

Help Spread the Word

Open Enrollment Deadline Nov. 2, 2009

Health and welfare benefits including, medical, dental, prescription, time loss coverage and life insurance, will end on December 31, 2009 for eligible members working at the employers listed at right. In order for members and their eligible dependents to receive benefits in 2010, they must complete the open enrollment process by November 2, 2009. Members were mailed enrollment forms in late August and can also enroll on-line.

Enroll on-line at mufcwbenefits.org

Call 1-800-322-8190 With Questions

The Steward Edition Feature "Labor's Language: Glossary of Union Terms" was completed in May. Beginning in June, it was replaced with the new "Help Spread the Word" spotlight. This space will be devoted to issues deserving stewards time and attention. Local 876 urges stewards to share the information included in the "Help Spread the Word" feature with their coworkers.

Benefit Enrollment Mandatory for Members Working at:

Beaver's
Cygnet Financial
Hiller's
Hollywood
Kroger
Oleson's
Plumb's
Riverside Markets
Turri's



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Madison Heights, MI 48071

Roger Robinson
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Recorder

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UFCW 876 STEWARD EDITION

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Lieutenant Governor's Proven Track Record and Vision Wins UFCW Support

Local 876 Endorses John Cherry for Governor

Earlier this month, UFCW Local 876 endorsed Lieutenant Governor John Cherry in his bid to become Michigan's next governor.

"We are proud to put the support of the UFCW behind John Cherry, and are committed to making him our next governor," Roger Robinson, UFCW Local 876's president, said. "Not only does John Cherry have a nearly 30-year history of fighting for working families, but in several recent meetings with the Lieutenant Governor, he has shared a clear vision and solid plans for transforming Michigan's economy and leading the state to a brighter future."

Prior to becoming Michigan's Lieutenant Governor in 2002, Cherry served two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives and four terms in the State Senate. As a legislator, Cherry focused on issues of top concern to UFCW members; jobs, education, health care, and safe neighborhoods. During this time, Cherry earned a reputation for reaching across party lines, and received the respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his knowledge of the issues, hard work, and dedication to his constituents. As a

public servant, Cherry received many awards and honors, including recognition from The Detroit News as one of "Michigan's Most Effective Legislators" and acknowledgement from his peers as one of the most effective Lieutenant Governors in the nation.

"All the candidates for governor agree times are tough in Michigan, and have pledged to change the situation," Robinson said. "But John Cherry is the best and only candidate UFCW members can count on to take action to protect and advance the best interests of workers and their families as

our next governor."

In thanking the union for its support Cherry promised to continue to fight for working families.

"The next governor will need to lead this state through tough times, not a race to the bottom," Cherry said. "I promise to work hard for working families and am very grateful for your endorsement. It means a lot to me and I won't let you down."

Local 876's endorsement was made in conjunction with UFCW Local 951, putting the full support of the UFCW in Michigan behind Cherry.

Mark Your Calendars

Local 876 Annual Steward's Day Tuesday, October 13, 2009

All Local 876 Stewards have been mailed an invitation to the union's Annual Steward's Day which will be held at the Local 876 Union Hall in Madison Heights. The day will begin with registration and brunch at 8:30 a.m.

The Local will send letters to companies asking for stewards to be released to attend the event. If you need help securing time off from work to attend the conference, contact your union representative at the Local 876 office. You should also contact the union office if you failed to receive your invitation.

Upcoming Local 876 Union Events

Local 876's membership programs continue to expand with several events being conducted for members during the upcoming weeks. Union stewards are encouraged to participate in these programs and promote them among the members in their workplaces.

"Stewards can help their co-workers get the most from their union by

making sure they are aware of all the different programs offered by Local 876," Roger Robinson, Local 876 president, said. "Over the course of the year, we try to conduct a variety of programs, so there is something for everybody. Our goal is to continually increase the value of Local 876 membership, and these programs

are a key part of our efforts to meet this goal."

Individual flyers promoting each of the programs listed below are available from the Local 876 Public Relations Department. Stewards interested in distributing flyers for a specific program can request a quantity of flyers from the union at 1-800-321-6406.



Free Retirement Workshops
Tuesdays October 20 and 27
or
Wednesdays, December 2 and 9
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Local 876 Union Hall

The Local 876 Retirement Services Center will be conducting two-part workshops covering a variety of retirement issues where members will be able to:

- Learn how their pension works and decide which payment option is best for them
- Complete pension paperwork and get pension numbers
- Build a retirement income and spending plan
- Review their 401(k), K Plan, and IRA rollover options
- Learn how to protect their 401(k) and IRAs
- Ask the experts questions regarding insurance, estate planning, long term care, and other retirement issues.

**To register, or for more information, call
1-800-321-6406 extension 8645**

Greektown Casino Bus Trip

Tuesday, October 20

\$7 Local 876 Ticket Includes:

**Round-Trip Transportation from Saginaw or Flint
\$10 to Spend at the Casino**

Due to the limited seating, members will be allowed to purchase one guest ticket, additionally, tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, call 1-800-321-6406

FireKeepers Casino Bus Trip

Tuesday, October 20

\$10 Local 876 Ticket Includes:

**Round-Trip Transportation from Lansing or Jackson
\$25 to Spend at the Casino**

Due to the limited seating, members will be allowed to purchase one guest ticket, additionally, tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, call 1-800-321-6406

Trick or Treat at the Union Hall

Friday, October 30

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

\$2* Children 12 and Under

**Donated to Michigan food pantries*

Local 876's first Halloween event is a specially designed for children 12 and under who will be able to enjoy trick or treating inside the union hall and complete a variety of Halloween crafts. Adults bringing children are free and will receive a complimentary donut and glass of cider.

To accommodate the most members possible, members will be able to purchase a maximum of six admission tickets for either the 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. session or the 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. session. Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, call 1-800-321-6406



Workers Need Health Care Reform, Now

Despite the fact that union members are more likely to have employer-provided health insurance and better coverage than non-union workers, labor unions are leading the charge for health care reform. Labor is in the forefront of health reform because the plans covering their members are becoming increasingly harder to maintain and are coming at a greater cost to workers.

"For over a decade, health benefits have been the major hurdle at the bargaining table. Insurance premiums are sky rocketing, and union employers say they can't compete with non-union companies who don't provide their workers with health insurance," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said. "We've had to battle, and members have made sacrifices in other areas to maintain health insurance. If things stay the same, it is going to be a challenge to maintain current levels of health care insurance benefits without dramatically eroding wages, pension and other areas of compensation. Union members absolutely need the health care reform proposed by the president to maintain their standard of living and keep their employers competitive."

Over the past several months, a vocal minority of Americans, stirred up by insurance companies, Fox News, Rush Limbaugh and the chamber of commerce, have worked to derail the health care reform supported by a majority of Americans. Through their outlandish lies and disruption of town hall meetings, this vocal minority has put real health care reform in serious jeopardy.

"If we are going to get true health care reform, we need to not only set the record straight, but let congress

know that a majority of their constituents support the president's health reform plan," Robinson said. "This is a critical battle, and one this country cannot afford to lose."

Stewards are encouraged to help dis-

pel these outlandish rumors and myths surrounding the health care debate by learning the facts about the president's health care proposal listed below and sharing them with co-workers, friends, family, and neighbors.

Health Care Reform Facts

Fact: You Can Keep Your Own Insurance

Reform isn't about putting government in charge of your health insurance; it's about putting you in charge of your health insurance. Under the president's proposal, if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you can keep your plan.

Fact: Reform Will Stop "Rationing" — Not Increase It

Reform will not lead to a "government takeover" of health care or "rationing." On the contrary, reform will stop much of the current insurance company rationing.

Fact: Reform Will Benefit Small Business — Not Burden It

Health insurance reform will ease the burdens on small businesses and help level the playing field with big firms who pay much less for their employees' health insurance coverage.

Fact: Reform will Provide More Resources for Seniors

It's a malicious lie that reform would encourage or even require euthanasia for seniors. On the contrary, reform empowers families and provides the option to get resources and accurate information.

Fact: Medicare is Safe, and Stronger with Reform

Reform would simply eliminate waste and unnecessary subsidies to insurance companies, not cut Medicare benefits.

Fact: Reform Won't Add to the Deficit

President Obama has demanded that health insurance reform not add to the deficit, and has identified hundreds of billions of dollars in savings by eliminating unnecessary subsidies to insurance companies through Medicare.

Tell Congress all Working Families Deserve Affordable, Quality Health Care!

The UFCW International has made it easy for members to let their congressional representatives know how they stand on health care reform, using the following telephone number and internet system.

1- 888-743-4403

www.UFCWactnow.org

Make Your Voice Heard, Call or Click Today