

## After Long Battle, Local 135 Wins Right to Represent 925 Workers

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### Satellite Installers Seek Strong Teamster Backing

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After a two-year battle, Local 135 in Indianapolis has won an election to represent 925 satellite installers who work for JBM Bluegrass and are contracted to Direct TV.

“These workers had been represented by another union, but were never satisfied by the other union’s representation. They wanted to become Teamsters to receive strong representation, and they stood united the whole way in their quest to become Teamsters,” said Brian Buhle, Local 135 Secretary-Treasurer.

The campaign began in January of 2006, when Local 135 petitioned to represent 125 employees.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) expanded the unit to include 925 workers and Local 135 quickly secured enough signatures to get on the ballot. The first election was between Teamsters Local 135, the National Production Workers Union Local 707, and no union.

Teamsters Local 135 received the most votes. However, no single choice received a majority of ballots cast, and a re-run election was ordered. The National Production Workers were later dropped from the ballot.

Local 135 lost the re-run election but filed objections over the employer’s conduct. The NLRB agreed with the union’s position and ordered a new re-run election. The ballots were counted and Teamsters 135 was in the lead by 33 votes, but there were 156 challenged ballots that could determine the outcome of the election.

A hearing was conducted, and on January 17, 2008 the NLRB’s regional director adopted the hearing officer’s recommendation on the challenged ballots, upholding the initial results of the election and certified Local 135 as the bargaining agent.

“The company will probably file exceptions to the regional director’s decision but this certainly puts us in the driver’s seat,” Buhle said. “These workers deserve justice in the workplace, and we look forward to providing them with the best representation.”