

It's time: Let's fight for our future; repeal so-called 'RTW'

By **DAVID A. COOK**
President



COOK

The time has finally come, and our 2018 fight to repeal so-called "right-to-work" will be the single most critical fight for Missouri's middle class in decades.

Be assured that UFCW Local 655 will not be on the sidelines for this fight. We played a critical role in putting the repeal of "right-to-work-for-less" on the November 2018 ballot.

In short, Local 655 has led, and will continue to lead, this fight.

And no fight will be more important to you, your family and the entire Local 655 family than the fight to stop "right-to-work-for-less." This is not a fight to save unions. This is not a fight to elevate Democrats or Republicans. This is a fight for the future of middle class workers in our state.

We've got all the evidence we need that "right-to-work-for-less" is a law meant to benefit the wealthy few, not the middle class. Whether it's safety at work, benefits or wages, states with these laws have seen quality of life plummet as billionaires get even richer.

Next week, Local 655 will begin hosting 14 meetings all across this state. The purpose of these meetings is to vote on a proposal that will directly impact the 2018 fight against so-called "right-to-work." I'm asking all of our hard-working partners to vote to approve a \$0.50 (fifty cents) per week assessment for one year. This equals a total contribution of \$26 from each one of you. This contribution will be used directly to fund our efforts fighting "right-to-work-for-less."

I am unable — and more importantly — absolutely unwilling to raise membership costs for our hardworking partners without your approval. This is a union family, where democracy reigns. That's why I am coming to you asking for a vote *in favor* of raising these funds on behalf of all Local 655 families

as well as all middle-class Missourians and hard-working families.

With your support, we can mount a significant fight against the forces that would drive Missouri toward the bottom.

We can win, but we can only win together. Only by supporting each other can we be victorious. Only by standing together, and fighting the common enemy can we survive 2018 with a fighting chance for Missouri families.

I know this is no easy thing. I know that you work hard for every dollar you earn. I know many of you have already given so much of your time and energy to this fight. I don't make this request lightly.

It is my firm commitment to make sure every one of the 10,000-plus partners of this Local Union have an opportunity to have their voice heard on this issue. There will be meetings all around the state on multiple days and at multiple times to accommodate as many of you as possible. Dates, times and places are listed below.

You should have already been contacted about a tele-town hall conference call we will host this month which will give all of you a chance to speak directly to me about this request. Our goal is to make sure all of our partners know about our request and, more importantly, fully understand the importance of this critical decision.

Your dedication to this union family has helped keep it alive for many years. Your compassion for your co-workers and fellow Missourians shows every day when you help this organization fight for hard-working families.

I am asking all of my partners to stand together again and fight this terrible law. With your continued support, we can repeal the so-called "right-to-work" law enacted by Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens and stop those big-money bullies who want to push Missouri workers to the lowest of wage categories without a voice in the workplace.

Join us at one of the meetings listed below. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your voice.

**AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR**

**UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES**

www.ufcw655.org

Local 655 winner takes home \$250 in International ABC drawing



ABC DRAWING WINNER Deborah Kohler (Kroger-Warrenton) receives a \$250 VISA gift card from the UFCW International Union and presented by Local 655 Union Representative Alex Lange.

Local 655 partner Deborah Kohler won a \$250 Visa gift card from the UFCW International last month, making her the second Local 655 partner to take home the prize in the past year.

Every quarter the UFCW International draws a winner from all partners who contribute to the ABC Fund. Once again, a Local 655 partner is the winner and now gets to take home \$250!

If you want to be entered for a chance to win, simply make a \$1 per week or more con-

tribution to the UFCW Local 655 ABC Fund.

While membership costs are used to protect and represent union partners, ABC Funds are specifically used to engage in protecting middle class workers rights, like fighting for higher wages, better job safety, and improved working conditions for all hard-working families. Any current ABC fund contributor at a dollar per-week or more is automatically entered into the regular drawings.

If you'd like to contribute to the ABC Fund, contact your union rep!

ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT VOTE MEETINGS

<p>MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018 UFCW Local 655 Union Hall 300 Weidman Rd. Ballwin, MO, 63011 8 A.M., 2 P.M. & 7 P.M.</p>	<p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018 Country Mart 20 Plaza Dr. Ste. Genevieve, MO, 63670 9 A.M. & 7 P.M.</p>
<p>TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018 Holiday Inn 2781 North Westwood Blvd Poplar Buff, MO, 63901 9 A.M. & 7 P.M.</p>	<p>MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018 Holiday Inn Executive 2200 Interstate 70 Dr. SW Columbia, MO, 65203 9 A.M. & 7 P.M.</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 Rolla Parks & Recreation/The Centre Meeting Room B 1200 N. Holloway Rolla, MO, 65401 9 A.M. & 7 P.M.</p>	<p>TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018 UFCW Local 655 Union Hall 300 Weidman Rd. Ballwin, MO, 63011 8 A.M., 2 P.M. & 7 P.M.</p>

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