

Union membership means money-saving discounts

By **DAVID COOK**
President



COOK

Did you know you can save up to \$3,000 in 2017 just by being a Union member?

Not enough members of Local 655 are aware of the discounts available on a wide variety of goods and services that are available simply because they are a member of a Union.

Unions around the country haven't always excelled at communicating their value to their members and the general public. I have been open about those shortcomings in the past and discussed my desire to change this many times.

As your President, I am committed to reversing this trend. Part of that commitment involves taking part in a new effort to make sure we tell you about the many discounts you are entitled to, simply for being a Union member.

Whether it's a less expensive phone plan, discounts on movie tickets, or prices on moving services or financial planning not available to the general public, these are benefits available to you as a Union member. You just need to take advantage of them.

There are two places where you can learn much more about these discounts:

- Visit our website, ufcw655.org/union-discounts/. There, you can find the many, many discounts any of our members can receive.

• Visit is UnionPlus.org. Here you can find even more information about the businesses all across the state and even the country that give special benefits to Union members.

Not enough of our members know that their dues afford them not only better wages, better benefits and respect on the job, but discounts on everyday expenses as well.

Too often, people with political agendas tell the public that Unions take money from hard-working people while offering nothing in return. This is simply false. But we cannot expect everyone to know just how valuable their Union membership is if we don't use every opportunity to tell them about it.

The money you can save with Union discounts can easily offset the low cost of your weekly dues, and every middle class family is looking for ways to make their paycheck go a little farther.

I am currently working closely with the UFCW International to communicate the value of your Union membership directly with you. You can expect to see more information about Union discounts in all of our communications, and I strongly urge you to tell your co-workers about them.

As attacks on middle class workers persist, it will be important for us to talk about the inherent value that comes from Union membership. So visit these websites. Find discounts you might use. They are yours to use simply by being a proud Union member, and you deserve every advantage you can get.

AN EXCLUSIVE TWICE MONTHLY REPORT FOR

UFCW 655 MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES

www.ufcw655.com

David Williams joins Local 655 servicing staff

Local 655 welcomes new Union Representative David Williams, who joined the UFCW staff at the end of January

David, 32, worked at the Schnucks Pharmacy warehouse for about two years prior to his hiring at Local 655. He comes from a Union family and said he is extremely excited to begin working for our Local.

David's father was a United Auto Workers member for many years and eventually became a Union Representative for Service Employees International Union. David said he was looking forward to working as a Union Representative because he felt as though it was a job in which he could "make a real difference."

"I've always been political and very pro-union, and it's really great to have a job like this where you feel like you can make a real difference in people's lives," Williams said. "This is a job where you can be a real benefit to people and change people's lives for the better."

Local 655 interviewed many qualified candidates over the last few months, but David quickly rose to the front of the pack with his strong interpersonal skills and his passion for the work. His Union Representative, Levi Eddins, helped him become aware of the job opening and urged him to apply.

"I didn't really know the process of how you might become a Union Rep," he said. "But a co-worker of mine had applied and then Levi had encouraged me to do it as well because he thought I'd make a good fit."

David has an Associate's Degree in General Business Administration from Florissant Valley Community College and hopes to eventually complete his bachelor's degree in the future. He also has a background in sales and customer service, skills he will bring to his work as a representative for Local 655



WILLIAMS

members.

"I'm very happy to have David joining our staff," said Local 655 President David Cook. "He's a smart and talented young man and I think he'll do a great job for all of his members."

President Cook also extended his thanks to all the applicants that interviewed for the open position.

"We saw many good candidates for the job, many of whom were our own members," Cook said. "I really appreciate the enthusiasm they all showed for trying to serve in this role and displaying a desire to help their fellow members."

David has now begun training for servicing, a process that largely involves becoming more familiar with Local 655 contracts.

"I'm really excited to begin the work," he said. "I'm going to do everything I can to help my fellow Union members."

Contract Updates

We have many contracts currently open and in negotiations. Here are your updates:

- **Straubs** Local 655 members ratified a new three-year contract on December 28.
- **Holten Meat** has presented Local 655 with a new contract proposal and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Elsberry IGA** has presented Local 655 with a new contract proposal and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Rozier IGA** in Perryville has presented Local 655 with new contract proposals and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Ste Genevieve Country Mart** has presented Local 655 with new contract proposals and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Kroger Poplar Bluff** has presented Local 655 with a new contract proposal and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Local 655 remains in active negotiations** with the following employers: Double G Ham, Schnucks Farmington, Fricks Market, Kroger Outstate, Holten Meat office and maintenance.

Happy RETIREMENT

JANUARY RETIREES

Louis Heltibrand	Dierbergs	37 yrs	Joan Haffer	Shop 'n Save	27 yrs
Jim Favazza	Dierbergs	47 yrs	Deborah Novy	Schnucks	29 yrs
Linda Glidewell	Schnucks	40 yrs	John Bono	Schnucks	27 yrs
Susan James	Schnucks	29 yrs	Gerald Merten	Schnucks	45 yrs
Cynthia Hunn	Kroger	27 yrs	Diane Friedrich	Schnucks	30 yrs
Anthonia Westemeyer	Dierbergs	21 yrs	Karen Huddleston	Schnucks	26 yrs
Diane Ferrario	Schnucks	39 yrs	Margie Hickenbotham	Schnucks	37 yrs
Orville Christeson	Schnucks	40 yrs	Debra Pagano	Schnucks	39 yrs

emPOWER and WIN!

What is emPower?
Any UFCW Local 655 member that brings an organizing lead for a non-Union shop, that member will be entered into a monthly drawing of \$400! The more organizing leads you bring per month, the more chances you have to win!

Why emPower?
More Union employers means better contracts for ALL of us. Help increase Union density and drive up wages and benefits for ALL workers in St. Louis and Missouri!

Questions?
Contact Director of Organizing Billy Myers at 636.736.2726 or Union Representative Nikki Rich at 636.736.2772

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