

DESERT EDGE

UFCW LOCAL 1167

a VOICE for working America

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

October 2012

Tentative agreement with Rite Aid submitted to members in So. Calif.

The seven UFCW unions in Southern California reached a tentative agreement with Rite Aid on Sept. 25. The proposed contract was promptly submitted to Rite Aid's union members for ratification.

Results of the ratification vote and details and details of the agreement will be featured in the next issue of the *Desert Edge*.

The agreement was announced by leaders of UFCW Locals 8, 135, 324, 770, 1167, 1428 and 1442, which represent Rite Aid workers between Kern County and the Mexican border.

"I am so proud of you for sticking together in the quest to protect your health benefits," UFCW Local 1167 President Bill Lathrop told the Rite Aid members.

"Thank you for your strength and solidarity!"

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Workers need more friends in government

As the Nov. 6 elections draw closer, Californians are reading up on the candidates and issues.

Some of us may default to voting along party lines, but as we consistently tell our members, party affiliation is not the only factor to consider when deciding whether a candidate deserves your vote.

The most important factor by far is the candidate's commitment to support the goals of working people.

While friends of labor usually gravitate toward the Democratic Party, this is not always the case. For example, Gloria Romero, the former Democratic leader in the California Senate, announced her endorsement of Proposition 32, otherwise known as the "corporate deception" ballot initiative.

This horrendous proposition is being promoted by business interests that are trying to silence the voices of labor unions.

Romero went as far as to claim that the initiative is "as balanced a measure as we can achieve at this time."

This is ludicrous. If — heaven forbid! — Proposition 32 is

Please see page 3



By Bill Lathrop

JUST RETIRED

The month of August brought us several new retirees. Joining the ranks of the retirees are **Steve Bigelow**, **Aaron Chavez**, **Roger Connell**, **Jacobus DeKiewiet**, **Dorae Falwell** and **Debbie Pederson**. **Steve Bigelow** retired after 41 years in the industry. Steve worked for Alpha Beta, Ralphs and Stater Bros. **Aaron Chavez** worked for Stater Bros. for 33 years as a meatcutter. **Roger Connell** worked for Albertsons and Lucky for 36 years. **Jacobus DeKiewiet** worked for Stater Bros. for 37 years. **Dorae Falwell** worked for Vons for 33 years. **Debbie Pederson** worked in

the industry for 31 years with Stater Bros. and Safeway.

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

JUST MARRIED

Misty Kelley, Stater Bros., married Jonnall Biggers on June 22. ... **Justin Van Demark**, Stater Bros., took Cassandra Avalos to be his bride on Aug. 9. The wedding was held in Moreno Valley and the happy couple honeymooned in Oceanside. ... **Monica Perea**, Stater Bros., married Alejandro Holguin on July 27 in Las Vegas.

Congratulations to all of our new-lyweds!

JUST BORN

Anastacia Rivas, Stater Bros., welcomed Benjamin Russell Barreras on July 29. Benjamin weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. ... **Larry Garcia**, Rite Aid, has a new daughter. Emmalee Grace was born on July 31, weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measured 19 ½ oz. ... **Laura Valenzuela**, Food 4 Less, is the proud mother of a beautiful baby boy. Mason was born on Aug. 6 and weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. ... **Ann Kitchen**, Ralphs, welcomed Jason



Andrew Lyman into the world on Aug. 7. Jason weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz. ... **Jesus Ontiveros**, Stater Bros., and his wife, Marie, proudly announce the birth of their first baby girl on Aug. 11. Deanna Marie weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. ... **Demetrius Morales**, Stater Bros., has a new son. Julian Ethan was born on Aug. 14, weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 20 inches. ... **Diego Ramirez**, Stater Bros., is pleased to announce the arrival of Elena Marie on Aug. 16. Elena weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. ...

Lorina Contreras, Vons, has a new son. Ruben Rolando was born on Aug. 17, weighed 9 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 21 inches. Lorina writes, "Mommy and Daddy love you, baby boy!" ... **Byron Giovanni Ferrer**, Stater Bros., proudly announces the birth of Averie Sky on Aug. 19. Averie weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. ... **Dennis Yip**, Rite Aid, welcomed Violet Sum Haun Yip on Aug. 24. Violet weighed 6 lbs. and .74 oz.

Congratulations to all of our new moms and dads!

Happy
Halloween!

Make it
safe
and sane
on Oct. 31!

IN MEMORIAM

Neil Carruthers, a retired general merchandise clerk formerly employed by Alpha Beta, died on Aug. 2 at the age of 85. He had been a continuous member since May 1970.

Clyde Geeslin, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Alamo, Crocker's, Food King, Market Basket, Mayfair Market, Ray's, Sav-on Drug and Stater Bros. Markets, died on Aug. 23 at the age of 77. He had been a member since August 1952.

Margaret Isom, a retired general merchandise clerk formerly employed by Mayfair, Food King, Smith's and Vons, died on Aug. 12 at the age of 91. She had been a continuous member since September 1969.

Eugene Metherell, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway, died on Aug. 21 at the age of 84. He had been a continuous member since February 1952.

Victor Moore, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway and White Front, died on Aug. 6 at the age of 85. He had been a continuous member since January 1972.

William Moore, an affiliated member formerly employed by Alpha Beta, died on Aug. 24 at the age of 82. He had been a member since November 1990.

Marjorie Plante, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Lucky Stores, died on Aug. 8 at the age of 76. She had been a member since November 1974.

Teresa Robinson, a retired general merchandise clerk formerly employed by Stater Bros. Markets, died on Aug. 31 at the age of 68. She had been a member since June 1990.

Mary Snyder, a retired drug clerk formerly employed by Rite Aid, died on Sept. 11 at the age of 71. She had been a member since May 1972.

Lupe Villalobos, a retired drug clerk formerly employed by Thrifty Drug, died on Aug. 21 at the age of 74. She had been a member since November 1971.

Our condolences go to the families of these deceased members.

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: OCTOBER DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 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
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends in government

Continued from front page
approved by the voters in November, corporations would have the upper hand in political fundraising and the effects would be devastating for working people.

Seeing past party lines

Looking at the other side of the aisle, it's been difficult to find many Republicans with pro-union voting records, but they exist. For example, in June, the California Labor Federation endorsed Republican Assemblyman Jeff Gorell in Ventura County along with his Democratic challenger, Tom Mullens.

The federation also endorsed Republican Les Baugh for the California Senate seat in Shasta County. He is currently running for county supervisor.

In Indiana and Illinois, a pro-union group called Lunch Pail Republicans is rallying to "take back our party" from anti-worker politicians like former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. The group has endorsed the re-election of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.).

There was a time when many more Republicans earned the

enthusiastic support of labor unions. President Theodore Roosevelt said "It is essential that there be organization of labor." And when President Richard Nixon ran for reelection in 1972, he was endorsed by the Teamsters union.

It is our job as informed union voters to ensure that, regardless of their political affiliations, politicians who support us are rewarded and those who oppose us are punished. That is the American way.

That's why Gloria Romero, who is now out of office, shouldn't count on the support of working people if she ever decides to reenter politics.

On pages 7 and 8 of this newspaper are candidates who have worked hard and cast votes on legislation that favors working people. That's why they deserve to have their names listed in this newspaper.



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.

It PAYS to be UNION!

	<u>SEPTEMBER 2012</u>	<u>2012 TOTAL</u>
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$2,308.51	\$34,890.94
Members reinstated	20	229
Grievances settled	66	594

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Our right to vote is an American freedom

Don't let apathy get in the way

It happens every year. Politicians in our community and across the country will try to take away the hard-earned accomplishments won by unions in the past few decades.

Just look throughout this issue to see what they're trying to do to working families with Proposition 32!

Fortunately, we have the power to fight back and defend what we have. That power resides in the ballot box.

It is crucial for all of us to use that power for the sake of working families everywhere. Indeed, the future of the middle class is at stake!

As union members, we don't have the option of taking the easy way and letting others make the important issues for us. There are too many powerful corporations out there using their riches to confuse the voters and get them to vote against their — and our — interests.

We must answer their lies and speak the truth. And, most importantly, we must vote.

Election Day, Nov. 6, is around the corner, and we must be ready to step forward and fulfill our obligations as union members and as citizens.

Make your voice heard

Unfortunately, only about half of all Americans register and vote reliably. Those who don't are putting their freedoms in the hands of others.

One reason for this lack of participation in the electoral process is that too many people believe their votes don't count. Or they say they are too busy to vote. Or they just forgot to register. All of these are poor excuses, but none of them is as sad as "I don't care about voting."

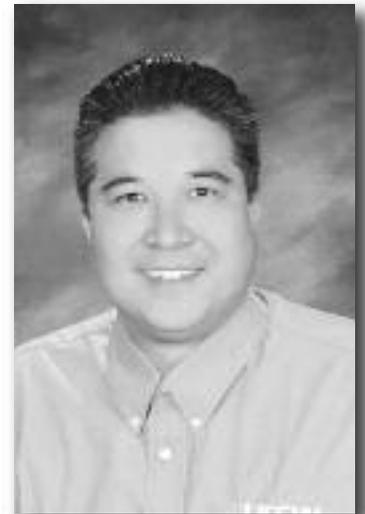
We take our freedoms for granted because we live in a country relatively free of oppression. To ensure we keep it that way, we have to vote to protect our interests.

It doesn't matter if you're a Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Tea Partier or whatever — voting is essential to having your voice heard in our democracy.

How do you register? To learn how, contact your Union Rep or call the union office. And once you are registered, be sure to vote for labor-friendly candidates and causes.

You can use the list of union endorsements on page 7 as a guide when your vote on Nov. 6.

Vote to protect your job! Vote for the survival of the middle class!



By Alan Kontra

Vote NO on Prop. 32

Facts about Prop 32

If the “Corporate Deception” ballot initiative is approved by California voters, unions across the state will lose their voice in the political arena. Read the facts and then tell friends and family to vote NO on Prop. 32.

Proposition 32, set to appear on the November ballot, threatens our jobs, wages and retirement by prohibiting Unions from standing up to corporate special interests. While the measure’s wealthy backers falsely claim it’s about “stopping special interests,” it’s actually designed to weaken Unions to give corporate CEOs even more power to boost their profits by cutting jobs, eliminating retirement security and reducing wages. It’s the first of a one-two punch to give even more control of government to powerful corporate special interests.

FACT: Prop. 32 eliminates Union members in both the public and private sectors from having a voice. As a result, teachers, nurses, firefighters and all Union workers would be unable to fight back against corporate special interests on issues that matter to everyone – like jobs, better wages, school and college funding, police and fire response times, patient safety and workplace protections.

“...would harm their Union opponents more than it would harm business interests.” – OC Register, 8/11/11

FACT: Prop. 32 is funded by corporate executives and millionaires associated with the anti-union Lincoln Club of Orange County, which played a key role in backing the Citizens United Supreme Court decision that gutted federal campaign finance reform. The Lincoln Club and other wealthy funders like billionaire Jerry Perenchio wrote in special exemptions to the measure for themselves, allowing them – and the companies and organizations they control – to continue spending with NO limits on political campaigns.

“The Lincoln Club of Orange County had a big hand in the landmark Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which opened the floodgate of special-interest money in presidential politics.” – California Watch, 3/13/12

FACT: Prop. 32 is NOT campaign finance reform. The wealthy backers of this initiative created special exemptions for Wall Street hedge funds, real estate investors, insurance companies and other well-heeled special interests, allowing them to continue contributing directly to political candidates. Limited liability companies (LLC), limited liability partnerships (LLP), limited partnerships (LP), business trusts, real estate investment trusts (REIT) and sole proprietorships – which are among some of the largest companies in the state – are all exempted under the initiative.

“It’s dripping with cynicism... It certainly won’t prevent one-percenters from getting their two cents in, or their \$2 million.” – Sacramento Bee, 12/22/11

Despite the proponents’ claims that this initiative is geared toward “getting special interest money out of politics,” the truth is that it’s designed to silence working people while giving corporate CEOs and the very wealthy free rein to exert limitless influence on government and our lives. This initiative is misleading, deceptive and full of consequences that hurt all of us. **Prop. 32 does absolutely nothing to limit special interest influence on politics while severely curtailing working people’s ability to stand up to powerful corporate interests.** The result would be a devastating tilt in power to big banks, corporate CEOs and billionaires that would further undermine California’s middle class.



FACT: Prop. 32 exempts secretive Super PACs and corporate front groups, which can raise unlimited amounts of money from corporate special interests like Walmart and billionaires like the Koch Brothers to support their candidates or defeat their enemies. The measure does nothing to prevent anonymous donors from spending unlimited amounts to influence elections. Since these secretive Super PACs and anonymous donors don’t contribute directly to candidates, they are exempted by the measure and can continue to receive and spend unlimited amounts of money on politics. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, as of May 2012, Super PACs, like Karl Rove’s Crossroads GPS, had already spent more than \$109 million in the 2012 elections.

“...would just expand unaccountable independent expenditure committees, the super-PACs.” – L.A. Times, 4/26/12

FACT: Prop. 32 was deceptively written to limit the voice of Union workers and create exemptions for corporate special interests. The “Special Exemptions Act” claims it will stop corporations and Unions from collecting political funds through payroll deductions – but corporations don’t use payroll deductions to collect funds to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures; they use their corporate profits. The measure is unbalanced, designed to severely restrict Unions while doing NOTHING to curb corporate influence over our elections.

“...a phony veneer of fairness...one-sided and biased.” – Long Beach Press Telegram, 8/21/11

FACT: Corporations already outspend Unions 15-1 in politics. This measure would make the system even more imbalanced. The backers’ goal is to clear the playing field of any opposition to the agenda of big corporations which includes outsourcing jobs, gutting homeowner protections, slashing wages and health benefits and attacking retirement security.

“If working people like teachers, nurses, plumbers and grocery clerks are silenced, large corporations and business interests will have free rein to do whatever they want to grow their profits, even if that comes at the expense of what’s left of our middle class.” – San Jose Mercury News op-ed, 3/2/12

FACT: Non-partisan groups that advocate for policies curbing special interest influence in politics are urging voters to REJECT the measure. The League of Women Voters, California Common Cause, Public Citizen and Public Campaign have all spoken out against the deceptive measure.

“It is little more than an attack on labor masquerading as campaign finance reform.” – Public Citizen, 2/10/12

“...will do more harm to California’s democracy than good.” – California Common Cause, 5/11/12



MEMBERS AT WORK

Stater Bros. 119 Hemet



MEMBERS AT WORK

Rite Aid 6293 San Jacinto





On issue after issue, **President Obama** stands with working families while **Mitt Romney** stands with the top 1 percent

President Obama

Jobs: President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act saved or created 3.6 million jobs and kept us from falling into a depression. His policies have helped add more than 4.3 million private sector jobs and he saved the auto industry from collapse.

Workers' Rights: President Obama moved aggressively to protect workers' rights, pay and workplace health and safety. He appointed strong labor advocates to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), which issued regulations making union representation elections more fair.

Health Care: President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act that will provide health insurance for 33 million Americans, stop insurance companies from denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions and prevent millions of people from going bankrupt due to medical costs. Already, 54 million Americans have received preventive coverage with no out-of-pocket costs and 2.5 million more young adults have health insurance.

Federal Budget: President Obama is working to balance the budget over the long term through a combination of spending cuts and tax increases on the wealthiest Americans.

Social Security and Medicare: President Obama is working to strengthen the pillars of senior citizens' retirement and health security.

Wall Street Reform: President Obama led the charge for and signed the most comprehensive reform of the financial industry since the 1930s to prevent the risk-taking and abuses that caused the crash of 2008.



Mitt Romney

Jobs: Romney called for letting the auto industry go bankrupt, he's for job-killing spending cuts and he wants to retain tax breaks for companies that move jobs offshore.

Workers' Rights: Romney wants to enact a national "right-to-work-for-less" law that would drive down wages and benefits, and he called the president's NLRB appointees "labor stooges."

Health Care: Romney would repeal the Affordable Care Act — even though it was modeled on his own statewide health care reform bill in Massachusetts — undoing all of its benefits and protections for tens of millions of Americans. This action would also increase the budget deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the next two decades.

Federal Budget: Romney would add \$10.7 trillion to the debt over the next decade by cutting taxes for millionaires — he would cut his own already-low taxes in half — and by increasing defense spending. At the same time, he wants to slash investments in education, homeland security, food inspection, health research, transportation, food aid, veterans' health care, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

Social Security and Medicare: Romney wants to end Medicare as we know it by converting it into a voucher program that will end the guarantee of benefits and force senior citizens to pay far more out of pocket. His budget would likely result in a 40 percent cut in Social Security benefits.

Wall Street Reform: Romney wants to repeal the financial industry reform law and let Wall Street run amok again.

Here's why Paul Ryan is wrong for America

By President Bill Lathrop

It seems each election year is dubbed as "the most critical of our time," but it's truer this year than ever.

On Nov. 6, we will have two clear choices to make, between progress and regression.

When Mitt Romney chose Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin as his running mate, he confirmed what many of his critics have said about his campaign — that it caters to the most extreme elements in his party. Romney chose a man whose agenda is so radical that it would destroy the middle class in America.

In case you're not familiar with Paul Ryan, here are some of the many reasons working Americans should vote against him:

- He wants to replace Medicare

with a voucher system. This would force seniors to pay \$1,200 more for their health care by 2030 and \$5,900 by 2050. Ryan also would raise the age of eligibility to 67. Nearly 70 percent of Americans favor the current state of Medicare, so why does Ryan want to do away with it?

- Ryan's proposed revisions to the tax code would extend President Bush's tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent while allowing President Obama's tax cuts for lower- and middle-class Americans to expire. Additional tax increases could be forced on the 99 percent to compensate for Ryan's tax cuts for the rich.
- Ryan advocates privatization of Social Security, forcing Americans to rely on the stock market and other risky investments to build

Ryan and Romney are pushing the same old disproved theories that created the Great Recession in the first place.

- their pensions. A study by the Center for American Progress Action Fund found that if persons with privatized Social Security accounts in 2005 had invested all of their pension earnings in the stock market, they would have been devastated by the market's crash in 2008
- Ryan's proposed cuts of \$120 billion to "discretionary" programs — education, Veterans Affairs,

Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, etc. — and \$284 billion to "mandatory" programs — military, government salaries, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, etc. — would result in a loss of 4.1 million jobs by 2014, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

When President Obama took office in 2009, he acknowledged that four years would not be enough time to undo all the damage that was done to the economy during President George W. Bush's two terms. But the automotive industry is alive because President Obama invested in it, saving 1.45 million good middle-class jobs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which he signed in 2009, saved millions more.

In contrast, Ryan and Romney are pushing the same old disproved theories that created the Great Recession in the first place.

The choice before us is clear. Please be sure you are registered to vote, and then cast your vote for Obama-Biden on Nov. 6.

TAKE THIS PAGE WITH YOU TO THE POLLS ON TUESDAY, NOV. 6

San Bernardino and Riverside Central Labor Council COPE Endorsements

BALLOT MEASURES

Proposition 30: Temporary taxes to fund education.
Guaranteed local public safety funding.

Vote YES

Proposition 31: State budget. State and local government.

Vote NO

Proposition 32: Special Exemptions Act

Vote NO

Proposition 33: Changes law to allow auto insurance companies to set prices based on a driver's history of insurance coverage.

Vote NO

Proposition 34: Death penalty repeal.

Vote YES

Proposition 35: Human trafficking, penalties, sex offender registration.

Vote YES

Proposition 36: Three strikes revision. Sentencing for repeat felony offenders.

Vote YES

Proposition 37: Mandatory labeling for genetically engineered foods.

Vote YES

Proposition 38: Tax for education and early childhood programs.

Vote NO

Proposition 39: Tax treatment for multistate businesses. Clean energy and energy efficiency funding.

No Recommendation

Proposition 40: Redistricting state senate districts.

Vote YES

President

Barack Obama

Senator

Dianne Feinstein

8th Congressional District - **Paul Cook**

21st Senate District - **Star Moffatt**

33rd Assembly District - **John Coffey**

35th Congressional District - **Gloria Negrete McLeod**

36th Congressional District - **Dr. Raul Ruiz**

40th Assembly District - **Russ Warner**

41st Congressional District - **Mark Takano**

42nd Assembly District - **Mark Orozco**

47th Assembly District - **Joe Baca, Jr.**

52nd Assembly District - **Norma Torres**

56th Assembly District - **Manuel Perez**

60th Assembly District - **Jose Luis Perez**

61st Assembly District - **Jose Medina**

California State Senate 23rd District - **Melissa Ruth O'Donnell**

Calexico Unified School District - **Tony Valenzuela**

Cathedral City Mayor - **Chip Yarborough**

Cathedral City, City Council - **Greg Pettis**

Cathedral City, City Council - **Paul Marchand**

Chino Valley School Board - **Gloria Harrison**

Chino Valley School Board - **Irene Hernandez-Blair**

Colton City Council District 5 - **John Mitchell**

Colton City Council Ward 6 - **Alex Perez**

Fontana City Council - **Lydia Salazar-Wibert**

Fontana City Council - **Matthew Slowik**

Mayor of Coachella - **Eduardo Garcia**

Mayor of Rialto - **Deborah Robertson**

Moreno Valley City Council District 1 - **Daryl Terrell**

Moreno Valley City Council District 3 - **Thomas Ketcham**

Moreno Valley City Council District 5 - **LaDonna Jempson**

Moreno Valley School Board - **Dr. Denise Fleming**

Murrieta City Council - **Paul Clay**

Redlands City Council - **Pete Aguilar**

Riverside Superior Court Judge Seat 1 - **Tom Eckhardt**

San Bernardino Community College Board of Trustees - **John Futch**

San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees - **John Longville**

San Bernardino County Supervisor 1st District - **Rick Roelle**

Val Verde Unified School Board - **Marti Rodriguez-Harris**

Val Verde Unified School Board - **Suzanne Stotlar**

Western Municipal Water District - **Ken Park**

Deadline to register to vote is Oct. 22

Register online at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

STEWARD FEATURE

Troy Morgan helps co-workers and people with disabilities

Troy Morgan is many things. He is the seafood manager and shop steward at Stater Bros. 119 in Hemet. He is a new father. He is also a high school football announcer, an outdoorsman, a teacher and a photographer. In addition, he is a former football player and a communicator in sign language.

While Morgan has long suffered from attention deficit disorder and dyslexia, the one thing he is not is limited.

In fact, he uses his experience with his disability to help others with similar challenges get and keep jobs. He also works with children with disabilities such as blindness, deafness and Down syndrome. "That's why I learned sign language," he said.

"I participate in state-sponsored classes for learning-disability students — I talk to the students about Stater Bros and the benefits of a union."

"A lot of students in general don't know what unions are or how they work," he said. "I think unions should be a BIG part of every American history class in school."

Morgan began as a courtesy clerk at Stater Bros. in 2006 after working at Big Lots, a company that "wasn't even close to being union-friendly."

He remembers captive meetings in which his employers would tell workers how they should be "happy to be

an individual and not part of a union that takes your money and tells you what to do."

"It was all bull and propaganda," he continued. "Then I got a job at Stater Bros., learned about the union and that was it. I became a steward one year later."

Morgan takes his duties as a steward seriously. "My jobs are to make sure the union bulletin board is in line, communicate to the other members what's going on in the union, and help with contract details and scheduling.

"Probably my most common question is, 'What time does the schedule have to be posted?' A lot of times a manager might think, 'Oh, I have until the weekend to put the schedule up,' and I'm right there saying, 'Nope — it has to be up on Friday at this time.'"

Morgan also helped a fellow member in the bakery when he was suspended. "The first thing I did when I got off duty was call the union," he said.

His dedication to his job doesn't begin and end with his union. Morgan decided to become the store's seafood manager, and to do that he had to become a California certified food manager.

"The first time I took the test, I failed because of my ADD and dyslexia," he said. "The manager came up to me and said, 'What happened? You



Troy Morgan

were completely ready for this."

"I explained to him my problems and they allowed me more time to take the test and to work one-on-one with an instructor to prepare," Morgan said.

"It's been that way since school. I've always scored high on hand-eye coordination, which I use a lot for meat-cutting and other things in the store, but give me a test that I have to study for and things get harder."

Morgan passed the test became the store's seafood manager. "The job came

with a lot of great new responsibilities, but also a lot of long hours," he said.

Morgan has two reasons to be concerned with those long hours. The first is family. He married Christina, a customer service representative for Stater Bros. 75, two years ago and they have a young daughter, Naima.

The second reason is his long list of activities.

"I'm the announcer for Hemet High School football games," he said. "I played for the Bulldogs when I was in high school, so I just kind of slipped into announcing their games. I'm now the voice of the Bulldogs!"

Among his many hobbies, Morgan enjoys photography and spending time in the great outdoors with his family.

"I've gone to Hemet Lake every year since I was 5 years old to camp and fish," he said. "I haven't missed a single year. It's a family tradition. The feeling is amazing when I take my wife and daughter up there."

While all of his activities would be enough to keep anyone busy, Morgan has one additional guilty pleasure.

"You can call me a nerd or whatever, but I'm a huge professional wrestling fan," he said. "I watch it on TV and I've been in the stadiums for pay-per-view events, Monday Night Raw and Smackdown to see them live."

Next Quarterly Membership Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012

The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

UFCW Local 1167 Auditorium,

855 W. San Bernardino Ave., Bloomington.

UFCW Local 1167 recognizes the following candidates for publicly opposing Prop. 32:

- V. Manuel Perez
- Jose Medina
- Richard Roth
- Paul Cook
- Joe Baca, Jr.
- Dr. Raul Ruiz
- Mark Takano



Read your mail!

Questions? to contact the Trust Fund:

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