

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.



Free Legal Consult for Military Families

To protect the rights of UFCW 951 military families, the union has arranged for members who have served on active duty in the U.S. military in the last four years, or have a family member who has done so, to receive a **free** legal consultation regarding the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act from the union's attorney, Jonathan Karmel.

The Act provides military families with specific protections pertaining to home mortgages, credit cards, and installment contracts on personal property. As the economy has struggled, foreclosures and repossessions have increased and these rights have become increasingly important.

It is important for you to understand your rights under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you feel that your rights may have been violated - or if you would like further information about your rights - you are encouraged to contact Jonathan Karmel at 312.641.2910 for your free consultation.

Kroger Contract Rejected, Strike Action Authorized

In mid-November, UFCW 951 members working at Kroger turned out in large numbers and overwhelmingly voted to reject Kroger's contract offer and authorize strike action. The final vote tally was 91 percent rejecting the package, with only nine percent voting in favor of the agreement.

"By soundly rejecting the proposed contract and authorizing a strike, Kroger members sent a strong message to their employer that they are united behind their goal of a fair and just contract," Marv Russow, UFCW 951's president, said. "Kroger members' goal for these negotiations was to secure a contract which puts their wages in line with other Kroger workers in Michigan. Kroger's offer of no raise for two years didn't even come close."

Following the contract vote, UFCW 951 requested the parties return to the bargaining table. Kroger agreed, and mid-December talks are scheduled. In the meantime, (OVER)



the current contract has been extended.

"The ball is in Kroger's court. The members have spoken; we'll see how the company responds," Russow said. "I am not going to speculate about what Kroger will say when we meet again. However, I am familiar with situations where members have received a contract offer from Kroger that they accepted following their rejection of the company's initial contract offer. We also have seen prolonged strikes by UFCW Kroger members."

At their November meeting, the UFCW Local 876 Executive Board unanimously voted to support UFCW 951 Kroger members' efforts to achieve a fair and just contract. Local 876 represents the meat department members at the Kroger stores where UFCW 951 members work, in addition to nearly 12,000 other Michigan Kroger workers.

Kroger members will receive updates regarding their contract negotiations from the Local as information becomes available.

Union Scholarships Available for Students

Each year, UFCW 951, Union Plus, and the UFCW International award thousands of dollars in college scholarships to union members and their dependents.

Consult the summary information below to see which scholarship(s) you may be eligible to receive. Contact your union representative at 800.999.0951 if you need any additional information regarding union scholarships.



UFCW 951 Foundation Scholarships: Nineteen \$2,000 scholarships and five \$400 textbook scholarships awarded exclusively to Local 951 members and their dependents. Applications can be downloaded at www.ufcw951.com. The deadline to turn in your application is March 30, 2012.

Union Plus Scholarships: Scholarship amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. All current or retired union members and their spouses and dependents are eligible to apply. Applications can be found at www.unionplus.org/scholarships. The application deadline is January 31, 2012.

UFCW International Scholarships: Several scholarships of up to \$8,000 are awarded to UFCW members and their dependents in the United States and Canada. Scholarship applications will be available at www.ufcw.org/scholarship starting January 16, 2012.

Don't Miss UFCW Michigan's Holiday Celebration

UFCW Michigan members and their families are invited to hop aboard the Polar Express and celebrate winter and the holidays with some family fun on Thursday, December 15, 2011 from 4-8 p.m. at the UFCW 876 union hall in Madison Heights. Children are welcome to attend in their pajamas. The event features crafts, food, and a bounce house, along with a picture with Santa for children under the age of 12. Tickets are \$2 (which will be donated to the Gleaner's Community Food Bank) and are available from your union representative or steward.



Marv Russow, President
John Cakmakci, Secretary/Treasurer
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