

Local 653 Hits the Ground Running with New Programs

By Matt Utecht, President

This has been a very busy summer at UFCW Local 653! Our organizing director, Rena Wong, has been leading the preparation needed to launch a series of comprehensive organizing programs in our union. This fall we are launching a stewards program, political program, and a broad retail organizing program.

UFCW Local 653 is organizing to change the retail industry in Minnesota. Everyone in our Local is committed to not just bargaining to preserve what our current members have, but to improve the lives of all workers. We are fighting to set standards for the whole retail industry so that employers compete on their goods and services, not on who can sell a cheaper tomato by offering the lowest wages and benefits to workers.

“Retail salesperson” is now the most common occupation in the country, with one in ten workers (over 16 million people) employed in retail. The median hourly wage for a retail salesperson across subsectors is low—\$10.19 in Food & Beverage, \$9.56 in General Merchandise, and \$9.39 in Clothing, Shoes & Accessories. People of color and women are disproportionately represented in the lowest paid retail jobs.¹

Collaborations between Labor and community such as the Fight for \$15 nationally, and locally--in the Twin Cities--the campaign to organize retail janitors by worker center Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL), have moved workers to take great risks through direct action. In about five years, a \$15 minimum wage has gone from fantasy to reality and those retail janitors are now forming a union.

In the Minneapolis metro there is an immediate opportunity to build on the momentum created by the \$15 minimum wage fight to organize retail workers. Public support for \$15 in Minneapolis is almost at 70%² and the city council is now exploring an ordinance to raise the wage in 2017. We need to help organize workers to demand and lead on this minimum wage fight. Otherwise workers will not get as much as they deserve, and when minimum wage does go up, it will feel like a benign gift from politicians and employers, the majority of whom have been opposing it thus far.

“We are fighting to set standards for the whole retail industry so that employers compete on their goods and services, not on who can sell a cheaper tomato by offering the lowest wages and benefits to workers.”

A couple months ago in July we were part of a one-week retail organizing program for a \$15 minimum wage. We worked together with staff and volunteers from Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC), Working America (WA), 15 NOW, the Teachers union, CTUL, SEIU Local 26, and the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation (MRLF). In seven days we engaged more than 500 retail workers. Over 250 of those workers signed cards to support \$15 and shared what they wanted to improve at their jobs. The top five things retail workers said they wanted to do if they were able to win a \$15/hour minimum wage are: have a savings account, be able to go to school, pay off student debt, buy healthier food, and have a car.

This fall we will kick off additional organizing in these areas:

- 1) New organizing – To build a broad retail workers’ organizing committee to demand a \$15 minimum wage, a fair work week, and a voice in the retail industry’s practices. Together with our community partners we will engage 5,000 retail workers over three months.
- 2) Politics – To educate union members about the most important working families’ issues this election and to build political power so that we can improve the retail industry. Five UFCW 653 members from our union grocery stores will work full-time for seven weeks to engage members in stores and door knock with the Minnesota AFL-CIO to make sure we win for workers this November.
- 3) Member strength – To build solidarity in the workplace and add to our organizing capacity in the stores, politically, and on new organizing. We will kick off a stewards program in October with additional trainings throughout the coming year to develop 100 new stewards.

It is a busy and exhilarating time for us at UFCW 653. We are committed to making sure we win for retail workers through every means possible and these organizing programs are just the beginning.

¹ The Center for Popular Democracy, Fair Workweek Initiative, Data Brief: Retail Jobs Today, January 2016

² <http://www.workdayminnesota.org/articles/support-high-15-minimum-wage-minneapolis-poll-shows>

Proud to be Part of the Hometown Team

By Paul Crandall, Secretary-Treasurer

I attended a high school football game last Friday evening and noticed just inside the entrance a very nice building for concessions with a sign that said "Concessions from Cub - Proud to be part of the Hometown Team." Cub had three very nice signs in and out of the building and all the products being sold were supplied from Cub Foods.

Now, I know some people might be impressed with the ~~giant invader~~ from Iowa that has laid claim to the new US Bank Stadium, but it really struck me that in these communities, there was Cub giving back where it really matters--in hometowns across the metro area.

Cub Foods operates 77 stores in Minnesota and has been part of the fabric of many communities since 1968. Cub has many significant relationships with many well-recognized and deserving organizations, such as Store to Door, a nonprofit that shops for and delivers groceries and prescriptions to aging and homebound seniors in the seven-county areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul. They have partnered with the Minnesota Twins on Cub Cares, a round up campaign to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities. They have made significant donations to other worthy programs such as DARE, a program aimed at educating the states' youth on how to make safe and healthy choices each and

every day, as well as "Cub Cares," a hunger awareness campaign in partnership with Minnesota Gophers Athletics and Second Harvest Heartland. Hometown Cub also supports communities by offering discounted tickets to the State Fair, Minnesota Children's Museum, Valleyfair and Sea Life Minnesota Aquarium.



Workers manned the concession stand at a local high school football game

Local 653 has numerous hard-working members who work for Cub Foods and they have been the backbone of this company's success for the last 48 years. Let's be proud of the Hometown Team and continue to show our excellence in servicing the customer better than anyone else!



The Holidays are Fast Approaching

By Amber Allen, Union Representative

I think it is important to remind our members of the agreed-upon terms of allowing the employers to open their doors on Thanksgiving Day. It is clearly written in:

Article 3: Holidays Section 3.1 (D) Thanksgiving

"Employers who desire may operate their stores on this holiday. Stores opened on this holiday will be staffed by volunteers ONLY, who sign a posting to work. Only those employees signing the posting to volunteer shall be allowed to work this holiday. The Employer shall provide the Union a copy of the signed posting."



What does this mean? If you want to work, sign up; if you don't want to work Thanksgiving Day, don't sign up--simple as that! The past few years I've seen employers try to bribe or encourage employees to work this holiday. For example, anyone who signs up will be entered into a drawing for large ticket items, or given gift cards. Not every company or store does this, but it is okay within reason. What is not okay is the employer pressuring you or demanding you to volunteer. If this happens, please contact your Union Representative right away. Also, I urge you not to discourage fellow employees who are willing to work. It is important to understand that there are many different traditions surrounding this holiday that may not be the same as yours. Some employees really need the extra income, and everyone's situation is different. One last point--for those who are eligible for holiday pay and choose to work Thanksgiving Day, the holiday hours are deferrable.

The Northwest Suburbs Community and Labor Coalition

By Jim Schommer, Union Representative



Activity at the Community Open House and Resource Fair

representing UFCW Local 653. I'm part of the Workers Rights subcommittee along with Rena Wong, who is Local 653's Director of Organizing.

We recently held a Community Open House and Resource Fair at the Brooklyn United Methodist Church in Brooklyn Center with West African Family and Community Services, which is a program for the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

At the Open House and Resource Fair there was traditional African food, music and dance along with learning about the many nutritional, health, financial, career, social justice, and civic and community engagement resources available in the northwest suburbs.

Here is a list of the organizations that were at this year's fair:

CAPI, USA
Meetatelim Ministries
ACER, INC.
Multicultural Kids Network
Planned Parenthood
Think Again MN
Transformation Through Literacy

H.E.L.P. (Help Every Little Hand)
City of Brooklyn Park
Medica
Working Partnerships/United Way
West African Community ACT Team
UFCW Local 653
NW Community and Labor Coalition



Attendees sample traditional African food at the Community Open House and Resource Fair



Casey Hudek (Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation), Jim Schommer of UFCW Local 653), and Edmund Ocansey (Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches)

The fair was well attended and a great first step in introducing the Coalition and UFCW Local 653 to the community. I want to thank my fellow union representatives and Local 653 Secretary-Treasurer Paul Crandall for attending and helping out throughout the day.

If you would like to get involved with this Coalition or have any questions about it, please contact me at 763-525-1500.

*"It always seems
impossible until it's
done."*

--Nelson Mandela

Wilson McShane Corporation

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. While many people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to have a plan to detect the disease in its early stages.

What is breast cancer?

Breast cancer starts when cells in the breast begin to grow out of control. These cells usually form a tumor and can often be seen on an x-ray or felt as a lump. The tumor is malignant (cancerous) if the cells can grow into surrounding tissues or spread to distant areas of the body. Breast cancer occurs almost entirely in women but men can get it, too. Breast cancers can start from different parts of the breast. Most breast cancers begin in the ducts that carry milk to the nipple. Some start in the glands that make breast milk. Although many types of breast cancer can cause a lump in the breast, not all do. There are other symptoms of breast cancer you should watch out for and report to your health care provider.

Signs and Symptoms of breast cancer:

1. Change in how the breast or nipple feels, such as tenderness
2. A lump or thickening in or near the breast or underarm areas
3. A change in skin texture or enlargement of pores in the skin of the breast
4. Any unexplained change in the size or shape of the breast
5. Dimpling anywhere on the breast
6. Redness or darkening of the breast
7. Unexplained swelling of the breast (especially if on one side only)
8. Unexplained shrinkage of the breast (especially if on one side only)
9. Recent asymmetry of the breast
10. Nipple that is turned slightly inward or inverted
11. Skin of the breast, areola or nipple that becomes scaly, red, or swollen
12. Any nipple discharge, especially clear or bloody discharge
13. New pain in one spot that does not go away

What can I do to reduce my risk of breast cancer?

Although you cannot prevent cancer, below are some habits that can help reduce your risk of getting breast cancer:

1. Maintain a healthy weight
2. Stay physically active
3. Eat fruits and vegetables
4. Do not smoke
5. Limit alcohol consumption

It is also important to have an early detection plan. When breast cancer is detected early, and is in the localized stage, the five-year survival rate is 99%. An early detection plan includes performing monthly breast self-exams, regular visits to your doctor for scheduled breast exams, and following your healthcare provider's recommendation for mammograms.

It is important for all individuals to know the signs and symptoms of breast cancer. Performing monthly breast self-exams will help to make changes in your breast more easily detectable. If you do notice anything unusual, it is important to contact your health care provider immediately.

How should a breast self-exam be performed?

1. In the shower: Using the pads of your fingers, move around your entire breast in a circular pattern moving from the outside to the center, checking the entire breast and armpit area. Check both breasts each month, feeling for any lumps, thickening, or hardened knots.
2. In front of a mirror: Visually inspect your breast with your arms at your sides. Next, raise your arms overhead. Look for any changes in the contour, any swelling or dimpling of the skin or changes in the nipple. Next, rest your palms on your hips and press firmly to flex your chest muscles. Look for any changes in your breasts such as a knot or a lump.
3. Lying down: When lying down, the breast tissue spreads out evenly along the chest wall. Place a pillow under your right shoulder and your right arm behind your head. Using your left hand, move the pads of your fingers around your right breast gently in small circular motions covering the entire breast area and armpit. Use light, medium, and firm pressure. Squeeze the nipple and check for discharge and/or lumps. Repeat these steps on your left breast.

What is the difference between a breast self-exam and a clinical breast exam?

A clinical breast exam is performed by a healthcare professional who is trained to recognize many different types of abnormalities and warning signs. During a clinical breast exam, your healthcare provider checks your breasts' appearance. If a lump is discovered, your provider will note its size, shape, texture, and additional testing will be scheduled.

Why do I need a mammogram?

Mammograms can often detect a breast lump before it can actually be felt. Women age 40 and older should have a mammogram every one to two years. Women who are younger than 40 and have risk factors for breast cancer should ask their healthcare provider whether mammograms are advisable and how often to have them. If the mammogram shows an abnormal area of the breast, your doctor will order additional tests. Although lumps are often non-cancerous, the only way to be sure is to perform additional tests such as an ultrasound or MRI.

For additional information on breast cancer please visit the National Breast Cancer Foundation's website www.nationalbreastcancer.org, or visit with your healthcare provider. Remember, an early detection plan can be key in reducing your vulnerability to breast cancer. Breast cancer survival depends on a person's diagnosis and treatment. A main factor in survival is breast cancer stage; the earlier your breast cancer is diagnosed, the higher your survival rate will be.



Local 653 Members Participate in Outreach Program

By Rena Wong, Director of Organizing

In the Minneapolis metro area, there is a surge of nonunion, out-of-state grocery retailers like Hy-Vee, Fresh Thyme, and Trader Joe's. As nonunion employers they offer lower total compensation to workers and often ask for and receive large tax giveaways from local city councils. This gives them an unfair advantage over Minnesota-based union employers such as Cub Foods, Lunds & Byerlys, and Kowalski's. Over time this leads to lower worker standards for wages, benefits, and working conditions.

In order to make sure that all retail workers do better, we have five UFCW Local 653 members who are participating in a seven-week political program. They will engage other members in stores to help us build political power to ensure Hy-Vee and other nonunion retailers compete based on their goods and services—not by shortchanging workers and driving down the industry. We need to make sure that politicians hear from workers, not just corporate lobbyists.

Local 653's Political Education Team Members



Dominique Hawkins of
Rosemount Cub



Skyler McWilliams of
Savage Cub



Greg Dunsmoor of New
Brighton Cub



Dan Swanson of Plymouth
Lunds & Byerlys



Pat Gabriel of Eagan Lunds
& Byerlys

Upcoming Election is Critical--Get Out and Vote!

By Rick Milbrath, Union Representative

Many people think that their vote does not matter. Imagine if everyone felt that way, we would never have a say on who would be running this country of ours that offers us more freedom than anywhere else in the world. There have been many elections not only on the local level that have been decided by less than 100 votes. So, thinking that your vote does not count could not be farther from the truth.

Maybe you feel that when it comes down to it, all the candidates are the same, so why bother voting? Even if this is how you really truly feel, remember that some candidates will have an enormous impact on our current jobs and our children's future. Voting for certain candidates could be a life-changing event for you and your job, which could be devastating for your family today and for many years down the road.

This is the year we will be voting for a new President of the United States who will likely have a say on the next three Supreme Court Justice positions. The upcoming decisions the Supreme Court makes are going to affect the working middle class now and for generations to come. That alone is huge and that is why you must vote! Those positions are going to either support the middle class working people or side with big businesses. We also have to focus our votes at the state and local level. Do you complain about the policies of your children's school? If so, ask yourself, "Did I vote for the members of our school board?" Change starts at a grass roots level whether you live on a farm or in the inner city, and all change starts by electing people to implement change whether it is a school board member, city council, mayor, or a president. Remember, when you are unhappy with the condition of your town's roads and highways, or your state's tax rate, being involved and voting for and knowing your

elected officials will enable you to voice your complaints to the appropriate representatives. You voted for them and they work for you.

People come up with all sorts of lame excuses for not voting—polls are too crowded, can't get there on time, or don't have transportation. There are many organizations that volunteer their time to ensure everyone's right to vote. If you need a ride, call the League of Women Voters. If you cannot get to the polls on time, request an absentee ballot. What could be easier than voting by mail? Whether the excuse is apathy or laziness, voting has become a privilege that far too many Americans take for granted.

The next time you vote, ask yourself how you would feel if you didn't have a choice to elect a president, state or city officials or choose a job or decide how many children to have. There are many countries where a person does not have a choice and I'm sure they would gladly change places with you for the fundamental privilege of voting. So PLEASE get out and vote. It will not only make a difference for you, but could have an impact for your children and grandchildren. There are too many people who lost their lives so we could live in a democracy and have the privilege/right to vote. We owe it to them!





Hi Matt-- I just want to thank you and send this photo of me and my coworker at Burnsville South Cub for the 4 tickets that I won for state fair. We had a blast that day and the weather is cool. A big thank you to you.
--Jasmin and Esmeralda

Thank you very much for the State Fair tickets. I always take my vacation the week of the fair. My best friend and I have been going to the fair for 40 years together. Thanks again.

--Jasmin

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE STATE FAIR TICKETS. MY FAMILY AND ME WENT ON AN ATTENDANCE SETTING DAY. WE HAD SUCH A GREAT DAY. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR US MEMBERS.

-ELSIE

Thank you for the Twins tickets for September 11th. They were great seats and it was really neat to be so close to the players. It is a great benefit from the union.

-Sue

Thank you so much for the 4 free State Fair tickets. We haven't been to the fair in a lot of years. We are excited to take our grandsons. It's so nice to be a part of such a thoughtful union who does those things for their members! We appreciate it!

--Doug



Member Mark Oslo's daughter at Minnesota Twins game

I'M WRITING THIS TO THANK YOU FOR THE TWINS TICKETS I WON IN YOUR DRAWING AGAINST THE DETROIT TIGERS. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY WON, BUT WE HAD A GREAT TIME! WE HAD REALLY GOOD SEATS AND IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY.

--SANDY



Jarvis Lee, Lori Vorlicki, Dan Gouge, Cliff Fischer enjoying their day at the Minnesota State Fair

Shop Where You Work— It's a Win/Win

By Doug Rigert, Union Representative

It is a topic that has been written about numerous times but cannot be overstated or written about too often. It is the topic of doing your grocery shopping at the same store or company you work for. I know many of you already do this and you should be commended for doing so. It is greatly appreciated by your store as well as all of us at UFCW Local 653 who are honored to work on your behalf.

It is no secret that money is tight, and trying to budget to make your money go as far as possible is a constant challenge and concern. The cost of living seems to be a stacked deck that has only one direction--which is upwards--and a battle that has no foreseeable end in sight. The choices of where to spend your hard-earned dollars on weekly essential items such as food have never been greater. However, the benefit of having more choices has become a double-edged sword of sorts, whose edges have only gotten sharper and have cut into the profits of the union grocery stores all of you work in.

Yes, it's true this isn't all bad as far as making stores and the price of their goods more competitive for your business. However, it is important to appreciate and recognize that although they may all have one thing in common (selling groceries), that is not and should not be the only factor one should consider when deciding where to shop. Stores or companies that employ union members have costs such as health and welfare as well as pension contributions that other nonunion stores don't, and because of this, those costs have to be covered or added into the price of the goods they sell, which like other costs puts additional pressure on profitability. When you choose to shop at the store that employs you, you're helping your company to compete and continue to stay profitable and at the same time you are also in a way making an investment in your own and many fellow coworkers' futures, job security and the continuation of benefits most receive.

I ask that you please give this line of thinking serious thought and consideration when deciding where to shop. We are all in this together and we are stronger and more secure and able to face and address challenges to an ever more competitive industry if we continue to shop and support the employers who help financially support us.

UFCW Local 653
13000 63rd Avenue North
Maple Grove, MN 55369
www.ufcw653.org
763-525-1500 or 1-800-292-4105

Matthew P. Utecht, President (mutecht@ufcw653.org, 612-965-4307)

Paul Crandall, Secretary-Treasurer (paulc@ufcw653.org, 612-965-4301)

JERRY'S FOODS: Jerry's Sausage
Brainerd / Baxter Cub Foods - Baxter Super One - Crosby Super One - Pequot Lakes Supervalu - Lunds & Byerlys St. Cloud
CUB FOODS: Crystal, St. Louis Park

Rena Wong, Director of Organizing (rwong@ufcw653.org, 612-865-4345)

Amber Allen, Union Representative (ambera@ufcw653.org, 612-865-6755)

CORPORATE CUB FOODS: Apple Valley, Bloomington, Burnsville HOTC, Burnsville South, Chanhassen, Eagan East, Eagan North, Eagan West, Lakeville North, Lakeville South, Lakeville West, Rosemount, Savage, Shorewood

Scott Larson, Union Representative (scottl@ufcw653.org, 612-961-6305)

LUNDS & BYERLYS: Bloomington, Central, Edina, Hennepin, Lake Street, Minnetonka, Navarre, Plymouth, Prior Lake, Richfield, Wayzata, Lunds & Byerly's Kitchen, Lunds Manufacturing Villa at Bryn Mawr, Senova (Bryn Mawr), Healthcare Services (Bryn Mawr)

Rick Milbrath, Union Representative (rilmilbrath@ufcw653.org, 612-965-4310)

Ingebretsen's - Swanson Meats - Cooper's Foods - Almsted's Fresh Market - Jubilee Foods - Cub Foods Shakopee - Driskill's Foods - Oxendale's Market - Bergan's SuperValu - Hirshfield's - Brede Exposition Services

KNOLAN'S FESTIVAL FOODS: Andover, Bloomington, Brooklyn Park

KING'S COUNTY MARKET: Andover, St. Francis

KOWALSKI'S MARKETS: Chicago (Parkview), Eagan, Eden Prairie, Excelsior, Hennepin, Lyndale

Golden Living Center (Bloomington and Chateau),
Healthcare Services (Bloomington and Chateau)

Doug Rigert , Union Representative (dougr@ufcw653.org, 612-889-9121)

JERRY'S CUB FOODS: Bloomington, Brookdale, Chaska, Eden Prairie, Knollwood, Lake Street, Nicollet, Quarry, Richfield, Rogers, Southdale, West Broadway

JERRY'S FOODS: Eden Prairie, Edina, Jerry's Enterprises
Benedictine @ Innsbruck Healthcare

Jim Schommer, Union Representative (jims@ufcw653.org, 612-965-4308)

CORPORATE CUB FOODS: Blaine North, Blaine South, Brooklyn Park North, Brooklyn Park South, Champlin, Coon Rapids South, Fridley, Lagoon, Maple Grove, Monticello, New Brighton, Plymouth Station, Rockford Road, Silver Lake Road, Vicksburg
Homestead at Anoka, Gold Cross, Monarch Healthcare

Nancy Vaillancourt, Union Representative (nancyv@ufcw653.org, 612-965-4309)

LUNDS & BYERLYS: Burnsville, Chanhassen, Eagan, Eden Prairie, Edina, Glen Lake, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, Ridgedale, St. Louis Park

HAUG'S - Cub Coon Rapids (Williston), Cub Minnetonka (Haug), Cub Waterford

JERRY'S CUB: Elk River

Everett's Foods

Park Health & Rehab, Healthcare Services at Park H&R



**Local 653 invites you to join us for our
6th annual Fall Harvest Festival**

When: **Sunday, October 30, 2016**
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Note new location!

Where: **Lake Katrina Group Horse Camp**
Baker Park Reserve

Cost: **\$5.00/family, plus a nonperishable food item for donation to a local food shelf**

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of hay rides, face painting, treat bags, and pumpkin decorating.

Brats, hot dogs, chips and apple cider will be served.

Children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes.



Directions: Lake Katrina Group Horse Camp is part of Baker Park Reserve, located off Highways 12 and 6. When you exit off of Highway 12W onto Highway 6, make an immediate left onto a gravel road, which will take you to the shelter area where the Harvest Festival is being held.

**Fall Harvest Festival
Registration Form**

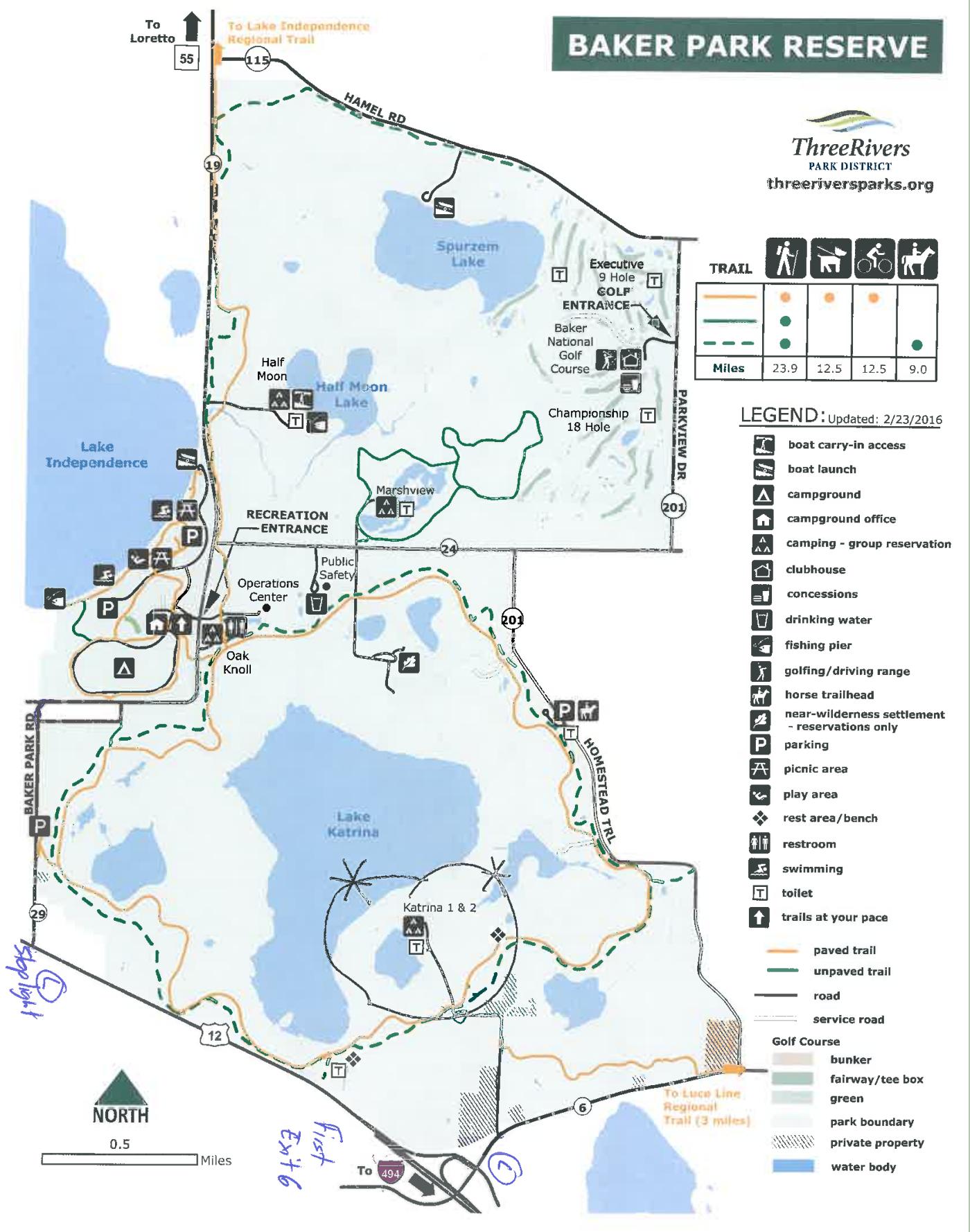
Send payment and registration form to the Local 653 office by **Thursday, October 20**.

UFCW Local 653
Attn: Harvest Festival
6160 Summit Dr N Ste 600
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Member Name:	
Phone #:	
Store/Employer:	
Attendance:	# of adults _____ + # of kids _____ = Total # of people _____
Cost:	\$5.00 per family. Make checks payable to UFCW Local 653. (Please bring nonperishable food item to Harvest Festival.)

BAKER PARK RESERVE

ThreeRivers
PARK DISTRICT
threeriversparks.org



Lunds & Byerlys Named 2016 Independent Grocery Retailer of the Year

By Scott Larson, Union Representative

Congratulations to Lunds & Byerlys for being named 2016 Independent Grocery Retailer of the Year!!

Having a strong reputation for being the grocer of today and the future, it is no surprise that there are many reasons for this honor. As Russell (Tres) Lund III, Chairman and CEO says, "In the last five years, we have certainly refined our strategies. We think there is nothing more beautiful than rolling a successful strategy forward and spreading the message about what we are doing well. Our goal is to simply keep doing a better job in the future than we did today or yesterday." The following are examples of what is being done to ensure this future:

- ❖ From carpeted floors to locally made merchandise and exceptional customer service along with highly trained employees, customers receive a complete shopping experience.
- ❖ Lunds & Byerlys's private label is a large part of the company's success because all of their private labels are designed to be far above the competitions' labels with the goal of exceeding the customers' expectations.
- ❖ An existing strong focus on center store strategy with the focus of elevating to a higher level through strong merchandising and to make the shopping experience complete.
- ❖ The incorporation of outside vendors plays a role in their success. These vendors include US Bank, Caribou Coffee and Bachman's Floral.
- ❖ Lunds & Byerlys shows strength in its ongoing growth strategy. One example was the acquisition of the Glen Lake store, demonstrating once again Lunds & Byerlys' commitment to the Twin Cities industry.

With new competition from Hy-Vee and Fresh Thyme, it is obvious to me that Lunds & Byerlys is not going to silently sit on the sidelines and lose its market share. Instead they are proactively increasing their share and developing a strong loyalty-customer base to continue to shop at Lunds & Byerlys stores for all their grocery needs.

It is no surprise to me that Lunds & Byerlys won this award. We have all seen the competition in the cities for customer loyalty. Lunds & Byerlys is making every effort to remain the grocery store of choice.

Congratulations to all the dedicated workers of Local 653 for helping this achievement become possible for Lunds & Byerlys. Their commitment to the industry is a strong factor for the success and this well-deserved award.

Congratulations again to Tres Lund for being named 2016 Independent Grocery Retailer of the year and being a class act in the retail food industry.



Back row: Ruel Brown, cheese specialist; CEO Tres Lund.

Middle row: Chelsea Weinand, produce manager; Emily Deutsch, FoodE Expert; Scott Bresser, center store manager.

Front row: Jessie Seamans, operations manager; Kathy Hoel, front end manager; Mary Holmberg, deli manager.

The New Lunds & Byerlys Chanhassen

By Nancy Vaillancourt, Union Representative

On Saturday, August 20, 2016, Lunds & Byerlys Chanhassen celebrated its newly remodeled store by having an open house for its customers, thanking them for their patience and continued patronage during the five months of construction. The open house festivities included live music, Twins baseball cap giveaways, as well as Lunds & Byerlys reusable bags, some of which contained a \$10.00 gift card to L&B. Samples were given throughout the store and there were special deals on T-bones, strawberries and sweet corn. The newly remodeled store added a Creations Café featuring breakfast, lunch and dinner, a new hot food bar and extended salad bar. Bone Marché Pet Market is also new to the store.

The always fresh and beautiful bakery, deli and meat departments have a renewed and inviting look. The produce and dairy departments were completely revamped. This is a beautiful store with fantastic employees waiting to show off their new store! The remodeling helped in adding a new Retail Specialist position filling a 40-hour evening slot! Congratulations to everyone for a fabulous job on the remodel!



Scott Haas - meat



Maria Tully - bakery



Scott Grissom - dairy/frozen



Barb Swanson - cheese



Jennifer Kane, Julie Kyles, Dale Stromseth - deli



Steve Woo - produce



Sue Knott - cashier and Kat Scholler - courtesy



Wes Bookman - produce

John Lego Memorial Golf Tournament

By Scott Larson, Union Representative

Our 7th Annual John Lego Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2016, at Brookview Golf Club in Golden Valley. It was a wet start due to the rain the night before. Overall the day of golf was very enjoyable. Eighty four players were present for the shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. It was a fantastic day seeing all the members come out and participate in this fun event. Many great shots were made with a lot of foursomes breaking par--the winning score was 10 under par and the second place was 9 under par. At the end of play, lunch was served and prizes were distributed.

I want to thank President Matt Utecht and Secretary-Treasurer Paul Crandall for hosting this event and for all their help. I also want to thank Chris Erickson and Rick Milbrath for their fabulous culinary skills on grilling the Polish sausages to perfection. (The Polish sausages were purchased at Everett's Foods located at 38th and Cedar in south Minneapolis.) Thank you to all the staff at Local 653 for all their assistance with this event. And thank you to all the members for your participation. Hope to see you all next year!





UFCW Local 653 Members:

**Union Meetings will
be held the first
Monday of each month
at 6:00 p.m. at Embassy Suites
by Hilton Mpls North, 6300 Earle
Brown Drive in Brooklyn Center.**

Upcoming meetings:
Monday, November 7, 2016
Monday, December 5, 2016

Sorry--

**No ticket entries
this month.**



**Knights of Columbus -
Marian Hall**
**1114 American Blvd. W.
Bloomington, MN 55420**

Retiree's Club Meeting Notice

**For more information:
Thea Gullekson:
952-831-3143
Char Hanson:
612-869-9035
or Marlen Wahl:
952-888-3220**

Thursday, October 20, 2016
10:00 a.m. Cards
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Speaker

**United Food & Commercial
Workers Union Local 653
6160 Summit Dr N Ste 600
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
763-525-1500 or 1-800-292-4105**

Change Service Requested

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 2899
Twin Cities, MN**

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN... AGAIN!

**Saturday, December 3, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**Earle Brown Heritage Center - Garden City Ballroom
(6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430)**

Members, retirees and their families are invited to Local 653's 7th annual Breakfast with Santa! Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m., and then Santa will arrive to pass out gift bags to the children, and then be available for the children to sit on his lap, tell him what they would like for Christmas, and give family members the opportunity to take pictures.

If you are interested in attending this year's Breakfast with Santa, please fill out the form below and send it--along with \$8.00 per person (checks payable to UFCW Local 653)--to:

UFCW Local 653
Attn: Breakfast with Santa
6160 Summit Dr N, Ste 600
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Note new location!



Payment must accompany your registration. We will confirm your reservation via email when we receive your form and payment. If you do not have an email address, we will mail a confirmation letter to the address we have on file for you.

Toys for Tots

Again this year Local 653 is joining with the United States Marine Corp's Toys for Tots program to collect toys for children who might otherwise not have something special to open this Christmas. We will begin accepting new, unwrapped toys on November 1 at our new office at 6160 Summit Drive N, Suite 600, in Brooklyn Center. You can also bring your donation to this year's Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 3.

Breakfast with Santa Claus Registration Form (deadline--Friday, November 25, 2016)

Member Name:

Employer:

Email address for confirmation:

Adults: _____ X \$8.00 = \$

Children: _____ X \$8.00 = \$ Total: \$

of High Chairs Needed:

of Booster Seats Needed: