

# **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](http://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.

## **LOCAL 876 KROGER CONTRACT BARGAINING UNDERWAY**

Local 876 kicked off formal contract negotiations with The Kroger Company on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, the parties met the following day and have additional negotiations scheduled.

During these initial bargaining sessions, opening statements were made and first proposals exchanged by both sides.

"Kroger presented information on the performance of their Michigan stores and the impact of competition on their business," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president and the union's chief union negotiator for the talks, said. "While the union reiterated our intent to leave the table with a fair and equitable agreement that recognizes the contributions of Local 876 members to Kroger's continued success."

The proposals currently being exchanged address several non-economic changes each side would like to see included in the new contract. Once agreement is reached in these areas, talks will turn to economic issues including wages, health benefits, and pension.

"We had detailed discussions regarding the proposed changes where both sides clarified their positions and intent of their proposals," Robinson said. "As always, until we leave negotiations with a complete tentative agreement, there will be no details to report."

Official updates regarding Local 876 Kroger bargaining will be posted on the Local 876 website, [www.ufcw876.org](http://www.ufcw876.org), and distributed electronically to Kroger members who sign up for the service on the website.

Members are cautioned to ignore any rumors they may hear about bargaining and are encouraged to contact their union representative if they have any questions regarding the talks.

(OVER)

## **HELP INSURE MICHIGAN RECEIVE IT'S FAIR SHARE:**

### **RETURN YOUR U.S. CENSUS TODAY**

Insuring everyone living in Michigan is counted in the 2010 U.S. Census is critical to the state's recovery and long term quality of life for it's residents.

"For Michigan in general, and for the city of Detroit in particular, it is critical everyone living in our state is counted in the 2010 census," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said.

"Census data is used to determine how much federal funding states and communities are granted annually. The lower the census numbers the lower the funding. With people leaving Detroit and Michigan to find jobs elsewhere our population has declined. We simply can't afford to have the residents who remain go uncounted."

The allocation of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives is also determined by the census.

"States gain and lose seats in the U.S. House based on their population gain or loss," Robinson said. "More seats translate into more power and money for your state. Politically, it is important to the labor movement for traditionally pro-union states, like Michigan, to maintain or increase their number of U.S. representatives. Every seat we lose is likely to be a gain for anti-union states."

Many people fail to return their census questionnaire, or provide the census with inaccurate information because they falsely believe their information will be turned over to a government agency, creditor, court, or individual, who they are avoiding.

"The fact of the matter is, the Census Bureau is prohibited from sharing any personal identifiable information from the questionnaire with any government agency, group or individual," Robinson said. "No one has to worry about some one finding them because they participated in the census."

## **BOWL WITH UFCW MICHIGAN**

**Midland's Valley Lanes Bowling:** Wednesday, May 5, 6:30 to 9 p.m. \$10 per person includes two games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, pop, and prizes.

**Allen Park's Thunderbowl Lanes Bowling:** Tuesday, May 18, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 per person includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental, unlimited video games, pizza, pop, and prizes. A \$5 non-bowler ticket is also available.

Tickets must be purchased before the event. Call Local 876 at 1-800-321-6404 for more information.

 **1-800-321-6406**

**Roger Robinson**

**Rick Blocker**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**President**

**George Misko**  
Recorder

**By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census responses with anyone, including other federal agencies, law enforcement entities, and creditors.**