THE dvocate

Local 1500 UFCW — a VOICE for working America — AFL-CIO-CLC

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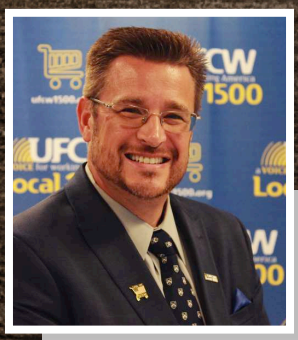




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UNION STRONG! New York State AFL-CIO

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

Leading Through Crisis

When I became President of Local 1500 in December 2019, I thought I had a pretty good idea of all the things I needed to know. By that time, I was already a member of our Union for almost 30 years and had worked for the Local for more than 24. I had previously served our membership as an organizer, a membership servicing rep, a union rep, a field director, the assistant to the President and the Secretary-Treasurer. I had served as a benefit fund trustee for over 11 years. I had worked for 3 Union Presidents with incredibly different styles and under incredibly different circumstances. Over the course of my career I spent the equivalent of months away from home learning best practices at countless seminars run by our International Union and the area central labor bodies on countless topics. All that experience was great, but none fully prepared me to successfully lead our Union through the events that unfolded during the first 6 months as your President.

The bankruptcy and eventual liquidation of the "old Fairway" company started in January 2020, but that was a challenge that I was prepared for. Unfortunately, the A&P/Pathmark bankruptcies in 2012 and 2015 had already taught many of us at the Union what the bankruptcy rules and best tactics were. We also had a relationship with one of the best bankruptcy law firms in New York that would help us represent our members throughout the process. So, we immediately began preparations to protect our members and ensure we exhausted every opportunity to help them win. Not that workers ever really "win" in a bankruptcy court, but the results will always be better for workers represented by a Union than for those who aren't. Please don't mistake what I am saying, the simplest definition of a bankruptcy court is "a place where workers get screwed". But as difficult as that bankruptcy was going to be, no one expected the pandemic that hit a few weeks after the filing. The whole world shut down in a blink and the bankruptcy proceedings had to shift from in person to virtual. What is zoom? How will this work? What are we supposed to do next? What is the Corona virus? How do we handle a bankruptcy proceeding with statewide quarantine and stay at home orders in place? What the heck did this mean for our members? Our leadership team had a lot to do, and we got it done.

As the first 6 months of 2020 passed many of the unknowns were erased and we had cleared all our new hurdles. Hundreds of new and unexpected problems were solved. We were one of the first organizations to find tons of PPE when others couldn't and we arranged for truckloads of sanitizer to be brought to the Union office and distributed to your employers to help protect our members and keep your workplaces safer. We partnered with dozens of labor unions, elected officials, government agencies, vendor partners and friends to get our members to the front of the line if they wanted to be vaccinated. There were many difficult days, but our team absolutely crushed it for our members.

By the end of May 2020, the virtual Fairway bankruptcy proceedings had concluded, and the results were much more successful than we imagined they could be. What was proven again was that our success wasn't because of any one of us, it was because of all of us. Our members, staff and leadership team worked tirelessly every day to find the best outcomes for that day's problems. But those first 6-months taught all of us on your Union staff that it wasn't just about working harder, it was about working harder together. I often joke with folks that Tony Speelman didn't hand me a manual after I got sworn in that told me everything I needed to know to be President. There was no "Becoming a Union President for Dummies" book out there for me to read. Ironically, even if that book existed, it would only prepare you for maybe 2/3 of the job. I don't know how you feel about it but if I was only able to do 2/3 of this job I would go down in our Union's history as a disaster!

Obviously not every day as your President is difficult. There are days, like the annual scholarship awards breakfast when I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. I get to shake the hands of the scholarship winners and talk with their families, which gives me an enormous sense of pride. Admittedly it takes a many people to raise the money to provide those scholarships and to put the event together, but I get the honor of presiding over it just because I am the President. Most of the other days where being your President is the easiest job on Earth surround overseeing our Union's charitable efforts and attending our membership & fundraising events. Having that time away from the shops to interact with you and your families is something I hold dear. No matter how much time I spend with members on the job, it's when we're outside the traditional workplace that we really get to know each other. Some of you are like family to me, thousands of you have watched my daughter grow up, and many of you know my life story the same way I know yours. I wish there were more of those days and opportunities, but unfortunately as President the current environment just doesn't allow for it.

Navigating the fine line between representing our members to the fullest, while not creating a competitive disadvantage too wide for your employers to successfully compete is by far the hardest part of the job. That involves successfully managing your $80 million dollar a year Welfare Fund, your $1.1 billion dollar pension fund & your $65 million dollar annuity fund. To do that successfully we need to work to keep monthly employer benefit costs under control while also making sure that your plans deliver you best in industry benefits that are there when you need them. Accomplishing this goal can also include leading the fight against anti-worker legislation or proactively trying to pass pro-worker legislation that broadens worker rights and membership protections. It all culminates with contract negotiations where maintaining the trust of our members while not destroying the bargaining relationships with your employers can at times be compared to squeezing a banana through the eye of a needle.

In the end the message I wish to convey is that there is no way for me to do my job successfully and make everybody happy at the same time. It might be easier to do if our industry wasn't being invaded by predatory private equity firms or sprawled by non-union and discount operators opening at a faster pace than any other point in my career. It might be easier if the social and political climates in our world weren't actively and continually dividing the members of our union. Maybe, but maybe not. Although this is by far the hardest job I've ever had, there are a few other things I'd like you to know: 1. I wouldn't trade this job for any other in the world; 2. We have built one of the most diverse and capable Union staffs in the country to work for you; 3. We work our asses off for you every day and will continue to do so; 4. We are up for the next challenge, no matter what it is!

Thank you for the opportunity to be your President and thank you for your membership in our great Union. Our Union Has Value!





LA PERSPECTIVA DEL PRESIDENTE
Rob Newell, Presidente
Vice Presidente Internacional

Liderar en Medio de una Crisis

Cuando asumí la presidencia de la Local 1500 en diciembre de 2019, creía tener una idea bastante clara de todo lo que necesitaba saber. Para entonces, ya llevaba casi 30 años como miembro de nuestro sindicato y más de 24 trabajando para la Local 1500. Anteriormente, había servido a nuestros afiliados desempeñándome como organizador, representante de atención al afiliado, representante sindical, director de campo, asistente del presidente y secretario-tesorero. Fui administrador de un fondo de prestaciones durante más de 11 años. Trabajé para 3 presidentes sindicales con estilos muy diferentes y en circunstancias muy diferentes. A lo largo de mi carrera, pasé el equivalente a varios meses fuera de casa aprendiendo las mejores prácticas en innumerables seminarios —sobre una gran variedad de temas— organizados por nuestro sindicato internacional y por los organismos laborales centrales de la zona. Toda esa experiencia fue valiosa, pero nada de ello me preparó plenamente para liderar con éxito nuestro sindicato durante los acontecimientos que se desarrollaron en mis primeros seis meses como su presidente.

La quiebra y posterior liquidación de la antigua empresa Fairway comenzó en enero de 2020, pero era un reto para el que estaba preparado. Lamentablemente, las quiebras de A&P/Pathmark en 2012 y 2015 ya nos habían enseñado a muchos de nosotros en el sindicato cuáles eran las reglas de la bancarrota y las mejores tácticas. También teníamos una relación con uno de los mejores bufetes de abogados especializados en bancarrotas de Nueva York, que nos ayudaría a representar a nuestros miembros durante todo el proceso. Así pues, comenzamos de inmediato los preparativos para proteger a nuestros miembros y asegurarnos de agotar todas las posibilidades para lograr el mejor resultado para ellos. No es que los trabajadores realmente "ganen" en un tribunal de quiebras, pero los resultados siempre serán mejores para los trabajadores representados por un sindicato que para aquellos que no lo están. Por favor, no malinterpreten lo que digo: la definición más sencilla de un tribunal de quiebras es "un lugar donde los trabajadores salen perjudicados". Pero por difícil que fuera esa bancarrota, nadie esperaba la pandemia que estalló pocas semanas después de la presentación de la solicitud. El mundo entero se paralizó en un abrir y cerrar de ojos y los procedimientos judiciales tuvieron que pasar de un formato presencial a uno virtual. ¿Qué es Zoom? ¿Cómo funcionará esto? ¿Qué debemos hacer a continuación? ¿Qué es el coronavirus? ¿Cómo gestionamos un proceso de bancarrota con órdenes estatales de cuarentena y confinamiento vigentes? ¿Qué demonios significaba todo esto para nuestros afiliados? Nuestro equipo directivo tenía mucho trabajo por delante, y cumplimos con nuestra labor.

Al transcurrir los primeros seis meses de 2020, muchas de las incógnitas se disiparon y superamos todos los nuevos obstáculos. Se resolvieron cientos de problemas nuevos e inesperados. Fuimos una de las primeras organizaciones en conseguir grandes cantidades de equipo de protección personal (EPP) cuando otros no podían hacerlo; además, gestionamos el traslado de camiones cargados de desinfectante a la oficina del sindicato para distribuirlos entre sus empleadores, ayudando así a proteger a nuestros afiliados y a mantener sus lugares de trabajo más seguros. Nos asociamos con decenas de sindicatos, funcionarios electos, agencias gubernamentales, proveedores y amigos para que nuestros miembros tuvieran prioridad a la hora de vacunarse. Hubo muchos días difíciles, pero nuestro equipo hizo un trabajo excepcional en beneficio de nuestros afiliados.

A finales de mayo de 2020, el proceso virtual de quiebra de Fairway había concluido, y los resultados fueron mucho más exitosos de lo que habíamos imaginado. Una vez más, quedó demostrado que nuestro éxito no se debió a ninguno de nosotros en particular, sino a todos nosotros. Nuestros miembros, personal y equipo directivo trabajaron incansablemente cada día para encontrar las mejores soluciones a los problemas que se presentaban. Pero esos primeros seis meses nos enseñaron a todos los que formábamos parte del personal de su sindicato que no se trataba solo de trabajar más duro, sino de trabajar más duro juntos. Suelo bromear con la gente diciendo que Tony Speelman no me entregó un manual después de jurar el cargo que me explicara todo lo que necesitaba saber para ser presidente. No existía ningún libro del tipo "Cómo ser presidente de un sindicato para tontos" que pudiera consultar. Irónicamente, aunque tal libro hubiera existido, solo me habría preparado para desempeñar, tal vez, dos tercios del trabajo. No sé qué opinan ustedes, pero si yo solo fuera capaz de realizar dos tercios de esta labor, ¡pasaría a la historia de nuestro sindicato como un desastre!

Obviamente, no todos los días como presidente son difíciles. Hay días, como el desayuno anual de entrega de becas, en los que no quisiera estar en ningún otro lugar. Tengo la oportunidad de estrechar la mano de los ganadores de las becas y hablar con sus familias, lo cual me llena de un enorme orgullo. Si bien es cierto que se requiere el esfuerzo de muchas personas para recaudar los fondos de dichas becas y organizar el evento, tengo el honor de presidirlo simplemente por el hecho de ser su presidente. La mayor parte de los días en que ser su presidente resulta la tarea más sencilla del mundo transcurre supervisando las iniciativas benéficas de nuestro sindicato y asistiendo a los eventos para los afiliados y de recaudación de fondos. Valoro enormemente esos momentos fuera de los centros de trabajo para convivir con ustedes y sus familias. Por mucho tiempo que pase con los miembros en el trabajo, es cuando estamos fuera del entorno laboral tradicional cuando realmente llegamos a conocernos. Algunos de ustedes son como de mi familia; miles han visto crecer a mi hija y muchos conocen mi historia de vida tal como yo conozco la suya. Ojalá hubiera más días y oportunidades así, pero, lamentablemente, el contexto actual no lo permite.

Navegar por la delgada línea que separa la representación plena de nuestros miembros, sin crear una desventaja competitiva demasiado grande que impida a sus empleadores competir con éxito, es, con diferencia, la parte más difícil del trabajo. Eso implica administrar con éxito su Fondo de Bienestar de 80 millones de dólares al año, su fondo de pensiones de 1.100 millones de dólares y su fondo de anualidades de 65 millones de dólares. Para lograrlo, debemos esforzarnos por mantener bajo control los costos mensuales de las prestaciones que asumen los empleadores, garantizando al mismo tiempo que sus planes ofrezcan beneficios líderes en el sector, disponibles cuando ustedes los necesiten. Alcanzar este objetivo también puede implicar liderar la lucha contra leyes perjudiciales para los trabajadores o impulsar proactivamente legislación favorable que amplíe los derechos laborales y las protecciones de los afiliados. Todo culmina con las negociaciones contractuales, donde mantener la confianza de nuestros miembros sin destruir las relaciones de negociación con sus empleadores puede compararse, en ocasiones, con intentar pasar un plátano por el ojo de una aguja.

En definitiva, el mensaje que quiero transmitir es que no hay manera de que yo pueda hacer mi trabajo con éxito y contentar a todo el mundo al mismo tiempo. Quizás sería más fácil si nuestro sector no estuviera siendo invadido por firmas de capital privado depredadoras o saturado por operadores de bajo costo y sin representación sindical, que se expanden a un ritmo más acelerado que en cualquier otro momento de mi carrera. Tal vez sería más fácil si el clima social y político actual no estuviera dividiendo activa y continuamente a los miembros de nuestro sindicato. Quizás sí, o quizás no. Aunque este es, con diferencia, el trabajo más difícil que he tenido, hay otras cosas que quiero que sepan: 1. No cambiaría este trabajo por ningún otro en el mundo; 2. Hemos creado uno de los equipos sindicales más diversos y capaces del país para trabajar para usted; 3. Nos dejamos la piel trabajando para ustedes todos los días, y seguiremos haciéndolo; 4. ¡Estamos preparados para el próximo desafío, sea cual sea!

Gracias por la oportunidad de ser su presidente y gracias por formar parte de nuestro gran sindicato. ¡Nuestro sindicato tiene valor!



JUST FOR THE RECORD

Aly Y. Waddy, Secretary-Treasurer

Our Strength is Our Unity

I recently had the opportunity to attend the AFL-CIO's 30th Constitutional Convention in Minneapolis, where delegates representing millions of working people came together to chart the future of the labor movement. The message that emerged from the convention was clear: the labor movement is growing, workers are organizing, and unions remain the strongest voice and best opportunity for working people to secure a better future for themselves.

At a time when economic uncertainty, rapid technological change, and political division dominate the headlines, union members across the country continue to prove that solidarity remains our greatest strength. Whether in retail, healthcare, transportation, logistics, manufacturing, or the service sector, workers are standing together and demanding a voice on the job.

One of the convention's central themes was organizing. AFL-CIO leaders announced an ambitious goal of helping organize two million new workers by 2031. That goal reflects what we are seeing firsthand throughout our own industries. Workers are recognizing that collective bargaining delivers real results, better wages, stronger benefits, safer workplaces, retirement security, and respect on the job.

For our members, that message is the same. Every contract we negotiate, every grievance we resolve, and every workplace we organize reinforces the same principle: when workers stand together, we have power and that's how we WIN.

The convention also focused heavily on economic security. Delegates adopted resolutions supporting collective bargaining rights, workforce development, retirement protections, healthcare affordability, and policies designed to create jobs that will help sustain families. These priorities mirror the issues our members face every day. Working people deserve an economy that rewards hard work and provides opportunities for families to succeed.

Another topic that generated significant discussion was artificial intelligence and its growing impact on the workplace. Technology continues to transform industries at an unprecedented pace. While innovation can create opportunities, it must never come at the expense of workers' rights, job security, or dignity. There was a deep emphasis that workers deserve a seat at the table whenever new technologies are introduced. Whether AI is used in scheduling, hiring, performance evaluations, or workplace operations, transparency and accountability must remain priorities. The labor movement is not opposed to innovation; we simply believe that workers should help shape how these tools are used and how their benefits are shared. Without worker input, those decisions are often made without considering the people most affected by them.

The convention also highlighted organizing victories in industries that once seemed out of labor's reach. Ride-share drivers, warehouse workers, flight attendants, and entertainment professionals are finding new ways to build collective power and improve working conditions. Their success demonstrates that the desire for workplace democracy extends far beyond traditional union sectors. As I look at the momentum building throughout the labor movement, I am encouraged by what I see. Workers across the country are organizing because they want the same things our members have fought for and protected over generations: respect, dignity, fairness, and a voice on the job.

Those values have always defined UFCW Local 1500.

These developments serve as an important reminder that the labor movement's future depends on our continued commitment to solidarity, engagement, and growth. The challenges facing working people are significant, but so are the opportunities. Public support for unions remains strong, workers across the country are organizing at historic levels, and labor's voice continues to grow louder in workplaces and communities alike.

As we move forward, we will continue fighting for fair contracts, protecting good union jobs, and ensuring that every member has the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and their families.

The labor movement has always been at its best when workers stand together. The conversations in Minneapolis reinforced what we already know: our strength comes from unity, our progress comes from solidarity, and our future depends on continuing to build worker power for generations to come.

In Solidarity,
Your Secretary-Treasurer
Aly Waddy







Volunteer Committee Members



Volunteer Committee Members





ShopRite Proposal Meeting











Local 1500
a VOICE for working America
UFCW
AFL-CIO-CLC

Local 1500 Events

BOWL-A-THON










Scholarship Breakfast







Upcoming Events

LABOR DAY
Rally and March
Tuesday, September 8th, 2026

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday September 9th
Join us in person at 7:00 PM
Watch on Youtube Live at
approx 7:30pm

UFCW Local 1500 Hosts
BINGO
Date: September 18th
Time: 6pm - 9pm



Joseph Waddy, Executive Vice President/Recorder

Protecting the Middle Class Starts with Protecting Workers

For generations, unions built the American middle class. We fought for fair wages, quality healthcare, pensions, paid time off, and safe working conditions—not just for our members, but for workers across every industry. Those victories lifted millions of families into the middle class and strengthened communities across our country.

The growing pay gap in America is no longer just a statistic - it is a threat to working families, our economy, and the future of the middle class. Working families are feeling the pressure every day. The cost of groceries, housing, healthcare, childcare, and other essentials continues to rise, while too many employers are asking workers to do more with less. At the same time, corporate profits continue to soar, executive compensation reaches record levels, and history has now reached a milestone few could have imagined: the world's first trillionaire has emerged.

Think about what that means. A worker earning $50,000 a year would have to work 20 million years to earn $1 trillion before taxes—assuming they spent nothing and saved every dollar. A trillion dollars is one million million dollars. It is a level of wealth so vast that it is difficult to comprehend, yet millions of hardworking people are worried about paying next month's rent, keeping food on the table, or covering an unexpected medical bill.

This isn't about one individual's success. It is about what that extraordinary gap says about our economy. No one questions the value of innovation or entrepreneurship. But when a single person's wealth reaches unprecedented heights while working families struggle to keep pace with the cost of living, it is a reminder that the rewards of our economy are no longer being shared fairly.

During a time when so many Americans are struggling to have a good quality of life, it is especially difficult to hear about an existing trillionaire. The labor movement has always been the answer to that imbalance. Our Union sits across the bargaining table from employers fighting for the well-deserved improvements in the contracts that protect our members and their families.

UFCW Local 1500 has never been afraid to fight for what is right. Whether we are negotiating strong contracts, organizing new workplaces, advocating for pro-worker legislation, or standing shoulder to shoulder with our members during difficult times, our mission remains the same: to improve the lives of working people.

Union members know that every gain we make at the bargaining table comes because workers stand together. Better wages, stronger healthcare benefits, retirement security, safer workplaces, and respect on the job are never handed to us. They are won through solidarity, determination, and collective action.

But protecting our current members is only part of our responsibility.

If we want to preserve and rebuild the middle class, we must organize the next generation of workers. Every worker who joins our union strengthens our collective voice. Every successful organizing campaign raises standards, not just for union members, but for entire industries. Organizing is not simply about growing our union—it is about restoring balance to an economy that too often rewards wealth over work. We continue to fight for the strongest inaugural contracts and then look to build onto them as opportunities arise.

As long as there are workers who want a voice, employers who need to be held accountable, and communities that depend on good union jobs, UFCW 1500 will continue leading the fight.

Our union has always believed that when workers succeed, families succeed. When families succeed, communities thrive. And when unions are strong, the middle class has a future.

A trillionaire may have unimaginable wealth, but working people have something even more powerful, and that is, solidarity. When we stand together, there is no force stronger than an organized workforce united around a common purpose.

That is the future we are fighting for—together.



45th Annual Shop Steward Seminar





















2026 Award Recipients



Catherine Weisenburger
Harry "The Hammer" Hamann Exceptional Shop Steward Award



Richard Nelson
Harry "The Hammer" Hamann Exceptional Shop Steward Award



Nissim "Neo" Montalvo
Harry "The Hammer" Hamann Exceptional Shop Steward Award



Fernando Jalon, Tracy Liddelow, Laura Udill, Kevin Palladino, Ladonna Corcoran
Ten years of devoted service award













Congratulations Jay Scorzelli



Jay Scorzelli's journey with UFCW Local 1500 began more than 30 years ago, when his courage and commitment to the labor movement led him from organizing workers at BJ's Wholesale Club to a distinguished career serving our membership. His dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our members have left a lasting impact on UFCW Local 1500 and the labor movement. We thank Jay for his many years of outstanding service and wish him a well-deserved retirement!



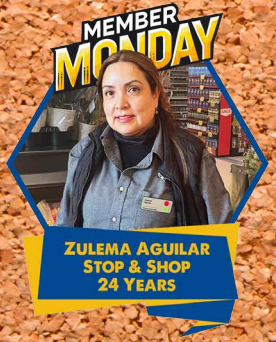






With temperatures reaching some of the highest levels we've seen in years, many UFCW Local 1500 members continue to do the tough, physically demanding work that keeps our stores moving. Through the heat, humidity, and long days, they show up every shift with the dedication and determination that our union is built on. Their hard work supports their fellow members, serves our customers, and helps make each store successful. They represent the very best of what it means to be a Local 1500 member—working hard, taking pride in their job, and never backing down from a challenge. We thank them for their commitment and recognize the important role they play every day.

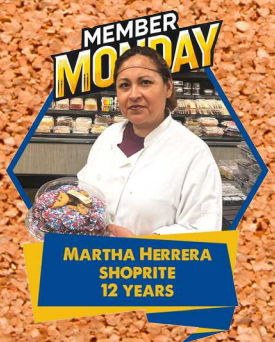
HIGHLIGHTING OUR HARD WORKING MEMBERS



ZULEMA AGUILAR
STOP & SHOP
24 YEARS



SUSANNA MAZZELLA
STOP & SHOP



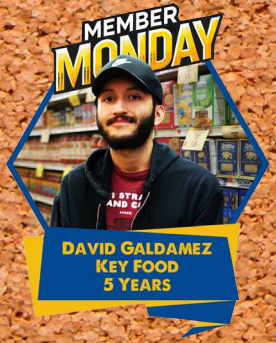
MARTHA HERRERA
SHOPRITE
12 YEARS



LATESHA BLAIR
FRESH GROCER



GAVIN CIPOLLA
STOP & SHOP
20 YEARS



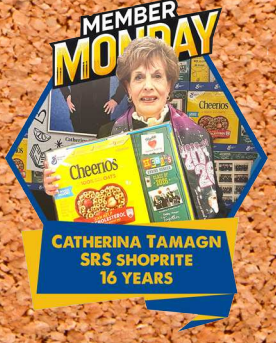
DAVID GALDAMEZ
KEY FOOD
5 YEARS



FRANKIE STEVENS
STOP & SHOP
6 YEARS



JENNIFER MAZA
STOP & SHOP
7 YEARS



CATHERINA TAMAGN
SRS SHOPRITE
16 YEARS



SAMIRAH VIALET
FRESH GROCER



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Check out our latest Member Spotlight Video

SCAN CODE

With Will Baciano





Fallon Ager, Director of Region 1 - Northeastern

Key UFCW Priorities Are Adopted at AFL-CIO's 30th Constitutional Convention

The AFL-CIO adopted two resolutions introduced by the UFCW at its 30th Constitutional Convention in Minneapolis on June 7 to 10. These resolutions address key priorities for members of Local 1500 and include Resolution 25, which urges federal and state agencies to oppose harmful megamergers that diminish worker power, and Resolution 26, which urges lawmakers to ban surveillance pricing and electronic shelf labeling as part of the UFCW's "Affordable Groceries and Good Jobs Campaign."

I spoke at the convention in support of Resolution 25: "When corporate giants don't have to compete with each other for labor, they have the power to suppress workers in every industry. We need strong corporate cops on the beat, standing up for working people, because who enforces the law matters. We urge all delegates to support this resolution, join the fight against corporate power, and take back our economy."

UFCW International Vice President Regina Lambert spoke in support of Resolution 26: "[Electronic shelf labels] only threaten to worsen the affordability crisis and are simply a tool for price gouging. Our champions in Congress have already introduced legislation to ban these practices and we have introduced bills in a dozen state legislatures. People should shop and be able to know that they're paying the same price as everyone else for the same product."

UFCW convention delegates also spoke in support of other resolutions that impact UFCW members, including Resolution 2: We Are the Organized Power of Working People | AFL-CIO; Resolution 4: We Refuse to be Divided | AFL-CIO; and Resolution 8: We Want Healthy Lives and Safe Workplaces | AFL-CIO.

"This convention demonstrated the unity and strength of the labor movement at this pivotal moment for our country," said UFCW International President Milton Jones, who served as co-chair of the AFL-CIO's convention credentials committee. "We are thankful for the solidarity of the entire labor movement in advancing UFCW resolutions on AI, affordability, and corporate megamergers. Our union leaves this convention committed to continuing to invest in new organizing, stand up for immigrant workers, and fight for the safety of all working people on the job."

You can learn more about the convention and resolutions by scanning the QR code:

UFCW Local 1500 has changed from Express Scripts by Evernorth to Prime Therapeutics

Effective July 1st Prime Therapeutics is managing your prescription drug benefits.

For more information,
Please scan the QR Code:

Prime THERAPEUTICS

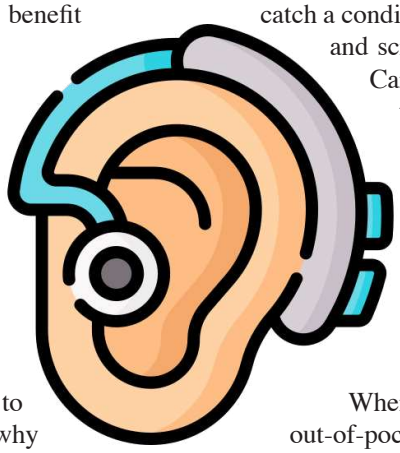
Local 1500 UFCW

UFCW LOCAL 1500 WELFARE FUND
HEARING AID BENEFIT & DISEASE MANAGEMENT

The 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 Officials have long sought to provide benefits that will not only help the members stay healthy but also assist in their treatment at the best possible cost to the Fund and the membership.

The Welfare Fund routinely reviews the benefits utilized in an effort to better design plans that are compliant with the continually changing legislative landscape of healthcare, as well as one that suits the members' needs. However, if the benefits provided are not used, it does not do anyone any good.

One such benefit that is under-utilized is the new benefit for hearing aids available through Start Hearing. This benefit became effective January 1, 2026 and yet only a handful of people have reached out to inquire about it or to receive services. The benefit provides participants of the FT, Special PT and PT ACA Plans a $2,500 lifetime maximum for hearing aids and covered related services. For those participants covered under the Basic PT Plan, the Fund negotiated discounts to allow you to receive these products with lower out-of-pocket costs. This benefit is offered exclusively through Start Hearing, a subsidiary of Starkey Hearing Technologies. The benefit provides you with access to a nationwide network of 3,000+ hearing care providers. If a hearing aid is necessary, the benefit provides a 60-day risk-free trial, 3-year warranty, loss and damage protection and rechargeable and battery-operated models. If a battery-operated model is chosen, the benefit provides 3 years of free batteries.



But, the Fund also recognizes that it is necessary to try to prevent hearing loss in the first place. That's why the Fund's agreement with Start Hearing also provides protection against hearing loss through Soundgear products. Using hearing protection products may prevent you from having hearing loss requiring hearing aids.

Unfortunately, many eligible members have not taken advantage of this benefit. There have been many studies that show a correlation between loss of hearing and a myriad of other ailments such as loss and/or difficulty with balance, vertigo, dementia, depression and anxiety. Therefore, the Fund believes that it is in your best interest to get your hearing checked and get assistance if needed. To find out more about your hearing aid benefit, contact Start Hearing at 888-492-9206 and speak with a Hearing Care Advisor or visit starthearing.com/partners/local1500.

Another recent change that the Fund has made was the termination of Express Scripts, Inc. as the Fund's administrator of its prescription drug benefits and the termination of Livongo as the Fund's diabetes manager. To replace them the Fund has retained Prime Therapeutics, LLC ("Prime") as the administrator of its prescription drug benefits. As part of its agreement with Prime, the Fund has also retained Vida to provide disease management and wellness programs. Vida's services became effective August 1, 2026 and include assistance with diabetic management, weight loss objectives, chronic conditions such as hypertension and high cholesterol and a person's overall physical and mental health. Vida will be reaching out to those individuals who fall within the guidelines of their service. If you receive a letter from Vida, please review it and contact Vida to begin using the program. As with all new programs, there will be some changes and that is to be expected. However, the Fund and your Union Executives believe that the move to Vida will better serve your needs and will be more expansive than the programs offered by Express Scripts and Livongo. If you have any questions surrounding Prime or Vida, contact the Fund Office.

Lastly, one continuous issue with the utilization of the Fund's benefits is the below average usage of the various Preventive Care Benefits offered. As noted above, early intervention is one of the best ways to deal with any illness you might have. One way to catch a condition or illness early is through an annual check-up and screenings. The Patient Protections and Affordable Care Act of 2010 ("ACA") of 2010 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. There are some screenings that may be required for patients with a history of illness. In those situations, coverage for the testing may be covered under the Medical Benefit 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. Therefore, if you have any questions about what is covered under the Preventive Care Benefits in general, contact Anthem.

And now that summer is upon us, we can all help ourselves stay healthy. We all know that taking a walk helps with your muscles, your cardiovascular health and your mental health. Other little changes may also assist in achieving your goals such as using the stairs instead of taking an elevator, if you are able to do so, or parking a little further away from the entrance to a store to take a few more steps and making healthy food choices. Small life changes can add up long term.

Your Union and the Welfare Fund strive to keep all members and their families safe and healthy and encourage you to use all the resources available to you to do so.

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.

Arteaga, Juan
Atwood, Brian
Balzer, Cecilia
Bamonte, Denise
Belmonte, Stephen
Bernard, Richard
Bonura, Catherine
Both, Bruce
Buccuanti, Carla
Cabanas, Manuel
Caldwell, Robert J.
Cavitch, Edward
Celantano, Eileen
Citrano, Joseph
Cundari, Richard C.
D'Alessio, Teodorico
De Fraia, Michael L.
Deluca, Pat
Duda, Guido
Dunne, Carol
Farley, Robert
Fodale, Hannah
Giordano, Gasper
Gouldsbury, Philip
Gulotta, Joan P
Haley, James
Holub, Marianne
Husowitz, Mary P.
Itzkowitz, Albert
Katz, Carole
Lankau, Michael
Lee, Mary A
Maisano, Dorothy
Marcano, Angel L.
Marone, Richard J.
McCray, Stephanie
McLaughlin, Dennis
Mercado, Hector
Mitchum, Ida
Opulente, John
Palladino, Virginia A
Paoli, Carol A
Parker, Robin
Perez-Causo, Marino
Radvansky, Carlyn I.
Ramos, Leida
Rath, Robert
Robinson, William K.
Rodriguez, Vicky
Romano, Steven
Sibal, William
Smiarowski, James
Smith-Noury, Joy
Stvil, Daniel
Tsiros, Diamantin
Tusa, Anthony
Varone, Angelo
Vertiz, Victor
Vitale, Joseph V.
Wachter, John
Westenberger, Fred

Prescription Drug Exclusions

Rx 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.

UNION PLUS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Union Plus just turned 40, To celebrate we've made our Unions Power America Sweepstakes bigger than ever!

Union Plus is giving away over $150,000 in prizes

to learn more Scan the QR code:

UNIONPLUS

UFCW - Local 1500 Nomination of Officers

The offices of President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recorder and Vice Presidents 1 through 17 inclusive, are open for nomination for election to three-year terms of office commencing January 1, 2027, and ending December 31, 2030. The nominations shall be conducted by petition. Each of the 17 Vice Presidents is numerically designated for nomination and election purposes, for example: Vice President Number 1, Vice President Number 2, etc.

This shall serve as official notice to the active membership of UFCW Local 1500 that nomination petitions for any of the above offices may be submitted in person, by U.S. mail or other carrier and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., October 19, 2026, at the main office of UFCW Local 1500, 425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590, to the attention of Gregory Pasquale, General Chairperson. Submission by facsimile, email, computer, or other form of electronic transmission is not valid.

Each page of the petition will contain the name of the active member being nominated, the specific office for which that member is being nominated, and valid, verifiable original signatures. No less than 307 active members in support of said nomination are required. Petitions are available from Gregory Pasquale, General Chairperson, UFCW Local 1500, 425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590. The nominating petition will contain information sufficient to permit the General Chairperson to verify the identity of the signatories thereto. For that purpose, in addition to their signature, each member should print their full name, last four digits of their social security number, company and store to assist in verification.

Only active members of UFCW Local 1500 shall be permitted to solicit and obtain nomination signatures from active members. Each page of the petition must contain verification that all the signatures on the petition page were solicited and obtained by an active member of UFCW Local 1500.

Procedures governing nominations as set forth in the UFCW Local 1500 Bylaws are as follows:

ARTICLE XII
Elections
Section A. All officers shall be elected by secret ballot of the membership, and their term of office shall be for three years, commencing January 1. Terms of office shall expire on December 31, and the terms of newly elected officers shall commence on January 1.
Section B. Nominations and elections shall be conducted during the last six months preceding the expiration of the term of office.
Section C. Not less than 30 days prior to the deadline for the receipt of nomination petitions, notice shall be mailed by the Local Union to each member at the member's last known home address, setting forth the manner for conducting the nominations, the actual number of signatures required for nomination petitions, the deadline date for the receipt of petitions, and all other relevant requirements for the filing of petitions, including what each petition is required to contain.

Not less than 15 days prior to the election, notice shall be mailed by the Local Union to each member at the member's last known home address, setting forth the times, dates and places for conducting the election.

Notice of nominations and election may be combined into a single notice, which shall be mailed in accordance with the time requirements specified in the first paragraph of this Section.

Section D. No person shall be eligible for nomination or election to any office unless such person is:
1. An active member in the Local Union, who has been an active member in the Local Union, or who had been a member

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.

Addario, Marietta
Addeo, Blaise
Alonzo, Maryann
Ansar, Nona
Arroyo, Theresa A.
Augustine, Daniel R.
Ayers, Michael
Bajollari, Lavdije
Barnes, Gladys I.
Barrett, Kevin M.
Berech, Roseann J.
Bhatnagar, Madhu
Braxton, Michael A.
Brooks, Natalie A.
Brower, Marie
Brown, Joseph W.
Bruno-McRae, Irma
Camarda, Lisa A.
Campoli, Rossana
Canty, Kevin
Capone, Elizabeth L.
Capriola, Ralph S.
Caruana, Joseph
Castagnaro, Joseph
Casucci, Anthony J.
Cepeda, Estenia M.
Chapman, Joanne M.
Chiriboga, Maria E.
Ciullo, Janet I.
Cohen, Jeffrey A.
Collins, Jeffrey C.
Collora, Anne
Cook, Kathleen F.
Cruz, Herminio
Cumberbatch, Laverne H.
Cunha, Maryann
D'Amico, Loriann A.
Daniels, Emily
Daoud, Sawsan
Davila, Karen S.
De Fraia, Michael L.
De La Cruz Grande, Maria
Degennaro, Anthony F.
Dennerlein, Gloria J.
Derevere, Marianne
D'Souza, Crescenti
Erickson, John H.
Esparra, Lois M.
Estela, Maribell
Farinella, Lori
Faty, Bacary
Ferril, Sonia G.
Gagliotto, Deborah A.
Galbo, Stephen
Gauser, Mark J.
Giordano, Theresa M.
Gomez, Zenia N.
Graue, Robert C.
Gray, Madeline M.
Green, Gene E.
Greenidge, Hilfred A
Griffin, Eddie L.
Harte, Kevin
Howell, Dwane M.
Humphrey, Rosemary
Indalecio, Pascual
Irvin, Dellis A.
Jimenez Cano, Eloy
Johnson, Catherine
Jones, Sheryl E.
Jonusis, John A.
Katsanevakis, Despina
Killeen, Thomas K.
Kizer, Gary R.
Knight, William
Kolina, William
Krause, Stuart D.
Labita, Anthony
Lane, Luise
Larock, Fenol
Lehoe, Kathleen
Lewis, Donna J.
Lindblad, Steven M.
Lindstrand, Nels O.
Lino, Manuel R.
Lulu, Abel N.
Manon, Erick
March, Gregory
Marcotte, Thomas A.
Marku, Violeta
Mateer, Carol A.
Matheson, Carol
Maybury, Charles
McCaffrey, Terrance M
McDonnell, Brien P.
McLean, Glenroy W.
McMahon Clark, Karen
Miale, Kathleen
Millan, Nancy
Minckler, Leann M.
Mondelli, Donna M.
Morley, John J.
Morris, Sandra A.
Moschner, Theresa A.
Moy, Stephanie M.
Nappo, Roseanne
Nicholson, Bruce
Nivar, Danilo A
Nunez, Ewa
O'Toole, Kenneth M.
Pannulla, Patricia A.
Pantophlet, Denise M.
Paz, Sharon
Perez, Carmen D.
Persaud, Mohabir S.
Policastro, Nancy M.
Primiani, Rocco
Prizzi, Anthony
Ramautar, Edward R.
Ramos, Enrique
Reinheimer, Linda L.
Reuter, Karl H
Rinaldo, Janice E.
Rios, Romeo G.
Robertazzi Jr., John J.
Romero, Jose
Rosario, Maria
Rosenblum, Marlene A.
Salvo, Lisa
Sampayo, Leticia
Santana Abreu, Jose M.
Santarpia, Lisa M.
Santos, Jose A.
Savino, Kathleen
Schrier Fletcher, Madelyn
Senatore, Linda M.
Signorino, Josefina C.
Simone, Gregory
Simpson, Beverly
Skwish, Thomas T.
Slavin, Lee C.
Slott, Terri
Smith, Lorraine M.
Soracco, Loretta A.
Soto, Samuel
St. John, Thomas P.
Stiefel, Jeffrey
Suarez, Luis E.
Thomas, Waynette A.
Timmons-Clyde, Laura A.
Trapani, Rosanne
Tresner, John R.
Vargas-Rodriguez, Nelson
Veach, Patricia A.
Velez, Adelaida
Verdejo, Roberto
Wall, Richard J.
Walsh, Paul T.
Washington, Flame
Watkins, Kim L
Watson, Susan M.
Weems, Gregory
Wheeler, Patricia
White, Charles
Whitney Walton, Tammy
Williamson, Edmund
Wolf, Diane M.
Wong, Douglas
Yeandel, Elaine M.
Yndalesa De Veras, Felipa

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 Ave, Westbury NY, 11590

SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



On May 14th UFCW Local 1500 hosted our 45th annual Shop Steward Seminar

Scan This QR code to watch our Youtube channel

Any suggestions or comments for the advocate send us feedback to: info@UFCW1500.org

@UFCW1500

of another organization merged with the Local Union, for a continuous aggregate of at least 12 months immediately preceding the month in which the deadline for the receipt of nomination petitions occurs, or;

2. An active member in the Local Union who has been an active member in
the International Union continuously for at least 24 months immediately preceding the month in which the deadline for the receipt of nomination petitions occurs.

Any member satisfying the eligibility requirements of this Section must
maintain continuous active membership in the Local Union to remain eligible to run for or hold elected office.

Section E. 1. Nominations shall be conducted by petition. Nomination of a member for a specific office shall require the signatures of 300 active members of the Local Union; provided that, if this number is greater than 2 percent of the average monthly active membership of the Local Union, based on the number of active members on which the Local Union pays per capita tax to the International Union, for the twelve-month period ending with the next to last month prior to the month in which the notice of nominations is mailed to the membership, the number of signatures required shall be the number which is 2 percent of the average monthly active membership of the Local Union, based on the above calculation.

2. The top of the page of each petition shall indicate the member who is being nominated and the specific office for which he or she is being nominated. If a member is being nominated for a Vice President position, the petition shall specify the numerically designated Vice President position for which he or she is being nominated. Any petition may nominate more than one member for office, provided that each member is being nominated for a different office and that the office for which each member is being nominated for is specifically indicated. Each petition shall contain the signature, printed name, and other identifying information, as determined by the general chairperson of the election, of each member signing the petition.

3. Petitions shall be filed at the Local Union office by mail or in person. The original signatures are required to be filed, and transmission by facsimile, computer, or other form of electronic transmission shall not be valid.

4. If a signature on any petition is not accompanied by a printed name or the other identifying information required by the general chairperson, but the identity of the member can be determined from the signature, the signature shall be deemed valid and shall be counted.

Section F. No member may run for more than one office in any election, and no member may hold more than one elected office at any one time. The regular employees of the Local Union shall not constitute more than 50 percent of the membership of the Local Union Executive Board.

Section G. Any active member in the Local Union, as defined in Article 4(B) of the International Constitution, shall be eligible to vote in the Local Union's elections.

All questions concerning the nomination process must be directed to Gregory Pasquale, General Chairperson, UFCW Local 1500, 425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590, 516-214-1306 or 1-800-522-0456, ext. 1306.

UFCW LOCAL 1500
425 MERRICK AVE
WESTBURY, NY 11590

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

September 9th, 2026
December 9th, 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

YouTube

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

EXEC. ADMIN. ASSISTANT
1306 Reyes, Samantha - Sreyes@ufcw1500.org

FIELD DIRECTOR
1356 Pasquale, Greg - Gpasquale@ufcw1500.org

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

DIRECT LINE
(516) 214-1300

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1358 Mauleon, Rafael - Rmauleon@ufcw1500.org
1342 Shiels, Patrick - Pshiels@ufcw1500.org
1360 Siano, Alicia - Asiano@ufcw1500.org
1349 Walter, Fred Jr. - Fwalter@ufcw1500.org

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1368 Cordoba, Matias - Mcordoba@ufcw1500.org
1343 Cruz, Israel - Icruz@ufcw1500.org
1345 Gibson, Fiona - Fgibson@ufcw1500.org
1318 Ortiz, Sandra - Sortiz@ufcw1500.org
1339 Rodgers, Dan - Drodgers@ufcw1500.org

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1374 Allen, Nick - Nallen@ufcw1500.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS
1372 Thomas, Tarrik - Tthomas@ufcw1500.org
1319 Wright, Ally - Awright@ufcw1500.org

ANNUITY FUND
1314 Mcglone, Christine - Cmcglone@ufcw1500.org
1325 D'Antona, Nikki - Ndantona@ufcw1500.org

LEGAL SERVICE FUND
1310 Punzo, Wendy - Wpunzo@ufcw1500.org

MEDICAL, VISION & DENTAL FORMS
1337 Sefcik, Michelle - Msefcik@ufcw1500.org
1300 Behr, Laura - Lbehr@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

DUES OR INITIATION FEE REFUNDS
1351 Wright, Michele - Michelew@ufcw1500.org