



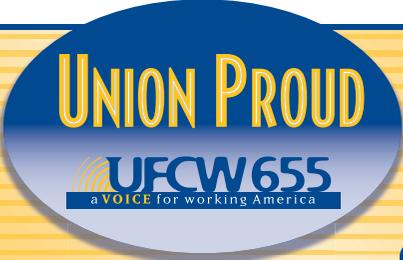
UFCW officers, members join in 'Stand Up' rally

Thousands of Missouri union members gathered in front of the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City last week to "Stand Up for Missouri's Middle Class" and hear Gov. Jay Nixon (at podium) and a host of other political and labor leaders voice their opposition to "right-to-work" and other anti-worker proposals.

Local 655 members and staff were there to demonstrate against anti-union, anti-worker attacks in the Missouri Legislature. Look closely at the photo and you see the familiar 'UFCW Gold,' but the blustery day kept most wrapped from head-to-toe. Read more about the March 26 rally on page 1.

— Labor Tribune photo

**AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR**



UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES

www.ufcw655.org

Ignore your 'good heart' to save your good job

By **DAVID COOK**
President



Kindness is a virtue for which we should all aspire, but unfortunately, sometimes our kind gestures are met with problems — big problems — that have gotten some Local 655 members fired.

We are happy that two of our signatory companies have provided their employees with discount cards, but recently and unfortunately members have let others use the cards in violation of the discount card policy.

In all cases of misuse, the employee has been terminated.

The discount is a nice perk from your employer and designed to keep your shopping dollars with your employer.

The companies have made it clear that the discount cards are NOT intended for our members to use as Good Samaritans.

The discount card's conditions are clear: for use by employee and immediate family members ONLY (family members who live in your house).

The companies consider this kind of misuse as theft. Simply put, you can't give something of value to someone if it is not yours to give. If in doubt on what is acceptable, get approval from management before proceeding.

The case history in misuse of discount cards is clear — if a company has a clear policy on the use of its discount program, to knowingly violate that policy is grounds for termination no matter how charitable your intentions may be.

Please remember that the discount card is a privilege for employees.

Please follow the guidelines in the Discount Card Program. DO NOT PUT YOUR JOB AT RISK.

Right-To-Work is wrong for ALL workers

Knop, Liepmann and Farrell retire from Local 655 Membership Office

It was a bittersweet celebration as three of Local 655's Membership Department staff retired last month, leaving a collective legacy of 100 years of service.

Office Manager Mary Margaret Knop was hired Dec. 1, 1977 as a Membership Department clerk. She moved up through the ranks, being promoted to executive secretary

in 2003 and office manager in April 2004.

Mary Margaret met husband Ed on the job, she recalls.

"He was a shop steward at National Foods and used to bring in his dues payments each month," Knop said. "We'd talk, and it went from there. We celebrated our 25th anniversary last year."

The Knops have a son, Andrew, who will graduate from St. Louis University in June.

Linda Liepmann, hired Aug. 6, 1986, began as a data entry clerk working with both pension and membership information.

Eventually she moved strictly to the Membership Department where she maintained membership data and union dues accounting. Liepmann has a son, Kurt, a daughter, Amanda and two grandchildren.

Cindy Farrell, joined the Local Membership Office on Jan. 2, 1979, as an old-fashioned data entry clerk, juggling those antiquated keypunch cards to keep records.

She enjoys cats, walking and visiting the Missouri Botanical Garden with her partner, Vince Todt, former business representative with the Elevator Constructors Local 3. The two first met as classmates at St. Helwig's grade school.

"These women have taken our Membership Department from the days when computers were main frame to a completely streamlined department that provides vitally accurate membership information with the click of a mouse," said Local 655 President David Cook.

"I am proud to have had these very qualified and skilled women in our Membership Department. We will all miss them, but they have created a Membership Office that is in impeccable order."

The Membership Department processes



Local 655 President David Cook (second from right) joins in congratulating (from left) Linda Liepmann, Cindy Farrell and Mary Margaret Knop on their retirement. Collectively, the three women have given more than 100 years of service to the Union. — Labor Tribune photo



Membership Department retirees (front row from left) Linda Liepmann, Cindy Farrell and Mary Margaret Knop were joined in celebration by (second row) former Secretary-Treasurer Mary Guise, former Secretary-Treasurer Leo Morrow, former Union Representative Peggy Wilson, Dues Department retiree Linda Morrow, former Recorder Terry Bowman, former Union Representatives Shirley Williams, Bob Lindsley, Betty Graham and retired Dues Department Clerk Joyce Urban. — Labor Tribune photo

union dues, membership applications and handles reports, records and updates. When the three women started their careers at Local 655, the Union office was located inside the Carpenters Union building on Hampton Avenue. Local 655 relocated to its present location in 1981 — and each of the women followed.

On an interesting note, Knop says she replaced retiree Mary Tomasi, who worked in the Health and Welfare office.

"She is 101 now, and still dances at the Retirees' Club parties," Knop said. "She's a very active member of the Local 655 Retirees Club. I can only hope I'll live that long."



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
UFCW LOCAL 655

SUBSCRIBE TO UFCW 655 MOBILE UPDATES
JOIN BY TEXTING UFCW655 TO 738674



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@UFCW655

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