

Attacking one of us is attacking all of us

Keep up the fight to halt Paycheck Deception

By **DAVID COOK**
President

In some ways, 2016 is shaping up to be a far better year for Labor than 2015. Here in Missouri there are a lot of reasons for that.

Attorney General Chris Koster, a voracious defender of hard-working families, is looking more and more like the clearest choice to lead our state from the Governor's mansion.

So called right-to-work legislation, a dangerous policy peddled by the ugly fiction that Labor Unions don't work for the middle class, appears to be a non-starter in the Missouri State Capitol this year.

But sadly, Unions are not being spared entirely this year by Republican lawmakers who have chosen to side with greedy millionaires over their own constituents.

Their latest attack on us comes in the form of so-called Paycheck Protection. Although your local Union knows it better as Paycheck Deception.

Republicans in Jefferson City — who ran on reducing government burdens on business and individuals — want to force public employee Unions like teachers to have to re-sign their members every single year like clockwork. This burden represents a major added cost to these Unions who already allow for any member to opt-out of paying dues related to political activity at any time.

Republicans in the House and Senate here in Missouri worked hard to disguise the real cost of this bill, because they don't

want to admit its real goal: to bust Unions that sometimes give money to their political opponents.

It's pretty easy to know that this bill isn't about giving freedom to Union members. Why is it so easy? Because Republicans have carved first responders—like police officers and firefighters out of this bill—creating an exemption you could drive more than a few fire trucks through.

If this bill were about helping public employees, why wouldn't we want to help our first responders? This bill stinks to high-heaven, and that's because it is rotten to the core.

While UFCW Local 655 does not represent any public employees, we know it's our responsibility to stand alongside all of Labor in pushing back against these attacks on hard-working people. As anyone within the Labor Movement knows, Paycheck Deception is often the first step toward a state passing right-to-work, and we simply cannot allow that to happen.

We will continue to stand alongside public and private Unions alike to protect some of Missouri's hardest-working citizens from politically motivated attacks that take aim at their livelihoods. We will continue working with our friends in Labor to educate the public about this legislation, and we ask you to make sure your voice is heard by reaching out to your elected officials.

Call, write a letter or send an email. Let them know you believe in reducing burdens on working people, not adding them. Tell them you won't elect a leader who sides with Paycheck Deception.



UFCW member finds help with United Way

Jessica Johnson, a Schnucks-Lindell partner, was having trouble making ends meet. She was short on money and her electric bill was due. It's a problem far too common for many hard-working Missourians, and one Johnson wasn't sure she could fix. Fortunately, Johnson is a UFCW Local 655 partner.

Johnson's mother was a longtime Schnucks partner who retired from the company, so she knows the value Unions have for working families. Johnson said having a good job was important for her children, and said Local 655 was watching her back.

"It's just really good to know that if there is a problem at work that you're not alone," Jonson said. "Someone is there to help, and that's really nice."

After Johnson struggled briefly with paying her utility bills, UFCW staff directed her to the United Way of Greater St. Louis. The non-profit has a 24-hour hotline dedicated solely to union members in need. After assisting Johnson with her bills, they called back a few weeks later with stunning news.

United Way adopted Johnson and her children for Christmas, assuring that they would all have a better holiday amidst a financially straining time. At a time when Jessica Johnson was worried about paying her bills, United Way stepped in to provide



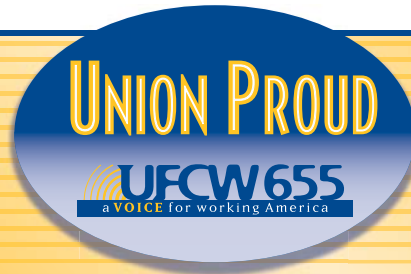
JESSICA JOHNSON

her kids with something priceless: a Christmas to remember.

"It was such a big benefit for us," Johnson said. "To know we would be able to have Christmas when I was really worried about making ends meet, it was just so wonderful to be blessed with that."

UFCW Local 655 continues to fight for people like Jessica Johnson every single day.

AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR



UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES

www.ufcw655.com

Local 655 holds annual legislative conference in Jefferson City



UFCW Local 655 led the annual UFCW Legislative Conference in Jefferson City this year where dozens of rank-and-file partners and UFCW staff took to the Capital to educate lawmakers about the unfair and cynical attacks on workers coming in the form of Paycheck Deception and Prevailing Wage.

UFCW represents a total of about 22,000 partners in Missouri, making them the largest private labor Union in the state. Locals 88 and 2 joined 655 for their conference, to further emphasize the statewide level of solidarity for all UFCW partners.

Those who attended the Jefferson City conference got the chance to hear from Missouri AFL-CIO President Mike Louis — who discussed Paycheck Deception and the state's political climate — and Adam McBride of the Laborers Union, who gave everyone a "crash course" in prevailing wage laws.

About 40 lawmakers visited the UFCW during their meet-and-greet that night in Jefferson City. UFCW staff alongside rank-and-file partners also attended a Senatorial session where a lengthy debate on Paycheck



Deception took place. The session ultimately resulted in the upper-chamber advancing the bill, which is aimed at adding more needless regulations on state employee Unions.

"I'm here because we need to make these representatives and senators understand that I need my Union, I like my Union, and they make it easier, not harder, to be successful," said Tim Godfrey, a 31-year UFCW partner. "I think it's harder to vote against people who work hard every day if you have to meet them and look them in the eye."

2016 Volunteer Organizing Program (VOP)

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.

It can be a little confusing, but the average labor cost to union retailers is higher than non-union retailers. Average labor costs include wages, health care benefits, retirement benefits, vacation, holiday pay, sick benefits and premiums and there are costs associated with some work rules.

The Volunteer Organizing Program is designed to address the issue of unfair non-union competition.

The program will concentrate on two areas in 2016;

1. Picketing/hand billing the public in front of non-union food retailers.

2. 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.

Shifts may be consecutive. Training will be provided.

Per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, volunteers will be scheduled off by 6 p.m. Fridays and be off on the weekends at the volunteer's choosing. Contact your union representative to join.

ATTENTION RETIREES Do you want to make a difference?

Local 655 Retirees Club recruiting members for volunteer Union actions.

Picketing, political and issue-related telephone work, distributing handbills and more. Your Retirees Club wants you.

Interested? Attend your next Retirees Club luncheon, April 12 at the Local 655 Union Hall, 300 Weidman Road, Ballwin.

Share Your Pride: Share this page in your break room.