

UFCW951 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. 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.

Preparation for Kroger Negotiations in Full Swing, Record Number of Bargaining Surveys Returned

Local 951 has completed tabulating the results of the record number of collective bargaining surveys returned by Kroger members and is meeting with Kroger stewards to discuss the survey results as the union prepares to meet the company at the bargaining table later this month.

"I would like to thank all the Local 951 members who took the time to complete their collective bargaining survey and the stewards who worked so hard to achieve this excellent response rate," Marv Russow, Local 951's president, said. "Thanks to your diligence, the local knows members' goals for these negotiations and Kroger knows Local 951 members are united and committed to these goals."

In early October, the Local will meet with Kroger stewards to review how members' responses are formulated into bargaining goals.

"It's really quite simple. Local 951 Kroger members want the same contractual guarantees Kroger workers enjoy under the terms of the UFCW Local 876 contract," Russow said. "Local 951 Kroger members know their stores are doing well. They have also seen Kroger sink large sums of money into their stores in recent remodels and believe the time is right for Kroger to invest in the workers who make the stores profitable. They just want what other Michigan Kroger workers have, which I think is reasonable."

The current Local 951 Kroger contract expires October 22, 2011.

Open Enrollment Deadline October 13, 2011

Local 951 members working at Fry Krisp, Harding's, Kroger and Plumb's who are eligible for health benefits through the Michigan Unions and Employers Health and Welfare Fund must complete their open enrollment materials by October 13 in order to receive benefits in 2012. Enrollment can be completed using materials sent to members' homes or online at www.mufcwbenefits.com. For more information, call the Fund office at 1.800.322.8190.

(OVER)

Local 951 Foundation Scholarship Applications Available \$20,000 will be Awarded

Applications for the 2012-13 UFCW Local 951 Foundation Scholarships are now available from Union Representatives and at www.ufcw951.com.

The Foundation will award 19 \$2,000 scholarship 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.

Congratulations Foundation Luncheon Winners!

UFCW 951 will hold recognition lunches for the units that won the UFCW Local 951 Foundation Sign-up Drive contest announced in late June.

"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 experiencing a family tragedy, and giving financial aid to members going through hard times. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all members who donate to the Foundation."

Among the winners are Kroger #852 in Lansing and Rite Aid #4239 in Coloma with the highest sign-up percentages in their region.

Members Impacted by Blue Cross Blue Shield Computer Error

An error occurred while Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) was updating the system used to verify the medical coverage of Local 951 members working at Fry Krisp, Harding's, Kroger and Plumb's, making it appear they no longer have coverage through BCBSM. Members should be assured this is a mistake. There have been no changes in their union-negotiated health benefits. Members and any covered dependents still have the same BCBSM insurance.

BCBSM sincerely apologizes for their error and is diligently working to correct the situation. Unfortunately, the problem may not be solved until the end of the month. Until then, members should instruct providers to use the BCBSM's automated telephone system, CAREN, to verify their eligibility. They cannot use webDENNIS.

CAREN has different numbers for facilities -- 1.800.249.5103 and professional services -- 1.800.344.8525. Members who have an emergency, or encounter with a provider who refuses to use the CAREN, should contact the Health and Welfare Fund Office immediately at 1.800.322.8190 for help resolving their issue.



Marv Russow, President
John Cakmakci, Secretary/Treasurer

1.800.999.0951 • www.ufcw951.com

Helping Working Families



Building Strong Communities