

WHAT MAKES UP OUR UNION Some Basic Union Questions

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“What is SEA/SEIU Local 1984?”

We are a labor union, made up of New Hampshire state employees, higher education employees, and county, municipal, and private sector workers. We have more than eight thousand members in every city, town, and village in the state. In 1984, we became a part of SEIU, and that is why, as a unified whole, we are SEA/SEIU Local 1984.

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“What is SEIU?”

SEIU is the Service Employees' International Union, one of the largest labor unions in North America. Across the USA and Canada, SEIU represents public employees, health care workers, service workers, professionals, and numerous other types of employees. There are SEIU members just like us all across the country, and by standing together we can learn from each other and advance the interests of all.

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“Aren't we the SEA?”

The foundation of our union is the State Employees' Association of New Hampshire (SEA), which was founded in 1940. As time passed, groups of people who were not state employees came into the union – county and municipal employees, and private sector workers. Many people still refer to the union as the SEA, even though many of our members are not state employees.

WHAT MAKES UP OUR UNION WHO DOES WHAT

President. The President is elected from among the members, but upon election, he/she becomes a full-time employee of the union. He/she is the highest administrative authority of the union.

First Vice President. Stands in for the President in his/her absence. The First Vice President is also chair of the Convention Arrangements Committee.

Second Vice President. Chairs the Organization Committee and the Grievance Committee. Also assists the First Vice President.

Treasurer. Takes charge of all monies and property of the union.

Secretary. Keeps the records of all official proceedings.

Directors. The union's Board of Directors are members elected to oversee the business of the union between Conventions. They meet monthly. They are also voting members of the Council and the Convention.

Chapter Officers. Each chapter of the union elects its own officers in accordance with their chapter by-laws. Typically these officers include a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. These officers preside over the affairs of their chapter. Chapter Presidents also represent the chapter at Council meetings and the Convention.

Councilors. Elected by the chapters at a ratio of one councilor for every twenty members. They represent their chapter at Council meetings and the Convention.
Stewards. Workplace representatives of the union. Stewards answer questions, solve problems, and recruit new members.

Staff. The union hires staff to support the members and to help advance the bargaining, legislative, representational, and political priorities of the union, as directed by the members. Staff are hired with the approval of the Board of Directors and are supervised by the President.