

Grand Rapids, Michigan
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UFCW 951 Opens Bargaining For New Contract With Meijer

UFCW 951 yesterday formally opened negotiations for a new contract that will impact 27,000 members who work at Meijer facilities in Michigan. The current three-year agreement for the Central Region expires on September 8, 2007. Negotiations are taking place in Lansing, Michigan.

“We approach these negotiations with the goal of achieving an agreement that makes for a healthy company, a healthy workforce and a better experience for Meijer customers,” commented Marv Russow, President of UFCW 951.

Prior to negotiations, 951 held more than 75 Bargaining Training sessions at locations convenient to Meijer members throughout Michigan. The four-part training program included an overview of the bargaining process, a look at the state of the retail industry including a presentation by Meijer President Mark Murray, practice in the process of “costing” a contract, and a session about pensions and other retirement issues. The more than thirty rank-and-file members of the Meijer Bargaining Committee were selected from among those who attended three or more training meetings.

“This Committee is trained, dedicated and representative of the entire Meijer membership geographically, demographically and by job classification,” Russow said. “In addition to our Bargaining Training meetings, we also received a strong response to a pre-bargaining contract survey we conducted throughout the Meijer membership. We are entering negotiations with Meijer well prepared and well represented.”

“Member participation in the training was impressive,” Russow added. “Because we wanted to ensure a balanced committee, representative of all 951 members who work at Meijer, we were not able to choose all who qualified. We have asked those not named to the Bargaining Committee to continue their involvement by serving on an Advisory Committee.”

Both the Bargaining Committee and the Advisory Committee will advise and assist UFCW 951 officers and staff throughout the bargaining and ratification process.

UFCW 951 Meijer members were also asked to make proposals for improvements to the contract. More than 2,000 written proposals were submitted.

UFCW 951 represents 30,000 members who work across the state of Michigan at Meijer, Harding’s, Plumb’s, Polly’s, Kroger, Kessel, Rite Aid, Knouse Foods, Fry Krisp, and Orchard Grove Extended Care Center. UFCW 951 has two offices: a headquarters at 3270 Evergreen Drive in Grand Rapids and a satellite office in New Hudson, Michigan.

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