

# DESERT EDGE

## UFCW LOCAL 1167

a VOICE for working America

Official Publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers Union

July 2012

### Stockholders turn on Walmart

**A**s Walmart's recent shareholders' meeting drew to a close at the end of May, approximately 30 employees took the floor and called for the ouster of CEO Mike Duke, Chair Rob Walton and other senior managers.

The 30 employees, members of OUR Walmart, cited the ongoing Mexico bribery scandal — in

which *The New York Times* revealed that Walmart executives approved, and then covered up, millions of dollars in bribes to officials in Mexico — as evidence of a widespread culture of corruption at Walmart Stores, Inc.

Former CEO Lee Scott and Christopher Williams, CEO of

Please see page 3

### Rite Aid/CVS Negotiations have begun

UFCW Local 1167 and the other Southern California locals began negotiations with Rite Aid for a new collective bargaining agreement on May 31. Tentative dates in June and July have been set to continue negotiations. The first bargaining session with CVS is scheduled for June 20.

UFCW Local 1167 is committed to bring back the best contract possible. Visit [www.ufcw1167.org](http://www.ufcw1167.org) for the latest negotiation news. Stay strong, stay united and together we will prevail!

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## A different look at Independence Day

**A**s we look forward to the Fourth of July, I find myself looking back on the first Independence Day in 1776.

No, I'm not old enough to remember that moment. But the images and descriptions I've seen on television and read in books are so vivid that I might as well have been there in the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia to witness the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Specifically, John Trumbull's famous painting comes to mind. In it, we see the five-man committee assigned to draft the Declaration submitting the document to the Second Continental Congress on June 28, 1776.

It's a formidable committee indeed, including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams!

Americans stand in awe of these great and brave men who led the colonies into the fight for independence from Britain. But aren't we missing something?

A deeper understanding of history tells us something important is indeed missing from Trumbull's picture and from our "memory" of these events.

We can start by asking why the Second Continental Congress was meeting in the first place. And why was it called the Second Continental Congress, anyway?

The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia almost two

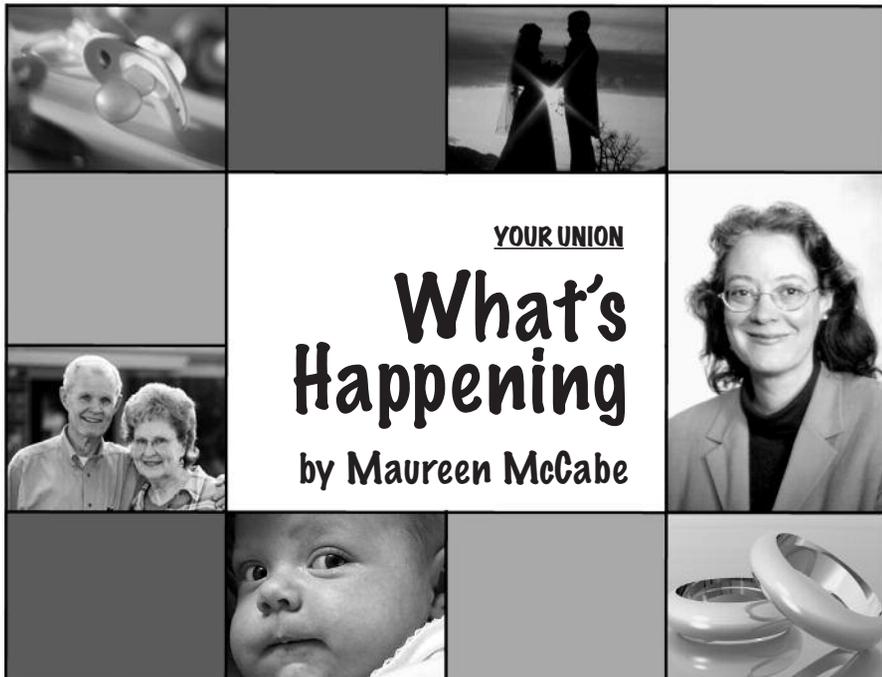
Please see page 3



By Bill Lathrop



John Trumbull's painting of the committee presenting the Declaration of Independence to the Second Continental Congress.



**YOUR UNION**  
**What's  
 Happening**  
 by Maureen McCabe

### JUST RETIRED

The month of May brought us several new retirees. **Dennis Dahl** retired after 39 years with Stater Bros. **Kevin Jones** worked for 41 years in the industry, starting with Safeway in 1969. From 1980 to 1981, he worked in Arizona for AJ Bayless, going into management with Safeway from 1985 to 1988. He worked for Safeway and Vons until this year. **Gregory Dean Lucas**, worked for Vons for 36 years as a meatcutter. **Linda Mursick** worked for Vons 25 years. **Salah Qudaimat** worked for Ralphs 38 years. Congratulations to all of our

new retirees! We wish you many healthy, happy years ahead of you to enjoy your well-earned retirements!

### JUST MARRIED

**Felipe Justo**, Food 4 Less, took Maria to be his bride on Jan. 24. The wedding was held in San Bernardino. ... **Deanna Limon**, Ralphs, married Martin A. Denton Jr. on Feb. 2 in Indio. ... **Korrine Siegfried** and **Kyle Lee**, both of Stater Bros., exchanged vows in Redlands on March 24. ... **Denise Rodriguez**, Ralphs, married Josh Gravatt on March 24 in San Bernardino. The happy couple honeymooned in Vegas. ... **Sanny Gonzalez**,

Stater Bros., said "I do" to Mirna Villalobos, on April 22. The wedding was held in Corona del Mar. Congratulations to all of our newly-weds!

### JUST BORN

**Cody Murphy**, Albertsons, has a new daughter. Alyssa Hart was born on April 10 and weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. ... **Alex Lara**, Stater Bros., welcomed Sebastian into the world on April 23. Sebastian weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. ... **Alejandra Jimenez**, Rite Aid, is pleased to announce the birth of Evan Alberto on April 28. Evan weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. ... **Jose and Kathleen Aguilar**, both of Stater Bros., are proud new parents with the arrival of Jose Michael on May 1. Jose weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. ... **Priscilla Torres** and **Warren Kelley**, both of Stater Bros., proudly announce the birth of Jude Phillip Warren on May 2. Jude weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz. ... **Steven Stearns**, Stater Bros., has a new son. Luke Aulden was born on May 5 and weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. ... **Lorraine Ruiz**, Stater Bros., welcomed Maisyn Jadye on May 26. Maisyn weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. "We are so happy and blessed! Our family is complete," the proud mother writes. ... **Laura Moore**, Ralphs, gave birth to Gabriel Edward Saucedo Jr. on May 29. Gabriel weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. Congratulations to all of our new moms and dads!



**Watch for  
 important  
 information  
 about your  
 benefits!**

**Contact your union  
 insurance division  
 with any questions:**

**(909) 877-1110  
 (909) 877-5000**

**or the Trust Fund:**

**(714) 220-2297  
 (562) 408-2715  
 (877) 284-2320**

**www.scufcwffunds.com**

## Next Quarterly Membership Meeting: Wednesday September 26, 2012

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the UFCW Local 1167 Auditorium, 855 W. San Bernardino Ave., Bloomington.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Priscilla Adams**, a retired drug clerk formerly employed by Thrifty Drug, died on May 8 at the age of 88. She had been a member since November 1974.

**Tracy Lindsay-Jenkins**, a retired warehouse clerk formerly employed by Food 4 Less, died on April 25 at the age of 51. She had been a member since July 1979.

**Cyndee McKenna**, an affiliated member employed by Vons, died on June 2 at the age of 53. She had been a member since July 1982.

**Belinda Weber**, a retired general merchandise clerk formerly employed by Ralphs, died on May 22 at the age of 59. She had been a continuous member since February 1979.

*Our condolences go to the families of these deceased members.*

**UNION OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
 WEDNESDAY, JULY 4  
 IN HONOR OF INDEPENDENCE DAY**

## Your dues are now payable!

If you are one of the few members of the local who are not yet signed up for dues checkoff: **JULY DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE SEPT. 1, 2012, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY SUSPEND YOURSELF.**

With dues checkoff, all future dues can be deducted automatically from your pay check. If you do not have an authorization form, call the local and one will be sent to you immediately.

Non-payment or payment of the incorrect amount will automatically suspend you — a costly and inconvenient mistake. Although not required, the local, as a courtesy, normally sends billing notices by first-class mail to those not on dues checkoff. It is the member's obligation to pay dues in a timely manner. Not receiving a notice is not an excuse for failure to pay dues on time.

**Avoid suspension.  
 Authorize dues checkoff  
 today!**



### DESERT EDGE

**Bill Lathrop**  
 Editor

Official monthly publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California.

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**100% Union Shop**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Independence Day

Continued from front page

years earlier. Its delegates sent a petition asking King George to correct a list of injustices. But despite the presence of a couple of hot-headed rebels like John Adams' cousin, Samuel Adams, the focus of this Congress was on fixing the relationship between the colonies and Great Britain, not ending it.

So, what happened over the course of 19 months to push the Second Congress into a radical new direction?

America and the world changed on Jan. 10, 1776. That was the day an English-born newspaper editor named Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, a small pamphlet that laid out the case for severing the colonies' bonds with the mother country.

Using simple yet powerful language, Paine appealed to the common people of America, describing his vision of a nation made strong by equality and democracy.

*Common Sense* lit the public's imagination, igniting a popular uproar for independence. Almost every household had a copy. Those who couldn't read it had it read to them.

### Reaction to public demand

Here's my point: The Second Continental Congress wasn't leading the way when it assembled in Philadelphia in 1776. It was reacting to public demand.

And as businessmen, lawyers and plantation owners deliberated in the Pennsylvania State House, it was a legion of farmers, shoemakers and shop owners that enlisted in General Washington's ragtag army to fight for a new nation.

In this nation there would be no doffing of hats to those of "noble birth." Its affairs would not be decided by the rich and powerful. In this nation, "we the people" would rule supreme.

Working Americans are still fighting for this vision, even if we haven't yet succeeded in making it a reality.

Our schools tend to teach American history as if it was a series of acts by presidents and generals and "captains of industry." But that is less than half of the story.

The rest of the story — and, for me, the most interesting part — is written by the blood, sweat and tears shed by "ordinary" Americans of every color and gender as they struggled to fulfill the vision of *Common Sense*.

That struggle continues today.

Happy Independence Day.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

## Choose your candidates wisely

**B**y now you've read the disappointing news that Gov. Scott Walker survived the recall election in Wisconsin.

Although the outcome was not in workers' favor, the massive response to Walker's anti-union policies provided ample proof that the Labor Movement is alive and powerful.

In the final weeks of the campaign, Walker's corporate backers outspent the unions more than four to one. Undeterred by the blitz of smear attacks against "union thugs," volunteers succeeded in mobilizing voters in historic numbers.

The overall turnout in Wisconsin was higher than in 2010's elections and nearly matched the voting numbers from the 2008 presidential election.

Exit polling also showed way more support for President Obama than his anti-union challenger, Mitt Romney.

This is a positive sign that pro-worker candidates will do well in November, as long as we redouble our efforts from coast to coast.

### Your vote counts

As we Californians leave the primary season behind us and turn our attention to the general election, it is important for all of us to get informed about the candidates and their positions. Voting is not only a civic duty, it is your voice in the community. Don't squander it!

It is important to vote for union-friendly candidates because the future of the middle class depends on it.

This isn't about electing more candidates from one party over another. UFCW Local 1167 doesn't engage in partisan politics. We only care about electing candidates who will serve the interests of our members.

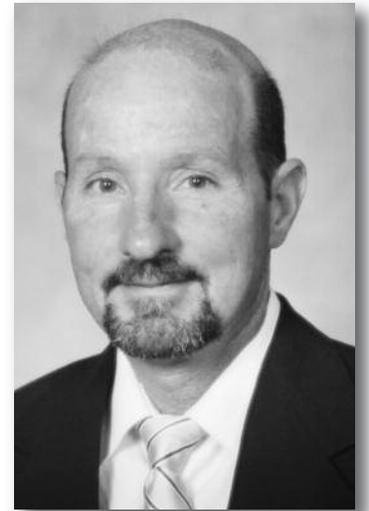
The people who occupy political office pass laws and enforce policies that affect our working conditions, our schools and the quality of our lives.

We can't afford to stay at home and let others decide who passes the laws and runs our government — this is true for all levels: local, state and federal.

It's no secret that corporations are trying to eliminate unions in this country. They are hoping we will get discouraged and let them silence the voices — and hopes — of working people.

But we won't let that happen. We will stand up and fight until we win!

Big money can buy endless ads and propaganda, but it can't buy the soul of America.



By Matt Bruno

## Stockholders turn on Walmart

Continued from front page

Walmart's audit committee, were also asked to step down by the OUR Walmart activists.

In an unprecedented move, stockholders holding between 13 and 15 percent of Walmart's total shares voted to remove these executives.

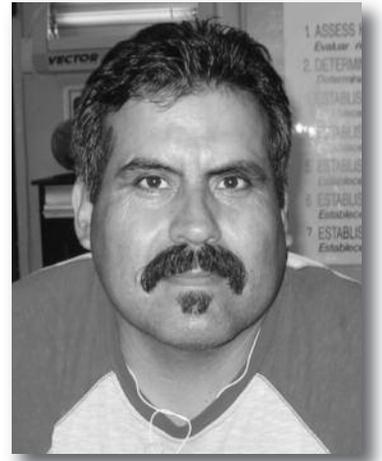
On June 1, Walmart announced that the efforts to remove Duke, Walton, Scott and Williams from the executive board were unsuccessful.

All were reelected to their posts with the addition of Marissa Mayer, a Google vice president, to the board.

"While the efforts to remove the most immoral Walmart leaders were not successful, we did succeed in opening the country's eyes to the ruthless behavior of this company," UFCW Local 1167 President Bill Lathrop said.

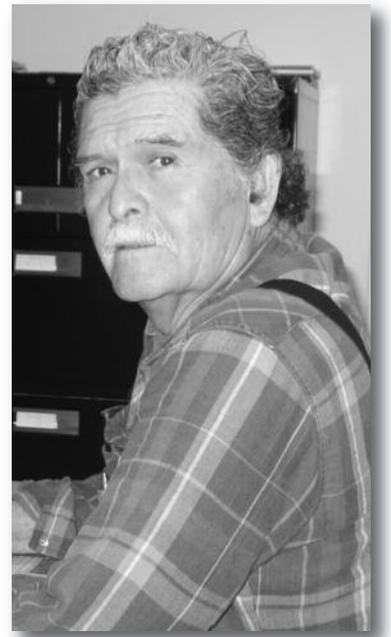
"Cheap polo shirts from China can't cover up Walmart's tradition of abuse and corruption any longer."

# Shop union!



# Members at Work

# Riverside Food Processing Plant



# UFCW Local 1167 Discount Tickets

NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES ON ACTIVITY TICKETS

**AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC** \$17.95 Adult (\$7.00 savings)  
 (562) 590-3100 \$10.95 Child ages 3-11 (\$3.00 savings)  
**VALID THRU 11/30/2012**

**CASTLE PARK (Rides only)** \$15.99 Adult over 48" (\$9.00 savings)  
 (951) 785-3000 \$11.99 Child 36" to 48" (\$5.00 savings)  
 Children under 36" free

**EXPIRES 02/15/2013 — PARKING NOT INCLUDED**

**DAVEY'S LOCKER FISHING EXCURSIONS**  
 (949) 673-1434 1/2 DAY ADULT (W Pride) \$35.00  
 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 1/2 DAY JUNIOR \$27.00  
 Please call for 3/4 DAY ADULT (Freelance) \$58.00  
 specific trip schedules 3/4 DAY JUNIOR \$49.00  
 400 Main St. TWILIGHT ADULT \$35.00  
 Balboa (Newport Beach) TWILIGHT JUNIOR \$27.00  
 'Junior' is age 15 or younger. WHALE WATCHING ADULT \$23.00  
 WHALE WATCHING JUNIOR \$18.00

**CONTACT DAVEY'S REGARDING QUESTIONS ABOUT FUEL CHARGES, BAIT, ETC.**

**DISNEYLAND/CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE (1 DAY/1 PARK)**  
 (714) 781-4565 \$83.52 Adult (\$3.48 savings)  
**TICKETS EXPIRE 12/31/2013** \$77.76 Child Ages 3-9 (\$3.24 savings)  
**PARKING NOT INCLUDED** Under 3 FREE  
**NO BLACKOUT DATES**

**DISNEYLAND/CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE ONE DAY HOPPER**  
 (714) 781-4565 \$114.38 Adult (\$10.62 savings)  
**VALID THRU 12/31/2013** \$108.89 Child (\$10.11 savings)  
**NO BLACKOUT DATES**

**MAGIC MOUNTAIN** \$31.99 Adult & Children (\$30.00 savings)  
 (661) 255-4106 Children under 3 years old free  
 \*\*Child price at gate: \$36.99\*\*

**VALID THRU 9/30/2012— parking not included**

**MEDIEVAL TIMES** \$42.65 Adult (\$19.09 savings)  
 (888) 935-6878 \$31.40 child 3-12 (\$8.00 savings)  
 ADULT TICKETS Children under 2 years old free  
 EXPIRE 9/30/2012 (on lap/no seat/share meal)  
 CHILD TICKETS  
 EXPIRE 12/30/2012

**PIRATE'S DINNER ADVENTURE** \$36.00 Adult (\$20.95 savings)  
 (866) 439-2469 \$27.50 Child ages 3-11 (\$10.45 savings)  
**EXPIRES 11/30/2012-not valid New Year's Eve**

**RAGING WATERS** \$23.99 Adult (\$13 savings)  
 (909) 802-2200 \$23.99 Child under 48" (\$1 savings)  
**EXPIRES 9/16/2012**

**SEA WORLD 1 DAY TICKET** \$48.00 Adult (\$25 savings)  
 (619) 226-3901 (Gen. Info.) \$48.00 Child Ages 3-9 (\$17 savings)  
**EXPIRES 3/31/2013** Age 2 and under FREE.  
**NO BLACKOUT DATES** Parking not included.

**UNIVERSAL STUDIOS 6 MONTH PASS**  
 (800) UNIVERSAL \$67.00 (\$10.00 savings)  
**FIRST USE: MUST BE BY 12/31/2012 - NO BLACKOUT DATES**  
**BLACKOUT DATES APPLY TO REVISITS ONLY**

## THEATER TICKETS

**AMC THEATERS SILVER** \$6.00 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
**NOT VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS**  
 Ontario Mills, Victoria Gardens & Galleria at Tyler

**AMC THEATERS GOLD** \$7.50 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
 VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS  
 Ontario Mills, Victoria Gardens & Galleria at Tyler

**CINEMARK THEATERS** \$6.25 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
**NOT VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS**  
 Cathedral City, Chino, El Centro, Huntington Beach, Lancaster, North Hollywood,  
 Long Beach, Orange, Palmdale, Ventura, Victorville & Rancho Mirage

**HARKINS THEATERS** \$6.00 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
 NOT VALID AFTER 6 P.M. FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS  
 22350 Town Circle, Moreno Valley & 3070 Chino Hills, Chino

**REGAL/EDWARDS THEATERS** NO EXPIRATION DATE  
 \$6.50 RED (**NOT** VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS)  
 \$7.50 BLUE (VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS)  
 Includes Edwards, Regal and United Artists Cinemas  
 Hemet, Indio, Irvine, Mira Loma, Ontario, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage,  
 Riverside, Corona, San Jacinto, Temecula, & West Covina

**KRIKORIAN THEATERS** \$7.50 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
 VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS  
 Redlands, La Mirada, Downey & Buena Park

**DISCOUNT CARDS AVAILABLE**  
 Medieval Times, Palm Springs Aerial Tram Alpine Club

GROUP ACTIVITY TICKETS NOT VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS

## SPECIALS AND PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MASTERCARD/VISA DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED IN LOCAL 1167 OFFICE ONLY.  
 ADDITIONAL SURCHARGES AND TRANSACTION FEES MAY APPLY.  
 NO CHECKS OVER \$200 WILL BE ACCEPTED.





**'Sparklers pose the greatest threat to small children... most people don't realize that sparklers spew arcs of light and molten metal at temperatures that can reach 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit.'**

## Beware of Fireworks!

Even after July 4, fireworks, firecrackers and sparklers can cause serious damage

**W**hether legal or illegal, before the holiday or after, fireworks are a traditional part of Independence Day celebrations across the country.

Unfortunately, the many injuries caused by careless use of fireworks is nothing to celebrate.

Fireworks are involved in nearly 10,000 injuries that are treated in emergency rooms each year. More than 20 percent of these injuries involve the eyes.

Most fireworks-related injuries are caused by firecrackers, bottle rockets and sparklers.

Sparklers pose the greatest threat to small children because

parents think they are non-explosive and relatively safe. However, most people don't realize that sparklers spew arcs of light and molten metal at temperatures that can reach 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit — hot enough to melt gold.

Sparklers account for three-quarters of all fireworks injuries to children under the age of 5.

The typical victims of fireworks are boys between the ages of 13 and 15. They suffer three-fourths of all fireworks-related eye injuries, mainly caused by bottle rockets.

If a fireworks eye injury should occur, seek medical attention immediately!

## Wisc. supermarket restores employees full-time hours after NLRB intervention

**M**embers represented by UFCW Local 1473 in Wisconsin won a major victory over supermarket chain Piggy Wiggly in May after the chain reduced their hours to part-time without bargaining with the union.

A federal judge ordered the Sheboygan retailer to restore 19 employees to full-time status and offer reinstatement to four other workers who resigned when their hours were

reduced.

The judge also ruled that the retailer refrain from making unilateral changes in the future.

The National Labor Relations Board intervened when it determined that the union's bargaining position was undermined.

"Wisconsin has not been a labor-friendly state lately, but this victory demonstrates that unions can still assert their power," UFCW Local 1167 President Bill Lathrop said.

### LAST 7 DAYS OF JULY

## Be aware of your availability status

**I**f you have been in the industry for more than a few years, you probably don't remember whether your status with your employer is "available" or "self-restricted."

According to the Master Food Agreement's Article 4A, an employee may change his or her availability twice a year, during the last seven days of January and July.

Many members mistakenly think if they list themselves as "restricted" then their employer must accommodate any restrictions they have. This is not true. Being on the "self-restricted" list only means that you are

unavailable to work 40 hours over five days in any given week.

A member can be on the "available" list and still request days off.

We always encourage our members to place themselves on the "available" list. The two lists are kept separately. In the event a company implements layoffs, the first list with which it will start is the "self-restricted" list.

Check with your employer and, if necessary, change your status!

If you have questions, call your Union Representative or the representative on duty at (909) 877-5000.

# Shop Union

Wherever you happen to be!

### UFCW LAUNCHES NEW APP



UFCW is proud to announce the release of our brand new app for smartphones! The app is one-stop shopping for working families – UFCW members, allies, supporters, and community members alike.

Inside you'll find updates from UFCW members and ordinary people across the US and Canada, breaking news and ways to take action, plus great videos, photos, and more.

Best of all, with this app, shoppers can locate and get directions to their nearest union grocery store, no matter where they are.

Download the app today at:

**UFCW** <http://ufcwaction.org/app>

## It PAYS to be UNION!

	<u>JUNE 2012</u>	<u>2012 TOTAL</u>
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$5,035.29	\$24,008.86
Members reinstated	21	143
Grievances settled	57	338

## Albertsons to lay off 2,500 in California and Nevada

**A**lbertsons announced it is laying off as many as 2,500 employees at its Southern California and Southern Nevada supermarkets in June.

The layoffs began June 18 and are scheduled to conclude the week of July 2.

Union officials noted that in administering the layoffs, Albertsons and the Lucky store in the jurisdiction must abide by the seniority provisions in the Food Division contract.

Affected members should consider "bumping back" to keep their jobs and to keep health and welfare benefits in effect, they said.

"If you are a Food Clerk or GM Clerk and were promoted from a lower classification, e.g. Clerk's Helper to GM or Food, or Clerk's Helper to GM, you have the contractual right to 'bump back' to the lower classification to keep your job," President Bill Lathrop wrote in a letter to Albertsons and Lucky members.

"You should seriously consider NOT taking the layoff if you have bumping rights," he added.

Contract language states that if business improves, members will have the right to reclaim their jobs in

higher classifications before the company promotes someone else.

Members who think they were laid off in error should immediately call the union and file a grievance, but only after they have filed for unemployment benefits.

### File for benefits

Union officials emphasize filing for unemployment benefits immediately because they are not retroactive.

There is only a one-week "waiting period," so members are encouraged to act fast and not to procrastinate, Lathrop said. Members can apply online at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).

Lathrop also pointed out that members who are reduced in classification and/or hours may be eligible for some unemployment benefits.

"We are very much aware and sensitive to the fact that being laid off from your job or being reduced in classification can be a traumatic event in your life," Lathrop said. "Your union wants to help in every way possible."

Union members affected by the layoff should call the union at (800) 698-UFCW with any questions. For information about medical eligibility, ask for the Benefits Department.

## Judge strikes down guidelines for determining union election locations

**A**federal judge struck down a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruling that would have updated and streamlined union election procedures.

The judge ruled that the labor board did not have enough members when two commissioners approved the rule in December.

UFCW International President Joe Hansen denounced the decision as "wrongheaded," saying it was "based solely on the technical grounds related to the NLRB's internal procedures and not the merits of the rule."

The new guidelines would have required regional directors of the NLRB to determine the locations of rerun elections when petitioners want them moved away from employers' premises.

If a union objected to holding the vote at a location owned or con-

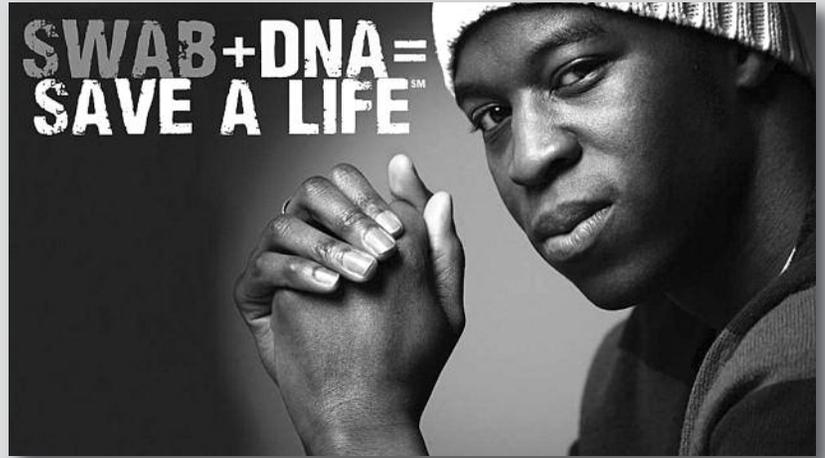
trolled by the employer, the NLRB regional director would have the option of choosing another location after considering its potential impact on all parties.

The guidelines also would have required the NLRB regional director to take seriously a petitioning union's request for an offsite election and consider several other factors in deciding where to hold the election.

### Guidelines ensure fairness

Hansen noted that the guidelines would ensure that no party gained an advantage over the other and that holding an election without the consent of all parties where an unfair advantage existed is inconsistent with the NLRB's obligation to run fair elections.

Hansen expressed hope that the NLRB would revisit the guidelines now that the board has all five of its seats filled.



## You could 'Be the Match'; bone marrow donors needed

**E**very year, thousands of patients with leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia and other life-threatening diseases need a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor, but only half receive one.

Be The Match, operated by the National Bone Marrow

Donor Program (NBMDP), raises funds to help patients who need a bone marrow or umbilical cord blood transplant to find a donor and receive treatment.

For 25 years, the NBMDP has saved countless lives, and it strives to save even more. Visit [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org) to see how you can become a donor.

## Membership Assistance Program — MAP —

### When you're in need of confidential help

If you have problems with:  
Alcohol • Drugs • Children and Adolescents  
Family • Emotional Issues  
Gambling • Marriage • Financial/Legal

Eligible active or retired Food and Meat participants can call the toll-free MAP number at the Health Management Center at any time, DAY OR NIGHT, 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

Food Division, call (800) 461-9179

Drug Division, call (866) 268-2510

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (All calls are confidential)

## CORRECT ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER A MUST

You lose out if there is no correct address and telephone number on file for you. We know the problem: people move frequently. But it only takes a phone call, a minute with the union rep or a letter to our office. It could avoid a big problem with a hospital, medical claim or pension inquiry.

STEWARD FEATURE

# A dedication to service

Gery Pearson brings order and justice to the workplace

**G**ery Pearson's dedication to service can be traced back 30 years, to the time when he was an electrical mate in the Navy.

The leadership skills he learned and his passion for order and doing the right thing made him a logical choice to become a shop steward. But it was his experiences on a picket line in front of a Vons store in Moreno Valley that ultimately shaped Pearson's love for knowledge and his desire to educate others.

Pearson, a forklift operator at the Vons distribution plant in El Monte, joined the grocery industry shortly after his service in the Navy ended 24 years ago.

"I knew Safeway/Vons was a good company and I feel blessed that I got an opportunity to work for them," he said.

During the 2003-04 strike and lockouts, Pearson performed any task that was required of him. That

included helping out at the picket line in Moreno Valley.

"That time was difficult for everybody," Pearson recalled. "Nobody knew what was going on and things changed every day."

As tensions grew and rumors flew, Pearson sought answers. Many of the stewards he encountered either didn't know the answers to his questions or didn't know enough to answer them satisfactorily. He knew he could do better.

"I like bringing order to the things I do," Pearson said. "That's just the type of person I am."

Pearson believes the most important thing a steward can do for his co-workers is to be present to answer questions.

"I had to talk to one of the younger members who had no clue about negotiations," he recalled.

"He said 'We have to take whatever they give us.' I told him it's not about the money. You need to



Gery Pearson

think about the bigger picture and stand up for what's right and fair."

Pearson told the member that while it is nice to think about a better paycheck now, it is more important to think about the future.

"If you or a family member go to the hospital, you could get eaten up with medical costs," Pearson said. "The money will come if we are prepared and protected with our union behind us."

**Getting personal**

Pearson married his wife, Latefa, in 2001 after meeting through a mutual friend. They have two daughters.

In addition to being a husband and steward, Pearson is also a great bowler. In 2007, he nearly bowled a perfect game.

"I was in the last frame, everything was perfect until then," Pearson said. "Then the ball hooked right and all the pins went down, except one."

Pearson is nonetheless satisfied to have bowled a 299. He averages 187 and enjoys the sport mostly because it gives him an opportunity to spend quality time with his family.

## UFCW sponsors raffle to benefit leukemia research

**5-Day/4 night Costa Rica Vacation for 2**

ALL INCLUSIVE FLAMINGO BEACH RESORT IN GUANACASTE  
Airfare, transfers, Tax/Insurance  
Donated by UFCW Local 1167 . . . . Value \$2,500

**7-Day Eastern Caribbean Cruise for 2**

ROYAL CARIBBEAN "OASIS OF THE SEAS"  
PORTS: NASSAU, BS/ST. THOMAS, VI/ST MAARTEN, AN  
Airfare, transfers, Tax/Insurance  
Donated by UFCW Local 1167 . . . . Value \$3,500

**2-Night Las Vegas Vacation**

Donated by UFCW Local 711

**Men's 18K Gold Ring with 3K Tanzanite Stone**

Donated by UFCW Local 324

**San Diego Family Vacation**

Donated by UFCW Local 135

**42" Plasma TV**

Donated by UFCW Local 1428

**\$1,000 Cash**

Donated by UFCW 8-Golden State

**\$500 Macy's Gift Card**

Donated by UFCW Local 5

... plus additional prizes!

Region 8 UFCW local unions throughout California, Arizona and Nevada are sponsoring a raffle to raise money for leukemia research. Some of the wonderful prizes are listed here. Tickets are \$10.00 each, 3 for \$25.00 or 15 for \$100.00, and can be ordered by filling out the form below or purchased at the union office. Members are encouraged to help support the Leukemia Foundation in its research.

**Tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$25 or 15 for \$100**

**Tickets Only Available Until July 30, 2012  
Drawing to be held Wednesday, August 8, 2012\***

\*Winner need not be present to win

**UFCW REGION 8 LEUKEMIA RESEARCH RAFFLE TICKETS**

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Soc. Sec. # \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$10.00, 3 for \$25.00, or 15 for \$100.00

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check must be made payable to WESTERN STATES LEUKEMIA FUND, with tax ID#: 87-0801660

Send to UFCW LOCAL 1167 Attn: Leukemia Tickets, PO BOX 1167, BLOOMINGTON, CA 92316