

UFCW 876 BULLETIN

Issue 40 02.02.09

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.

LOCAL 876 SETTLES KROGER MEAT COAT ARBITRATION: SECURES \$2 MILLION FOR MEMBERS IN PAYMENTS FROM KROGER

Local 876 ended its five-year battle with Kroger over the meat coat arbitration, securing approximately \$2 million in payments to effected current and former members. All legal fees associated with the case were paid from the local union treasury, meaning 100 percent of the settlement went to Local 876 members who will receive individual awards of up to \$3,000.

“This victory has been a long time coming and clearly illustrates how workers and their unions can achieve justice when they stand united,” Roger Robinson, Local 876’s president, said. “The meat department members displayed great patience and support. Their unwavering solidarity and diligent record keeping contributed greatly to our successful resolution of this five-year battle.”

The settlement resolves the 2003 grievance Local 876 filed following Kroger’s implementation of a new policy requiring meat department employees to launder their own uniforms, on their own time, and at their own expense. Following Kroger’s denial of the grievance, the Local 876 Executive Board voted to arbitrate the grievance.

In 2006, the arbitrator ruled Kroger could require employees to launder their uniforms, but must pay them for their laundering time and expenses. Kroger appealed this decision to the federal court and the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court. Both courts ruled in Local 876’s favor, and denied Kroger’s appeals. Instead of exercising its last appeal option, new Michigan Kroger leadership, who inherited this liability, agreed to work with Local 876 to reach a fair settlement as instructed by the arbitrator. The company also returned to its earlier policy of having meat department uniforms laundered.

“This is an excellent settlement and the calculation used to determine individual awards was fair and equitable.” Robinson said.

(OVER)

ROCK ‘N BOWL WITH UFCW 876 YOUNG WORKERS!



Novi Bowl

21700 Novi Rd., Novi MI 48375

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Registration 6 - 6:30 p.m.

\$10 Per Person Fee

Includes: pizza, pop, 2 games, rental shoes & a gift

Pre-registration by February 25 required. Call 1-800-321-6406 ext. 8607 for more information and registration details. **This event is open to all Local 876 members, friends and family.**

CONTRACT BARGAINING UPDATE

Winter Sausage: Members ratified a new four-year contract featuring a signing bonus, wage increases the last three years of the contract, increases in the employer’s pension contributions, and the maintenance of health benefits.

Polly’s Food Service: Negotiations are underway on a new contract for the Local 876 members working at the company’s grocery store in Chelsea. The current agreement expires March 1, 2009.

Koegel Meats: Koegel members are encouraged to have a voice in their contract negotiations by completing the contract bargaining questionnaire mailed to their homes February 2, 2009.

Pat’s Food Center: Preparations for negotiating a new contract are underway for members working at this Freeland grocery store. The current contract expires April 30, 2009.

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.

Tuesday, February 10

Local 876 Union Hall

876 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Heights, MI 48071

UFCW 876 1-800-321-6406

Roger Robinson

President

Rick Blocker
Secretary-Treasurer

George Misko
Recorder