

876 Settles Kroger Meat Coat Grievance Members Receive Over \$2 Million

Local 876 ended its five-year battle with Kroger over the meat coat dispute, securing over \$2 million for

expense. Previously, laundering was handled by Kroger through an outside agency.



Hundreds of Kroger meat members came to the union hall to pick-up their settlements of up to \$3,000 on the first day of distribution.

current and former members, who received awards of up to \$3,000.

"This victory has been a long time coming and shows how workers and their unions can achieve justice when they stand united," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said. "Meat department members displayed great patience and support. Their solidarity and diligent record keeping contributed greatly to our successful resolution of this 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, referred to as meat coats, on their own time, and

"This is an excellent settlement and the calculation used to determine the awards was fair and equitable," Robinson said. "I have heard nothing but positive comments from members about their settlements."

All legal fees associated with the case were paid from the

local's treasury, meaning 100 percent of the settlement went to members.

Current members received their



Local 876 President, Roger Robinson talks with members collecting their settlements. "This was a long, hard fight, but everyone agreed it was well worth it," Robinson said.

settlements -- a check for laundering time and a Kroger gift card for laundering expenses. Former members' settlements are being processed by Kroger.

Members Praise Meat Coat Settlement



"I am glad Local 876 pursued a contract language issue. We were the only local in the nation who recognized this. That says a lot for our union and president. Diane Gasparetto Kroger 457, Dearborn



"I am really happy that the union stuck to the issue, didn't give up, and fought so long for what was right. Eric Shaver Kroger 651, Independence Twp.



"Patience, perseverance and commitment - It's true what they say, the UFCW is a voice for working America." Joyce Averitt, Kroger 684, Macomb Twp.

The Road to a \$2 Million Victory

August 1, 2003: Kroger implements a new policy requiring meat department employees to launder their uniforms on their own time and expense.

October 2003: Local 876 files a grievance challenging Kroger's new meat coat laundering policy.

March 2004: Kroger denies the grievance, and the local's executive board votes to arbitrate the case.

March 2006: Arbitrator rules Kroger can require members to launder their uniforms, but must pay them for their laundering time and expenses. Kroger appeals the decision to federal court.

August 2007: Federal court rejects Kroger's appeal, ruling in favor of Local 876. Kroger appeals this court decision to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court.

April 1, 2008: Kroger decides to limit its financial liability by returning to its former practice of using an outside agency to launder the uniforms.

June 2008: The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court rules in favor of Local 876, rejecting Kroger's appeal.

December 2008: Instead of exercising its last appeal option, Kroger works with Local 876 to reach a fair settlement as instructed by the arbitrator.

2 Special Member/Retiree Discount on Union Hall Rental

3 Take Part in Lobby Day 2009 President's Message

4 Earn a \$50 Savings Bond Free Workshop Helps Members Ease Financial Concerns

5 Employee Free Choice Facts

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7 Young Workers Internship Rock 'n Bowl

8 Member Appreciation Day at the Detroit Zoo

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Renting Union Hall

Perfect for weddings and other family celebrations, as well as trade shows and meetings, your union hall can accommodate both large and small groups.

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UFCW 876
a VOICE for working America

Advocate

Official quarterly publication of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876

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UFCW Local 876
876 Horace Brown Dr.
Madison Heights, MI 48071
1-800-321-6406
www.ufcw876.org

Michigan Health & Welfare Funds
1-800-322-8190
www.miufcwbenefits.com

UFCW National Industry Pension Fund and Sausage Makers Pension
1-800-531-2385

Pre-Paid Legal Plan
1-800-826-0101

Social Security
1-800-772-1213

Retirement Services Center
1-800-321-6406 ext. 8645

Barbers and Cosmetologists Guild of Michigan
1-877-585-9672
www.miguild.org

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Upcoming Local 876 Membership Meetings

Local 876 Membership Meetings are open to all Local 876 members. At these meetings, union representatives review the actions of the Local 876 Executive Board, present union updates, and address members' questions. Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Madison Heights

UFCW Local 876 Union Hall
876 Horace Brown Drive
Tuesday, June 2

Ann Arbor

Holiday Inn, North Campus
3600 Plymouth
Monday, April 13

For a complete list of 2009 Membership Meetings go to www.ufcw876.org or call the Local 876 office.

Keep Your Union Records Updated: Change Notification

Keeping your union records up-to-date ensures no interruptions in communication and accurate servicing. Please put a check mark next to the box(es) indicating change(s) you are submitting, and fill this form out completely. No changes will be processed without the last four digits of your social security number. Return completed cards to: UFCW 876; 876 Horace Brown Dr.; Madison Heights; MI 48071. Notify the Michigan UFCW Unions & Employers Health & Welfare Fund with changes at 1-800-322-8190.

WITHDRAWAL CARD REQUEST

Complete if you leave the industry, or are no longer employed for any reason. You must be off one calendar month to be eligible for a withdrawal card.

NAME, ADDRESS or PHONE CHANGE

For name changes, include previous and current name. For all other changes, include only current information. You may be contacted by phone if further information is required.

Name: _____ Last 4 digits of social security #: _____

Name change to: _____ Effective date of change: _____

Mailing address: _____ City: _____

Apt. #: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Employer: _____ Unit #: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Cell phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Withdrawal card request - Last day worked: _____ Last location worked: _____

Reason you will be off the job: _____

Update Your Address to Receive 2009 Union Election Materials

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Union Members Earn 28% More than their Non-Union Counterparts

Union membership helps raise workers' pay. Union workers earn 28 percent more than non-union workers, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 2008, the median weekly earnings for full-time wage and salary workers who belonged to a union was \$886, compared with \$691 for their non-union counterparts.

Workers's 2008 Median Weekly Earnings



Join the Delegation at UFCW Lobby Day 2009



Lobby Day 2007 participants were joined by Governor Granholm.

Local 876 and Local 951 members will have the unique opportunity to directly witness and participate in the state's legislative process during UFCW Michigan's Lobby Day 2009.

On June 2, UFCW members from across Michigan will descend on the state capitol for a day of political education, action and fun.

"As Americans, we all have the right to sit in on the legislature and speak with our elected officials to request specific action, yet very few individuals exercise this right," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said. "During Lobby Day, members will have the chance to exercise their right, and obtain a behind-the-scenes look at our political process that few people experience."

Following a briefing on current legislative issues, participants will head to the capitol halls. While the legislature is in session, members will listen to the proceedings, notify their representatives of their presence, and request a conversation with them.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with paid lobbyists, and representatives come out into the hall for a one-on-one conversation with members," Robinson said. "In the past, representatives were eager to meet their constituents and hear what members had to say."

Legislators have been invited to join members at a union hosted luncheon where participants will be able to spend some time with their representatives in an informal setting.

Following lunch, members will break into small groups to call on their representatives and discuss issues on UFCW Michigan's political agenda.

"Now, more than ever, elected officials need to hear from working families as they take action to navigate Michigan through these difficult times," Robinson said. "With many important issues coming before them, this is a perfect time to be calling on our elected officials to do the right thing for workers and their families."

Round-trip bus transportation from the Local 876 Union Hall, and other locations across the state is available to Lobby Day participants, however, space is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Members may also provide their own transportation and meet the delegation at the state capitol. Call 1-800-321-6406 ext. 8644 for more information or to make reservations.

June 2
Lansing, MI

Note New Date

Featuring

- Behind the scenes look at the legislative process.
- Issue briefing.
- Opportunity to lobby your elected officials.
- Legislative luncheon.
- Transportation available from Local 876 union hall.
- Call 1-800-321-6406 ext. 8644 to reserve your place or for more information.

President's Message

Thank You Kroger Meat Members

As some of you know, I have been involved in the labor movement for over 40 years. It has been an incredible journey in which I have worn many hats, from a rank-and-file member to union steward and bargaining committee member, to union representative and executive board member, to trustee and meat director, to recorder, secretary-treasurer and president.



Roger Robinson

During my time as a union activist, on several occasions, I have experienced the thrill of victory, along with the agony of defeat. When I look back on the good times, I see a variety of successes ranging from the joy and relief on the face of terminated co-worker I helped get reinstated as a steward, to the exhilarated expressions of my bargaining committee after we have negotiated an industry-leading contract.

However, my fondest memory of my time as your president came last month when hundreds of members came to the union hall to collect their Kroger meat coat arbitration settlements. On that day, the solidarity represented by the members who filled your union hall stood as a shining reminder of the the value of union membership and the accomplishments workers can achieve when they stand united.

Everyday, non-union employers make unfair management decisions (many much worse than requiring workers to launder their uniforms on their own time and at their own expense) and workers are powerless to challenge them. By standing up and saying "no" to Kroger, the meat department members reminded us all why the ability to challenge a management decision using the grievance procedure is considered to be one of the greatest advantages of a union contract.

As they stood united for over five years, withstanding taunts from naysayers who said their case was silly, and the company's attempt to delay justice through the appeal process, these members also reminded us why solidarity is so often the difference between victory and defeat.

On behalf of union activists everywhere, I would like to publically thank the current and former meat department members who made this victory possible and the Local 876 executive board members who had the courage to vote the case to arbitration.

2009 UFCW Michigan Membership Golf Outings

Monday, August 17
Beech Hollow Golf Course
Freeland, MI
\$50

Wednesday, September 30
Maple Lane Golf Club
Sterling Heights
\$50

Team captain and main contact for the _____ outing.

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Employer and unit number: _____

Other golfers: _____

Send your registration form and fees to: UFCW Local 876, 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights, MI 48071. Make checks and money orders payable to "Local 876 Membership Golf"

Outings begin with registration and continental breakfast at 8 a.m. and shotgun starts at 9 a.m. and include 18 holes of golf with cart, contests, lunch, and raffles.

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Union Wage Advantage Even Greater for Minorities and Women

Union membership narrows the income gap that disadvantages minorities and women. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the union wage benefit was up to 43 percent greater for this group of workers in 2008.

Workers' 2008 Median Weekly Earnings

Women	African Americans	Latinos
Union \$809	Union \$720	Union \$733
Non-Union \$615	Non-Union \$564	Non-Union \$512

Local Offers Members a \$50 Savings Bond for Each Successful Referral to Union's Beauty Trades Guild

Local 876 will award a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond to members for each beauty trades professional they recruit who becomes a member of Local 876's Barbers and Cosmetologists Guild of Michigan (BCGM).

The BCGM offers its members a variety of benefits typically unavailable to workers in the beauty trades including:

- Low Cost Medical, Dental and Vision Plans
- 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan
- Access to Group Short Term Disability/Time Loss Pay
- A Free \$10,000 Life Insurance Benefit
- Financial and Retirement Counseling
- Job Board and Referral Network

Membership in the BCGM is open to barbers, cosmetologists, electrologists, nail technicians, estheticians, natural hair culturalists, massage therapists, students in these fields and shop owners.

"Either personally or professionally, most of us know someone who could benefit from Guild membership," Roger Robinson, Local 876's president, said. "By rewarding members who refer a new Guild member, it's a win-win."

Additional information, including pamphlets to distribute to potential BCGM members, are available from the Guild at 1-877-585-9672, and on-line at www.miguild.org.

To refer a new BCGM member, call the Guild at 1-877-585-9672 with the name, and as much contact information as possible (including workplace) of the individual you want to have a Guild representative contact. Be sure to leave your name and telephone number (without these details the Local will be unable to issue a Bond).

Once a referral signs a BCGM membership application, Local 876 will issue a U.S. Savings Bond to the member who made the referral.

STRESSED

About Your Finances?



The UFCW Local 876 Retirement Services Center will host workshops to help members plan for retirement in light of the current financial crisis. Topics to be covered include; protecting your 401(k) and IRA, understanding and applying for your pension, and building a retirement income and spending plan.

To register, call the UFCW Local 876 Retirement Services Center at 1-800-321-6406, ext. 8645 and leave your name, address, telephone number, employer and unit number.

Members unable to attend a workshop can also contact the Retirement Services Center at this number to arrange an individual appointment.



CONCERNED

About Retirement?

ATTEND A FREE LOCAL 876 WORKSHOP

Wednesday, April 29
401(k)/Financial Review
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17 and 24
Retirement Planning
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Local 876 Union Hall
876 Horace Brown Dr.
Madison Heights

For Details or to Register Call
1-800-321-6406 ext. 8645

Employee Free Choice Act: Fact vs. Fiction

Fact: Current union members will benefit from passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Every time Local 876 and other unions go to the bargaining table, the company compares the current union contract to the non-union competition and tries to drag down union standards. It doesn't have to be this way. With more workers on labor's side of the table, unions can strengthen their contracts and raise working conditions for everyone. The Employee Free Choice Act will increase the number of union members in the U.S. by providing workers with a simple, one-stop process to freely choose union representation.

Fact: Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act will help turnaround America's troubled economy.

Over 40 top economists have come out in strong support of Employee Free Choice as means of rebuilding the nation's economy. A portion of the full-page ad they recently took out in the Wall Street Journal read: "A rising tide lifts all boats only when labor and management bargain on relatively equal terms. In recent decades, most bargaining power has resided with management. The current recession will further weaken the ability of workers to bargain individually. More than ever, workers will need to act together."

The Employee Free Choice Act is not a panacea, but it would restore some balance to our labor markets. As economists, we believe this is a critically important step in rebuilding our economy and strengthening our democracy by enhancing the voice of working people in the workplace."

Fact: A top goal of big business special interest groups is to defeat Employee Free Choice so corporations and CEOs can keep all the power in the workplace and profits to themselves.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation's most powerful business lobbying organization, has gone on record with the New York Times saying "We've targeted [The Employee Free Choice Act] as our number one or two priority to defeat."

To stop Employee Free Choice, business special interest groups, including the Center for Union Facts, and large corporations have launched a massive \$200 million misinformation campaign to derail the legislation.

Use the Facts to Refute the Fiction About the Employee Free Choice

Fiction: The "legislation would end the rights of employees to secret ballot elections."— Center for Union Facts

Fact: The Employee Free Choice Act does not abolish elections.

Under the proposed legislation, workers get to choose the union formation process—elections or majority sign-up. What the Employee Free Choice Act does prevent is an employer from manipulating the flawed system to influence an election outcome.

A Cornell University study of hundreds of private sector employers faced with employees engaged in union organizing campaigns found:

- 92 percent forced employees to attend closed-door meetings to hear anti-union propaganda;
- 80 percent required supervisors to attend training sessions on attacking unions;
- 78 percent required supervisors deliver anti-union messages to workers;
- 75 percent hired outside consultants to run anti-union campaigns, often based on mass psychology and distorting the law;
- 50 percent threaten to shut down partially or totally if employees unionized;
- 25 percent illegally fired workers;
- Even after workers successfully form a union, in one-third of the instances, employers do not negotiate a contract.

Fiction: NLRB elections are "the only way to guarantee worker protection from coercion and intimidation."— Coalition for a Democratic Workplace

Fact: Workers are more susceptible to coercion in NLRB elections than majority sign-up.

Workers in NLRB elections are twice as likely (46 percent vs. 23 percent) as those in majority sign-up campaigns, to report management coerced them to oppose the union. Further, less than one in 20 workers (4.6 percent) who signed a card with a union organizer reported the organizer made them feel pressured to sign the card.

Fiction: "Majority sign-up is a 'new approach' to forming unions."— Center for Union Facts

Fact: Majority sign-up is a common way to form unions, and has been used since at least 1935.

Even major corporations like AT&T and Harley Davidson now allow their workers to join unions using majority sign-up. The Employee Free Choice Act is necessary today because employers have

become increasingly bold in violating employee's rights and the law under the NLRB election process. When that process was developed, employers did not routinely engage in the massive legal and illegal violation of workers' rights that is common today.

Fiction: "Legal recognition of a union has traditionally been achieved through secret ballot elections...just like how a person votes for a senator or congressman."— Center for Union Facts

Fact: Current union elections involving secret ballots bear no resemblance to political elections.

In union elections, workers' free speech rights are squelched, employers practice various forms of economic coercion, and labor law allows employers to indefinitely delay recognition through drawn-out appeals. The following chart was designed by a University of Oregon political scientist illustrating the conclusion of his study which found the secret ballot election process has little in common with standards used to elect U.S. public officials.

Union Secret Ballot Elections Not the Same as U.S. Elections

Opponents of Employee Free Choice are trying to convince the public the current process used to elect union representation is the same one used to elect U.S. public officials, and therefore should not be changed. The chart below shows how the two processes have nothing in common beyond the use of secret ballots.

Democratic Election Standard	U.S. Public Office Elections	Union Secret Ballot Elections
Equal Access to the Media & Voters	YES	NO
Freedom of Speech	YES	NO
Voters Free of Coercion	YES	NO
Campaign Finance Regulation	YES	NO
Timely Implementation of the Vote	YES	NO
Secret Ballot	YES	YES

Employee Free Choice Act Legislative Summary

The Employee Free Choice Act would bring fairness to the system used by workers to choose union representation by requiring the following components.

- 1. Union Certification Determined on the Basis of Signed Authorization Cards.** The bill requires certification of a union as the workers' bargaining representative if a majority of employees in the unit signed authorization cards designating the union as their bargaining representative.
- 2. First Contract Mediation and Arbitration.** Under the bill, if an employer and a union engaged in bargaining for their first contract are unable to reach agreement within 90 days, either party may request mediation. If mediation is unable to bring the parties to agreement after 30 days of mediation, the dispute will be referred to binding arbitration.
- 3. Stronger Penalties for Company Violations While Employees Organizing or Bargaining a First Contract.** The bill requires federal court injunctions, triple back pay and civil fines of up to \$20,000 per violation, for violations of the National Labor Relations Act committed by employers against employees during any time when employees are attempting to organize a union or negotiate a first contract with the employer.

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Incomes Are Less in States Where Workers Don't Have Union Rights

In states with laws restricting workers' rights to form strong unions, the average pay for all workers is lower. *Work for Less* laws that limit workers' rights to collectively bargain contracts (including wages and benefits) are a bad deal for all workers. In 2004, average pay in "work for less" states was 14.4 percent lower than in states where workers have the freedom to form strong unions.

Average Annual Pay, 2004			
Work for Less States \$33,140			
Right to Earn More States \$38,724			
\$0	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000

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Union Workers More Likely to Have Short-Term Disability, Vacation

After wages, health insurance and pension, workers consistently rank short-term disability and paid vacation as the most important employer-provided benefits. According to government statistics, workers who are represented by a union are better off in both of these categories. Union members are almost twice as likely to have short-term disability coverage, which provides workers with pay when they are unable to work due to a medical condition, in addition to receiving more paid vacation.

Workers with Short-Term Disability		Annual Paid Vacation	
62%	35%	15 Days	11.75 Days
Union	Non-Union	Union	Non-Union

Congratulations Recent 876 Retirees

A&P/FARMER JACK

Kirk Allward
 Vivian Almond
 Edmon Baines, Jr.
 Sherry Barton
 Jeffrey Belanger
 Robert Bielski
 Dennis Boussie
 Sharon Boyle
 Stephen Braski
 Leona Brodie
 Judy Brooks
 Thomas Burns
 Gary Carnovsky
 Mary Caruso
 Rosetta Coleman
 John Conrad
 Bonnie Cullity
 Ann Cunningham
 Michael Curcuru
 Carolyn Desanto
 Lynn Diponio
 Ray Dodge
 Donald Dubry
 Patricia Duvall
 Casey Evans
 Gary Fedosky
 Michael Ferre
 Thomas Fillion
 Cheryl Gehringer
 Dennis Gregory
 Linda Gresock
 Daniel Jenkins
 Nadine Jenkins
 David Harwick
 Mary Kincaide
 Akbar Kein
 Richard Kessler
 Mary Kunst
 Raymond Kurtzhals
 Barbara Lacko
 Patricia Langton
 John Lenger
 Leslie Lockrey
 Stephen Lucas
 Lee Malone
 Jerome Martin
 Mary Matthaei
 Gerald McCarthy
 Dianne McEaddy
 George Medich
 Lucille Miljan
 Rosemary Montagne
 Bobby Moore
 Joan Nowicki
 Michael Novak

Joyce Ohmer
 Patricia Orourke
 John Palimino
 Clifford Pittman
 Dorothy Plumley
 Chester Prusinowski
 Lucille Reith
 Donale Rhone
 Gary Riley
 Nancy Sabatini
 Linda Selva
 Naomi Shepherd
 Doris Showerman
 Candace Smith
 Mary Smith
 Joyce Stambaugh
 Sharon Stephenson
 Jo Stovall
 Cheryl Suds
 Bernice Tierney
 Jannette Vannostrand
 Valerie Walker
 Joan Washington
 Howard Wheeler
 Jeffrey White
 Edward Wildeman
 Rosemarie Wolford
 Douglas Woolpert

CHATHAM

James Bianculli

Inge Burdt

GIANT

Wayne Buck
 Timothy Moe

HAMADY

Jarvis McEmber
 Joanne Vath

KROGER

Lance Agar
 Dolores Bellomo
 John Brandt
 Ann Calvin
 Linda Cline
 Deanna Coppoc
 Judy Daffron
 Stacy Frisch
 Janie Fult
 Roxy Hamilton
 Sara Hlavin
 Joyce Haudek
 Joyce Horn
 Joanne Jean
 Gerald Keeley
 Paul Leedy
 Laverne Ley
 Maximillian Marcu
 Thomas Moore
 Marion Neely
 Lynda Orleans

Elizabeth Orlowski
 Roseann Passeno
 Richard Peeler
 Marilyn Petrill
 Douglas Phipps
 Carolyn Sakowski
 Geraldine Saleh
 Marie Saukko
 Pauline Scharich
 Richard Schwab
 Eugene Scruggs
 Geoffrey Simpson
 Carolyn Smith
 Delores Smith
 Lulu Terrell
 June Trudell
 Majorie Trzcinski
 Charlene Venaska
 Patricia Vermeesch
 Dorothy Walkowski
 Nita White
 Donald Williams
 Kathleen Yoder
 Larry Zauha

SHOPPING CENTER

Edward Moler
 Dottie Ziegler

OTHER

Larry Bartlett

Donald Bochenek
 Linda Bowling
 Steve Brust
 John Buffa
 Michael Canevit
 Billy Casdy
 Charleen Champagne
 Dorothy Childeress
 Wesley Cobb
 Linda Colling
 Francis Conell
 Mary Corrigan
 Richard Cregeur
 Edward Dalsasso
 Beverly Dent
 Charles Derry
 Beverly Dixon
 Mary Dombecki
 Roger Driesenga
 Frances Eldridge
 Patty Firu
 Carole Floreno
 James Green
 Ronald Gustafson
 Sandra Hein
 William Holmes
 Walter Hood
 Douglas Howlett
 Janice Jones
 Annie Joyner
 Stephen Kennedy

Diane Keith
 Robert Kress
 John Krimm
 Susan Kuhlman
 Benjamin Labita
 Norma Lori
 Gary Marshall
 David McCleary
 Joseph Mihalick
 Donald Miller
 Danny Mitchell
 Michael Orosz
 Brent Pawlak
 Hazel Peters
 David Phillips
 Betty Potes
 Carolyn Rentz
 Martha Ross
 Janet Rozowski
 Rhonda Sass
 Dianne Schultz
 Joyce Seaton-Lotter
 Verna Seitz
 Douglas Snell
 Sandra Somerville
 Donald Soulard
 Christina Stover
 Steven Thuss
 Dale Trombly
 Gary Ward
 Bernard Waterman

Now More than Ever, Support U.S. Made Products

Hi everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. With all of the turmoil this past year has brought, sometimes, it's hard to think positive, isn't it?

We sure have had some hard times lately, but let's hope things are going to turn around now. I think our new president is trying to get things going, so let's keep the faith now that he is in office. President Obama is asking all of us to help him, and we have to, if we want things to get better.

I recently read an article on-line that I want to share with you. The writer said she was at the supermarket to pick up 60 watt light bulbs and Bounce fabric sheets. When she found the bulb aisle and picked up the G.E. bulbs, she saw they were "Made in Mexico." The "Everyday Brand" next to the G.E. brand was much cheaper and made in the good old U.S.A., in Cleveland, Ohio.

When she went to the next aisle, the writer learned Bounce fabric sheets are not only made in Canada, but they are much more expensive than the "Everyday Brand" which is made in U.S.A. When doing laundry, the writer found the "Everyday Brand" performed the same as Bounce, which she had been using for years.

I challenge all of us to not only look at labels, but take it one step further and talk to the manager, or whoever is in charge, and let them know why you are choosing American brands -- to save American jobs.

As many of you know, I am lucky enough to spend time in Florida during the winter with my daughter and son-in-law. Florida is experiencing a major problem with drywall coming in from China. It is suspected the drywall has many problems, including being responsible for the erosion and failure of metal components inside the drywall, as well as foul odors. The Sarasota health department has been investigating at least three shipments from China that came into the port-of-Tampa between 2004 and 2006. Some residents have been forced to move from their "dream homes" due to the potential health hazards posed by the suspect drywall.

I'd say that as Americans we have to start paying attention to things around us and support the use of U.S. products only.

Until next time.

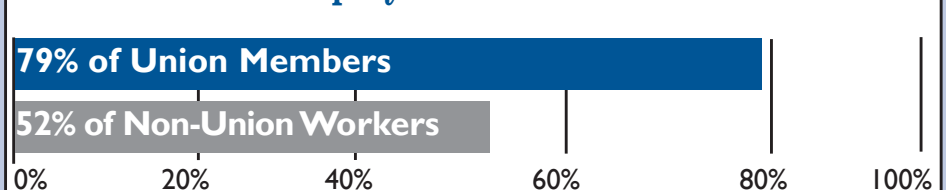
Joyce Corbeil, UFCW Retirees Club Secretary

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Union Workers are More Likely to Have Health Insurance Coverage

Union workers are more likely than their non-union counterparts to receive health insurance from their employer, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. In March 2008, 79 percent of union workers in the private sector had jobs with employer-provided health insurance, compared with only 52 percent of non-union workers.

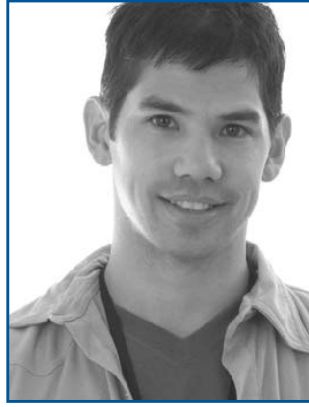
Workers With Employer-Provided Health Insurance



Local 876 Young Workers Internship Program



For Local 876 Members Ages 17-25



June 1
to
July 10

Developing Future Activists for Stronger Unions & Communities

As part of its Young Workers program, Local 876 has developed a Young Workers Internship in an effort to better engage and involve younger members in their local union and the labor community.

The six-week paid internship will include education/training components along with hands-on experience in most every aspect of the organization. In addition to working with Local 876 staff, interns may also participate in community development and political action projects involving canvassing, phone banking, participation at rallies, and other activities aimed at securing social justice in the workplace and communities, helping to grow the labor movement.

Qualifications

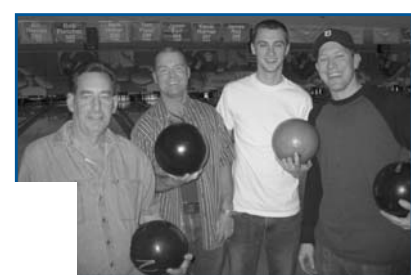
- Members must be between the ages of 17 and 25.
- Participants should be people-oriented, energetic, flexible, and able to work long hours on a sometimes unpredictable schedule.
- Participants need their own reliable transportation and a valid driver's license. Most days, interns will report to the union office or meet union staff at a location within the local's jurisdiction.
- Participants must be available for the full length of the internship.

Application Process

Interested members should submit their name, employer and unit number, and telephone number along with a listing of all relevant work, volunteer, and community involvement, a brief statement as to why you want to be an intern, and a letter of recommendation from a non-relative to: UFCW Local 876 Young Workers Internship Program, 876 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Heights, MI 48071. Requested materials must be received by 4:30 p.m. on May 8, 2009.

Upon review of all applications, several candidates will be chosen to advance to the personal interview portion of the selection process.
Questions regarding the internship or application should be directed to UFCW Local 876 at 1-800-321-6406 ext 8629.

Local 876 Young Workers Rock 'n Bowl

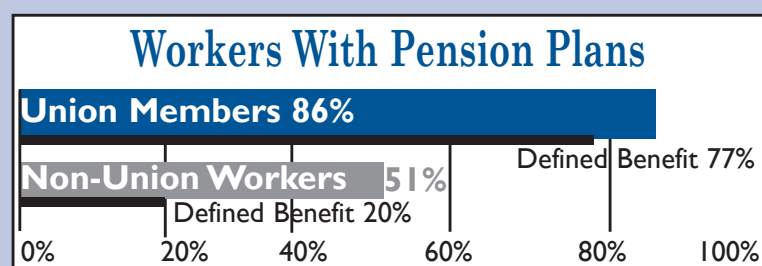


It was another evening of food, fun, and friends at the latest Local 876 Young Workers Committee event -- Rock 'n Bowl -- held at Novi Lanes in March. The Young Workers invited all Local 876 members, their family and friends to join them for a low-cost night out. To join the Local 876 Young Workers Committee, or to find out about the next Young Worker event, call UFCW Local 876 at 1-800-321-6406 ext. 8607.

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Greater, More Valuable Pension Benefits Enjoyed by Union Members

Union workers are not only more likely than non-union employees to have retirement benefits, they are most likely to participate in the highly valued defined-benefit pension plans, as opposed to defined-contribution plans. Defined-benefit plans are federally insured and provide a guaranteed monthly pension amount, making them better than defined-contribution plans, in which the benefit amount depends on investment performance.



You're Invited!



Local 876 Member Appreciation Day at the Detroit Zoo

Tuesday, June 23 - 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Discounted Ticket Package Special - \$6

Children Under Two are Free - Family, Friends Welcome

The Super Value UFCW Ticket Includes:
Zoo Admission • Parking Pass • Lunch Voucher
Family Activities • Raffles & Games • UFCW Member Gift

During these challenging economic times, Local 876 is offering members the opportunity to enjoy a fun and affordable time with their family and friends. Local 876 hopes members take advantage of the significant savings and additional services offered by your union during this event. For more information, call 1-800-321-6406. Use the form below to order your tickets. **Registration Deadline is June 9, 2009.**

UFCW 876 Member Appreciation Day at the Detroit Zoo Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Employer and Unit Number _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____@_____

Number of Adult Tickets(13-61) _____ Number of Children Tickets(2-12) _____ Number of Senior Tickets(62 & over) _____

Number of UFCW Discounted Tickets _____ x \$6 = \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed.

Make checks payable to UFCW Local 876 and mail to: UFCW 876 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Heights, MI 48071. Tickets and parking passes will be mailed to the address listed above. Other materials will be distributed at the zoo.

Office Use Only: Total Money sent _____ Date received _____ Materials Mailed _____



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