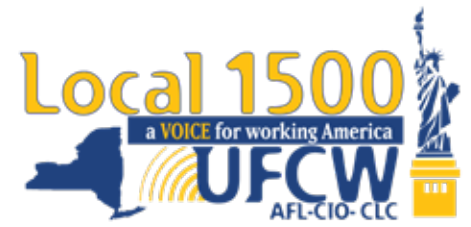


# THE Advocate



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THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE  
**Rob Newell, President**



## Reopening Safely and Wisely

As Summer approaches and Covid positivity rates have dropped to record-lows, we are all faced with re-opening. Re-opening can take on many different meanings depending on who you talk to. For our members it means the State and CDC's removal of the mask mandates for vaccinated folks and eliminating capacity limitations that have been in place for over a year. This news brought mixed feelings for many people, including me. On one hand, there is a desire to get back to pre-Covid normalcy, but on the other is the concern about ensuring everyone's safety. I have said since the pandemic began that recognizing and accepting "the end" was going to be a very difficult process. See when it rains and you walk outside, you get wet. When you smell something awful and enough wind blows, or time passes, the smell dissipates. When you're thirsty and you take a drink, you're refreshed. A little more simply, when you lose 4 games in the NHL playoffs, your season is over. But how or when do you really know that a public health crisis is over? When you can't see, touch, smell, hear or taste the virus how does you know when it's over?

That level of uncertainty can often lead to more questions than answers. When that happens, people's individual opinions, faith, or belief tends to take over. The reality that many of us live in today is one that says if your opinion is different than mine, you're wrong. Mask wearing, like the entire pandemic, became a very politically charged topic almost immediately. That's where being the representative for over 17,000 opinions and their families became difficult. At no point during this crisis have we allowed our focus to be on anything other than keeping our members safe in the workplace. To do that we listened to the same guidance that many of you did, except we always tried to push the envelope a little further to provide an extra level of safety, even when it annoyed some of you.

In our positions, it's not about being everyone's favorite or wasting time trying to find a way to shove a banana through the eye of a needle. We must focus on the best information we have on hand at the time and try to adapt quickly and intelligently to ensure you are safer today than they were yesterday. This recent change of guidance gave many people relief from wearing that dreadful mask that you have been forced to wear for over a year. Unfortunately, it also left us with a few degrees of pause. Is it really time? Are enough people vaccinated to make this decision a safe one for our membership? The answer is I don't know and like many other moments during the pandemic we are thinking with more caution to be as safe as possible. We have asked your Employers not to relax the mask mandates wherever possible, and to continue to require customers and vendors to wear masks in your stores. Some of your employers will take different actions than others, but I assure you that we are working with all of them to find the best solutions. This will not be a one size fit's all scenario that's for sure.

There is no doubt that our position is annoying some of you. But to other members it's the right move to make. As your representatives

we will always lean towards the side of extra protection. We also can't bend or bow to an unhappy public, no matter how many anonymous emails, letters, or social media posts we receive complaining about it. I don't apologize for who we are or what we stand for. I am proud to stand up for our members, I've been doing it for over 30 years. We will continue to take every precaution, popular or not, to protect our members while on the job.

It wasn't that long ago when the CDC thought that masks wouldn't help keep anyone safe, boy did that change. After all you have been through, taking a little extra time to see this crisis safely through to the end seems more than appropriate. I don't, and will not, comment about what you do when you are away from the job, or your vaccination status, that is 100% up to you. But while you're in your shops, our job is to protect you the best way we can, and that is exactly what we are going to do. As far as the public goes, if you don't want to wear a mask around our members, whether you're vaccinated or not, abide by social distancing rules and consider using the multitudes of online and click and collect options that our members and Employers currently provide you. Keep shopping but don't forget, or ever take for granted, the group of workers that kept your families fed for the last year plus!

As far as the Union staff goes, like you, we never stopped working throughout the pandemic. As a matter of fact, we have added a bunch of new staff, re-vamped the Pension department, won 2 Union Supermarket elections in NYC, and we may have another few victories in manufacturing coming our way as well. Our Membership Servicing Representative program is now a 3-person operation (we are still looking for a 4th member) and we've also hired and promoted new Union Representatives. We have started a new staff team here called the SOLAR squad (stay tuned for more details about that). And we are finally announcing plans to re-open the Union Office to in person events. If everything stays on the path it is now, we will begin our re-opening by bringing our Executive Board back in September, our Retiree clubs back in October and having our first in person General Membership Meeting in December. I know this may seem like a long way off to some of you, but we feel it is the most prudent schedule to follow to ensure everyone's safety.

In closing I want to say thank you and congratulations to all our 2021 Scholarship Winners. This was an amazing year for your member Scholarship program, and we look forward to continuing to build on it in the future. Remember to watch out for the school supply/backpack giveaway posts on our social media, and please try to participate in the multitude of fundraising events we currently have, or will have, going on out there. As always, I thank you for the honor of being your President and want to wish you all a great and happy Summer.

**Stay safe out there and remember MyUnionHasValue!**







LA PERSPECTIVA DEL PRESIDENTE  
**Rob Newell, Presidente**



## Reapertura segura y sabia

"A medida que se acerca el verano y las tasas de positividad de Covid han caído a mínimos históricos, todos nos enfrentamos a la reapertura. La reapertura puede tomar muchos significados diferentes dependiendo de con quién hables. Para nuestros miembros significa la eliminación por parte del Estado y los CDC de los mandatos de máscaras para las personas vacunadas y la eliminación de las limitaciones de capacidad que han estado vigentes durante más de un año. Esta noticia trajo sentimientos encontrados para muchas personas, incluyéndome a mí. Por un lado, hay un deseo de volver a la normalidad pre-Covid, pero por otro la preocupación por garantizarla seguridad de todos. He dicho desde que comenzó la pandemia que reconocer y aceptar "el final" iba a ser un proceso muy difícil. Mira cuando llueve y caminas afuera, te mojas. Cuando hueles algo horrible y sopla suficiente viento, o pasa el tiempo, el olor se disipa. Cuando tienes sed y tomas una copa, estás refrescado. Un poco más simple, cuando pierdes 4 juegos en los playoffs de la NHL, tu temporada ha terminado. Pero, ¿cómo o cuándo sabes realmente que una crisis de salud pública ha terminado? Cuando no puedes ver, tocar, oler, oír o probar el virus, ¿cómo sabes cuándo ha terminado?

Ese nivel de incertidumbre a menudo puede conducir a más preguntas que respuestas. Cuando eso sucede, las opiniones individuales, la fe o la creencia de las personas tienden a tomar el control. La realidad en la que muchos de nosotros vivimos hoy en día es una que dice que si tu opinión es diferente a la mía, estás equivocado. El uso de mascarillas, como toda la pandemia, se convirtió en un tema muy cargado políticamente casi de inmediato. Ahí es donde ser el representante de más de 17,000 opiniones y sus familias me resulta difícil. En ningún momento durante esta crisis hemos permitido que nuestro enfoque esté en otra cosa que no sea mantener a nuestros miembros seguros en el lugar de trabajo. Para hacer eso, escuchamos la misma orientación que muchos de ustedes, excepto que siempre tratamos de empujar el sobre un poco más allá para proporcionar un nivel adicional de seguridad, incluso cuando molestaba a algunos de ustedes.

En nuestras posiciones, no se trata de ser el favorito de todos o perder el tiempo tratando de encontrar una manera de empujar un plátano a través del ojo de una aguja. Debemos centrarnos en la mejor información que tenemos a mano en ese momento y tratar de adaptarnos de forma rápida e inteligente para garantizar que estés más seguro hoy que ayer. Este reciente cambio de orientación dio a muchas personas alivio de usar esa máscara terrible que se han visto obligados a usar durante más de un año. Desafortunadamente, también nos dejó con algunos grados de pausa. ¿Es realmente el momento? ¿Hay suficientes personas vacunadas para que esta decisión sea segura para nuestra membresía? La respuesta es que no lo sé y como muchos otros momentos durante la pandemia estamos pensando con más precaución para estar lo más seguros posible. Hemos pedido a sus empleadores que no relajen los mandatos de máscaras siempre que sea posible, y que continúen requiriendo a los clientes y vendedores que usen máscaras en sus tiendas. Algunos de sus empleadores tomarán acciones diferentes a otras, pero les aseguro que estamos trabajando con todos ellos para encontrar las mejores soluciones. Este no será un escenario de ajuste de talla única que es seguro.

No hay duda de que nuestra posición está molestando a algunos de ustedes. Pero a otros miembros es el movimiento correcto para hacer.

Como sus representantes, siempre nos inclinaremos por el lado de la protección adicional. Nosotros también no podemos doblar o inclinarnos ante un público infeliz, no importa cuántos correos electrónicos anónimos, cartas, o mensajes de medios sociales que recibimos quejarse de ello. No me disculpo por lo que somos o lo que representamos. Estoy orgulloso de defender a nuestros miembros, lo he estado haciendo por más de 30 años. Nosotros continuaremos tomando todas las precauciones, populares o no, para proteger a nuestros miembros mientras están en el trabajo.

No fue hace mucho tiempo cuando los CDC pensaron que las máscaras no ayudarían a mantener a nadie a salvo, y que rápido cambio. Después de todo lo que ha pasado, tomarse un poco más de tiempo para ver esta crisis de forma segura hasta el final parece más que apropiado. No comento, y no lo haré, sobre lo que haces cuando estás fuera del trabajo, o tu estado de vacunación, eso depende 100% de ti. Pero mientras estás en tus tiendas, nuestro trabajo es protegerte de la mejor manera que podamos, y eso es exactamente lo que vamos a hacer. En lo que respecta al público, si no desea usar una máscara alrededor de nuestros miembros, ya sea que esté vacunado o no, cumpla con las reglas de distanciamiento social y considere usar las multitudes de opciones en línea que nuestros miembros y empleadores le brindan actualmente. ¡Sigue comprando pero no olvides, o alguna vez des por sentado, el grupo de trabajadores que mantuvo a tus familias alimentadas durante el último año más!

En lo que respecta al personal del Sindicato, como ustedes, nunca dejamos de trabajar durante la pandemia. De hecho, hemos agregado un montón de nuevo personal, hemos renovado el departamento de pensiones, ganamos 2 elecciones de supermercado en Nueva York, y podemos tener otras pocas victorias en la fabricación que viene en nuestro camino, así. Nuestro programa de Representante de Servicio de Membresía es ahora una operación de 3 personas (todavía estamos buscando un cuarto miembro) y también hemos contratado y promovido a nuevos Representantes sindicales. Hemos comenzado un nuevo equipo de personal aquí llamado el escuadrón SOLAR (estad atentos para más detalles sobre eso). Y finalmente estamos anunciando planes para reabrir la Oficina de la Unión para eventos presenciales. Si todo se mantiene en el camino que es ahora, comenzaremos nuestra reapertura trayendo a nuestra Junta Ejecutiva de vuelta en septiembre, nuestros clubes de jubilados en octubre y teniendo nuestra primera Reunión General de Membresía en persona en Diciembre. Sé que esto puede parecer un largo camino para algunos de ustedes, pero creemos que es el horario más prudente a seguir para garantizar la seguridad de todos.

Para terminar quiero dar las gracias y felicitar a todos nuestros ganadores de becas 2021. Este fue un año increíble para su programa de becas para miembros, y esperamos continuar construyendo sobre él en el futuro. Recuerde tener cuidado con los mensajes de regalos de suministros escolares / mochilas en nuestras redes sociales, y por favor trate de participar en la multitud de eventos de recaudación de fondos que actualmente tenemos, o tendremos, pasando por ahí. Como siempre, les agradezco el honor de ser su Presidente y quiero desearles a todos un gran y feliz verano.

**Manténgase a salvo por ahí y recuerde MiUnionTieneValor!**





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

## Back to “Normal”

It seems as if the world is getting back to normal. But what does that really mean? Will things ever be “normal” again? What we have seen over the past eighteen months would seem to constitute not only a new normal, but a new environment, wouldn’t it? We all have become more cognizant of our surroundings in efforts to protect the health of our families, right?

But what we have also seen developing is an environment that now has workers acutely more aware of their working conditions. It is becoming more apparent every day that workers want to reclaim their workplace, and especially their working conditions. They want to see better improvements and protections, not only at the job, but from the job.

Supermarket and other retail workers have always been challenged with the notion that there is lower to no skill needed to perform their jobs. That is an untruth that has recently been exposed to many people outside of our industry. It is unfortunate that it took a pandemic and the loss of life to bring these facts to the forefront. Nothing happens in our communities without the skills that essential workers possess, and it is time that society recognizes the hard work and sacrifice those essential workers, just like our members, have done not only in 2020 and 2021 but have always done and will always be expected to do.

Now it may be an entertaining process to watch the presidential or mayoral races, but many of the topics that are argued back and forth between the sides pertain to you and have an impact on your lives. Some positive and some negative. We want to work as partners with our elected officials to achieve the best outcomes for our members and our communities, but in some cases the decisions that are made can have an adverse effect on our members. “Leveling the playing field” is a term that is often used, however, if by leveling it they mean bringing down labor standards that we have fought to achieve, then we all need to reexamine what they are doing. We are all for leveling the playing field, but not for lowering it. Accomplishments such as quickly and dramatically raising the minimum wage creates what is called wage compression, which is problematic for some, whose salaries now fall at, or just above minimum wage. That problem and solution was not considered when the law was being drafted. Another phrase that is often used in our world is “a rising tide lifts all boats.” Unfortunately, this does not apply to all of our members when we speak about raising the minimum wage.

Other topics that are discussed amongst candidates that affect you are retirement security, healthcare security, and job security...all of which Local 1500 has always fought hard to protect for you. Unions have multiple layers of protections for their members, but we need to hold our elected officials accountable to fight for the same. If your jobs are the foundations of your respective communities, you need to be respected as such. You are called heroes and essential, yet, for example, your Union had to fight to get you included on the vaccination roll-out list. That does not make sense. Why is that? Again, it boils down to accountability.

Have you ever looked up the meaning of “essential”? Here are some words that come up: “absolutely necessary; crucial; key; vital; indispensable; needed; required.” To all of the essential workers out there... you show up to work at times when no one else can...or will. People need to respect that. When there is an impending blizzard or hurricane, everyone else runs to you for the services you provide. People need to realize that it has always been like that. However, it seems when the time comes to properly show you the respect you deserve, there is difficulty. Whether from elected officials or even your business owners, there seems to be a struggle to make it clear that essential workers should come first and not last. We will continue the fight.

Local 1500 led the charge in pandemic protections, whether it was fighting for legislation to protect essential workers or working with our company officials to secure pandemic leave and install plexiglass barriers, or working with local elected officials to secure masks, hand sanitizer, and other forms of PPE for our membership when there were none to be found, we did it. There were many workplaces that remained open during the pandemic state-wide shut down, where employees were uncertain of what they would encounter when they went to work. Uncertain of where they could get their hands on life-protecting PPE. Uncertain if they would keep their job if they or a family member got sick. Uncertain to stand up and voice their concerns about their own lives.

Imagine a world where we did not have these uncertainties? Where the very people that are crucial or vital to their communities did not have to worry about their safety at work; where they also did not have to worry about what their salary will be in the next five years; where people who are absolutely necessary to moving our economy didn’t have to worry about having a better future for their families or worry about their retirement? That world actually exists. That world is possible if workers had a Union, and in fact we have been seeing a shift toward workers realizing that the time to be recognized is now.

It is for these reasons and more, that we have recently seen workers turn to unionizing their workplaces. Earlier this Spring, the employees of the Foragers Markets in both Chelsea, Manhattan and Dumbo, Brooklyn voted unanimously to be represented by Local 1500. They want the respect and protections that we have been able to consistently bring to thousands of workers in the Tri-State area. With them are the employees of the Monfefe organic juice company, who are also taking steps toward a better workplace. Congratulations to all of these workers for standing up, standing strong, and standing together, and we proudly welcome you to our Local 1500 family!

Local 1500 will continue to fight for the rights, dignity, and respect of all workers who need it. We are committed to establishing an environment where our membership is included in the decision-making processes that take place, whether at your company or your local, city, or state levels.





## *Congratulations And Welcome To Our Family!*



Local 1500 is proud to welcome the employees of Foragers Market to the UFCW family. In April, the employees of the Dumbo, Brooklyn and Chelsea, Manhattan, Foragers Market locations UNANIMOUSLY voted in favor of being represented by Local 1500!



## HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENTS



**Tyler Friedlander**  
King Kullen – PT  
\$8000 Winner



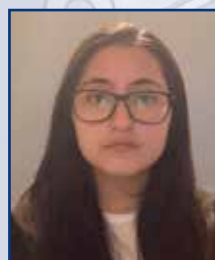
**Caroline O'Hara**  
King Kullen – PT  
\$8000 Winner



**Samantha Otranto**  
King Kullen #55 – PT  
\$8000 Winner



**Cassidy Truocchio**  
Dep. of Thomas  
Truocchio, King Kullen  
\$4000 Winner



**Mayrin Sanchez**  
Dep. of Julia Toledo-  
Acros, ShopRite  
\$4000 Winner



**William Mah**  
Dep. of Alfred Mah,  
Stop & Shop – FT  
\$4000 Winner



**James Medina**  
Dep. of Victor Medina,  
King Kullen – FT  
\$4000 Winner



**Rey H. Jean**  
Dep. of DonnaMarie  
Hughes, ShopRite  
Mannix – FT  
\$2000 Winner



**Margaret Schatz**  
Dep. of Maryanne  
Schatz, Stop & Shop  
\$2000 Winner



**Emma Witt**  
Dep. Of Debbie Witt,  
Stop & Shop – FT  
\$2000 Winner



**Joseph Cummo,**  
King Kullen – PT  
\$2000 Winner



**Amanda Parisi**  
Dep. of Nancy Parisi,  
Stop & Shop – FT  
\$2000 Winner

## PART TIME COLLEGE & TRADE SCHOOL RECIPIENTS



**Tyler Hawks**  
King Kullen  
\$2000 Winner



**Andrew Cabram**  
Dep. of Pete Cabram,  
Stop & Shop – PT  
\$2000 Winner



**Nertha Meus**  
Stop & Shop – PT  
\$2000 Winner



**Orlando Oropeza**  
King Kullen – PT  
\$2000 Winner



**Stephanie  
Champney**  
King Kullen – PT  
\$2000 Winner



**Craig Laliberte**  
BuonaDonna  
ShopRite – PT  
\$2000 Winner

## FULL TIME COLLEGE RECIPIENTS



**Katiera Dickinson**  
BuonaDonna ShopRite – PT  
\$2000 Winner



**Bertrina Prescott**  
Glass Gardens ShopRite – PT  
\$2000 Winner



**Joseph DePinto**  
King Kullen – PT  
\$2000 Winner







**Joseph Waddy, Executive Vice President/Recorder**



## Building (And Protecting) Our Future

One of our older slogans is “Preserving our Past and Building Our Future.” We will always remember the struggles our forefathers and foremothers endured to make this Union the great entity it is today. Hard-fought battles that resulted in improvements in working conditions and benefits over the years are the foundation our Union is built on. We should never forget where we came from. But as we look forward to the future, what steps do we need to take to ensure that we not only keep what we have achieved and attain more, but also insulate our membership from any unforeseen pitfalls or danger that may arise?

Let us face it, the world has changed over the past 18 months, and we need to adapt to potential challenges that we may not have considered in the past. When we have said “Building Our Future” we typically meant fighting for better wages, health and retirement benefits, and an overall better livelihood for our members. What the pandemic has taught us, however, is that protecting our lives, especially while on the job, has arguably become the most important benefit we should be fighting for.

As we seemingly are finally managing the coronavirus pandemic, we need to be aware of the potential that something like this could unfortunately happen again. We cannot take a health crisis for granted and we must remain ready to jump in to protect one another again. Needless to say, we should always continue precautions such as hand washing and sanitizing, social distancing, or mask wearing when applicable or desired. These measures have helped us safely navigate through the pandemic, and we should not forget that. Think about this... with social distancing, mask wearing, no shaking of hands, plus sanitizing and washing our hands frequently, and an overall greater awareness of the potential of germs...outside of Covid-19, how many of us have gotten sick over the past 18 months? Being safe and smart really works!

But we should not stop at just personally protecting ourselves. We have to maintain a standard of protection throughout our

job sites. It is the only way we will continue to be protected. We must continue to engage with company executives to keep safety our number one priority. Supermarket operators must remember all of the steps that enabled their employees to maintain their health and for their stores to remain open. We are only getting through this pandemic because we all took these precautions seriously, and if we continue to be cautious, we should be able to mitigate whatever may come our way more quickly. We do not need to get ready if we stay ready.

***We are a Union,  
and we are only  
strong if we all  
stick together and  
have one loud  
voice. That does  
not just mean  
during contract  
negotiating time...  
it means all  
the time***

We must speak with our elected officials and make sure they continue fighting for the people that they call “essential.” We cannot be essential one day and then not essential any day after that designation. It does not work that way. We have said it before, you have and will always be essential. And the people writing laws for, and running our towns, cities, and states must always be reminded of what you did during the pandemic. We are always looking for our members to speak up on behalf of supermarket and retail employees to our local politicians. The message always resonates louder and longer when it comes directly from you, so please reach out to your Union Representative to become involved in the process.

Finally, we need to look out for one-another. We are a Union, and we are only strong if we all stick together and have one loud voice. That does not just mean during contract negotiating time...it means all the time.

Think about the health and well-being of your coworkers, and they should do the same for you. I know for a fact, that someone reading this knows someone that passed away related to the coronavirus. In many cases, that person contracted the virus from being at work. Our future has to include all of us making sure that we work in a safer environment than ever before. If you ever feel unsafe, it's because chances are it is unsafe. And if you feel that way then chances are your coworkers feel the same way. So, get together and speak up. Looking out for your coworkers can potentially be a life and death situation. Stand up and protect your coworkers because protecting their future will mean building your own!”









# MORIAL DAY TRIBUTE







## STEVE ZEINER

### Union Representative

Steve Zeiner became a member of Local 1500 in 2015, when he began working at Wild By Nature in Oceanside. He made the jump to Local 1500 shortly after his many years at Waldbaums ended with A&P's unfortunate bankruptcy. It was not long after, that Steve's energy and passion for his coworkers caught the attention of Local 1500 Executives. Steve was appointed Shop Steward soon after being hired and in 2018, Steve was elected to serve on Local 1500's Executive Board. In February of 2020, Steve joined Local 1500's staff as a Membership Servicing Representative. It's that same energy that Steve brings to the job everyday and he is now the Union Representative in Northern Suffolk County, fighting hard for our members there.

**You can reach Steve Zeiner @ [SZeiner@ufcw1500.org](mailto:SZeiner@ufcw1500.org) or 516-214-1311**



## DESMOND BYFIELD

### Union Representative

Desmond Byfield became a member of UFCW Local 1500 in 1991 while working for D'Agostino Supermarket in NYC. During his career Desmond has held many positions, including part-time and full-time clerk in the Grocery, Dairy, and Delivery Departments, eventually being promoted to the position of Assistant Manager. In 2006, Desmond moved on to work at Pathmark and stayed there until Stop & Shop's acquisition of A&P in 2015. In 2018, he worked for Village Shoprite as a Frozen Lead Clerk. In May of 2021 Desmond joined Local 1500's staff as a Union Representative.

**You can reach Desmond Byfield @ [DByfield@ufcw1500.org](mailto:DByfield@ufcw1500.org) or 516-214-1362**



## GINA GUELEE

### Membership Servicing-Representative

Gina has been a member of UFCW Local 1500 for 21 years. She began working in Edwards Supermarket as a cashier, then transitioned to Stop & Shop, becoming a Shop Steward in 2011. In her ten years as a Steward, Gina has stood up for the rights of many coworkers in her store. In February of 2021, Gina joined the UFCW Local 1500 staff as a Membership Servicing Representative, where she will continue working hard on behalf of the members of Local 1500.

**You can reach Gina Guelee @ [GGuelee@ufcw1500.org](mailto:GGuelee@ufcw1500.org) or 516-214-1322**



## ALICIA LOSTUMBO

### Membership Servicing-Representative

Before joining the UFCW Local 1500 staff, Alicia Lostumbo was a member for 7 years in the Stop & Shop located in East Islip, Long Island. When a position recently became available Alicia was happy to come back to her union family. In April of 2021, she joined the Local 1500 staff as a Membership Servicing Representative, where she is excited to bring her skills to our members.

**You can reach Alicia Lostumbo @ [ALostumbo@ufcw1500.org](mailto:ALostumbo@ufcw1500.org) or 516-214-1360**

## Congratulations on your retirement, John!



After 30 years of servicing Local 1500's membership, John Woods announced his retirement in June of 2021. John Woods has been a member of UFCW Local 1500 since 1989, when he started working at Pathmark 665 in East Meadow. John joined the staff of Local 1500 as an Organizer in 1991. Throughout his tenure at Local 1500, in addition to Organizer, John has held the positions of Membership Servicing Representative, Union Representative, and Vice President. John has also held the esteemed position of Regional Coordinator of UFCW's Outreach constituency group.

***John, thank you for your service and we wish you a long, healthy and happy retirement!***







## DAN BYERS

Organizer

Dan Byers began his work in the Labor Movement as an organizer in Portland, Oregon while attempting to organize the Fast Food industry. Later moving on to get a job a healthcare provider and serving as Shop Steward. In 2018, Dan moved to New York City and became an intern and then employee of the New York City Central Labor Council (NYC CLC). In November 2020, during the Covid-19 Pandemic Dan followed his passion and moved on from the NYC CLC, to organizing workers with UFCW Local 1500. Dan was a pivotal part of the organizing team that lead several successful campaigns to represent workers in NYC, most notably the unanimous victories at the Foragers' Markets in Chelsea and Dumbo.

**You can reach Dan Byers @ [DByers@ufcw1500.org](mailto:DByers@ufcw1500.org) or 516-214-1318**



## SHANE JONES

Organizer

Shane Jones began his career when he contacted Local 1500 to help organize at his workplace. Having worked during the pandemic as an essential worker he knew that unionizing with his coworkers was the best way to put real meaning into the term essential worker. Shane was an integral part of the organizing team during the organizing drive at Foragers' Markets in Chelsea and Dumbo. Shane has over 12 years of experience working in the food industry, during his career he learned the importance of being represented by a union.

**You can reach Shane Jones @ [SJones@ufcw1500.org](mailto:SJones@ufcw1500.org) or 516-214-1354**

Social Justice | Organizing | Legislative | Advocacy | Research



## LEE DURFEY

S.O.L.A.R. Representative

Lee Durfey has been a staff member since November 2019. He began his career with Local 1500 career shortly before the Covid-19 pandemic began, but was nevertheless able to become an important part of our organization. Prior to joining Local 1500 he worked at Walmart and then at Subway where he learned the harsh realities of not being a union member. He often felt crushed under corporate giants without any support or help. Through his attempts at organizing both Walmart and Subway, he became involved with the UFCW Local 1500. He now leads the S.O.L.A.R. team.

**You can reach Lee Durfey-Lavoie @ [LeeDL@ufcw1500.org](mailto:LeeDL@ufcw1500.org) or 516-214-1368**



## SAMANTHA WALSH

S.O.L.A.R. Intern (Social Justice, Organizing, Legislative, Advocacy, and Research)

Sam recently completed her Bachelor's Degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Law, and her Master's in Public Administration with a Certificate in Local Government Management. Sam comes from a Union Family and has been involved in the labor movement from a very young age. Her interest continued to grow through college, which ultimately led to her decision to pursue a Master's and focus on public policy/how policy can be used to help people. Sam is excited to learn more about this industry and offer her experiences in other industries to benefit the members of UFCW 1500.

**You can reach Samantha Walsh @ [SWalsh@ufcw1500.org](mailto:SWalsh@ufcw1500.org) or 516-214-1325**

SCAN TO  
WATCH VIDEO



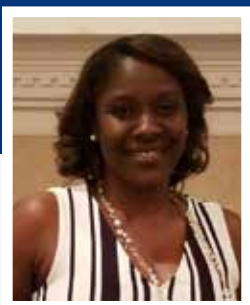
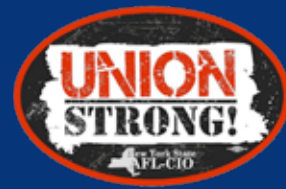
MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT

with



JOHN FANZO





Fallon Ager, Director of Region 1 – Northeastern

## Help Us Understand How COVID-19 Has Affected Our Members

As the new Director of Region 1 and former Executive Assistant of this region, I know how hard members of Local 1500 have worked to produce quality products and provide dedicated and exceptional service to customers across New York during this pandemic.

Despite the health risks, you have continued to report to work during a national health crisis so that communities in New York have the food and supplies they need. To reward that dedication, the UFCW has advocated for the wages and health and safety protections you have earned and deserve during this national health crisis, including hazard pay, access to personal protective equipment, and COVID-19 vaccine access for frontline workers.

Now, our union is investing in research to help us understand the impact of this pandemic on our members. The UFCW has partnered with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and FORWARD, the national databank for rheumatic diseases, to launch a long-term, national Essential Worker Study. This new study will focus on rates of infection, which types of workplaces have had the most infections, and vaccination rates.

All Local 1500 members are encouraged to participate in this research effort, which will also facilitate our union's ability to improve workplace safety protections for our members. Participating in the Essential Worker Study is easy and involves the following:

- **One Weekly Text Message:** Local 1500 members will receive a single text message each week inviting them to fill out a short survey if they have either contracted COVID-19 or received a vaccination. All survey responses are kept anonymous and members' privacy will be protected.
- **Critical Safety Information:** Local 1500 members will have priority access to COVID-19 informational newsletters and participate in Q&As with top health experts and doctors.
- **Sharing Your Views:** By answering just a few questions a week, Local 1500 members will help strengthen workplace protections and protect essential workers for years to come.

Please take part in this important study and help us understand the impact of COVID-19 on our members. You can get more information about the Essential Worker Study at <https://www.uncw.org/actions/campaign/essentialworkerstudy/>.

## UFCW Joint Endorsement Of Nassau County Executive Laura Curran





## Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 Privacy Notice Reminder

As you are aware, the Federal government enacted the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 to ensure, among other things, that your medical information (referred to in the legislation as "Protected Health Information") is secure and kept private. The "Privacy Rule", as it is commonly referred to, requires the Local 1500 Welfare Fund to comply with the regulations, one of which is to notify all individuals of the Fund's privacy policies and procedures.

You have previously received the Fund's privacy policies and procedures. However, this will serve as a reminder that you have the right to receive a copy of the Fund's privacy policies and procedures by requesting one, in writing, and sending your request to Local 1500 Welfare Fund; 425 Merrick Avenue; Westbury, NY 11590. You may also contact the Fund Office at (516) 214-1300 to request these documents.

Should you have any questions about this notice or the Fund's procedures, please contact the Fund Office.  
The personnel there will be more than happy to assist you.

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## Special Part-Time Member and Full-Time Spousal

**SPECIAL PART-TIME:** Coverage is for part-time members hired on or before June 24, 2006 who are not eligible for any other group healthcare coverage. The "not eligible for any other group healthcare coverage" applies regardless of the premium charged for such coverage or the level of benefits provided. Coverage is not available to anyone hired after June 24, 2006.

**FULL-TIME:** Effective March 1, 2014, any spouse who has access to other coverage through his or her employer, is not eligible for coverage under the UFCW Local 1500 Welfare Fund Full-Time Plan on a primary basis. The "access to other coverage limitation/exclusion" applies regardless of the premium charged by the spouse's employer for such coverage or the level of benefits provided by the spouse's employer's plan. The spouse can be covered on a secondary basis under the UFCW Local 1500 Welfare Fund Full-Time Plan.

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## Newborns' & Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996

This will serve as a reminder that, pursuant to the Newborns' & Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996, the Fund may not generally restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay, in connection with child-birth, for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a

cesarean section. However, the law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours or 96 hours, as applicable.

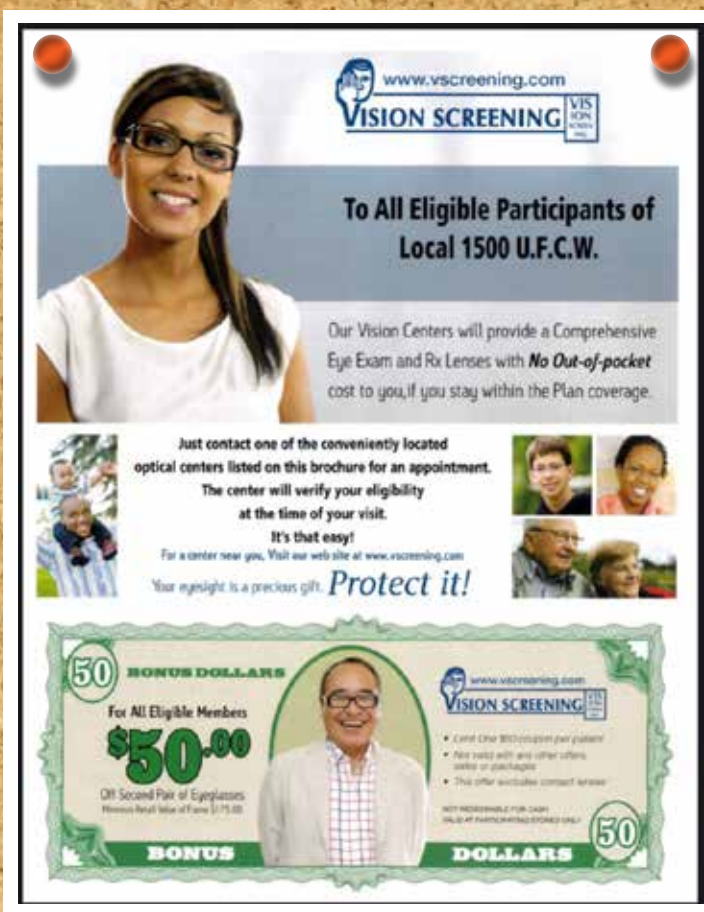
**You can find a COVID-19 Vaccine near you by visiting  
[vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), texting your ZIP code to 438829,  
or calling 1-800-232-0233**



## 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.

Bacher Jr, James	Igel, Robert E.
Bacon, Carol	Keaveney, William
Barth, Nancy	Kolb, Rozalia
Bednarski, John	Kulka, Josefa
Berry, Margaret	Lamb, Linda
Blanks, Janice	Larocca, Anthony
Brown, Elsie	Librizzo, Michael R.
Bruno, Marina	Litwin, Gregory
Carlisle, Freeman	Looby, Mabel
Carpenter, Peter	Lopipero, Inge
Cerrato, Ralph W	Machado, Dennis
Citronenbaum, Pinkas	Maia, Filippo
Colabella, Nancy C	Manzione, Vincent
Coleman, Joanne C.	Mcinerney, Joan
Collins, Eileen	Meyer, Arthur G.
Cordero, Juan	Nelson, Nicholas
Crawford, Raymond	Panameno Mendoza, Ana M.
DeJesus, Antonia	Postrion, David
DiPietro, John	Quaranta, Patrick
Duplessis, Barbara	Reeves, John
Earle, Rufus	Reyes, Roberto
Garafola, Sam	Robinson, Esau
Giordano, Dominick	Roman, Israel
Gliniski, Jan	Saldana, Victor
Grady, Michael	Scocca, Rosemary
Graziano, Paul	Sharkey, John
Gregg, Ellen	Sommerville, Norma
Gregory, Barbara	Terranova, Rosemarie
Gustaferri, Glenn	Valentin-Barreto, Maureen B.
Hamida, Kathleen M.	Vitale, Anthony
Huapay, Rodolfo	Williamson, Evelyn
Ife, Walter	Wudyka, Walter



**VISION SCREENING** [www.vscreening.com](http://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](http://www.vscreening.com)

Your myndight 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 coupon per patient
- Not valid with any other offers, rebates or discounts
- This offer excludes contact lenses

NOT redeemable for cash. Valid at participating stores only.

## NEED A WITHDRAWAL CARD?

Send an email to [wcards@ufcw1500.org](mailto: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

## 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, B.J.'S, (SAVON DRUGS, SUPER X & BROOKS DRUGS), WALGREENS, TARGET & HANNAFORD.**



## VALUE OF MY UNION

**MEMBERS ASSISTED BY LEGAL SERVICES YTD: 276**

**AMOUNT REIMBURSED TO MEMBERS YTD:**

**\$30,107.50**



# Bulletin Board

**FUNDRAISING EVENT**  
**UFCW LOCAL 1500 RAFFLE**  
**2021 LEUKEMIA LYMPHOMA SOCIETY**

**PULSAR 6000 WATT  
 GAS GENERATOR**

**Wednesday September 8th  
 @ 7PM**

**Ticket Prices \$5.00 each  
 5 for \$20.00**

Local 1500  
 UFCW

During the UFCW Local 1500 General Membership Meeting

Join us on Facebook Live  
 Winner need not be present

You may purchase your  
 tickets through venmo  
**venmo**  
 Recipient : @UFCWLocal1500

We appreciate your generous support of our Organization

**FUNDRAISING EVENT**  
**UFCW LOCAL 1500 RAFFLE**  
**2021 LEUKEMIA LYMPHOMA SOCIETY**

**WIN 100 NYS \$5.00  
 SCRATCH-OFF TIX**

**\$500.00 Value**

**Wednesday September 8th  
 @ 7PM**

**Ticket Prices \$5.00 each  
 5 for \$20.00**

Local 1500  
 UFCW

During the UFCW Local 1500 General Membership Meeting

Join us on Facebook Live  
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You may purchase your  
 tickets through venmo  
**venmo**  
 Recipient : @UFCWLocal1500

We appreciate your generous support of our Organization

**EMERGENCY  
 BLOOD SHORTAGE**

UFCW  
 Beyond the meeting hours  
**Local 1500**

**DONATE BLOOD NOW...**  
 PEOPLE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT

Be Sure to Tell your Blood Drive Recipient  
 Local 1500 Group #65674vv

Scan this QR Code  
 to find a Blood Drive near you!

## 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 the Club through the Union office. Call 516-214-1300 or 1-800-522-0456, and ask for Terri Gorman, Ext. 1330 or Monique Suarez, ext. 1333.

Allen, Mollie V  
 Almonte, Jose  
 Amabile, Valindia  
 Angeles, Victor E  
 Austin, Paul J.  
 Barbieri, Larina M  
 Beeber, Phyllis L  
 Bertolino, Kevin T.  
 Bianchini, Joseph  
 Blohm, Brynne E  
 Boone, Antoinette  
 Bourg, Kathryn I  
 Brennan, James  
 Brown, James T.  
 Byers, Barry  
 Cabrera, Luis  
 Cakouros, Dorothy M.  
 Calderon, Alberto R  
 Carde, Kevin T  
 Carlson, Edward M  
 Castellano, Pamela J.  
 Chinnici, Rosario R.  
 Cirillo, Francine  
 Cohen Jose  
 Connelly, Richard G.  
 Corrado, Cono A.  
 Davis, Augusta  
 Davis, Terrence E.  
 DeBock, Leslie  
 Defelice, Richard N.  
 Defreitas, Phillip A.  
 Delgado, Vincente  
 DeStefano, Carlo A.  
 Dismore, Larry K.  
 Durante, Linda D.  
 Flood, John T.  
 Florio, Louis  
 Fontana, Philip R  
 Foulkes, Sherridan  
 Franco, Anna M  
 Franklin, Eugene C.  
 Gabriele, Karen  
 Gallardo, Luisa F.  
 Gary, Eugene  
 Gillard, Eric L  
 Gomez, Rosemary  
 Gonzalez, Juan  
 Gonzalez, Manuel  
 Gould, Ronald G  
 Hess, Paul J.  
 Hicks, Patrick D.  
 Hildago, David  
 Iglesias, Jose A.  
 Janicki, Jan A.  
 Jones, Edward R.  
 Jones, Eileen M.  
 Josuf, Hendra  
 Kasel, Harriet L.  
 Kelly, Henry C.  
 Klingebiel, Noreen  
 Kokkiral, Sumaheela  
 Kuhn Smith, Jacalyn M.  
 Kulick, John F  
 Kwaak, Lawrence R.  
 Leone, Catherine  
 Link, Karen A.  
 Liriano, Luis A.  
 Littlefield, Dorothy M  
 Lynch, Edwin H

Madden, thomas, G  
 Marshall, Adreinne M  
 Martin, Thomas R  
 Martinez, Joanne  
 Mazurowski, Theresa  
 McCarron, Michael V  
 McCarthy, Ann L.  
 Meehan, Thomas  
 Miller, Joyce  
 Miniello, Remo  
 Minoso, Fernando  
 Muraca, Frank  
 Murray, Seymour A.  
 Navoyan, Melanya  
 Notaro, Joseph J.  
 O'Brien, Rosemarie  
 O'Connor, Michael J  
 Oliveira, Martin A  
 Olthaus, Marilyn  
 Panousis, Diana  
 Parasmio, Patricia  
 Parker, Orle  
 Pavelock, Darren V.  
 Perez, Luis A  
 Perez, Teresa  
 Pesaroichi, Lucio  
 Phillips, Kathryn V  
 Pinargote, Ysidro  
 Poulin, Donald A.  
 Powell, Calvin C  
 Rehberger, Keith J.  
 Ring, Stephen J.  
 Rivera, Genova  
 Rodgers, Dorothy R  
 Rodriguez, Cecilia  
 Ross, Daniel R.  
 Salvador, Teovaldo  
 Santacruz, Patricia  
 Santana, Luis A  
 Santiago, Robert  
 Sarno, Stephen L  
 Scaglione, Frank  
 Scherr, Glenn P  
 Serrato, Hugo  
 Shabot, Joseph  
 Shukla, Vinodchandra  
 Smart, Doriell Y  
 Smith, Thomas F.  
 Springer, Arthur J  
 Stempel, Kenneth R  
 Thomas, Herbert  
 Thompsen, Robert  
 Thyne, Maryjane  
 Ticali, William T  
 Tocherman, Patricia  
 Tullume Gonzales, Jose  
 Vargas, Jose E.  
 Vasquez, Freddy  
 Veras, Erasmo  
 Vitale, Susan  
 Voelkel, John A.  
 Vollgraff, Mary  
 Walsh, Catherine  
 White, James O.  
 Williams, Bancroft  
 Wolfson, Carrie L  
 Wood, Joyce  
 Woska, David J.  
 Young, Stephen



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Wednesday March 9, 2022



**ALL MEETINGS START AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

**Prizes Will Be Awarded!**

## UFCW LOCAL 1500 CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH!!



**STRONGER TOGETHER**



This #WorkersMemorialDay we would like to commemorate our #FrontLineHeroes; our union Brothers and Sisters



@UFCW1500

@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 & PHONE

**516-214-1300 • 800-522-0456**

General Office Hours, Pension & Welfare & Legal Services, Mon. thru Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



### WHOM TO CALL:

Do you have a question about Blue Cross?

Or a problem with Group Life?

Or about any other benefit or membership service?

For a quick and accurate answer, phone the Union – 516-214-1300 or the toll-free number, 800-522-0456 – and ask for the office staff member listed next to the subject of your inquiry. They will be glad to help you.

**Local 1500 has voice mail  
to better serve the membership.  
Members can call Local 1500  
regarding any matter 24 hours a day.**

To access the voice mail, a member can call Local 1500 at 516-214-1300 or 800-522-0456, followed by the 4 digit extension number of the person with whom you wish to leave a message. You may also email the union at [info@ufcw1500.org](mailto:info@ufcw1500.org) for any questions or concerns you may have.

### DUES REFUND

Michele Wright, Ext. 1351

### WITHDRAWAL CARDS

Rosanne Wynne-Torres, Ext. 1332

### PENSION

Terri Gorman, Ext. 1330

Monique Suarez, Ext. 1333

### MEDICAL-DISABILITY-VISION

Laura Behr, Ext. 1335

Michelle Sefcik, Ext. 1337

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Arnetta Ellison-Bates, Ext. 1329

### SCHOLARSHIP

Wendy Punzo, Ext. 1310

### WELFARE FUND BENEFITS

Associated Administrators, LLC 855-266-1500

### HEALTH & WELFARE MEDICAL FORMS

516-214-1300 or 800-522-0456

Exts. 1334, 1335 & 1337

### LEGAL SERVICES

Direct Line: 516-214-1310 or

800-522-0456 Ext. 1310 for Wendy Punzo

*You cannot leave a message for a Union Representative  
by dialing the direct number for Medical or Legal Services.*

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

### ASSISTANT FIELD DIRECTORS

1356 Pasquale, Greg 1340 Scorzelli, Jay

### UNION REPRESENTATIVES

1362 Byfield, Desmond 1358 Mauleon, Rafael  
1353 Ecker, Robert\* 1339 Shiels, Lynn  
1371 Flores, Vilmarie 1349 Walter, Fred Jr.  
1317 Guardado, Jeff 1311 Zeiner, Steven  
1346 Guardado, Juan \*Administrative Field Coordinator

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICING REPRESENTATIVE

1322 Guelee, Gina 1360 Lostumbo, Alicia  
1350 Kapogiannopoulos, George

### ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT

1318 Byers, Daniel 1361 Hernandez, Rafael  
1315 Farrands, Bruce 1354 Jones, Shane

### MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

1374 Allen, Nicholas – Media & Communications Coordinator  
1372 Thomas, Tarrik

### S.O.L.A.R.

1368 Durfey-Lavoie, Lee 1325 Walsh, Samantha

**CHECK US OUT  
@UFCW1500.org**

**MY UNION HAS VALUE**

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