

BULLETIN

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United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 876

The *UFCW 876 Bulletin* is a bi-monthly publication of UFCW Local 876 designed to give members a quick update of union news and notice of upcoming events. The flyer is distributed at the workplace by union representatives and is also available on-line at www.ufcw876.org. If you would like to receive an email copy of future *Bulletins* during the first week of publication, call the Local 876 Public Relations Department at 1-800-321-6406.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FORMS HAVE BEEN MAILED

Members at the listed employers eligible for health insurance through the UFCW Unions and Employers Health and Welfare Fund were mailed, and should have received, their health insurance open enrollment packets. Members who did not receive a packet should call the Fund office at 1-800-322-8190 immediately.

All members must complete and return the required open enrollment forms by November 2, 2009 to receive health insurance for themselves and eligible dependents for 2010. This includes members who are making no changes in coverage and those who recently enrolled for insurance coverage.

Health and welfare benefits including, medical, dental, prescription, time loss coverage and life insurance, will end on December 31, 2009 for members who miss the November 2, 2009 deadline.

(OVER)

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS AT

BEAVER'S	RIVERSIDE MARKET
CYGNET FINANCIAL	OLESON'S
HOLLYWOOD	PLUMB'S
HILLER'S	TURRI'S
KROGER	

**OPEN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 2, 2009**

**CALL 1-800-322-8190
FOR ASSISTANCE**

**ENROLLMENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 6 @ 7 P.M.
LOCAL 876 UNION HALL**

**ENROLL ON-LINE AT
WWW.MUFCWBENEFITS.COM**

PROTECT YOURSELF – CHECK FOR PROPER UNION DUES DEDUCTION

Local 876 has learned union dues are not being deducted from numerous members' paychecks, putting their membership benefits at risk and resulting in large unpaid union dues bills. The majority of these cases involve members who work for Kroger who return to work after a leave or suspension, however all members are urged to review their paystubs to insure union dues are being deducted.

"Members may think their employer is doing them a favor by failing to deduct union dues, when in reality, the exact opposite is true," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said. "It is the employer's mistake, but it the member who ends up paying the price."

The price can be loss of health benefits, since being a dues paying member is a requirement for receipt of health benefits. The price may also be loss of pension credits, since failure to deduct union dues is typically accompanied by the employer's failure to make the proper pension payment for the member. However, when an employer fails to deduct union dues, members are always responsible for payment of owed back dues.

"We had one Kroger member who owed over \$800 in back dues, while the union can work with them on a payment plan, it's tough because members end up having both current and back dues deducted from their pay check," Robinson said. "We are working with Kroger to correct their procedures, and considering alternative action if these types of mistakes continue. But members need to protect themselves by making sure union dues are being deducted from their paychecks."

Questions regarding dues deductions should be directed to the Local 876 Dues Department at 1-800-321-6406.

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

General Membership meetings are open to all Local 876 members. At these meetings, union representatives review the actions of the Local 876 Executive Board, present updates, and address members' questions. Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Madison Heights

Tuesday, October 6
UFCW Local 876 Union Hall
876 Horace Brown Drive

Flint / Flushing

Wednesday, October 7
Plumbers & Pipefitters
5500 W. Pierson in Flushing

Traverse City

Wednesday, October 7
Days Inn
420 Munson

Waterford

Wednesday, October 7
Comfort Inn / Waterford Inn
7076 Highland Road

 **1-800-321-6406**

Roger Robinson

Rick Blocker
Secretary-Treasurer

President

George Misko
Recorder