the person workers turn to with their problems. It might be a work-site hazard. Maybe someone's been fired, or perhaps layoffs are threatened. It might be just a new employee with a question. Perhaps you can solve the problem with a friendly word, or maybe you'll organize a worksite action or file a grievance.

Educators and communicators

The contract. The health insurance plan. What's an "ULP (Unfair Labor Practice)"? How can I do this? Why did they do that? It's a complicated world, and our union members are counting on our SEIU 521 Stewards to help them make sense of it. Equally important, our union officers and staff are counting on Stewards to help them keep in touch with your co-workers.

Worksite leaders

Stewards keep it moving. They are not afraid to speak up to management. They make unity happen, and never let anyone forget there's a union at our worksite.



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