

Article I Challenges With A Mobile Work Force

In North America we continue to live in a mobile society. In the days of our parents, you started with a company and lived and worked close to the same firm until retiring.

Now individuals and whole families have been up-rooting themselves for the primary reason of career advancement with the same or a new employer.

The trade union member though doesn't fit this typical mold. He / She relocates for personal life style reasons. On top of that now add the jobs they get dispatched to could be local or out-of-town for 2 months, 3 years or longer.

This puts the membership on the road more frequently than the average career person.

In talking with business agents and other union executives this is a real world challenge of having the member inform the hall office of where they can be contacted.

Let's review some of the typical reasons why it is critical to be able to quickly contact the member:

- Member is finished one job and is waiting to be dispatched *and this is where I am,*
- Member is going through a Workers Compensation application due to an injury, *and this is where I am,*

- At year-end mailing the members' Dues Tax Receipt Statements, etc, *and this is where I am,*
- The member has had a serious on-site injury, *and this is my emergency contact,*
- And many other reasons.

Unfortunately there is no one solution that will work with every single member. What you need to provide is:

- 1, 2 or 3 ways for the member to inform the hall office that provides consistent results,
- Periodic reminders to the membership of the benefits of providing current contact information,
- Always keep a history of the members' previous contact information.

Finally the hall office as well as the member should be aware of the disadvantages of not being able to get in touch, **IMMEDIATELY:**

- Lost work to a job site,
- Inaccurate income tax returns,
- LTD benefits,
- And many more...

