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UFCW 951 ELECTS MARV RUSSOW TO SUCCEED BOB POTTER AS PRESIDENT

Grand Rapids, Mich—A special meeting of the Executive Board of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 951 held August 1, elected Marv Russow as President. Russow replaces Bob Potter who served as president for nine terms. Potter has recently been chosen as chairman of the Joint Labor Management Committee of the retail food industry. The Board also voted to name its new headquarters building in Grand Rapids the “Robert G. Potter Union Center.”

“UFCW 951 is leading the way when it comes to building a forward thinking, 21st century union. I am proud and excited to be elected as its President. I look forward to continuing the 951 tradition of growth, innovation, membership service and healthy, constructive relationships with employers established by the leadership of Bob Potter,” Russow said following the vote by the Executive Board.

Russow brings broad and deep union experience to the post of 951 President. He held officer positions with two UFCW local unions including 11 years as President of Louisville, KY based Local 227. Following that service, he became Executive Assistant to the UFCW International President for Food Processing and Manufacturing. Russow also chairs UFCW affiliated Health Care and Pension s boards. In the course of his extensive union experience, Russow has already bargained with Meijer and Kroger, both significant employers of the UFCW 951 membership. In 1999, a profile in Kentucky *Business First* magazine characterized Russow as a “Local Hero.”

Russow comes to the union movement naturally. His grandfather was a Teamsters leader. His father was an officer of the Retail Clerks local union that became UFCW Local 876 and also served as president of UFCW Local 27 and Organizing Director for the Retail Clerks International union.

Russow was born in Michigan and now lives in Grand Rapids. He and his wife Vicki have three daughters.

During the same meeting, the executive board also elected Tamara Vander Ark as an Executive Vice-President to fill the vacancy created by Russow’s election as President. Vander Ark had been serving as a Vice-President from 951’s Western Region. The newly elected officer’s terms will last until the next UFCW 951 regular officer elections scheduled for the fall of 2007.

UFCW 951 represents 33,000 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 Dowagiac Nursing Home. UFCW 951 has two offices: a headquarters at 3270 Evergreen Drive in Grand Rapids opened in 2005 and a satellite office in New Hudson, Michigan west of Detroit and employs 39 highly trained and skilled professionals, 21 of whom are Union Representatives in the field.