

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 7 p.m.

Dial in Number: (408) 650-3123

Access Code: 678-838-077

Introduction

Good evening! This is UFCW 951 President John Cakmakci. Welcome to the second quarterly membership meeting of 2023.

During this call, we ask that you mute yourself by using *6 and *6 again to un-mute yourself.

At the end of the business portion of the call, there will be a Q and A session.

To ask a question during the Q and A, press *6 and this will put you in the queue.

The UFCW 951 Executive Board met and reviewed the grievance appeals, finances and operations of the local:

Finance

- A)** The finance committee reviewed and approved the monthly expense reports of officers and staff; American Express bills and Visa bills from the last quarter.
- B)** The local's finance department filed the LM2 report.
- C)** Coordination for the completion of the business office renovation is progressing on schedule with move in likely at the end of summer.

Contract Administration

A) Grievances

- The Local currently has 307 pending grievances. In 2023 so far, 317 grievances have been settled, discontinued or withdrawn.

B) Pending Arbitrations

- We have no pending arbitrations.

C) Settled Arbitrations

- We have no settled arbitrations.

Collective Bargaining

A) Meijer

- Approximately 150 workers at each of the two new grocery format stores authorized union representation with successful card checks completed at the end of January.
- A pilot program to fix issues with the Meijer drivers' scheduling system was implemented in February.

B) Kroger

- The local continues to address any problems with incorrect pay or deductions, with many of the issues already corrected.

C) Heritage Provisioning

- The contract for the Stanton store has been signed and will be distributed to members at the unit.

- The Battle Creek retail unit has been sold to a non-union operator and has since been closed for renovation and hiring.

Politics

A) Restoring Workers' Freedom by Repealing Right to Work

- On March 24, the governor signed the bill to repeal right to work in Michigan, after both the house and the senate voted to pass the measure earlier in the month.
- The bill will take effect 90 days after the last gavel of session by the legislature, which is predicted to be late March/early April of 2024.
- UFCW 951 members, along with Detroit local UFCW 876 and other union activists, were at the capitol building the day the senate passed their version of the bill, taking part in the local's first Lobby Day in 12 years.
- Many thanks to members who showed up to speak with their legislators in support of the repeal, including executive board members and stewards.
- We expect the opposition to take legal action against the new law or seek an initiative to reinstate right to work.
- For now, I'm excited about the opportunity to strengthen Michigan's labor laws to better protect workers' safety and empower workers to advocate for better wages and working conditions through collective bargaining without freeloaders reaping the same benefits as dues-paying members.

B) State Issues

- Now that repealing right to work and the state pension tax has been accomplished, restoring unemployment and fixing workers' compensation has become a top priority.
- The Democratic National Party has tentatively established Michigan's order for presidential primaries as February 27.

C) Minimum Wage

- The appeals court has upheld the minimum wage and rejected the previous appeal, so there will be no changes to the minimum wage in 2023 for now.
- The decision is expected to be appealed to the Supreme Court for consideration.

D) American Rescue Plan (ARP) COVID-19 Funds

- I have joined UFCW 876 and the UFCW International to pen a joint letter to the leaders and appropriation chairs in a last chance attempt to emphasize the need for these funds to be released to essential workers before they are used or returned to the federal government.
- The Federal money is still in the state bank but must be approved by the legislature in budget form to initiate it being used for this reason.

Organizing

Local 951 is looking to develop an organizing department.

Communications, Membership Services and Education

A) Publications & Print

- The department developed handbills and postings to share important membership information, including quarterly meeting postings, Membership Matters Giveaway winner postings, time-sensitive contract language handbills, updated scholarship forms to include the newest benefit – the Dave Way Student Athlete Scholarship, and produced materials in four languages to assist in JBS members applying for essential worker relief funds.
- The department also developed contest and event order forms, postings and handbills for the 2023 March Madness Contest, Detroit Tigers game, and Chicago bus trip.

B) Social Media & Texting

- During the first quarter of 2023, the department used social media to communicate important information to members. Our Facebook “Likes” continue to rise, currently at 3,915. The local’s Twitter followers increased to a total of 750 and Instagram increased to 980 followers.
- The department sent a variety of text messages during the last quarter informing members about their contract ratification results, successful card checks and inviting members to join us at a Red Wings or Tigers event.

C) Member Services & Events

- **UFCW 95 I Foundation:** The department coordinated the awarding of the first quarter Child Care, Family Enrichment and Education

Scholarships, along with the Utility, Medical, Housing and Transportation Reimbursements.

- The annual awarding of \$2,000 College Scholarships was coordinated by the department. Winners have been chosen and notified.

- **Membership Matters Give-a-Way**
 - The department awarded the Membership Matters Giveaway prizes for January, February and March.
 - The 2023 Membership Matters Giveaway is open for entries on our website or by paper applications available in units.

- **Member Discount Update**
 - We had one member purchase a retired fleet vehicle from the local.
 - Blake Schneider, a 19-year-old member from Meijer #248 in Greenville, had the winning bid.
 - He was very excited since this was his first car.
 - There are currently no fleet vehicles available, but members can keep an eye on our website under the Discounts for the most up-to-date information.

- **Upcoming Events**
 - Tickets to the Toledo Zoo on July 19 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. are available for members to purchase for \$30 per person. The discounted ticket includes access to the zoo, aquarium, parking and all-you-can-eat picnic lunch.
 - The bus trip to Chicago is on June 20. Members must buy tickets before May 24 (tickets could sell out sooner).
 - Planning is under way for Michigan's Adventure – save the date for the August 3 event!

- **More information for each event, including order deadlines, bus routes, discounted ticket prices and online ticketing via Paypal can be found on the Events tab of our website.**
- **Community Services Program:** During the first quarter of 2023, 8 members contacted the community services program for assistance. All but one received some type of assistance or a referral. Three members were referred to one or more community organizations; two were referred to government programs and seven were referred to UFCW 951 programs.

D) Future Communications – Be in the Know!

- Be sure to call the union office or speak with your representative to update your email address or phone number on file to receive the most up-to-date information about bargaining, your union contract and benefits via text and email.
- “Like” the UFCW 951 Facebook page and to follow us on Instagram and Twitter to stay up to date with the latest union news, photos, and events

Conclusion

This concludes the business portion of the meeting; I’d now like to open the floor to your questions and comments.

*To ask a question, press *6, this will put you in the queue to ask a question.*