

# DESERT EDGE

**UFCW LOCAL 1167**

a VOICE for working America

Summer 2016

Official Publication of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1167

President's Report:

# Stand strong together!



JBS Workers join UFCW Local 1167 • Habitat for Humanity

**Union offices closed:** July 4 Independence Day  
Sept. 5 Labor Day

## Next Quarterly Membership Meetings:

Wednesday, June 22  
Wednesday, Sept. 28  
Wednesday, Dec. 21

Meetings start at 7 p.m.  
New Member meetings held at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

UFCW Local 1167 Auditorium  
855 W. San Bernardino Ave.  
Bloomington, CA 92316

## DESERT EDGE

**Rick Bruer**  
Editor

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

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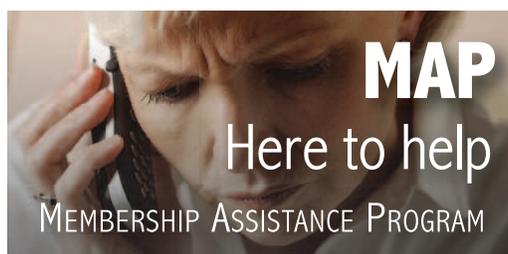
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### If you have

#### problems with:

Alcohol, drugs, children & adolescents, family, emotional issues, gambling, marriage and/or financial/legal.

Eligible active or retired members can call the toll-free MAP number at the

Health Management Center any time, day or night, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All calls are confidential.

#### Food Division

call (800) 461-9179

#### Drug Division

call (866) 268-2510

## NEW MEMBER MEETINGS

Are you a new member of UFCW Local 1167? Has one of your co-workers recently joined our union?

Get up to a \$65 credit toward your initiation fee when you attend a New Member Training Meeting within six months of your hire date.

Call (909) 877-5000 for dates, locations and answers to any questions.

## Notice to all 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: YOUR DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH, 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.

Nonpayment 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!



## Watch your mailbox!

for important information from your health benefits Trust Fund.

### Got questions? Contact the Trust Fund (ext. 424):

(714) 220-2297 • (562) 408-2715 • (877) 284-2320 • [www.scufcwffunds.com](http://www.scufcwffunds.com)

# Stand strong together for better contracts!

**B**y the time you've received this issue of *Desert Edge*, our members at Albertsons/Vons and Ralphs have been called upon to authorize a strike against their employers.

Nobody wants a strike, but this option could become necessary to negotiate a fair contract.

It's up to the employers.

As I write this report, three months after the previous contract's expiration, the companies have rejected all of the proposals submitted by the UFCW unions of Southern California. Rather than work with us constructively, they have placed a set of absurd proposals on the table.

These proposals disregard the needs of our hardworking members, ignore the growing costs of living in Southern California, and fail to give employees any credit for the companies' record profits.

The companies' wage offer is insulting and their benefit proposal would drastically increase employee health care costs and decimate our pension plan.

In response, the UFCW unions of our region — Locals 8, 135, 324, 770, 1167, 1428 and 1442 — called for strike votes on June 20 and 21. If you work for Albertsons/Vons or Ralphs, we urge you stand strong with your union sisters and brothers and support our negotiating team.

Your union also seeks your help in contacting shoppers in front of the stores to inform them of the critical importance of fair wages and benefits for workers in the supermarkets.

It's time to stand strong, because, like everyone else who works for a living, we should have jobs that make ends meet.

We know from experience that these companies care only about their bottom line and not the needs of their employees. We must show that our unity can threaten that bottom line so man-



**RICK BRUER**

President

agement will understand it is in its best interests to address our needs.

Our local union has 18,000 men and women enrolled as members, which makes us one of the largest private-sector unions in California. Let's use that size and all the strength it represents.

## **Critically important support**

Please take every opportunity to tell management, your co-workers and

your customers that you support your union and its goals.

To help, the UFCW unions of Southern California are preparing buttons for our members to wear at their workplaces. They convey a powerful message: Grocery jobs should feed a family!

You can help in other ways, too.

---

*Grocery jobs  
should feed a  
family!*

---

If each member would dedicate one hour a month to union activities, our entire union would benefit from an additional 18,000 hours a month going into growing our membership, negotiating stronger contracts and building our influence on legislation affecting all working people.

Currently, we have Union Representatives and staff members working on these projects along with a few stalwart volunteers from the ranks. But their numbers are limited. They are doing all they can in addition to their normal duties.

Imagine what we could accomplish if we all got involved and helped just a little!

As a member of UFCW Local 1167, you hold the key to a better life with the wages, benefits and working conditions you deserve. All it takes is an

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# What's Happening

## Just Married

**Valerie Navarrette**, Albertsons, married Gabriel Navarrette on Feb. 18 in Indio. The couple honeymooned at Disneyland. ... **Bertha Mandujano**, Rite Aid, married Adrian Mandujano on Feb. 12. ... **Diana Gonzalez**, Stater Bros., married Angelo Pinto on April 12 in San Bernardino. The couple honeymooned in Colombia, South America.

Congratulations to all of our newly-weds!

## Just Retired

The months of March, April and May brought us several new retirees. **Linda Feltenberger** worked for Albertsons for 31 years. **Katherine Magdaleno** worked for Albertsons and Stater Bros. for 25 years. **James Cochrane** worked for Alpha Beta and Ralphs for 46 years. **Reynaldo Higareda** worked for Albertsons and Max Foods for 34 years. **JoAnn Abacherli** worked for Ralphs for 31 years. **Carol Zapata** worked for Hughes, Mayfair and Ralphs for 39 years. **Evelyn Pello** worked for Albertsons, Alpha Beta and Lucky for 34 years. **Kevin Baird** worked for Albertsons and McCoys Market for 38 years. **Julie Muehlig** worked for Alpha Beta and Food 4 Less for 31 years. **Cindy Ware** worked for Vons for 16 years. **Kathy Nighswonger** worked for Albertsons and Stater Bros. for 33 years. **Livier Campos** worked for Stater Bros. for 25 years. **Tia Vallez** worked for Ralphs for 42 years. **Giovanna Bica** worked for Vons for 8 years. **William Mauz** worked for Alpha Beta and Ralphs for 40 years. **Maron Dean, Jr.** worked for Ralphs for 28 years. **Dixie Slocum** worked for Vons for 11 years.

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

## Just Born

**Jasmine Sanchez**, Stater Bros., gave birth to Matthew Alexander Fernandez on April 27. Matthew weighed 7 lbs. 4.5oz and was 19 3/4" ... **Eloy Rocha III**, Food 4 Less, is pleased to announce the birth of Benjamin Cruz Rocha, born April 1. Benjamin weighed 7 lbs. 7oz, was 21" and as "first

time parents, we are blessed and so in love with Benji!" ... **Danette Espinoza**, Stater Bros., has a baby girl, Sara Arabella, born April 13. Sara weighed 6 lbs. 11oz and was 19 1/2". ... **Cecilia Orozco**, Albertsons, gave birth to Mateo Bello, born April 6, weighing 6 lbs. 12oz and 20". ... **Dan Ochoa**, Stater



Bros., is proud to announce the birth of Penelope Reign Ochoa, born April 3. ... Penelope weighed 6 lbs. 1oz at 19 1/2". ... **Erica Gonzales**, Stater Bros., has a little baby girl, Harlow

Emmarie, born Feb. 29. Harlow weighed 7 lbs. 12oz and was 20 3/4". ... **Jessica & Juan Bustamante**, Albertsons, gave birth to Makayla Jo on March 10. Makayla weighed 8 lbs. 3oz and was 20 1/4". ... **Trina Silva**, Food 4 Less, welcomed "our precious baby girl," Dyani Valencia, into the world on April 5. Dyani weighed 7 lbs. 3oz. ... **Sandra Perez**, Rite Aid, is proud to announce the birth of her son, Jacob Abraham Garcia, born March 28 weighing 7 lbs. 6oz and 20". ... **Maria Rivera**, Albertsons, has a new daughter, Vannia, born March 19 weighing 6 lbs. 13oz and 18 1/2". ... **Shannon & Ray Retzlaff**, both with Stater Bros., welcomed Ezra Ray, born March 11 Ezra weighed 8 lbs. 2oz and was 20". ... **Michael Pacheco**, Stater Bros., has a new baby girl, Alana Marie, born Feb. 20. ... **Santino Romo**, Stater Bros., welcomes his new baby Celine Elizabeth, born on March 7 weighing 8 lbs. 4oz. Proud daddy says, "she is our beautiful bundle of joy!" ... **Martha Luna**, Stater Bros., gave birth to a son, Jacob Isaiah, on Feb. 13. Her "miracle baby" weighed 8 lbs. and was 20". ... **Hugo Hernandez**, has a new son, Jayden Mateo, born Feb. 12. Jayden weighed 8 lbs. 5oz and was 19 1/2". Jayden's older brothers, Aaron and Aiden, welcome their new baby brother. ... **Rebecca Ephraim**, Albertsons, has a new son, Rylen Ray, born Feb. 16. Rylen weighed 6 lbs. 12oz and was 20". ... **Jaclyn Hernandez**, Vons, gave birth to her first born, Belle D., on Feb. 3. Belle weighed 7 lbs. and was 18 1/2". ... **JoAnn Jordan**, Vons, has a baby boy, Thomas Maldonado, born Feb. 3. Thomas weighed 6 lbs. 4oz and was 18".

Congratulations to all the new mommies and daddies!

## IN MEMORIAM

**Gertrude Agens**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway, died on April 24 at the age of 91. She had been a continuous member since April 1964.

**Mary Ahrens**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Stater Bros. and Van de Kamp, died on March 3 at the age of 72. She had been a continuous member since May 1967.

**Rosalie Beller**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Ralphs, died on Nov. 3, 2015 at the age of 78. She had been a member since August 1959.

**Martin Bronfeld**, a retired pharmacist formerly employed by Vons, died on March 10 at the age of 94. He had been a member since May 1954.

**Virginia Dibenedetto**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Market Basket, died on May 3 at the age of 89. She had been a member since September 1962.

**Mary Evans**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Alpha Beta, died on Feb. 21 at the age of 75. She had been a member since January 1974.

**Mary Gonzalez**, a retired meat wrapper formerly employed by Lucky, Market Basket, Pantry and Vons died on March 21, 2016 at the age of 82. She had been a continuous member since February 1963.

**Connie Holmes**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Staters Bros., died on Feb. 28 at the age of 91. She had been a continuous member since July 1966.

**Penni Ilizaliturri**, an affiliated member employed by Stater Bros., died on May 8 at the age of 61. She had been a continuous member since July 1991.

**Mario Luzzi**, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Albertsons, died on April 20 at the age of 86. He had been a continuous member since February 1972.

**John McClean**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Lucky, died on Feb. 20 at the age of 90. He had been a member since September 1977.

Continued on page 12

## Organizing Success

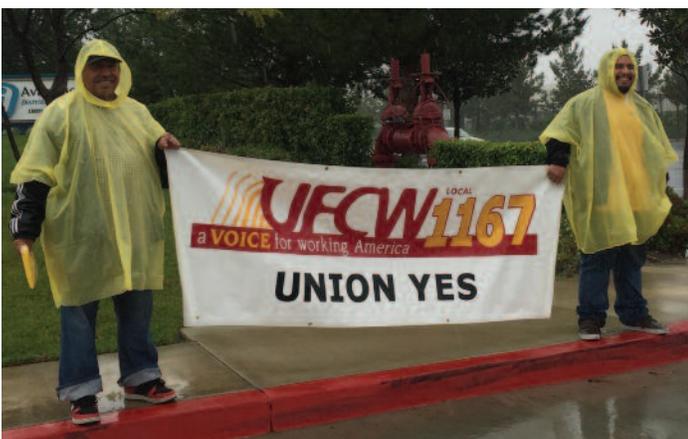


# JBS workers in Riverside join Local 1167

**M**ore than 260 workers at the JBS case-ready plant in Riverside voted by an overwhelming majority on April 19 and 20 to join UFCW Local 1167.

This is the first JBS plant to be represented by Local 1167. The UFCW represents more than 24,000 JBS workers in the United States.

“These workers now have a collective voice to help fight for their rights and to see positive change for all JBS employees,” UFCW Local 1167 President Rick Bruer said. “We are



proud to welcome JBS Riverside employees into our UFCW family.”

The workers said they voted “Union Yes!” because they wanted respect on the job, including consistent scheduling practices.

Many of the JBS employees said they had no idea how many hours they would be working on a given day, making it hard to plan for visits to their doctors or attend their children’s school activities.

Safety was also a big concern. The employees work in cold temperatures and their work area is extremely slippery. Several of them have suffered injuries from slips and falls in recent months.

At the same time, the workers wanted to help make JBS a successful company, believing that union representation would lead to better, safer and more productive working conditions.

For some employees at JBS, the vote to join UFCW Local 1167 marks the end of an eight-year journey that started with the campaign to organize food processing and distributing facilities owned by Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Markets.

JBS employees started an Organizing Committee of 17 workers that met at 4 a.m. to handbill before their shifts and they would stay to handbill for another three hours after their shifts ended.

Some of the workers who worked at the plant when it was 2 Sisters joined JBS workers on April 20 to celebrate the win.

“We are overjoyed to have organized our workplace,” said Maria Garcia, who has worked at the JBS Riverside plant for eight years.

“After so many years and different owners — 2 Sisters, Fresh & Easy, Yucaipa Foods and now JBS — we finally accomplished what we set out to do many years ago,” she added.

“We look forward to having representation, better pay and benefits, and respect for all of us at JBS Riverside.”



# Steward Profile



## Always there

Steward Elisa Berazas responds to coworkers' questions any time of the day

**E**lisa Berazas, a cashier at Ralphs 27 in Palm Desert, didn't know she was destined to become a leader when she applied for a job at her store nearly 20 years ago.

"A family member told me to apply at Ralphs because of its great health benefits," Berazas recalled. "I was married and raising two girls without health insurance, so I needed those benefits."

Once she started at Ralphs, she noticed that reliable scheduling was also important.

"I used to work at Toys 'R' Us and there were times when they'd send you home early if it wasn't busy," she said. "If they didn't need you, they wouldn't call."

Nearly five years into her career as a cashier, the 2003-04 strike and lockouts occurred and she found herself doing more than picketing. She became a leader.

"Whatever needed to be done in those days, I did it," she said. "It wasn't too long after that when my store needed a steward, so I stepped up."

Berazas' initiative helps explain why she's so respected at her store. At any time of the day, she does what she can to answer her coworkers' questions and help with their concerns.

"All of my coworkers have my cell phone number and they know they can call or text me at any time," she said.

And call and text they have. It's not rare for Berazas to return a text or call in the wee hours of the morning.

"I do what I can to make sure my coworkers don't worry about a thing," she said. "If I don't have an answer to their questions or problems, I'll call my Union Rep. Jerry Espinoza, and if he has the answer, then I'll get back to my coworkers with it."

Recently, a courtesy clerk asked Berazas why she was being scheduled with fewer hours than someone who had less seniority than her.

"I found out this other courtesy clerk was working 48 hours and the one with more seniority was working 20," Berazas said. "I informed management about it and when they did nothing, I told them I was going to notify the union. Needless to say, the problem got solved."

When Berazas isn't fighting for her coworkers, she might be found at the Happiest Place on Earth — Disneyland.

"I love taking my daughters and grandsons there," she said. "I love being a grandma and spoiling them."

IT PAYS TO BE UNION		
	MAR-MAY	2016 TOTAL
BACK-PAY AND BENEFITS RESTORED TO MEMBERS	\$20,472	\$25,071.14
MEMBERS REINSTATED	71	117
GRIEVANCES SETTLED	182	290
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS RESTORED TO MEMBERS		\$8,380.80

### 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.

## Non-union poultry workers abused

Oxfam report says UFCW members are better off

**A**n Oxfam report condemning working conditions in the poultry industry singles out unionized plants as exceptions where workers' rights are respected.

"Unions...offer important protections, inform workers of their rights, and ensure they have a voice on the job," the report's authors wrote.

"Unionized workers report that they feel comfortable leaving or stopping the line when their requests are denied for too long," they added.

The authors also noted: "Roughly a third of the poultry workforce is unionized, leaving most workers without these crucial protections."

The Oxfam report, titled *No Relief: Denial of Bathroom Breaks in the Poultry Industry*, was cited in a *Washington Post* Wonk Blog post titled, "'I had to wear Pampers': The cruel reality the people who bring you cheap chicken allegedly endure."

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union released the following statement in response to the story and its subsequent news coverage:

"The indignity with which poultry workers are being treated in America has to stop. Workers need to know they have a right to organize and that organized workers have more opportunities to protect themselves from this type of abuse.

"The headline is salacious, but the heart of the matter is unionized workers can speak freely about dangerous working conditions without fear of retaliation. This leads to a healthier and more productive work environment and a safer product for consumers."



### Steward David Sanchez joins Local 1167 Executive Board

David Sanchez, a produce clerk and steward at Stater Bros. 36 in San Bernardino, is the newest member of the union's Executive Board.

President Rick Bruer administered Sanchez's oath of office on April 26.

"I became a steward because I wanted to become more involved," Sanchez said. "I started to realize how much I was missing and I decided to step up."

Sanchez encourages all members to take an active role in the union and work to protect the benefits of a union job.

"Working union is a great way to make a living," he said. "I've seen the difference in wages, benefits and working conditions between those who work union and non-union and it's like night and day."

As a member of the Executive Board, Sanchez will make important decisions about the future of the union.

"It's been a great learning experience so far," he said, "and I look forward to bringing more knowledge from the Executive Board back to my co-workers."

"I want to help them realize how important it is to become active in the union — not to just sit back and enjoy the good wages, benefits and pension, but to protect these things and to make them even better."

Sanchez and his wife, Kimberly, have two children: Carson, 19, and Kylee, 16. Kylee has shown an interest in following in her father's footsteps and recently volunteered to help with upcoming union projects focused on political activism and protecting union market share.

## Members at work: Food 4 Less 765, Indio



## Charity Golf Tournament



Friend Donna Walker, husband Jim, mom Stacey Fenwick and Matt Russo from the LLS.

# Love for Laiken

Charity Golf Tournament raises funds for leukemia research; participants hear story from mother who lost her child to cancer

**U**FCW Locals 1167 and 1428 had their 14th annual Leukemia-Lymphoma Charity Golf Tournament on May 3 at the Sierra Lakes Golf Club in Fontana.

More than \$70,000 was raised at the event, which benefits the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and scholarship programs provided by the two local unions.

In a special presentation, tournament participants heard from Matt Russo, UFCW liaison for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Stacey Fenwick, who shared the story of her personal struggle with cancer.

Stacey's daughter, Laiken, was a typical 10-year-old kid going to school, playing with her friends and learning how to be a cheerleader.

That all changed on Feb. 5, 2005.

"She was complaining that her legs hurt and she didn't want to get out of bed," her mom recalled.

"The pain came and went and we



Laiken Kenwood

were told it was just growing pains or other pre-adolescent things going on. But when it got worse, we had blood work done and the results shocked us."

Laiken was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia.

"This can't be happening to us, we

thought. But it did."

Laiken was immediately admitted for chemotherapy treatments at Loma Linda University's Children's Hospital. Her initial stay was 30 days of treatment and tests before she could return back home.

"She kept herself in good spirits even though she was in extreme pain at times," Stacey said.

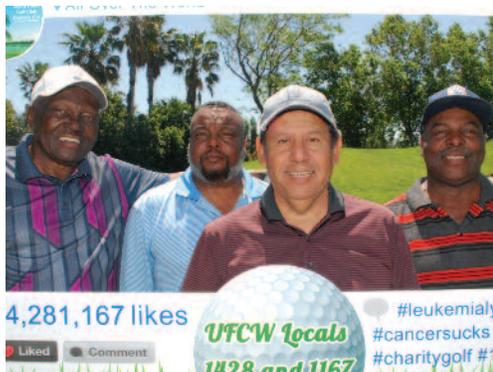
Laiken was in and out of the hospital over the next two years until tests indicated that she could be in remission. She was able to enjoy trips to the beach and mountains with her family.

Unfortunately, this reprieve didn't last long. In late 2007, doctors determined that Laiken would need a bone marrow transplant. A search began immediately to find a match through the National Marrow Donor Program.

A less-than-perfect match was found and on Jan. 3 2008, Laiken was admitted into Children's Hospital of Los Angeles to have the transplant. The results were unsuccessful.

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# Charity Golf Tournament



President Rick Bruer thanks tournament participants.



## Laiken's story underscores importance of supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Continued from page 8

A second transplant was performed on March 20, 2008, and the family had high hopes for recovery. Sadly, her body was too tired and her organs began to fail.

After four months in isolation, Laiken passed away on April 22, 2008.

It was ironic that she died one day after her family learned that the second transplant had worked and she was cancer-free.

Since Laiken's passing, her family has been committed to spreading awareness about childhood cancer and the importance of being on the national bone marrow registry.

"We feel she might have survived if the first transplant was a perfect match," Stacey said.

Each year on the anniversary of her passing, Laiken's family and friends have participated in a Pay It Forward

Day. Throughout the day they perform random acts of kindness in the name of Laiken Kenwood (#Love4Laiken) to bring joy to people's lives on a day that would otherwise bring sorrow.

"I'm here to thank you for participating in this event and raising money to go to such a worthwhile cause," Stacey told her audience during the golf tournament.

"Be an advocate for your child," she continued. "Listen to the warning signs and have them checked, and have yourself checked."

"You change the oil in your car, you rotate the tires, you check the fluids..., you need to do the same for your body. Get yourself checked by doing biometric screenings, mammograms and the like."

"You can always get another car, but this body is the only one you'll have," said one of the organizers of the event.

## Habitat Diamond Valley Lake Marathon



# Running to build houses

Local 1167 staff races to help build houses for less fortunate



**U**FCW Local 1167 was at the starting block when Habitat for Humanity launched its 14th annual Diamond Valley Lake Marathon to raise funds to build homes for low-income families in the San Jacinto Valley.

President Rick Bruer and members of the union's executive board and staff joined in the event on March 12 in Hemet.

"Habitat for Humanity is a worthy cause and the work it does inspired all of us to run," President Bruer said.

The all-ages events consisted of a 5K, 10K, half-marathon and marathon, challenging participants to run around the Diamond Valley Lake Marina.

Habitat for Humanity is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that builds affordable housing. Each family must log 500 hours of labor before it can move in and begin making low non-interest mortgage payments.

Each house built is sold to families without a profit and mortgage payments finance the building of future homes. To get involved in Habitat for Humanity, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).



## Members at work: Food 4 Less 781, Calexico



# Stand strong together for better contracts

Continued from page 3

understanding that our union is *you*, not just the Union Reps and staff. Once we reach that realization, all else follows.

### Strong example set by JBS workers

A case in point: On page 5 of this magazine, we report that more than 260 workers at the JBS case-ready plant in Riverside have voted overwhelmingly to join United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1167.

We are proud of these new union members who stood together to reach their common goal: a voice on the job, fair

treatment and a decent standard of living. They set a strong example for all of our members in all of the industries we serve.

No matter where we work, we need to stand together as one to reach the goals we all share.

We have much to be proud of as active members of UFCW Local 1167. We can become even more proud when we take responsibility for our union's success, now and in the future.

Stand strong together and we will prevail. After all, *we are the union!*

## In the Community

# 1,000 march with El Super workers

### Supermarket chain ordered to pay \$363,000 in back wages

**S**eeking a fair contract and respect on the job, El Super grocery workers represented by the UFCW marched through the streets of South Los Angeles along with more than 1,000 supporters.

Six hundred El Super employees at seven union-affiliated stores in Southern California have been working without a contract since September 2013. The Latino grocery chain has 54 stores in the western United States, including Nevada.

"We need a fair contract so we can take care of ourselves and our families," Lydia Flores, an El Super cashier, told news media.

"Sometimes, my co-workers have to work two jobs to get by," Flores said. "I have a son who is ill and I can't do that because I have to take care of him.

"We need fair pay and enough paid sick days so we can take care of our families."

"El Super needs to respect its workers and negotiate a fair agreement that rewards our members for their hard work," said Rick Bruer, president of UFCW Local 1167, which supports a national boycott of the chain.



The El Super workers are seeking better wages, more paid sick days, stronger seniority protections and a 40-hour guarantee for full-time employees.

In a related development, the National Labor Relations Board ordered El Super to pay nearly 550 current and former employees a total of \$363,000 in back wages as part of an agreement to settle unfair labor practice allegations.

In the summer of 2015, a Los Angeles federal judge granted the NLRB's request to stop El Super's parent company from making unilateral and illegal changes to its vacation policy.

The company was required to restore its previous vacation policy and eliminate changes requiring employees to work at El Super a year before they were eligible for annual leave benefits.

Also, in August of 2015, El Super was forced to reinstate Fermin Rodriguez, a vocal supporter of the UFCW, to his job and give him seven months in back pay.

## Union Representative's Report

**Jerry Espinoza**

# Our right to vote is an American freedom

**T**his year, many have called our political area an absolute circus. Be that as it may, our election process is an American freedom that we should hold dear.

As 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.



**Jerry Espinoza**  
Union Representative

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

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

We must respond to their lies and speak the truth. And, most importantly, we must vote and vote wisely. We must vote for our future.

As this issue goes to press our California Primary is underway and nationally, Election Day, Nov. 7, is around the corner. 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 eligible 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 forget 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 what party affiliation you hold. Voting is *essential* to having your voice heard in our democracy.

How do you register for the general elections in November? 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.

We must choose the best candidate in every race to protect our economic freedoms. Study the issues and decide who is most likely to protect the rights we have as union members and who will support us as we strive to provide better lives for our families.

Vote to protect your job! Vote for a safe and secure future for you and your loved ones.

## IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 4

**Marion McFarling**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Vons, died on April 22 at the age of 80. She had been a continuous member since October 1969.

**Wayne McFarling**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Vons, died on Jan. 31 at the age of 81. He had been a continuous member since November 1972.

**Philip Perez**, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Vons, died on March 17 at the age of 78. He had been a continuous member since September 1967.

**Mabel Peterson**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Alpha Beta, died on Feb. 2 at the age of 86. She had been a continuous member since February 1961.

**Vera Roberts**, a retired meat wrapper formerly employed by Albertsons, Fazio's, Market Basket and Vons, died on April 15 at the age of 88. She had been a continuous member since July 1956.

**Teddy Whitmore**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Alpha Beta & Ralphs, died on March 17 at the age of 66. He had been a member since October 1966.

**Margaret Vermillion**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Albertsons and Lucky, died on May 31 at the age of 71. She had been a member since January 1965.

**Buck Young**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Market Basket, died on Feb. 24, 2016 at the age of 87. He had been a member since February 1953.

# Lobbying in Sacramento

### Delegation urges legislators to pass Reliable Scheduling Act and other bills

**U**FCW members and leaders from across California traveled to Sacramento in February to participate in the union's first Lobby Day of the year. Ryan Parkman, a steward from Stater Bros. 178 in Apple Valley, joined UFCW Local 1167 President Rick Bruer, Secretary-Treasurer Joe Duffle and Organizers Ana Cabral and Yesenia Gonzalez in a day of meetings with legislative leaders at the Capitol.

The Lobby Day was coordinated by the UFCW's Western States Council, which plans other visits to Sacramento throughout the year.

The union team thanked members of the California Assembly and Senate for passing the Grocery Workers Retention Act, which became law on Jan. 1.

They also encouraged support for current pro-worker bills in the legislature, including the Reliable Scheduling Act, which would ensure that employees have adequate notice of their work schedules.

In addition, the activists urged passage of the Double Pay on the Holiday Act, which would guarantee that employees who work on Thanksgiving or Christmas Day are paid double-time.

"The experience was amazing and truly an eye-opener for



From left: Organizer Ana Cabral, Local 1167 President Rick Bruer, Stater Bros. Produce Clerk Ryan Parkman, Secretary-Treasurer Joe Duffle and Organizing Director Yesenia Gonzalez.

me," Parkman said after returning to Apple Valley. "It made me see that I'm part of the process and made me want to get more involved."

A union member for 15 years, Parkman is a sixth key carrier at his store.

"I learned that it's not about sitting back and complaining when something isn't right," he said. "We can do something about it!"



Ryan Parkman discusses reliable scheduling with legislative staff.

## Members at work: Food 4 Less 781, Calexico



## Rosie's Corner



Welcome to *Rosie's Corner*, a space dedicated to union women!

Women are now the majority in our local union, comprising 56 percent of our membership.

In recognition, each issue of our magazine will include information about women's issues on this dedicated page.

Subjects will include working moms, the wage gap, child care issues, women's health and domestic violence, among other topics, as well as easy recipes and fun features.

*Rosie's Corner* is a collaboration by women from different demographics.

Remember, this is *our* space and we encourage you to participate. Let us know if you have any topics you like to see discussed. Please contact us at [rosies\\_corner@ufcw1167.org](mailto:rosies_corner@ufcw1167.org).

## Incredible women

Incredible women are everywhere.

In this issue of *Rosie's Corner*, we bring you the stories of two women who overcame huge odds to lead successful lives.

They have inspired others and we think they'll inspire you, too.

### *Rosario Zamorano*

In much of the 20th century, millions of people in Central and South America lived in oppressive dictatorships. Rosario Zamorano was one of them, enduring hardships under the rule of Bolivian despot Hugo Banzer Suárez in the 1970s.

"The rations the government gave us were not enough to feed a whole family," Zamorano remembers.

"My parents started a garden and bought a few chickens to help feed us. It wasn't until I was older that I realized how hard we struggled to survive."

Rosario's family had a passion for athletics. Her father was a soccer player, her brother played volleyball for the national team and Rosario had a passion for basketball.

"I played basketball for about 20 years," she said. "The last seven years, I was part of the Bolivian national team and competed internationally."

During one of her matches, she ruptured a knee ligament and never regained enough mobility to

resume her professional career. The injury didn't keep her spirits down, though.

She pursued a journalism career and volunteered at an agency to help low-income families find access to health care and family counseling. She even had a radio and television show where she gave family counseling advice.

In 2001, she set her sights on traveling to see more of the world.

"I wanted to learn as much about the world as I could, so I decided to move to the U.S.," she said.

Job hunting wasn't easy. She worked a few odd gigs just to get by and took an English course so she could enroll in a business administration class. Soon, she got a job with H&R Block and learned how to do taxes.

During tax season, she runs a business filing returns for Latino families and assists small businesses with managing their payrolls.

She works at Food 4 Less as a utility clerk because the reliable hours and health benefits help her raise her family.

A couple of years ago, she was accepted to the Food 4 Less retail management program and hopes to become a manager soon. She enjoys all of the "hats" she wears as an entrepreneur, leader, mother and wife.

Her optimism, which was crucial in helping

Zamorano persevere in reaching her goals, was challenged last year, when she was diagnosed with uterine cancer. In most cases it's treatable and Rosario believes she'll be cancer-free soon.

"I have two daughters and an amazing husband to live for," she said. "I just want to live a happy life and give everyone the respect they deserve and that's how I try to live each day."

### *Maria Garcia*

Maria hails from Nayarit, a small state in western Mexico a few hundred miles east of Cabo San Lucas.

In the 1980s, she and her husband Antonio married and raised two daughters. As their financial needs grew, Antonio made the difficult decision to leave his family and seek work in the U.S.

"He worked so much that he didn't have time to come back to Mexico and be with us," Maria said. "So we decided to go to him."

Maria and her son and daughter, 4 and 3 years old at the time, emigrated to California. Antonio doubled his hours at a Chinese restaurant while Maria stayed home with the kids.

Antonio eventually got a job at a Cardenas grocery store and one of his managers suggested he sign up for a program to legalize his family's residency. They got their papers, which helped Maria land a job at 2 Sisters, a company that later was acquired by Fresh & Easy and then JBS.

One day, a coworker suggested Maria go to a meeting to decide if the Fresh & Easy workers should join Local 1167.

"I'll always remember that day because that's when I met my Union Rep, Maria Perez," she said. "I never knew a union could care so much about us and have our backs."

It wasn't long before she began educating her



From left: Rosario Zamorano and Maria Garcia

coworkers about the benefits of joining the union. She began attending as many meetings as she could.

"Around the time of the vote, our managers followed us to see where we went after work," Maria recalled. "We had to deny everything just to keep our jobs, but now, we're not scared."

Maria's children are grown and have jobs of their own. She says every now and then they'll ask her for work advice.

"I'm a leader now and I thank God for putting me on this path," she said.

## *Fun Facts*

- **Frances Perkins** was appointed secretary of labor by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, making her the first female member of a presidential cabinet.
- **Malala Yousafzai** became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2014 at 17 years old.
- **Catherine Brewer** became the first woman in the U.S. to earn a bachelor's degree when she graduated from Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., in 1840.
- The first women to vote in the U.S. are unknown because no records were kept before 1807.

Return in 5 days to:  
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Union Local 1167  
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## **Negotiations are under way. Stay informed!**

**Please stay informed as negotiations proceed  
by checking our website: [www.ufcw1167.org](http://www.ufcw1167.org).**

**To receive text message alerts, text VOTE1167 to 411247.**



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