

# It pays to be a Union partner Numerous discounts are available

By DAVID COOK  
President



COOK

I've spent a lot of time talking about the benefits of being a Union partner. Our staff does the same, day in and day out, working to communicate the many ways UFCW Local 655 has value for you, the hard-working members of our Union Family.

But it's not just the things we provide on the job that has value for you.

A recent focus group of UFCW Local 655 partners, hosted by our International Union, revealed something interesting: Most of our partners don't know about the many discounts available to consumers who are in a Union.

Local and national companies all across the country, and right here in St. Louis, provide meaningful discounts on goods and services to folks just like you, simply for being partners in a Union. And yet, most of those eligible partners are not aware of these discounts.

I will continue to search for new and effective ways of communicating the value of Union partnership to you. Be on the lookout for these communications, because it's something Local 655 is striving to improve upon every single day.

Did you know that AT&T offers a 15 percent discount on all wireless services to UFCW partners? All you have to do is ask, and give them the discount code 4924966. This is just one of many discounts available to people like you, hard-working men and women who spend their days trying to save money wherever they can.

That's not all though. There are Union discounts available for car rental services at Alamo, Avis, Enterprise, Hertz, Budget and National Car Rental. AMC Movie Theaters offers up to 45 percent off various items and Six Flags offers 35 percent off for one-day passes.

These are just drops in the bucket. There are competitive rates for credit cards, discounts for hotel and travel expenses, mortgage services and so much more.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be compiling an up-to-date list of these discounts, and work on getting that information to you in the most efficient way possible.

Unions offer so much to the hard-working families that are our partners. We offer:

- Protection on the job through your contract,
- Competitive health and welfare benefits,
- Real pension plans,
- Respect and dignity in the workplace and
- Better working conditions.

But discounts like these are yet another way we can communicate just how important it can be, and how valuable it is, to be a partner with UFCW Local 655.

If you'd like more information on how you can save money simply by being a Union partner, visit [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org) to see the wealth of discounts you are eligible for. Tell your co-workers about these discounts, but more importantly, tell the folks you know in non-Union workplaces about the value of UFCW Local 655.

Make sure they know the depth and worth of Unions. Let them know that your Union has value to you.

## Take our survey: Worker's Issues in the 2016 Election

As the 2016 Election cycle continues to pick up steam, UFCW Local 655 is committed to keeping partners informed about the issues that impact hard-working people on the job.

In past years, we've tried to communicate which candidates we think you should support on the basis of their positions on issues affecting labor like Right-to-Work or minimum wage. But this year, Local 655's approach will be different.

It's not the job of UFCW Local 655 to tell you whom to support in an election.

But it is the job of any good Labor Union to tell their partners about the issues that impact workers. Whether it's Equal Pay, Worker's Compensation or Paid Family Leave, there are many issues that directly affect your workplace experience.

This year, Local 655 will be asking partners to take a survey each month.

The first of these surveys is now online, and you can visit [ufcw655.org](http://ufcw655.org) to find it. These surveys will provide you with basic information on these issues and then ask you where you stand.

Every month, we'll provide you with a new workplace flyer detailing these issues and how you voted in our survey.

When we get close to the general election in November, we'll provide detailed information to you about where various candidates stand on these issues and whether their position lines up with yours as you indicated in our survey.

There are many positions that voters con-

sider when electing candidates at all levels of government. Whether it's gun rights, abortion, taxation, healthcare, or something else, each voter must make their own decisions about who they wish to support.

But when it comes to issues that are aimed directly at working people, it's our job to hear your voices and keep you informed. We won't be telling you who you should or should not vote for, but will provide you with information on where candidates stand on issues like Right-to-Work, Paid Sick Leave and much more.

Our first survey, which is now live, deals with Minimum Wage, Right-to-Work, and Equal Pay. In July, you'll see a flyer in your workplace that will give you information about these issues, as well as inform you how you and your co-workers voted.

UFCW Local 655 is not a partisan organization. It is not our job to support one party or another, or to take positions on political issues that have nothing to do with hard-working people on the job.

We will continue to support the candidates whose positions line up with the stated opinions of you, our partners, because we represent your voice at the workplace.

Visit our website at [ufcw655.org](http://ufcw655.org) to take our latest survey, and tell us how you feel about the issues and policies that impact you every single day.



### ISSUES FACING YOU

**AN EXCLUSIVE TWICE MONTHLY REPORT FOR**

**UFCW 655 MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES**

[www.ufcw655.com](http://www.ufcw655.com)

a VOICE for working America

## 50-yr Partner urges Union involvement

For 50 years, Gene Kaiser has been a UFCW Local 655 partner. One of the longest partners in UFCW Local 655's history, Gene says he owes much of his standard-of-living and his ability to raise a family on the salary and benefits negotiated by his Union.



KAISER

He has three children, and put them all through college, something that he says would have been "impossible" with a non-Union job.

On May 23 he celebrated his 80th birthday. While some folks would have retired long ago, Gene still works between 24 and 32 hours per week, a testament to his work ethic and commitment to supporting the Union that supports him on the job.

"The members are the Union," Kaiser said. "We have fantastic leadership right now, but they don't get it done all on their own. It's the members coming together that make things happen. They are the Union, and I think a lot of younger people don't understand that. I tell them to get involved, take action, get involved with the Union even a little bit, and you can make a difference."

Kaiser has seen how rank-and-file partners can make a difference in how their Union improves their lives.

Gene, a clerk at the Webster Groves

Schnucks, has been a Shop Steward for 46 years, and a member of the UFCW Local 655 Executive Board for 33 years – the longest serving Board member in Local 655 history.

He's been to the State Capitol in Jefferson City many times for the annual legislative lobby day. He's served as a delegate at the UFCW International Convention, and sat on the first Volunteer Organizing Committee ever created by Local 655.

He's served on several bargaining committees when UFCW Local 655 has negotiated new contracts with employers. In 1978, Gene played an active role in the fight to beat Right-to-Work legislation here in Missouri, a fight that may soon return to the Show-Me State.

Through all these actions, Gene has been able to directly impact how his Union operates, and therefore, help improve his own life. He's cultivated a reputation as a knowledgeable Union partner, and is often the go-to man for many rank-and-file partners who have questions or concerns on the job.

"They even call me from other stores," Kaiser said. "I do everything I can to help because I'm concerned. I've always been concerned for my co-workers in our Union. I want it to work for other people the way it worked for me."

Above all else, Gene urges more involvement from Local 655 partners.

"An hour or two a week, that's all it takes," Kaiser said. "It's not just a job, it's a Union Family fighting for better things. Stand up, and get involved."

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**CALENDAR**

**Pride Parade: June 26**  
Contact Laura Kelley at 636-736-2760

**Sickle Cell Fundraiser: July 23 • 11-5pm**  
Contact Theresa Hester at 636-736-2758

**655 Annual Softball Tourney: August 1-4 and 8-9**  
Applications have been mailed out! Contact Robert Spence with questions at 636-736-2775.

**"Light the Night": September 24 • 5pm**  
A charitable walk to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Contact your union rep ofr Jane Smith at 314-590-2236

**Komen Walk: June 11**  
Contact Karen at 636-736-2745 with any questions.

**Happy RETIREMENT**

**APRIL RETIREES**

Kathleen VonCloedt	Dierbergs	14 yrs	Richard Mueller	Schnucks	41 yrs
Johanna L. Blassi	Shop N' Save	10 yrs	John Benenati	Schnucks	22 yrs
Kathleen L. Howard	Dierbergs	9 yrs	James Hibbeler	Schnucks	23 yrs
Maryrita J. Martinez	Schnucks	21 yrs	Sharon M. Russell	Shop N' Save	10 yrs
Michael Taylor	Schnucks	27 yrs	Cheryl A. Rohan	Dierbergs	28 yrs
Rosalia A. Norris	Schnucks	21 yrs	Mary E. Anderson	Schnucks	37 yrs
Pamela Watts	Kroger	10 yrs	Roland J. Rhodes	Schnucks	40 yrs
Clyde M. Schuler	Shop N' Save	28 yrs	Stephen R. Sapp	Schnucks	40 yrs
Janet Bell-Sweazea	Schnucks	28 yrs	Raymond Blix	Dierbergs	19 yrs
Donna K. Scott	Schnucks	39 yrs	Floyd E. Darling Jr.	Schnucks	1 yrs
Larry R. Bassman	Dierbergs	43 yrs	Rina Kresko-Buchanan	Shop N' Save	6 yrs
Christine Badalamenti	Schnucks	21 yrs	Byrd F. Lucas	Dierbergs	3 yrs