

# BULLETIN

## UFCW 951

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United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 951

The *Local 951 Bulletin* is a regular publication of UFCW Local 951, designed to give members a quick update of union news and notice of upcoming events. The flyer is distributed at the workplace by union representatives and is also available on-line at [www.ufcw951.com](http://www.ufcw951.com). If you would like to receive an e-mail copy of future *Bulletins* during the first week of publication, call the Local 951 Communications Department at 1.800.999.0951.

## UFCW Michigan Day at the Toledo Zoo -- July 27

UFCW Michigan is hosting a day of summer fun at the Toledo Zoo on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. To make the event more affordable, Local 951 is offering members a reduced-rate ticket package (detailed at right). Ticket order forms are available from union representatives and on the Local 951 website -- [www.ufcw951.com](http://www.ufcw951.com).

Orders must be received by July 18, 2011.

**Special UFCW Reduced  
Rate Ticket Package  
Includes Zoo Entry,  
Lunch & Parking**  
Adults \$10  
Children \$8 (2 and under free)

## Workers Elect Local 951 Representation

Workers at Valley City Linen, a commercial laundry in Grand Rapids, voted for Local 951 union representation in mid-May, ending their three-month organizing campaign.

“Valley City Linen workers contacted the local for help organizing their workplace after management refused to address their concerns regarding safety and other conditions at the plant,” Marv Russow, Local 951’s President, said. “The union campaign moved very quickly, as the workers were extremely united and deeply committed to improving their working conditions through unionizing.”

Lack of proper safety equipment was a top issue leading to the union campaign.

“Workers’ descriptions of conditions at the plant were shocking,” John Cakmakci, Local 951’s Secretary/Treasurer and Organizing Director, said. “They talked about being forced to sort through contaminated hospital linens without proper gloves or aprons. In one part of the plant, 20 workers were told to share one hard hat.”

Workers also cited low wages, insignificant raises, unaffordable health insurance and lack of respect as reasons they supported the union.

“The workers felt it is wrong that many of them make minimum wage, regardless of how long they worked for the company,” Cakmakci said. “They were also insulted by the company’s last raise for the highest performers -- a \$5 gift card!”

(OVER)

Management responded to workers’ election of union representation by continuing their heavy-handed, and often illegal, union busting techniques.

“It is unfortunate the company’s response to workers’ exercising their legal right to unionize is to break the law,” Russow said. “The local is filing charges on the workers’ behalf and will continue to fight for the justice they deserve.”

Given the company’s actions, the local expects contract negotiations to be difficult, but is committed to negotiating a fair and just contract for Valley City Linen workers.

## Punch In at First Shift -- New Progressive Radio



WDTW 1310 am  
Weekdays  
6 a.m. - 9 a.m.

The “Voice of Labor” returned to the airwaves in May with a new morning drive talk show on WDTW-am 1310. Tony Trupiano, 17-year radio veteran, hosts “First Shift” a progressive talk show where current issues are discussed in an open and factual forum.

“The conservative media’s misinformation campaign attacking the middle class and unions dominates the airwaves,” Marv Russow, Local 951’s president, said. “On First Shift, workers’ voices will finally be heard. I urge all members to tune in to the show.”

For individuals outside the listening area, which includes most of southeast Detroit, First Shift streams live at [www.thetonyshow.org](http://www.thetonyshow.org), show podcasts can also be downloaded from this website.

## Meijer T-MAG Grievance Headed to Arbitration

The Local 951 grievance seeking modifications to Meijer’s T-MAG discipline policy will be heard by an arbitrator on June 30, 2011. It can take several months for the arbitrator to make a ruling on the case.

“We believe we have strong case,” Marv Russow, Local 951’s president, said. “The local and many members are eager to have this issue resolved, but we must be patient as it is likely we won’t have a decision until the end of the year.”

## Meijer Members: Check Your Full-Time Eligibility Status

According to the Meijer Retail contract, members who average at least 36 hours of work in the same department for two consecutive quarters may be eligible for a full-time position. The second quarter of 2011 ends June 18. Members who met the hours of work average for this quarter should check their 2011 first quarter average to see if they qualify for a full-time job. If not, these members should try to make the average for 2011’s third quarter, to attain a full-time job. See your union representative for more information.

## Meijer Members Time to Request Unscheduled Vacations

Members with earned but unscheduled 2011 vacations are encouraged to request their vacations as soon as possible as vacation time will now be granted at management’s discretion on a first come, first serve basis. Members with questions regarding vacation time should contact their Union Representative.



Marv Russow, President  
John Cakmakci, Secretary/Treasurer

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