

# **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.

## **KROGER MEMBERS RATIFY NEW CONTRACT**

Kroger members ratified a new contract June 18 effecting approximately 12,000 Local 876 members at 118 stores. The new three-year agreement, which received the unanimous recommendation of the union's bargaining committee, achieved the membership's top bargaining goals – protecting their health care coverage and pension benefits. The contract also provides top rate bonuses of up to \$1,500 and hourly wage increases throughout its term.

“Michigan's poor economy and high unemployment rate made these contract negotiations very difficult,” Roger Robinson, Local 876 president, and chief union negotiator, said. “Despite these tough circumstances, we were able to deliver on the members' main goals of protecting their health insurance and pension benefits. The bargaining committee fought hard, stood up to Kroger's unreasonable demands and left the bargaining table confident they reached the best contract possible without taking drastic action.”

The new agreement protects members' pension, with no benefit reductions, by requiring Kroger to make increased contributions for all employees.

The contract also calls for the health and welfare fund reserves to be set at a level to maintain benefits, protecting members from benefit cuts or weekly co-pay increases, and leaving sufficient reserves to start next contract negotiations at a positive position.

Members will also enjoy health insurance improvements beginning January 1, 2011 under the new contract including; wellness benefits being paid at 100 percent, with no deductibles or copays; the elimination of lifetime benefit maximum caps; and a new mail order prescription option for maintenance drugs set at \$8 for a 30-day and \$15 for a 90-day supply of a generic. Weekly employee copayments were held to \$5 (single), \$10 (dual), and \$15(family).

(OVER)

## **UFCW Day at the Detroit Zoo Ticket Deadline July 7**

In order to attend UFCW Day at the Detroit Zoo on July 21 members must order tickets by July 7. Order forms are posted on your union bulletin board and available at [www.ufcw876.org](http://www.ufcw876.org).

## **CONTRACT BARGAINING UPDATE**

**Provincial House:** Members working in both the LPN and Support Divisions of this skilled nursing home located in Adrian ratified new three year contracts in early May. Both agreements include lump sum ratification bonuses and wage increases through the term of the agreement.

**Polly's Meat:** The current contract has been extended as negotiations continue for members working the meat departments of five Jackson area grocery stores.

**Kessel/Kroger/New Market:** Preparations for negotiations are underway for a new contract covering the Local 876 members who work at the 14 former Kessel stores that now operate under the Kroger New Market banner in the Flint area. The local received a very high return rate from members who completed the contract questionnaire forms sent to them early this year. The current contract expires August 7, 2010.

**Hiller's:** As Local 876 prepares to negotiate a new contract covering members at seven metro-area grocery stores, members are returning the contract questionnaire forms mailed to them last month. The current contract expires August 29, 2010.

**Hollywood Markets:** Contract questionnaire forms have been mailed to Hollywood Market members working at seven metro-Detroit area grocery stores. The current contract expires August 8, 2010.

**CVS:** Preparations for negotiations are underway for a new contracts covering the Local 876 members at store #8107 in Grosse Pointe and #8153 in Detroit. Both contracts expire August 31, 2010.

**Oleson's:** Contract proposal questionnaires will be mailed to Oleson's members on July 5, as the local begins preparations for their contract negotiations. The current contract covering members at these five northern Michigan grocery stores expires September 25, 2010. Members are encouraged to complete and return these forms to have a voice in setting the membership's bargaining goals for the negotiations.

**Joseph H. Beavers:** Members working at this Flint supermarket will be mailed their contract proposal questionnaires on July 12, in preparation for the negotiation of a new contract as their current agreement expires September 29, 2010.

 **1-800-321-6406**

**Roger Robinson**

President

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