

Labor Day is about Unity

By **DAVID COOK**
President



COOK

For more than 100 years, we've set aside a single day every year to remember and honor all that Organized Labor has done for this country.

The Labor Movement is one of the greatest forces for positive change in our nation's history. We marched for safer working conditions, we struck for fair wages, we took to the streets to keep children out of coal mines, and we stood outside of factories and demanded that hard-working families be treated with respect.

At the heart of our movement is solidarity.

It wasn't so long ago in our history that companies hired men to arrest, abuse and even kill men and women who wanted to be treated like human beings instead of like disposable tools. Despite threats, despite the hardship, we stood shoulder-to-shoulder together knowing that one day our fight would bring us one step closer to the American Dream.

This year, like we have done for years, Organized Labor from all across the area will march together downtown to remind the public of our continued battle to make sure that workers get the best treatment from their employers.

UFCW Local 655 is marching in this year's parade and, for the first time, we will march side-by-side with UFCW Local 88, as a small but meaningful signal of our renewed partnership with them. For our Union, this is a message to our mutual employers that our two locals are set to work together to achieve

a better deal for us all.

In Missouri, Unions have been fighting tooth-and-nail for the past several years to keep vicious attacks against Union families at bay. These attacks helped unite many Labor leaders in a single mission to protect their members and middle-class families all across the state. These fights are exhausting, but they make us stronger as we unite for a common purpose.

While many workers are no longer under threat of violence or death just for standing up for their rights, the threats we do face are no less damaging to worker's abilities to get what they've earned.

Union busting no longer comes in the forms of Pinkerton Detective wielding bats and guns. It no longer comes in the form of burning down homes or breaking up picket lines with violence. Union busters learned that they didn't need to beat us with bats to win, because they believe they can beat us with their checkbooks.

The modern enemies of Labor come in the form of a small number of wealthy, greedy men and women looking to pad their bottom line. They seek to do this simply by buying election results and attacking our way of life not out in the streets, but in the marble halls of our state capitol.

Labor Day is about more than a day off work for some. Labor Day is about more than a parade, a picnic or having a beer with our friends and family. Labor Day is the one day every year in which we are supposed to march together as one voice, the voice of the working family. It's a day that we show the public our commitment to one another. It's the day we remind the nation of our past struggles and what they have won, and look to the horizon at the many battles to come.

UFCW hires new Director of Organizing

UFCW Local 655 has hired a new Director of Organizing to join the staff.

Billy Myers, a longtime staffer at UFCW International, who most recently worked in collective bargaining, has been tapped to lead UFCW Local 655's organizing staff as we continue to look to grow the Union.

Local 655 leadership is thrilled that he's joined Local 655's staff.

Myers spent 17 years with UFCW International as an organizer, an international representative and coordinator. Myers got his start in labor more than 25 years ago as a shop steward with the United Garment Workers of America. He also served as a Union president for UFCW Local 381G.

Previous Director of Organizing, Alex Lange, will transition into servicing as a Union Rep, filling a much-needed role as several longtime Reps approach retirement next year. President David Cook said that Lange did a wonderful job as a Director of Organizing, and said he was fully confident that Lange would excel as a Union Representative.

Myers, who is originally from Missouri, said he was excited to be returning to his home state where his family resides, and said he was grateful to President Cook for giving him an opportunity to lead the recently re-tooled organizing staff.

"I'm very excited to take on a position at UFCW Local 655, I've made a lot of friends on



BILLY MYERS

this staff over the years during my work at UFCW," Myers said. "Missouri is my home state and it's great to be near my family again, and helping grow Labor in Missouri, because everyone deserve the benefits and wages a strong Union job can provide."

AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR

UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES

www.ufcw655.com



UFCW LOCAL 655 leadership sits with our bargaining committee as we continue to negotiate a better life for our 10,000+ hard-working partners. President David Cook, Secretary Treasurer Dave Politte, and Assistant to the President Garry Torpea lead the committee as they work to hammer out a new contract with Schnucks.

Join Us For The Labor Day Parade

Groups will start forming at 7 a.m.
Parade starts at 9 a.m.

The Local 655 group will meet near
17th and Olive Streets.
BBQ after with UFCW Local 88 and Gas Workers Local 5-6
at Eternal Flame Park at Pine and North 15th streets.

"Light the Night" with Local 655 and Local 88

UFCW Local 655 is joining UFCW Local 88 at their annual event to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

This year's 'Light the Night' will be held on Sept. 24 at the Central Fields in Forest Park. 'Light the Night' is a beautiful event, where thousands of walkers with colored lights show their support for curing Leukemia and Lymphoma, and the event raises funds exclusively for research and treat-

ment in Missouri.

The event honors both victims and survivors of Leukemia and Lymphoma. UFCW Local 88 will be serving refreshments.

To join the official UFCW walk team, visit our website or our Facebook page to learn how. If you can't walk, you can still choose to donate.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Parker at 636.7363.2763.



Happy RETIREMENT					
SEPTEMBER RETIREES					
Robert Kopf	Schnucks	43 yrs	Dan Jester	Schnucks	40 yrs
Donna Helton	Schnucks	20 yrs	Linda Breedlove	Schnucks	34 yrs
Nan Taylor	Schnucks	14 yrs	Michael Powers	Schnucks	41 yrs
Donna Lesinkski	Schnucks	43 yrs	Phyllis Sanford	Schnucks	10 yrs
Anna Harkey	Shop 'n Save	34 yrs	Jim Krekeler	Schnucks	40 yrs
Edward Youngblood	Schnucks	22 yrs			

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