

Send management a clear message: Pin it

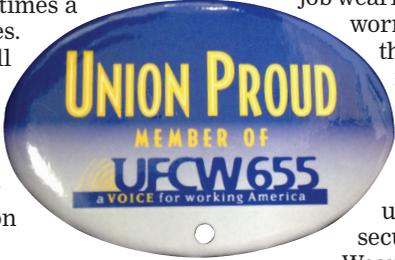
By **DAVID A. COOK**
President



Sometimes the simplest messages can speak the loudest.

While Unions like ours have a long history of picketing employers who cheat or abuse their workers, not every action we take involves our partners taking to the streets with signs in their hands. Sometimes a gentle message is all it takes.

In the coming weeks, I'll be asking you to take a simple action to send a loud message to your employer. It's a simple request, but one that can go a long way in reinforcing our common interest together.



and benefits for your Union representatives, just as we negotiate pay and benefits for you, our partners. I can tell you if I walk into our Union hall and see every one of my employees wearing their FAIR button, the first thing I do is call our Secretary-Treasurer into my office and ask why. I know when they wear those buttons they are sending me the following message: We are united, and we care about the deal we get.

If your manager sees employees on the job wearing buttons that have never worn them before, he knows they are sending a message. It might be that the employee wants something better at work, whether it's better pay, benefits, or hours, he knows that employee will use their voice on the job to secure a better life.

Wearing your Union button requires nothing of you but the simple act of pinning it to your shirt every day, but speaks volumes about our Union strength as a whole.

When you see a co-worker wearing a Union button, that co-worker is saying that they care not just about what they get, but what you get as well.

If you see a co-worker not wearing their button, ask them to pin one on in a show of solidarity. Ask yourself: what message am I sending if I don't wear a button? It's an act of solidarity; one that I can guarantee you will make your managers take note.

So when you head in to work in the coming days and weeks, pin on a UFCW Local 655 button. Show your manager you care about your contract, and help us all secure the better life you've worked so hard for.

Wear your Union button!

It's not a fashion statement and it isn't vanity. Wearing your Union button is a simple way of showing every manager that passes you in the store that you care deeply about the fate of your coming contract, and that you care deeply about your co-workers.

Wearing a Union button tells your manager that you care about your pay, your hours and your benefits.

You may not realize the impact you can have when you choose to pin that button to your uniform before your shift. I know for a fact that management notices those kinds of actions. And I know this from personal experience.

Here at your Union Hall, our Union Representatives belong to a Union called FAIR (Federation of Agents and International Representatives). FAIR negotiates things like pay

UFCW Union Rep to run for State Representative

A longtime UFCW partner, Union Representative Karen Settlemoir-Berg, will be running for elected office in House District 113 against first-term incumbent and anti-worker politician, Dan Shaul.



SETTLEMOIR-BERG

In a meeting with his own constituents as well as labor leaders, Shaul lied and promised to stand against attacks on workers, only to vote to override Gov. Jay Nixon's veto of so-called "Right-to-Work" less than two weeks later.

Thankfully, Shaul's flip-flopping didn't make a difference, and Right-to-Work was defeated. Shaul's vote was not the result of responding to his constituents, but instead was an act of pure self-interest.

Settlemoir-Berg said she couldn't stand by and continue to allow someone like Shaul to continue to work in Jefferson City as a pawn of special interest groups.

"The people of the 113th District are hard-working and they depend on their elected

officials to represent them, not bend their knee to some special interest group," Settlemoir-Berg said. "The people of Jefferson County deserve a voice and need elected officials who will be honest and open with them about their priorities, not more self-serving elected officials and their lies."

A graduate of Sanford Brown with a degree in Business Administration, Settlemoir-Berg has lived in the district for 13 years, where she currently resides with her husband, Gene.

Settlemoir-Berg filed last week to seek office after long consideration and discussions with her family and her co-workers. District 113 is considered a swing district for working-class Democrats, and Settlemoir-Berg is confident that more voters will support her when they hear her message about honesty and good government.

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Text 'Join' to 738-674 to get signed up for our text program!



AN EXCLUSIVE TWICE MONTHLY REPORT FOR

UNION PROUD

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a VOICE for working America

UFCW 655 MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES

www.ufcw655.com

UFCW helps longtime partner, father, secure full-time work

Ben Weissler really, really needed to work 40 hours per week.

With a wife and child at home, Ben, like most working Missourians, has a tight budget. In order to make ends meet, Ben had taken to working in almost every single department at his store, alternating between produce, grocery, dairy and more.

It was a hectic and stressful way to get to full-time hours, but it was all Ben could do, or so he thought.

"I was going to every single department to check schedules, and I would literally sit by the phone and wait for a call if someone didn't show and they needed a call-in person," Weissler said. "I knew I had certain seniority rights, and I knew the contract pretty well so I started calling the Union."

Ben spoke with his Union staff, who began



WESSLER

working with him to maximize his weekly hours. A partner with UFCW for nearly 15 years, Ben knew he'd earned the right to a decent schedule and full-time work.

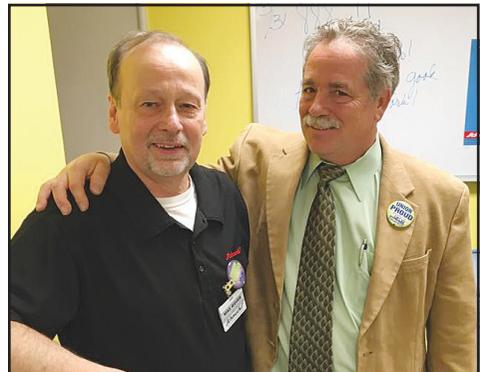
Soon enough, Ben got a transfer to a new store where he could work in a single department, easing his workload and schedule. Since the move, Ben has had a solid 40-hour-per-week schedule in the produce department, which he says has made his life that much easier.

"I was always used to working 40 hours at a job," Weissler said. "But when the company started cutting hours a few years ago, I assume maybe because of the economy or something, I started losing hours, so I had to train in all this other stuff I didn't want to do just to make 40 hours. I'm much better off in this situation now."

655 HAPPENINGS



LORI GIANNINI, a partner from Schnucks-Cottleville, was sworn in as the newest vice president on the Executive Board with UFCW Local 655. We're thrilled to have a dedicated and energetic new face on the board!



MIKE RIEGER (left), a former Executive Board Member and 44 year partners with UFCW Local 655 has retired. Pictured here with President David Cook. Good luck with your retirement, Mike! We'll Miss you!



UFCW LOCAL 655 PARTNERS and staff went to Jefferson City last week to attend the annual Labor Rally hosted by the Missouri Buildings Trades Council. Every statewide elected Democrat was present to speak about the importance of protecting hard-working families from attacks on their livelihood.

Happy RETIREMENT

MARCH RETIREES

William Canepa	Schnucks Webster	Jerry Stewart	Shop 'n Save Central City
Mike Ortballs	Schnucks Cool Valley	Mike Rieger	Schnucks Butler Hill
Dave Rhodes	Cowley News Group	Rhonda Manno	Schnucks Arnold
Judy Messmer	Schnucks Shackelford	Catherine Nichols	Schnucks Arnold
Rosalia Norris	Schnucks Butler Hill	Eileen Baum	Dierbergs Bogey Hills
Larry Bassman	Dierbergs Bogey Hills	Brenda Cooper	Schnucks Sierra Vista

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