

Standing up to 'Right-to-Work' across America

By **DAVID COOK**
President



While anti-worker lawmakers profess to care about the middle class, their support of the so-called "right-to-work" laws says something quite different.

Wisconsin recently adopted right-to-work when Governor Scott Walker, who has a history of siding with big businesses over workers and is flirting with a possible run for the White House, signed the legislation into law. While Governor Walker has touted his state's right-to-work law as a benefit for working families, it actually weakens the ability of unions to fight for workplace justice, including higher wages, better benefits, equal pay for equal work, and protection from exploitation.

Local 655 represents workers at our major food chains and a host of other firms who have a union voice on the job. Our members literally have Job Insurance: the protection of a union contract to ensure employers understand that they can't treat our members as their property and subject them to being fired on someone's whim. That's not available to workers in RTW states.

While the situation for workers in right-to-work states is challenging, Local 655 is encouraged by the fact that right-to-work legislation has been blocked to this point here

in Missouri, West Virginia and New Mexico thanks to the thousands of UFCW members who spoke out against the legislation.

Thanks to all our members who responded to our requests to contact your legislator. Even though the House passed the RTW bill, your support and legislator contacts were effective enough that 21 Republicans joined with Democrats to ensure that a veto by Gov. Nixon cannot be overridden. That's a clear victory!

We are also encouraged by the fact that many states and localities are acting on their own to improve standards for workers by raising the minimum wage and protecting workers from erratic scheduling practices that make it hard to balance work and caring for a family.

Unions give workers the bargaining power they need for a voice on the job and the dignity and respect they deserve, and smaller numbers of unionized workers mean less bargaining power, resulting in a weakened middle class and lower wages for everyone.

Local 655 stands with workers everywhere who are speaking out against politicians like Governor Walker and fighting for what unions fight for every day—the right to stick together for a better life.

Rest assured that Local 655 is, and will continue to be, in the forefront of the fight to keep our members free of "right-to-work (for less)."

WANT WEEKENDS OFF?

Next VOP training session
(Volunteer Organizing Program)

Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m.

RSVP David Cook at 636-736-2701

**AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR**

**UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES**

www.ufcw655.com

Union Strong: Fricks signs 3-year contract



Members at Fricks Market in Sullivan celebrate the signing of a new three-year contract with the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655.

Get your walking shoes ready... Join Local 655's Team

UFCW Local 655 is sponsoring a team in the Susan G. Komen Walk to be held Saturday, June 13 and is recruiting those who would like to help.

The Local will pay \$10 of the \$30 registration fee to



the first 50 members who register. The fee includes a Komen T-shirt and a Local 655 Union logo item.

For information or to register, contact Nancy Parker at 636-736-2763 or email nparker@ufcw655.org.

REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 20

Legislative Conference allows 655 members to testify against RTW



Local 655 members and staff made their presence known once again in our State Capitol joining for a Legislative Conference to share information, learn about legislative issues and visit with state legislators.

The Conference, which happened to fall at the same time the Senate Hearing Commit-

tee was reviewing right to work legislation, provided a unique opportunity for Local 655 attendees.

Members Theresa Hester of Shop 'n Save and Lori Giannini of Schnucks were allowed to testify at the hearing on behalf of working people represented by unions. Their heart-



Mike Louis, President of the Missouri AFL-CIO, Lori Giannini of Schnucks, Senator Gina Walsh and Theresa Hester of Shop 'n Save visit during the recent Legislative Conference at our State Capitol.

felt statements were not only inspiring, but expressed the benefits of being represented by a union and the importance of earning a living wage to support their families.

While a decision on RTW in Missouri has not been made, we hope our legislators vote against this horrific legislation and that our

members stories did not fall on deaf ears.

Members and staff also used the Legislative Conference to learn more about other issues pending in the Legislature and to participate in discussions with legislators and peers on a wide range of municipal issues.

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