

# Solidarity will defeat 'Right-to-Work'

By **DAVID COOK**  
President



**COOK**

As we have been expecting since he was elected in November, Gov. Eric Greitens has signed so-called "right-to-work" legislation into law. And while this is certainly a challenging time for Labor in Missouri, I have been planning for this attack for a long time, and we are prepared to fight back.

**First**, it's important for all our partners to understand that "right-to-work" will not become the law of the land until Aug. 28, when most bills passed by Missouri lawmakers take effect.

**Second**, our partners need to know that there are two different ways that we can stop this wrongheaded law in its tracks. Both of these solutions will require significant work on the ground, thousands of signatures from Missouri registered voters, and the concentrated effort of all Missourians who value unions.

A provision in the Missouri constitution allows for any bill passed by the legislature to be referred to a vote of the people before it can become law. While this provision is rarely used, it has nearly always been successful in overturning the actions of politicians in the Missouri capitol when their actions don't reflect the desires of the citizens of Missouri.

The Missouri AFL-CIO has filed a petition to do exactly this. Once it is approved we will have to move quickly, as the law only gives us 90 days to gather all the signatures we need.

If we are unable to stop "right-to-work" in its tracks this year, we still have another option. I have been working closely with the Missouri AFL-CIO on placing a constitutional

amendment on the ballot in the 2018 elections. If approved, this amendment would make "right-to-work" laws illegal in Missouri, and stop this attack on the middle class from our books for good. This method will also require the signatures of hundreds of thousands of Missourians before it goes to the ballot.

In short, there will be work that needs to be done to gather signatures from Missourians everywhere. For this reason, I'm asking anyone who wants to join this effort to send an email with their name and contact information to [nortw@ufcw655.org](mailto:nortw@ufcw655.org). We will use this email to build a list of volunteers ready to head out into the streets and gather signatures.

In just a short period of time we already have more than 150 volunteers signed up. But we cannot be comfortable with that number.

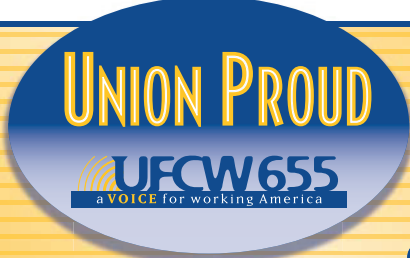
We will need hundreds more to blanket this state. I would urge any one of our members who feel strongly about their union family and the working men and women of Missouri, to volunteer some of their time to lend a hand in this fight.

I would encourage any Missourian, union or not, to sign up to fight against the special interests who bought and paid for this law.

We will not allow the fight over "right-to-work" to weaken this Union. And we will not forget the names of the politicians who supported this policy when it comes time to vote. I would urge anyone who knows that "right-to-work" is an attack on workers on behalf of billionaires to make sure they vote against anyone who supported it.

Labor will always stand up for the middle class. We know how to work hard for our fellow Missourians.

**AN EXCLUSIVE TWICE MONTHLY REPORT FOR**



**UFCW 655 MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES**

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

## Get heard: Join Local 655 members at the State Capitol



Partners and officers of Local 655 proudly wearing UFCW gold during a recent lobbying trip to the Missouri State Capitol.

Local 655 works hard on behalf of all our partners to lobby lawmakers in Jefferson City.

Nothing is more impactful for a local lawmaker than meeting with constituents who are passionate about the issues. Every Tuesday, Local 655 heads to Jefferson City with rank-and-file members in tow to advocate for hard-working families in Missouri.

You can join us! Your voice is critical to our efforts, and we want you to come with us as we talk directly to the politicians of Missouri.

If you're interested in getting heard in the Capitol, contact your Union Rep or call Karen at 636-736-2745 and sign up to come to Jefferson City!

## Congratulations to all of our Education Grant Winners from January!



- Jack Selsor — Schnucks
- Joshlyn Davis — Schnucks
- LaRetha Johnson — Straubs
- Genesia Clay — Schnucks
- Samantha Schaefer — Schnucks
- Drew Foster — Dierbergs
- Kayla Dundon — Schnucks
- Kivonna Brand — Dierbergs
- Tytonia Midgett — Shop 'n Save
- Nijane Davis — Shop 'n Save
- Marisha Scott — Shop 'n Save
- Sarah Lance — Schnucks
- Ashley Johnson — Dierbergs
- Paige Hargiss — Dierbergs
- Joseph Stamburski — Schnucks
- Justice Hall — Schnucks
- Kate Hausner — Schnucks
- Tabarak Al-Gebory — Dierbergs

Don't forget: We draw 20 Education Grant Winners twice per year. Anyone currently attending secondary school can qualify. For information, just ask your Shop Steward or Union Rep about signing up! Or just visit [ufcw655.org/educational-grantsscholarships](http://ufcw655.org/educational-grantsscholarships).

You can also sign up for scholarships worth thousands of dollars with UFCW International! Just visit [ufcw.org/members/scholarship/](http://ufcw.org/members/scholarship/) to learn how you can earn cash to help attend school!

## Donate to ABC for a chance to win cash

Did you know that any Local 655 partner who donates \$1 per week or more to the Active Ballot Club is automatically entered into a cash drawing with UFCW International?



ers. ABC helps raise money to fight "right-to-work," support policies that increase worker compensation and protection on the job, and fights back against corporate influence in state and national politics.

Contact your Union Rep to sign up for ABC. Earn a chance to win cash every month, and help protect middle class families in Missouri and around the country!

Scottie Edwards of Schnucks, a Local 655 partner, won the December drawing and got \$250!


The Active Ballot Club is one of the UFCW's best ways to fight for a better life for all work-



## Contract Updates

We have many contracts currently open and in negotiations. Here are your updates:

- **Holten Meat** has presented Local 655 with a new contract proposal and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Elsberry IGA** has presented Local 655 with a new contract proposal and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Rozier IGA** in Perryville has presented Local 655 with a new contract proposal and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Ste Genevieve Country Mart** has presented Local 655 with new contract proposals and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Kroger Poplar Bluff** has presented Local 655 with a new contract proposal and we are working on setting a date for a vote.
- **Local 655 remains in active negotiations** with the following employers: Double G Ham, Schnucks Farmington, Fricks Market, Kroger Outstate, Holten Meat office and maintenance, Belleville Shoe, Schnucks Columbia, and Price Chopper House Springs.



## emPOWER and WIN!

**What is emPower?**  
Any UFCW Local 655 member that brings an organizing lead for a non-Union shop, that member will be entered into a monthly drawing of \$400! The more organizing leads you bring per month, the more chances you have to win!

**Why emPower?**  
More Union employers means better contracts for ALL of us. Help increase Union density and drive up wages and benefits for ALL workers in St. Louis and Missouri!

**Questions?**  
Contact Director of Organizing Billy Myers at 636.736.2726 or Union Representative Nikki Rich at 636.736.2772