

We've Moved!

By Matt Utecht, President

By now most of you have likely heard the buzz in the air about UFCW Local 653 selling the Union Hall / Office in Maple Grove and making a move to the Brooklyn Center area. I am excited to share that, as of the end of last month, we have officially moved! The move took place on Saturday, July 30, and our office is now located at 6160 Summit Drive North in Brooklyn Center. If you come by the new union office, you will currently find us in Suite 200W until we move upstairs to Suite 600, our soon-to-be permanent space on the sixth floor.

New Mailing Address:

**6160 Summit Drive North, Suite 600
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430**

Current Physical Location (until we move to Suite 600, our permanent space on the sixth floor)

**6160 Summit Drive North, Suite 200W
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430**

With the move come other changes for our local. Many of you have asked prior to moving where our monthly membership meetings will be held. For those of you able to join us for our membership meetings each month we will have a new venue located just behind our new office building at the Embassy Suites hotel located at 6300 Earle Brown Drive in Brooklyn Center.

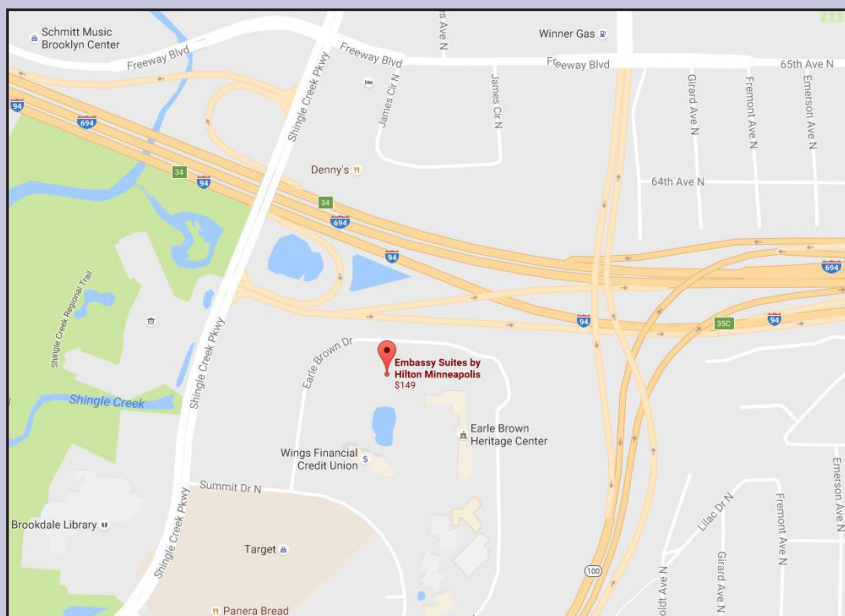
As a reminder, union meetings are held **the first Monday of every month** (October - May) starting at **6:00 p.m.** (*please note the time change*). The membership meetings for the upcoming year will be as follows:

Monday, October 3, 2016
Monday, November 7, 2016
Monday, December 5, 2016
Monday, January 2, 2017
Monday, January 30, 2017 (this will be the date for the February meeting)
Monday, March 6, 2017
Monday, April 3, 2017
Monday, May 1, 2017

UFCW Local 653 membership meetings will be held at:

Embassy Suites by Hilton Minneapolis North
6300 Earle Brown Drive
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Please join me in welcoming these new and exciting changes for our local. I look forward to seeing everyone at our kickoff membership meeting in October!



Crow Wing County Fair 2016



--Encouraging Consumers to Shop at Our Local Union Stores--

By Paul Crandall, Secretary-Treasurer

The 2016 Crow Wing County Fair was again a huge success as the team of pirates (Local 653 Staff) sailed into Brainerd on the Black Pearl on Monday, August 1, 2016. Each year at the fair we promote the unionized retail grocery stores in the Brainerd Lakes Area: Baxter Cub Foods, Brainerd Cub Foods, Pequot Lakes Supervalu, Super One Foods in Baxter and Super One Foods in Crosby.

At last year's Crow Wing County Fair the Black Pearl sat grounded as the staff of Local 653 was involved in the Victoria's Market and Glen Lake's Market picket lines. We were out on the picket lines seven days a week for six months. This year the Fair Board and many fairgoers shared their excitement that we were back. Fairgoers enjoyed the fun atmosphere that surrounded the Black Pearl, as our pirates gave away chips, Krispy bars, fruit snacks, lei necklaces, bead necklaces, fresh fruit and pirate gold to the kids. Of course, the big draw was the tickets handed out for the five drawings each day, every two hours starting at noon. These drawings gathered large crowds as we gave away gift cards to the union grocery stores.

Before each drawing, Local 653 President Matt Utecht delivered a passionate speech to fairgoers, asking them to please shop these local union stores in the Brainerd Lakes Area. These employers provide good jobs with good wages and benefits, and the money spent by consumers at these union stores stays local, reinvested into the community--including schools, churches, youth sports, etc. This is not the case with Walmart in town--they send their money to Arkansas--or the big box store that requires a membership card with a fee just to get inside.

As the numbers were called off, the winners

were very excited to win the gift cards for free groceries. Each day hundreds of fairgoers asked the pirates, "What is this all about?" This gives us the opportunity to educate them that we are the local union that represents the workers in these union stores and it is an excellent opportunity to promote our members' talents and ask for their support in shopping their stores.

Each evening at the 8:00 p.m. drawing, a gift card worth \$400.00 was given away to one of the stores, creating quite a frenzy as the winning number was announced, and on Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. (the last night of the fair) two \$400.00 gift cards were drawn, bringing a record crowd to the Black Pearl. This year's fair was hit extremely hard by a huge storm that struck thankfully in the middle of the night and early Thursday morning. The Black Pearl suffered a direct hit, ripping the sails and masts of the ship, the top railing was struck by tree branches, and other areas had minor damage, but with the hard work of the pirates the repairs were made and the fair reopened at 1:00 p.m. so the show could go on!

Again this year it was nice to see all the members and their families stop by to say "hello." Captain Matt gave Baxter Cub Produce Manager Bob Heldt a special thank you for making sure our produce was fresh every day. The crowd began to chant "I love Bob!"

I want to thank all the Local 653 employers in the Brainerd Lakes Area who help make the fair a huge success with their generous donations. Also thanks to Captain Matt and the entire staff of Local 653 who put in long hours and a lot of hard work to make this event sail as smoothly as it did.

Winners of daily \$400 gift card drawings!



Wilson McShane Corporation

Staying Safe in the Summer Sun

Summer in Minnesota is a wonderful time of the year for outdoor fun and activities. It is important, however, that while we enjoy the summer fun we also protect ourselves from potential sun damage/cancer and heat related illnesses.

Sun Screen and Skin Cancer

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer. Approximately 5.4 million basal and squamous cell skin cancers are diagnosed each year. In order to protect your skin from harmful UV radiation that can cause skin damage and skin cancer, follow the suggestions below while outdoors:

- Seek shade
- Wear protective clothing (UV protective clothing, wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, etc.)
- Generously apply sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher with broad spectrum protection)
- Use extra caution near water, sand, snow and concrete (UV rays bounce off these surfaces)
- Get Vitamin D safely (supplements)
- Do not let your skin tan or burn

The American Cancer Society suggests that individuals follow the “Slip! Slop! Slap! And Wrap!” method to ensure you are protecting yourself and others from skin damage:

- **Slip** on a shirt.
- **Slop** on sunscreen. Sun screen should be applied 15 minutes prior to going into the sun. Make sure to reapply sun screen frequently (every two hours or more if you are sweating or swimming).
- **Slap** on a hat.
- **Wrap** on sunglasses to protect your eyes and sensitive skin around them.

Heat Related Illnesses

It is not uncommon for the temperatures and humidity to soar in the summer months. In order to protect yourself and others from heat-related illnesses, adhere to the following precautions:

- **Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing:** Excess dark or tight clothing holds in heat and doesn't let your body cool properly because it inhibits sweat evaporation.
- **Avoid sunburn:** If you're going to be outdoors, wear a lightweight, wide-brimmed hat or use an umbrella to protect yourself from the sun and apply sunscreen to any exposed skin. Having sunburn reduces your body's ability to rid itself of heat.
- **Seek a cooler place:** Being in an air-conditioned building, even for just a few hours, is one of the best ways to prevent heat exhaustion. If your home doesn't have air conditioning, consider spending time at a shopping mall or some other place with air conditioning. At the very least, find a well shaded spot. Fans alone are not adequate to counter high heat and humidity.
- **Drink plenty of fluids:** Staying hydrated will help your body sweat and maintain a normal body temperature. Avoid alcoholic beverages.
- **Avoid hot spots:** On a hot day, the temperature in your parked car can rise 20°F in just 10 minutes. Never leave children or anyone else in a parked car in hot weather for any period of time.
- **Let your body acclimate to the heat:** If you travel to somewhere hot, or the temperature suddenly jumps in your area, it can take several weeks for your body to get used to the heat. It's best not to exercise or do any strenuous activity in hot weather, but if you must, follow precautions and take frequent breaks in a cool spot.

How to treat Heat Exhaustion

- **Rest in a cool place:** Getting into an air conditioned building is best, but at the very least, find a shady spot or sit in front of a fan. Rest on your back with your legs elevated higher than your heart.
- **Drink cool fluids:** Stick to water or sports drinks. Do not drink any alcoholic beverages which can contribute to dehydration.
- **Try cooling measures:** If possible, take a cool shower, soak in a cool bath or pool, or put towels soaked in cool water on your skin.
- **Loosen clothing:** Remove any unnecessary clothing and make sure your clothes are lightweight and nonbinding.
- If you don't feel better within one hour of using treatment measures, seek prompt medical attention.

Heat Stroke

Heat Stroke can kill or cause damage to the brain and internal organs. Heat stroke often occurs as a progression from milder heat-related illnesses such as cramps, fainting, and heat exhaustion. Heat stroke results from prolonged exposure to high temperatures, usually in combination with dehydration, and can lead to failure of the body's temperature control system. Common symptoms include throbbing headache, lack of sweating despite the heat, rapid heartbeat, rapid shallow breathing, nausea, seizures, confusion, disorientation, and sometimes loss of consciousness or coma.

If you suspect that someone has heat stroke, call 911 immediately or transport the person to a hospital. Any delay seeking medical attention can be fatal. If waiting for the paramedics, follow the steps below:

- Move the person to an air-conditioned environment, or at least a cool, shady area and remove any unnecessary clothing,
- Fan air over the person while wetting his or her skin with water from a garden hose or sponge,
- Apply ice packs to the person's armpits, groin, neck and back,
- Immerse the person in a shower or tub of cool water, or any ice bath.

For more information on how to protect your skin during the summer months, please visit the American Cancer Society's website. To learn more about heat-related illnesses and how to prevent them, please visit the Center for Disease Control's website. Enjoy your summer and stay safe!



The State Minimum Wage Is Going Up—For Many That Means a Wage Increase

By Doug Rigert, Union Representative

Beginning August 1, 2016, the Minnesota state minimum wage for workers will increase from \$9.00 an hour to \$9.50 an hour. Although more needs to be done, for many this will be a much-needed raise in pay to help cover bills and other expenses. This wage increase is the last of the three minimum wage increases that were passed by the state legislature and signed into law at the end of the 2014 session by Minnesota State Governor Mark Dayton.

The leadership of UFCW Local 653--along with other unions, labor and workers' rights organizations--spent time lobbying and meeting with state representative and legislators on this issue and its importance to workers currently making the state minimum wage. Thankfully enough of them took the time to listen to all of us and the message we wanted and needed them to hear on behalf of all working people. Most of the legislators who voted for and passed the new minimum wage increase into law belonged to the DFL (Democratic Farmer-Labor) party. This is the first time in nearly ten years that there has been an increase in the state minimum wage. As part of the new law, beginning January 1, 2018 the minimum wage rate going forward will be indexed to the rate of inflation. What this means is that if there is a measurable increase in the inflation rate, there will be a comparable minimum wage increase in order to offset any loss due to a higher inflation rate.

As with almost any law, there are some exceptions and nuances to this one as well, such as the youth wage provision. Not all minimum wage workers will be eligible for the new \$9.50 wage rate starting August 1, 2016. That wage rate is for **large** employers only. A **large** employer is defined as any enterprise with an annual gross dollar volume of sales made or business done of \$500,000.00 or more. For a **small** employer the new minimum wage rate that will go into effect August 1, 2016 will be \$7.75 an hour. A **small** employer is defined as any enterprise with an annual gross volume of sales made or business done of less than \$500,000.00.

It is very important to point out that the leadership of UFCW Local 653 is committed to continuing to do everything within its power to improve wages for all its members during contract negotiations as well as those avenues afforded to us through the political process in order to improve the financial status of all working people.



Raise the Minimum Wage

By Rena Wong, Director of Organizing

UFCW is working with other unions and community organizations, such as Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC), 15 NOW, and Working America, to lift the minimum wage for all workers in Minneapolis. In order to win for our members, we need to win for all workers. We cannot set or protect good industry standards for wages, benefits, and working conditions when the average worker receives so much less.

Here are some facts to consider:

- Our state was named America's Top State for Business in 2015¹ and Minnesota CEO pay levels went up, but average workers' pay was stagnant². For example, Target is one of the largest employers in Minnesota – hourly workers start at \$10 per hour while the CEO was paid \$13,540 per hour³.
- The poverty line in the U.S. for a family of four in 2016 is \$24,300. That means if the head of household earns at least \$11.69 per hour (and works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year) that family is barely at the federal poverty level. In Minnesota, the minimum wage will go up to \$9.50 per hour this August.
- The Office of Minnesota Higher Education reports that for the 2006-2007 academic year, tuition and fees at the University of Minnesota were \$9,410. For 2015-2016, tuition and fees are \$13,840. That is a 47% change⁴. As of 2015, there was more than \$1.2 trillion in outstanding student loan debt nationally, carried by 40 million borrowers, with an average balance of \$29,000⁵.
- As of February 2016, the average one-bedroom rent in ten of the 11 Minneapolis neighborhoods was above \$1,200. The median two-bedroom was \$1,500 and higher.⁶

The Minnesota economy and company executives are doing well, but workers are not. We will continue to organize with unions, community organizations and nonunion workers to make sure that everyone who works hard has a chance to earn decent wages that enable them to take care of their families.

If you are interested in organizing to set industry standards and lift the wage floor, please call or email me (612-865-4345 or rwong@ufcw653.org). We will grow a movement together.

¹<http://www.cnbc.com/2015/06/24/00-advantages-minnesota-is-2015s-top-state.html>

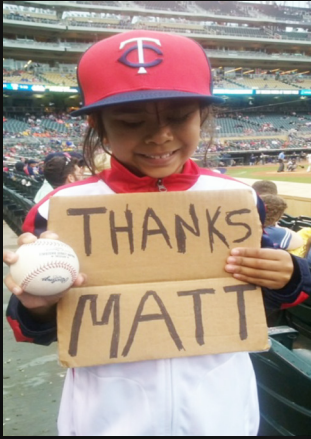
² <http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-ceo-pay-takes-a-big-leap/316380981/>

³ Figure based on total compensation divided by 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year <http://www.aflcio.org/Corporate-Watch/Paywatch-2014/100-Highest-Paid-CEOs#>

⁴ <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/dPg.cfm?pageID=812>

⁵ <http://www.cnbc.com/2015/06/15/the-high-economic-and-social-costs-of-student-loan-debt.html>

⁶ <http://www.citypages.com/news/its-not-getting-any-cheaper-to-rent-in-minneapolis-but-8012851>



The granddaughter of a member caught a ball at a game, and here she is expressing her gratitude to President Matt Utecht for the tickets!

Thank you so much for the Twins tickets. Win or lose it'll be fun.

--Arlene

Our day at Valleyfair couldn't have been better. We took our 7-year-old granddaughter, who went for her first time. She was just tall enough to ride the rollercoasters and she loved them. We all had a great day and we really appreciate the tickets.

--Bill

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE TWINS TICKETS. THE WEATHER WAS AWESOME AND WE WON 6-2! KEPLER'S HOME RUN WAS THE HIGHLIGHT. MY DAD AND I HAD A GREAT TIME. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

--DEREK

Thank you very much for the Twins tickets we received. I took my 15 year old daughter and she had a great time. Also, they won.

-Cherie

Your Weingarten Rights

In 1975, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in the Weingarten decision, that an employee is entitled to have a union representative present during any interview which may result in his or her discipline. It is up to you to insist on union representation. If you fail to do so, you may waive your rights.

If you are called into a meeting with any management representative and have reason to believe that disciplinary action may result, read them your Weingarten rights:

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, I respectfully request that my union representative or steward be present at this meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions."

Do the following:

1. Ask your supervisor if you might be disciplined as a result of the interview. If he/she says "No," ask for a written statement to that effect. If he/she gives you such a statement, you must participate in the interview. If not, read him/her your Weingarten rights, remain for the meeting, take notes, and afterwards immediately contact your union representative.
2. If he/she says you might be disciplined but will not allow you to have a union representative present, read him your Weingarten rights, stay in the room, take notes, and do not respond to any questions. Afterwards, contact your union representative immediately. If the supervisor allows your union representative to be present, you should participate in the interview.

Service Pins Sent Out May- June 2016

5 Years

Eric Syverson (Lunds & Byerlys - Minnetonka)

10 Years

Muna Farah (Cub - Plymouth Rainbow)

Eddie Flores (Jerry's Cub - Quarry)

Timothy Gannon (Jerry's Foods - Edina)

Shawn McDonough (Jerry's Cub - Nicollet)

Mark Taggatz (Cub - Minnetonka)

15 Years

Leanne Dedeker (Jerry's Cub - Eden Prairie)

Sherrie Henry (Jerry's Cub - Brookdale)

20 Years

Aaron Durose (Jerry's Cub - Elk River)

Julie McGuire (Cub - Brainerd)

25 Years

Patricia Schroeder (Jerry's Cub - Quarry)

Peggy Kevilus (Jerry's Cub - Lake Street)

30 Years

Dean Dugan (Cub - Rosemount)

Gene Rafferty (Cub - Coon Rapids South)

35 Years

Jeff Beal (Cub - Eagan West)

Steve Robling (Cub - Minnetonka)

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 (rmilbrath@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 - Bergen's SuperValu - Hirshfield's - Brede Exposition Services

KNOWLAN'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 @ 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.

Where: Lake Katrina Group Horse Camp
Baker Park Reserve (2309 Baker Park Rd, Maple Plain, MN 55359)

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

Note new location!

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

Three Rivers
PARK DISTRICT
threeiversparks.org

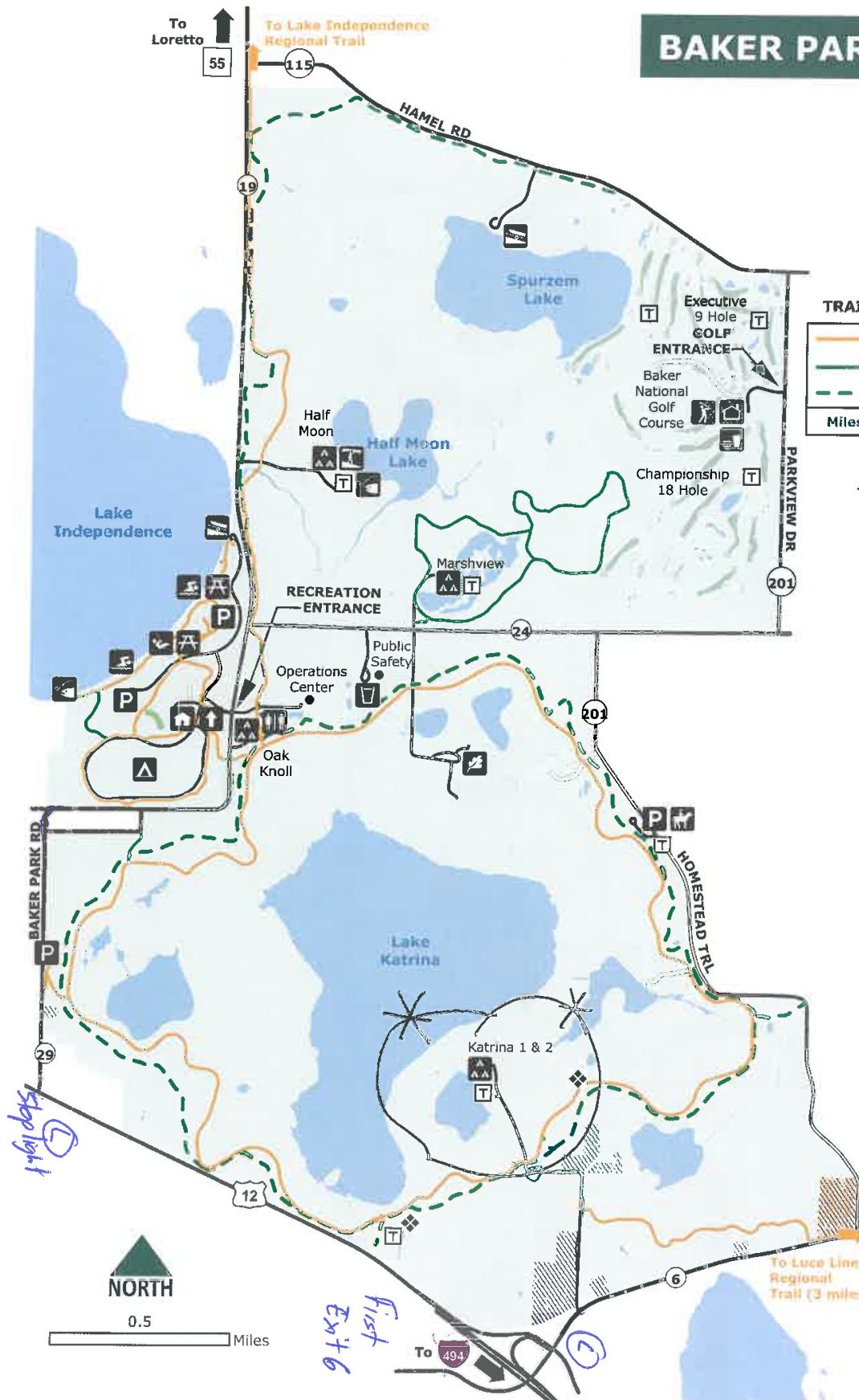
TRAIL				
Miles	23.9	12.5	12.5	9.0

LEGEND: Updated: 2/23/2016

- boat carry-in access
- boat launch
- campground
- campground office
- camping - group reservation
- clubhouse
- concessions
- drinking water
- fishing pier
- golfing/driving range
- horse trailhead
- near-wilderness settlement - reservations only
- parking
- picnic area
- play area
- rest area/bench
- restroom
- swimming
- toilet
- trails at your pace

- paved trail
- unpaved trail
- road
- service road

- Golf Course**
- bunker
 - fairway/tee box
 - green
 - park boundary
 - private property
 - water body



Asking the Right People

By Rick Milbrath, Union Representative



Your union contract governs a lot of things at your workplace—everything from jury duty to seniority, to wages and raises, leaves of absence and vacation protocol, just to name a few. Many of you have worked in the industry for a long time and have encountered many different situations in your years on the job. This article is not for you seasoned veterans, unless you run into a question you are not completely sure about. This article is for those members who need an answer to a question or for those of you who have been given a wrong answer over the years, or maybe you were completely misled on purpose by someone at your place of work. I don't believe that people are misled on purpose very often, however, I know it happens because here in the office we all have had to fix a few of those situations over the years. If you are not sure and want

a good piece of meat to grill, you go ask your meat cutter in your store. If you want to know the difference between regular and organic vegetables, you can go and ask your produce personnel. The same goes with the professional people that handle the questions in the deli, dairy, frozen food or bakery and every other department in the store. The point is to seek out the people who deal with the everyday questions in their prospective departments.

When it comes to a question about your union contract, it only seems logical that you would call the people who work with the contract day in and day out—your union representatives. The leadership of the union negotiates the terms and conditions that are spelled out in your contract and we become very familiar with intent and purpose to the language. I know that sometimes when you take the time to read the contract, it might seem as though it is written to confuse people, but I can assure you that is not the intent. The reason your contract reads the way it does is because the language has to be written to make sure it is not too specific so the meaning can cover more than one situation that may arise at your store or place of work. If we don't have an immediate answer, we will find the correct information

and get back to you as soon as possible.

So the next time you are not sure about something that is happening at work, go ahead and ask someone at work; however, don't hesitate to take a minute out of your day and give us a call at the union office at 763-525-1500 or toll free at 1-800-292-4105 to verify that the answer you received is correct. Another way is to write down the question and ask your union representative when you see him or her, to make sure the answer you were given was the correct one. Another effective way is to email your question to frontdesk@ufcw653.org. Your union representative will keep your conversation confidential and will be happy to help you resolve a potential problem before it is too late.

If it's a Health & Welfare or Pension question, you would call Wilson-McShane Corporation at 952-851-5797 or toll free at 844-468-5917. They will be able to assist you with any questions you may have. This would also be a great time to check out the "New Plans" that are listed on their website at www.653benefits.com. It has a brand new look with a wealth of information. So remember to seek out the right person or professional to answer your questions.

A New Kind of Sting

By Amber Allen, Union Representative

As most of you are aware, city and state agencies frequently perform alcohol and tobacco sting operations. These are very serious and ultimately can cost you--as an employee--a fine, a criminal charge and your job.

Recently there has been a new kind of scam circulating through our industry, which is not regulated by city or state agencies, but could have devastating disciplinary action up to and including termination. This new scam is labeled as the "BLACKHAWK" gift card scam. This is how it works: A front-end employee (generally on an overnight shift) will get a phone call from someone claiming to be with corporate loss prevention and will give specific details including a reference number that will be confirmed by a Blackhawk representative who will be calling. The "loss prevention" representative will explain that the gift card company "Blackhawk" had gone offline and will be calling to run a test to make sure the store was back online. They will explain all the details of the next call and that your store manager had been notified by email, which may have come after they left for the day, explaining why you, the employee may not have been notified.

After hanging up, the next call that comes in will be from a "Blackhawk" representative verifying the "code" that loss prevention gave and will walk you through the steps of activating and cashing out several Visa and Mastercard gift cards. This scam is so detailed and accurate that the representative will even know and verify with you what the receipt says. At the end of the call the representative will inform you that a receipt with a deactivation code for each card you activated will print out within the hour and to keep those receipts to balance your cash drawers.

THIS IS ALL FALSE AND A SCAM! Please be very careful and diligent about protecting yourself and your company from a scam. It is the responsibility of your company to train you for situations like this, but it is also your responsibility to be cautious and follow company policies and ask questions when things don't seem or sound right.

My First Year

By Ondrea Shallbetter, Special Project Union Representative

I can't believe it has been almost a year since I have started this amazing journey as a SPUR for our local! For members who don't know or need a refresh of my story--My name is Ondrea Shallbetter, a Minnesota native of 29 years. I have been a part of our retail workforce for 15 of those years. I came out of the Cub Foods in Crystal, MN. I worked for my Cub for a little over eight years.

In November of 2014, I attended my first union meeting and became completely engaged. Our local's President Matt Utecht and Secretary-Treasurer Paul Crandall took notice and invited me to attend a Young Workers Summit in Chicago, where I had my first experience of union solidarity. After that I was asked to partake in a month-long internship, another amazing adventure that really set my passion for union work on fire. When I returned I was asked to work for our local as a Special Project Union Representative (SPUR) with no time to waste.

What an amazing and emotional year it has been. Over the last year I have had the honor of meeting and getting to know some amazing people, such as union leaders, organizers, reps and members. I have also gained a great deal of knowledge in the last year, with opportunities to attend workshops, classes and hands-on training. Some would say the timing of my recruitment to the local was not the best, but I would have to disagree. Picketing at Glen Lake's and Victoria's Markets last summer introduced and prepared me for the harsher side of working for a union. The first year of working for UFCW 653 has primed me for all of the obstacles and opportunities that may lay in the future.

Working Partnerships and United Way

By Matt Utecht, President

UFCW Local 653 is joining other local unions at all Jerry's stores and Lunds & Byerlys stores to endorse and support the 2016 United Way campaign in the workplace. You may not know that United Way is the only nonprofit group to have a nationwide, over-70-year partnership with Organized Labor. When you support our Greater Twin Cities United Way, you also support Working Partnerships, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping union members in need.

Working Partnerships was created by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation to help union members and their families during unemployment, layoffs, lockouts, and other emergencies. They educate union members about public policy issues, provide access to community resources, and promote union volunteerism. In addition, Working Partnerships collaborates with local Labor and community organizations around workforce development, training, and economic justice.

A financial emergency for union families can be triggered by a sudden medical problem, the additional loss of a spouse or partner's job, or the loss of access to transportation to work.

Most often, union members approach Working Partnerships as a last resort after a layoff, when utilities are about to be shut off, when eviction or foreclosure is coming, or when an important medical bill is sent to collections.

Thanks to the generous support of Greater Twin Cities United Way, Working Partnerships

provides union families in need with small grants and temporary food assistance to union members and their families. Grants are small, but they help keep members going to tackle some basic and essential needs during tough times. Most importantly, when union families have nowhere else to turn, Working Partnerships is there for union members who are too proud to ask for help.

Union members learn about Working Partnerships in a number of ways—through their union stewards and coworkers, from union staff, by calling United Way 2-1-1, through direct contact with Working Partnerships staff at one of their workplace resource or layoff trainings, through ads and articles in the Minneapolis Labor Review and local union publications like The Fact Finder, or through a United Way campaign in the workplace.

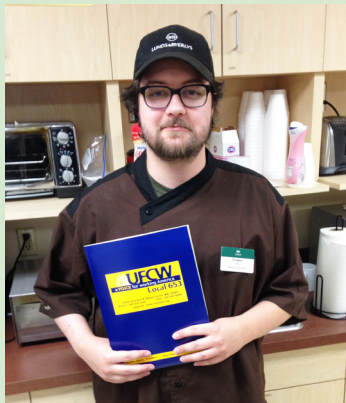
Thank you to every member of UFCW Local 653 for your support! Whether you have participated in or given to your United Way campaign at work, or volunteer your time, your support helps Working Partnerships assist our union brothers and sisters and families when they need us the most. This year, please consider participating in campaign activities at your workplace and giving generously to United Way to support our union families in need.



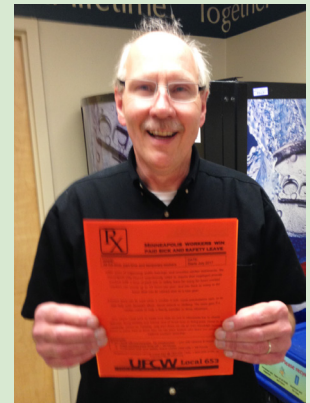
Local 653 at Work!



Elle Furnival - deli
Lunds & Byerlys - Wayzata



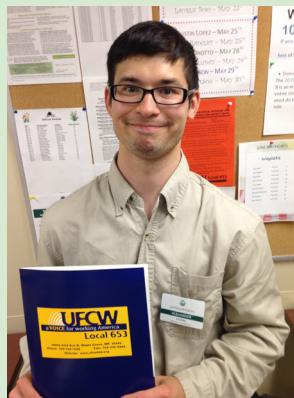
Thomas Furnival - deli
Lunds & Byerlys - Wayzata



Doug Lezer - meat
Lunds & Byerlys - Wayzata



Mike Long - meat
Lunds & Byerlys - Wayzata



Alexander Ratchinski - front end
Lunds & Byerlys - Wayzata



Mike Weber - courtesy
Lunds & Byerlys - Wayzata



Bob Holliday - front end
Lunds & Byerlys - Wayzata



Tom Barton and Roland Jacob - meat
Lunds & Byerlys - Wayzata

**UFCW Local 653
Members:**

Union Meetings are
recessed for the summer.
They will resume on
Monday, October 3, 2016.
(See front page for details.)

**SEND IN THE ENTIRE ADDRESS
BOX AT THE RIGHT
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN 2 TICKETS
TO A MINNESOTA WILD GAME!**

All active, dues-paying members
are eligible for drawings.



Mail your entry to:
UFCW Local 653
Attn: Tickets
6160 Summit Dr N, Ste 600
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Retiree's Club Meeting Notice

**Knights of Columbus -
Marian Hall**

1114 American Blvd. W.
Bloomington, MN 55420

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016

10:00 a.m. Cards
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Speaker

For more information:

Thea Gullekson:
952-831-3143

Char Hanson:
612-869-9035

or Marlen Wahl:
952-888-3220

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

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