

# NEWS & NOTES

From the desk of President David A. Cook  
KEEPING YOU INFORMED

October, 2015

Opeiu #13jp



Last month, hard-working families and their allies beat back yet another attack on labor in the form of the wrong-headed Right-to-Work bill that was rammed through the legislative session. Simply put, we couldn't have won that fight without our members. Missouri is one of the only states to beat back anti-labor policies, and we've been able to do it because you, the UFCW family, took action. You wrote letters and postcards. You called elected officials. You went to rallies. The politicians noticed. The people noticed. You were heard. The UFCW family was essential in winning this fight, and I could not be more proud of our partners in labor or each and every one of you that took up the cause. It's an honor to serve as your President, and I promise to continue to do everything in my power to support you, our stakeholders, who have worked so hard and earned so much.

-UFCW Local 655 President, Dave Cook

## UFCW supports Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655 continued its long tradition of supporting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at our annual Jo Pretti Memorial Golf Tournament. Pretti, a former UFCW Local 655 Union Representative, died from leukemia 25 years ago. Since 1983, Local 655 has proudly hosted an annual tournament to raise money and awareness about the new advances in leukemia and lymphoma research.

This year, we are proud to announce we raised more than **\$55,000** through our tournament, an all-time high and a testament to the commitment of UFCW International to eradicate these deadly illnesses. In 32 years, UFCW has donated more than \$77 million to LLS to support blood cancer research, with a full 34 researchers at Universities in the U.S. and Canada working thanks to our support. This year UFCW raised more than \$4 million for LLS and Local 655 could not be more honored to contribute to the cause.

It's a remarkable achievement, but we intend to do more. The UFCW family is committed to our partnership with LLS, and we fully intend to raise even more money at our tournament next year!

Go to [ufcw655.com](http://ufcw655.com) to see a special video on breakthroughs in LLS research.

## POLL: Union Support on the rise

A new Gallup poll says that six out of 10 Americans now support labor unions, a five-point jump in one year. From the results: "Consistent with the recent increase in approval of unions, the percentage of Americans saying they would like labor unions to have more influence in the country has also been rising, and now stands at 37%, up from 25% in 2009."

Americans are beginning to push back against policies that hurt hard-working families, and these numbers don't lie. Remember to be UNION PROUD. Wear a button, or a shirt, or grab a bumper sticker that shows you support people who work hard. See your shop steward about how to get them.



## CONTRACT UPDATES

**We do our best negotiating when we stand together as a family. As contracts begin to expire, remember that decisions are made by those who show up. Attend meetings, make your voice heard, and help us ensure the best possible benefits for you and your family. Here are some contracts expiring in the next year.**

- ◆ Save A Lot Queens
- ◆ Schnuck Markets Inc
- ◆ Dierbergs Markets
- ◆ Shop N Save
- ◆ Kroger Company
- ◆ Kroger Company Poplar Bluff
- ◆ Elsberry Foodliner
- ◆ Cowley Distributing Inc
- ◆ Rozier AG Market
- ◆ Ste. Genevieve Country Mart
- ◆ Fricks Market
- ◆ Miller Ham Co
- ◆ Holten Meat Company
- ◆ Straubs Inc

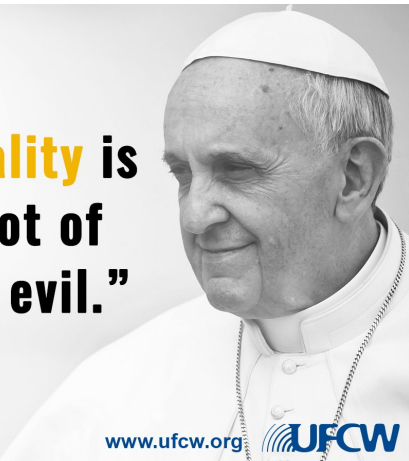
## FIND US ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you following us on Facebook and Twitter? We'll be utilizing social media, and our website more in the coming months to communicate with our UFCW family. We know you're busy, you work hard, and can't always read every flyer or attend every meeting, that's why we try to reach out in as many ways as possible. Give us a Like on Facebook/UFCW655. Follow us on Twitter @UFCW655 and check out our website [ufcw655.org](http://ufcw655.org). Stay connected, stay informed.

We'll be posting meeting times long in advance and if you can't find one, ASK. Call our main office at 636-394-6500

**“Inequality is the root of social evil.”**

(4/28/14)



www.ufcw.org 

“In the face of growing income inequality and poverty, Pope Francis has inspired not only his Catholic followers, but has helped raise the collective moral consciousness to an array of unjust economic policies that are hurting so many families all across the world. “Regardless of faith or political ideology, his preaching of solidarity and shared sacrifice send a powerful message to our national political and economic leaders about the responsibility they have to help better the lives of hard-working men and women. Now, more than ever, it is time for our leaders to answer this call and adopt policies that focus on improving the lives of the many, not on enriching the lives of the ultra-rich few.”

- UFCW International President, Marc Perrone

### Support the WAGE Act!

On September 16, members of Congress, led by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), proposed the Workplace Action for a Growing Economy (WAGE) Act. The act will amend the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to strengthen worker protections. This bill to make labor law enforcement more effective is one of many reforms that are needed in order to give American workers a fair shot at winning the wages and working conditions they deserve. Call the Congressional switchboard in D.C. (202-224-3121) and tell your elected officials that you believe in supporting the labor family. Some highlights from the WAGE Act.

- Providing temporary reinstatement when workers are fired or retaliated against for exercising their rights to join together to seek improvements on the job.
- Strengthening the remedies for workers who are fired or retaliated against, and give workers the ability to bring their case directly to court.
- Establishing strong penalties against employers who violate workers' rights.
- Providing real, meaningful, timely remedies when employers interfere with fair elections.
- Streamlining the NLRB's processes.
- Improving workers' knowledge of their rights.

### UFCW supports push back against anti-labor policies at WalMart

On September 10, Walmart workers, with the help of the UFCW family, Making Change at Walmart, and OUR Walmart, announced at a press conference that they had filed a second charge against Walmart with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) regarding the retaliatory closing of the Pico Rivera, Calif., Walmart store. In the charge, workers allege that they were discriminated against in the transfer process due to their participation in protests standing up for better wages, hours and work conditions. The workers' second charge comes as the first charge, alleging that Walmart closed five stores nationwide as an act of retaliation, is under investigation by the NLRB. On April 13th, the company abruptly closed stores with just hours' notice, including the Pico Rivera Walmart store, which was among the most vocal and symbolically important stores in the movement for better wages and hours.



### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Remember that UFCW Local 655 has monthly meetings for our new and existing partners. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month we open the meeting hall doors to you both in the morning and in the evening. This is YOUR CHANCE to talk face-to-face with the leaders of your UFCW family.

As 2016 approaches and we begin to negotiate contracts with some of our biggest employers, these meetings are VITAL in having your voice heard and getting the better wages and better benefits that you've earned.

Check out our meeting schedule below.

### DON'T LOSE YOUR VACATION DAYS!

To all our partners covered by GSLFEC, Schnucks Columbia, Schnucks Farmington, Straubs, Culinaria and TNT Foods (Price Chopper) Agreements, according to section 17.5 of the Local 655 collective bargaining agreement:

Effective **January 1, 2016**, your unused vacation from the prior calendar year will only be paid out for up to one week.

**DON'T LOSE WHAT YOU'VE EARNED!**

**ALL OTHER VACATION MUST BE USED OR PAID OUT PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2016!** (Section 17.2 of the contract)

### 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 8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

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

636-394-6500

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**