



Welcome to GS

Welcome to GS

We now unite our forces to defend the interests of workers both at work and in society as a whole.

Our new union was established June 1 2009. GS organizes workers in the forestry, woodworking and graphic industries.

The aim of our new union is to give the members more value for their membership dues, and to further develop the local union activities.

GS represents 65.000 members. Ours will be a voice in the Swedish debate that politicians cannot ignore.

We need to be seen and heard more in order to:

- defend the labor laws
- restore the social security system
- reform the unemployment insurance
- once again obtain decent benefits from the health insurance system

Our negotiations with the employers are dependent on politically decided laws. Many of our collective agreements are additions to the national insurance and pension systems.

The present conservative government has pulled out important pieces from the foundation on which we build. Doing that, the government has in fact stolen money we abstained from in negotiations. The undermining of workers' rights in the last years illustrate clearly how important it is for us to be very active and strongly organized, both in the traditional union work in the workplaces and in the field of politics.

GS has a strong representation in the cities as well as in the countryside all over Sweden. Besides traditional union activities we are also well positioned to exert influence in local matters such as better child care, better housing conditions, etc.

United we stand. And united we can improve wages, working and life conditions for all our members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Per-Olof Sjöö', is written over a horizontal line that extends across the page.

Per-Olof Sjöö
President

The collective agreement is our foundation

Being a trade union member signifies that you promise your colleagues never to accept work for lower wages and worse conditions than those prescribed by the collective agreement.

The more members our union represents, the more leverage we have. By uniting our forces in GS we increase our strength.

When we were two separate unions, both could be involved in the same negotiations with the same employers association. As a single union GS will be able to better coordinate the interests of the members and thus also obtain better collective agreements.

A stronger union can organize more workers and see to it that all companies/employers in our industries sign union contracts.

It is of utmost importance that members never accept work in a company that has not signed a union contract. If a particular workplace is not bound by a union contract we encourage our members to contact their local representative immediately. All Swedish trade unions cooperate on the collective agreements. Thus, we practically always succeed in signing union contracts. A united trade union movement is too strong for any single company to fight.

At work – and beyond

The most important task for GS is to defend our members' rights at the workplace. But we also look beyond the workplace, with the broader aim to help improve our members' life as a whole. Therefore we actively work to influence political decisions that have bearing on the everyday life of our members, for instance health care, schools and housing policies. We also work closely with our counterparts, the employers, to defend and develop policies of importance to the branches we work in, and thus are of importance to our members.

Union education is one of the core tasks of our organization. We offer trade union training to all members – from new members to those who need advanced training. It is essential to the union that our representatives have the knowledge and skills needed to represent the members in an effective way.

GS is strongly committed to international promotion of trade unions. We participate in international efforts to build strong trade unions all over the globe. This work is coordinated through our global federations BWI and UNI.

GS also cares for members who have left the labor market for different reasons – sickness, unemployment or retirement. We inform about our union in schools and we offer student membership to high school students.

Insurances assured

In companies under contract with GS all employees have a good level of security. Employers bound by a collective agreement are obliged to take out the following insurance:

- SAF-LO Collective Pension – a collectively bargained pension plan which supplements the national pension system.
- AGS Group Sickness Insurance – supplements the statutory sickness benefits.
- TFA Work Injury Insurance – supplements the statutory occupational hazards insurance.
- Career Readjustment Insurance – containing severance pay (AGB) and career readjustment support.
- TGL Group Life Insurance – supplementary survivors' compensation in case of death in preretirement age.

Members also have an additional insurance package included in their union dues. This insurance packet comprises an accident insurance for out-of-work hours, a supplement to the TGL Group Life insurance, a child life insurance and a comprehensive home insurance. GS members can also buy a voluntary combined sickness and life insurance.

Facts about GS

Established June 1 2009 through a merger of the Graphics Industry Union and the Forestry- and Woodworkers Union

65.000 members

15 local branches

President: Per-Olof Sjöo

Vice presidents: Tommy Andersson
Erik Georgii
Kenneth Johansson

Contact us:

Visiting address: Olof Palmes Gata 31
Postal address: Box 1152, 111 81 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone: +46 (0)10-470 83 00
Website: www.gsacket.se
E-mail: firstname.surname@gsacket.se



The Swedish union of forestry, wood and graphical workers