

Desert Edge

UFCW LOCAL **1167**
a **VOICE** for working America

Summer 2021

Official Publication of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1167



**Fighting
for
fairness at
Food 4 Less**

**President's report:
Strong support for unions!**

**See who's new
on staff
at Local 1167**

Union offices closed | **July 5** - Independence Day (Observed)
Sept. 6 - Labor Day

Membership Meetings

June 23:
Regular membership meetings reconvene in Bloomington.

Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

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

CDC guidelines will be observed.

New Member Meetings reconvene
— see page 4 for details.

DESERT EDGE

Joe Duffle
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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Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

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(909) 877-1110

Drug & General Sales Division insurance:

(909) 877-2331

Telephone hours:

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

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www.ufcw1167.org

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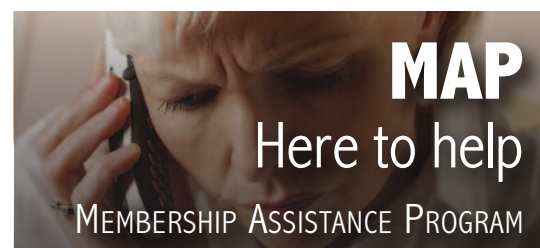
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ON THE COVER:

Food 4 Less 328 member Kevin Byrne and his family lead rally participants in Rialto

**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 your Union Rep or a visit to our website, **ufcw1167.org**, where you can complete an address change form. It could avoid a big problem with a hospital, medical claim or pension inquiry.



If you have problems with alcohol, drugs, children & adolescents, family, emotional issues, gambling, marriage and/or financial/legal issues, 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

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

Strong support for unions in Washington D.C. and at home

If we've learned anything from the Labor Movement's long history in the United States, it's this:

Never underestimate the power of working people who come together under the banner of solidarity.

We can endure setbacks, as we did in the recent unionization vote at the Amazon fulfillment warehouse in Bessemer, Ala., and then come roaring back with successes on other fronts.

The stage is already set across the country, where two-thirds of the population now has a favorable view of unions. This is the highest level of approval in decades, reflecting an increasing awareness — especially among younger Americans — that corporations like Amazon, Walmart and McDonald's won't willingly share a meaningful portion of their profits with the workers who make those profits possible. Good things like fair wages and decent benefits have to be demanded by a united and determined work force.

Government can help with measures like minimum wage laws, but it will take a stronger, newly empowered union movement to achieve real progress in narrowing the wealth gap between the richest few and everyone else.

This is why the White House has spoken forthrightly in support of unions and has taken the strongest pro-labor positions of any presidency since the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s.

Most significant among the president's positions is his endorsement of the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act of 2021. This law would make it harder for companies to intimidate and browbeat workers who want to join a union, as happened allegedly at the Amazon warehouse



JOE DUFFLE
President

Never underestimate the power of working people who come together under the banner of solidarity.

in Alabama. It would also take away from states their ability to weaken unions through unfair laws.

While the U.S. House of Representatives has already approved the PRO Act, it faces a likely filibuster by anti-union forces in the Senate.

Meanwhile, the administration has taken another bold step by launching a high-level task force, headed by the vice

president and Labor Secretary Martin J. Walsh (a longtime leader of a union), to find other ways to help workers get a voice on the job.

A White House spokesperson said the task force will provide recommendations to make it easier for all workers, including women and people of color, to join unions and become part of the middle class. For example, the federal government could use its leverage as a contractor to encourage companies to refrain from interfering in union organizing drives.

These pro-union actions add up to good news for the working people of America.

Current federal laws are not sufficient to protect people who want to improve their lives by joining a union. Now we have the nation's leadership firmly committed to finding solutions to this problem, and that's a good thing.

Strength at the local level

Whatever happens in Washington, D.C., we'll always have work to do at UFCW Local 1167. At press time we continue to be in arduous negotiations with Food 4 Less, we're underway with CVS and will be opening contract talks with Rite Aid soon.

As always, we will never rest until our bargaining teams have negotiated the best possible agreements — contracts our members will be proud to ratify.

Our success in these endeavors rely on the solidarity of our membership, because it empowers us to negotiate from a position of strength. Without it, we would be at the mercy of the enormous corporations most of us work for.

We are united and we are strong. We are UFCW Local 1167!

What's Happening

NEW MEMBER MEETINGS



Just Born

Latoya Griffin, Stater Bros., has a baby boy Lamar Allen Wilson, "I love you baby boy" born on Feb. 7, 2021 at 6 lbs. and 21" long. **Heather Saucedo Martinez**, Stater Bros., has a baby girl, Inez Martinez, born on March 6, 2021 at 6 lbs. 2oz. and 18" long. **Jessica Logona**, Rite Aid, has a baby girl Juliet Celia Guzman, born on April 9, 2021 at 7.13 lbs. and 20" long.



Just Retired

The Months of March, April and May brought us several new retirees. **Jeff Barraza** worked for Vons for 42 years. ... **Michael Lee Allen** worked for Stater Bros. for 37 years. ... **Eduardo Castro** worked for Alpha Beta and Food 4 Less for 43 years. ... **Terri Dove** worked for Albertsons for 37 years. ... **Aniceta Gomez** worked for Ralphs for 23 years. ... **Douglas Harrelson** worked for Stater Bros., for 41 years. ... **Irene Holguin** worked for Safeway and Vons for 45 years. ... **Gerhard Holletzke** worked

for Stater Bros. for 44 years. ... **David Hunt** worked for Ralphs and Albertsons for 39 years. ... **Michael Kent** worked for Albertsons for 43 years. ... **Kimberly Knight** worked for Vons for 34 years. ... **Dan Lew** worked for Vons for 46 years. ... **Keith Odenbaugh** worked for Stater Bros. and Safeway for 42 years. ... **Leodegario Pena** worked for Albertsons for 36 years. ... **Tina Randell** worked for Vons and Market Basket for 39 years. ... **Gabe Reid** worked for Ralphs for 36 years. ... **Pat Roman** worked for Boys Market, Alpha Beta, Viva Mart and Food 4 Less for 36 years. ... **Cynthia Romero** worked for Food 4 Less for 26 years. ... **Gina Sanchez** worked for Stater Bros. for 37 years. ... **Martha Sanchez** worked for Gelsons for 8 years. ... **Josh Sheehe** worked for Stater Bros. for 31 years. ... **Rebecca Soverns** worked for Albertsons for 39 years. ... **Jasbinder Uppal** worked for Stater Bros. for 21 years. ... **Marty Valdez** worked for Alpha Beta and Ralphs for 45 years. ... **Miguel Valencia** worked for Ralphs for 36 years. ... **Sandra Valverde** worked for Vons for 31 years. ... **Debra Williams** worked for Stater Bros. and Fred Meyer for 35 years. ... **Luis Gonzales** worked for Alpha Beta, Sav-on and Food 4 Less for 40 years.

UNION YES!

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 Orientation Meeting within six months of your hire date.

June 14 - Victorville

Hilton Garden Inn

June 15 - Cathedral City

Doubletree by Hilton

June 16 - El Centro

Fairfield Inn & Suites

June 21 - Wildomar

Corporate Room

June 23 - Bloomington

Local 1167 Auditorium

Call (909) 877-5000, ext. 3 for answers to any questions.

CDC guidelines will be followed.

Outlying area membership meetings

to follow the new member meetings at 7 p.m.

In Memoriam

Orlando Apodaca, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Stater Bros. & Vons, died on Dec. 20, 2020, at the age of 80. He had been a member since June 1962.

Gary Beaton, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Albertsons, died on March 13, 2021, at the age of 82. He had been a member since September 1958.

Beverly Buckner, a retired general merchandise clerk formerly employed by Alpha Beta and Ralphs, died on Feb. 13, 2021, at the age of 83. She had been a continuous member since November 1982.

Eunice Bylin, a retired drug clerk formerly employed by Thrifty Drug, died on April 6, 2021, at the age of 90. She had been a continuous member since January 1974.

Tracie Durham, a food clerk employed by Stater Bros., died on March 30, 2021, at the age of 58. She had been a member since September 1994.

Servando Garza, a retired food clerk formerly employed

by Hughes, died on Feb. 18, 2021, at the age of 83. He had been a member since November 1971.

Rebecca Hernandez, an affiliated member employed by Super A Foods, died on March 5, 2021, at the age of 56. She had been a continuous member since September 2016.

Gerald Jahnke, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Stater Bros., died on March 19, 2021, at the age of 76. He had been a member since December 1971.

Danielle Jones, a general merchandise clerk employed by Vons, died on May 18, 2021, at the age of 33. She had been a continuous member since June 2008.

Teresa Magana, a clerk's helper employed by Ralphs, died on May 12, 2021, at the age of 66. She had been a continuous member since April 2006.

Zandra Perez Prieto, a pharmacy technician employed by Albertsons Drug, died on Feb. 11, 2021, at the age of 49. She had been a member since October 2018.

Brittany Ramirez, a clerk's helper employed by Albert-

sons, died on May 8, 2021, at the age of 31. She had been a member since October 2008.

Fred Rudder, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Safeway, died on Feb. 25, 2021, at the age of 95. He had been a member since April 1986.

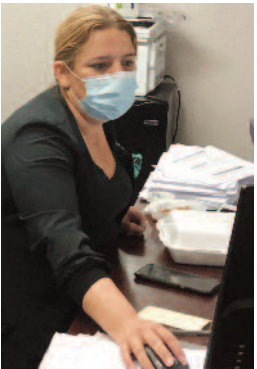
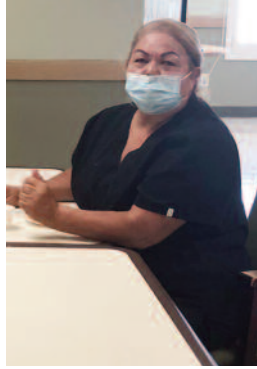
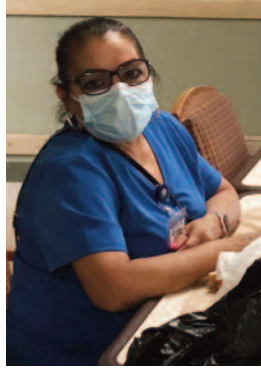
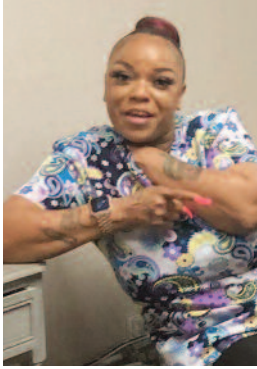
Sammy Triolo, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway, died on Sept. 16, 2020, at the age of 95. He had been a continuous member since November 1958.

Delvin Tumbling, a food clerk employed by Albertsons, died on Feb. 20, 2021, at the age of 45. He had been a continuous member since September 1994.

John Valenzuela, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Vons, died on Aug. 18, 2020, at the age of 72. He had been a member since May 2002.

Thomas Zambrana, a meat clerk employed by Stater Bros., died on Jan. 31, 2021, at the age of 74. He had been a continuous member since April 2018.

Contract ratification



Country Villa Hacienda Health Care Center

Union members at Country Villa Hacienda Health Care Center in San Bernardino recently ratified a new three-year agreement. Now under new ownership and re-named Haven Host Acute LLC, the center employs skilled nurses, therapists and other licensed professionals who provide a variety of personalized therapies and care services to help people regain their independence.

In the community



Feeding the homeless

UFCW Local 1167 President Joe Duffle visited the Imperial Valley on March 29, delivering food to community members working in the fields who became jobless and homeless due to the pandemic. President Duffle also participated in a food drive in conjunction with the Central Labor Council of San Diego and Imperial Counties.



It PAYS to be UNION!



**Back pay and benefits
restored to members**

(YTD as of May 2021)

\$300,234.69

Members reinstated

130

Grievances settled

381

Who's new at Local 1167?

Something new and challenging

Christina Chhou will now serve members after 15-year career with Stater Bros.

The next time you call Local 1167's Membership Department, you might hear Christina Chhou's voice on the other end.

Chhou applied for the position last year after 15 years of working in the service deli at Stater Bros. She was hired by the union in March of 2021.

"I worked at Stater Bros. for a long time and I wanted a new challenge in my life," Chhou said. "I applied not knowing if I'd get the position."

Chhou says she enjoys helping members pay their dues over the phone and looks forward to helping them when they approach the counter in person.

Last year, COVID-19 hit her store hard. Many of her co-workers couldn't come to work because they had contracted the coronavirus.

"My manager had it as well and I had to become my store's assistant manager while he was out," Chhou recalled.

When she isn't helping members, Chhou enjoys a good hike and spending time with her family.



Taking care of tasks at hand

Rosalia Smith looks forward to working with membership



Rosalia Smith worked at Vons in Fontana for 15 years. Thankful for her years in the union she wanted to find something different for her career path while still belonging to the union.

Her search paid off when she joined the union's Membership Department in March 2021. She is able to bring her experience of

working in the stores to the Local Office.

"My first job was in an office setting, and to be here now in the Membership Department, it's almost like coming full circle," she said.

"I love helping people in general, so for it to be my job now is just great," she said.

Smith says she looks forward to the outdoor activities she'll be able to do with her family after the pandemic ends.

What's in your union-made picnic basket for a BBQ?

The AFL-CIO's Union Label Department recommends these great union-made products for celebrating Independence Day and any other occasion:

HOT DOGS

Ball Park
Boar's Head
Foster Farms
Hebrew National Hofmann
Hormel

SAUSAGES

Gianelli
Kroger brand

BREAD AND ROLLS

Wonder Bread
Alfred Nichols Bakery
Stroehmann
Arnold
Francisco

CONDIMENTS

French's Mustard
Gulden's Mustard
Heinz ketchup
Jack Daniels barbecue sauce
Vlasic pickles and relish

SNACKS

Munchos
Funyuns
Rold Gold
Frito-Lay

Doritos
Chex
Mikesells Potato Chips
Mission Tortilla Strips
SODAS AND JUICE
A&W Root Beer
Canada Dry Ginger Ale
Coca-Cola Products
Kool-Aid Sticks
Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice

BEER

Miller
Coors
Anheuser-Busch
Black Eye Ale
Black Hawk Stout
Blue Heron Pale Ale
Budweiser



Who's new at Local 1167?

Less time commuting, more time assisting

Alma Arreola brings Trust Fund experience to Insurance Department

The commute from Rialto to Cypress was at least an hour and a half each way for Alma Arreola. She spent three hours on the road each day commuting to and from her job at the Southern California UFCW Trust Fund office.

"I made that commute for five years and I just couldn't do it anymore," Arreola said. "When the opportunity came for me to do a different version of my job here at the Local office, I went right for it."

Arreola joined the Local 1167 Insurance Department in August 2020.

"I love helping the UFCW be efficient and helpful," she said. "At the Trust Fund, I was an operations analyst, and I did everything I could to help it run as smoothly as possible."

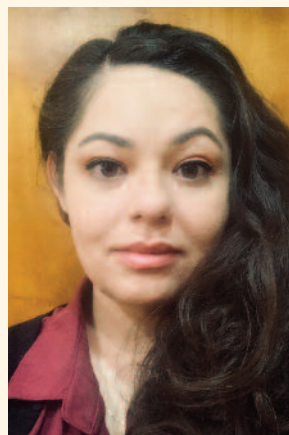
Arreola says she enjoys speaking with members and helping them solve their problems.

"At the end of the day I don't have to wonder how long my commute might be," she said. "I get more time to focus on my job and important things in life."



Helping and educating members

Rebecca Adame informs new members about union benefits



After working at Stater Bros. for more than 10 years, Rebecca Adame wanted a change of scenery. Her shop steward told her about a job opening in the union's Membership Department and she leapt at the opportunity to apply.

"I love learning about the union and getting really in depth with how it works for members," Adame said. "If I could be in the field helping members, I would

also do that in a heartbeat."

Adame joined the Membership Department in August 2020. She says she often takes calls from members to process their dues or answer general inquiries.

"Younger members tend to call asking why they need to pay their dues and I help them understand all of the benefits they get because of their dues," Adame said. "I help newer members understand the short- and long-term benefits of union membership."

When she isn't helping members, she enjoys reading literature. She is about a year away from earning her bachelor's degree in English literature from Cal State San Bernardino.

"I would love to teach literature at a college or adult school level someday," she said.



Certificate of Recognition

Roxanna Marcial, Stater Bros. in Rialto, was recognized by San Bernardino County Fifth District Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr. for earning her bachelors degree in business administration from California State University San Bernardino. Marcial is also a Colton Middle School alumna and was a student of Supervisor Baca.

Questions?

Call UFCW Local 1167 at
(909) 877-5000

Toll-free:
(800) 698-UFCW

Food and Meat Division insurance:
(909) 877-1110

Drug & General Sales Division insurance:
(909) 877-2331



Kevin Byrne, Food 4 Less 328



Congressman Pete Aguilar



Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Reyes



County Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.





President Joe Duffe addresses rally.

Food 4 Less rallies exemplify solidarity

UFCW Local 1167 held rallies in front of Food 4 Less stores in Rialto and Rancho Cucamonga on May 7 and 14. The rallies were called to demand a fair contract with Food 4 Less, a Kroger-owned chain that has refused to recognize the needs of workers regarding wages, safety and other issues.

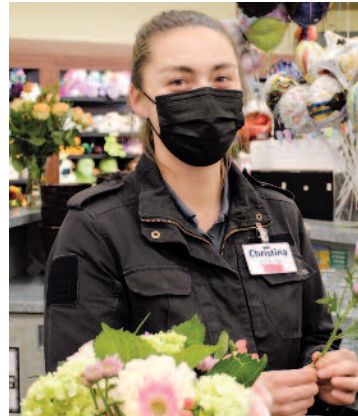
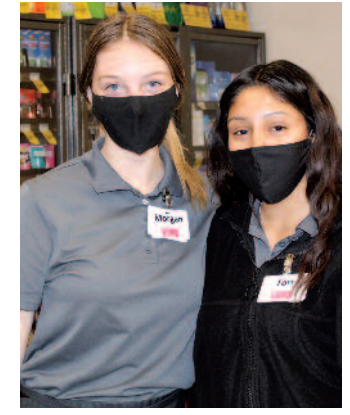
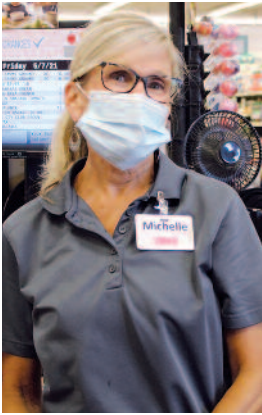
UFCW members from Albertsons, Ralphs, Vons, Stater Bros., Rite Aid and CVS joined their union sisters and brothers at the events.

“We thank everyone who spoke and participated at these rallies, as well as the customers who are supporting Food 4 Less workers throughout UFCW Local 1167’s jurisdiction,” President Joe Duffe said.

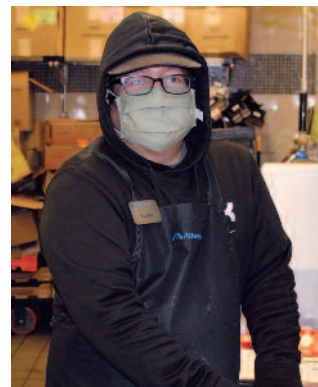
Speakers included U.S. Rep. Pete Aguilar, California Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Reyes and San Bernardino County Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr., among others. State Sen. Connie M. Leyva and community organizations based in the Inland Empire also lent their support, as did several labor unions, including the IELC, SEIU, CWA and UAW.



Members at Work: Vons 2818, City of Corona



Members at Work: Albertsons 2796, City of Corona



Golden days ahead

Tracey Gibson caps off a 43-year grocery career with Vons

Tracey Gibson's 43-year career with Vons began unofficially with some Easter egg painting.

She used to volunteer painting names on chocolate eggs at her local Vons store. When her sister, who worked at the store, got married and moved out of the country, Gibson inquired about the open position.

"Back in 1977, you had to know someone in order to get a job in the grocery industry," Gibson said. "So, I essentially replaced my sister at the store."

Her job with Vons proved indispen-



Tracey Gibson

sable over the years. Her hours were consistent and her health and welfare benefits enabled her husband to remain self-employed while enjoying her health benefits.

Gibson has worked in every department in her store, Vons 2818 in Corona, but she's mainly a food clerk and cashier. And, six years ago, she became a shop steward after her union rep nominated her.

Help with college

Gibson's daughter, Erica, also became a Local 1167 member and worked at a Starbucks inside Vons while she was in college.

"Erica loved the hours because they were flexible and she could take care of her school duties," Gibson said.

"Then, when the strike and lockouts of 2003 and 2004 happened, she concentrated on school and took a break from work."

Although Erica returned to Vons for a short stint at the service deli, she would eventually graduate from college with help from the union's scholarship program.

"Erica's a successful speech pathologist now," Gibson said.

"When I see younger members at the store, I tell them about the scholarship programs because they don't know how lucky they are to get these benefits."

Calling it a career

Gibson will call it a career in September.

"I've had six foot surgeries that have kept me out of my job for months at a time, so I'm looking forward to not standing so much," she said. "I'm grateful that because of the union I hardly had any out-of-pocket expenses for those surgeries and my job was waiting for me while I healed."

Another reason to retire is she is financially able to do so. Her husband passed away in 2012 and she yearns for more family time with her grandson.

"I want to be a bigger part of my grandson's life and maybe do a little bit of traveling," Gibson said.

"I'm really looking forward to not having to set my alarm for 5 a.m. anymore!"

"I'm grateful that because of the union I hardly had any out-of-pocket expenses for [my] surgeries and my job was waiting for me while I healed."



Overcoming COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy

More than 160 million Americans have received the COVID-19 vaccine at press time and the country is slowly relaxing some of the restrictions that were necessary to limit spread of the disease.

In light of the new CDC guidelines on masks for fully vaccinated people announced on May 13, many feel confident we are getting closer to a time when we can go out and enjoy life as we did prior to March 2020.

Getting all the way “back to normal,” however, will require higher rates of acceptance and use of the COVID-19 vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

Here are a few reasons to trust the effectiveness of the vaccines if you are still on the fence about receiving one:

- **Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can protect you from getting sick.** These vaccines are incredibly effective, providing as much as 96 percent protection against getting sick from the virus. They perform even better than that in preventing severe complications leading to hospitalization and even possible death.

- **More vaccinations would protect everyone.** Anyone from age 12 and up can enjoy peace of mind after they’ve been vaccinated. When enough people get their COVID-19 vaccines, the country can attain “herd immunity,” suppressing

the number of infections so well that even those few who aren’t immunized won’t get the disease. Only when enough people are vaccinated can we truly say we’ve defeated COVID-19.



- **The COVID-19 vaccine development was fast, but it did not skip steps and was not developed overnight.** The vaccines were developed at an accelerated rate and were approved quickly by the Food and Drug Administration. Nevertheless, they were made using technologies that have been tested and found safe for many years. None of the vaccines contain the actual virus.

- **Even if you’ve already had COVID-19, you still should get the vaccine.** The vaccine will add extra protection to your immune system should you be exposed to COVID-19 again.

Consult with a doctor about taking the vaccine if you are pregnant, breastfeeding or have fertility concerns. The vaccines are safe for breastfeeding mothers and do not harm a woman’s ability to become pregnant.

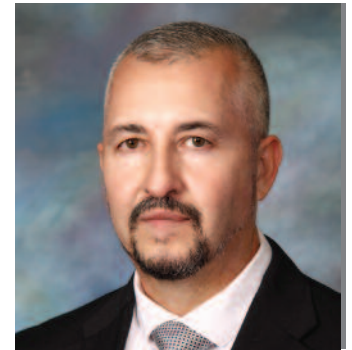
After receiving shot(s), you might temporarily experience a sore arm, a mild fever or body aches, but this doesn’t mean you have COVID-19. These symptoms, if they happen at all, typically last a day or two. They signal a natural response as your body’s immune system learns to recognize and fight the coronavirus.

Source: www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus

Why a union job is worth keeping



Jose Correa



Nick Romero

Don't be fooled by the grass on the other side. It's not always greener!

Those of us who are tempted to move on to a slightly higher-paying job in another industry may not be fully aware of what they're leaving behind.

All members of UFCW Local 1167 enjoy a compensation package that adds up to much more than wages.

Your health and pension benefits add up to many extra dollars paid by your employer for every hour you work, and such benefits tend to be far inferior at non-union companies — if they're available at all.

Your union-negotiated contract provides more than great wages and benefits. It provides guarantees of sick pay, holiday pay and time for vacations. It provides guaranteed hours and scheduling practices that recognize your needs in planning your non-work commitments.

And it comes with strong language guaranteeing fair treatment on the job, with a grievance process that guards against improper discipline, favoritism or discrimination. Your employer cannot fire you on a whim like he or she could at a non-union store.

Your union job provides still more, including workplace safety and health standards above and beyond those required by law. UFCW Local 1167 has been especially active in this sphere throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, working to ensure your access to protective masks, sanitizers, plexiglass barriers and more. We encouraged employers to be more vigorous in requiring customers to respect social distancing guidelines to protect themselves and you.

And we worked with employers and local governments to get extra "hero pay" in recognition of your service on the pandemic's front lines.

Adding it up

A study from UC Berkeley's Center for Labor Research and Education shows that by bargaining together through unions, California workers increase their wage earnings by

approximately \$5,800 per worker annually, for a combined total of \$18.5 billion.

According to the report, workers covered by a union contract in California earn an average of 12.9 percent more than their non-union peers with similar ages and educational attainment working in similar industries.

On top of that, 670,000 more Californians have health insurance through their employer as a result of collective bargaining, and 830,000 more Californians are offered a retirement plan by their employer because they have a union contract.

A union job adds up to a genuinely great deal, opening up possibilities of a lifelong career for anyone who is willing to work.

It turns out the grass is greener on this side of the fence!

UFCW LOCAL 1167

STAY INFORMED WITH THE UFCW LOCAL 1167 MOBILE APP

The UFCW 1167 Mobile App is a great way for our members to stay connected on the go.

- CONTACT YOUR UNION**
Find your union rep, stay informed of the things that matter to you most at work. All from your phone on the UFCW 1167 Mobile App.
- MEMBER RESOURCES**
Check your membership resources right from your mobile phone. Download a form, apply for a scholarship, view "How To" Videos from other UFCW members around the US.
- POLITICAL ACTION**
Hold candidates accountable with the find my elected official tool. When members stand together, members win.
- MEMBERS DISCOUNT**
Carry your digital discount guide with you at all times. Take advantage of the many discounts available to members of UFCW Local 1167 right on your app.
- WORK SCHEDULE**
Keep your hours logged as a backup by adding your weekly schedule on your mobile app. Receive reminders that its time to get to work. Make notes on your schedule and access those notes anytime for reference.

Q&A with President Joe Duffie

UFCW Local 1167 President Joe Duffie answered questions as part of a documentary video (see page 15).

What were the early days of the pandemic response like?

No one was prepared for what we were about to witness. We saw a lot of empty shelves because shoppers made a run on their shopping, which led to hoarding. When people don't have reliable access to food, you're going to have chaos and we saw lots of that early on.

What did the union do to deal with the pandemic?

Right from the get-go we got on the phone with all of the employers to have discussions about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), plexiglass and 'hero pay.' Our priority was to protect our members and make them feel safe when they reported to work. Unfortunately, we had to pressure these companies into doing the right thing.

How many members were affected by the pandemic?

I don't believe there's one member out there who hasn't been affected by it whether it be at work or at home. We have regrettably lost several members. For example, we had a produce clerk from Vons who was recently married and had



plans to retire. He got sick and thought it was the flu, but he actually had COVID and died from it.

What can the members do to get through this crisis?

They can look out for each other. That's what we do in the grocery business. When the chips are down and maybe the employer is not doing what they're supposed to be doing, our members can always step up and take care of each other.

What has the union done to help the community?

We've done several food drives out of our local union office. We recently did a vaccine clinic where we administered more than 1,000 vaccines in a day. We're here if someone's

hungry and if someone wants a vaccine, we'll make sure that vaccine gets to them. A healthy community is a healthy union.

How proud are you of your membership?

I can't say enough about our members. They could have taken leaves of absence, but they didn't out of a sense of duty to their communities. I'm proud of our members who show up to work every day and put themselves in harm's way. In my opinion they have always been heroes and the pandemic has proven it to the world.

Last chance to apply!

UFCW Local 1167's Scholarship Awards Competition



**Download the
application
from:
UFCW1167.org**

Return application by **June 30, 2021.
Refer any questions to Dianne Jones at (909) 877-5000.**

Members share their ordeals in documentary

Local 1167 members participated in a video documentary highlighting how they risk their health every day to help feed their communities. The video was produced by the UFCW's Western States Council.

Jeanette Rubalcaba, from Stater Bros., shared how she spent months away from her three boys who had contracted the coronavirus.

"I had to go and drop food off at their door and walk away knowing I couldn't take care of them," Rubalcaba said. "It's been a whirlwind of emotions and a lot of people took this hard."

Gail Merki, from Ralphs, recalled the dismay she felt when customers minimized the severity of the pandemic.

"When it's affecting people you work with and they are losing their loved ones, I really felt the disrespect," Merki said.

"Being in a grocery store serving our communities has been a blessing and a curse," she added. "Everybody has to eat, so we're fortunate to be that resource to the community and get the job done."

Gerald Harris, from Food 4 Less, described his fears of spreading the virus to his loved ones.

"I was extra careful to not bring home this virus and get my friends and

family sick," he said. "I wore gloves, my mask and a shield and put on hand sanitizer often. I did anything to ensure I was as safe as possible."

UFCW Local 1167 President Joe Duffle said he is proud of the union members who served on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. (See Q&A page 14)



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to watch the video.



Gerald Harris



Jeanette Rubalcaba



Gail Merki

UFCW questions new CDC guideline

The UFCW recently raised concerns about the new CDC guidance that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks indoors.

As the nation's leading voice for retail and grocery worker safety, UFCW was one of the first to call for mask mandates to combat COVID-19 and has continued to highlight the ongoing health threat faced by the many essential workers still on the frontlines.

UFCW International President Marc Perrone released the following statement:

"While we all share the desire to return to

a mask-free normal, today's CDC guidance is confusing and fails to consider how it will impact essential workers who face frequent exposure to individuals who are not vaccinated and refuse to wear masks.

"Millions of Americans are doing the right thing and getting vaccinated, but essential workers are still forced to play mask police for shoppers who are unvaccinated and refuse to follow local COVID safety measures. Are they now supposed to become the vaccination police?"

"With so many states already ending their

mask mandates, this new CDC guidance must do more to acknowledge the real and daily challenge these workers and the American people still face.

"Vaccinations are helping us take control of this pandemic, but we must not let our guard down. As one of America's largest unions for essential workers, UFCW is calling on the CDC and our nation's leaders to clarify how this new policy will be implemented, how essential workers will be protected, and how these workers will protect the communities they serve."

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United Food and Commercial Workers
Union Local 1167
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