

Take advantage of benefits before the end of the year

By DAVID A. COOK
President



COOK

It may not seem like it, but it won't be long before 2017 will be over. The holidays tend to make it feel like the clock is moving twice as fast, and before we know it we'll be starting at 2018.

That's why we wanted to take a moment to remind all of our partners not to leave any of their benefits unused before the end of the year. While we have a variety of contracts with different language, many of you are probably working somewhere that certain benefits expire at the end of the year.

So, for many of you, paid time off work is provided on a calendar year basis. But those days don't always roll over into the next year. Your union has bargained vacation days so that you can use them to spend time with your loved ones. Don't miss out on that benefit by not taking advantage of them before they are gone.

Make sure you know which benefits in your contract might need to be used before the end of the year. Most of our contracts are now online at ufcw655.org/contracts. And, as always, you should contact your Union

Representative if you have any questions about contract language.

And don't forget to talk to your fellow co-workers about these benefits as well, particularly newer employees who may not know the contract as well as you do.

As we continue to ask you to think about how you can be a spokesperson for the value of having a union in your workplace, this is a prime opportunity to remind co-workers just how much their union does for them.

Americans work more days without time off than any other developed nation in the world. We spend less time away from work than anyone else, and while a strong work ethic is valuable, this intense schedule is why many Americans report high stress, failing health, and not enough time with family directly related to a demanding work schedule.

And that's just one of the many reasons that having a union makes a real difference in people's lives. We work hard to secure you time off to relax, be with your loved ones, and enjoy the holiday season. And this is a commitment we continue to fight for.

So, during this holiday season, check your contracts for any benefits that won't roll over until next year. Take some time off if you can, and enjoy the benefits that this union family continues to fight for.

AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR

UNION PROUD
UFCW 655
a VOICE for working America

**UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES**

www.ufcw655.org

Local 655 receives recognition at national AFL-CIO convention

Partners of Local 655 can take pride in the recognition of our Local at last week's national conventions of the AFL-CIO and the International Labor Communicators Association (ILCA) in St. Louis. Of the hundreds of unions attending and participating from across the U.S., Local 655 was involved and recognized more than any single one.

• **David Cook**, Local 655 President, was invited to participate in both conventions.

For the ILCA, he served on the convention's opening session moderated by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka discussing the "right-to-work (for less)" fight in Missouri as it relates to other fights in the U.S. He also represented the UFCW International Union in the opening session of the AFL-CIO convention where the general presidents of the international unions introduced their delegates. However, our international had President Cook do the honors.

• **Theresa Hester**, Union Representative, explained the devastating financial blow to hundreds of Local 655 partners and 35,000 other city of St. Louis workers when Gov. Eric Greitens signed legislation to steal their minimum wage

increase already approved by voters. She was on the AFL-CIO convention's Solidarity Stage with Missouri Jobs with Justice Policy Director Richard van Glahn.

• **Collin Reischman**, Communications Director, discussed challenges facing labor communicators and the Labor Movement in the ILCA's closing plenary session moderated by AFL-CIO Communications Director Amaya Smith.

• **Lori Giannini**, Executive Boardmember, spoke to the entire AFL-CIO convention about the Citizens Petition Campaign that successfully collected 310,000 signatures to put the phony RTW on next year's ballot.

• **Local 655 Partners** who helped guide the Citizens Petition Campaign were recognized on the AFL-CIO's main stage for their herculean efforts to collect the signatures. They included Executive Board members Lori Giannini and Scott Eschenbrenner.

"We stood proudly at this national convention representing all our 655 staff and partners," said President Cook. "To have a single local recognized as Local 65 was indeed special recognition that we can all be proud of."



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, Local 655's Communications Director Collin Reischman (center) outlines issues to be faced by labor communicators at the ILCA convention preceding the AFL-CIO convention in St. Louis. At left, AFL-CIO Communications Director Amaya Smith and (at right) St. Louis Workers Education Society President Tony Pecinovsky.

— Labor Tribune photo



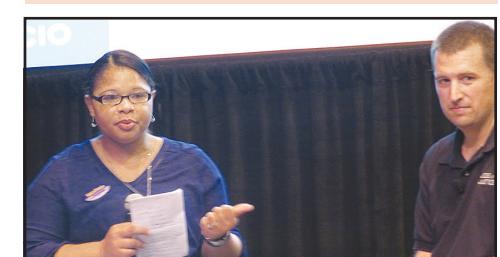
SUCCESSFUL PETITION DRIVE to collect over 310,000 signatures to ensure voters will be heard next year when they vote on whether or not Missouri will be a so-called "right-to-work (for less)" state, which, if passed, will begin the destruction of workers' protections, was detailed to AFL-CIO Convention delegates by Local 655 Executive Board rank-and-file member Lori Giannini as she recognized and thanked the thousands of workers who collected the signatures. Lori served as one of the state's regional petition coordinators.

— Labor Tribune photo



UNIQUE PANEL discussing the anti-worker Right-to-Work-for-Less efforts across the U.S. were led by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka (left), and included key participants, Local 655 President David Cook (at right) and (continuing from left) Canadian Labour Association's Nora Loreto, North Carolina AFL-CIO President MaryBe McMillan and Washington State AFSCME Council 28 Field Service Director Megan Parke.

— Labor Tribune photo



KILLING MINIMUM WAGE increases for St. Louis city workers by Gov. Eric Greitens was detailed on the AFL-CIO convention's Solidarity Stage by Local 655 Union Rep Theresa Hester and Jobs with Justice's Richard von Glahn.

— Labor Tribune photo



UNIQUE RECOGNITION before more than 1,000 delegates attending last week's AFL-CIO convention in St. Louis, Missouri AFL-CIO President Mike Louis (at podium) saluted key leadership in the Citizens Petition Campaign which included many Local 655 partners (from left) Cindy Gamewell, Scott Eschenbrenner, Dennis Shaw, Lori Giannini, Jeff Palmier and Chet Bogus

— Labor Tribune photo

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

for
UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS
UNION, LOCAL 655

Nominations of Local 655 Delegates and Alternates

to the UFCW International Union

Eighth Regular Convention will be held at
the following times and locations:

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017
at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

Drury Inn
1000 Knipp St.
Columbia, MO 65203

**The CENTRE
Conference Room**
1200 Holloway St.
Rolla, MO 65401

Knights of Columbus
31 Church St.
Perryville, MO 63775

Drury Inn- Poplar Bluff
2220 N. Westwood Blvd
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

and

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017
at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

UFCW Local 655 – Meeting Hall
300 Weidman Road
Ballwin, MO 63011

We are taking nominations for 13 Delegates and 8 Alternates. Nominations must be made orally from the floor at any of the listed nomination meetings.

Members may run for Delegate or Alternate, but not both.

The Local 655 President and Secretary-Treasurer shall be delegates to the regular Convention by virtue of election to office.

Eligibility Requirements for Delegates and Alternates: Must be an active member of Local 655 who has been an active member of the UFCW, or who had been a member of another organization merged with or chartered by the UFCW or merged into a UFCW Local Union for a continuous aggregate of twelve months from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017, provided that said member, if elected, maintains continuous active membership in the Local Union during the interval between his or her election and the commencement of the Convention. Nominations will be conducted in accordance with the UFCW International Constitution Article 15, Sections (E), (F), (H) and Article 35, Section (C) 5. For questions regarding the nomination process, contact General Chairperson LaKenya Roberson at (636) 736-2782.

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