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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION LOCAL 135

WORKING

October 2018



Countdown to 2019 Grocery Negotiations

No Pharmacist Left Alone Legislation heads to Governor

Meet New UFCW Local 135 Representative Sharyn Baldwin



The Worker

The Newsletter of the UFCW Local 135 San Diego, CA

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President's Message



By Mickey Kasparian
President
International Vice President

very time we go into contract negotiations, I say that this time it will be more difficult than the last. I say it because it's true. Every time negotiations come around, they get more and more difficult.

We are looking at the most contentious negotiations with Vons, Ralphs and Albertsons since the 2003 strike. These companies are coming after your pensions, the Golden 85, and your health benefits.

Pension systems are under attack everywhere and companies want nothing better than to put workers into a 401(k) or something similar.

Rather than give you defined monthly income that you earned, greedy corporations want you to gamble with your future. Putting your retirmenet into a 401(k) type investment, i.e., the stock market, is risky.

For example, during the 2008 economic downturn, many people were forced

Countdown to 2019 Grocery Negotiations

to put off retirement after losing tens of thousands of dollars in the stock market. We cannot let this happen to our members. A pension is more reliable. That money is there for you when you decide it's time.

We must take care of our retirees as well. They should be able to retire with stability and maintain their health care.

During collective bargaining with the grocery stores, market share is critical. There was a time when there were many chains, including Lucky, Food Basket, Albertsons, Ralphs, Vons, Safeway, Gemco, Big Bear, FedMart and the list goes on. Over the years, most of these have been bought, sold, merged or consolidated.

We are left with a lot of non-union stores and ethnic markets, and we

food. All the while, Walmart revenue climbed 3.8 percent to \$128.03 billion in just the second quarter of this year.

Kroger's total sales increased 3.4% to \$37.5 billion in the first quarter compared to \$36.3 billion for the same period last year. Albertsons, for the first quarter, overall sales rose 1.6% to \$14.03 billion from \$13.82 billion a year earlier.

These companies can afford to have their workers make livable wages, and provide health and welfare and a good pension.

They choose to hoard money for themselves and their shareholders while their workers suffer. They think they can keep these enormous amounts of money coming in without paying their workers a decent wage.

This is what we're up against. I don't mean to scare you, but it is the truth. The only way we are going to beat them at their own game is by standing together. I know I repeat that a lot, but we must stand together to win. Because who is the union? You are. And you need to fight. We must let management know that we will fight as hard as

necessary.

Your contract expires in March 2019, but we will begin meeting with the companies as early as January.

I will commit to you to always protect your pensions and health benefits.

We will keep you informed by our website, social media and by text message.

"I will commit to you to always protect your pensions and health benefits."

must protect what we have against employers who want to lower your pay scales to those of non-union stores. The employers want to penalize our members for the smaller market share they created.

Walmart and Target have grabbed ahold of the grocery market. More than a third of all grocery workers rely on some form of public assistance and one in five workers has trouble affording

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Richard Barrera Secretary-Treasurer

s a result of incredible leadership by our sisters and brothers working in pharmacies, Senate Bill 1442 – the No Pharmacist Left Alone Bill – passed both houses of the legislature with overwhelming and bipartisan support. The Bill now heads to Governor Brown, who can either sign it into law or veto it.

The Bill moved from concept to reality in less than a year. During our last negotiation for the pharmacist contract with Vons, Albertson's and Ralph's, our UFCW pharmacists identified not being left alone as one of their top priorities – for their own safety as well as their patients' safety. Albertson's and Kroger management ignored these concerns, and refused to agree to a sensible proposal to protect pharmacists and their patients. In response, we decided to protect our pharmacists by going the legislative route.

The process began with a legislative hearing that Senator Josh Newman held in Orange County. In that hearing several UFCW pharmacists laid out a compelling case that when pharmacists

No Pharmacist Left Alone Bill Passes Legislature, Heads to Governor's Desk

are left alone in the pharmacies, they and their patients are put at great risk.

Following the hearing, staff at the **UFCW Western States Council** drafted legislation which was ultimately sponsored by Senator Scott Weiner. Local 135 pharmacists carried the heavy lifting to move the bill forward. In particular, Seung Oh, Nancy Arellano, Suzanne Bradbury and Tim Honroda made several trips to Sacramento to meet with legislators and to testify at Committee hearings. Additionally, Seung testified before the Board of Pharmacy, and the team met with legislators at their local offices to bring their first-hand experiences to the table. It was this work by our own Local 135 pharmacists that ultimately persuaded sometimes skeptical legislators to support the bill. Backing up our pharmacist members, Local 135 and Western States Council President Mickey Kasparian travelled to Sacramento to persuade key leaders in the legislature to move the bill forward without delays.

Senate Bill 1442 requires corporations such as Vons, Albertsons, Ralphs, Rite Aid and CVS to provide a minimum level of staffing so that pharmacists can do their jobs better by keeping themselves and their patients safe.

Dangerously low levels of staffing undermines the public health by taking away pharmacists' professional judgment. California's licensed professional pharmacists have a crucial role in keeping Californians' medicine safe. Yet, anyone who has filled a prescription at a retail store knows that pharmacy counters are understaffed. When pharmacists are stretched

between checking for drug interactions and counseling patients, giving flu shots, while juggling phones and cash registers, their role as stewards of public health is compromised.

When pharmacists are forced to work long shifts alone, they are the only thing standing between armed criminals and a supply of medicines that can be resold on the black market.

California is relying on pharmacists even more to fill healthcare gaps. In 2013, pharmacists' scope of practice was expanded to help increase access to healthcare for underserved communities. Pharmacists have willingly embraced these opportunities to expand their public service. In addition to being the last line of defense against potentially deadly drug interactions, pharmacists can:

- Vaccinate their patients
- Prescribe contraception
- Provide nicotine replacement products

Failures can be deadly. California law's requirements of pharmacists are wide-ranging and require meticulous attention to detail. For example, in 2013, the California State Board of Pharmacy revoked a pharmacy's and pharmacist's licenses because the pharmacist failed to comply with the law while distributing opioids. Four patients died as a result.

SB 1442 requires large retail pharmacy corporations to provide the minimum level of staffing required to ensure pharmacists can fulfill their crucial healthcare role. This means having an additional staff member be available at all times to help with non-pharmacist

Continued to the bottom of the next page.

New UFCW Local 135 Representative: Sharyn Baldwyn

haryn may look familiar to you. She may particularly look familiar to pharmacy techs, assistants, pharmacist interns and clinical lab scientists at Kaiser Permanente.

Sharyn worked for Kaiser for 28 years and spent the last six years on special assignment as a labor liaison between the local and Kaiser where she has been seen working to insure staff are safe and have a voice in their work place.



Although she has now retired from Kaiser, her retirement is the Local's gain.

Sharyn was hired at UFCW Local 135 as a Union Representative in August. She will continue to support the pharmacy and lab staff at Kaiser, as well as representing UFCW Local 135 on many committees.

She is the Labor Management Partnership (LMP) council co-chair, attendance committee co-chair, Education & Training co-chair, and serves on other committees including workplace safety, workforce development, workplace violence and the national sponsor committee to name just a few.

"This is a great opportunity for me to continue to support workers," she said. "And to continue working with KP staff to insure their voice is heard."

Sharyn is a long-time Vice President on the UFCW Local 135 Executive Board as well. ■

Continued from page 4.

functions like answering the phone and assisting customers with groceries so pharmacists can stay focused on their patients' safety.

The legislative process is always long and complicated, but Seung, Nancy, Suzanne and Tim have demonstrated that by getting actively involved in their Union and fighting for solutions to issues they care about, positive change is possible!



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This is how much the decline in labor unions has cut the pay for all workers Unions advocate for their own members, but they have indirect benefits for non-union workers



If labor unions had a stronger presence in the workplace, all workers would see bigger paychecks and better employee benefits, according to new research.

Previous studies have suggested the decline

of unions is directly related to an increase in wage inequality affecting all employees, according to Tom VanHeuvelen, a sociology professor at the University of Illinois. He has calculated just how much wages may be adversely affected: Non-union workers would have seen three to seven percent higher wage growth during their careers if U.S. labor unions were still strong.

"The bottom line is that paychecks would probably be bigger, and paychecks would probably be more secure and reliable, if unions hadn't declined over time." he said.

The number of private workers in unions was almost 11 percent in 2017, or about 15 million workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, down from more than 20 percent or 17.7 million workers in 1983, the first year union data was available.

Union membership has decreased since the 1950s, recently showing a slight uptick in the last 10 years, according to the Economic Policy Institute. Nearly 35% of the country was unionized in 1958, but after 2008 that had dropped to 10 percent. Meanwhile, the share of income going to the top 10 percent rose drastically during the same timeframe, from around 35 to 50 percent.

How do unions affect non-union workers?

Unions advocate for their members, but they also have indirect benefits for non-union workers, VanHeuvelen found. Unions influence public policies and programs that affect work hours, job security, health care and other social programs for all worker households. He looked at the University of Michigan's Panel Study of Income Dynamics, which includes data beginning in 1968.

The decrease of labor union membership has also been linked to a decrease in the number of workers with health insurance and pensions, according to a review of data by John Budd, a professor at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Union decline explains a quarter of the drop in employees with health insurance between 1983 and 1997, and about 20 to 25 percent of the decline in pension plans beginning in the 1980s.

Labor union reports nationwide shortage of construction workers

Alaska construction firms are finding it harder to fill hourly craft positions such as carpenters, truck drivers and sheet metal workers, according to a report released in August by Associated General Contractors of America.

Overall the report found that 80 percent of contractors nationwide are reporting difficulty finding qualified craft workers.

Of the 20 Alaska firms surveyed by AGC, half of them say costs have been higher and projects have taken longer than anticipated due to staffing challenges in 2018. Sixty percent or more said it was harder to fill positions for carpenters, truck drivers and sheet metal workers in 2018 than it was in 2017.

"Labor shortages in the construction industry remain significant and widespread," wrote AGC chief economist Ken Simonson in a press release announcing



the survey results. "The best way to encourage continued economic growth, make it easier to rebuild aging infrastructure and place more young adults into high-paying careers is to address construction workforce shortages."



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Insurance & Benefits Department

If you have a question regarding insurance benefits or pension, call our benefits department at (619) 298-7772, Ext. 8. We are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch), Monday through Friday except holidays. If you would like to read a list of frequently asked questions or would like to download a form, please go to one of the links below:

UFCW Food Employers Joint Trust Fund (Southern California United Food & Commercial Workers Unions and Food Employers Joint Benefit Fund) (Food Trust)

Contact the Food Trust at, (877) 284-2320 www.scufcwfunds.com www.scufcwfunds.com/contact-us

Drug and General Sales Trust Fund Southern California United Food & Commercial Workers Unions and Drug & General Sales Employers (Drug & General Sales Trust)

Contact information for Drug Trust:
I (877) 999-8329
www.ufcwdrugtrust.org
www.ufcwdrugtrust.org/office-info.html



Members At Work On Union Representative Sharyn Baldwin's Route

































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Ask Mike...

What Do President Trump, Judge Brett Kavanaugh and Roe v. Wade Have in Common?



On July 9, 2018, Mr. Trump chose Judge Kavanaugh as his Supreme Court pick. In a recent interview, Judge Kavanaugh stated he considered Roe v. Wade to be "settled law."

However, during his campaign, Mr.Trump promised to appoint "pro-life justices", who would overturn Roe v.Wade, which legalized abortion nationwide.

Moreover, last year Judge Kavanaugh was on a panel of judges that issued an order preventing a 17-year-old undocumented immigrant, who was being detained by U.S. authorities in Texas from immediately obtaining an abortion.

Since President Donald Trump took office, policies toward undocumented young people seeking abortions have changed. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed suit on behalf of Doe, all unaccompanied minors in immigration shelters now need permission from the director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement - and he has gone to extraordinary lengths to prevent undocumented young people from getting the procedure. In Doe's case, ORR prevented her from leaving the Texas shelter where she now lives in order to get an abortion. Ultimately she was able to obtain the procedure. For more information on

this case, go to: https://www.vox.com/identities/2017/10/19/16500166/texas-abortion-teenager-undocumented-immigration.

Before Judge Kavanaugh can take a seat on this 9-panel Court, the U.S. Senate must confirm him by a simple majority.

To prevent a mistake from happening, I urge all UFCW members to write to your U.S. Senators and demand they vote NO on confirming Judge Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Saying one thing and doing another should be enough information for you to decide that confirming Judge Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court is taking one-step back for women's rights. This is simply too important of a right to leave to chance.

To contact your senators:

Senator Dianne Feinstein United States Senate 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-3841 Fax: (202) 228-3954

Senator Kamala D. Harris 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone (202) 224-3553 Fax (202) 224-2200

If you have any further questions about this article or would like to request a specific topic discussed in a later publication, please email "Ask Mike", at: mrott@hrollp.com or at: 619-296-5884.

"Ask Mike" was written by Union Lawyer and Managing Partner, Michael Rott of Hiden, Rott & Oertle, LLP.

Did you know you have rights?

Weingarten Rights

In the Weingarten case, the Supreme Court ruled that Union-represented workers have the right to Union representation during all meetings or discussions with supervisors or managers that the member reasonably believes might lead to discipline. These meetings or discussions include discussions on the work floor, in work areas, offices and even outside the facility.

Insist on having your union rep there if you're being called into the office. Call (619) 298-7772, ext 126.



The Apple Didn't Fall Far from the Tree: Yessica and Sade Young



essica Young is a long-time member of UFCW Local 135. She works at Gelson's in Del Mar in the floral department, as a cashier or in their wine bar – wherever they need her on any particular day. She used to be very active in the union – she even interviewed for a job as a union representative at one time.

Her days off tell a different story. Both she and her daughter are actresses. Her daughter Sade Kimora Young, 12, is also a model. Sade's career has taken off, so Yessica spends her time mostly driving Sade to auditions, call backs and to movie and TV sets for filming,

Their acting/modeling careers began one day when Yessica and her daughter were waiting in line to get pictures with Santa Clause and an agent recruited Sade.

"He turned out to be legitimate," Yessica said. "So we pursued it and at the age of three, Sade began modeling."

In 2015, Sade played the role of "Young Sheila" in the film "Sister Code." Her latest feature films include "Illicit," "Unabridged," and "Within the Dark." She has kept busy with TV too, including

her role as "Trooper Sade" on the new PBS family TV series "Mack and Moxy." And most recently wrapped a week of filming the role of "Tanya" on TV Land's Comedy Series "Teachers" set to air next spring.

Sade began her modeling career as a, FORD Model. She has appeared in numerous national & global print ads, billboards, and online ads for various clients including Nike, Guess, H&M, Abercrombie & Fitch, Barbie, and Ralph Lauren. She has also appeared in national toy ads, retail ads, for clients such as McDonalds, Disney, X-Box, Sea World, Volkswagen, The American Red Cross and Band-Aid.

At six, Sade got a job in the cast in two hit television shows: NBC's "The New Normal" & FX's "American Horror Story," where she starred opposite legendary actress Jessica Lange. The mini actress has also worked with great talents such as Haley Joel Osment, Keegan-Michael Key, Heidi Klum, and more.

Most recently, Sade participated in a fashion show for Cystic Fibrosis because

they like to give back to the community and to those less fortunate.

"We went to Skid Row and made sandwiches and gave toys to homeless kids," she said. "Some of the kids don't have shoes, so we have to make sure we give back."

Despite all of her success, Sade is enrolled in public school and plays softball. Her mother Yessica coaches her softball team. She also makes time for her other passions including gymnastics, and hip-hop dance have been key. Sade also enjoys reading, singing, going to amusement parks, spending quality time with her family & friends, and hopes to one day play collegiate softball.

"Every kid deserves an everyday life," Yessica said.

As if that wasn't enough to keep Yessica busy, she's currently working full time at Gelson's as they are shorthanded, but she has her own agent and acting career.

She has done commericals for Fed-Ex and Jerome's Furniture.

"I've been auditioning for six months now," she said. "I will pursue it more when we're not so busy at work."

A New Gallup Poll shows Americans Support Labor Unions

Labor Union Approval Steady at 15-Year High

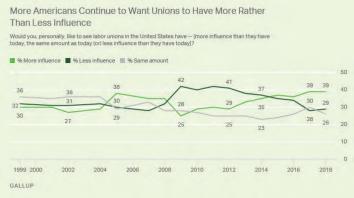
A series of Gallup polls across decades shows the American public has long supported organized labor, starting with Gallup's earliest measure, taken in 1936 at the dawn of the U.S. labor movement. In fact, support for unions was relatively high across the first three decades of measurement, averaging 68% from 1936 to 1967. During this period, approval never

Things changed in the 1970s when approval fell to 60%. Since then, the percentage of U.S. adults approving of labor unions averaged 58%, dropping below a majority one time to 48%. That measure came in August 2009 during the recession, coinciding with congressional Democrats' push for expanded union rights during President Barack Obama's first year in office.

dropped below 61%, and twice - both

times in the 1950s - it stretched to 75%.

The long-term tapering of public support for unions bears little relation to the trajectory of union membership over the same period. Although official measures of union membership have changed, the available estimates indicate that the percentage of all employed adults belonging to unions rose sharply from about 9% in 1936 to roughly 27% in 1945. After peaking at 28% in 1954, it remained near 25% until 1972. It then dropped to about 20% in the mid- and late-1970s and then near 15% and lower in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. Today, it is at roughly 11%.



More Want Union Strength to Grow Than Shrink

Although a majority of Americans approve of labor unions, only about four in 10 (39%) would prefer to see unions have more influence than they have today; 26% want their influence to stay the same, and 29% would prefer that they have less influence.

Americans' preference for union power is nearly identical to what Gallup found a year ago and represents greater support for strengthening unions than was the case for most of the previous decade.

Democrats have consistently expressed much more support than Republicans and independents for unions enjoying greater influence. However, the partisan gap varied during George W. Bush's presidency, as the percentage of Democrats favoring more influence waxed and waned, while the percentage of Republicans stayed fairly flat.

Both parties' support for unions having more power dropped sharply in 2009, the first year of Barack Obama's presidency, amid the last recession, but their support has recovered gradually as the economy has improved.

As suggested by the shifts in views about union strength at times of economic decline or improvement, a strong connection exists between Americans' views about union strength and the economy. This is evident in the relationship between public attitudes about unions and the U.S. unemployment rate. The higher the unemployment rate, especially

from 2009 to 2011, the higher the percentage of Americans who preferred to see unions have less influence. As the unemployment rate fell after 2011, the percentage favoring less influence for unions also fell.

This relationship ties in with prior Gallup research showing that Americans believe unions hurt rather than help nonunionized workers in the U.S., even as they believe unions help union members. During the recession, Americans believed unions hurt rather than helped the economy.

Bottom Line

At 62%, U.S. public approval of labor unions remains consistent with the improved level seen a year ago, marking a significant increase since the recession and slightly beating the average 58% approval recorded over the last half-century.

With the economy doing well, 39% of Americans, including a majority of Democrats, say they would like to see unions' influence in the country increase.

Did You Know???

That you can designate a doctor in case you get injured at work.



It is important to designate the doctor of your choice before you are injured. That way, in the event you receive an injury or become ill due to employment, you may receive treatment from your personal doctor.

You MUST designate your doctor or medical group BEFORE you are injured. Despite all the changes in the work comp laws, this legal exception still protects you from your employer dictating your medical treatment.

If you fail to designate your doctor before you are injured or ill, your employer will force you to choose a doctor from a list of handpicked physicians that are company friendly. It is easy to fill out the form and takes only a few minutes to complete.

For more information, or to get the form, call (619) 252-2248.



Did you know UFCW offers discounted child care?

Raising a family and working is no easy task, and we understand caring for your loved ones is a top priority. To help make things a little easier, the UFCW is excited to announce new discounts on child care services available to all UFCW members and their families.

To take advantage of the child care discounts and to see what other savings are available to UFCW members, register for the UFCW discount program by going to http://myufcw.org/







Check out other discounts and coupons at http://myufcw.org/









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Adult: \$47.00 Child (3-11): \$38.00



Buy I day, get the 2nd day FREE

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Child: (ages 3 - 12).... \$75.00

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Rault or Child: \$62.00 Fun Cards: \$80.00

All tickets are subject to availability and are available to Local 135 active members and retirees only (ID is required). Prices are subject to change and supplies are limited. Purchases must be made in person by the member/retiree at UFCW Local 135. We accept cash or credit/debit card. NO CHECKS.

Magic Mountain tickets are limited to 10 per person per month and all other theme park tickets are limited to 12 per person, per month. All movie theater tickets are limited to 20 per person, per month.

Please call the Membership Department to verify availability and to confirm pricing ALL SALES ARE FINAL, NO REFUNDS.

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AMC Theaters: \$10.25
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