



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UFCW LOCAL 1500 • SUMMER 2024 • VOL. 58 • NO. 2











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



BUILDING ON SUCCESS

This year, like so many recently, is off to a pretty busy start down here at Frank Meehan Hall. Some months we have so many projects going on it's tough to keep tabs on and properly staff all of them to ensure positive outcomes for our membership. In my humble opinion, we have the best staff in the UFCW which makes it possible for us to keep multiple new projects progressing, while not letting membership servicing and contract enforcement slip even slightly. Over the last few years, we have continued to add and train new staff, in all departments, to both replace retirements and help grow our servicing program across our jurisdiction. These new staff members have helped us identify new organizing opportunities and negotiate some of the strongest contracts for our members across the industries they work in. I'll spend the rest of my article giving you additional details on some of the more notable projects we have been working on this year, with more to come!

On April 11th, our newest Local 1500 members from Partners Coffee, in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, voted, by a margin of almost 2-1, in favor of being represented by Local 1500. This dynamic group of workers spent a great deal of time and energy selecting the right union to assist them in the organizing process. When they finished their process, I'm happy to say they chose us! The Partners campaign proved to be unique in many ways, but after all the roadblocks and issues the workers' voices and efforts were rewarded with a decisive organizing victory! We couldn't be prouder to have worked with them over the last year. Personally, I hope that election rallies in front of union election sites become a regularity in the future, because the Partners rally was awesome! The workers interacted with their community partners (no pun intended) and each other while making and distributing support buttons and literature for hours out front! It was an amazing educational experience for the community that also energized the workers and the Local 1500 staff on site. Contract negotiations and member representation have already begun for these workers and hopefully more Partners Coffee workers from their other cafés will join their effort soon.

We got some more great news in mid-April when, after a two-and-a-half-year battle with the Employer, we were able to secure a new contract with significant wage increases and paid time off improvements for the workers at Aron's Kissena Farms in Queens. This is a former Local 1718 shop that we have been servicing, along with many other Kosher markets, since late 2021. Unfortunately, the contract process for these workers was not as simple as it could've been and was riddled with confusion, intimidation and so many legal challenges. The hours spent with the NLRB, and the number of unfair labor practice charges we filed to get to a positive resolution is inconceivable. However, in the end, it all proved to be worth it as a new 3-year agreement was reached, and unanimously ratified by the membership! The members at Aron's certainly have learned the value of their Union membership over the last few years and we are stoked that they stayed with us and never gave up!

On May 10th after almost a year of, at times contentious, negotiations led by EVP/Recorder Joe Waddy, Secretary-Treasurer Aly Waddy and the Blank Street member bargaining committee, a strong first contract for our members at Blank Street Coffee was secured! This contract covers over 120 members working in 20 Blank Street Stores Coffee cafés scattered throughout Brooklyn and lower Manhattan. On May 29th this historic first contract was unanimously approved by the members who voted in four centralized locations around the City. We couldn't be prouder to welcome these Blank Street Coffee members to the Local 1500 family and plan to keep working with the remaining Blank Street workers thoroughout NYC and hope to have them choose to join the Blank Street/1500 family in the future.

If you read the Spring 2024 issue of The Advocate, you should already know that we have an active informational picket line up at the Bingo Wholesale Kosher superstore on Burnside Avenue in Inwood (south Nassau County). That line is up four days a week, Tuesday-Friday (weather permitting), every week, and will be until the community understands that although some of the item prices at Bingo may be lower, they shouldn't ignore the reality of those savings. We hope to modify the mindset of their customers and help them recognize that having good jobs in their neighborhood, jobs that pay a respectable wage and provide benefits to their employees, is more important than saving a few bucks a week on your basket of groceries. It's easy for an employer to charge less for their products when they don't provide employees with benefits, scheduled wage increases, holidays, or paid time off. We fully understand that a dollar doesn't stretch as far today in any food store as it used to, but that also goes double for the employees in those stores as well. Our goal is to try and maintain the area wage and working standards, while helping the Bingo workers prevent a race to the bottom in the retail kosher markets throughout the Five Towns area.

On top of all the programs above, we have also negotiated and ratified new agreements at Gemstone KeyFood, Holiday Farms, Columbus Foods, and Scaturro's so far this year as well. We still have contracts to negotiate at Cedar Market, Seven Seas Foodway, Food Bazaar (wall to wall), HMSM, Gourmet Glatt Lakewood, and IGA Supersaver in Amagansett in 2024 also. In mid-July there will be a full-scale voter registration drive and Active Ballot Club signup in our stores. Remember in most of our contracts, if you were hired after the mid 90's, you MUST be a registered voter to receive Presidential Election Day as a paid Holiday! This signup project will be run with help from International Representatives from the UFCW Political and Legislative Department, so be on the lookout for their shop visits. We are looking for some shop stewards to assist the Union Reps that week, and we are looking for a few members that are willing to work with the International Union on their national GOTV program for 12 weeks. If you are interested in either experience please contact our Political Representative Emily Dwyer, edwyer@ufcw1500.org for more info.

I am sure that many of you are wondering about the recent Stop & Shop news regarding upcoming store closures. For months prior to Stop & Shop's recent announcement our members reported to us the rumors about two of our stores closing or being sold soon. As a Local that has already had seven Stop & Shop/Peapod closures or sales here since 2020 these rumors don't surprise us. We fully expect that when Stop & Shop finishes their fleet review there will be a few Local 1500 stores marked for closure, and so should you. However, because of the previous closings we've endured we are cautiously optimistic that further closings in Local 1500's jurisdiction could be less significant than in other trading areas. Unfortunately, until the list is revealed, none of us will know for certain what is happening but please remember that Stop & Shop has always worked well with Local 1500 finding ways to maintain our members' jobs when stores closed.

Although nobody likes disruption on the job, dealing with layoffs and bumping is a much heavier lift than being offered a transfer to maintain your livelihood and benefit packages. For now, the best advice I can give you is to keep going to work and do what you do best, service your customers. It makes no sense to do anything else. As always, we stand ready to negotiate with Stop & Shop and any other employer on your behalf if/when the time comes. We appreciate your concerns and will continue to support you in every way. I've enjoyed seeing so many of you during my store visits over the last few weeks and I plan to see hundreds more of you in the weeks to come! #MyUnionHasValue





LA PERSPECTIVA DEL PRESIDENTE Rob Newell, Presidente Vice Presidente Internacional



CONSTRUYENDO SOBRE EXITO

Este año, como muchos recientemente, ha tenido un comienzo bastante ocupado aquí en Frank Meehan Hall. Algunos meses tenemos tantos proyectos en marcha que es difícil controlarlos y dotarlos de personal adecuado para garantizar resultados positivos para nuestros miembros. En mi humilde opinión, contamos con el mejor personal en UFCW, lo que nos permite mantener múltiples proyectos nuevos en progreso, sin dejar que el servicio a los miembros y el cumplimiento de los contratos desciendan ni siquiera un poco. En los últimos años, hemos seguido agregando y capacitando personal nuevo, en todos los departamentos, para reemplazar las jubilaciones y ayudar a hacer crecer nuestro programa de servicios en toda nuestra jurisdicción. Estos nuevos miembros del personal nos han ayudado a identificar nuevas oportunidades de organización y negociar algunos de los contratos más sólidos para nuestros miembros en todas las industrias en las que trabajan. Pasaré el resto de mi artículo brindándoles detalles adicionales sobre algunos de los proyectos más notables que tenemos. He estado trabajando en este año, ¡y habrá más por venir!

El 11 de abril, nuestros nuevos miembros del Local 1500 de Partners Coffee, en Williamsburg, Brooklyn, votaron, por un margen de casi 2 a 1, a favor de ser representados por el Local 1500. Este dinámico grupo de trabajadores dedicó mucho tiempo y energía seleccionando la Unión adecuada para ayudarles en el proceso de organización. Cuando terminaron su proceso, ¡me alegra decir que nos eligieron! La campaña de Partners demostró ser única en muchos sentidos, pero después de todos los obstáculos y problemas, ¡las voces y los esfuerzos de los trabajadores fueron recompensados con una victoria organizativa decisiva! No podríamos estar más orgullosos de haber trabajado con ellos durante el año pasado. Personalmente, espero que en el futuro los mítines electorales frente a los sitios electorales sindicales se conviertan en una regularidad, ¡porque el mitin de Partners fue increíble! ¡Los trabajadores interactuaron con sus socios comunitarios y entre sí mientras fabricaban y distribuían botones de apoyo y literatura durante horas al frente! Fue una experiencia educativa increíble para la comunidad que también llenó de energía a los trabajadores y al personal del Local 1500 en el sitio. Las negociaciones contractuales y la representación de los miembros ya han comenzado para estos trabajadores y, con suerte, pronto más trabajadores de Partners Coffee de sus otras cafeterías se unirán a su esfuerzo.

Recibimos más buenas noticias a mediados de abril cuando, después de una batalla de dos años y medio con el empleador, pudimos asegurar un nuevo contrato con aumentos salariales significativos y mejoras en el tiempo libre remunerado para los trabajadores de Aron's Kissena Farms en Queens. Esta es una antigua tienda del Local 1718 a la que hemos estado atendiendo, junto con muchos otros mercados Kosher, desde finales de 2021. Desafortunadamente, el proceso de contratación para estos trabajadores no fue tan simple como podría haber sido y estuvo plagado de confusión, intimidación y tantos desafíos legales. Las horas pasadas con la NLRB y la cantidad de cargos por prácticas laborales injustas que presentamos para llegar a una resolución positiva son inconcebibles. Sin embargo, al final, todo valió la pena, ya que se alcanzó un nuevo acuerdo de tres años y fue ratificado unánimemente por los miembros. Los miembros de Aron's ciertamente han aprendido el valor de ser miembros de la Unión en los últimos años y estamos encantados de que se hayan quedado con nosotros y nunca se hayan dado por vencidos.

El 10 de mayo, después de casi un año de negociaciones, a veces polémicas, dirigidas por el vicepresidente ejecutivo y registrador Joe Waddy, la secretariatesorera Aly Waddy y el comité de negociación de miembros de Blank Street, jse aseguró un sólido primer contrato para nuestros miembros en Blank Street Coffee! Este contrato cubre a más de 120 miembros que trabajan en 20 cafeterías Blank Street Coffee repartidas por Brooklyn y el bajo Manhattan. El 29 de mayo, este primer contrato histórico fue aprobado por unanimidad por los miembros que votaron en cuatro lugares centralizados alrededor de la ciudad. No podríamos estar más orgullosos de darle la bienvenida a estos miembros de Blank Street Coffee a la familia del Local 1500 y planeamos seguir trabajando con los trabajadores restantes de Blank Street en toda la ciudad de Nueva York y esperamos que elijan unirse a la familia Blank Street/1500 en el futuro.

Si ha leído la edición de primavera de 2024 de The Advocate, ya debería saber que tenemos un piquete informativo activo en el supermercado Bingo Wholesale Kosher en Burnside Avenue en Inwood (sur del condado de Nassau). Esa fila se levanta cuatro días a la semana, de martes a viernes (si el clima lo permite), todas las semanas, y así será hasta que la comunidad comprenda que, aunque algunos de los precios de los artículos en Bingo pueden ser más bajos, no deben ignorar la realidad de esos ahorros. Esperamos modificar la mentalidad de sus clientes y ayudarlos a reconocer que tener buenos empleos en su vecindario, empleos que paguen un salario respetable y brinden beneficios a sus empleados, es más importante que ahorrar unos cuantos dólares a la semana en su canasta de compras. Es fácil para un empleador cobrar menos por sus productos cuando no proporciona a los empleados beneficios, aumentos salariales programados, vacaciones o tiempo libre remunerado. Entendemos perfectamente que hoy en día un dólar no alcanza tanto como antes en ninguna tienda de alimentos, pero eso también vale el doble para los empleados de esas tiendas. Nuestro objetivo es tratar de mantener los salarios y los estándares laborales del área, mientras ayudamos a los trabajadores de Bingo a evitar una carrera hacia el fondo en los mercados minoristas kosher en toda el área de Five Towns.

Además de todos los programas anteriores, también hemos negociado y ratificado nuevos acuerdos en Gemstone KeyFood, Holiday Farms, Columbus Foods y Scaturro's en lo que va del año. Todavía tenemos contratos que negociar en Cedar Market, Seven Seas Foodway, Food Bazaar (wall to wall), HMSM, Gourmet Glatt Lakewood e IGA Supersaver en Amagansett también en 2024. A mediados de julio habrá una campaña de registro de votantes a gran escala y la inscripción al Active Ballot Club en nuestras tiendas. Recuerde que en la mayoría de nuestros contratos, si fue contratado después de mediados de los 90, ¡DEBE ser un votante registrado para recibir el día de las elecciones presidenciales como feriado pagado! Este proyecto de inscripción se llevará a cabo con la ayuda de Representantes Internacionales del Departamento Político y Legislativo de UFCW, así que esté atento a sus visitas a talleres. Estamos buscando algunos delegados sindicales para ayudar a los representantes sindicales esa semana, y estamos buscando algunos miembros que estén dispuestos a trabajar con el Sindicato Internacional en su programa nacional GOTV durante 12 semanas. Si está interesado en cualquiera de las experiencias, comuníquese con nuestra representante política Emily Dwyer, edwyer@ufcw1500.org para obtener más información.

Estoy seguro de que muchos de ustedes se estarán preguntando acerca de las noticias recientes de Stop & Shop sobre los próximos cierres de tiendas. Durante los meses anteriores al reciente anuncio de Stop & Shop, nuestros miembros nos informaron sobre los rumores sobre el cierre o la venta de dos de nuestras tiendas pronto. Como Local que ya ha tenido siete cierres o ventas de Stop & Shop/Peapod aquí desde 2020, estos rumores no nos sorprenden. Esperamos que cuando Stop & Shop termine su revisión de flota haya algunas tiendas Local 1500 marcadas para cerrar, y usted también debería hacerlo. Sin embargo, debido a los cierres anteriores que hemos sufrido, somos cautelosamente optimistas de que nuevos cierres en la jurisdicción del Local 1500 podrían ser menos significativos que en otras áreas comerciales. Desafortunadamente, hasta que se revele la lista, ninguno de nosotros sabrá con certeza qué está sucediendo, pero recuerde que Stop & Shop siempre ha trabajado bien con el Local 1500 para encontrar formas de mantener los empleos de nuestros miembros cuando las tiendas cerraron.

Aunque a nadie le gustan las interrupciones en el trabajo, lidiar con despidos y baches es un esfuerzo mucho más pesado que que le ofrezcan un traslado para mantener su sustento y sus paquetes de beneficios. Por ahora, el mejor consejo que puedo darte es que sigas trabajando y hagas lo que mejor sabes hacer: atender a tus clientes. No tiene sentido hacer nada más. Como siempre, estamos listos para negociar con Stop & Shop y cualquier otro empleador en su nombre cuando llegue el momento. Apreciamos sus inquietudes y continuaremos apoyándolo en todos los sentidos. ¡He disfrutado ver a muchos de ustedes durante mis visitas a la tienda durante las últimas semanas y planeo ver a cientos más en las próximas semanas! #MiUniónTieneValor





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



SPILLING THE TEA ON ORGANIZING

The only true

answer to

corporate control

and greed

is empowering

the workers to

stand up, speak

for themselves,

and unionize.

If you have been following labor over the past years, then you must have noticed a significant uptick in union organizing. And if you have been following our union then you know we haven't been left behind. In recent years, organizing had been trending due to its increased popularity among many industries from coast to coast. Local 1500's most recent example is the victory to represent workers at Partner's Coffee in Williamsburg Brooklyn. A campaign filled with energy and vibrance, which is reflective of these new members whose conviction and dedication was the driving force

behind this union win. The win to represent Partners came just a few weeks before wrapping up the bargaining cycle for Blank Street workers in 20 locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn. This was not an easy feat but 11 months after their first bargaining session, the workers at Blank Street Coffee have successfully ratified their first contract and are now proud members of UFCW Local 1500. This is more evidence that has been a significant shift from quitting to sticking it out and organizing. And this is a change that has become more than just a trend.

Workers are incrementally joining together and not just at their own workplace. It has become more common for workers from different companies to meet and discuss their working conditions, benefits and even their pay. But workers are not dialing the union organizing hotlines just because they are unhappy or disgruntled. It is becoming more common that workers are interested in also locking in the good working conditions they may currently have. Often when a new company opens, they tend to offer good options and/or incentives to join their company. Like practices that entice customers to sign up for a new service or change cellular or cable network carriers. It is many of these same new or young companies that usually have a

great culture which may be appealing to loyal employees looking to grow with a new shiny and successful employer. In many cases these are the type of employees that will work hard and take a company that is unfamiliar and build it into an everyday household name.

This is not new information, but what is new is that workers are more willing to stay put and make a change. Especially in this industry, where jobs were viewed as temporary. Young workers we have seen are serious about their livelihoods and making sure their rent and other bills are paid; and or paid - and they bring those concerns to the union vote and then to the bargaining table. These workers want to see change and they want to see it through from start to finish. They may be witty and fun loving, but do not get in the way of their money.

In the coming months I hope to provide you with updates on how

moment I can report to you that we have a very knowledgeable and dedicated committee that is ready to pull up their sleeves and get to achieve the best deal possible and continue to raise the ceiling on better working conditions for all workers. I have not seen such a level of solidarity among workers who are either new to, or not yet in a union. There is a tight-knit community of baristas and other workers who have a vested interest in the success of the Partners Coffee workers. They have shown their support before, during, and after the organizing campaign, and want the best for

> our members at Partners. And it's clear to see that the workers at Partners reciprocate that feeling for their supporters.

> At the time of this writing, we have had two bargaining sessions with Partners Coffee, and as we have mentioned before, initial contracts are discuss every sentence of the new agreement. So, although we are well on our way, this process could take a while. We will update you on the

> As for Blank Street Coffee, in addition to the benefits gained in their new contract, they are also now participants in our Legal Services Plan. This means these new members will have access to many reimbursable legal fees for items like adoptions, bankruptcy filings, civil or criminal court proceedings, deeds, immigration, wills, name change, along with other plan benefits. Most of our members are covered by this employerfunded plan, and I encourage our membership to utilize these important and very useful benefits.

Folks are realizing again that organizing a union at their workplace is the best way to improve

their jobs. And we have recently seen employers enhancing their benefit plans, wages, and even PTO, in an effort to be a better, or seem to be a better, more caring employer, when ultimately it is just a union-avoidance tactic used to stifle their employees' wants or desires. We can see what they are doing. But are these employers willing to give their employees a signed document that binds them and guarantees the benefits they promise to improve? Or can they at some point take these improvements back as quickly as they decided to give them? I think we all know the answer to those questions. And I think we also all know that the only true answer to corporate control and greed is empowering the workers to stand up, speak for themselves, and unionize. I hope everyone has a great summer and please join us on Saturday, September 7th as we march up 5th Avenue in the annual Labor Day Parade.

the hardest to negotiate, as both sides literally progress of negotiations.

bargaining is going with Partners Coffee in Williamsburg. At this







INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY





































Local 1500 2

Local 1500

BLOOD DRIVE







Joseph Waddy, Executive Vice President/Recorder



DID OUR UNION GET A FACELIFT?

Most of our readers are familiar with the companies that Local 1500 represents like Stop & Shop, King Kullen, ShopRite, Fairway, Scaturro, Columbus Foods and Key Food's like Dan's Supreme, Man-Dell, Gemstone, Matlyn, and Pick Quick. This list does go on and on. These are companies that we have been representing and reporting on for decades. They have all fortunately stood the test of time. You have seen pictures of our members at these locations on social media or in our Union newspaper going back as long as one can remember. We have recently been referring to these companies as our "legacy" shops, and not because they are old, but because they are more typical, traditional supermarket operators, and we distinguish them from our newer shops that have more recently joined our Local 1500 family.

However, some of the new companies that we have begun representing over the past few years are names that many of you might not have heard of before, like: Petee's Pie Company, Gourmet Garage, Pomegranate, Whitsons, Certo, Gourmet Glatt, Aron's Kissena Farms, Blank Street, or Partners Coffee. Heck, I'll even throw Hale & Hearty, Square Roots and Foragers in there because, although they are no longer around, we have to give credit to the workers at those locations that stood strong and voted for Local 1500 to represent them. Those members also fought hard to bargain and establish their inaugural Union contracts with us, so we are still very proud to have worked with them.

But with all these recent changes to our Union, some might say that the Union recently got a facelift. And while that may be a true statement, it is not necessarily a new statement. Okay, how many old schoolers do we have out there? The folks that remember companies that our great Union also represented in the past? Companies like Bohack, Bradlees, or Big V ShopRite? Dairy Barn, Gran Central, or Hills? What about Penguin Key Food, Shelf-Life, or Supersol? Of course we can never forget about Pathmark, right?

And although the Pathmark name is still alive and kicking, it's a completely different company than before- to the one we had thousands of members working for. But that's how a lot of these historical changes happen...a company struggles, eventually goes bankrupt, and another company or, like in the cases of Pathmark and Fairway, multiple companies come in and seek to purchase either the entire chain, a single store, or a group of stores during the bankruptcy process. That's another way of being able to welcome new operators into our Union. We have seen it with companies that were around for a very long time, like Village ShopRite, Bogopa/Food Bazaar, and Seven Seas/Foodway, that once upon a time Local 1500 did not represent. These companies have had long-term success, sought to grow, and purchased some Local 1500-represented stores to add to their existing fleet.

Some of these companies also purchased the intellectual property of the bankrupt companies along with their purchase of store locations, which is how companies like Fairway and Pathmark still exist although they went bankrupt. Village ShopRite came to New York City and purchased those Fairway locations, along with the Fairway name, so they are still running some of those stores with the Fairway name on the banner. On the flip side, PSK/Foodtown, a traditionally Local 338-represented company, bought the Pathmark name during that bankruptcy, so they are now operating a store under the Pathmark banner, and are

represented by our sibling Union, Local 338. Sad to see that banner go, but glad it it's still in Union hands.

I only named a handful of former shops that we once represented. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of former shops that we used to represent, that (even slightly) younger folks may not remember being in our Union family. But that is actually normal for Local 1500. Historical change is part of our life. We are an ever-changing Union. It's an ongoing and evolving process. We will continue to grow and welcome in new companies and new workers. And looking back 20 years from now, you can expect that the face of 1500 will have changed again.

With our newest crop of companies we have seen an invigorated desire for workers to unionize. Over the past few years we have seen workers seeking a voice on the job, improved PTO, guaranteed wage increases, and other protections on the job. And on some occasions, workers just want to make their good work situation better, achieving goals without animosity. There is nothing wrong with that!

We sometimes market our union as New York's largest supermarket, or grocery workers' union. And we are very proud of that fact - of us being the representatives of the most essential supermarket workers in the biggest and best city in the United States (and its suburbs for sure). But we are much more than that. Within our Union, we have pharmacists, baristas, chefs, food manufacturers, and delivery workers, to name a few. We have butchers, bakers, and sooner or later maybe we will organize some candlestick makers. We now have a Kosher food division and a coffee division. We've represented everyone from urban farming, to Country Valley Farms, to Sunnydale Farms. And we will continue to grow our footprint in the labor market in the New York Metro area.

We clearly welcome the arrival of new companies and of course their employees to our Union. And when we face store closings, it doesn't always have to mean something terrible. We have fought hard to ensure the continued best livelihoods of our membership and will always do so. There are many silver linings when a store closes, and in some cases, folks actually wind up making out better in the long run. Is this always the case? Of course not, but we know that our membership puts their trust in us, and as such we will never let them down.

The nature of some of the industries we represent is to cycle through different ownership and to change over and over again, but there is one thing that everyone can depend on being a constant, from the newest member to the most senior old-timer...UFCW Local 1500 will always be here to make sure you have the best job possible. So when you hear of us engaging with a new company that you have never heard of, who knows, we just might be welcoming a future legacy shop into the fold!

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members to our Union. You have joined a family that sticks together through thick and thin, for better or worse. Thank you for choosing Local 1500 to represent you. And thank you to all our members for making this 1500 family great!





PARTNERS COFFEE WORKERS I

On April 11, workers at Partners Coffee in Brooklyn, N.Y., joined UFCW Local 1500 for the fair wages and other benefits that come with a union contract. This organizing win marks the second coffee shop to unionize with UFCW Local 1500, which also represents workers at 20 Blank Street Coffee locations throughout New York City.

The 27 workers, who are employed in the production warehouse, café, and kitchen staff at Partners Coffee, joined our union family because they wanted better working conditions and a voice in the workplace. They were also concerned about unsafe working conditions, including unventilated rooms, as well as inadequate training and equipment.

With support from UFCW Local 1500 organizers, Partners Coffee employees took the lead in organizing themselves. Organizers guided them by speaking with workers after their shifts, helping to develop worker leaders, and encouraging discussions about our union. The effort included hosting group meetings and running a social media campaign on their @PartnersCoffeeUnion Instagram account to further involve the employees.

The workers of Partners Coffee Union are dedicated to creating a sustainable and collective work environment and are equally committed to collaborating with management to address concerns and improve working conditions for all employees.

"Winning our union election shows that we really do have collective power! As a unit, we are strong and can stand up to achieve what we need, which will be important when it comes time to bargain for our contract," said Alex Thompson, who works at the Partners Coffee shop in Brooklyn. "We hope that our win can also inspire other Partners locations in their fight to organize."















N NEW YORK JOIN LOCAL 1500

































2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENTS 🗼

\$8,000 WINNERS



Frank Meehan Memorial Scholarship: **Katherine Pokorney,** King Kullen #23 – PT



Arthur Wolfson Memorial Scholarship: **Nicholas Friedlander**, King Kullen #51 – PT



Patrick Gleeson Memorial Scholarship: **Kaylee Kubinski**, Dep. of John Kubinski, ShopRite Mannix #109 – FT

\$2,000 WINNERS



Mary Jane Siconolfi Memorial Scholarship **Isabella Miceli,** Dep. of Joseph Miceli, Stop & Shop #2585 – FT



Marcus Bettini, Dep. of Tracie Bettini, Stop & Shop #512 – PT



Glenn Miller, King Kullen #1 – PT



\$4,000 WINNERS



Eugene Kennedy Memorial Scholarship: **Bryce Chapman**, Dep. of Lamont Chapman, D'Agostino #13 – FT



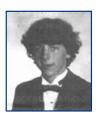
Pat O'Flaherty Memorial Scholarship: **Daylana Briggs,** Stop & Shop #543 – PT



Bernadette Warren Memorial Scholarship: **Ryan DeRobertis**, King Kullen #19 – PT



Natalie DePeppo,
Dep. of Jeanette
DePeppo, Stop & Stop
\$2595 – FT



Joseph Murphy, King Kullen #43 – PT



Catherine Embry,
Dep. Of Beverly
Sweeting-Embry, Stop
& Shop #2515 – FT



Jean Belmont Memorial
Scholarship:
Christian Campay,
Dep. of James Campay, ShopRite
Supermarket #290 – FT



Zunairah Masud, Dep. of Shahid Masud, Stop & Shop #530 – FT



Thomas Mancini,
Dep. of Diane Mancini,
King Kullen #7 – FT



Tiana Zarcone, Stop & Shop #563



COLLEGE RECIPIENTS PART-TIME *

\$2,000 WINNERS



Michaela Barresi, Stop & Shop #562



Jordan Skolkin, Stop & Shop #563



Ryan Treadwell, King Kullen #39



Daniel Wilson III, King Kullen #26

TRADE SCHOOL RECIPIENT \$2,000 WINNER



Marissa Michalski, Stop & Shop #551 – FT







Fallon Ager, Director of Region 1 - Northeastern

HELP US PASS THE RETAIL WORKER SAFETY ACT

Making workplaces safer for Local 1500 members and all retail workers in New York is one of the top priorities for our union. That's why the UFCW is supporting the Retail Worker Safety Act (S.8358/A. 8947).

While our union contracts often take the extra steps to create safer work environments, too many retail workers are still being subjected to constant verbal harassment, threats of violence and actual violence. Despite the constant harassment and assaults faced by retail workers, there is virtually no training offered by employers in violence prevention, de-escalation tactics, or escape procedures.

The Retail Worker Safety Act addresses these issues by requiring employers to create a safe work environment as follows:

- 1. Conduct a risk evaluation by examining the workplace for potential hazards related to workplace violence.
- 2. Develop a workplace violence prevention program that explains how the policy is actually going to be implemented. The program will include details about the risks that were identified in the basic evaluation and describe how the employer will address those risks. It will also include a system to report any incidents of workplace violence, among other things.

- 3. Provide ongoing training for employees around the workplace violence prevention program, including dealing with harassment from customers and coworkers, de-escalation tactics, and even escape routes in the event of active shooters. Trainings will address any risk factors identified and what employees can do to protect themselves from those risks.
- 4. Document workplace violence incidents and maintain those records. Where violent incidents reach a certain threshold, require security guards on site at all times.
- 5. Annually review all workplace violence incidences to determine what, if any, changes need to be made to the program or identified risk factors.
- 6. All large employers must install panic buttons at easily accessible locations throughout the building.
- 7. Where a business reaches a certain number of violent incidents in a given period of time, they would be required to hire security guards to maintain the safety and security of their employees.

I encourage Local 1500 members to get involved in lobby days and other actions to support the passage of the Retail Worker Safety Act. By working together, we can improve workplace safety for retail workers in New York and raise standards for all workers in this important industry.

OUR SCATURRO MEMBERS







HEALTH CORNER -PREVENTATIVE CARE



UFCW LOCAL 1500 WELFARE FUND PREVENTIVE CARE BENEFITS TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY

Your Union Executives at UFCW Local 1500 have always been concerned with the well-being of their members and their families. As Trustees of the Welfare Fund, your Union Executives have long sought to provide benefits that will not only help you and your families stay healthy, but assist in your treatment at the best possible cost to you and your families. Please know, the Fund continually seeks new and better options for you to receive your medical care and your Union Executives cannot impress on you enough their desire for you to use your benefits, especially your Preventive Care Benefits.

To achieve these goals, your Welfare Fund routinely reviews the benefits utilized in an effort to design a plan that is compliant with the continually changing legislative landscape of healthcare in America, as well as one that suits your needs. However, if the benefits provided are not used, it does not benefit anyone.

One area of benefits that is continually under-utilized is the Preventive Care Services for adults. The Welfare Fund reviews claim data quarterly, and every quarter it is reported that the Welfare Fund's Preventive Care Benefits for adults are under-utilized. As we all know, early intervention is one of the best ways to deal with any illness you might have. The Patient Protections and Affordable Care Act of 2010, generally known as the Affordable Care Act or ACA for short, requires the Fund to provide 100% coverage, without any patient cost-sharing for certain medical services for the Full-Time, Special Part-Time, and PT ACA plans as long as the patient is seen by an in-network provider.

Please be aware that there are some screenings/tests that may be required for patients with a history of illness. In those situations, coverage for the testing may be covered under the specific Medical Benefit (i.e., the Lab & X-Ray Benefit for a Mammogram outside of the medical guidelines for Preventive Care Mammograms) instead of the Preventive Care benefit. When testing is performed in those cases, you may have out-of-pocket expenses. Whether a test is covered under the Preventive Care Benefits or the Medical Benefits depends on many factors, such as the age of the patient and the patient's medical history. But regardless of whether you have the test due to your medical history or your age, you should have the test.

However, even with the Welfare Fund providing tests to help members and their eligible adult dependents identify conditions/illnesses early, such as cervical cancer screening, breast cancer screening, and colon cancer screening, the Fund is routinely advised that approximately 50% of the membership eligible for these tests under the Preventive Care Benefit receive them.

The utilization for an annual checkup is equally as low for adults. While everyone agrees that taking the time to see a physician for an annual physical exam or going to a lab for tests is not fun and takes away valuable time from your day, it is important that you take that time and make sure your health is where is should be. When you take care of yourself, you also are taking care of your families.

Along with the Preventive Care Benefit, the Welfare Fund offers a program for Diabetic Management through Livongo. Diabetes is a chronic condition that is plaguing millions of Americans and our membership is no different. The program at Livongo offers assistance to eligible members and eligible dependents by not only providing diabetic supplies delivered to your door at no cost to you, but also coaching and support to help you keep on the right track to manage your diabetes. If left uncontrolled, diabetes can cause many other health issues. Not all individuals diagnosed with diabetes will have this program available to them. Under the program's rules, Livongo determines which member/dependent fits their criteria and then reaches out to them to enroll. Again, the Fund provides this program at no cost to you and yet, each quarter, Livongo reports that approximately 20% of those eligible for enrollment actually do so. But please know, Livongo reports

that for those who do enroll, after 6 months or more in the program, the member's A1c is lower and their diabetes is more managed. The Livongo program not only provides testing products for your use which are delivered right to your door, it also provides a myriad of other avenues to assist in managing this condition, such as articles on how to eat healthy on vacation or during the holidays, inclusive of recipes to help you do so. Livongo also provides a support network of coaches to help you through the hard times. If Livongo has contacted you and you haven't enrolled, please consider doing so. You can contact Livongo at (800) 945-4355 or go to join.livongo.com/UFCW1500/register.

And, it is very important to remember that preventive care also consists of dental care and optical care. Your Welfare Fund provides Dental Benefits and Optical/Vision Benefits to all members and their eligible dependents. These benefits include exams as well as treatment.

An annual dental visit and cleaning can prevent and/or detect not only dental problems but sometimes medical ones. There have been recent studies that there is a correlation between periodontal disease and cardiac issues and one way to help prevent periodontal disease is to have regular dental cleaning. A dentist can also spot medical issues that are manifesting in your mouth that might not have been otherwise caught, such as cancer. And let's not forget, it's not so easy to eat without working teeth and eating healthy is an important part of taking care of your health. To assist you with this care, the Welfare Fund contracts with DDS, Inc. to provide a large network of dentists to provide you with dental care. For certain services there may be slight out-of-pocket costs, but if you stay in the network, your costs, if any, are much lower for the services you will receive. So again, be sure to make an appointment for a dental cleaning and take advantage of the Dental Benefits the Welfare Fund provides. To locate a DDS, Inc. provider near you, simply call 1-800-255-5681 or visit the DDS, Inc. website at www.ddsinc.net.

As mentioned above, Optical/Vision Benefits are also provided to all members and their eligible dependents. We can all agree, sight is extremely important and taking care of your vision is tantamount to your enjoyment of life. The Welfare Fund's Optical/Vision Benefits provides an eye examination once every 12 consecutive months. As most eye exams generally do, this exam will not only check your vision but has the possibility of discovering other illness that might not have been detected at the time of your exam. The Welfare Fund's Optical/Vision Benefit is yet another way for you to take control of your health and your Union Officials and the Fund's Trustees urge you to utilize it. To assist you and your families, the Welfare Fund contracts with Vision Screening, Inc., CPS Optical and GVS to offer the members/dependent of UFCW Local 1500 with services, such as an eye exam, frames, lenses and contacts at no cost to you and offers discounts for services which might not be covered under your plan. To locate a Vision Screening provider near you, simply call 1-800-652-0063 or visit the Vision Screening website at www.VScreening.com. To locate a CPS Optical provider near you, simply call 1-212-675-5745 or visit the CPS Optical website at www.CPSOptical.com and if you want to locate a GVS provider, simply call 800.VISION.1 or visit www.generalvision.com.

As they say, your body is a temple and we all know the parts are connected, so taking care of all the parts, from head to toe, is the best way to make sure you are as healthy as can be. Your Union Officials negotiate for you these benefits and it is up to you to take advantage of them.

If you have any questions about what is covered under the Preventive Care benefits in general, please call the Fund's Third Party Administrator, Associated Administrators at 855-266-1500. The staff there will be more than happy to answer your questions regarding Preventive Care coverage.

Your Union and its affiliated Welfare Fund strive to keep all members and their families safe and healthy and wants you to use all the avenues it provides you to do so.



ocal 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.

Agosta, Rosemarie Block, Ilse Bondra, Eileen D. Britt, Davis Brzvnski, Barbara Burlison, Constance A. Butt, Theodora Caravalho, Edward Carrella, Eleanore Caruso, Bertha Clayton, Joseph Contreras, Frank Correia, Anthony Cuizon, Alfredo L Cullari, Fiore S. Cunneen-Hughes, Jean Curtis, Andre Darrow, Irving Depa, Edward Dillard, Ronald Diubaldo, Joseph E Donnelly, Joseph A. Dunwoody, Nancy A. Fabijanic, Elizabeth Fey, Terrence Foley, Frederick R. Fuller, Johnny Gaimaro, Giro L. Goedtel, Lorraine Greco, Anthony Iglesias, Jose A Jones, Norbert H Kiang, Ching Kix, John Korber, Edward Larkin, Rose Lawson, Judith Lechner, William Liranzo, Jose Lopez, Jose

Mallozzi, Angelo Maniaci, Barbara Marten, Harriet Mastridge, Francis Matthews, Annie McCue, Patricia McGuire, Janis Merolla, Frances Merz, Richard Meyers, Rosemary Miller, Rosemary E. Moss, Thomas E. Nelson, Margaret F Nelson, Samuel Pechman, Regina Perkins, Cecil Q. Phesay, Kenneth Pilocane, Rosario Profit Jr., Adam Raymond, Richard S. Rex, William Rice Jr., Edward Romdalvik, Arlene M. Rossi, Ines Sachs, Dorothy Sexton, Jeannette Ships, Marylou J Sotomayor, Edwin O. Spadafino, Andy Suchta, Vincent Thompson, Winston Tortorici, Liborio Tyrie, Arthur Yonknoblauch, John Walsh, Arlene Ward, James Weissberg, Barbara Williams, Leroy Zabala, Wilfred

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:**



C.V.S., WALMART, SAM'S, PRICE CHOPPER, COSTCO, BJ'S, WALGREENS, TARGET & HANNAFORD.



Our Services Include

- Adoption
- Bankruptcy
- Immigration Preparation of Wills
- Criminal Proceedings
- Matrimonial Proceedings
 Family Court Proceedings
- Refinancing of your Primary Home Sale or Purchase of your Primary Home
- Administrative Hearings with School Districts

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

For your legal service needs please contact Director, Nicole Noms @ 516-214-1308

Secretary, Wendy Punzo @ 516-214-1310 You can also E-Mail Wendy Punzo @ wpunzo@ufcw1500.org



VALUE OF MY UNION

Legal Reimbursements To Members YTD 2024:

\$27,988

Members **Assisted By Legal Services** YTD 2024:

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: Sara Musco 425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

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Bulletin Board

General Membership Meetings





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 OR CODE.



Local 1500



Check out our latest Member Spotlight Video





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.

Akerflug, Sol Almeraz, John A. Amico, Susan P Andino, Maria L Arpi De Vivar, Maria F. Augustin, Joseph Barnwell, Rosemary Barry, Kathryn Bentley, Michael Billig, Shari A. Bilyou, Diane Bruce, Helen F Bucaria, Dominick P. Bullock, John Buthmann, Kathy Campo, Faithann Carfley, John M. Chacko, Varughese T Colon, Edward Colotti, Charlotte Connor, Robert Connors, Steve M. Corbisiero, Tom Cullen, Kathleen Dampman, Kim Dillon, Michael Doati, Romano Dupont, Jean J. Farrell, Kathaleen Fields, Melva Figoski, Deborah A. Finegan, Kevin Flores, Vera Fogerty, Keith Foster, Barbara Foy, Peter S. Frischberg, Janice L.

Fucci, Greg Gall, Anthony Gamuza-Burns, Angelina Gibson, Marie Gioglio, Joseph T. Halloran, Kathleen Harris, Timothy Hernandez, Ramon A Inghingolo, Debra A Lannon, Thomas A. Lee, James Lelievre, Olange Liquori, Richard Locicero, Kim Lopez, Grace Macaluso, Umberto Markowski, Carol Martley, Scott V Masullo, Domenick McDermott, Annette M McKay, Margaret Mendoza, Maryann Minkler, Linda A. Mohabir, Jagatnari Montagnino, Anthony L. Moran, Brian Moza, Blanca L Mrock, Leanne G. Munoz, Orlando Namkaran, Sabitri P. Nappi, Ricky Okeyo, Paul O'Neal, Johnnie Ortiz, Roberto Palladino, Virginia Parker, Robin Pascale, Edward

Patterson, Levester Pennstrom, Lisa A. Perez, Alfredo Petersen, Laura Pirraglia, Maria Pisano, John Piselli, AnnJo Rall, Darlene Reginella, Steven Rios, Maria C. Rivera, Yvette Rizzo, Peggy Robertazzi Jr., Joseph J. Salguero, Jose A. Samhan, Kazem Schatz Kupcha, Janet Schmitz, Dorothy A. Senise, Isabella Sheehan, Kathleen Shinn, Denise R. Shuler, Ruthie Siegel, Patricia Sjoberg, Virginia Smith, Lvnn Spahalski, Brain Stewart, Jeanne M. Sylvester, James Toto, Lisa V Washington, Richard J. Watson, Ronald G. Wood, James Yamin, Nocif Yee, William Yeh, Jessica Zangrillo, Doreen M.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 Wednesday, March 5, 2025



ALL IN PERSON MEETINGS START AT 7:00 P.M. YOUTUBE LIVE STARTS AT APPROX. 7:30 P.M. UFCW LOCAL 1500, FRANK MEEHAN HALL 425 MERRICK AVENUE, WESTBURY, NY 11590

Prizes Will Be Awarded!









honor the memory, and continue the fight for safe and just working conditions for a workers. #WorkersMemorialDay #SafteyFirst #FlashbackFriday





SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL





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



INK MEEHAN HALL OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT LIST 516-214-1300 • 800-522-0456

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



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1328 Musco, Sara - Smusco@ufcw1500.org

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SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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