

AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR

UNION PROUD

UFCW 655
a VOICE for working America

UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES

www.ufcw655.com

We need more VOPers. Do you have it in you?

Question to all members: Are you interested in protecting your job?

Now for some, it's not an issue. It's a part-time job to earn some extra spending money.

However, for others, it's a necessary income for school and for many, an income to support a family.



and concern for its employees by paying a fair wage and benefits.

This then levels the "paying field" so that employers have to compete not on how cheaply they can pay their workers but rather compete on the basis of the quality of their services, the quality of their products and the quality of their people. By equalizing the cost of doing business for all food chains, we help protect jobs of our members.

YOU CAN BENEFIT NOW

By making this a "we" effort, by having you, our members, volunteering to become a part of the VOP effort we can make this effort a success. And there are direct benefits for your participation, that is, if you are up to the challenge.

There are two benefits in it for the volunteers:

- **Immediately**, you are guaranteed weekends off. And that guarantee comes directly from the Top Management of our major food chains. They understand what we are trying to do, and they support our effort.

Every member should have received a letter from their Company Management that makes it clear they support your participation in the VOP program. No store manager should resist, so you can feel free to volunteer. If you have a manager that hasn't gotten the message, let us know so we can pass it on to the owners.

- **Long-term**, you are helping to protect your job, your wages and your benefits, now and into the future. The fewer non-union food stores we have paying lower wages and benefits the more secure everyone's job is.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

Simple: Volunteer to the VOP effort. In return, your company has agreed that you'll have weekends off.

All we are asking you to do is get to know your counterparts in non-union stores. VOPers are doing that by visiting the stores and striking up conversations. What they've discovered is that people are willing to talk with someone that does the same work they do and understands their issues.

If that does not work at a particular location, then maybe we handbill the shoppers and ask them to shop at a nearby good union store.

And your volunteer hours can be an hour here, two hours there, anytime that's convenient for you, morning, afternoon or evening.

WE NEED YOU

Members, we need more VOPers. We have several dozen now, but we need to be reaching out to more stores, and only YOU can help us do that successfully.

You'll not only be helping non-union workers, you'll be helping yourself by protecting your job.

The issue: do you have it in you to be a VOPer?!

Find out: contact your Union Representatives or call me direct at 636-736-2701.

Help us help you. Volunteer. Members of all ages are needed.

Union barber struggling in Ferguson aftermath

Marty Buchheit, Local 655's longest existing member and quite possibly the longest-working barber in the metro area, says he's slowing down after 57 years of cutting, styling and catering to the grooming needs of his patrons—and he hates it.



CUTTING HAIR FOR 57 YEARS and still going strong, Local 655's Marty Buchheit (right).

He made it through the 1960s when long hair for men was in fashion, he survived when men started frequenting salons instead of barbers and he even endured through the Ferguson riots spurred after the shooting death of Michael Brown.

Now, with these working class woes, he's hoping for Union support to get him through a time that seems insurmountable to some.

"People ask me why I don't retire," Buchheit said. "I am retired. Hey. I work three days a week and enjoy what I'm doing."

Buchheit, whose business is in the heart of Ferguson inside the city's renovated Savoy Theater, has relied on long-time customers, some who have been with him since the 1950s. But, as times have changed, his customers have gone, and despite the Ferguson unrest, he says he's going to keep on keeping on—no matter what.

"I don't know how much longer I can hold out. I'm working by myself, but that's probably a good thing because business has fallen off," Buchheit said.

"It's a problem with the riots. Older people, my clientele, are already up in years, and they just aren't coming to Ferguson anymore. Every shopkeeper on the street is in the same boat. People aren't milling around in daytime like they used to, and some are staying away from Ferguson completely."

Buchheit well remembers that night of chaos just before Thanksgiving. He says although there was no damage to his shop, he had reports that there were attempted break-ins but the demonstrators couldn't get past the plywood nailed across the entrance to the building.

"The landlord boarded up, and although they were trying to get into the barber shop door, I was told that they apparently heard

glass break across the street so they headed there and started looting," Buchheit said.

Buchheit says he is proud to be a Union barber, especially since he's among the rare, six barber shops represented by the UFCW Local 655. He says he likes to flaunt his Union affiliation and includes it in his advertising.

"I had a gentleman Thursday who walked in and said he was looking for a Union barber," Buchheit said. "His son told him he saw my 'Union Barber' ad in the local paper. I'm glad it's working. I'm proud to be Union and plan on using that title for a long time."

Buchheit's shop, Teakwood Barber, is located at 117 South Florissant Road, Ferguson, phone 314-521-9199. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Buchheit works by appointment. Men's haircuts are \$14.

"I used to work until 5:30 p.m., but before Daylight Savings Time I was told that I better get out of here before dark," Buchheit said. "It's really a shame. It's always been nice on South Florissant Road. We've got a couple of new buildings and others that are rehabbed. It's been very nice until these riots started."

Please patronize Teakwood Barber Shop and these other UFCW Local 655 represented Barber Shops:

- Eureka Barber Shop**, 114 N Central Ave., Eureka
- Southside Barber Shop LLC**, 5419 Chippewa, St. Louis
- Bridgeton Plaza Barber Shop**, 12218 McKelvey Suite A, Maryland Heights
- Franview Barber Shop**, 2922 Telegraph, St. Louis
- Harbaughs Barber Shop**, 4722 Virginia, St. Louis
- Waynes Barber Shop**, 3010 North Hwy. 94, St. Charles
- Second District Hair Shop**, 5759 Chippewa, St. Louis



SHOP'S OPEN: 100 percent Union Teakwood Barber at located at 117 South Florissant Road is open.

Eddins elected to "Faces of our Children"



Levi Eddins may not be a master on the grill, but with a little help he can organize one heck of a Bar-B-Q for the Local 655 Sickle Cell fundraiser; no one can hold a torch to his techniques.

For the past four years, Eddins has done an exemplary job as a Local 655 organizer for the Local's Sickle Cell fundraising barbecues and informational blitzes.

As a result, the Board of "Faces of Our Children" (FOOC) has elected Eddins to serve on its Board of Directors.

Don Cash, founder and president of FOOC stated "We are excited and happy to have Levi and Local 655 on our team along with their efforts in raising awareness of sickle cell disease."

The UFCW is a sponsor union of Faces of Our Children, a 501(c)3 charity.

"Local 655 is one of only a few Locals nationwide that holds fundraisers and does community outreach to help bring awareness and find a cure for Sickle Cell Anemia," Eddins

said. "Through Board activities, although there are no specifics yet, there is a plan to roll out a community activism drive to get other UFCW Locals involved."

Eddins said the Board is working to produce a packet to help other Locals to activate and mobilize their members into community activism to support Sickle Cell research.

"Local 655 has been a progressive leader among the UFCW International in its work with the FOOC, but now, plans to ramp that up and let other Locals know what 655 is all about in terms of its charitable and community endeavors," Eddins said.

The Sickle Cell barbecue in its fourth year, has raised close to \$20,000 from the sale of rib tips, pork steaks and other B-B-Q at local shopping centers.

Eddins has been a member since 1985, and was hired as a Union Organizer in February 2003. He currently serves as a Union Representative/Organizer.

This year's event will be held at the Schnucks Cross Keys store on July 18th. To help, donate or for more info call Levi at 636-736-2791.

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 for 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

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