



Start a SOAR Chapter in Your Community or USW Area Council

SOAR:

- Improves our communities
- Advances USW Policies
- Engages politically to enhance the well-being of our members

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SOAR Resources can be downloaded at www.usw.ca/soar (under 'SOAR Resources'). Articles of Association, bylaws, delegate procedures and copies of our publications also can be found on the site.

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United Steelworkers
Interested in starting a SOAR chapter in your community or Area Council?

Guide to Starting a SOAR Chapter



SOAR, the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees, keeps retired USW members connected and gives them a voice for improving the union and their communities.

How to Start a SOAR Chapter

4 Easy Steps

- 1 Gather up about 25 retirees, spouses, partners or friends** who support SOAR's ideals and are interested in working with you.
- 2 Hold a meeting** and elect an executive of 7: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and 3 trustees.
- 3 Submit a request** in writing to the National SOAR Co-ordinator. Include the names of officers, as you want them to appear on the charter. As well, suggest a name for the chapter. (This can be 'YOUR COMMUNITY' chapter).
- 4 Submit a list of members' names**, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Also send a cheque, payable to SOAR Canada, in the amount of 70% of the total dues collected to the National SOAR Co-ordinator.

SOAR National and Local Chapters Work Together

Local chapters use dues to conduct meetings and engage in activities.

The National uses dues to conduct the activities and business of SOAR.

SOAR National provides printed promotional material, brochures and posters, and sends The SOAR in Action magazine to each member household four-times a year. The National also sends chapters the newsletter *Chapter Connection* and maintains the SOAR web site. On request, they provide membership cards for chapters.

SOAR National works on a variety of issues pertinent to seniors, and works with other groups to promote political action on important issues, including: CPP/OAS improvements, support for defined benefit pension plans, National Pharmacare, support for the Canada Health Accord, continuation of door-to-door mail delivery.

Many SOAR chapters engage in lobbying local politicians on issues adopted by resolution at SOAR conferences, as well as educational and charitable endeavors to improve their communities.

You are not alone. The National SOAR Co-ordinator is happy to answer your questions and help lead you through the process. Contact us at any time. See contact info on back.

Breakdown of dues. Standard annual SOAR dues are a \$12 per member and \$3 for a spouse, for a total of \$15/year/couple.

Of the \$12 or \$15 the chapter retains 30% and submits 70% to SOAR National.

National money is used for administrative expenses, travel expenses by Canadian board members on SOAR business, the costs (travel, hotel and per diem) of one delegate from each chapter in Canada to attend the two-day National SOAR Conference and one day of the USW National Policy Conference, held in the same week. National dues also pay costs (travel, hotel and per diem) for delegates duly-chosen to attend the SOAR International Conference, held prior to the USW International Convention.

Chapters can, with a membership vote, approve additional dues to be retained by their Chapter. Such additional dues are retained locally at 100%. Some chapters choose to charge annual dues of \$20 or more.