

UFCW 951 BULLETIN

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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. 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.

Kroger Contract Information Meetings and Vote Scheduled

Information meetings and a vote on Kroger's final contract offers will be held on Monday, November 14 in Lansing and Jackson and on Tuesday, November 15 in Mt. Pleasant and Hillsdale. Times and locations are pending and will be posted on union bulletin boards and www.ufcw951.com when they become available. For more information, contact your union representative at 1.800.999.0951.

JBS Workers Elected UFCW 951 Representation

Last month, workers at the JBS slaughterhouse and production facility, in Southwest Michigan voted to join UFCW 951.

"There has been tremendous support for the union among JBS workers," John Cakmakci, UFCW 951 Secretary/Treasurer

and Organizing Director, said. "They view the union as their best option to improve their working conditions and bring a sense of fairness to the workplace."

Among the workers' complaints were unjust terminations, unsafe working conditions and an unfair compensation system where new employees earn more than workers with upwards of 15 years of seniority.

With over 1,000 workers at the plant, the vote represents one of the largest organizing victories in UFCW 951's history, and the local's third consecutive organizing win.

"Over the last couple of years we have been working hard to get the word out in the community regarding the benefits of UFCW membership," Cakmakci said. "It's exciting to see such positive results to our efforts."

JBS workers have completed contract bargaining surveys and are forming a bargaining committee as negotiations on a first contract are upcoming.



(OVER)

Members Impacted by Blue Cross Blue Shield Error

A recent Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) computer error made it appear members working at Fry Krisp, Harding's, Kroger and Plumb's no longer have coverage through BCBSM.

BCBSM sincerely apologizes for the error and is working to correct the situation. The current target date for the error to be corrected is November 18, 2011. Until the problem is resolved, members should instruct providers to use 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 a provider who refuses to use CAREN should contact the Health and Welfare Fund Office immediately at 1.800.322.8190 for help resolving their issue.

Just Say "NO" to Recall Petitions

UFCW Michigan is opposed to all current recall efforts, and is urging members not to sign any recall petitions and help stop the circulation of any recall petitions at their store.

Management should be immediately notified if recall petitioners are spotted outside a store as Meijer has traditionally maintained that solicitation by any outside group on company property is strictly against their policy. If Meijer allows the circulation of petitions, members should document the incident and contact the UFCW 951 office immediately.



U.S. Savings Bond Program to End at Knouse Foods

Changes in the U.S. Treasury Department's issuance of U.S. Savings Bonds has prompted Knouse Foods to end its program allowing members to redeem earned credit days for Savings Bonds effective November 12, 2011. Members will continue to have the option of redeeming earned credit days for a paid day off.

As of January 1, 2012, paper U.S. Savings Bonds will no longer be issued as the Treasury Department will be switching to an electronic format which requires more personal information than the company could collect, including a bank account number.

Save the Date! UFCW Evening at Flint's Crossroads Village

On Friday, December 9, 2011, UFCW Michigan will host its second annual holiday celebration at Crossroads Village. Decorated for the season with hundreds of thousands of colorful lights, the old fashion village is the perfect place to create lasting holiday memories with family and friends.

As more details for the event become available, they will be posted at www.ufcw951.com, along with ticket order forms. Ticket order forms will also be available from union representatives and the UFCW 951 office at 1.999.0951.



Marv Russow, President
John Cakmakci, Secretary/Treasurer

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