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



## ON THE FRONT LINES OF CHANGE

As the summer of 2025 comes to an end, I wanted to say how proud I am of our members, staff and our Union. With your help Local 1500's 2025 has already produced new organizing wins, run fruitful fundraising and charitable events, received a positive jurisdictional decision from our International Union, and negotiated a new 5-year contract for our Stop & Shop members! All this, and it's barely Labor Day!

Our new Stop & Shop contract is something we are all extremely proud of! For the first time, in what feels like forever, we were able to start and finish negotiations early. Believe it or not we already have the new contract well on its way to being printed! When you consider some of the more difficult bargaining obstacles we had to overcome during the 2000's and 2010's, this settlement feels even sweeter. The new contract is chock full of massive gains, like wage increases WELL above those in your last contract, between 8%-61% MORE for full-timers and 44%-68% MORE for part-timers. This wage package also addresses the wage compression issues that members expressed concerns about at the proposal meetings. Additionally, there are much improved minimum wage rates and premiums, an upfront increase of over 16% for department manager relief pay (with a second significant increase during the contract), 23% increases in Employer Health and Welfare contributions and Annuity Fund contribution increases of between 17%-59% over the term! When you combine the financial gains with the number of non-economic protections and language clean-ups we achieved, this contract is an enormous success! So, congratulations to our Stop & Shop members and a huge thank you for a job well done to your rank-and-file negotiating committee, who were led by Joe and Aly Waddy! Cheers!

Shortly, Local 1500 will be welcoming a new employer to the Local 1500 family, Inserra ShopRite. The Inserra family will be opening its first (of many) Fresh Grocer store in Brooklyn this September, and we couldn't be happier. The Inserra family has been patiently waiting for their opportunity to break into our jurisdiction but ran into a few delays along the way. Now that they are here, we hope they can make up for lost time and open multiple successful locations over the next few years to employ our great members. The Fresh Grocer is a different concept when compared to the traditional ShopRite banner and this location will only be the second in the New York area and the first in our jurisdiction. We are currently negotiating with the Employer and hope to successfully negotiate a first contract prior to the store opening.

You should know that every year our Union does so many things outside the scope of enforcing your contracts, ensuring shop safety and handling member grievances. Our Union footprint is, and always has been, so much larger than that. Each year we run multiple events, with

the support and involvement of our membership, which touch so many lives, both in and outside our core industries. This year we have already run a Dutchess County Bowl-a-thon, a Nassau County comedy club night, 2 blood drives (at the Union Hall) and, by the time this goes to print, a fishing trip in Suffolk County. When you combine those events with all the raffles, 50/50's, register scan-offs (that so many of our employers help us with), school supplies/backpack giveaways and our traditional solicitation efforts we usually raise and donate around \$100k to various charities, give away over 250 backpacks to the school aged children of our members, and help facilitate the collection of over 160 pints of blood every year. These programs are all staples for our Union and have unequivocally had positive impacts on the lives of thousands of families throughout our jurisdiction and beyond. As always, our Director of Operations Paul Santarpia is all ears if you have new fundraising ideas or would like to volunteer to help with any of these efforts. You can contact Paul directly at [Psantarpia@ufcw1500.org](mailto:Psantarpia@ufcw1500.org) or at 516-214-1304.

I want to wrap up this article by letting you know that starting this year we have reduced our yearly print newspapers from 4 to 3. That is why the 1st paper of the year was received in April, and this one is arriving at the end of Summer. I assure you that this was not a decision that we made lightly. Unfortunately, the reality today is that thousands of our members probably won't read this paper, at least not the one you hold in your hands. The multitude of ways our members wish to absorb information is something that constantly challenges our communications team. So based on the costs associated with creating, printing and mailing the physical paper, we thought it would be prudent to go down to 3 printed/mailed versions a year. Additionally, the fact that this is a physical paper is only part of the disconnect. Another major hurdle is the length of the paper and the amount of information we share at one time. Younger members prefer getting information in smaller/faster bites and enjoy videos with close captioning, so they don't have to listen if they don't want to. We will continue to adapt and try new ways to ensure our message is received by a majority of our members, and in whatever medium works best for them. If you would like to help us or have some suggestions, please feel free to contact our Media and Communications Coordinator Nick Allen at [Nallen@ufcw1500.org](mailto:Nallen@ufcw1500.org) or call him @ 516-214-1374.

I want to wish all our members, current and past, my best for both a peaceful Labor Day and a happy and healthy fall! I also want to remind our ShopRite, KeyFood, and Kosher division members that ALL your contracts expire in 2026! So, start getting your demands ready, be on the lookout for proposal meeting notices, and decide whether you're up to the task of serving with a few of your co-workers on the bargaining committee! See you all in the shops! **MyUnionHasValue!**







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



## EN LA PRIMERA LÍNEA DEL CAMBIO

A medida que el verano de 2025 llega a su fin, quería decir lo orgulloso que estoy de nuestros miembros, nuestro personal y nuestro sindicato. Con su ayuda, el 2025 del Local 1500 ya ha logrado nuevos logros en materia de organización, ha organizado fructíferas campañas de recaudación de fondos y eventos benéficos, ha recibido una decisión jurisdiccional positiva de nuestro sindicato internacional y ha negociado un nuevo contrato de 5 años para nuestros afiliados de Stop & Shop. ¡Y todo esto, y apenas es el Día del Trabajo!

¡Nuestro nuevo contrato Stop & Shop es algo de lo que todos estamos muy orgullosos! Por primera vez, en lo que parece una eternidad, pudimos iniciar y finalizar las negociaciones con anticipación. ¡Créanlo o no, ya tenemos el nuevo contrato en proceso de impresión! Si consideramos algunos de los obstáculos de negociación más difíciles que tuvimos que superar durante las décadas de 2000 y 2010, este acuerdo es aún más alentador. El nuevo contrato está repleto de grandes beneficios, como aumentos salariales MUCHO mayores que los de su contrato anterior, entre un 8% y un 61% MÁS para los trabajadores a tiempo completo y entre un 44% y un 68% MÁS para los trabajadores a tiempo parcial. Este paquete salarial también aborda los problemas de compresión salarial que los miembros expresaron en las reuniones de propuestas. Además, hay mejoras significativas en las tasas y primas del salario mínimo, un aumento inicial de más del 16% para el pago de relevo de los gerentes de departamento (con un segundo aumento significativo durante la vigencia del contrato), aumentos del 23% en las contribuciones del empleador al Seguro de Salud y Bienestar y aumentos de las contribuciones al Fondo de Aнуidades de entre un 17% y un 59% durante la vigencia del contrato. Cuando combinamos las ganancias financieras con la cantidad de protecciones no económicas y mejoras lingüísticas que logramos, ¡este contrato es un éxito enorme! Así que, ¡felicitaciones a nuestros miembros de Stop & Shop y muchísimas gracias por el excelente trabajo realizado a su comité de negociación de base, liderado por Joe y Aly Waddy! ¡Saludos!

Próximamente, el Local 1500 dará la bienvenida a un nuevo empleador a la familia del Local 1500, Inserra ShopRite. La familia Inserra abrirá su primera (de muchas) tienda Fresh Grocer en Brooklyn este septiembre, y no podríamos estar más felices. La familia Inserra ha esperado pacientemente la oportunidad de entrar en nuestra jurisdicción, pero se topó con algunos retrasos. Ahora que están aquí, esperamos que puedan recuperar el tiempo perdido y abrir múltiples sucursales exitosas durante los próximos años para emplear a nuestros excelentes miembros. Fresh Grocer es un concepto diferente al tradicional ShopRite, y esta sucursal será solo la segunda en el área de Nueva York y la primera en nuestra jurisdicción. Actualmente estamos negociando con el empleador y esperamos negociar con éxito un primer contrato antes de la apertura de la tienda.

Debe saber que cada año nuestro sindicato hace muchas cosas más allá del cumplimiento de sus contratos, la garantía de la seguridad en el taller y el manejo de las quejas de los miembros. Nuestra presencia sindical es, y siempre ha sido, mucho mayor. Cada año, organizamos múltiples eventos, con el apoyo y la participación de

nuestros miembros, que impactan a muchas vidas, tanto dentro como fuera de nuestras industrias principales. Este año ya hemos organizado un maratón de bolos en el condado de Dutchess, una noche de comedia en el condado de Nassau, dos campañas de donación de sangre (en el Local Sindical) y, para cuando se publique este artículo, una excursión de pesca en el condado de Suffolk. Al combinar estos eventos con las rifas, las donaciones de 50/50, los escaneos de registros (con los que muchos de nuestros empleadores nos ayudan), obsequios de útiles escolares y mochilas y nuestros esfuerzos de solicitud tradicionales, generalmente recaudamos y donamos alrededor de \$ 100,000 a varias organizaciones benéficas, regalamos más de 250 mochilas a los niños en edad escolar de nuestros miembros y ayudamos a facilitar la recolección de más de 160 pintas de sangre cada año. Todos estos programas son fundamentales para nuestra Unión y han tenido impactos inequívocamente positivos en las vidas de miles de familias en toda nuestra jurisdicción y más allá. Como siempre, nuestro Director de Operaciones, Paul Santarpia, estará encantado de escucharle si tiene ideas nuevas para recaudar fondos o si desea ser voluntario para ayudar en cualquiera de estas iniciativas. Puede comunicarse con Paul directamente en [Psantarpia@ufcw1500.org](mailto:Psantarpia@ufcw1500.org) o al 516-214-1304.

Quiero concluir este artículo informándoles que, a partir de este año, hemos reducido la tirada de nuestros periódicos impresos anuales de 4 a 3. Por eso, el primer periódico del año se recibió en abril y este llegará a finales de verano. Les aseguro que esta no fue una decisión que tomamos a la ligera. Lamentablemente, la realidad hoy es que miles de nuestros miembros probablemente no leerán este periódico, al menos no el que usted tiene en sus manos. La multitud de formas en que nuestros miembros desean absorber información es algo que desafía constantemente a nuestro equipo de comunicaciones. Por eso, considerando los costos asociados con la creación, impresión y envío del periódico físico, pensamos que sería prudente reducirlo a 3 versiones impresas/enviadas al año. Además, el hecho de que este sea un periódico físico es solo una parte de la desconexión. Otro obstáculo importante es la extensión del periódico y la cantidad de información que compartimos de una sola vez. Los miembros más jóvenes prefieren recibir información en fragmentos más breves y disfrutan de los videos con subtítulos, para no tener que escucharlos si no quieren. Seguiremos adaptándonos y probando nuevas maneras para garantizar que nuestro mensaje llegue a la mayoría de nuestros miembros, a través del medio que mejor les funcione. Si desea ayudarnos o tiene alguna sugerencia, no dude en contactar a nuestro Coordinador de Medios y Comunicaciones, Nick Allen, en [Nallen@ufcw1500.org](mailto:Nallen@ufcw1500.org) o al 516-214-1374.

¡Quiero desearles a todos nuestros miembros, actuales y pasados, lo mejor para un Día del Trabajo tranquilo y un otoño feliz y saludable! También quiero recordarles a nuestros miembros de las divisiones ShopRite, KeyFood y Kosher que ¡TODOS sus contratos vencen en 2026! Así que, ¡comience a preparar sus demandas, esté atento a las convocatorias de reuniones de propuestas y decida si está a la altura de formar parte del comité de negociación con algunos de sus compañeros! ¡Nos vemos en las tiendas! **¡MiSindicatoTieneValor!**





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



## EVERY DAY IS LABOR DAY

This is a special time of the year, when Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of Summer and the weather begins to explore other options. The time when the back-to-school frenzy is upon us and many scramble to get their kids the supplies they need to start their school year. Also, those of us who drive during rush hour know we need to mentally gear up for that school-is-back traffic. And let's not talk about all the sales!

It's also the time of year when elected officials and hopefuls will really begin to engage with their constituents throughout our state, eventually leading up to election day. In New York City we have an upcoming mayoral race that is sure to get both sides of the political aisle charged up, and things are already heating up. There are slogans and catch phrases from the 'left' and the 'right' that will be used to push each side's agendas along. You'll hear something like "Vote for a brighter tomorrow" or "A city we can afford" or "Building a better city" etc. etc. and all of them sound great!

But when it comes to Labor Day, there is only one agenda that should matter – the Union agenda. The one that pushes forward the past, present, and future of the Labor Movement. The one that highlights the many fights and sacrifices that working people have endured to enjoy the working conditions and benefits we have now. The one that keeps us strong in our current battles at our worksites and across the bargaining tables. The one that gives us hope that we will gain even more for workers in the coming years

Labor Day is defined as a federal holiday celebrated the first Monday in September to honor the social and economic achievements of North American workers. In fact, it is celebrated in many other countries at different times of the year. It commemorates the hard-won victories for workers' rights, such as shorter hours, the elimination of child labor, and safer working conditions.

We at Local 1500 have continued to fight hard for our membership, settling stronger contracts and achieving working conditions better than ever before. This Summer our Stop & Shop and Tops Markets members ratified their new 5-year contracts. In addition to the improvements to the Stop & Shop contract President Newell mentions in his article, at Tops,

we were also able to implement a new minimum rate of pay for Starbucks leads! We are excited to explore new ways of structuring the increases in your CBAs to maximize their impact and will continue to do so! We are currently bargaining our Fairway retail supermarket contract and our Fairway production center contract. And one thing that is common during all of these bargaining sessions are the strong member committees that sit with us at the bargaining table. It may not feel like it at the time, especially when the time is midnight, but all these smaller battles are what make up your history. It's what makes history, period, and THAT is what Labor Day is about.

As the months come and go and the seasons change, there is one agenda that doesn't. There is one platform that will remain constant, regardless of what or who changes around you. It's the one that involves your union membership. There is strength in unity (there's a slogan for you). And always remember that paying respect to your union siblings is crucial to our overall strength. If you encounter a picket line somewhere, we ask that you support those workers. We are all at different stages of trying to gain more for our fellow members, so please understand that their current fight can, and will be your fight one day.

Our fellow UFCW Locals in New England will be embarking on their contract negotiations with Stop & Shop in the very near future, and they may need our support again. If needed, let's show them what the backing of New York looks like. Let's show them that Local 1500 is behind them all the way. Our victories are theirs and their victories are ours. We all deal with many of the same employers. Let's not forget that all of our ShopRite contracts are up for expiration in 2026, and we may very well need some support to get over any hurdles that are placed in front of us.

Workers should be celebrated and appreciated every day, but especially surrounding Labor Day. Let's take some time to really think about the contributions of the workers that came before who paved the way for our experiences today. And let's think about the power your collective voices hold as members of a labor union. Think about the accomplishments you have been able to make for you and your coworkers. Remember, the changes you are able to make today will be realized, and one day appreciated by future generations of workers. Past, present, and future, the history of Labor Day is about YOU.



Stop & Shop members are celebrating their newly ratified contract! On May 22, 2025, an agreement was reached securing stronger retirement contributions, improved healthcare, and guaranteed wage increases for all 6,289 members. Thank you to our Negotiating Committee and to all Stop & Shop members for standing strong until the end!





# REMEMBERING FRED WALTER, SR.

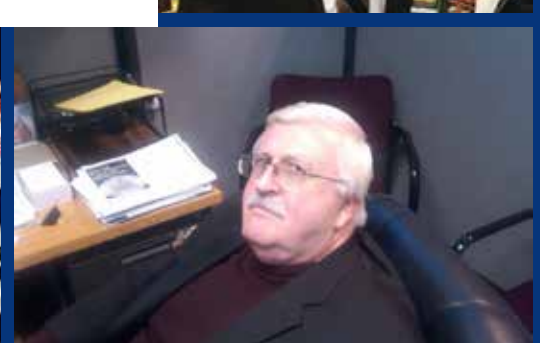


On Wednesday, August 20th, our Union lost a dynamic and influential part of its family when Fred Walter Sr. passed away. Fred worked for over 20 years as a rank-and-file member in Pathmark stores before joining the Union staff in March of 1989, where he spent the next 25 years of his life representing our members. Fred was the strong, not-so-silent type of business agent, and he loved our membership. Over the years Fred proved to be a leader in so many ways and was often asked to help train the next generation of Union reps and shop stewards.

Fred had a way of bringing out the best in his reps, especially those he trained, including me. Walking a sales floor with him, especially when there was an issue, was an experience like no other. No matter what words I use I can't explain it, there was just a special feeling. There were many great business agents back in the 90's but none who did the job like Big Fred did it. That's probably a good thing, because there was only enough room in our Union and quite frankly in the world for one Fred at a time. He was an expert in grievance handling and successfully negotiated dozens of contracts throughout his career. Fred was often the one in our Union leadership who was called on to get something done when no one else could. Fred became a different type of labor leader in the years leading up to his retirement than he was early in his career. He was less of a bull in a China shop and changed his focus to making sure the staff would be ready to adapt and overcome whatever challenges came next.

To me, Fred was family, the kind you choose, not the kind you're born into. He treated me like that from the first day I rode with him, which occasionally meant listening more and talking less or accepting his sometimes difficult-to-handle critiques. He wanted the very best for our members, our staff and without question, me. Thank you for all you did for our members throughout your career and for all the time you invested in me.

No matter how much he loved our Union and the membership, Fred loved nothing in the world more than his wife Nancy, their 3 beautiful daughters Julie, Emily and Audrey, and their son Fred Jr. Fred's love for his family blossomed even bigger after the girls blessed them with 8 grandchildren. Fred was always focused on the needs of his personal family, but anytime someone in his Union family needed him there was nothing that could stop him from taking care of business. Although it has only been a few months apart, you're back with Nan to spend eternity together. I love you brother Fred, may you rest in peace, you damn sure earned it.





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



## You're Not "Just" Anything

I often get into conversations with members of our Union, either at their worksite, a meeting, a fundraiser, a rally, a parade, or during contract negotiations that concern me. And when I dig deeper into those conversations to learn more information about them, I almost always get this response: "...I'm just a part-timer..."

Why do folks feel that they are just anything? Is that something they intrinsically feel? Or maybe something they are made to feel? And if so, maybe folks like me share some blame for that? Well, here we are and now's the time to talk about it. The fact of the matter is that our part-time membership makes up about 75% of our total membership. This Union, that I feel is one of the most influential and powerful around...is made up of mostly part-timers! The locations you work in and we all shop at...cannot be run without the part-time workforce that maintains them. Any doubts? Ask your store manager, or even your department manager! If you sit back and think about it for a minute, our part-timers are truly the hidden strength of our Union. And I'm not even just talking about Local 1500; I'm talking about the 1.3-million-member strong UFCW International Union. What is the ratio of part-time to full-time members across North America?

The fact is, for the past couple of contract cycles, our Local has really started to focus on the needs of our part-time members. You know these folks well: The folks that may need a bit more help in their paycheck. The folks that often have to get spicy to get a few more hours on the schedule. The folks that may need a little more help making ends meet for their rent or their mortgage. The people that have to work more than one job just to keep their heads above water. And let's talk about the folks that typically need the most help with their health insurance. All those folks.

Fighting for the part-timers at the bargaining table can be difficult because of the sheer number of them that are employed by any given company. But it's a fight that is well worth having because it will have the best overall outcome for the highest percentage of the people. Yes, of course it's nice to get new department leads finally recognized, to increase their minimum rates, or their premiums, or work to get our department manager rates as high as we can. But it is especially rewarding to see and hear part-time members happy about their wage increases, or that the number of guaranteed minimum hours increased. Any positive impact we can have for the largest part of our membership is an absolute victory, and it fuels us to continue to be better for them.

In recent times, during bargaining, I've heard some selfless, long-term full-time members say something like "you guys have taken care of us so well for so long" or "we're good, let's see what we can get for the part-timers", and that really motivates me to continue to push for them. Plus why wouldn't we fight to get better results for our part-time membership? Here's a radical thought...shouldn't the people that can mostly affect the outcome of a ratification vote get the most out of it? Think about that. The vast majority of our eligible voters are part-time. That should mean that a good number of improvements to the contract be steered in their direction, shouldn't it?

Of course, that's easier said than done. The Employer side will say that since there are way more part-time employees, then any negotiated financial gain will be way more expensive for them and thus makes it much more difficult for them to agree to it. That's a constant fight at the bargaining table,

regardless of who the Employer is. Conversely, in many cases it can be easier to win increases for full-timers because there are fewer of them. Getting 200 people a \$1.00 per hour raise is typically an easier lift than getting 4,000 people a \$0.50 per hour raise. It's unfortunate, but the math doesn't lie.

However, we need to continue to do everything we can to change that narrative. And although the fight may be harder, it is one we must engage in if we want a better quality of life for the majority of our membership. Here is the catch. The Employer representatives are not going to just look at my face during negotiations and cave in. They're going to need to hear from a lot more mouths than just mine about what we're fighting for. Our members are a formidable force, but unless the vast number of part-time members we have also show up and make their voices heard, then we're not making our way in the right direction. Your company will feel you are too complacent to stand up and fight, and they will continue to offer you less than you need and deserve. And to be honest, historically, the full-timers may be in the minority, but they have typically shown up the most and been the loudest. Yes, part-time members are in the majority, but they haven't gotten out and in front the way they could. That's a big part of what needs to change. If we show up in numbers, then the Company has to listen to us. There is so much strength and power in our membership. We just need to tap in and harness it to change the scenario.

Being a part-time member has always been an important role in the industries that we represent. Many of us started out as part-time members of Local 1500. President Newell didn't start out as the president of Local 1500. If you've followed his career, you already know that he started out as a part-time clerk, wrangling shopping carts in the parking lot of a Pathmark. He's extremely proud of that fact. Secretary-Treasurer Aly Waddy started her Local 1500 membership as a part-time deli clerk in Dan's Supreme. And yours truly started at the age of 16, back in 1988 (more unfortunate math) also in Dan's Supreme – as a part-time stock clerk in the grocery department. And MAN could I work a pricing gun back then!

We didn't know where our 16-29 hour per week, \$3.35 per hour (in my case) jobs were going to take us. In fact, I really only applied at Dan's so I could earn some spending cash for my upcoming senior trip to Europe that my dad sprung for. Then four months later, when I was about to quit the job to take the 10-day trip, my store manager Fred Bancroft (RIP) told me to just call him when I came back, and he'd put me back on the schedule. That was amazing because I hadn't been around long enough to accrue any PTO. I came back and continued to work part-time there for another five years. I've told this story before, but I think it made sense to mention it again, especially trying to illustrate to our part-time membership that possibilities are endless for you.

We've seen many members move on from being part-time to department managers, store managers, company owners, attorneys, elected officials, and beyond. Always be proud of your Local 1500 roots. If they are planted right, they can grow deep!

Thank you for your membership in the mighty Local 1500! And do me a favor: never, ever say that you are "just" part-time. You are the strength of this Union!







Here are the winners from our Shop Steward giveaway.



Exceptional Shop Steward Award Recipients





# RD SEMINAR



Shop Steward Panel



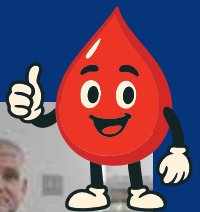
Blank Street Shop Stewards in attendance







# BLOOD DRIVE

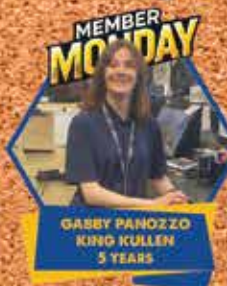
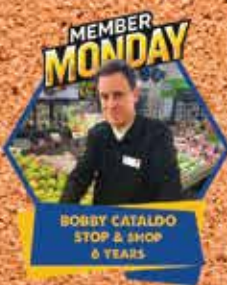




**MEMBER  
MONDAY**



Local 1500  
UFCW  
AF-CIO-CLC

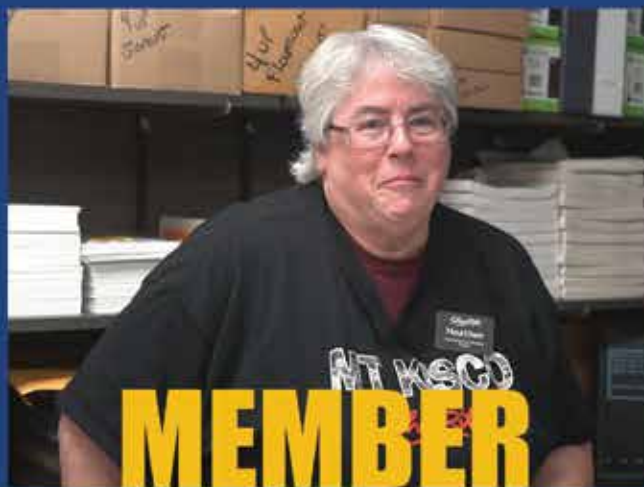


# CONGRATULATIONS



**Patricia Cox**

This is Patricia Cox, she has been a Local 1500 member for 50 years. Her career started in 1975 in King Kullen store #14 in Seaford. From there she would transfer to store #8 in Baldwin and she would finish her career in Bellmore King Kullen store #50 where she has been since 1986. Patricia spent 25 years as a head bookkeeper and the other 25 as an assitant bookkeeper. Patricia retired back in May. We at UFCW Local 1500 would like to congratulate her on her retirement and we thank her for her 50 years of service!



**MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT**

**Check out our latest  
Member Spotlight Video**

**SCAN  
CODE**



*With  
Heather Edwards*







Fallon Ager, Director of Region 1 – Northeastern

## Help Us Defend Workers' Rights

President Trump recently issued an executive order aimed at ending collective bargaining for a number of federal unions—a move that directly undermines the rights of hundreds of thousands of federal workers who have dedicated their careers to serving the American people.

As members of Local 1500 know, collective bargaining is a fundamental right that ensures workers have safe workplaces, a voice on the job, and the ability to provide for their families. This executive order does more than harm federal employees—it sets a dangerous precedent for all workers—and that's why it's critical that we stand in solidarity and protect workers' rights.

I encourage all of you to continue the important work of educating friends, neighbors, and community members about the benefits of having a union contract—including better

wages, affordable health care, paid sick leave and vacation time, fair scheduling, overtime protection and retirement security.

Community allies have always played a key role in the UFCW's ability to organize and win better contracts. To that end, I urge you to reach out to us and let us know about the organizations you work with and if you believe they could be potential allies for our union as we continue to stand up for the right to organize and negotiate the strong union contracts our members have earned and deserve.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to make Local 1500 and our entire union better and stronger. By standing together, we can protect organizing and collective bargaining rights, and build a better future for all workers.

Each year on April 28th, International Worker's Memorial Day is recognized in multiple ceremonies throughout New York State and around the world. On that day every year we participate in a "Moment of Reflection" to honor our most important asset, our members. Asking everyone to recognize their extraordinary efforts as they have continued to work every day to serve their communities through this nation-wide crisis. We are proud to allow our members this time to honor their fellow Union Siblings who have passed away, in addition to remembering their friends and loved ones. Thank you for your time, and once again, thank you to all the essential workers.





## Communication Is Key To Successfully Receiving Benefits

The Union, its Executive Officers and the Funds wish to remind you that communicating with the Union and Fund is the key to getting all the benefits and information provided to you. Good communication requires not only action on the part of the Funds, but also action on your part as well.

The Funds communicate with you to advise of various matters, such as modification of benefits. It is imperative that you communicate with your Union and the Funds when you have changes in your personal information. If you don't, you risk not having some of your benefits provided according to your wishes.

If you have a change in your personal life, such as a change of address, change of marital status or you have a child, you should contact the Union and the Funds as soon as possible after the change and advise them of your new information. There are many reasons to do so and below are some examples to illustrate why you would want to do so.

### WELFARE FUND

#### Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance Beneficiary Designation

The various Plans of the UFCW Local 1500 Welfare Fund provides you with Life Insurance and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance. Should the unthinkable occur, your named beneficiary or beneficiaries will be able to file a claim and receive the benefits available under the Plan that you were covered under at the time the loss occurs. You may name whoever you like as your beneficiary and you may change that designation as often as you like. Additionally, you may name as many people as you wish as a beneficiary of the Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance benefit. But please remember, if you name more than one person, it's important to note the percentage you wish each to receive. If a percentage is not indicated, the beneficiaries will share the benefit equally.

If you named a beneficiary when you were hired and a lot of time has passed since you began your coverage under the Fund, there is a good chance you have had changes in your personal life, such as a marriage or divorce. If your beneficiary designation is not up to date, the person you named years ago will receive your benefit even if you wanted someone else to receive it.

If while reading this you are wondering who the beneficiary is on the Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance offered by the Welfare Fund, then it's time you revisit that designation. The last thing you want is for your loved one to think there is a benefit for them at their time of grief only to find out that the benefit is not there.

It could be that you didn't name anyone as the beneficiary of your Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance benefit at the time you began covered employment and became enrolled in the Welfare Fund. If that is the case, there is a very specific distribution order noted in the policy. This distribution order might not be what you wish, but the insurance carrier will issue the benefit according to the distribution order when no beneficiary is named.

Therefore, if you don't recall who your beneficiary is or you want to double check who you designated as your beneficiary, contact the Medical Department and ask them who is noted as the beneficiary of your Life Insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance. They will be more than happy to look it up for you and to assist you if you choose to change it.

### ANNUITY FUND

#### Beneficiary Designation

Another Fund affiliated with UFCW Local where the naming of a beneficiary is important is the UFCW Local 1500 Annuity Fund. However, unlike the Welfare Fund, there are strict guidelines regarding a distribution from an Annuity Fund so it is in your best interest to name a beneficiary and advise the Fund when you have changes that may affect your Annuity Fund benefit distribution. While no

one wants to think about their passing, making sure your loved ones are taken care of and your wishes followed will bring you peace of mind.

If you are married, your spouse is automatically your beneficiary for your Annuity Fund benefit, unless your spouse consents to and gives written authorization (which must be notarized) allowing you to name an individual other than them to be the beneficiary of all or part of your Annuity Fund benefit. If your spouse does give their written (and notarized) consent to have another person be your beneficiary, you may change that beneficiary, but you must get your spouse's written consent to make that change.

If you are single, you may name any individual or individuals as the beneficiary of your Annuity Fund benefit and you may change any previous beneficiary designation without the consent of the previously named beneficiary. Additionally, if you name more than one person, you should note the percentage you wish each to receive. If a percentage is not indicated, the beneficiaries will share the benefit equally.

If no beneficiary is designated, the Plan has a specific distribution order for your Annuity Fund benefit. If no beneficiary is designated, the Fund will distribute your benefit as follows:

- Your child or children and if no children
- To your estate.

It could be that you were single and had no children when you began working and now you are still single but you have a child. If at the time you began your covered employment, you named your parent, sibling or friend as the beneficiary of your Annuity Fund benefit and did not revisit that designation after the birth of your child, then should something happen to you, the beneficiary would receive the distribution of your Annuity Fund benefit, not your child.

As you can see, the above examples illustrate the importance of keeping the Union and its Funds apprised of your wishes when it comes to the designation of a beneficiary.

### UNION AND ALL FUNDS

#### Contact Information

It is also very important to keep the Union and Fund up to date on your home address, home and cell phone numbers and your email address to ensure you receive all information sent by the Union and the Funds. Without accurate information, the Union and the Funds cannot communicate with you. This is especially true for those retirees who are receiving benefits under the Funds or if you are vested for a pension but have not reached your retirement age. While you are an active participant, you are more aware of the Union and the Funds as you are still working and involved with the Union in your day-to-day life. As a retiree who receives benefits, you might not think that notifying your Union about changes in your personal life is important. But it is. The notification allows you to stay up to date on what's happening within the Union and the Funds.

Whether active or retired, your Union has worked hard to negotiate the benefits you receive and your Union Officials want you to make the most of them. Without communication, chances are, you may be missing out.

If you move, make sure to contact the Union and update your information. We all know that moving is a trying and exhausting experience and notification to your Union is not the first thing on your mind after you unload or unpack the last box. However, after the dust settles, reach out to the Union and update your information. All it takes is a simple email or call. The time spent doing so may save you time in the long run.

If after reading this article you are wondering what your contact information is in the Union records or who your designated beneficiary is, then it's time you call or write your Union (email or the US Postal Service, whichever you prefer) and ask the questions. In the long run, you will be happy you did.

## 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.

Alperin, Matthew  
Baker, David  
Balsamo, Anna  
Beesley, Richard  
Begley, Robert  
Behrens, Neil  
Bisignano, Margaret  
Brown, Murlene  
Caffieri, Vivian  
Calliste, Lloyd  
Carney, Jacquelin  
Corbey, Thomas J.  
Cordero, Nester  
Crews, Joe L.  
Davis, Jackie  
Denker, Frances  
Dennison, William T.  
DeRosa, John  
Dewey, Arthur L.  
DiMeglio, Rosemarie  
Dimonda, Nicholas  
Doria, Dominick  
Dunn, Arthur S.  
Easa, Sandra L.  
Eisen, Henry  
Fazio, Elvira  
French, Richard  
Frisoli, Joan  
Gecewicz, Gregory  
Gernand, Debra F.  
Giancontieri, Maureen  
Goodmark, Angela  
Greene, John  
Hayward, Israel  
Henry, Thomas S.  
Herlihy, Michael  
Hibbard, Edward F.  
Hudson, Patricia M.  
Humphreys, Gregory J.  
Imperiale, Silvia  
Isaacs, Errol  
Johnson, Shirley  
Kelly, Ann F.  
Kerin, Walter  
Louis, Stephen S.  
MacFadden, Donald  
Maggio, Peter F.  
Marti, Pedro

Martine, Claire  
McHugh, Katherine  
Mejia, Ludys  
Mellis, Leonard  
Mikucki, Jozef  
Miller, Arthur  
Milli, John J.  
Mirro, Paula  
Moore, Cecelia H.  
Morton, Robert A.  
Mosier, Mary  
Motisi, Salvatore  
Munda, Patricia A.  
Muscara, Irene D.  
Nisbett, Edward  
Olivieri, Margaret B.  
Palaguachi, Segundo Y.  
Perdomo, Miguel  
Petrillo, Frank J.  
Potesak, Thomas J.  
Priller, Raymond R.  
Pugh, Henry  
Repole, Joseph  
Rezende, Susan M.  
Rogers, Catherine  
Rowan, Robert  
Sandoval, Dorothy  
Sarppraicone, Louis  
Schwebel, Roxanne D.  
Scro, Adriana  
Seen, Lily  
Shepetin, Seymour  
Simoni, Valentino  
Slavik, Joseph A.  
Solimene, Linda  
Soncini, Clifford  
Sorgente, MaryEllen  
Spence, Margery  
Steele, Irene  
Teichman, Christine M.  
Trezza, Vincenzo  
Vigilo, Patricia M.  
Vignola, Gertrude  
Washington, Ronnie  
White, James  
Wilcenski, Bernard E.  
Young, Margaret A.  
Ziedenweber, Greta



**Congratulations to the  
2025 UFCW LOCAL 1500  
Scholarship Winners**



VISIT OUR WEBPAGE [WWW.UFCW1500.ORG](http://WWW.UFCW1500.ORG)

## 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: Sara Musco  
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:



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

## Social Media Corner



On August 29th, we had our Fish For A Cause event at Captree State Park

@UFCW1500

@UFCW1500

@UFCW1500

@UFCW1500



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL



Any suggestions or comments for the advocate Send us feedback to [info@UFCW1500.org](mailto:info@UFCW1500.org)







# BREAKFAST with Santa

*All Local 1500 Members and Children are invited  
for a free Breakfast and a free photo with Santa*

**FOOD | FESTIVE CRAFTS | PHOTO WITH SANTA**

DECEMBER 14TH 2025 SUNDAY | AT 8 AM - 11 AM

**Local 1500**  
UFCW

**RSVP: UFCW1500.ORG/SANTA**



# APPLY FOR 2026 SCHOLARSHIP

**EACH YEAR WE AWARD THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUR MEMBERS  
AND THEIR DEPENDENTS**  
(DEPENDENT MUST BE A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR)

**ARE YOU A LOCAL 1500 MEMBER OR DEPENDENT OF A  
MEMBER?**

**IF SO BE SURE TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION  
FOR THE LOCAL 1500 SCHOLARSHIP :**



**DEADLINE TO REQUEST APPLICATION IS  
DECEMBER 31ST 2025**

# VALUE OF OUR UNION

Legal Reinbursements To Member YTD 2022:	Members Assisted By Legal Serives YTD 2022:
<b>\$38,042</b>	<b>283</b>

# 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.

Alexander, Gemma E.  
Aliberti, Andrea  
Alvarenga, Jorge A.  
Ambrosio O'Neil, Theresa  
Animas Gracia, Hilario  
Aponte, Maria  
Arfmann, Linda M.  
Argano, Theresa  
Arrighetti, Lawrence W.  
Augustine, Alvin  
Aviles, Jose A.  
Baez, Silvia  
Baker, David  
Baldwin, Jill  
Baptiste, Jefferson  
Barnes, Felicia  
Beiner, Kenneth  
Bell, David  
Bell-Lopez, Emma  
Bertuzzi, Laura A.  
Bodnar, Donna M.  
Bonacasa, Anthony J.  
Botex, Marcia  
Boule, Louis  
Brannan, Joan M.  
Brennan, Diana  
Brown, Fredrick  
Bueno, Luis  
Bull, Catherine A.  
Buttner, Genice  
Cama, Christine M.  
Canario, Michael A.  
Chan, Kenny  
Chavarriaga, Fabio  
Ciervo, Jennifer  
Cioppa, Josephine A.  
Clarizio, Sam  
Clarke, Duane  
Cobb, Beth M.  
Colbert, Carol T.  
Consolmagno, Lydia R.  
Corcoran, Ann M.  
Corkery, Maritoni E.  
Cossa, Donna  
Coupe, Donald  
Cox, Patricia  
Crews, Patricia  
Cucka, Thanas  
Dalton, Lorna A.  
Davis, Stephen  
De La Rosa, Gerso  
DeBlanco, Josephine  
Delgado, Ruth  
DeSantis, Chiara  
Di Rico, John  
Drago, Bruce  
Duda, Edward  
Ecker, Robert  
Espinoza, Luis E.  
Estrada, Alejandro  
Estrada, Raul A.  
Feeney, Nancy L.  
Fermin, Luisa  
Ferrer, Virgilio S.  
Fico, Elena  
Fleischhauer, Cheryl  
Florissant, Marie C.  
Forero, Antonio J.  
Franke, Christine A  
Frankle, Richard A.

Frey, Arthur V.  
Fucci, Gregory R.  
Gadea - Alvarez, Juan  
Gainor, Michael S.  
Gallo, Martin L.  
Gearhart, Rosanne K.  
Gensch, Douglas R.  
Gibbs, Patricia  
Gil, Benito R.  
Golia, Nunziant  
Grange, Thomas  
Graziano, Phyllis  
Gregory, George  
Grosskopf, Thomas D.  
Harley, Jonathan  
Harris, Maria C.  
Hartley, Carolyn  
Henderson, Wayne A.  
Hjalte, Kenneth  
Horsford, Hugh M.  
Horton, Rose  
Hunter, Priscilla  
Ingoglia, Frank  
Jiles, Mary  
Jimenez, Carlos  
Kaufman, Glenn  
Kaur, Inderjit  
Kenny, John  
Kirwan, Joseph R.  
Kish, Pamela R.  
Kussel, Karen L.  
Ladez, Linda M.  
Latham, Michael  
Laundry, Alphonso  
Law, Barbara  
Leone, Daniel  
Lester, Jeffrey T.  
Loken, Robert A.  
Macula, Peter  
Madden, Colleen  
Madera, Hector  
Malave, Emilda  
Mango, Jocelyn M.  
Mannarino, Frank C.  
Martone, Joseph  
Marty, Margarita  
Maya, Leon  
McArdle, Richard G  
McCaffrey, Elena A.  
McCombs, Ronald J  
McCormick, Diane K.  
McNicholas, Lynda  
Medina-Barreto, Maria  
Mendez, Israel  
Mendolia, Joanne  
Mercado, Samuel  
Miah, Mashuk  
Mian, Muhammed N.  
Millington, Ruth T.  
Mills, Phillip  
Miro, Stephen  
Mongioi, Michael R.  
Morrison, Kathleen A.  
Murphy, Linda  
Mussotte, Caroll  
Mustacchio, Frank L.  
Niasse, Abdou  
O'Neill, Michael J.  
Ortiz, Julio  
Osorio, Maria L.

Osterhoudt, Martin  
Ottenbacher, Arlene F.  
Padovano, Elliott J.  
Palmer, Colville  
Palmer, Iris  
Parisi, Jean C.  
Paulik, Dennis F.  
Perticone, Donna L.  
Pfrang, Lisa  
Phillips, Joseph V.  
Pitzer, Wesley  
Politoski, Veronica L.  
Pough, Cynthia  
Ramirez, Maria P.  
Ramjohn, Ameer  
Ratcliff, Calvin  
Redeman, Raymond  
Rellis, Deborah A.  
Renart, James T.  
Rios, Eleodora  
Rippolone, Robert S.  
Rivera, Francisco  
Rodrigues, Maria  
Rodriguez, Luis  
Romagnano, Louis V.  
Rosero Rivera, Fausto G.  
Rotanz, Linda  
Ruiz, William  
Ryan, Patricia A.  
Ryan, Susan  
Sanchez, Bersy  
Sanchez, Constantina  
Sanchez, Ricky H.  
Sanders, Ernestine  
Santos, Angel  
Sarbu. Smaranda  
Scena, Nancy  
Schleisner, Laurie  
Schonfeld, Diane  
Shah, Rabia  
Shepherd, Mark R.  
Silva, Frances E.  
Silverman, Kathleen  
Smiarowski, James M.  
Smith, John  
Sodaitis, Mary  
Sogluizzo, Ann Marie  
Soriano, Viviane J.  
Spaulding, Daniel J.  
Stamatiades, Melanie A  
Surace, Debra A.  
Tjan, Prayitno  
Tong, Michelle  
Totoro, Deborah A.  
Tramutola, Lorraine  
Trespeces, Milagros  
Tricarico, Mark  
Tyska JR, Joseph  
Vazquez, Raul  
Veras, Maritza  
Vigilo, Patricia M.  
Villatoro, Jose A.  
Wegner, Lily A.  
Williams, Christopher  
Wozny, Anthony M.  
Wyckoff, Carol A.  
Zangrillo, William  
Zayer, Adam  
Zimmardi, Paul



UFCW Local 1500  
425 Merrick Ave  
Westbury, NY 11590



NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WESTBURY, NY  
PERMIT # 102

## General Membership Meetings

**December 10, 2025**

**March 11, 2026**

**June 10, 2026**

**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



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 THIS QR CODE.



**Prizes Will Be Awarded!**



## FRANK MEEHAN HALL OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT LIST

**516-214-1300 • 800-522-0456**

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



### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1305 Newell, Rob - President  
1306 Waddy, Aly - Secretary-Treasurer  
1303 Waddy, Joe - Executive Vice President/Recorder  
1304 Santarpia, Paul - Director of Operations

### OFFICE MANAGER

1351 Wright, Michele - Michelew@ufcw1500.org

### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

1305 Andrade-Castro, Stefanie  
Scastro@ufcw1500.org

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1306 Reyes, Samantha - Sreyes@ufcw1500.org

### FIELD DIRECTOR

1356 Pasquale, Greg - Gpasquale@ufcw1500.org

### ASSISTANT FIELD DIRECTOR

1340 Scorzelli, Jay - Jscorzelli@ufcw1500.org

### DUES OR INITIATION FEE REFUNDS

1351 Wright, Michele - Michelew@ufcw1500.org

### SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES

1334 Brijlall, David - Davidb@ufcw1500.org  
1371 Flores, Vilmarie - Vflores@ufcw1500.org  
1346 Guardado, Juan - Juang@ufcw1500.org  
1311 Zeiner, Steve - Szeiner@ufcw1500.org

### UNION REPRESENTATIVES

1362 Byfield, Desmond - Dbyfield@ufcw1500.org  
1317 Guardado, Jeff - Jguardado@ufcw1500.org  
1322 Guelee, Gina - Gguelee@ufcw1500.org  
1350 Kapogiannopoulos, George - Georgek@ufcw1500.org  
1358 Mauleon, Rafael - Rmauleon@ufcw1500.org  
1360 Siano, Alicia - Asiano@ufcw1500.org  
1349 Walter, Fred Jr. - Fwalter@ufcw1500.org

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICING REPRESENTATIVES

1368 Cordoba, Matias - Mcordova@ufcw1500.org  
1343 Cruz, Israel - Icruz@ufcw1500.org  
1318 Ortiz, Sandra - Sortiz@ufcw1500.org  
1339 Rodgers, Dan - Drodgers@ufcw1500.org

### MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

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

### ANNUITY FUND

1314 Mcglone, Christine - Cmcglone@ufcw1500.org  
1325 D'Antona, Nikki - Ndontona@ufcw1500.org

### LEGAL SERVICE FUND

1310 Punzo, Wendy - Wpunzo@ufcw1500.org

### MEDICAL, VISION & DENTAL FORMS

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

### PENSION FUND

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

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

1310 Punzo, Wendy - Wpunzo@ufcw1500.org

### WITHDRAWAL CARDS

1328 Musco, Sara - Smusco@ufcw1500.org

**DIRECT LINE**  
**516-214-1300**

**CHECK US OUT**  
**@UFCW1500.org**

**MY UNION HAS VALUE**

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