

UFCW 951 BULLETIN

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United Food and Commercial Workers Union 951

The *UFCW 951 Bulletin* is a regular publication of UFCW 951 designed to give members a quick update of union news and events. It is distributed at the workplace by union representatives and is available online at www.ufcw951.org. To receive email copies of the *Bulletin* during the first week of publication, call the UFCW 951 Communications Department at 1.800.999.0951.

Breaks are a Contractual Right – Not a Legal Right

There is no state or federal law requiring employers to give workers age 18 and over a break. The reason all UFCW 951 members receive breaks is because of their union contract. When members skip their breaks, they are putting this contractual right in jeopardy.

“Since breaks are a collective bargaining topic, not a legal requirement, they are up for negotiation every time a new contract is bargained,” John Cakmakci, UFCW 951 president, said. “Employers keep track of skipped breaks to support their contract proposal to cut or eliminate breaks. Their position is that workers must not really need breaks since they aren’t taking them.”

Protecting their contractual rights is one reason UFCW 951 urges members to take their breaks. When members skip breaks, they are also giving the company money, taking hours away from their coworkers and making it appear their workplace is fully staffed.

“When managers refuse to give members their breaks, they are violating the contract, and a grievance should be filed,” Cakmakci said. “UFCW 951 recently settled a grievance for 40 members at one store who were collectively denied 418 breaks. They shared a \$950 settlement.”

To file a grievance for a denied break, contact your union steward.

Local 951 Members Win International ABC Drawing

UFCW 951 member Patricia Twining from Meijer #180 was randomly selected by the UFCW International to receive a \$250 gift card for participating in the Active Ballot Club. Stephanie Meerman from Meijer #71 also won a \$250 gift card for signing Patricia up for ABC. To participate in the Active Ballot Club, contact your union steward or representative at 1.800.999.0951.



(Over)

Congratulations to the UFCW 951 Eastern Region ABC Winners!

The first quarter winners for the UFCW 951 Active Ballot Club Drawings have been announced! Each quarter, all UFCW 951 members who donate at least \$1 a week to the Active Ballot Club (ABC) are entered into a drawing to win one of 120 \$25 gift cards. Forty winners from each region are randomly selected. The winners for the Eastern Region are listed below.



John McMahan
Meijer #881

Jon Abner, Meijer #883	Justin Grihorash, Meijer #227	Gregory Simota, Meijer #185
Carol Aerson, Meijer #67	Hope Hammond, Meijer #27	Holly Siwka, Meijer #227
Denise Alberts, Meijer #227	Roy Hofer, Meijer #242	Brian Sorenson, Meijer #35
Linda Bailey, Meijer #55	Edward Horridge, Meijer #46	Virginia Sweet, Meijer #227
Christopher Barnett, Meijer #32	James Hynes, Meijer #63	Horacestine Thompson, Meijer #188
Christopher Burrell, Meijer #243	Otis Krimminger, Meijer #243	Brandon Trouser, Meijer #53
Latavia Clark, Meijer #35	Shirley Lacroix, Meijer #57	Kamonu Tucker-Williams, Meijer #268
Jennifer Colf, Meijer #67	John McMahan, Meijer #881	Donna Vanhouten, Meijer #185
Cameron Convery, Meijer #883	Linda Michie, Meijer #55	Joseph Verbouw, Meijer #245
Frank Crawford, Meijer #222	Naomi Moore, Meijer #260	Laurann Webb, Meijer #227
Ronald Desparois, Meijer #582	Cordon Murphy, Meijer #222	Christopher Wensley, Meijer #72
Sherry Dunbar, Meijer #242	Regina Rickett, Meijer #268	Kelvin Wheeler, Meijer #231
Jakob Egan, Meijer #70	Michael Rooksberry, Meijer #105	
Jessica Ferris, Meijer #54	Cheryl Sammut, Meijer #227	

ABC provides members with protection against anti-union politicians by supporting pro-worker candidates: Democrats, Republicans and Independents. Contributions to ABC help workers level the political playing field by activating and amplifying their political voice. For more information about this and other ABC contests, contact your union representative.

Collective Bargaining Update

Harding’s #356 – In April, members at Harding’s #356 overwhelmingly ratified a new contract. The union was able to negotiate an increase in pension contributions and pay raises for all employees, and limit healthcare cost increases with a commitment from the company to review the cost every year. A special thanks goes to Chris Roush and Candice Roow for their assistance with the negotiation and ratification of the new contract.

Valley City Linen – UFCW 951 and the company have reached tentative agreement on much of the contract language. Negotiations continue on a few key areas including wages.

JBS – UFCW 951 and JBS have agreed to begin contract negotiations early because an opportunity exists for the union to secure additional wage increases for all current JBS members, along with greatly improved health benefits.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ...



John Cakmakci, President
Dave Way, Secretary-Treasurer
Karin Hopman, Recorder

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