

Side by side; Local 655 stands together to fight RTW and more

By **DAVID COOK**
President



COOK

The work ethic of the UFCW Local 655 family is remarkable to witness, and for the last few weeks it has been humbling to be the leader of this great team of volunteers, lost timers and Local 655 staff.

While our partners like you work hard every day doing everything from bagging groceries to making military boots, rest assured that your partners are also working hard to stop the phony "Right-to-Work" (or as we call it Work-for-Less). These volunteers have worked at a level I have not witnessed before. Your work and theirs is what makes this union family strong.

Many of our partners are out working right now to protect middle class jobs. Some of them have been in Springfield, Missouri for the past two weeks working on gathering the last of the required signatures to stop Work-for-Less from becoming the law of the land. These are rank-and-file members just like you, and they are working long days in the punishing heat because they want to protect workers across the state and keep this union family strong.

Your Local 655 staff is participating in this effort too. Every single Union Representative has volunteered their time and effort in the Springfield area as well. They are spending many nights away from their loved ones, working in the same punishing heat to make sure that their brothers and sisters in Local

655, and workers around the state, will not suffer the negative effects of Work-for-Less.

In short, when Work-for-Less is stopped from becoming law later this month and when the voters in Missouri repeal it in 2018, you should know that no other single local union has done more to accomplish this than your UFCW Local 655.

Many Local 655 family members have contributed their hard work to this effort. Many others, perhaps even you, have contributed by donating to our ABC fund. The fund is there to help in fights like this, and to stop legislation that hurts workers and support laws that help workers. The ABC fund also allows us to fight for a higher minimum wage, stronger workers' rights or more accountability for employers.

If you've ever given a few hours of your time to participate at one of our fundraising events where we help collect funds to fight leukemia or sickle cell anemia, then you have helped lift us all up. If you've ever participated in a contract meeting to speak up about what your co-workers need to be successful and productive, if you've ever told a friend or a co-worker about a benefit of being in the union, then you've helped lift us all up.

By definition this union is bigger than any one of us alone. It's bigger than me, or my staff. The union is us — a strong family of individuals committed to lifting up all those around us — standing side by side.

We're standing side by side in Springfield today as you read this. We were standing side by side yesterday, and we'll be standing side by side tomorrow.

Springfield Missouri petition drive going strong



LOCAL 655 MEMBERS AND STAFF are pulling out all the stops in Springfield, MO in order to gather the last of the needed signatures to stop so-called Right-to-Work-for-Less and give the people the chance to vote on it in 2018!

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Help us make history

On August 18, union members from across the state will travel to Jefferson City to deliver signed petitions that will help stop so-called "Right-to-Work" and put it on the ballot for repeal in 2018.

This will be a historic day, and any UFCW Local 655 member who wishes to attend this unprecedented rally should RSVP

by calling **636-736-2757** or by emailing creischman@ufcw655.org.

We will provide transportation and lunch for any member of the UFCW family to attend. Please RSVP so that we can have enough food and transportation for all.

Join us in Jefferson City and witness history being made right here in Missouri!

Help us Light the Night!

For the second consecutive year, UFCW Local 655 will be joining UFCW Local 88 for their annual participation in "Light the Night" in Forest Park on September 23.

Every year, thousands gather at the event to march with colored lamps after the sun goes down. The red, white and yellow lamps are meant to symbolize individuals suffering from, cured of, or marching in honor of people affected by leukemia and other blood cancers.

Last year Local 655 joined Local 88 to partner at the event for the first time and doubled UFCW efforts at the event. This year, Local 655 wants to raise even more money than last year.

"I have a friendly rivalry with Local 88 President Dan Telle," said Local 655 President David Cook. "I want our local to raise more than his. I'd like to show just

how much we can do, and it couldn't be for a better cause."

Again Local 655 and Local 88 will grill hotdogs and make snow cones free to those attending the event. Each year, thousands of people attend.

The event also marks the second September event for Local 655 aimed at raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Early in September Local 655 will host the annual Joe Pretti Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit LLS.

You can register to join the Local 655 Light the Night walking team or donate to the cause by visiting Local 655's Facebook page or website, ufcw655.org or by visiting <http://pages.lightthenight.org/gat/StLouis17/ufcwlocal655>.



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