



**BACK TO SCHOOL
GIVEAWAY**

Page 5

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Pages 8 & 9

**SCHOLARSHIP
BREAKFAST**

Page 10



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE
Rob Newell, President
International Vice President



IT'S UNION SEASON

When it comes time to write my September article for the paper, I usually think about how the pending weather change impacts people. For some that change in temperature brings a smile with thoughts of pumpkin spice and the holidays. For others it brings lament, because it will be many months before the long hot days of summer return. No matter what the weather is outside all of us at Local 1500 are busy working year-round for you. There are no seasons when we aren't negotiating contracts, getting them into print and in your hands, organizing new employers, investigating grievances, doing safety inspections, or any of the literally dozens of other things that your Union team does each day to try and maximize the value of your membership.

Over the last year or so our Organizers gave the Union bargaining team a little extra work by winning representational elections at 2 Foragers Market locations, 2 Petee's Pies locations & our first victory in the urban farming sector, at Square Roots. Proudly, I can tell you that they are also actively working on no less than 5 other projects which are all in various stages of progress. This is a very active time for organized labor in our country, and thankfully our team has done well connecting with different groups of workers that are ready to have job security, scheduling stability, and a voice in their workplace. We are hoping to give you more reports of organizing victories in the coming months.

In addition to negotiating first contracts for Petee's Pies and Square Roots your bargaining team is also currently negotiating new contracts at D'Agostino, Gristedes, Pick Quick Keyfood (which has 3 contracts), Columbus Foods, King Kullen and King Kullen pharmacy. All these companies are at different stages of bargaining as I write this, and one or more of them may even be resolved before this article gets to print. I feel like I should also mention that our members also just overwhelmingly ratified recent settlements at Foragers Markets, Kings, Village ShopRite, Matlyn KeyFood & IGA Amagansett Super Saver. As if that isn't enough, they are also in the process of bargaining multiple contracts for our sister UFCW Local 1718 on top of all that.

To provide a more inclusive experience for our Spanish speaking members we have begun translating our contracts into Spanish as we settle them. Although that process didn't come without its hiccups early on I think we have got most of the bugs worked out now. For our larger contracts, like both our VSM Fairway contracts, Stop & Shop, SRS ShopRite, and King Kullen we will have the contracts printed with both languages in the same booklet. For our smaller shops we will print copies in Spanish inhouse and have them readily as well. The membership reaction has been great in the shops so far and we will continue to look for other opportunities to stay better connected with our Spanish speaking members.

If you haven't been on our social media lately, I think you might be surprised by all that you see. If you scroll back a little you will see that just since July we have had a very successful Blood Drive, a scholarship breakfast, a charity fishing trip fundraiser, a school supply giveaway, and we participated in the Labor Day Parade (on 9/10). We coordinated and participated in labor political walks for State Senators Gustavo Rivera and Anna Kaplan, as well as for State Senate hopefuls Monica Martinez, Elizabeth Crowley, & Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, in addition to US Congressional hopeful Robert Zimmerman. We also took time to honor some of our great members on Member Monday's like, Corrie Fulton (Stop & Shop), Evelyn Ramos (D'Agostino), Emily Daniels (King Kullen), Daniel O'Brien (Stop & Shop), Patrick Poletti (Wild by Nature), Dougie Gentile (Stop & Shop), Bobby King (Food Bazaar) & Johnny Orta (D'Agostino).

We were super excited to launch 2 new benefit programs for our members over the last few months. The first of which is ScriptSave Well RX Premier (for part-timers with 1 year or more only) and Augeo (for all members after 60 days). Both programs provide very different, but extremely valuable benefits for our members. While ScriptSave is a prescription drug discount program available to everyone in your home (including your pets!), Augeo will offer you a nationwide discount program, opportunities for purchasing with delayed payments on big ticket items, as well as the ability to gain savings through bundling services, even when they are from different providers! I am sure that there are a few folks out there that don't understand the reasoning behind the Well RX Premier plan, but the answer is a simple one. Years ago, when the Affordable Care Act became law, our part-time member group lost access to their prescription card. After looking into quite a few supplemental and discount programs we were happiest with Well RX Premier. We liked it so much that the Local Executive Board agreed that the Union should cover the monthly cost to increase its value for you. We hope you find these programs beneficial and most importantly we encourage you to use them!

Although the worst days of Covid are hopefully behind us, our industry is still dealing with flare ups, sickness, and new positive cases daily. So, to be safe we are still not back to 100% with in-person events like we were pre-2020, but we are slowly and safely getting back to our norms. I hope to see some of you at the next General Membership Meeting on 9/14, and I know that I will see our Stewards next on October 19th on our 2022 Virtual Shop Steward Seminar.

Until we see each other in person again, I hope you all have a healthy and productive fall, stay connected with your Union and remember to work safe!

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS OF LOCAL 1500 DELEGATES TO THE UFCW INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (to be held April 24 through April 28, 2023)

Meetings will be held at the locations listed at the bottom of page 3 for the purpose of conducting nominations for delegates to the UFCW International Convention.

**Please note: you may attend any of the listed meetings
 If you need directions, please contact your Union Representative**





LA PERSPECTIVA DEL PRESIDENTE Rob Newell, Presidente Vice Presidente Internacional



ES TEMPORADA DE UNION

Cuando llega el momento de escribir mi artículo de septiembre para el periódico, generalmente pienso en como el inminente cambio climático impacta a las personas. Para algunos, ese cambio de temperatura trae una sonrisa con pensamientos de especia de calabaza (pumpkin spice), y las vacaciones. Para otros trae lamento, por que pasaran muchos meses antes de que regresen los largos y calurosos días del verano, sin importar el clima afuera. Todos nosotros en la Local 1500 estamos ocupados trabajando todo el año para usted. No hay temperaturas en las que no estemos negociando contratos, imprimiéndolos y poniéndolos en sus manos, organizando nuevos empleadores, investigando quejas, realizando inspecciones de seguridad o cualquiera de las literalmente docenas de otras cosas que su equipo sindical hace todos los días para intentar y maximizar el valor de su membresía.

Durante el último año más o menos, nuestros organizadores le dieron al equipo negociador de la unión un poco de trabajo extra al ganar elecciones representativas en 2 ubicaciones de Foragers Market, 2 ubicaciones de Petee's Pie y nuestra primera victoria en el sector agrícola urbano, en Square Roots. Con orgullo, puedo decirles que también están trabajando activamente en no menos de otros 5 proyectos que se encuentran en diversas etapas de progreso. Este es un momento muy activo para el trabajo organizador en nuestro país y, afortunadamente, nuestro equipo se ha conectado bien con diferentes grupos de trabajadores que están listos para tener seguridad laboral, estabilidad de horarios y una voz en su lugar de trabajo. Esperamos brindarles más informes en los próximos meses sobre las victorias de organizando.

Además de negociar los primeros contratos para Petee's Pie y Square Roots, su equipo negociador actualmente también está negociando nuevos contratos en D'Agostino, Gristedes, Pick Quick Key Food (que tiene 3 contratos), Columbus Foods, King Kullen y la farmacia King Kullen. Mientras escribo esto, todas estas empresas se encuentran en diferentes etapas de negociación. Y una o mas de ellas pueden incluso resolverse antes de que se imprima este artículo. Siento que también debería mencionar que nuestros miembros también ratificaron abrumadoramente acuerdos recientes en Foragers Market, Kings, Village ShopRite, Matlyn Key Food & IGA Amagansett Super Saver. Además de todo eso, como si no fuera suficiente, también están en el proceso de negociar múltiples contratos para nuestra hermana UFCW Local 1718.

Para brindar una experiencia más inclusiva a nuestros miembros de habla hispana, hemos empezado a traducir nuestros contratos al español a medida que los liquidamos. Aunque ese proceso no estuvo exento de contratiempos desde el principio, creo que ahora hemos solucionado la mayoría de los errores. Para nuestros contratos más grandes, como VSM Fairway, Stop & Shop, SRS ShopRite y King Kullen, imprimiremos los contratos en ambos idiomas en el mismo folleto. Para nuestras tiendas más pequeñas, imprimiremos copias en español internamente y también las tendremos fácilmente. La reacción de los miembros ha sido excelente en las tiendas hasta ahora y continuaremos buscando otras oportunidades para mantenernos mejor conectados con nuestros miembros de habla hispana.

Si no ha estado en nuestras redes sociales últimamente, creo que le sorprenderá todo lo que ve si se desplaza un poco hacia atrás, vera que solo desde Julio hemos tenido una donación de sangre muy exitosa, un desayuno de becas, una recaudación de fondos de un viaje de pesca benéfica, un sorteo de útiles escolares y participaremos en el Desfile del Día del Trabajo (el 10 de Septiembre). Coordinamos y participamos en caminatas políticas laborales para los senadores estatales Gustavo Rivera y Anna Kaplan, así como para las aspirantes a senadores estatales Monica Martinez, Elizabeth Crowley y Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, además del aspirante al Congreso de EE. UU. Robert Zimmerman. También nos tomamos el tiempo para honrar a algunos de nuestros grandes miembros en Member Monday, como Corrie Fulton (Stop & Shop), Evelyn Ramos (D'Agostino), Emily Daniels (King Kullen), Daniel O' Brien (Stop & Shop), Patrick Poletti (Wild by Nature), Dougie Gentile (Stop & Shop), Bobby King (Food Bazaar) y Johnny Orta (D'Agostino).

Estamos muy emocionados de lanzar 2 nuevos programas de beneficios para nuestros miembros en los últimos meses. El primero de ellos es ScriptSave Well RX Premier (solo para trabajadores a tiempo parcial con 1 año o más) y Augeo (para todos los miembros después de 60 días). Ambos programas brindan beneficios muy diferentes, pero extremadamente valiosos para nuestros miembros. Si bien ScriptSave es un programa de descuento en medicamentos recetados disponible para todos en su hogar (¡incluidas mascotas!), Augeo le ofrecerá un programa de descuento a nivel nacional, oportunidades para comprar con pagos atrasados en artículos caros, así como la posibilidad de obtener ahorros a través de paquetes de servicios, incluso cuando son de diferentes proveedores! Estoy seguro de que hay algunas personas que no entienden el razonamiento detrás del plan Well RX Premier, pero la respuesta es simple. Hace años cuando el programa del Cuidado de Salud Asequible se convirtió en Ley, nuestro grupo de miembros a tiempo parcial perdió el acceso a su tarjeta de recetas. Después de investigar bastantes programas complementarios y de descuento, nos sentimos más satisfechos con Well RX Premier. Nos gustó tanto que la junta ejecutiva de la Local acordó que el sindicato debería cubrir el costo mensual para aumentar su valor para usted. ¡Esperamos que estos programas le resulten beneficiosos y, lo que es mas importante, le recomendamos que los utilice!

Aunque es de esperar que los peores días del COVID hayan quedado atrás, nuestra industria todavía se enfrenta a brotes, enfermedades y nuevos casos positivos a diario. Entonces, para estar seguros, todavía no hemos vuelto al 100% con eventos presenciales como antes del 2020, pero estamos volviendo a nuestras normas de forma lenta y segura. Espero ver a algunos de ustedes en la próxima reunión general de miembros el 14 de Septiembre y sé que vere a nuestros delegados el próximo 19 de Octubre en nuestro seminario virtual de delegados sindicales del 2022.

Hasta que nos volvamos a ver en persona, espero que todos tengan un otoño saludable y productivo, ¡manténganse conectados con su unión y recuerden trabajar de manera segura!

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022

NASSAU COUNTY

10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
UFCW LOCAL 1500
FRANK MEEHAN HALL
425 Merrick Ave
Westbury, NY 11590

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
TARRYTOWN WESTCHESTER
475 White Plains Rd.
Tarrytown, NY 10591

STATEN ISLAND

10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
AMALGAMATED TRANSIT
UNION LOCAL 426
3948 Amboy Rd.
Staten Island, NY 10308

QUEENS

10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
ADRIA HOTEL
221-17 Northern Blvd.
Bayside, NY 11361

SUFFOLK COUNTY

10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
RADISSON HOTEL
110 Vanderbilt Parkway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

DUTCHESS COUNTY

10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
HYATT HOUSE
FISHKILL/POUGHKEEPSIE
100 Westage Business Center Dr.
Fishkill, NY 12524

Please be advised that this notice pertains to the Nominations for Delegates to the International Convention only and has no relationship to any position or job with UFCW Local 1500.

TO BE NOMINATED: 20 Delegates (In addition to these, the President and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1500 will automatically be delegates to the Convention by virtue of their having been elected to office in accordance with the International Constitution Article 15E.)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DELEGATES: Must be an active member of Local 1500 at the time nominations are held, who has been an active member of the International Union, or who has been a member of another organization merged with or chartered by the International Union or merged into a UFCW Local Union, continuously since August 2021.





JUST FOR THE RECORD
Aly Y. Waddy, Secretary-Treasurer

BE THE CHANGE YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

Have you ever heard someone say, “That’s not my job”? Or “Let someone else worry about that”? When it comes to our Union membership, we need to be careful with thoughts and statements like those. Not caring or leaving something for the next person to deal with could potentially diminish the strength of our Union. As a member of Local 1500, you should have a responsibility to make sure the right message is being passed along.

The best way of knowing what is happening is to see it and hear it yourself. That requires you to do something active, such as to speak with your shop steward, directly with your Union Representative or more importantly, attend a meeting. If you want to have a stronger Union, you will need to occasionally step out of your comfort zone and do something about it. You have always heard us say that you are your Union. It’s made up of thousands of members, just like you. But if very few take the initiative to be active, then most of our members are missing the message. I know, I know, there are a hundred reasons why people do not attend Union meetings, but think about this for a moment...what if the number of people that attended our next Union meeting was the same number of people that did not attend our last one? How many members would be in attendance? How many members would be hearing the important news and updates directly from the leadership of Local 1500? How many more members would be armed with first-hand knowledge that wouldn’t get (unfortunately) filtered through the grapevine? How much stronger would our Union be if a thousand people showed up to a contract proposal meeting? Or our General Membership meeting? What about two thousand? The chatter throughout your jobsites the next day would be incredible. And would probably entice more people to be a part of it next time.

We cannot always depend on someone else to do the work or give us information. We need to be more proactive in using our Union membership. Too many times I’ve heard members saying that they get their updates from this person or that one, so they don’t need to attend a meeting. We in the executive office of the Local definitely appreciate your confidence in us, however, you should never take your Union membership for granted. There are employers out there that will sense the complacency of their employees with regard to supporting their Union and will take steps to change that. If your store manager walked down the aisle and heard two of you talking positively about your Union, and then heard one of you bagging for another and having a similar conversation, how long do you think it would take for your manager to speak to their counterparts and supervision about the buzz of the Union in the

stores. Your Union pride message should travel through your chain like a bad rumor, c’mon we all know how fast those travel.

Attending meetings shouldn’t be frowned upon, or looked at like a chore, or even a nuisance. Members should look at attending meetings as a necessity, or as if partaking in their livelihoods, because you are! After all, shouldn’t your job be one of your most important concerns? We have been live streaming them on Facebook for years now to make attending even easier! I am always intrigued by the thought that people pay a lot of their hard-earned money and travel long distances to attend a sporting event, something that has zero impact on their financial livelihood, yet they look at attending the General Membership Meeting as too much to do. The very place where they can get information and ask questions about their job, their paycheck, their health benefits, their retirement...their life.

I am very thankful that there are members that do relay what they’ve heard. But those folks could only reach so many others and only so often. We need to shift to having the majority of our membership involved directly. And changing toward a stronger Union doesn’t just mean attending meetings either. Tenured employees should be taking new employees under their wing and letting them know how things work. When their first, or next raise kicks in, when their life insurance or dental and vision benefits kick in? What legal services can they apply to get reimbursement for? Who are the shop stewards in the store? How to contact the Union for anything else they may need? What to do if they feel they have been scheduled incorrectly or paid incorrectly? What are the dos and don’ts of the job? How not to get into trouble at work? How does their retirement vehicle work and when can they apply for it? Are you a long-term member that has worked through different acquisitions and banner changes? Then you have a wealth of information and history you can share, that should not retire when you do.

Of course, there may be some of you reading this that may need some of these questions answered for yourselves. There is nothing wrong with asking. Reach out to your steward or to your Union Representative. If you are a member of Local 1500, we view you as our customer and your opinion matters to us about the service you are receiving. Maybe there is some change that you would like to see? We must all adapt to our environment so we can see better results. We can all grow with regard to helping people and that is what we are here for.

If you each make your Union your own responsibility, there is no limit to what we can all accomplish!





Jackie Lumley, S&S 551



Vilma Ramirez, KK 1



Chawana Campbell, SR 279



Dorothea Gardner, SR 269



Paula Eanuzzi (L)
Wendy Zuniga (R), S&S 564



Georgette Wilson, S&S 2565



Isabel Ayora, SR 202



Sharon Spooner, S&S 566



Joe Sinclair,
Mandell 890



Lilyan Ruiz & Maria Rodriguez,
Mandell 890



Lilyan Ruiz & Maribel
Burgos-Encinas, Mandell 890



Marugenia Toxtle,
Mandell 890



Jennifer Rivera, SR 269



Stacy Kilmer, S&S 540



Dennis Mooney, SR 112



UFCW LOCAL 1500 FISHING TRIP





Joseph Waddy, Executive Vice President/Recorder



COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

In 2022 we have seen some pretty good success in negotiating our contracts. In the past three months alone, we have settled and successfully ratified quite a few of them. We couldn't do it without the various member committees, and they couldn't do it without the rest of the membership. What it all boils down to is effective communication amongst us all to make your contracts successful. Actually, communication is the key to making your Union successful overall. You will see that in every conversation, the better the communication, the better the success. It should also be as obvious that the poorer the communication, the worse the product you will have.

Let's talk about your contract first. I thought about naming this article as the third in my recent series of what goes into getting you your contract. But while I may touch on that a little in this one, this article's message is more than that. This article's message is what communication can do, not only with your contract but with every aspect of your Union membership.

Now that we have gone through your negotiation process and voted it, what's next? We've all fought hard for the benefits in your contract, so now it's time to make sure all those discussions at the bargaining table translate to a real difference in your life. Not only will your representatives be visiting you and asking you if you've gotten your raise, but they will also be doing routine payroll audits to verify that information. We must make sure, among other gains, that the raises have been implemented into your company's payroll system properly, so you see it in your paycheck. Otherwise, it's all just words on paper, isn't it? All of our recent ratification votes have been held inside your stores, not off at hotels somewhere. We do that to better communicate with our membership. We can maximize the number of members from a store or neighboring stores that we get the contract settlement out to by making it easier for you to travel to vote. And for those of you who work in the stores where we hold the vote, there is zero traveling. The better the turnout, obviously the more people we communicate with.

But you should also be communicating that amongst yourselves. For those of you that voted and know what to expect and when to expect it, you should be talking to your coworkers that either couldn't vote or are new. You should be talking to the folks that you know haven't seen your respective settlements and encourage them to reach out to the Union staff if they have questions or concerns. Help educate them about their contract. You know if we do not take advantage of the benefits we have fought hard to achieve, your company may try and take it away the next time we negotiate. Think about the power of communication. It is a form, or better yet an effective tool of solidarity. If we do not properly relay information, something is being lost. Knowledge is being lost. And the ability for the person you did not speak to, to step up and seek what is potentially owed to them, will never be realized. That makes our Union weaker.

Think about this no-brainer...God forbid someone breaks into your house, are you going to expect the police to just know it happened and head on over? Or are you going to pick up the phone and communicate it to them? In some cases, it's almost a reflex to communicate. It should be the very same with your job. For example, members sometimes get suspended and never call the Union. Get involved. Some of our greatest success stories have come from members who once got jammed up for something. You never know who that new, suspended, or just poorly informed member can become. Help

them out. Talk to them about your Union and what it's about. Talk to them about your experiences as a member. If you have positive experiences, then you have to share them. And if you have negative experiences, think about what made them negative. Think about what could have made them better. Did you properly communicate that experience so that it could be addressed? Wouldn't you want to make sure that never happens to someone else? If you are reading this, then chances are you recently read our Secretary-Treasurer's article in this edition about being the change you would like to see. Ask yourself if you are being part of the problem or part of the solution. It is in your hands to turn things around... both to the positive or unfortunately the negative. The power of your Union, and the measure of its success is up to you.

One of the things that is very important to Rob, Aly, and me is the role of Shop Stewards at their locations. We prepare many weeks in advance for our Shop Steward Seminars, whether they be virtual or in person. We take the time to talk amongst ourselves about the most important messages so we can present a comprehensive and informative seminar. We'd like to see stewards approach the membership with a similar type of preparation. By learning your coworkers' needs and wants you can address them properly. Shop Stewards should be engaging with members, both active and inactive. Stewards should be showing other members what they do as a steward to help their coworkers. Whether it be contract related or not, turning people out to a meeting, getting participation for a fundraiser, attending a parade, showing up to a rally, coming to a political event, or a job action are all Steward responsibilities. Stewards should be priming their more active members in their stores to take over as stewards when they retire, get transferred, or even promoted. But, stewards, do you feel you are as informed as you could or should be? Maybe there is something that you need more information on? Is there some contract knowledge that you need to brush up on? Are you possibly a new steward that has only attended one or two seminars? If there is something you need? If so, don't wait for the seminar to ask your representatives, they are always around, as are the executive team. There is nothing better than knowing you helped someone learn something they wanted or needed to. But, with the knowledge and experience you do have, are you doing your part to properly communicate with your coworkers at your jobsite? If not, then ask yourself why not? Always remember, stewards, you are the great communicators at your site. We send information to you first, to be distributed throughout your job site and you pass information to the Union staff as you hear it. When everyone is in the know it puts us all in a better position.

We cannot afford to be inactive in this Union. We have to take care of each other in this Union. That is the definition of a Union. We all have a part to play in delivering effective communication. Department managers should be training their staff to one day become department managers, and so on. Shop Stewards should be engaging with members, both active and inactive. We all have to do our part to make sure this Union stays as strong, if not stronger in years to come. Communication is the key to our success.

As our Local Union President has said, we must put aside our differences and come together as a cohesive membership. We cannot allow bad days or bad feelings about someone prevent us from talking to each other, especially when it is about making our Union stronger.

Thank you for your membership in our great Union.





BLOOD DRIVE





**ON AUGUST 2ND 2022, UFCW
LOCAL 1500 HELD ITS ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST WHERE
\$66,000 WAS AWARDED TO 20 MEMBERS
AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.**



2022 Scholarship

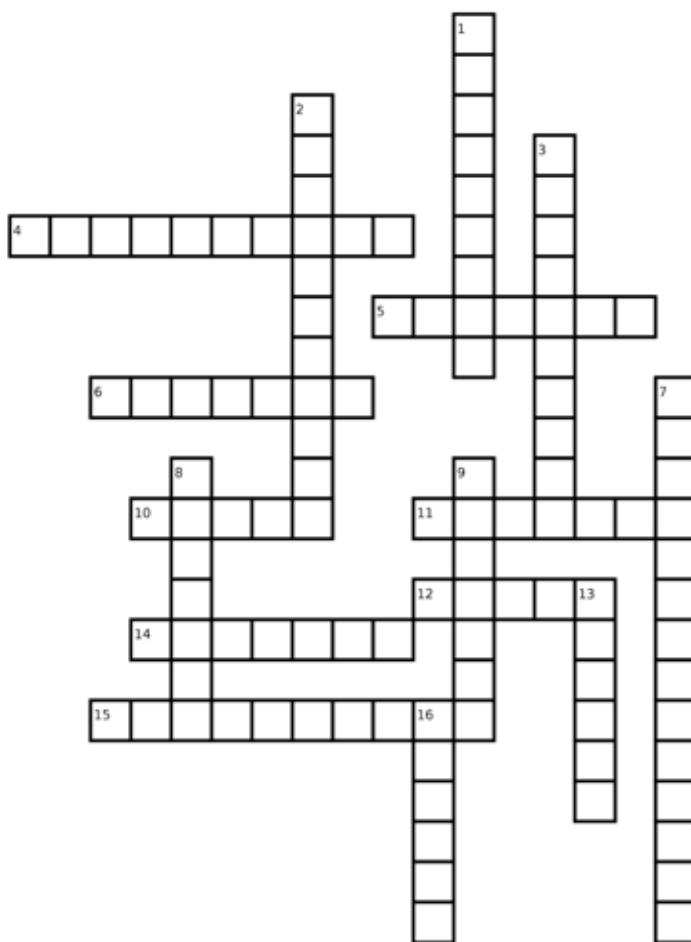


Winners

PENSION WORD BANK PUZZLE



Early
Divorce
Identification
Benefit
Reciprocity
Payment
Normal
Spouse
Vesting
Disability
Years
Contiguous
Retirement
Paperwork
Pension
Service



Down:

1. routine clerical or record-keeping work often incidental to a more important task
2. allows you to move from one retirement system to another without losing your benefits
3. noncovered employment for an Individual Employer maintaining the Plan which immediately precedes or follows Covered Employment without a quit retirement or discharge between the covered and noncovered employment
7. a means of proving a person's identity especially in the form of official papers
8. Payment is the transfer of money goods or services in exchange for goods and services
9. an advantage or profit gained from something
13. married person
16. employment is terminated on or after his Normal Retirement Age. Payment of a Normal Retirement Pension shall commence as of the first day of the month

Across:

4. permanently or temporarily unable to work due to a disability
5. the time in years, and prorated for fractional years that a member has contributed to the fund
6. the legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body
10. retire before the normal retirement age and receive a reduced pension
11. a regular payment made during a person's retirement, a fixed monthly payment in retirement that is guaranteed for life
12. a period of time
14. to give or earn a right to a present or future payment asset or benefit
15. the action or fact of leaving one's job and ceasing to work



Fallon Ager, Director of Region 1 – Northeastern

UFCW CALLS ON CONGRESS TO ADDRESS WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Keeping members of Local 1500 and all of our members safe in the workplace is a key priority for our union.

On May 31, UFCW International President Marc Perrone sent a letter about the issue of workplace violence and safety to Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy. In the letter, which followed the tragic and senseless mass shooting at a Tops Friendly Markets store in Buffalo, N.Y., where UFCW Local One members are employed, and a second horrific mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, Perrone called on Congress to do two things: take action to address workplace violence, in part by passing the STOP Violence Act, and hold a Congressional hearing on the issue that includes workers' voices.

The STOP Violence Act would make grocery stores eligible for the same federal funding provided to other workplaces that regularly experience incidents of violence in the workplace. Representative

Joe Neguse (Colo.-02) introduced the bill roughly one year after UFCW Local 7 members were victims of workplace gun violence during another mass shooting at the Table Mesa King Soopers store in Boulder, Colo.

The UFCW has been a leading advocate for improving workplace safety in all forms, including actions that can help address gun violence in the workplace. In addition to our union's advocacy for legislation that seeks to directly improve efforts to address workplace gun violence, the UFCW also hosts training sessions for locals around the issue of workplace violence, and provides resources for UFCW members who have experienced violence in the workplace.

You can learn more about the UFCW's call on Congress to address workplace violence and safety at <https://www.uncw.org/press-releases/uncw-calls-for-congressional-hearing-to-address-workplace-threats-and-violence/>.



*Congratulations
Greg Pasquale,
on your appointment to
Field Director*



*Congratulations
Robert Ecker,
on your appointment to
Assistant Field Director*

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS FROM
PETEE'S PIES AND SQUARE ROOTS**

**WELCOME
TO OUR UNION!**



NEW MEDICAL NUMBERS

Effective July 1, 2022, you and your dependents medical ID numbers have changed. You should have received new medical cards with your new ID number. If you have not received a new medical ID card please contact Associated Administrators, LLC at 1-855-266-1500 to request a new card.

Notice of Creditable Coverage Regarding Your Prescription Drug Coverage

The following Notice of Creditable Coverage applies to all Medicare-eligible participants, retirees, and/or spouses.

Please read this notice carefully and keep it for future reference. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with the UFCW Local 1500 Welfare Fund (the "Fund") and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

2. The UFCW Local 1500 Welfare Fund has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Fund is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th to December 7th.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period ("SEP") to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Fund coverage will not be affected. Your Fund coverage will pay primary to Medicare.

When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with the UFCW Local 1500 Welfare Fund and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following November to join.

For More Information about This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage Contact Associated Administrators for further information toll free at (855) 266-1500. NOTE: You will receive this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through the UFCW Local 1500 Welfare Fund changes. You can also request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information about Your Options under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You will receive a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov;
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help; or
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Date: September 2020

Name of Entity/Sender: Associated Administrators, LLC
UFCW Local 1500 Welfare Fund
P. O. Box 1095
Sparks, MD 21152-1095

Telephone: (855) 266-1500

In Memoriam

Local 1500 mourns the passing of the following members. To their families and friends, we extend our deepest sympathy. May they rest in peace.

Aguila, Neftali	Montalto, Jack
Aguirre, Violeta	Montilli, Camille
Barone, Frances	Northrip, Kenneth
Bourguignon, David	O'Connell, Mary
Burkard, Christopher C.	O'Conner, Michael
Burkowitz, Sharon	Oropeza, Felix
Castlebury, Rosemarie T	Oropeza, Francisco A.
Clarke, Arthur	Paiz, Ana
Corrado, Frances N.	Perez, Edward
Devito, Nicholas	Perez, Gonzalo
DiBenedetto, Salvatore	Popke, Harold
Donato, George	Radinsky, Harry
Estrada-Alfonso, Victor A	Ramjas, Seepaul
Fiore, Catherine	Rogers, Donald J
Gilberg, Andrew	Rosado, Fernando
Huzior, Walter H.	Rosen, Burton
Kelly, Gwendolyn	Ryder, Edward K
Lamontia, Marion	Scansarole, John
Lisa, Edward J.	Serafini, Ronald T.
Mancuso, Antonio	Turek, John
Marrero, Michael	Velez, Esther
Milligan, Michael	Yacuel, Rose



VISION SCREENING
www.vscreening.com

To All Eligible Participants of Local 1500 U.F.C.W.

Our Vision Centers will provide a Comprehensive Eye Exam and Rx Lenses with **No Out-of-pocket** cost to you, if you stay within the Plan coverage.

Just contact one of the conveniently located optical centers listed on this brochure for an appointment. The center will verify your eligibility at the time of your visit.

It's that easy!
For a center near you, visit our web site at www.vscreening.com

Your eyesight is a precious gift. **Protect it!**



50 BONUS DOLLARS
For All Eligible Members
\$50.00
Off Second Pair of Eyeglasses
(Maximum Retail Value of Frame: \$175.00)

BONUS DOLLARS

- Limit One \$50.00 coupon per person
- Not valid with any other offers, except as packaged
- This offer excludes contact lenses

NOT redeemable at participating optical centers. See participating optical centers for details.

NEED A WITHDRAWAL CARD?

Send an email to wcards@ufcw1500.org with the following content in the email:

- Name
- Store Number
- Company
- Last Day Worked

For further questions on withdrawal cards, please contact your union representative. You can also send a letter requesting a withdrawal card to:

UFCW Local 1500 Attn: Rosanne Wynne-Torres
425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY, 11590

VALUE OF MY UNION

TOTAL # OF PENSIONERS
YTD 2022 :
4,041

TOTAL PENSION
DISBURSEMENTS YTD 2022 :
\$17,544,628.46

Prescription Drug Exclusions

We advise all members that the Trustees have specifically indicated that any drugs purchased in the following stores will **NOT** be reimbursed under the Local 1500 Welfare Fund Prescription Plan under any conditions:

K-MART, C.V.S., WALMART, SAM'S, PRICE CHOPPER, COSTCO, BJ'S, (SAVON DRUGS, SUPER X & BROOKS DRUGS), WALGREENS, TARGET & HANNAFORD.



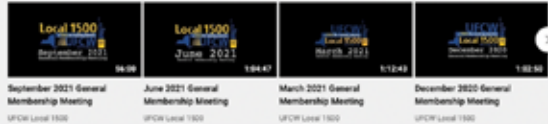
Bulletin Board

General Membership Meetings

General Membership Meetings

▶ PLAY ALL

A recap of our previous General Membership Meetings. Be sure to check out all your union news.



YOU CAN WATCH AN ARCHIVE OF OUR PAST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL. JUST CLICK ON THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PLAYLIST OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

Local 1500

a UAW for working America

UFCW



WATCH IT ON
YouTube

THE Advocate



Check out our latest
Member Spotlight Video



SCAN CODE



with
Yarixa Rodriguez

LOCAL 1500 RETIREES

The officers of UFCW Local 1500 extend their warmest congratulations to these new Retirees and urge them to join the Union's Retiree Club. Contact Terri Gorman, 516-214-1330 or Monique Suarez, 516-214-1333.

Albano, Thomas A.	Estrada, Melba	Perez, Cheryl
Allende, Linda	Ewart, Cosmo	Perez, Nereida C.
Alleva, Robert S	Flannery, Patrick J	Perez, Noelia
Aponte, Sonia E.	Flynn, Cynthia	Prendergast, Debra A
Armellino, Susan M.	Grin, Nilsa V	Proscia, Patricia A.
Bertuglia, Pietro	Henry, Leroy H	Puntoompote, Pranee
Bhattacharya, Mita	Hiller, Joseph H.	Radhakrishnan, Saradha
Brown, Rita E.	Johnson, Gloria A.	Rockstrow, Doris
Buchholz, Angela M	Judd, Debra	Rodriguez, Hector
Buckheit, Sallyann M	Keller, Therese A	Roman, Anthony
Bulak, Thomas	Kelty, Noreen	Rueda, Melanie M.
Caiza, Jose	Larsen, Keith	Ruiz, Yvonne
Camirand, Glenn	Leise, Janice M	Ruke, Susan
Campbell, Debra	Leonard, Edward J.	Saelzer, Karen M.
Chavez, Roberto A	Link, Patricia	Sanders, Levon
Cho, Anna Y	Lithgow, Thomas	Sarvaideo, Louise
Cody, Sally	Lourenco, Maria	Searles, Diane M
Conaty, Joan B	Lundberg, Robert	Sinacore, George A
Conforti, Cyndee A	Macario, Elizabeth M	Smikle, Herbert
Connallon, Catherine	Maggio, Geraldine	Smith Jr, Donald J
Cordone, Helene	Mangani, Dianna	Soldano, Joanne
Cruz, Octavio	Martinez, Pedro M	Somelofski, Dennis
Cucinelli, Patricia	Matullo, Debra	Sorkin, Jacalyn
Cunningham, Michael B	Milford, Charles E	Steinberg, Leonard S.
Daly, Julie A	Millbrandt, Theresa	Syrakowski, Edward
D'Auria, Karen S.	Monks, Denise A.	Trout, Marlene
Demola, Joyce M	Moore, Bernetta A.	Ventura Barahona, Rosa
Devito, Deborah A	Murray, Thomas N	Vilardi, Frank
Dibenedetto, Cheryl	Myera, Delroy	Wawrzonek, Matthew
Dolcemasciola, Jayne	Ng, Lai Shan	White, James
Dooner, Doreen F	O'Flaherty, Tom P	Willette, Antonella
Dunn, Steven R.	Olmeda, Ralph	Williams, Alexander
Edwards, Donna	Ortega, Maryuri A.	Zitterman, Karen A.
Eladia, Guzman	Patel, Kaushik A.	

VALUE OF MY UNION

**Legal Reimbursements
To Members YTD 2022 :**

\$43,330

**Members Assisted By
Legal Services YTD 2022 :**

325

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Wednesday, June 14, 2023



ALL MEETINGS START AT 7:00 P.M.

UFCW LOCAL 1500, FRANK MEEHAN HALL
425 MERRICK AVENUE, WESTBURY, NY 11590

Prizes Will Be Awarded!

KINGS CONTRACT UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 1ST 2022

LOCAL 1500 MEMBERS EMPLOYED BY KINGS
SUPERMARKETS HAVE UNANIMOUSLY RATIFIED
THEIR CONTRACT TONIGHT!!

THE MEMBERS FROM THE KINGS NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDED THE DEAL THAT WAS REACHED, AND TODAY OUR
MEMBERSHIP AT KINGS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON IT.
WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THE KINGS MEMBERS VOTED IN
THEIR NEW CONTRACT!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE AND
MEMBERS OF KINGS SUPERMARKETS FOR STANDING STRONG
AND STANDING TOGETHER!!



**WATCH OUR
FRIDAY FUNNIES
ON YOUTUBE**

SCAN HERE TO WATCH



@UFCW1500



@UFCW1500

**SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH
YOUTUBE CHANNEL**



Any suggestions or comments for the Advocate?
Send us your feedback to
INFO@UFCW1500.ORG



FRANK MEEHAN HALL OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT LIST

516-214-1300 • 800-522-0456

General Office Hours, Pension, Welfare, Legal Services & Annuity, Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm.



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1305 Newell, Rob - President
1305 Waddy, Aly - Secretary-Treasurer
1303 Waddy, Joseph - Executive Vice President/Recorder
1304 Santarpia, Paul - Director of Operations
1351 Wright, Michele - Office Manager
1305 Andrade, Stefanie - Executive Assistant to the President

FIELD DIRECTORS

1356 Pasquale, Greg - Gpasquale@ufcw1500.org

ASSISTANT FIELD DIRECTOR

1353 Ecker, Rob - Recker@ufcw1500.org
1340 Scorzelli, Jay - Jscorzelli@ufcw1500.org

DUES REFUND

1351 Wright, Michele - Mwright@ufcw1500.org

WITHDRAWAL CARDS

1332 Wynne-Torres, Rosanne - Rwynne@ufcw1500.org

S.O.L.A.R.

1345 Levitan, Zachariah - Zlevitan@ufcw1500.org

UNION REPRESENTATIVES

1334 Brijlall, David - Davidb@ufcw1500.org
1362 Byfield, Desmond - Dbyfield@ufcw1500.org
1371 Flores, Vilmarie - Vflores@ufcw1500.org
1317 Guardado, Jeff - Jguardado@ufcw1500.org
1346 Guardado, Juan - Juang@ufcw1500.org
1358 Mauleon, Rafael - Rmauleon@ufcw1500.org
1339 Shiels, Lynn - Lshiels@ufcw1500.org
1349 Walter, Fred Jr. - Fwalter@ufcw1500.org
1311 Zeiner, Steven - Szeiner@ufcw1500.org

DIRECT LINE 516-214-1300

MEMBERSHIP SERVICING REPRESENTATIVES

1322 Guelee, Gina - Gguelee@ufcw1500.org
1350 Kapogiannopoulos, George - Georgek@ufcw1500.org
1360 Lostumbo, Alicia - Alostumbo@ufcw1500.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

1374 Allen, Nicholas - Nallen@ufcw1500.org
Media & Communications Coordinator
1372 Thomas, Tarrik - Tthomas@ufcw1500.org

PENSION FUND

1330 Gorman, Terri - Tgorman@ufcw1500.org
1333 Suarez, Monique - Msuares@ufcw1500.org

ANNUITY FUND

1314 Mcglone, Christine -
Cmcglone@ufcw1500.org

MEDICAL - VISION - DENTAL - FORMS

1336 Merlos, Carla - Cmerlos@ufcw1500.org
1337 Sefcik, Michelle - Msefcik@ufcw1500.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1329 Ellison-Bates, Arnetta -
Abates@ufcw1500.org

WELFARE FUND BENEFITS

Associated Administrators, LLC 855-266-1500

LEGAL SERVICE FUND

1310 Punzo, Wendy - Wpunzo@ufcw1500.org

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

1310 Punzo, Wendy - Wpunzo@ufcw1500.org

**CHECK US OUT
@UFCW1500.org**

MY UNION HAS VALUE

**EMAIL US AT
INFO@UFCW1500.org**