

UFCW International President calls on all members to help themselves better their lives

By helping grow our union, you strengthen our hand at the bargaining table

By DAVID COOK
President

You, our members, our stewards “have the power” to grow our union and in so doing, to improve your own contract. Together we have the power to bring dignity and a decent paycheck to those workers who have no union to fight for them.

That was the focus of a stirring address to our annual shop stewards’ training seminar two weeks ago by UFCW International President Marc Perrone.

President Perrone challenged our stewards – and through them – all of us, to make our union stronger, larger and more effective in helping workers realize a better life for themselves, for their families and for their communities.

Thanking our stewards for the difficult, yet rewarding work that they do every day in our stores and shops helping members,

Annual Shop Stewards Educational Seminar brings diverse topics to help stewards better serve you

International Officers attend; praise Local 655’s leadership in the UFCW

In Local 655’s on-going efforts to provide the highest quality membership service, this year’s Shop Steward’s Educational Seminar was one of, if not, the best yet, according to comments from participating stewards.

“The seminar’s purpose is to make sure our stewards have the information they need to better serve our members,” said President David Cook.

“The stewards are the local’s on-site eyes, ears and direct service representative. If a member has a problem or need, the first person they should turn to is their steward. And to make sure the steward can deal with the member’s issue, the seminar is invaluable.”

The three-day program was energetic,



informative, and enlightening.

It was highlighted by a visit from UFCW International President Marc Perrone, new Region 6 Director Tish Ramirez (Missouri is one of nine states in Region 6) and Assistant Civil Rights Director Robin Williams, who was a workshop leader on that issue.

President Perrone spoke highly of our

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



Perrone pointed out that increasing union density, bringing more workers into the union, is vital to making *all* of our lives better because UNITED, we can negotiate more effectively and win better contracts for our members.

As many of you are aware, building union density has consistently been one of my major goals as your president, and is absolutely critical to our larger goal of improving the lives of all our members.

ENDING UNFAIR COMPETITION

As President Perrone pointed out, if we are going to improve the lives of our members and of our families, we have to bargain from a position of strength. And that means we have to organize the non-union competition and grow our union.

In doing so, we can end the unfair competition to our good union employers who pay wages and benefits much higher than their non-union competition. Through low wages and no benefits, these non-union competitors create a cost advantage, not on the quality of their products or services, but on the backs of their workers.

“Remember this,” said President Perrone, “When we stand strong...we are able to or-



standing our pension and health and welfare programs, on-site representation, our Voluntary Organizing Program (VOP), the union’s OUTreach program for our LGBTQ members, civil rights in the labor movement, and new member orientation.

In his wide-ranging remarks, President Perrone stressed that the steward is “truly the heart and soul of this union. You are the face and voice not just in the workplace, but also in our communities... Because of your commitment, the lives of our members, and their families, are given worth and meaning.”

Director Ramirez also complimented the work of our stewards and echoed President Perrone’s union density theme.



DIVERSE TRAINING

The training sessions included the topics of the steward’s role in bargaining, under-

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ganize better and negotiate harder...we are able to give our workers the opportunity to not only earn more money, but better benefits, and the ability to improve their retirement.”

AN ‘ASK’ OF EVERY MEMBER

Perrone made a unique “ask” of every steward and of every member: reach out and talk to five of your friends, family, or other acquaintances that are not in a union about the benefits of being a UFCW member.

Perrone encourages us to use every available resource at our disposal – face-to-face conversations, phone calls, Facebook, Twitter, whatever methods you use to communicate – to make clear to these five people that they deserve better and how Local 655 can help them.

“That is power,” the International President said emphatically, “and we ALL have the power to do this, now more than ever.”

Members, Stewards, for your own sake, reach out and do a friend a favor — talk to them about the advantages of being part of Local 655 — in so doing, you’ll be doing

yourself a favor by building the power and reputation of our union.

THE STRONGER WE ARE, THE MORE YOU BENEFIT

As Local 655 grows and becomes stronger, every member will benefit as we’ll improve our chances of negotiating better contracts.

During your next break, make a list of those five friends you need to contact. *Then do it!*

If every Local 655 member would talk to those five non-union friends, we could reach more than 60,000 potential new members! If we organize them, we could begin to eliminate the non-union competitors to our union shops.

What’s more, UNITED, we can negotiate better contracts for everyone.

Make your list NOW. Begin making your calls right after work. Be part of the solution. We all need to work together to make things better for ourselves, and our families.

It’s your job, your paycheck, your future, your choice.



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SUPPORTS ‘DENSITY’ ISSUE

Pointing out that “we don’t always get what we deserve – we get what we negotiate...” she noted that the union can negotiate from strength only when it has a greater part of the market share organized.

With solidarity, we can “wage... battles...”



for consistent hours, scheduling that makes sense, access to full-time work and more money in your paychecks.”

Both talked about expanding the use of the media if company contract negotiations stall or refuse to be reasonable, something Local 655 has done successfully for years.

WE’LL FIGHT WITH YOU ON RTW

Finally, on the issue of the phony right-to-work efforts now underway in Jefferson City, President Perrone stressed: “I want to make very clear we are all going to fight as hard as we can to stop ‘right-to-work’ in Missouri. At a time when so many struggle, the last thing hard-working men and women need is a law that guarantees that workers will earn less and be treated worse!”

Said Ramirez: A RTW law “doesn’t create jobs, it takes good jobs and makes them bad. It takes away our strength in numbers and our power to negotiate.”

WANT
WEEKENDS
OFF?

Watch your Union
bulletin board for more
information on the VOP
(Volunteer Organizing Program)

Contact David Cook at
636-736-2701