

# UFCW 951 BULLETIN

Issue 4 10.03.2011

## United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 951

The *UFCW 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). To receive e-mail copies of the *Bulletin* during the first week of publication, call the UFCW 951 Communications Department at 1.800.999.0951.

### Meijer Members Ratify New Contracts, Benefits Agreement

In early September, Meijer workers voted to approve new contracts and a benefits plan. The new Retail, Distribution Center, and Retail Property Management and Services contracts, along with the Universal Benefits Agreement, met the membership's bargaining goals, according to Marv Russow, UFCW 951 President and Chief Union Negotiator for the talks.

"Securing wage increases, health insurance improvements and other contract gains in these difficult times was tough, but in the end we were able to bargain agreements that work for all members," he said.

In addition to wage increases for all members and greater affordability of health insurance, the new agreements include a reduction in the work hours required to receive paid time off for all members, increases in paid time off for most members, pension security for long term members, and a new 401(k) program featuring an employer contribution and match, and a retirement incentive for long term members.

The contracts take effect March 4, 2012, and vary in duration from 53 to 61 months. The Universal Benefits agreement is a five year pact expiring December 31, 2016.

### Local 951 Foundation Scholarship Applications Available

Applications for the 2012-13 UFCW Local 951 Foundation Scholarships are now available from Union Representatives and at [www.ufcw951.com](http://www.ufcw951.com).

The Foundation will award 19 \$2,000 scholarships and five \$400 textbook scholarships to eligible members or their dependent children attending a college, university, community college, or post-high school vocational program.

To be eligible for a Foundation Scholarship, the student or student's parent must be a UFCW 951 member for at least one year as of March 30, 2012, and remain a member in good standing during the entire academic year.

Helping Working Families



Building Strong Communities

### Anti-Worker Agenda Turns to Right-to-Work

Since gaining control of the Michigan Legislature in January, Governor Rick Snyder and his fellow Republicans in Lansing have waged an all out assault on middle class families, swiftly working through their agenda. Republicans are acting quickly to ensure their priority items are completed in case they lose their legislative control in the 2012 election.

"Republicans in Michigan and other parts of the country are promoting the agenda of their wealthy corporate donors and using the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression to attack seniors, students, poor families and dedicated workers," Marv Russow, Local 951's president, said. "When you look at the actions of the Republican Legislature, you will see they have nothing to do with the jobs they promised and everything to do with helping corporations and the wealthiest among us become richer and more powerful at the expense of everyone else. As an organization we try to be nonpartisan, but these types of actions make it difficult."

With much of their agenda accomplished, many republicans believe it's time to aggressively pursue right-to-work.

"There is a group of Republicans who have made it their goal to pass right-to-work legislation by the end of the year," Russow said. "With this increased focus on right-to-work will come a barrage of inaccurate media reports and false advertisements proclaiming the benefits of right-to-work. Members and the general public need to understand that this legislation is simply part of the Republican agenda to give more money and power to the wealthy and less of both to workers, and that all workers and Michigan communities will suffer under right-to-work."

Workers earn less in right-to-work states. In addition, it is estimated that Michigan's tax base will suffer a loss of approximately \$21 billion a year under right-to-work, resulting in fewer services and higher taxes.

### Congratulations Foundation Luncheon Winners!

UFCW 951 will hold recognition lunches for the winners of the UFCW Local 951 Foundation Sign-up Drive contest announced in late June. The Meijer Retail unit in each of the local's three regions with the highest sign-up, along with the most improved unit in each region, won a luncheon.

"We tried to create a friendly competition in order to recognize those who were doing their part to expand the Foundation's work," Marv Russow, UFCW 951's president, said. "The Foundation has played a critical role in our members' lives by helping with college tuition, supporting members who have had a family tragedy, and giving financial aid to members who have had a hardship. Congratulations to the winners, and thank you for assisting your fellow members through donations to the Foundation."

**East Region Winners:** Highest Sign-Up - Meijer #231; Most Improved - Meijer #54

**Central Region Winners:** Highest Sign-Up - Meijer #56; Most Improved - Meijer #209

**West Region Winners:** Highest Sign-Up - Meijer #251; Most Improved - Meijer #257



Marv Russow, President  
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