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United Food and Commercial Workers  
Local 1776  
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Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462  
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## PRESIDENT YOUNG HONORED FOR WORK TOWARD EQUALITY



The members, officers and staff of UFCW Local 1776 thank the UFCW Minority Coalition for its recognition of our President Wendell W. Young, IV at the 16th Annual Minority Coalition Ball in Washington D.C. President Young is the first recipient of the coalition's "Wendell Young, III Award."

Named after the late Wendell Young, III (1938-2013) who served as Local 1776 President for 43 years, this award recognizes "a labor leader, union or community activist who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the principles of diversity and inclusiveness. A leader who is opening doors for those striving for economic equality and social justice."

President Young was honored to accept the award from the coalition that leads the fight for equality through solidarity. Their work includes raising funds and awareness about Sickle Cell Disease, offering scholarships to workers, supporting community-based programs, fighting for equal voting rights and growing their non-profit charity Faces of Our Children, Inc.

Congratulations President Young on a well-deserved honor!



(From left): Former Local 1776 Secretary-Treasurer Herman Wooden; Local 1776 President Wendell W. Young, IV; President of the UFCW Minority Coalition Don Cash; Local 1776 Director of Field Operations Len Purnell; Local 1776 Executive Board and Acme Markets member Charles Young; Local 1776 Representative Eddie Moreno; Local 1776 Representative Nancy Flanagan and Local 1776 Secretary-Treasurer Michele Kessler.



# Report from the PRESIDENT



Wendell W. Young, IV

First and foremost, I hope you and your families enjoyed your holiday and New Year. Our Local Union is fortunate to have such a diverse membership, so no matter what you celebrated this season, I hope it was time well spent with family and friends. It's our growing diversity combined with recent national attention that prompted me to report on how immigration reform affects each

and every one of us.

Providing a clear path for immigrant workers to come out of the shadows and join our economy will increase productivity, job creation and economic growth while shrinking our deficits. Entrepreneurial

immigrant workers would be encouraged to build businesses in the U.S., in turn creating jobs for Americans and attracting investment and expansion from other businesses.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicts immigration reform will:

- Reduce the federal budget deficit by nearly \$850 billion over 20 years;
- Boost real GDP by 3.3 percent (\$700 billion) in 2023 and by 5.4 percent (\$1.4 trillion) in 2033;
- Increase residential construction spending by an average of \$68 billion each year over 20 years;
- Grow the labor force by 3.5 percent in 2023 and 5 percent in 2033, helping to offset aging of the workforce;
- Increase wages by 0.5 percent than the baseline in 2033.

*(continued on page 4)*

*Immigrant farm and food workers from across the country gathered in front of the White House to express their support for comprehensive immigration reform. The event took place the week leading up to Thanksgiving to remind Americans of the people behind the holiday meal and shined a spotlight on UFCW members who harvest and process many of the foods commonly found on America's Thanksgiving tables.*







Local 1776 President Young on WFMZ Channel 69 Business Matters discussing the need to raise the minimum wage. Check out the full show at [www.ufcw1776.org](http://www.ufcw1776.org)



Local 1776 members were a big part in the immigration action at the White House. Local 1776 Empire Kosher members Juan and Maria Pacheco called for comprehensive action. Said Juan, "Families all across the country are going to be eating our turkeys next week, but they don't know the stories behind their Thanksgiving dinner. My wife and I worked in the Empire Kosher turkey plant for fifteen years before we finally earned American citizenship. We have worked hard to earn our American Dream."



Pennsylvania United States Senator Bob Casey (center) spoke with President Young (right) and 1776 Executive Board and Local 1776 OUTreach coordinator Charles Young about the importance of legislation that promotes LGBT equality.

(continued from page 3)

More than 18 months ago, the U.S. Senate passed the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) with a bipartisan vote of 68 to 32. Due to the U.S. House of Representatives inactivity on the issue, President Obama addressed the nation and detailed the new plan he was implementing toward reform.

We cannot afford to ignore the issue simply because some politicians refuse to commit to fixing it. The American people, including most Republicans, support comprehensive immigration reform and that is why the President took action. I think President Obama's action is meaningful to the thousands of families it will benefit; however, there is much more that needs to be done. It is imperative Congress passes a comprehensive plan so working people can reap the benefits mentioned above.

The immigration reform debate should not be based on whether or not immigrants "deserve" to be here or if they are a "liability" to the middle class. As individuals, we need to commit to educating ourselves through various forms of media, not one-sided, extreme rhetoric disguised as "news." Oftentimes bigotry is fueled by lack of knowledge. Immigration reform is a prime example of how bigotry cripples us from making real and necessary change as a nation.

(continued on page 5)



"In the face of cowardly inaction by the House Republican leadership, we ask President Obama to do what he should have done long ago – use his clearly defined legal authority to provide relief to immigrant workers and their families. We ask the President to put in place a framework that ensures immigrant workers are treated with dignity and respect on the job," International Vice President and Director of Civil Rights and the Community Action Department Esther Lopez (right) said.



(continued from page 4)

When you look at the facts, the selfish ideological views are all the more reason to pass immigration reform. The countless independent studies paired with a real plan to provide a path to citizenship prove it. Immigration reform will help build and strengthen the middle class.

As we continue to recover from a draining recession, immigration reform plays a key role in rebuilding and strengthening our workforce and economy. A rising tide really does lift all boats. Collectively, as working men and women of the middle class, we should embrace the idea of a plan that holds everyone accountable for revitalizing our economy.

As members of a union, we find ourselves up against the few that present rhetoric as fact. Those same few often insist we are the problem; that we ask for and expect too much of our employers and government. We are often led to believe concessions are a good thing; that holding others down makes us patriotic and good citizens. What they fail to say is how they view us – as a number working to support their empire. Immigration reform can be looked at in the same way. Standing together, rather than using anger and scare tactics to avoid change, is what will move our country forward. As we head into 2015, let's make a resolution to research the facts, open our minds and support legislation and reforms that strengthen what our nation and communities were founded on: immigrants.

This past year we were successful in more ways than one: ratifying fair contracts, welcoming new members to our Local, saving thousands of jobs and electing a Governor that is passionate about the working class. I thank you for the work you did in 2014, and look forward to standing with you to face the challenges of 2015.



Local 1776 President Young answering questions from Acme Markets members at their contract ratification meeting.



Local 1776 President Young addresses Local 1776 and Local 23 PA Wine and Spirit Shop Stewards on the status of liquor privatization legislation.



PA Governor-elect Tom Wolf toured Local 1776 Represented Browns ShopRite on Cheltenham Avenue in Philadelphia. Local 1776 ShopRite members and their customers were all excited to see the 1776 Endorsed Candidate who took the time to shake hands and answer questions prior to the election.



PA Governor-elect Tom Wolf shows off his UFCW Local 1776 jacket under his (appropriately) yellow rain coat!



# Solidarity at Work

## Teachers

In October, the School Reform Commission (SRC) made the disgraceful decision to cancel their union contract with the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers (PFT). Imposing terms unilaterally was an attack not only on more than 12,000 dedicated teachers, counsellors, school nurses, support personnel and the children they teach and care for — it also was a direct attack on collective bargaining.

Teachers are the backbone of our school systems. How we treat teachers sends a clear message to our children about what our priorities are. Local 1776 and the PFT believe the education and well-being of students are top priority. UFCW Local 1776 is proud to stand with Philadelphia School Teachers and their students in their fight for a fair contract. Let's give our hard-working teachers and the students that have come to their defense the respect they deserve!



Local 1776 members in gold shirts supporting members of the PFT at their Turn Up for Truth rally.



President Young speaking to a crowd at the Crozer Chester Nurses picket line.



Showing support for Crozer Chester striking nurses were Local 1776 members and President Young.

## Nurses



Standing in solidarity with striking Crozer Chester Nurses, Local 1776 joined the RNs on their picket line in September. The primary care providers were picketing due to dangerous under-staffing and under-funding. These professionals save lives and serve our communities. Their concerns are legitimate and deserve to be respected and heard! We stand with Crozer nurses!



Local 1776 Pittston City Clerical members



Local 1776 Schott Glass members





## Workers Everywhere

The Italian Government plans on making a reform to the law on workers' rights – one that would have dramatic consequences for workers.

The reform would cancel the clause of the Workers' Statute, which imposes worker reintegration in the workplace should he or she been a victim of unjust firing.

In Italy this law has constituted the effective protection of workers' rights and of trade union rights for more than 40 years.

The Government's counter reform is aimed at stripping workers of their rights. We showed solidarity with the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL) in their fight by posing with signs that promoted their rally in Rome for workers' rights.

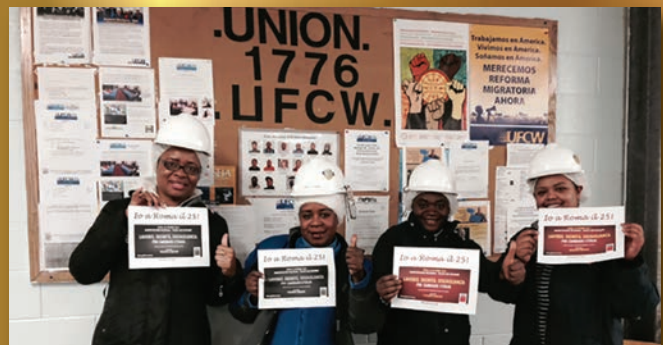
Just as CGIL has stood with us in our fights, we stand with them. Global Solidarity!



Local 1776 PA AFL-CIO members



Local 1776 Citterio members



Local 1776 JBS members



Local 1776 PA Wine and Spirits Store members



Local 1776 Wise Foods members



Local 1776 Representatives, President Young and ShopRite Stewards



# READY, SET, VOTE!

In the weeks leading up to the 2014 Gubernatorial Election, JBS workers committed to being a part of the Democratic process by registering to vote. These members know the value of casting their ballot and were sure to register in time to make their voice heard in the 2014 November election. They set a great example for anyone who is not yet registered to vote. Visit [www.ufcw1776.org](http://www.ufcw1776.org) to see how easy it is to get registered.



Faytress Sears (left) a Shop Steward who works in the Fab. Dept. at JBS and Jose Ortiz (right) 1776 Union Representative for JBS give two thumbs up for Guerdie Celas, a Shop Steward who works on the Kill Floor, for registering to vote.



Jose Hernandez (left), lead person of the Trim Line in the Fab. Dept. at JBS proudly holds up his completed voter registration form with his Union Representative Jose Ortiz.

## Congratulations

Local 1776's very own Faytress Sears was recognized as the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Union Activist of the week in late September! Faytress spent time at his worksite helping register his co-workers to vote in the November 2014 election and distributed information on how to register on the Local's website. Faytress was recognized as "a strong voice in his workplace for the working men and women of UFCW Local 1776." Congratulations!





# LOCAL 1776 SPONSORS WMGK TURKEY DROP TO AID FAMILIES IN NEED



Local 1776 was a proud sponsor of WMGK 102.9's Turkey Drop for 2014! The FM radio station's Turkey Drop is an annual event that collects thousands of turkeys for families in need before Thanksgiving. At Local 1776, we are always

looking for ways to lessen hardships families face during tough times. That's why we teamed up with WMGK and City Team Philadelphia to give back to the community two-fold — feeding the less fortunate and supporting our Local 1776 Empire Kosher members who process turkeys right here in Pennsylvania!

At the LOVE Park event, President Wendell W. Young, IV was inspired by the generous spirit and work of WMGK and City Team Philadelphia. So he pledged to increase the Local's original donation by \$1,000 – upping it from \$2,500 to \$3,500. The Local's monetary donation combined with two dozen Empire Kosher turkeys helped the station surpass their goal and collect 10,685 turkeys for families in need. If you missed Wendell's interview, search "WMGK and Local 1776 Turkey Drop" on YouTube. There you'll find all the Local 1776 pro-working family commercials that aired on WMGK around the Thanksgiving holiday.



WMGK radio personality Dave Gibson crossed out the Local's original donation of \$2,500 to reflect the \$1,000 increase President Young pledged during his on-air interview. The Local donated a total of \$3,500 to City Team Philadelphia and two dozen Empire Kosher turkeys to help families in need during the Thanksgiving holiday.



WMGK radio host John DeBella (left) spoke with President Young (right) about the important role working people play in making the Turkey Drop event successful.

## LOCAL 1776 LIGHTS THE NIGHT FOR A CURE



The Local 1776 Philadelphia team at the 2014 Light the Night walk.

For the third consecutive year, Local 1776 participated in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night walks. The walks take place all across the country in an effort to raise funds for researching a cure.

The Local has been a proud supporter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for many years – donating more than \$20,000 annually to research and patient care. 2014 proved to be another successful year for the Local 1776 teams in the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia.

Thanks to Local 1776 members and the Local 1776 Rerum Novarum Charitable Trust for making donations that help save lives. Contact your Union Representative for information about participating in the 2015 walks.





# WHY THE ECONOMY IS STILL FAILING MOST AMERICANS

By: Robert Reich September 2013

I was in Seattle, Washington, recently, to congratulate union and community organizers who helped Seattle enact the first \$15 per hour minimum wage in the country.

Other cities and states should follow Seattle's example.

Contrary to the dire predictions of opponents, the hike won't cost Seattle jobs. In fact, it will put more money into the hands of low-wage workers who are likely to spend almost all of it in the vicinity. That will create jobs.

Conservatives believe the economy functions better if the rich have more money and everyone else has less. But they're wrong. It's just the opposite.

The real job creators are not CEOs or corporations or wealthy investors. The job creators are members of America's vast middle class and the poor, whose purchases cause businesses to expand and invest.

America's wealthy are richer than they've ever been. Big corporations are sitting on more cash they know what to do with. Corporate profits are at record levels. CEO pay continues to soar.

But the wealthy aren't investing in new companies. Between 1980 and 2014, the rate of new business formation in the United States dropped by half, according to a Brookings study released in May.

Corporations aren't expanding production or investing in research and development. Instead, they're using their money to buy back their shares of stock.

There's no reason for them to expand or invest if customers aren't buying.

Consumer spending has grown more slowly in this recovery than in any previous one because consumers don't have enough money to buy.

All the economic gains have been going to the top.

The Commerce Department reported last Friday that the economy grew at a 4.6 percent annual rate in the second quarter of the year.

So what? The median household's income continues to drop.

Median household income is now 8 percent below what it was in 2007, adjusted for inflation. It's 11 percent below its level in 2000.

It used to be that economic expansions improved the incomes of the bottom 90 percent more than the top 10 percent.



UFCW Local 1776 takes part in a rally to raise the minimum wage.

But starting with the "Reagan" recovery of 1982 to 1990, the benefits of economic growth during expansions have gone mostly to the top 10 percent.

Since the current recovery began in 2009, all economic gains have gone to the top 10 percent. The bottom 90 percent has lost ground.

We're in the first economic upturn on record in which 90 percent of Americans have become worse off.

Why did the playing field start to tilt against the middle class in the Reagan recovery, and why has it tilted further ever since?

Don't blame globalization. Other advanced nations facing the same global competition have managed to preserve middle class wages. Germany's median wage is now higher than America's.

One factor here has been a sharp decline in union membership. In the mid 1970s, 25 percent of the private-sector workforce was unionized.

Then came the Reagan revolution. By the end of the 1980s, only 17 percent of the private workforce was unionized. Today, fewer than 7 percent of the nation's private-sector workers belong to a union.

This means most workers no longer have the bargaining power to get a share of the gains from growth.

Another structural change is the drop in the minimum wage. In 1979, it was \$9.67 an hour (in 2013 dollars). By 1990, it had declined to \$6.84. Today it's



\$7.25, well below where it was in 1979.

Given that workers are far more productive now – computers have even increased the output of retail and fast food workers — the minimum wage should be even higher.

By setting a floor on wages, a higher minimum helps push up other wages. It undergirds higher median household incomes.

The only way to grow the economy in a way that benefits the bottom 90 percent is to change the structure of the economy. At the least, this requires stronger unions and a higher minimum wage.

It also requires better schools for the children of the bottom 90 percent, better access to higher education, and a more progressive tax system.

GDP growth is less and less relevant to the wellbeing of most Americans. We should be paying less attention to growth and more to median household income.

If the median household's income is heading upward, the economy is in good shape. If it's heading downward, as it's been for this entire recovery, we're all in deep trouble. Unions have brought working Americans the 40 hour week, paid vacation, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, overtime pay, child labor laws, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, whistleblower protection laws, sexual harassment laws, lunch breaks and coffee breaks, wrongful termination protection, sick leave, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the weekend and much more. These rights, benefits and norms were not gifts from employers. They are the result of relentless organized struggle by working Americans. And with each struggle, big business and its apologists have insisted that *this* change would fatally undermine their competitiveness.

As unionization rates have fallen over the past several decades, wages have stagnated and the "American Dream" has drifted out of reach for millions. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that plummeting rates of unionization account for one third of rising inequality in the US since 1980.

Raising the pay of working Americans has to be at the top of a progressive agenda. And this means we have to prioritize the empowerment of the labor movement.

Are high rates of unionization possible in a global economy? Yes! Union coverage remains high in most European countries – over 90 percent in some cases – and union coverage has grown steadily over the past few decades in several countries. In a marvelous study of 21 rich countries, John Schmitt and Alexandra Mitukiewicz show that changes in unionization rates since 1960 have had little to do with globalization or changes in technology. They depend, rather, on a country's "broad political environment." Social Democratic countries have seen unionization rates rise. "Liberal market economies" (the US, UK and others) have seen unionization rates drop.

De-unionization is not an imperative of the global market. *It is a political choice.*

But aren't unions prone to corruption? Sometimes (although way less often than right wingers would have us believe). And some parents are abusive. Some doctors commit fraud. And some bankers are greedy and mendacious. It does not follow that we'd be better off without families, doctors, or a financial sector. Nor does it follow that workers are better off without unions.

The US has long been a hostile environment for unions, and this has been especially true since 1980, when the Reagan administration declared war on organized labor. Cornell's Kate Bronfenbrenner has chronicled the increasingly aggressive (and often illegal) tactics used by employers to block organizing efforts, and the meager protections available to organizers and workers.

The Republican Party's economic policy agenda has not changed for decades. Cut taxes for the 1 percent. Deregulate – so that banks can run wild and corporations can pollute with impunity. And undermine the bargaining power of workers. Union busting is central to the Republican brand.

Working class Americans have been losing ground for 35 years. To reverse this, we need a re-empowered and a re-legitimized labor movement. We need to tell the truth about unions and union busters. We need to actively support our allies in the labor movement, and we need to demand that our representatives work to create a political and legal environment that facilitates the growth of unions and union representation.

And, relentlessly, we need to ask our representatives – especially fearful, cautious, and misguided Democrats: Which side are you on?

Unions are good for workers. It's that simple.

### **About the Author:**

ROBERT B. REICH, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley, was Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration. Time Magazine named him one of the ten most effective cabinet secretaries of the twentieth century. He has written thirteen books, including the best sellers "Aftershock" and "The Work of Nations." His latest, "Beyond Outrage," is now out in paperback. He is also a founding editor of the American Prospect magazine and chairman of Common Cause. His new film, "Inequality for All," is now available on Netflix, iTunes, DVD and On Demand. Learn more at [www.robertreich.org](http://www.robertreich.org)



# A BIG WIN FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS



The people of Pennsylvania made their voices heard in the 2014 November Gubernatorial Election voting out anti-worker Tom Corbett and voting in pro-middle class Tom Wolf for Governor. It wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of Local 1776 members who were out in front the months leading up to the election – knocking on doors, making phone calls, visiting candidates for office and registering members to vote.

Working people were directly affected by Corbett's anti-worker, anti-union agenda – one that cut education funding, left thousands without healthcare and was based on his extremist ideology. Proactive 1776 members knew not to assume all voters were aware of the Corbett administration's destruction. So they took the necessary action to make change, educating their fellow members and other union members on the need for a fresh start in Pennsylvania. Thankfully, Pennsylvanians listened and used their vote to respond.

Tom Wolf's win should be celebrated; however, our work in politics is never finished. As long as there are politicians who prioritize the needs of big business over working people, we will need to be present, making our voices heard. This election is proof it is possible to make our voices heard and worth our while to stay active in the political process even when the odds are stacked against us.





With a newly elected Governor, Local 1776 will be working on issues to help strengthen working families in Pennsylvania:

- Modernizing PA's Wine and Spirits Stores so that consumer convenience is at its highest while maintaining thousands of family-sustaining jobs.
- Raising the minimum wage to ensure someone who is working full-time does not live in poverty.
- Closing the Delaware Loophole so corporations pay their fair share of taxes in Pennsylvania.
- Passing legislation that would prohibit employers from discriminating against employees based on their sexual orientation.

**Obstacles ahead:**

Even with Tom Wolf as Governor-elect, we will still struggle navigating through Pennsylvania's legislature to get these bills accomplished. Republicans in both the Senate and House increased their majorities in the 2014 election, with the Senate gaining three more Republican seats, and the House gaining eight more Republican seats.

There is a two week window from when the newly-elected state legislators are sworn in (January 6) and Governor-elect Tom Wolf is sworn in (January 20). Republican leaders have been discussing passing legislation before Governor-elect Tom Wolf is sworn in, including liquor privatization and anti-union bills. They can do this through lame-duck sessions – out-going Governor Tom Corbett can sign and pass legislation in the open two week period. Governor Corbett was even quoted as saying he will do so.

Governor-elect Tom Wolf will have a very difficult time advancing bills that are important to the members of Local 1776 due to these large Republican majorities in the State House and State Senate. They will need to work together over the next four years on a number of issues that go against strong ideologies.

**Take action:**

As members of Local 1776, we need to stay active in speaking with our state legislators about issues that are important to working families. Your voice, as a constituent of a state legislator, is more important than any lobbyist or corporation. We must urge legislators to stay focused on the agenda voters elected them to accomplish. This does not include lame-duck liquor privatization bills.

Working together as a union, we know we can do many positive things in this legislative session moving forward. We will need to be united and strong advocates for issues that our members want to see advanced through the state legislature that can be signed Governor-elect Tom Wolf.



**“We are lucky to have some really exceptional members who know the value of being politically active. Without them, we would not have witnessed this success and been a part of Pennsylvania history. I thank them for their activism – an example we could all learn from.”**

**– Wendell W. Young, IV.  
President, UFCW Local 1776**



# LOCAL 1776 SHOP STEWARDS

A good Shop Steward works as a Union Representative on the job – a leader who is well-versed in their employer contract and is willingly to stand up for their fellow members. Local 1776 is privileged to have so many well educated, proactive Stewards who are always looking for ways to better handle workplace challenges. Thanks to all the Stewards who take pride in their role and practice what they learn on the job.



Citterio Shop Steward training (Standing from left): Karen Moyer, Local 1776 Representative Catherine Paninski, Mike Palmer, Local 1776 President Wendell W. Young, IV, Kevin Delfino and Local 1776 Representative Chris Snyder. (Sitting from left): John Uhrin, John Lazarsky, Bob Malloy and Chris Fox.



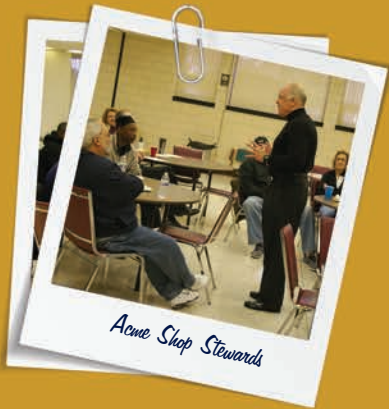
Cargill Shop Steward training (From left): Chief Steward Jorge Moncayo, Bernardo Guzman, UFCW International presenter Eduardo Pena, Robert Harrison, Aquilino La Paz, Rachel Solis, Manuel Montas, Local 1776 Representative Linda Bello and Carlos Martinez.



Special thanks to UFCW Region 2 Director Al Vincent (standing) for showing a presentation about how the UFCW has helped with disaster relief in Haiti -- especially touching to Haitian Stewards present at the JBS Stewards meeting.

**K**now your worksite's Shop Steward! It's the first step in understanding the basics of being a Local 1776 member, your right to be represented and your contract! There are many times your Shop Steward can assist in smaller workplace grievances and should be used as an on-site resource. Don't know your Shop Steward? Ask around your worksite or contact your full-time Union Representative.





*Acme Shop Stewards*



*PA Wine and Spirits Shop Stewards*



*Rite Aid Shop Stewards*



*ShopRite Shop Stewards*



*Cargill Shop Stewards*



*JBS Steward presentation on Haiti relief*



*JBS Shop Stewards*



*AFL-CIO, PEBTF, PSECU Shop Stewards*



*JBS Shop Stewards*



*Hanover Centre Hall Shop*



*Citterio Shop Stewards*



*Cargill Shop Stewards*



*Wise Shop Stewards*



*Hanover Shop Stewards*



*Wise Shop Stewards*



*AFL-CIO, PEBTF, PSECU Shop Stewards*



## PAC DONATION EQUALS DOUBLE PAYOFF

**C**ongratulations to Eagles PAC raffle winner Stacey Konieczny! Stacey entered to win the four, lower-level Philadelphia Eagles tickets by making a contribution to the Local's Political Action Committee – and it paid off in more ways than one!

Stacey's contribution will help empower the Local to be a voice for working families in politics. A strong PAC helps protect wages, job security, workers' rights and benefits. Local 1776's PAC proudly supports candidates at every level who represent the interest of our Union's members. To join PAC and redeem your PAC points for Local 1776 merchandise login to [www.ufcw1776.org](http://www.ufcw1776.org).

Stacey (right) works at the Roxborough Superfresh and is pictured with her Union Representative Pam Saunders. We hope you enjoyed the great win Stacey and thanks to everyone who contributed!



## LABOR'S COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY

**T**he Local 1776 OUTreach chapter was out spreading the word about the Labor Movement's commitment to LGBT Equality at Philadelphia's OUTFEST. The group of Local 1776 volunteers distributed Pride at Work information to event-goers. Thanks to OUTreach Executive Board member and 1776 Acme member Charles Young (in white) for organizing our participation in the event. Great work by Local 1776 members and volunteers (from left): Nick Stephano, Sean Hansen, Eileen Fonseca and Bill Fonseca!



## NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENT!

**L**ocal 1776 members in the clerical unit at the City of Pittston ratified a contract that includes a non-discrimination clause including both sexual preference and gender expression. Members of the Department of Public Works negotiated this language in their contract as well. Thanks to President Wendell W. Young, IV, 1776 Lead Representative and Negotiator Chris Snyder and Local 1776 members for adding this important language to these contracts. Union members can rest assure they are protected against unjust disciplinary action based on sexual orientation in the workplace!



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

1776 MEMBERS STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL, ONE PERSON AT A TIME



*Doris Wright (left) and Roxanne Saunders are a modest pair always looking for ways to help those in need.*

At the East Norriton ShopRite, Doris Wright goes by a different name: Grandmom. Her coworker, Roxanne Saunders is known as Mom. The two treat fellow 1776 members like family; teaming up to quietly assist those in need. Whether it is car fare, food or housing assistance, Doris and Roxanne are quick to lend a hand.

“Roxanne will call me up and ask ‘What can we do for this person? There has to be a way.’ And we make it work,” Doris explained.

For more than 40 years, Doris has been taking children into her home, no questions asked. “It all started after my daughter Kia was born. She didn’t want to be an only child. So when she was around eight years old, me and my husband went to the Children’s Youth Society in Philadelphia and adopted two-year-old Angie.” Doris’s late husband Bill Wright taught paramedics for the Philadelphia Fire Department.

Doris credits Kia’s loving and generous spirit for growing their extended family long after adopting Angie. “Kia would ask to bring other children over for dinner or to stay the night. Bill and I knew there were underlying reasons why, so we opened our door to any child who needed a place to stay as long as they needed.”

Doris often had five children staying at her house at any given time. If a child’s parent passed away, there were problems in their home or they got evicted, Doris took them in. Humble about the help she provides, Doris speaks highly of her coworkers, in particular Roxanne.

“Roxanne is always looking for ways to help those in need. I’m not the only one that opens my door to others. There are so many others that do great work.”

## POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Special thanks to PAC contributors and 1776 members John Tynan of ShopRite and Betty Krause of Cedarbrook Nursing Home for volunteering in the November 2014 Election. The two spent their days off knocking on union members’ doors, calling voters and educating the public on the importance of casting their ballot for pro-working family candidates. Members like John and Betty make all the difference during the election and are an excellent example for our membership to follow!



*John Tynan, an active Local 1776 member is pictured here distributing information to help save 3,500 UFCW jobs in PA’s Wine and Spirits Stores. He has helped on numerous campaigns all aimed at defending working people.*



*Long-time Local 1776 member Betty Krause was a big part of the organizing campaign at her Cedarbrook Nursing Home worksite. She volunteered for many events leading up to the 2014 November Election. (From left): Local 1776 Lead Representative Chris Snyder, Local 1776 Recorder and Representative Barbara Johnson, Betty Krause and Local 1776 Representative Jose Ortiz.*



# Congratulations Local 1776 Retirees!



**R**ichard Matta of Pathmark: Congratulations to Richard on his retirement after 47 years of service with Superfresh and Pathmark! Richard retired from the Pathmark in Devon, PA and is pictured here with Local 1776 gifts from his Union Representative Pam Saunders and his coworkers.



**D**ebby Wilson of PSECU: After 22 years of being a Union member with Local 1776 and 15 years of serving as Shop Steward at PSECU, Debby has retired. Debby is the Treasurer in her church and Chairperson for the Paxtang Historical Society. When asked what she plans to do in her retirement, Debby said "Have fun, fun, fun!" Congratulations Debby!

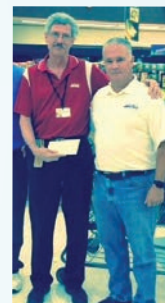


**M**aryellen Jones of Wise: After 41 years as an employee at Wise Foods and a Steward for 30 years, Maryellen has retired. Maryellen was a great asset on our negotiating team and will be greatly missed. We wish her the best in retirement!



**M**ary Campbell of Pathmark: After 40 years of service as a part-time clerk at Superfresh (which later became Pathmark), Mary has retired. Here she is pictured with her Union Representative Pam Saunders during her last shift. Congratulations Mary!

**K**eith Himmelwright of Acme Markets: Congratulations to Keith, a clerk at Acme #7749 for 47 years, on his retirement! Local 1776 President Wendell W. Young, IV (right) wished Keith a happy and healthy retirement during his final shift.



Also pictured are two loyal customers who wished Keith well in future endeavors.



**C**arol Denardo of ShopRite: After 25 years of service, Carol retired from ShopRite #519 in Roxborough. Carol worked in different departments as a Local 1776 member prior to serving as the store's Human Resources Manager. She refused to take the management position if it meant losing her 1776 union card, so she was elected in the contract as a one-time classification allowing her to keep her membership! Pictured here is the store's Shop Steward Chuck Donnelly (center) and Local 1776 Union Representative Nancy Flanagan (right) wishing Carol Denardo (left) a happy retirement. Local 1776 President Wendell W. Young, IV also stopped by Carol's retirement celebration to congratulate her.







**C**raig Schaeffer of Acme Markets: Craig started working at the Phoenixville Acme Markets at 16 years old. He retired after 49 years of service, more than 30 years as Shop Steward and a member of the negotiating committee. Craig's coworkers, pictured here with his Union Representative Marcy Fonseca (far left), threw him a surprise retirement celebration in honor of his service. Craig said he will spend his retirement taking care of his mother and spending time with his eight grandchildren.



**N**eil Kaplan of PA's Wine and Spirits Stores: Neil retired after 39 years of service with the PLCB. Here he is pictured with his wife Janice (right) and Local 1776 Union Representative Melinda Robertson (left) as she presents him with a retirement gift. Neil was a

favorite of many customers including PA House Representative John Sabatina (D-174) who attended Neil's retirement party.



**V**irginia Garcia of Cedarbrook Nursing Home: Virginia retires after 20 year of service at the Fountain Hill Cedarbrook Nursing Home. A certified nursing assistant, she was an active member in the Local's organizing campaign to represent the nursing home, served as a Shop Steward and was a member of the Local's Cedarbrook bargaining committee. Virginia also took part in labor management meetings and volunteered her time to educate union members about pro-working family candidates in numerous elections.

Virginia shares a unique story of compassion during her time at Cedarbrook. When Virginia first received the call that the daughter she had given up for adoption was looking for her, her coworkers shared in her joy.

"I was scheduled to work that day; however, I knew I would be unable to focus. So I called work hysterical and explained everything to the nursing supervisor and she graciously granted me the day off."

Virginia is grateful for the upbringing her daughter Eva (right in photo) received and the openness her family and friends showed when meeting her. She's excited for Eva to visit her around the holidays. A Puerto Rico resident, Eva hopes to see snow for the first time.

We hope Virginia's retirement gives her the opportunity to spend quality time with Eva.



**B**ill Goltz of Acme Markets: Congratulations to Bill on retiring after 39 years of service with Acme Markets. Bill retires as his worksite's dairy manager. Here he is pictured with his Union Representative Al Hasara and Shop Steward Mary Owens.



# #AnywhereButWalmart

**G**ood jobs make strong communities and improve our economy. That's why instead of supporting companies like Walmart and Target who pay employees little more than minimum wage with little or no benefits, we ask you to consider shopping where workers are paid better and receive good benefits. Using the hashtag #AnywhereButWalmart, we collected photos of Local 1776 Represented worksites and union-made products (shown below).

Although originated for the 2014 holiday season, this campaign is relevant throughout the year. When possible, buy products made in America and shop union stores. By doing so you can help improve our economy and keep Americans working with your everyday spending.

Remember to support Local 1776 made products when you go grocery shopping. Hershey candies, Wise chips & snacks, Citterio Italian specialty meats, Cargill meats, Empire Kosher Poultry, Knouse fruit products, Hanover vegetables and JBS beef products are all made by your fellow Local 1776 members right here in Pennsylvania!



1776 Stewards show their support for Walmart workers who went on strike on Black Friday. They support giving Walmart workers the pay, benefits, hours and respect they deserve. (L to R): 1776 Executive Board member and PEBTF Steward Bonnie Coons; PSECU Steward Christa Folsom; PSECU Steward Nancy Mack; PSECU Steward Shawn Perryman; PSECU Steward Michele Montgomery; AFL-CIO Steward Pam McClellan; PEBTF Steward Jonathan Criswell.



This board game is UFCW made and was bought at a 1776 Represented Rite Aid! Showing double the support for good jobs and strong communities.



Did you know AT&T is the only major wireless company with a union-represented workforce? Their employees are members of the Communication Workers of America union and work closely with the IBEW. AT&T even gives discounts to all union members! Learn how you can save money as a member of UFCW at [www.unionplus.org/cell-phone-wireless/att-wireless](http://www.unionplus.org/cell-phone-wireless/att-wireless).

**B**reaking News! As we went to print, news broke that a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) judge ruled in favor of California Walmart workers who were retaliated against for standing up and speaking out for higher wages. The judge found Walmart responsible for a number of unlawful actions against the Our Walmart group – a group backed by the UFCW that organizes Black Friday protests and calls for \$15 hourly wages, more full-time positions and an end to illegal workplace intimidation. The complaint that was ruled in Our Walmart's favor asserted that Walmart managers and officials intimidated and threatened workers for speaking out for higher wages, wearing pro-union emblems, participating in one-day strikes and speaking with union representatives. This ruling is proof we are stronger together in the fight against illegal union-busting!



1776 Union Representative Peg Rhodes supporting Nissley Wines -- made in Pennsylvania and sold at PA's Wine and Spirits Stores.





## (Re) INTRODUCING UFCW LOCAL 1776 STAFF...

Over the last few years, the Local 1776 team has seen many veteran staff retire – shifting positions in the organization and welcoming a new wave of talented people to staff. As part of an ongoing series, the Dialogue will feature members of Local 1776 staff from every department and highlight their role within the organization.

We're excited to introduce (and in many cases re-introduce) the Local staff to our growing membership. Read their short bios and feel confident your team is working to better your quality of life every day!



### **TONY ZOLLO, FIELD SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE:**

**T**ony grew up in a union household with a mother employed by PA's Wine and Spirits Stores. As a child, Tony recognized the adverse effects privatizing the stores would have on him and his family. He too became a clerk for the Wine and Spirits Stores.

Tony continued his passion for workers' rights by way of Walmart where he was fired for trying to organize his coworkers and again for going on strike. Later, he became a founding member of the organization OurWalmart. Tony joined 1776 staff in 2008 after completing the 2007 Young Members' Internship Program. He has a degree in Union Leadership from the National Labor College, taught a union skills course at St. Joseph's University's Comey School for Industrial Relations and is currently studying law at Widener University.

### **PEG RHODES, SERVICING REPRESENTATIVE:**

**P**rior to joining Local 1776 staff, Peg worked in PA's Wine and Spirits Stores for 22 years. Peg currently services Local 1776 members at the AFL-CIO, Gino Moreno Enterprises, Plumbers & Pipefitter's including JATC of Local 520, PEBTF, PSECU, Rite Aid and PA Wine and Spirits Stores. She has worked with the Local 1776 team for more than 16 years.

Peg serves on the Central PA ALF Executive Board. She is a member of the Harrisburg Labor Council's Executive Board, the Local 1776 Executive Board and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). She completed Cornell University's Union Leadership Program and The Dale Carnegie Program. Her continuing education includes seminars on Benefits and Compensation which she uses to support members and Labor Law History at Penn State University.



### **ERIC THOMAS, SERVICING REPRESENTATIVE:**

**E**ric worked for Hostess and Wonder Bread for 18 years as Shop Steward before being elected as a Business Representative and Corresponding Secretary for the Bakery and Confectionary Tobacco Workers Union Local 6 (BCTGM). As Representative for the BCTGM, Eric held several positions including Political Director, Lead Contract Negotiator, Assistant to the Secretary Treasurer and Assistant to the President.

Eric joined the Local 1776 team in November 2011 and services members that work in ShopRite and Rite Aid stores. Eric currently serves as the Executive Vice President to the Montgomery County Central Labor Council. He has completed St. Joseph's University's Comey Labor Institute program and is currently participating in the Penn State Labor Program. Eric has 28 years of experience in the labor movement.



## **BARBARA JOHNSON, RECORDER AND SERVICING REPRESENTATIVE:**

**B**arbara was a certified nursing assistant at Berks Heim Nursing Home when Local 1776 won an election to represent the employees in 1984. Barbara was a member of the Local's first bargaining committees that negotiated contracts for Berks Heim employees. She served as a Shop Steward and Chief Steward before joining the Local's staff in 2002.

Barbara currently services members at Timber Ridge, Birchwood, Berks Heim, Golden Living Center and Cedarbrook nursing homes. She also services members at Salus University and Healthcare Services group.

She began serving on the Local's Executive Board in 1988 and was elected the Board's Recorder in 2006. Active in the political process, Barbara has served as the Berks County Judge of Election for more than 15 years. She also serves as a delegate

and trustee on the Berks County Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

## **DON MCGROGAN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:**

**D**on began working at Acme Markets in 1975, serving in multiple departments. When elected as Shop Steward in 1984, Don served on the Quality of Work Life and Negotiating committees.

Don joined Local 1776 staff in 1995 and for 20 years has served in all areas of the Local. He attended the Comey Institute of Labor Relations at St. Joseph's University and the Industrial Labor Relations program at Cornell University. Don served as a Representative for the Local and as Director of Field Services before becoming Executive Vice President. He is a Union Trustee on the Tri-State Pension and the UFCW and Participating Employers Health and Welfare Fund. He also serves on the Board of the UFCW Local 1776 Federal Credit Union where he is Chairman of the Credit Committee. Don serves as a Trustee for the Philadelphia AFL-CIO and was appointed to the Executive Board of the Philadelphia Land Bank.



## **ROB MCVEIGH, LEAD SERVICING REPRESENTATIVE:**

**B**efore joining Local 1776 staff, Rob worked for Acme Markets in Clifton Heights for 14 years and served as his store's Shop Steward. During his time as Steward, he participated in several campaigns with the Local as a Special Project Union Representative, including the Anti-Privatization fight for the PA Wine and Spirits Stores during former Governor Tom Ridge's Administration.

Rob is currently the Local 1776 Lead Representative for the Servicing Team that represents the members at Superfresh, Pathmark, Food Basics, ShopRite, Rite Aid, UFCW Local 1776 Federal Credit Union, Salus University, Shelley's Medication Services/RXDN, as well as the nursing homes of Cedarbrook, Golden Living Center, Berks Heim and Birchwood.

Rob serves as Vice President of Public Employees for the Delaware County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council. He also serves as a Trustee on both the UFCW Local 1776 and Participating Employers Health and Welfare Fund and the UFCW Local 1776 Retirement and Savings Fund. Rob currently serves on the Local 1776 Executive Board. He is a graduate of West Chester University and has completed Cornell University's Union Leadership Program.

## **LINDA BELLO, SERVICING REPRESENTATIVE:**

**L**inda first became a member of Local 1776 in 1985 as an employee of Acme Markets. Linda joined staff in 2002 and is a Bilingual Representative servicing members who work at Empire Kosher poultry plant, Cargill, Dubois Shop N Save, Northern Cambria Giant Eagle, PA's Wine and Spirits Stores and UFCW credit unions. Linda is a member of the Local's Executive Board and belongs to the Schuylkill County Labor Council.





## A MESSAGE FROM MCELDREW YOUNG ATTORNEYS: PREPARE FOR TROUBLE THIS WINTER BY REVIEWING YOUR INSURANCE AND WILL

**W**hile the prospect of a white Christmas might be music to our ears, the winter season also brings snow covered roads and icy sidewalks that can deliver unexpected consequences, as Buffalo found out in November 2014.

Before winter hits, take the time to review your auto insurance to make sure you are adequately protected in case of an accident. The law defines certain minimum levels of coverage on owners of vehicles that prevent you from legally operating your vehicle without insurance. But the legally imposed minimums might not be right for you and your family if an accident happens. Don't let a lower monthly payment leave your family under-protected in an accident.

Renters insurance is also not required by the government but is an invaluable means of protection for your family against disaster in an apartment or rental home. Generally, it provides for

compensation for your personal belongings if they are stolen or damaged in a fire. Otherwise, you might not be compensated for the loss of your possessions.

The start of the New Year is also a great time to create or review your will and medical directives to ensure that your family is protected in an emergency. The addition of a new family member or change in your financial situation may call for revisions. If you have not taken the time to prepare these documents, one of our attorneys can assist you.

We have done our own preparation for the New Year here at Young Law Group. We have changed our name to McEldrew Young to better represent you in the numerous legal issues that might arise in your life. My new partner in this venture, James J. McEldrew, III, has protected Philadelphia families as a trial lawyer for 30 years. He has helped clients recover a total of more than \$100 million when they have been injured due to medical malpractice, work injuries and serious car accidents.

If you have questions about your will, insurance coverage or are injured and need the services of our trial attorneys, please call McEldrew Young at (215) 367-5151.

## STAY CONNECTED ON OUR WEBSITE

Our site is maintained to bring members and allies up-to-date, relevant information that affects union members and working families. Check it out at [www.ufcw1776.org](http://www.ufcw1776.org).

An account has been created for full Local 1776 members on our website to view private, member-only information including Union bylaws, welcome booklets and your employer contract.

**Your username** is as follows:

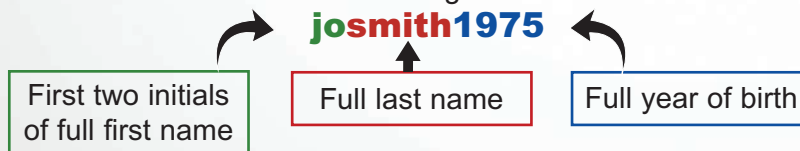
1. The first two letters of your first name;
2. Your full last name;
3. The full year of your birth.

No spaces or capital letters are in your username.

**Your password** is the last four digits of your Social Security number.

For example:

UFCW Local 1776 member Joseph Smith born in 1975 would have the following username:



## TAKE US ON THE GO

Our website is smart-phone and tablet friendly!

For up-to-date posts on issues that affect working families and highlights within our Local, Like us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/UFCWlocal1776](https://www.facebook.com/UFCWlocal1776)

Follow us on Twitter:

[Twitter.com/UFCWlocal1776](https://twitter.com/UFCWlocal1776)



**T**he names and dates that were used in creating your account are the ones we have on file for you. If we do not have your date of birth on file, you will not have a username generated for our site. Please call the office at 610-940-1776 so we can update your file and create one for you.

All members will need to use the new username and password combination detailed above to login to the website for the first time. After you login with the proper credentials, you can update your settings, check that your contact information is correct and change your username and password if you wish.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### **Wednesday, March 11, 2015 – 1 p.m.**

UFCW Local 1776  
3031 – A Walton Road  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

### **Wednesday, May 6, 2015 – 1 p.m.**

UFCW Local 1776  
2007 Highway 315  
Pittston, PA 18640

### **Wednesday, September 2, 2015 – 1 p.m.**

3031 – A Walton Road  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

### **Monday, November 2, 2015 – 1 p.m.**

3031 – A Walton Road  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

## SOUTHEAST PA DIVISION AREA MEETINGS

### **Thursday, January 8, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

UFCW Local 1776  
3031 – A Walton Road  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

### **Thursday, March 5, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

Plumber's Hall, Local 690  
2791 Southampton Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19154

### **Thursday, May 14, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

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

### **Thursday, November 12, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

Berks County Agricultural Center  
1238 County Welfare Road  
Leesport, PA 19533

### **Thursday, September 24, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NORTHEAST PA DIVISION AREA MEETINGS

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

UFCW Local 1776  
2007 Highway 315  
Pittston, PA 18640

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

Hampton Inn  
114 South 8th Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

**Wednesday, March 11, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

Days Inn of Liberty  
25 Sullivan Avenue  
Liberty, NY 12754

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

Microtel Inn & Suites  
90 Dorsett Heights  
Mansfield, PA 16933

**Tuesday, September 29, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

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

**Wednesday, October 7, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

Best Western  
16 Raceway Road  
Monticello, NY 12701

**Tuesday, November 10, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

Troy Vets Club  
1 Veterans Drive (off Prospect Street)  
Troy, PA 16947

## CENTRAL PA DIVISION AREA MEETINGS

**Monday, March 2, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

AFSCME District Council 83  
161 Patchway Road  
Duncansville, PA 16635

**Monday, April 6, 2015 – 6 p.m.**

AFSCME Conference Center  
150 South 43rd Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

**On the cover:** JBS members Jesu Romero and Jean Alexandre; Local 1776 President Young and WMGK Radio Host John DeBella; Acme Markets #7747 members Ajit Singh and Donna Sharky; Acme Markets #7747 member Mary Stine; PA Governor-elect Tom Wolf and Local 1776 President Young; Temple University Fresh Grocer member Shana Alston; President Young speaking at a Crozer Nurses picket line; Temple University Fresh Grocer member Jose Maldonado; PA Wine and Spirits Store #6714 member Christi Landis; JBS member Consuelo Lozano; Temple University Fresh Grocer member Coy Thomas; PSECU Stewards Nancy Mack and Shawn Perryman.

**UFCW LOCAL 1776**  
a **VOICE** for working America  
[www.ufcw1776.org](http://www.ufcw1776.org)



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

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## YOU'RE INVITED!

The Local 1776 Social Committee is hard at work planning events for members throughout the year! We're busy finalizing the details of fun gatherings you and your families can be a part of. Be on the lookout for a schedule coming soon. All the details will be posted under the "Members Resources" tab at [www.ufcw1776.org](http://www.ufcw1776.org).

Have an idea for an event you would like the Local to host? Let your Union Shop Steward or Union Representative know! We hope you come and partake in the fun!

