

How do we beat RTW? We out-work the opponent

By **DAVID COOK**
President



COOK

The effort to stop the so called "right-to-work" will soon touch Missourians all around this state.

As many of you know, the Missouri constitution allows any law passed in our State Capital to be put to a vote of the people before it takes effect. Because I am confident that the people of Missouri do not want or need so-called "right-to-work" in this state, I am working closely with other labor leaders to halt this unjust law until voters can decide.

In order to put the issue on the ballot, we'll need hundreds of thousands of signatures on our petitions. Of course, Republican officials in the Governor's mansion and the Secretary of State's office don't want us to do this. They know we can win. They'll do everything in their power to stop us from circulating these petitions. (See story on Page 1)

But there's a simple tool we have that I believe will ensure our success. In short, we're going to outwork them.

Lawmakers who support "right-to-work" were beaten in 1978 because Union brothers and sisters out-worked them at every turn. Those of you who remember this fight remember the effort we put in. We beat the pavement, canvassed every place in the state and buried "right-to-work" under an avalanche of truth and hard work.

That's what we're going to do again. Last week when the Secretary of State tried to throw out our petitions on shaky legal ground without approving them, we outworked him. We were ready. We went straight to court

and we won. We're already building this campaign against "right-to-work." The "No RTW" campaign already has hundreds of volunteer signups. Our plan is to provide top-notch training for petition gatherers, and blanket every polling place, grocery store, church and college campus in this state. We will work tirelessly because the stakes are too high to do otherwise.

For many supporters of "right-to-work," their heart simply is not in this fight. They passed this bill to please their big-spending donors, and now they have collected their checks. But for hard-working men and women, for middle class Missourians everywhere, "right-to-work" represents the fight of our lives. The stakes couldn't be higher for us, and "right-to-work" supporters have no idea what they've awakened by trying to let government reach into the lives of businesses and employees.

In many ways, the fight against "right-to-work" was the beginning of my career in labor. Now, as my career creeps closer to a close, it's fitting that I should be part of beating back this law one last time. And I know the only way to win is to work harder and longer than the other side.

Fortunately, I have the memory of those old enough to remember this fight the first time and the energy and wisdom of a new generation of Union partners at my back. We may not be able to compete with the money our opponents will pour into this fight, but we will always have more people, more passion, more energy and more work ethic.

In short: we are going to work harder than them. If we do, we will win.



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Local 655 rolls out new servicing program

UFCW Local 655 is rolling out a new servicing program, complete with new state-of-the-art software that will bring the Union Hall into the 21st Century.

New software, known as "EMMA" (Electronic Partnership Management Assistant), will allow Union representatives to track their visits with all union partners, sign new partners up to the Union immediately at their workplace, and carry everything from Union contracts to grievance forms on a Union iPad.

"This is a top-to-bottom modernization of how we service our partners," said Local 655 President David Cook. "We are going to be more efficient, move more quickly, have more data, and be able to put our resources to work like never before."

The move toward a digital servicing program, new territories for Union representatives, and a push to sign up all new partners to the Union directly is the culmination of more

than a year of planning at Local 655.

The new approach will ensure that a Union staffer will personally sign up all new Union partners, giving them a face-to-face opportunity to talk about the value of their partnership.

The new software comes as Local 655 re-aligns the servicing territories for Union representatives and continues to expand the servicing staff. Many Union representatives will now have fewer stores to service, allowing them to spend more time and energy on a smaller number of 655 partners for a more personal experience.

"Not only will the first exposure a new partner has to the Union be a face-to-face meeting with one of our Union representatives, but our entire operation is about to become much more effective as we implement this new program," Cook said. "We're modernizing in a way our partnership has never seen before."

Happy RETIREMENT

MARCH 2017 RETIREES

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|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------------|----------|--------|
| Cherie Cobler | Dierbergs | 20 yrs | James Lowe | Schnucks | 40 yrs |
| Richard Myers | Cowley Distributing | 35 yrs | Gary Pearia | Schnucks | 49 yrs |
| Darryl Downs | Dierbergs | 40 yrs | Marilyn Andrews | Schnucks | 43 yrs |
| Dennis Heitzig | Dierbergs | 20 yrs | | | |

AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR

UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES

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Nick Trupiano retires after 20 years



POLITICAL DIRECTOR NICK TRUPIANO prepares to cut his retirement cake at a recent gathering of staff and executive board partners. Trupiano has retired after more than 20 years with Local 655.

After more than two decades serving on the staff at UFCW Local 655, Political Director Nick Trupiano retired last Monday.

Trupiano has worked in nearly every role imaginable at Local 655, including as an organizer, a union representative and most recently as Local 655's political director.

Trupiano will be remembered fondly by his fellow staff partners as dedicated and kind, having a natural gift for making people feel at

ease. Local 655 President David Cook said he would be sorely missed.

"Nick Trupiano was an incredible person to work with," Cook said. "He is warm and genuine and a very hard worker, and this organization is better for having had him on staff all these years."

Cook added, "Anyone who worked with him is better for having gotten to know him. He is going to be deeply missed. All of us wish him the best."

Holten Meat Inc. employees overwhelmingly approve strike



PARTNERS AT HOLTEN MEAT in Illinois voted to strike after the company continued to cut benefits.



GARRY TORPEA, Assistant to the President, speaks with partners at Holten Meat Inc. in Illinois prior to a nearly unanimous vote to strike if the company continues to undermine contract negotiations.

Local 655 partners at Holten Meat Inc. in Illinois voted overwhelmingly at 99 percent to approve a strike after rejecting the company's latest contract offer.

UFCW Local 655 officials hope that this overwhelming margin will persuade Holten Meat Inc. to come back to the bargaining table with real changes in their proposal.

Local 655 President David Cook said that the rejection had little to do with the economic language in the proposal.

"This is largely not about the economics of this proposal," Cook said. "This is about a contract that does almost nothing to respect and appreciate the employees who have served this company for years."

Holten declined to add any formal seniority language to their proposal, and declined to extend bereavement leave for grandparents, two significant items for Holten employees.

Holten management has agreed to come back to the bargaining table and Local 655 hopes to reach a settlement. However, they are prepared to strike if their company does not take their concerns seriously or offer any real improvements to their contract.

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