

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. 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.

Join in the Summer Fun at UFCW Michigan Events

UFCW Day at the Toledo Zoo: 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.

Orders must be received by July 18, 2011.

Hawk Island Picnic: Join your fellow UFCW members at Lansing's Hawk Island on Monday, July 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for an union picnic. The \$3 per person or \$7 per family admission includes the splash park, fishing, volleyball, hot dog lunch and more!

Ticket order forms are available from your union representative, and on the Local 951 website -- www.ufcw951.com. For more information, contact Kim Wilson at 1.800.999.0951, ext. 137.

Ticket orders must be received by July 18.

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."

(OVER)

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!"

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



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, show podcasts can also be downloaded from this website.

Save on Unionized AT&T Wireless Services

Through the Union Plus Discount Program, Local 951 members qualify for a 15 percent discount off of the regular monthly rate for individual and family wireless cell phone plans on AT&T -- the nation's largest and only union wireless network. Members also receive additional savings on cell phones and accessories. By using AT&T members can save money and support the 40,000 AT&T Mobility workers who are members of the Communications Workers of America union.

For more information go to <http://www.unionplus.org/cell-phone-wireless/att-wireless> or call 1.800.897.7046 and reference FAN number 3508840.

For a complete listing of Union Plus discounts available to Local 951 members, go to www.unionplus.org.



Marv Russow, President
John Cakmakci, Secretary/Treasurer

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