

Telling Your Stories

By DAVID COOK
President

As the enemies of hard-working people continue to manipulate the national narrative, the UFCW family is becoming more and more aware of the things we can do to combat these greedy corporate actors.

For too long, we've let the enemies of hard-working Missourians tell our story. No more.

The UFCW family is not content to sit around and let other people tell our story, or yours.

Every day, thousands of hard-working people get up and put on their uniforms, and our staff fights for them. We negotiate better lives; we support our partners when they need to deal with management.

We're going to be telling our story, the story of our partners, your story. For decades, we've done incredible things for hard-working families, but we haven't done a good job of telling those stories. While UFCW International intends to begin loudly and proudly talking about the good things that labor does, UFCW Local 655 is also working toward that same goal.

Our partners in Local 655 have incredible stories, and we've had the chance to help



so many of them over the years, we are excited to begin telling those stories in a more effective way.

Partnership in a union has real implications and measurable value, and it's high time we began explaining that to those around us.

Every time we are able to help a member of the UFCW family, we have a victory. But every victory that goes unheard or unseen is a waste of the considerable good we strive to do every single day.

Our family has to push back against the false narrative painted by cynical politicians and their greedy corporate donors.

Every day, we walk into our union hall thinking about the 10,000+ UFCW partners in this area. As favorability for labor begins to trend upward once again, it's incumbent on us to make sure we talk about our victories and accomplishments.

And it's important that you talk about it too.

If your shop steward or union rep secures you a raise, a better schedule, or resolves an issue, it's important to tell that story. Tell your friends and family and co-workers what the UFCW family means.

We remain partners in the fight for a better life. We will stand for and with you. We will tell your story. We hope you'll do the same.

Nikki Rich sworn-in to E-Board



REPRESENTING MEMBERS: Nikki Rich was sworn in as the newest member of the UFCW Local 655 Executive Board at the regular monthly meeting on October 26. Rich has been a member of the UFCW family for nearly 23 years, starting first with Shop N' Save and Straubs before she became a union representative in 2007. Rich said she was "simply thrilled" to be taking on the role.

AN EXCLUSIVE
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MEMBERS &
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UFCW scores victory in Green Park

The UFCW family scored a victory in a battle for hard-working people in Green Park last month when they asked their local elected officials to reject a proposal to build a new "Fresh Thyme" grocery store.

Fresh Thyme stores are built by mostly non-union labor, and they employ non-union workers in their stores. These kinds of jobs provide a lower quality product to the consumer and make it harder for the hardest-working people to get an edge.

UFCW and our allies in labor asked local Green Park residents to stand with Organized Labor and our long history of providing good jobs that lift up entire communities.

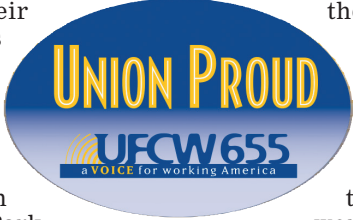
"It's important to make clear that businesses supporting their hard-working employees are the kinds of businesses we want in our local communities," said Local

655 President David Cook. "Jobs with good wages and benefits impact an entire community in positive ways, and that's what our local elected officials should want."

Locals called their city council members, and by an easy margin the Fresh Thyme proposal was rejected,

the first in a series of votes needed to make sure that non-union companies know the price of not supporting their employees. As Fresh Thyme owners continue to push their agenda against hard-working families and insist on favoring corporate profits over employee well-being, the UFCW family and our allies will continue to oppose this wrong-headed development.

Our message to Green Park is clear: your community needs quality union jobs to move forward.



Congratulations to Barb Erb on her retirement!

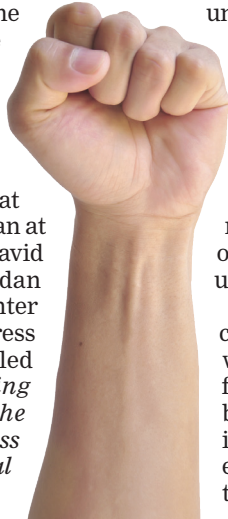


WELL EARNED: Barb Erb, a 30-year member of the UFCW Local 655 family, retired from Dierbergs near the end of October. Congratulating Erb are UFCW Local 655 Political Director Nick Trupiano (left) and Local 655 Secretary-Treasurer Dave Politte.

New Research continues to make economic case for unions

The National Bureau of Economic Research released a paper in October that details the strong correlation between union membership and a stronger middle class, further reinforcing what those in the labor family have long known: higher union membership is directly related to a thriving middle class.

Richard Freeman at the NBER, Eunice Han at Wellesley College, David Madland and Brendan V. Duke of the Center for American Progress penned a paper titled "How Does Declining Unionism Affect the American Middle Class and Intergenerational Mobility?"



The findings are staggering.

Not only does declining union membership directly correlate with a weaker middle class, but research also shows that families with children with parents in a union end up better off than their counterparts in non-union homes.

The research even shows that children living in areas with higher rates of union membership end up better off regardless of their parent's own membership with a union.

These correlations paint a clear picture that when hard-working people are kept from organizing or punished by wrongheaded legislation, it has a tangible impact on entire communities, and the middle class as a whole.



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