

New Year, new challenges Let your voice be heard

By **DAVID COOK**
President



COOK

Your Union family is preparing for the year to come. In early 2017, we'll be gearing up for events throughout the year, and planning for the political landscape shaping up in Jefferson City. In early 2017, we will be looking for input from all of our partners on a wide-variety of subjects, including how we communicate with you — issues like right-to-work — and how we can best serve you.

We will be holding a tele-town hall conference early next year to kick-off these discussions. This tool is a fantastic way for all of our partners to communicate directly with me and my staff about what is important to them. There will be information on social media, on our website, in our texting program and much more, to inform you about how you can be involved on this call. I will use this as an opportunity to speak directly to you, as well as asking some questions about what we can do better.

We work for you, and we will be best at our jobs when we know exactly what you need. Your involvement, engagement, and commitment to this Union will make it better. As we gear up for political attacks in Jefferson City in the form of right-to-work, we'll need you more than ever.

As we gear up for another year where we are striving to provide you with the best service and representation on the job, we need

your input on how we can improve. As we gear up for another year where we seek to improve and expand our communication efforts and our brand, we want your thoughts.

If you aren't signed up for our texting program, I strongly urge you to do so. If we don't have your email on file, please reach out to us so we can add you. If you want to make sure you'll be receiving our membership-wide conference calls, please provide us with your number so we can add you.

Perhaps the single most important year facing this Union, as well as Labor all across Missouri, is fast approaching. Unions are not strong because we have a Union Hall or a staff. Those of us working at your Union Hall are not the Union. You are. You make this organization thrive. You are the heart of UFCW Local 655.

I would urge you not only to be involved, but to encourage your co-workers to be involved as well. Many of you work alongside Union partners who may not know much about us or what we do. Many of you may work with people of all ages who don't understand the value of this Union family.

Now is not the time to be silent. Now is the time to have conversations with friends and co-workers. Tell them why it matters to you to be a Union partner. Urge them to attend a monthly meeting. We will continue to advocate for you in every way we can, but ultimately YOU are the best spokespeople for this organization.

The new year, 2017, is fast approaching. We will be ready, but we cannot do it without YOU.

Negotiating open contracts

UFCW Local 655 has several open contracts currently being negotiated. Local 655 officials are working diligently to negotiate new contracts that reflect the hard work of their membership. We will provide regular updates as these contracts progress. If you'd like to attend an opening contract meeting for one of the employers listed below, or you'd simply like to find out the status of your current negotiations, contact us at 636-394-6500.



Open contracts include:

- Kroger (out-state)
- Double G Brands
- Kroger — Poplar Bluff
- Ellsbery IGA
- Rozier AG
- Ste. Genevieve Country Mart
- Schnucks – Farmington
- Frick's Market
- Miller Ham Co.
- Holten Meat Co.
- Straubs
- Dierbergs Central Design
- TNT Foods LLC/Pricechopper

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Don't forget Important end-of-year deadlines!

As 2016 ends and 2017 begins there are several important deadlines for those partners working for our major grocery employers.

Dec. 31: Use your vacation days before the end of the year!

Remember, Schnucks, Shop 'n Save, Dierbergs and Straubs employees: your employer will pay out up to one-week of unused vacation days. If you have more than that, you'll lose them if you don't use them! You've worked hard to earn your vacation days. Don't let them go to waste.

Jan. 15: You must submit vacation days into your company's vacation planner before Jan. 15 in order to get guaranteed approval for your vacation requests. Look at your year ahead and make your requests early so you don't risk not being approved for vacation days! These are the days you've earned; use them!

Feb. 1: You must add your name to the 40-hour request list or the transfer request list before Feb. 1 or you'll have to wait another year. Make sure you get your name added, and you're on the list until 2018!

Wishing you and your family

Happy Holidays

Officers and staff of Local 655

300 Weidman Rd. • Manchester, MO

636-394-6500

or toll free 800-882-6560

Get vital information
about your workplace,
your contract and more.

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

Share Your Pride: Share this page in your break room.