

Contract UPDATE #1

UFCW Local 1500 | 221-10 Jamaica Avenue | Queens Village, NY 11428 | ufcwlocal1500.org



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In this Newsletter:

- Union Negotiating Team Meets to Review Strategy
- Important Websites for Contract 2010 Negotiations
- UFCW Members Celebrate New Contract With Stop & Shop
- Spotlight On Issues: Your Pension

Union Negotiating Team Meets to Review Strategy



United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1500 and the members of the Contract 2010 Negotiating Committee met in late March to discuss strategy and review Union proposal. This was the first gathering of the Committee Members that will represent the workers from Stop & Shop, King Kullen and Pathmark. Meetings with members of other companies negotiating committees will be held in the near future.

The morning meeting included a number of presentations by UFCW Local 1500 staff:

- President Bruce W. Both discussed the current state of our Health and Pension Plans and reviewed the recent contract settlements from around the Country
- Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Speelman spoke about member mobilization
- Recorder Rhonda Nelson discussed the D'Agostino 2009 contract settlement
- Executive Vice President Fred Walter and Field Director Robert Newell reviewed the Unions proposals that will be presented to the companies
- Assistant to the President Patrick Purcell reviewed the Union efforts to assist the employers open more stores and thereby grow the Union membership
- Director of Research Joe Fedele did a presentation on social networking and communication

The morning ended with a conversation about the negotiating process. Committee members asked questions about the possibility of a job action, the schedule for negotiations and what could they expect from the companies proposals. The Committee Members and the Union staff left the meeting with a pledge of solidarity and commitment to victory.



Important Websites for Contract 2010 Negotiations

- www.ufcw1500.org
- www.ufcw.org
- www.groceryworkersunited.org
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UFCW Members Celebrate New Contract With Stop & Shop

Agreement Benefits New England Workers, Company, Community

(BOSTON, MA) – On March 7, thousands of Stop & Shop supermarket workers from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut ratified new contracts with Ahold, the Dutch-owned parent company. Highlights of the agreements between the members of the United Food and Commercial Workers and Stop & Shop include:

- Immediate bonus pay and hourly raises over the three-year contract;
- preserved affordable health benefits; and
- strengthening of retirement security for all workers.

Ratification of the contracts stands to benefit Stop & Shop, the workers that have made the company a market-leading success, and communities around New England. When UFCW members unanimously authorized a strike in the event an agreement could not be reached, communities around the region spoke out to keep middle-class jobs in their neighborhoods. While negotiations of this size and complexity are rarely quick or easy, the resulting agreements have secured the future of thousands of New England families as well as the region's leading grocer.



Stop & Shop workers are represented by UFCW Locals 328, 371, 919, 1459, and 1445.

Spotlight On Issues: Your Pension

As we enter these negotiations, there will be much discussion about the UFCW Local 1500 Pension Plan. The UFCW Local 1500 Pension Plan is doing well but is now classified as being "endangered", or in the "yellow zone", according to Federal pension law.

What does yellow zone status mean?

The law requires actuaries for multi-employer pension plans like ours to certify the plan's funded, or zone status, every year. The Local 1500 Pension Plan actuaries have certified that the Pension Plan is in the yellow zone because it is less than 80 percent funded. You will be receiving a notice about this from the Pension Plan.

The Local 1500 Pension Fund Trustees must now adopt a "funding improvement plan". This is an action plan designed to restore the Plan's financial health and it will be given to the bargaining parties. During these negotiations, the Union and the employers will be discussing how to improve the Pension Plan's funding. You should understand that federal law prohibits any Pension Plan from increasing benefits while in the yellow zone.

The protection of your Pension is a number 1 priority for your UFCW Local 1500 negotiators.

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