

dialogue

VOL. 38 NO. 1
JUNE 2016



2016 ELECTION ISSUE

- Notice of UFCW Local 1776
Nominations and Election . . . Page 2
- Helping members achieve the
American Dream Page 10
- 250 attend Local-wide Stewards
conference Page 16-18



NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS FOR THE TRIENNIAL UFCW LOCAL 1776 ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2016 AT 7 PM AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

1. UFCW Local 1776
Meeting Hall, Walton Campus
3031-A Walton Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
2. AFSCME Conference Center
150 South 43rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111
3. Hilton Garden Inn
1221 E. College Avenue
State College, PA 16801
4. UFCW Local 1776 Northeast
Division Office
2007 Highway 315
Pittston, PA 18640

THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016.

A separate notice will be sent within the next few weeks to all UFCW Local 1776 members specifying polling locations and times for the election. Enclosed with the notice will be a voter eligibility card for:

President
Secretary-Treasurer
Recorder
25 Vice Presidents

The 25 Vice Presidents are to be nominated and elected according to the following categories of membership:

15 Vice Presidents-At-Large

6 Vice Presidents – Retail Food (one of which may be employed by the PLCB)

2 Vice Presidents Non-Food Areas of the Local

1 Vice President – Food Processing Division

1 Vice President – Professional Div. Candidates may be nominated for only one (1) office. Any eligible member can be nominated for one of the three (3) Officers' positions, for a Vice President-At-Large position or for a Vice President position in the trade in which the member works. All persons nominated will be elected by a vote of the entire membership.

All questions should be referred to the General Chairperson of the Election:

Marie Giorgio

Assisted by:

Eddie Moreno

John Werkheiser

Cathy Paninski

NOTIFICACIÓN DE NOMINACIONES Y ELECCIONES

LAS NOMINACIONES TRIENALES DE UFCW LOCAL 1776 PARA ELECCIONES SE REALIZARÁN EL PARA VIERNES, JULIO 1, 2016 A LAS 7 PM EN LOS SIGUIENTES LUGARES:

1. UFCW Local 1776 sala de reuniones, Walton Campus 3031-A Walton Road. Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
2. AFSCME Centro de Conferencias
150 South 43rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111
3. Hilton Garden Inn
1221 E. College Avenue
State College, PA 16801
4. UFCW Local 1776 Oficina de la División Noreste
2007 Highway 315
Pittston, PA 18640

LA ELECCIÓN SE LLEVARÁ A CABO EL JUEVES, JULIO 14, 2016.

Un aviso separado será enviado dentro de las próximas semanas para todos los miembros de UFCW Local 1776 especificando los lugares de votación y los tiempos para la elction. Con el aviso estará una tarjeta de elegibilidad para votar por lo siguiente:

Presidente
Secretaria-Tesorera
Grabadora
25 Vice Presidentes

Los 25 Vice Presidentes deben ser nombrados y elegidos de acuerdo a las siguientes categorías de miembros:

15 Vice Presidentes - Membresia General

6 Vice Presidentes - Almacen de Comida (uno de los cuales puede ser empleado por PLCB)

2 Vice Presidentes Áreas de no alimentos de la local

1 Vice presidente - División de Procesamiento de Alimentos

1 Vice presidente - División

Profesional. Los candidatos pueden ser nominados para una (1) oficina. Cualquier miembro elegible puede ser nominado para uno de los tres (3) puestos de los oficiales, para un puesto de Presidente-At-Large Vice presidente o para un puesto de vice presidente en el comercio en el que el miembro trabaja. Todas las personas designadas serán elegidos por votación de todos los miembros.

Cualquier pregunta debe ser remitido a la Coordinadora General de la Elección:

Marie Giorgio

Asistido por:

Eddie Moreno

John Werkheiser

Cathy Paninski

Report from the **PRESIDENT**



Wendell W. Young, IV

We are half way through 2016 and this year is already proving to be historic in many ways. Firstly, and most obviously: the U.S. Presidential Election. A few months ago, most Americans would have never imagined Donald Trump making it as far along in the race as he is today. And yet, here we are.

After we get over the initial shock of Trump becoming the Republican Presidential nominee, we should reflect on how he has gotten this far. First and foremost, Trump's name carries a lot of recognition with the American people. Before entering the political realm, Trump was best known for "firing" people on a popular reality television show and claiming bankruptcy over and over again. Even before officially entering the race, Trump made bold and irrational statements about government and politics both in the States and abroad. (In 2012, Donald Trump said the Chinese invented global warming to make the U.S. less competitive.) Most Americans have credited Trump's staying-power to his anything-goes style and his openness to say what "most people are thinking." Still, Trump's statements are more than just politically incorrect. They simply do not make any sense and carry no real weight or logic.



President Young visited JBS to speak with members, United Citizen Action Network participants and newly naturalized Citizens during their breaks.

Trump's clear path to Presidency is alarming to many (dare I say most) Americans. And for good reason. He has no real understanding of what it takes to govern our country and his irrational behavioral patterns do not exactly invoke confidence in his leadership abilities. Sure, Trump may seem relatable to prejudice people who are more focused on leaving people out of our country rather than bettering our future. But the decisions Trump will make will have lasting effects on every one of us – including those who think they have nothing to worry about.

The fact of the matter is, we all have rights at stake and Trump's racist outbursts are not directed at a few. He has openly trashed women, African Americans, immigrants, minorities and anyone that



Local 1776 Representatives Eddie Moreno and Peg Rhodes show their support for Hillary Clinton after volunteering with the campaign.

does not currently reside in the United States. Trump's behavior proves his anti-worker views, not recognizing workers' rights to join a Union and refusing to bargain contracts with those who do form Unions. If working middle class voters think his ideas sound good, there are countless workers with first-hand experience who know otherwise. In Las Vegas, Trump fought hard to prevent hotel workers from joining the Culinary Workers Union and Bartenders





President Young was recently on WFMZ's Business Matters debating the Department of Labor's proposed overtime regulations. Watch him defend working people on the replay at www.wmfz.com/businessmatters.

Union that were found to hold no merit. Still, six months later and all out of Union busting tactics, Trump refuses to negotiate a contract with the more than 400 Las Vegas workers.

Despite his billions of dollars, Trump hides behind bankruptcy laws to dump Union benefits and contracts, just as he did to his Union hotel workers in Atlantic City. And while Trump has tried to gain workers' support by bashing undocumented foreign workers, he himself has had no problem sending his clothing line overseas and using foreign guest workers to work on his Florida properties. As entertaining as Trump's outbursts might seem, his contradictory and unpredictable behaviors are most definitely not a laughing matter.

Regardless of whom the Republican nominee is, our Local's Executive Board made the educated decision to endorse Hillary Clinton for President. As I said when we first announced our endorsement, our Local Executive Board takes every candidate endorsement very seriously; following the same protocol with every recommendation we make. After studying Hillary's record and taking her experience into account it was a no-brainer to endorse her.

The UFCW International spent months polling UFCW members all across the country and came to find most of our members thought Hillary Clinton was the best candidate and had the best chance of beating a Republican nominee.

Hillary's experience is unmatched and she is well-versed in every issue we care about. She will work to safeguard the rights you have as Union members and lift the middle class as a whole. She knows what it will take to get the job done and her track



record proves it. Unlike Donald Trump, Hillary will take the job seriously and can be trusted to make decisions based on what is best for Americans, not based on her own personal feelings toward certain people.

In addition to preparing for the Presidential



President Young visiting with members at Cargill – a meat processing plant in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

Election, our Local has been busy in many ways. Here are just a few:

In April, we hosted a first of its kind Stewards conference. The conference took place over the course of two days at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. All of our Local Stewards were invited to the conference and nearly 250 participated. There were a variety of educational workshops aimed at helping Stewards feel confident in their role in your worksite. Thanks to all the Stewards who made the time to participate in the conference. You can read more about the conference on page 16.



President Young speaking with Stewards at their mixed-Steward training.

In May, the workers at Mission Foods in Mountain Top Pennsylvania voted to have UFCW Local 1776 Representation on the job. Mission Foods workers make a full line of Mexican food products you have likely seen in your grocery stores. The Mission Foods victory is a win for all working people. It proves that when workers come together, they can achieve great



things, even in a growing anti-union environment. The Mission Foods workers are nothing short of courageous in their decision to stand up and exercise their right to Union Representation. I look forward to watching these workers grow as active members of our Union. I am humbled by their confidence in our ability to fight for them and in turn, we will reassure they made the right choice with their YES vote.

In March I wrote about the changing healthcare landscape. Since then, we worked hard to reassess what works and what we could improve upon at the Local 1776 and Participating Employers Health and Welfare Fund (better known as the "Fund.") The goal was to renegotiate our terms with benefit providers with little or no adverse impacts on coverage and costs. This is not an easy feat; however, we must evolve with the changing healthcare landscape and take advantage of what it has to offer our members.

So far we have:

- Switched Wise Members from Independence Blue Cross to Geisinger healthcare with minimal changes to the plan design;
 - Re-negotiated the Prescription Benefit Manager contract to move to their standard formulary. As a result, we get better pricing on drugs;
 - Implemented Step Therapy on certain drugs. This means trying a less expensive alternative for certain medications that may be more costly;
 - Implemented Quantity Limits on certain medications that people may have been receiving excess quantities of based on FDA guidelines;
 - Changed where specialty medications get filled. Now, they will get filled at Brivoa, the PBM's Specialty Pharmacy. This gives better control over the most expensive drugs that are being prescribed to avoid potential waste and misuse;
 - Changed retiree drug coverage to a reimbursement plan in order to take advantage of government subsidized Medicare plans.
- We're not finished finding ways to preserve



Local 1776 Stewards hold up their certificates upon completing Steward training classes.

benefits while keeping up with the evolving landscape. As we continue to reevaluate benefit plans, we will keep you posted on any new changes that affect you and your family and as always, will keep you and your families' needs the priority in the process.

It saddens me to report the death of a young Acme Markets worker, Ryan Kelly. Ryan was tragically killed in a random act of violence on his way home from work. Ryan's death is not an isolated incident. Many of our members work in communities afflicted by senseless violence. No family should ever have to suffer a senseless loss the way Ryan's family did. In many ways, our Local has worked to make our workplaces safer. Our Local started a safety committee with Rite Aid Shop Stewards and



President Young speaking with the Local 1776 Health and Welfare working group about ways to improve the Local 1776 & Participating Employers Health and Welfare Fund during the changing healthcare landscape.

(continued from page 5)

management in response to armed robberies at stores throughout our region. Dedicating time for Rite Aid members to voice their concerns and brainstorm ideas for safer stores brought about real change in the workplace. More signage, surveillance cameras and security was put in place to safeguard the workers while on duty. However, Ryan's tragedy shows us that our work is not done.

Local 1776 members make up our communities. We all want to live and work in areas we feel safe in. It's up to us to put an end to the violence that plagues our communities. By working together we can build a safer environment for our families to grow. Ryan's family is working hard to keep his name alive and so should we in order to remember his great work and help prevent future tragedies.

I am proud to see so many of you actively building a strong membership and community. Our Local is full of individuals who work hard both on and off the clock to lift the middle class; like those who volunteer their own time to assist others apply for American Citizenship through our United Citizen Action Network program (more on page 10.) Flip through our Dialogue and you will see even more of the many different ways you continue to bring about real, lasting change. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year has in store and how we'll work together to overcome any obstacles we may face.



President Young presented JBS members Leodan Jalca and Angela Mendoza with a scholarship award from the UFCW United Latinos.



Representative Dwight Evans and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf with President Young, Local 1776 Representatives and members.



President Young met with members and management at Schott Technologies in Duryea to see how the rebuild is coming along after a devastating fire that destroyed the plant. Schott members are preparing for contract negotiations.

AT LOCAL 1776, MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

By: Leonard M Purnell
Director of Field Operations



It's been pointed out consistently numerous times over many, many years by the leadership of Local 1776 that when our members get involved all working men and women (both Union and non-union) and their families are better off in PA. Recently, one of the many great examples of membership involvement is Carlos Roman. Carlos is a 14 year 1776 member and also serves as the Chief Shop Steward at the Hanover Foods Plant in Hanover, PA.



Carlos Roman

In December, Carlos answered the call to assist Local 1776's Field Services Department on a very important organizing campaign in Northeast, PA. Carlos not only took a month long leave of absence in accordance with his contract at Hanover Foods back in December 2015, but he decided to take another leave of absence (which began in February 2016) to continue assisting Local 1776 with its work to improve the lives of working families in PA.

As a result of his intense commitment to help non-union workers in the food processing and packinghouse industry throughout PA, Carlos Roman's days are now filled with long hours during the weekdays and weekends, long car rides, numerous worker meetings and house visits to the workers who continue the fight to win a real voice in their workplace by forming a Union. There is no doubt Carlos' expertise in the food processing industry, hard work, dedication, and overall enthusiasm is really helping to make a difference in the lives of working people in PA.

On behalf of the officers, staff, and more than 20,000 members of UFCW Local 1776, I would like to thank Carlos Roman for his past, current, and future efforts to assist Local 1776 in its various campaigns on behalf of all workers in PA. Carlos is a great example of how an individual member can make a difference. Stronger Together!

OUTSTANDING MEMBERS HONORED ON 102.9 WMGK

We continued our partnership with FM classic rock radio station 102.9 WMGK to honor an outstanding Local 1776 member every month. The members we highlight are nominated by you and the people in your communities who have gotten to know and appreciate the service you provide every day.

Since our last update, we've honored Ross Keithly and Carla Dorsey.

Ross has been a dedicated member for more than 20 years, starting his career at SuperFresh. When his store closed, Ross was up for the challenge moving to Acme and new overnight shift. It's always a pleasure to see Ross bring his positive attitude to Union meetings.

Carla is long-time member and outstanding Shop Steward at a Philadelphia Rite Aid. She represents her fellow members, has championed for safety improvements on the job and advocates for workers' rights. Even off the clock, Carla demonstrates her dedication to her Union and working people everywhere.

If you know a member who deserves to be honored as a Member of the Month, visit www.wmgk.com and search Union or text Union to MGKMGK with the first and last name of your nominee. Your favorite member could be honored next!



Carla Dorsey



Ross Keithly

PART 5: (Re) INTRODUCING UFCW LOCAL 1776 STAFF...

As a continuation of our ongoing series, we are proud to highlight five more key parts of the Local 1776 team. Read their bios to learn more about who represents you and your fellow members every day!

AL HASARA, SERVICING REPRESENTATIVE



AI started working for Acme Markets in 1974. He later became his store's full-time Shop Steward and was involved in many Union campaigns focused on Carrefour and Walmart throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Al worked as a Special Project Representative in the Local's Organizing Department in 2001. Today he services members who work at Acme Markets, PA's Wine and Spirits Stores, George's Dreshertown Shop and Bag and Village of Pennbrook (Aimco). Al is a graduate from Saint Joseph's Comey Institute of Industrial Relations. He currently serves as the Judge of Elections in Montgomery County and is a member of the Montgomery County Labor Council.

ERV COEFIELD, FIELD SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Erv's grocery experience dates back to the early 1970s with the Thriftway Supermarket Company. In 1986, Erv became the Night Crew Manager for SuperFresh. He later held the position of Grocery Manager for 13 years and served as Shop Steward from 1998 to 2001. Erv worked with the Local as a Special Project Representative and joined staff in 2004. Erv has been a member of Local 1776 for more than 35 years and has been a part of several successful organizing campaigns during his time on staff.



ANTHONY CONCHA, SERVICING REPRESENTATIVE



Prior to joining staff, Anthony worked at a Philadelphia Acme Markets. After serving as a Local 1776 intern in the summer of 2006, Anthony worked in the Local's Field Services Department. In 2008, he graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Finance and joined Local 1776 staff. Anthony currently services members who work in Acme Markets, Fresh Grocer and PA's Wine and Spirits Stores. He is also a member of the UFCW Local 1776 Federal Credit Union Board.

ANDREW GOLD, POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR

Prior to joining Local 1776, Andrew studied history at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. During and after his undergraduate studies Andrew worked in various places, including driving for FedEx, limousine companies, and other transportation jobs. While working at a warehouse, Andrew was fired for organizing his coworkers against long hours and unsafe working conditions. This experience contributed to his decision to go to law school and become a labor lawyer.

During his legal studies at Widener University, Andrew was awarded a Peggy Browning Fellowship with Local 1776 and also clerked at Willig, Williams & Davidson, the Local's outside counsel. Since passing the bar exam and joining staff in 2015, Andrew has provided legal research and counseling to the Union and has assisted in organizing and contract negotiations. Currently, Andrew serves as the Local's Political and Legislative Coordinator.



DANEEN FARINA, BENEFITS ANALYST



For 10 years prior to working for the Local, Daneen worked for Healthcare Strategies, Inc. which administers the Health and Welfare and Retirement plans for Local 1776 members. Concurrently with that job, she worked at Acme Markets as a cashier, cash room closer, and customer service desk associate. Daneen currently serves as the Local's Benefits Analyst.

In 2011, Daneen earned her Group Benefits Associate (GBA) designation through the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She is working towards her bachelor's degree in human resources management at Temple University's Fox School of Business. Daneen is also currently pursuing the Certified Employee Benefit Specialist® (CEBS) designation.

REAL FOOD AND REAL JOBS:

Did you know more than 200 of your fellow Local 1776 members help feed many children, students and workers each day? It's a fact! UFCW Local 1776 represents more than 95 food service workers in the Pocono Mountain School District (Monroe County, Pennsylvania) that are employed by Chartwells (a division of Compass Group USA) as well as more than 170 food service workers at Bloomsburg University (Columbia County, Pennsylvania) that are employed by ARAMARK. Local 1776 also represents workers employed by Canteen (also a division of Compass Group USA) that work in the cafeteria inside the JBS USA Souderton Beef Plant (Montgomery County, Pennsylvania). These Local 1776 members work tirelessly to ensure the students and customers they serve each day receive a balanced meal for their nourishment while also helping fulfill the various dietary measures set forth by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; particularly in the educational setting.



Chartwells Stewards took part in a November 2015 GOTV Labor Walk in Stroudsburg, Monroe County.

BACKGROUND:



Canteen Member Esmeily Santana proudly displays her support for UFCW Local 1776.

ARAMARK and Chartwells (Compass Group USA) are two of the largest food service companies in the world. ARAMARK is headquartered in Philadelphia and Compass Group is headquartered in the United Kingdom; their U.S. headquarters is located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The ARAMARK members reached a new contract agreement in 2014 and the Chartwells members will begin negotiations this Spring – their contract expires in August. The Canteen members are about to begin discussions with their new employer, Eastern Quality Vending, Inc., who was awarded the food service provider contract at the JBS Plant this past February.

Important issues to food service workers are paid sick leave and raising the minimum wage. As a result, Local 1776 ARAMARK and Chartwells Stewards have been actively involved with supporting Local 1776's efforts to elect candidates who support raising the minimum wage. The Chartwells Stewards, pictured above, took time out of their busy weekend schedule to walk in support of candidates on a Saturday morning in November 2015 as part of a get-out-the-vote (GOTV) effort for labor endorsed candidates.

As the saying goes, a rising tide lifts all boats and that is why a raise in the minimum wage is important for all workers. Check out the Local 1776 website (www.ufcw1776.org) to learn more about our efforts to raise the minimum wage and how to contact your local State and Federal Representatives on the issue.

HELPING MAKE THE AMERICAN DREAM A REALITY

During the March Democratic Presidential Debate, ads featuring our very own JBS Members and a Cargill Member ran on Univision – an American Spanish language television network. The topic was immigration; how our Union family has helped so many members achieve their dream of becoming U.S. citizens and encourages our diverse membership to be politically active. Our Citizenship Workshops have made a huge difference in our members' and families' lives.

Special thank you to the members featured in the commercials who spoke out in solidarity to all those who wish to have their American Dream become a reality:

- Jose R Mercado Reyes, JBS USA, Souderton Plant
- Winifer Hernandez Arias, JBS USA, Souderton Plant
- Tomasina M. Lantigua, Cargill, Hazleton Plant

Visit www.ufcw1776.org to watch the commercials and be inspired!

Want to take part in a United Citizen Action Network (UCAN) workshop? Check out our events calendar on our website and contact your Union Representative with information on how to participate.



JBS Stewards and Local 1776 Representatives assisting members and their families with Citizenship paperwork at Lehigh Valley CLC and Mount Olives Church of God in Philadelphia earlier this year. Thanks to everyone who assisted in our workshops thus far!

WELCOME TO OUR UNION FAMILY!

We're extending a great, big welcome to some of our newest members! The members pictured below work in our publicly-owned Pennsylvania Wine and Spirits Shops and have recently completed our new member orientation classes. We're excited to welcome you in our Union family and are confident you will be assets to the PLCB stores and further prove why our Wine and Spirits Shops are incredibly valuable to Pennsylvanians!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT RETIREES!



you the best, Dennis!

Congratulations to Dennis Everly who retired from the Feasterville Acme Markets after nearly 48 years on the job! Dennis retired as the store's dairy manager. Here he is pictured with his Union Representative Al during his last week with Acme. We wish



luck, Johnetta!

Congratulations to Johnetta Kashner on her recent retirement from Wise Foods! Johnetta retires after 28 years with Wise. She told her Union Representative Cathy she is excited to kick off her retirement this spring by traveling our country! Best of



Lillian Lewis, affectionately known as "Miss Lil," recently retired from Rite Aid after 40 years of service! Lillian was her worksite's Shop Steward for twenty years, selflessly serving her fellow Union members. She attended our most recent Local-wide Stewards Conference where she was honored for her dedication to the job and her Union. We wish Lillian the best in her retirement!

WELCOMING TOPS MARKET TO OUR UNION!



In April, we welcomed a new Tops Market under our Local Union Representation. This Tops Market, located in Westfield Pennsylvania, is the 5th under our Local's Representation. The other stores are located in Troy, Canton, Wellsboro and Sayre. This location's Steward is Jeanette Muise, pictured here. We're proud to see our 1776 Union Shop sticker in this Top Market's window!



PROPOSED PA WORKERS' COMPENSATION REFORM BAD FOR WORKERS



Deborah Rocco of McEldrew Young Law

McEldrew Young expanded its practice areas last year to include the representation of employees injured on the job. The combination of Jim McEldrew's representation of injury victims and Eric Young's employment practice made workers' compensation a natural area for expansion.

We are very excited about this new practice area. For years, Jim McEldrew and his team have represented railroad workers injured at work. But railroaders are excluded from the normal workers' compensation system pursuant to the Federal Employers Liability Act, a law that was adopted by Congress in 1908.

With the addition of Philadelphia workers' compensation attorney Deborah Rocco to the firm as Of Counsel, McEldrew Young now has added a wonderful resource to help our friends and clients with legal needs in the complex workers' comp system. Deb has more than two decades of experience representing injured workers in workers' compensation and employment law matters.

The addition of workers' compensation is a complement to our representation of the UFCW Local 1776 members through the Legal Benefit Plan. The Legal Benefit Plan provides eligible members with representation in various areas, including family law, divorce, misdemeanor criminal actions, the preparation of a will, and review of real estate contracts in primary home transactions. Although workers' compensation is not a service covered by the Legal Benefit Plan, we are happy to offer it to

members at a discounted contingency fee - so there is no fee unless you recover money.

While you are thinking about the workers' compensation system, we hope you will take a moment to reach out to your state representative and express your opposition to a proposed change to the workers' compensation system made last year. In November, Representative Ryan Mackenzie introduced House Bill 1800 into the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The proposal would require doctors to provide treatment to patients in the workers' compensation system according to evidence-based medical guidelines rather than their own best judgment.

Evidence-based medicine would force doctors to follow one course of treatment for employees with specific on the job injuries. It was designed to limit costs to the system by adopting a standard regimen in certain situations that works for most people.

However, medical treatment for a condition should not be a one-size fits all approach that disregards the specific person being treated. Additionally, physicians should not be forced to disregard their own judgment for the appropriate treatment of a patient because a medical panel prefers another course of treatment designed in part for its affordability.

The legislation is opposed by the Workers' Compensation Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Please tell your state representative to oppose it as well.

Contact us:

123 S. Broad Street Ste 2250

Philadelphia, PA 19109

Phone: (215) 367-5151

Fax: (215) 367-5143

Email: Team@McEldrewYoung.com

Website: www.mceldrewyoung.com



MCELDREW YOUNG

RITE AID LABOR MANAGEMENT TEAMS: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORK ENVIRONMENT

In an effort to help improve the safety and work environment at Rite Aid drug stores, Local 1776 hosts quarterly meetings with Rite Aid management. These meetings have proven to initiate effective change in Rite Aids throughout our Local's jurisdiction. At these meetings, Rite Aid Stewards are encouraged to voice any concerns they have in their workplace that can be worked through with the help of the Union and management. Our working relationship with Rite Aid's management has improved many of the safety concerns Rite Aid members have and help Stewards stay in the know about any anticipated changes or new programs Rite Aid rolls out.



NEGOTIATING COMMITTEES: BARGAINING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Local 1776 is fortunate to have so many active members, advocating for a better life for working people. Our Union negotiating committees are responsible for representing their fellow members at the bargaining table. They work hard to make sure their coworkers' voices are heard when their Union contracts are negotiated and relay the information to members. The negotiating committees work as a united team, representing their entire worksite. Special thanks to these two negotiating committees who just led the way for two newly ratified agreements in their respective worksites!



Hershey Negotiating Committee with Union Representative Cathy Paninski (far left)



DPW Negotiating Committee

LOCAL 1776 SECRETARY-TREASURER MICHELE KESSLER: UNION WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Local 1776 Negotiator John Werkheiser accepting Michele Kessler's Union Woman of the Year award on her behalf.

Gilbert Cooney also was honored at the PA AFL-CIO convention for his lifelong dedication to the labor movement. Gil began working for I. Miller Shoe Company, now under the name H.H. Brown, in 1947. Gil wasted no time getting active in the Union and was elected department Steward one month after he was hired. In 1975, the Boot and Shoe Workers Union merged with our Local and H.H. Brown remains under our Local's Representation. Gil was elected Vice President of Local 1776 in 1979 and served on numerous boards that fought for workers' rights. In addition to being honored by the PA AFL-CIO, Gil was awarded the Mother Jones Labor Leadership Award. Gil passed away in January but his legacy and leadership lives on in our Local.



Local 1776 Secretary-Treasurer Michele Kessler



(From left): Local 1776 Secretary-Treasurer Michele Kessler, Local 1776 Negotiator John Werkheiser, Retired 1776 Representative John Rusak, Local 1776 Representative Cathy Paninski with Gil Cooney (seated).

MISSION FOODS WORKERS IN MOUNTAIN TOP CHOOSE UFCW LOCAL 1776 REPRESENTATION

On May 12, nearly 450 workers at the Mission Foods plant in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania, joined our Local 1776 membership. Mission Foods workers make a full line of Mexican food products including tortillas, wraps and salsas used in restaurants and sold in supermarkets on several continents. The workers' victory was the successful conclusion of a months-long campaign designed to give a voice to the Mission Foods workers in Mountain Top. This campaign is a piece of the bigger picture that aims at raising wages and benefits for all workers in the meatpacking and poultry industries.

"I applaud the workers at Mission Foods for making the decision for Union Representation on the job. Having a Union will help these workers feel safe and secure on the job – something all workers should feel when they show up and work hard every day. The goal is to better the lives of working people throughout the country. The Mission Foods workers are a great example of what standing together and making a well-informed decision can achieve. These workers will inspire others to speak out for better working conditions and respect," said Local 1776 President Wendell Young, IV.



"This is one of the greatest moments of my life knowing that we are not going to fend for ourselves anymore but have Representation," said Nadia Vlavonou, Mission Foods employee and now Local 1776 member.



"This is a victory for all of us," said Benito Tapia, Mission Foods employee and now Local 1776 member.



The Mission Foods workers will join thousands of UFCW Local 1776 packinghouse and food processing workers in Pennsylvania at plants such as Empire Kosher Poultry in Mifflintown, Cargill in Hazelton, JBS in Souderton and Citterio USA in Freeland.



LEARNING, GROWING & SOLIDARITY AT OUR LOCAL-WIDE STEWARD CONFERENCE

In late April we hosted a Local-wide Stewards conference at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. We were pleased nearly 250 of our Local Stewards participated in the conference!

The two-day conference was the first of its kind in our Local's history. The conference was packed with a variety of useful, educational workshops. Topics included the global economy and Unions; how workers win in an anti-union environment; equality and inclusion in the workplace; how to identify and respond to workplace harassment; workers' compensation; understanding the collective bargaining process; navigating healthcare benefits in a post ACA environment, and ways to be financially secure.





STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH CWA

In April, nearly 40,000 Communication Workers of America (CWA) Verizon workers took to the streets to strike against corporate greed at Verizon. The billion dollar corporation is proposing to offshore jobs, freeze pensions and slash benefits.

Over the last three years, Verizon has made \$39 billion in profits. The company has compensated its top five executives \$233 million over the last five years. Despite record profits, Verizon's proposals would contract out more work, shutter call centers, uproot workers for months at a time and send jobs to Mexico and the Philippines.

Verizon refuses to meet its employees at the bargaining table and negotiate a fair contract for its loyal employees. These CWA workers want what all American middle class families want: a secure future for their families.

Local 1776 proudly stands by striking Verizon workers in their fight for a fair contract. Pictured here are Local Representatives delivering 1776-made supplies and supporting Verizon workers at their picket lines.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR STEWARDS CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP HOSTS:

- Stuart Davidson, Esq., Willig, Williams & Davidson
- Michael Dryden, Esq., Willig, Williams & Davidson
- Al Vincent, International Vice President & Director, UFCW Region 2
- PA State Senator Tina Tartaglione
- Rick Bloomingdale, President, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO
- Esther Lopez, UFCW International Secretary-Treasurer
- Ken Norton, Director of the Education Unit, Health & Welfare and Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, Independence Blue Cross
- Bill DeWeese, Former House Speaker & UFCW Government Affairs Consultant
- John Meyerson, Consultant on Legislation & Political Action
- Peter J. Shelly, President, ShellyLyons Public Affairs
- Joe Hicks, Savitz
- Robin Williams, UFCW International Vice President and Director of the Civil Rights and Community Action Department
- Angela Peoples, Co-Director, GetEQUAL
- Gregory Cendana, Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
- Mark Lauritsen, International Vice President and Director of the Food Processing, Packing and Manufacturing Division
- PA State Senator Daylin Leach
- Dave Fillman, Executive Director, AFSCME Council 13
- PA House Representative Dwight Evans
- Daneen Farina, UFCW Local 1776 Benefits Analyst
- Mark Jacobs, UFCW Local 1776 Lead Negotiator
- John Werkheiser, UFCW Local 1776 Negotiator
- Chris Snyder, UFCW Local 1776 Lead Representative

Special thanks to all the providers who distributed information to our Stewards about the work they do to benefit working families:

- UFCW 1776 Benefit Funds
- UFCW 1776 Federal Credit Union
- Mental Health Consultants
- AT&T
- RXDN
- Geisinger
- Independence Blue Cross
- McEldrew Young Law Group
- OUTreach
- Prudential
- Willig, Williams & Davidson

dialogue

JUNE 2016

United Food and Commercial Workers
Local 1776
3031-A Walton Rd., Suite 201
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
Visit us on the web: www.ufcw1776.org

President
Wendell W. Young, IV

Secretary-Treasurer
Michele Kessler

Recorder
Barbara Johnson

Main Office:
3031-A Walton Rd., Suite 201
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
610-940-1776 (toll-free: 1-866-329-1776)

Northeast PA Office:
2007 Highway 315
Pittston, PA 18640
570-655-6886 (toll-free 1-800-635-6994)

Central PA Office:
3161 Chambersburg Rd.
Biglerville, PA 17307
717-334-0064 (toll-free 1- 800-332-9421)

Harrisburg Office
150 S. 43rd St., Suite 214
Harrisburg, PA 17111
717-558-3510 (toll-free: 1-800-332-9421)

Communications Office:
Tara Innamorato, Director
610-940-1826 (toll-free: 1-866-329-1776, x-826)

**UFCW Local 1776 and
Participating Employers
Health & Welfare Fund:**
3031-B Walton Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-2344
610-941-9400 (toll-free:1-800-458-8618)

**UFCW Local 1776 and Participating
Employers Pension Fund:**
3031-B Walton Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-2344
610-941-9400 (toll-free:1-800-458-8618)

**UFCW Union and Participating
Food Industry Employers
Tri-State Pension Fund:**
3031-B Walton Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-2344



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 1 PM

UFCW Local 1776, Main Office
3031 Walton Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 1 PM

UFCW Local 1776, Main Office
3031 Walton Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

NORTHEAST PA AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 20, 2016, 6 PM

Comfort Inn
3189 Rt. 940
Mt. Pocono, PA 18344

Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 6 PM

Best Western
16 Raceway Road
Monticello, NY 12701

SOUTHEAST PA AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Thursday, September 22, 2016, 6 PM

Seafarer's Int. Union
2604 South 4th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Thursday, November 3, 2016, 6 PM

UFCW Local 1776, Main Office
3031 Walton Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

*We originally scheduled Area membership meetings for Troy and Allentown via conference calls. We modified the schedule for in person meetings instead. Please note the date, time and location for the meetings below:

Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 6 PM

Troy Vets Club
183 Veterans Drive (Off Prospect St.)
Troy, PA 16947

Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 6 PM

Lehigh Valley Labor Council
APWU Local 268
3360 Airport Road, 2nd Floor
Allentown, PA 18109

UFCW Local 1776
3031-A Walton Road
Suite 201
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Phila., PA
Permit No. 3088



REMEMBERING RYAN KELLY



Ryan Kelly was known in his Acme Markets store as a hard-working, kind young man who was always willing to go above and beyond for his coworkers. Ryan had a bright future and his whole life ahead of him. He was a dedicated employee and an asset to his community. Tragically, Ryan was killed on his way home from work one

evening in a random act of violence. Since his sudden death, the Kelly family works hard to keep Ryan's name alive and fight against the senseless violence that plagues so many communities. For Mother's Day, we highlighted Ryan's mother Catherine for raising an exceptional young man on FM radio station 102.9 WMGK. We are committed to standing by the Kelly family in their efforts to combat violence in our communities and hope that their message resonates with our entire membership. Together, we can see that no other family suffers a devastating loss due to violence.

