



# NEWS AND NOTES

From the desk of President David A. Cook

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

FEBRUARY, 2015

After months of preparing and communicating with you about the importance of contract negotiations, it's time for opening meetings. Opening contract meetings are **YOUR CHANCE** to speak directly to us about what you need for a better life, and we'll be having several this month. The fewer people that show up at these meetings, the easier it will be for your company to ignore what you need: better pay, better benefits, and a better life.

- David A. Cook, Local 655 President



We know you're busy, you work hard, and can't always read every flyer or attend every meeting. Give us a Like on Facebook/ UFCW655. Follow us on Twitter @UFCW655 and check out our website [ufcw655.org](http://ufcw655.org).



Or: text 'Join' to 738674 for regular updates on contracts and much more. *Msg&Data rates may apply.*

## PARTNERS IN NEED

UFCW 655 staff works hard for partners like Jared Simmons. Simmons recently bought a house and has been working at a pharmacy warehouse for almost a year, but has had some issues with management treating him inappropriately.

"I don't want it to make it a black and white thing, but it definitely made me wonder if that was the thing," Simmons said. "[The manager in question] just treated us like slaves and most of the night shift people are black."

Simmons was suddenly fired without just cause, a complete breach of the union-negotiated contract he works under. Simmons immediately called UFCW Local 655 staff.



"I was ready and they jumped right on it," Simmons said. "They were all over it. Levi [Eddins, a staffer at 655] fought very hard for me. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have a job right now."

Simmons was back to work in less than a week with full reinstatement and back pay.

“ If a man tells you he loves America, yet he hates labor, he is a liar!  
- President Abraham Lincoln



**NOW  
HIRING**

UFCW Local 655 is seeking energetic and passionate individuals interested in careers in labor organizing. Organizers are responsible for building relationships with workers and sustaining motivation of organizing committee members and activists.

**Qualifications include:**

- Ability to work long and irregular hours, including nights and weekends
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- In possession of an insured vehicle and valid driver's license

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE. TO APPLY, SUBMIT RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO Julia Polson: [jpolson@ufcw655.org](mailto:jpolson@ufcw655.org)**



Stan Kroenke and his Rams are long gone. And this city shouldn't stand for it.

Remember than Enos Stanley Kroenke made his first mark in the business world by helping build strip malls and Walmarts around the nation.

In short, all Enos Stanley Kroenke has done is treat St. Louis with the same contempt and cynicism that Walmart regularly treats communities and its workers.

Every time you shop at Kroenke's Walmart you make a choice to support men like him. Every dime spent at Walmart is a dime out of a union member's pocket. It's a dime taken away from pension plans and health ben-

efits and better wages. It's a time to stick it to the man who left town with our Rams.

Don't put money in to the pockets of the people trying to take as much as they can out of yours.

If Enos Stanley Kroenke doesn't want anything to do with St. Louis then so be it. Maybe it's time St. Louis had nothing to do with Walmart.



## **2016 VOLUNTEER ORGANIZING PROGRAM OUTLINE**

One of the obstacles in our efforts to negotiate better contracts in 2016 and beyond is the effect of non-union competition in the retail food industry. The Volunteer Organizing program is designed to address the issue of unfair non-union competition.

The program will concentrate on two areas in 2016;

- picketing/hand billing the public in front of non-union food retailers.
- hand billing workers at non-union food retailers.

Shifts will be scheduled and be adequate in number to accommodate flexibility for program participants. Shifts committed to by volunteers must be worked to continue in the program. Participant obligations will be no less than 6 two hour shifts. Shifts may be consecutive. Picket signs and handbills will be provided.

The program will start the week beginning **March 7, 2016**.

**Training will be provided in March at a time and date to be determined** at the Union Hall.

Per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, volunteers will be scheduled off by 6pm Fridays and be off on the weekends at the volunteer's choosing.



### **UFCW LOCAL 655 UNION MEETINGS**

**Monthly Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

**New Member Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.**

**Union Hall: 300 Weidman Rd., Ballwin, MO 63011**

