

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.

KROGER BARGAINING UPDATE

After completing numerous bargaining sessions over the past month, Local 876 and Kroger have agreed to suspend talks until June 1 to allow the actuaries ample time to complete necessary health and welfare cost and benefit projections.

"Over the past month, thanks to the hard work of the subcommittees, we have made a great deal of progress on non-economic bargaining issues," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president and chief union negotiator for the talks, said. "While we are currently in agreement on where we need to go on these issues, we are unable to report any details until a complete tentative agreement is reached and we are certain there will be no changes to the new language."

When Local 876 and Kroger return to the bargaining table on June 1, the parties will enter the most difficult stage of negotiations -- economics. The economic portion of bargaining involves wages, health and welfare, and pension.

"Economics, always the toughest aspect of contract negotiations, will be even more difficult this go-round given the poor economic climate, the uncertain financial impact of the new health care legislation on insurance plans, and the hit pension plans have taken in the last two years," Robinson said. "We are conscience of how these factors impact negotiations and still believe it is possible to negotiate a fair contract."

The union knows additional employer contributions will be needed to maintain current pension levels, meaning less will be available for increases in other areas, and understands adjustments to health insurance will be needed to maintain benefit coverage.

"I believe a fair contract can be achieved," Robinson said. "While the membership has set reasonable goals for these negotiations, they also made it clear they won't be taken advantage of just because times are tough."

(OVER)

Local 876 is in the process of scheduling a strike vote, an action the union would consider only as a last resort if Kroger leaves no other option for reaching a fair contract.

"While the strike vote is procedural, it is not simply a scare tactic," Robinson said. "Members need to carefully think about what is at stake and how far they are willing to go to reach a fair contract."

Join Your Union at Upcoming Events*

Membership Golf Outing – Tuesday, June 1, 2010

Royal Scott Golf Course, Lansing

\$40 Per Golfer

The \$40 registration fee includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, a continental breakfast, and pizza and salad bar after golf. Pre-registration by May 25, 2010 is required. Registration forms are available from your union representative, the Local 876 office, and can be downloaded at www.ufcw876.org.

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum – Thursday, June 24, 2010*

\$5 UFCW Ticket Includes Museum Entry and Lunch at Noon

Local 876 members, their families and friends are invited to UFCW Day at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. A special \$5 ticket (ages two and up) is available to members which includes museum admittance and a box lunch. Members must purchase tickets in advance and can visit the museum any time between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Lunch will be available at noon. Tickets are available from your union representative, and the Local 876 office. Registration forms can be downloaded at www.ufcw876.org.

Michigan's Adventure – Tuesday, June 29, 2010*

\$20 UFCW Ticket Includes Park Entry and Buffet Lunch at Noon

Located in Muskegon, Michigan's Adventure combines the thrills of a ride park with a water park for a full-day of fun. Ticket order forms are available from your union representative, and the Local 876 office. Order forms can be downloaded at www.ufcw876.org. Order forms must be received by June 15, 2010.

UFCW Michigan Day at the Detroit Zoo – Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

UFCW Ticket Includes Zoo Entry and Catered Lunch at Noon

UFCW Michigan, will once again hold a special day for members and their families to enjoy The Detroit Zoo. Due to the popularity of this event, members are limited to six UFCW discounted tickets. Additional regular UFCW tickets can be purchased that are a reduced rate from general zoo prices. Tickets must be ordered by July 7, 2010. Order forms are available from your union representative, the Local 876 office, and can be downloaded at www.ufcw876.org.

* In fairness to all members, Local 876 reserves the right to limit ticket quantities to all union sponsored events.

 **1-800-321-6406**

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