Roles and Responsibilities of the Building Representative

A major purpose of unionism is to win for employee/members a share of power at the worksite. In order for this ideal to become a reality, it is necessary that employees in each school be led by a union steward to represent their interests to management and the union leadership, helps to solve their day-to-day problems on the job and involves them in the activities of the union.

There are four major roles of a Building Representative:

I. The Worksite Leader is a visible representative of the union
   A. Holds worksite meetings
   B. Gets union members to serve on committees
   C. Welcomes new members
   D. Discusses important issues
   E. Represents teacher in administrator/teacher conflicts
   F. Represents members at Executive Board Meetings.

II. The Communicator
    A. Distributes newsletters and flyers
    B. Maintains bulletin board of legislative activities and union business
    C. Advises members of benefits and contractual rights
    D. Informs members of political or policy positions

III. The Problem Solver
     A. Handles grievances
     B. Identifies worksite problems
     C. Involves members in professional issues

IV. The Union Builder
    A. Recruits members
    B. Encourages participation in social events
    C. Solicits COPE membership
    D. Recruits volunteers for political campaigns