Wal-Mart likes to project an image of a wholesome, small town American company that just happens to be the world’s largest. The truth is last year alone the company grossed over $312 billion in sales and $11.2 billion in profits. And for every Wal-Mart that opened across this country 2 supermarkets were forced to close their doors.

We have all seen the ads and heard the Wal-Mart slogan of “rolling back prices” but the real question is how are they able to cut prices? And the answer is actually simple; they reduce prices by cutting costs. And who pays the price when this company cuts costs? We all do!

Strong-arming the Competition

Wal-Mart is able to roll back prices by using unscrupulous business practices. The first thing Wal-Mart does when it moves into a community is to use cutthroat pricing to eliminate the competition. This purposeful undercutting of local retailers is designed to put a stranglehold on any community Wal-Mart enters. This control of the market sets off a chain reaction that hampers the entire local economy.

When Wal-Mart goes to such great lengths to lower production costs it is almost impossible for more responsible merchants to compete. Consequently, a Wal-Mart’s opening means the mass closing of local hardware stores, clothing retailers and supermarkets. Both independent & government studies from across the country have concluded that for every Wal-Mart that opens 2 supermarkets are forced out of business.

Wal-Mart’s growth negatively impact worker’s wages & benefits

The most comprehensive study of Wal-Mart’s impact on workers found that the retailer actually affects the wages of workers in the entire community. This study was conducted in 2005 by an economist from the National Bureau of Economic Research. It used Wal-Mart’s own store data as well as government data for all counties where Wal-Mart has operated for 30 years. The study found that the average Wal-Mart store reduces earnings per person by 5 percent in the county in which it operates.

So when Wal-Mart says they are rolling back the prices, what they mean is they are rolling back the wages and benefits of not just their employees, but of the workers in the entire community. In fact, in 2005 the average supermarket employee made 20% more an hour than the average Wal-Mart employee. And as far as health care, 2/3 of all Wal-Mart employees do not participate in the company health plan because to do so would require them to pay roughly 1/5 of their take home pay. That’s 20% of a person’s take home pay and they still would face a hefty deductible.

But it’s not just the Wal-Mart employees who pay the price. When a Wal-Mart opens in your community we all pay the price, because the largest company in the world also has the largest percentage of its employees on public assistance. In fact they hold seminars explaining to their employees how to apply for welfare & food stamps. Think about that, a company turning an $11 billion dollar a year profit, shifting cost of health care & wages to you the taxpayers.

The bottom line is this, when Wal-Mart moves to town, responsible businesses and good paying jobs move out! So, think about that before you shop at a Wal-Mart or Sam’s Club. Because the next store to close could be yours.

We all pay when Wal-Mart rolls into town

See Centerfold for more Wal-Mart news!
We are a quarter of the way through the New Year and so far, it has been a successful one for the labor movement. We are moving in the right direction with the new leadership in Washington and Albany, the direction of Labor! Over the past decade or so, our state and federal governments have seemed to be in the pocket of corporate America, as they shot down every piece of labor-friendly legislation that came before them.

Well, things are changing, and Labor is playing a big part. Within the first 100 hours that the U.S. House of Representatives was in session, we saw the passage of a bill that would increase in the national minimum wage for the first time since 1997. In fact during that same 10-year period, the Republican-led Congress provided corporations with a whopping $276 billion in tax cuts and provided small businesses with another $36 billion in dedicated tax breaks, while America's lowest paid workers received nothing. The House also passed the Employee Free Choice Act which if enacted would allow employees to organize and be recognized after a simple card check process, evening the playing field in the organizing process.

While it seems as if the Democratic-led Congress is attempting living up to the promises they made during the campaign, they can do more! The House and Senate passed two different Minimum Wage bills that both call for the same $2.10 increase but the Senate passed two different Minimum Wage bills that both call for the same $2.10 increase but the Senate and Senate passed two different Minimum Wage bills that both call for the same $2.10 increase but the Senate and Senate passed two different Minimum Wage bills that both call for the same $2.10 increase but the Senate and Senate passed two different Minimum Wage bills that both call for the same $2.10 increase but the Senate

There is reason to be both excited & skeptical about the changing face of our government. We must make it clear to our representatives that we hold them accountable for their actions, and work to support those who support us. This is why it is vital that you get involved with your union and actively support our endorsed candidates. Labor has finally regained a seat at the political table and we need your help as we lead the fight to ensure that every working American has access to quality health care and a secure retirement.

We face many potential challenges in the year ahead. We have many contracts coming due, organizing targets being developed and our largest employer, A&P, is seeking to buy Pathmark Supermarkets. These will all present many challenges to us over the course of 2007 but with the support of our members and the hard work of our 338 staff, I am confident of another very successful year.

Throughout the remainder of the year we will be holding several rallies & campaign events. We encourage you to attend as many functions as possible and stand with us as we fight to protect our future. Whether it’s protesting the opening of a Wal-Mart, standing a picket line, or helping one of our endorsed candidates, your support can make a huge difference.

As anti-union companies like Wal-Mart, Whole Foods, CVS & BJ’s move into a community, smaller supermarkets, grocery stores, and pharmacies close their doors. Your support and a few hours of your time a month really will go a long way to help our union grow. After all, there is strength in numbers; there is strength in the union and when we speak with a united voice we are truly STRONGER TOGETHER!!

THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

Too often, workers are unprotected Under current law, The Employee Free Choice Act would change that. Last November voters sent a strong message that this country was moving in the wrong direction. Too many people were being left behind: too many problems were going unsolved.

The new Congress has started to tackle some of these problems by trying to raise the minimum wage and seeking to seriously reform our dysfunctional system of labor laws. There is no question that the current system for forming unions and bargaining is broken. Under the current system, millions of workers are being denied their right to form a union at their workplace. The Employee Free Choice Act would change that by stopping employer intimidation during union organizing drives and allowing workers to more easily express majority support for a union.

A UNION CONTRACT MEANS A BETTER JOB

We all know that having a union means better wages and benefits for workers. Workers who belong to unions earn 30 percent more than nonunion workers. They are also 62 percent more likely to have a pension and 62 percent more likely to have employer-provided health coverage and four times more likely to have a union.

Simply put, union contracts build the middle-class. It’s no wonder that more than half of U.S. workers - nearly 60 million - say they would join a union right now if they could. Unfortunately, too few ever get that chance. Every day, corporations deny employees the freedom to decide for themselves whether to form unions to bargain for a better life. They routinely intimidate, harass, coerce and even fire people for exercising their legal and human right to form a union and bargain for better wages and benefits.

In one recent RWDSU organizing campaign workers were seeking to become part of the union to bring some much needed improvements to their low-wage, no-benefit retail jobs. To stop the workers, the employer went so far as to have one outspoken union supporter, a woman who was six months pregnant, dragged out of the store by police on a trumped-up charge. She was later released and there are charges pending at the labor board over what happened to her.

It’s easy to imagine, though, the impact this kind of employer tactic has on other union supporters. The message is loud and clear – if you speak up you are in danger. In this particular situation the workers were able to stick together and win union representation despite management’s vicious attacks. But all too often, an employer can get away with outrageous abuse with little or no repercussions under the law.

LAWLESS COMPANIES WILL KILL THE MIDDLE CLASS

This kind of tolerated lawlessness has led to desperate times for the labor movement. There was a time when unions represented more than a third of all workers in the U.S. That number is now about one in eight – and it continues to shrink. There is simply no way that unions will have the clout they need to deliver decent contracts if we continue to shrink. And all of us ultimately pay the price. It is no accident that as the percentage of workers organized in unions has declined, the gap between the rich and poor has increased.

What we in the labor movement are saying is, give us the tools, give us fair labor laws, and we’ll transform what are now low wage jobs into middle-class careers.

That’s what the Employee Free Choice Act is all about.

WORKING TODAY FOR 2008

Supporters of the act are under no illusions. Only so much can get done as long as the White House is occupied by someone who is resistant to change. Even if Congress passes the measure, there is little doubt that President Bush will veto it. But 2008 will be our moment to change that.

We may not be able to get the Employee Free Choice Act enacted into law right now. But the issue will be far from dead and we should see this as a rallying cry for our efforts in winning back the White House in 2008.
Starting off with a Bang! Local 338 at Work for its Members

Since January 1st of 2007, Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, through grievances and arbitrations, has won and recovered over $34,540 in back wages and monies to our various funds!

IT REALLY PAYS TO BE UNION!
OVER 43,000 UFCW members in New England are fighting for their lives and the health care of their families and our union, Local 338, is out there right beside them!

Ahold, a Dutch-based company that owns Stop and Shop and Giant supermarkets, is in contract talks with our brother and sister UFCW locals and are demanding benefit cuts in the workers' health care that, if realized, will affect our contracts in the future.

Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, UFCW Local 342 and others across the country are letting customers of Stop and Shop know that we stand together and that what affects working families affects entire communities.

Local 342 Shop Steward Joe Musmeci
Local 338 Shop Steward Gloria Prisco
Local 338 member Mike Basilanta
Local 342 member Jashina Foster
Local 342 member Ed Roldan

In this issue we will be reviewing the safe lifting and carrying techniques that must be followed everyday to avoid back injury.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

- Bend to lift an object - don't stoop
- Keep your back straight by tucking in your chin
- Lift with the strong leg muscles, not the weaker back muscles

Improper lifting techniques are responsible for a large percentage of back injuries among all workers.

Proper methods of lifting and handling protect against injury, and make work easier. You need to "think" about what you are going to do before bending to pick up an object. Over time, safe lifting technique should become a habit.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE BASIC STEPS OF SAFE LIFTING AND HANDLING:

1. Size up the load and check overall conditions. Don’t attempt the lift by yourself if the load appears to be too heavy or awkward. Check that there is enough space for movement, and that the footing is good. "Good housekeeping" ensures that you won’t trip or stumble over an obstacle.
2. Make certain that your balance is good. Feet should be shoulder width apart, with one foot beside and the other foot behind the object that is to be lifted.
3. Bend the knees; don’t stoop. Keep the back straight, but not vertical. (There is a difference. Tucking in the chin straightens the back.)
4. Grip the load with the palms of your hands and your fingers. The palm grip is much more secure. Tuck in the chin again to make certain your back is straight before starting to lift.
5. Use your body weight to start the load moving, and then lift by pushing up with the legs. This makes full use of the strongest set of muscles.
6. Keep the arms and elbows close to the body while lifting.
7. Carry the load close to the body. Don’t twist your body while carrying the load. To change direction, shift your foot position and turn your whole body.
8. Watch where you are going.
9. To lower the object, bend the knees. Don’t stoop. To deposit the load on a bench or shelf, place it on the edge and push it into position. Make sure your hands and feet are clear when placing the load.

Make it a habit to follow the above steps when lifting anything - even a relatively light object.

TEAM LIFTING MUST BE COORDINATED:

If the weight, shape, or size of an object makes the job too much for one person, ask for help. Ideally, workers should be of approximately the same size for team lifting. One individual needs to be responsible for control of the action to ensure proper coordination. If one worker lifts too soon, shifts the load, or lowers it improperly, either they or the person working with them may be injured.

LIFTING HEAVY OBJECTS

Safe lifting of heavy items requires training and practice. For example, we’ve probably all seen a small person move heavy product with apparent ease. The secret lies in taking the proper stance and grip. When equipment is available, it should be used to lift and carry heavy objects. Loaders, forklifts, hoist, etc. are made for this purpose.

Finally, let’s take a moment to review some of the "Do’s" and "Don’ts" of safe lifting and carrying.

DO:
1. Tuck in the chin to keep the back as straight as possible while lifting.
2. Lift with the strong leg muscles.
3. Ask for help with the heavy, awkward items.
4. When possible, use mechanical equipment to move heavy items.

DON’T
1. Use your back muscles to do lifting.
2. Try to lift an item that is too heavy or awkward.
3. Twist your body while carrying an object.
4. Attempt team lifting without proper coordination.

Remember only you can protect yourself from injury. Don’t be a hero, request help if you feel it is needed. The warm weather is on its way so be careful so that you can enjoy it with your family and friends. If you have any questions, I can be reached at the union office at 718-997-7400 or 516-694-1656, ext 247.
As always, we must understand how the political environment we live in affects us every day. The New York State AFL-CIO, along with NYCOSH, attorneys and individuals have been working on legislation to increase the Workers’ Compensation benefits. The last increase in Workers’ Compensation was on July 1, 1992. On March 13, 2007, Governor Spitzer signed Workers’ Compensation Legislation (Chapter 6 of Laws of 2007).

Below is a list of issues as well as improvements to streamline the system. The information was taken from the Legislative Alert, from the New York State AFL-CIO for March 12, 2007.

- Increase maximum benefit from $400 per week to $500 later this year, $550 in 2008, $600 in 2009 and indexed beginning 2010.
- Indexes the maximum benefit to 2/3 of the average weekly wage beginning in 2010.
- Raises the minimum benefit from $40 per week to $100 per week.
- Death benefit is raised to the same level as maximum benefit.
- Establishes maximum benefit weeks for permanent partial disabilities.
- Maximum benefit weeks do not begin until injured worker is classified.
- Medical care continues for LIFETIME for all permanent partially disabled workers.
- Permanent Partial Disability claimants can resubmit for total industrial disability at any time while they are collecting benefits.
- Extreme hardship re-determination can be sought to extend benefits for those with 80% to 90% or greater disability.
- Increases civil and criminal penalties for employers who fail to obtain Workers’ Compensation insurance.
- Grants Workers’ Comp Board Chair various investigative powers, including the issuance of subpoenas to determine if employers are maintaining coverage.
- Workers’ Compensation coverage is required for all employed on a public work project.
- Insurance certificate will have a scannable device to check for current coverage.
- CIRB no longer specified in statute to continue in its current role.
- Elimination of second injury fund for future cases, thus reducing employer assessments and reduces number of hearings for claimants.
- Development of Rocket Docket to speed the hearing process.
- Increases training for Workers’ Comp judges; benefits stop if claimant is incarcerated.
- Raises threshold of pre-approval of medical testing and radiology to $1,000.
- Allows special funds to partake in Section 32 agreement.
- Grants discount in premium to employers who have safety training program, return to work program, alternate work programs and drug and alcohol assistance program.
- Institutes a filing fee for any claim on second injury fund.
- Mandates lump sum settlement offer by employer.
- Creates a task force with deadline for advancing California type security bond program for self insured.

In conclusion, the following is a chart which states the degree of disability and the number of weeks to be covered under the new legislation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree of Disability</th>
<th>Weeks of Benefits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-99%</td>
<td>525 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-95%</td>
<td>500 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>86-90%</td>
<td>475 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>81-85%</td>
<td>450 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>76-80%</td>
<td>425 weeks</td>
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<td>71-75%</td>
<td>400 weeks</td>
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<td>61-70%</td>
<td>375 weeks</td>
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<td>51-60%</td>
<td>350 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>41-50%</td>
<td>300 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-40%</td>
<td>275 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-30%</td>
<td>250 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-15%</td>
<td>225 weeks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Spring is here and summer is on the way, and we at Local 338 wish you a safe and enjoyable summer with your families. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at the union office at 718-997-7400 or 516-694-1656, ext 247.
Local 338 wishes to again congratulate Ruben Fort, President, Local 377, our own President John R. Durso, Frank S. Bail, President, Local 1102 and Ida Ines Torres, President, Local 3 in being elected International Vice Presidents of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) at the 2006 Convention.

CONGRATULATIONS

PLEASE NOTE:
It is NOT the responsibility or obligation of your employer to inform the Union of your change of address, name or phone number. This is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to promptly NOTIFY LOCAL 338 of any address changes!

Change of Address Form:

For change of name or address, please fill out coupon below.
Clip and send to Local 338 • 97-45 Queens Boulevard, Rego Park, New York 11374

Name ___________________________________________ SS#__________________

New Address ___________________________________________________________

City _________________________________________________________________

New Phone # (______) ________________________ State _________ Zip__________________

Local 338's Annual Day at the Ballpark

The 6th annual Local 338 Picnic will be held this year on July 1st at Coleman Country Day Camp in Merrick, NY.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION!

For over six years, Local 338 has sponsored a “Day at the Ballpark” for our members and their families at the Brooklyn Cyclones Stadium in beautiful Coney Island. This year, we are going to be bringing America’s favorite pastime even closer to home.

7/22/07 with the Brooklyn Cyclones
8/12/07 with the Staten Island Yankees
9/16/07 with the Long Island Ducks

All games will be held on a Sunday & at the team's home field. Members attending the May Area Meetings will be eligible to win tickets for these games and enjoy special reserved seating and a picnic meal. event!

Your union, Local 338, has been involved in political action for many years and we have helped to shape the political landscape, not only in New York City and Long Island but also all across the State. Our political friends help to form and enact “Working Family” friendly legislation that protects you, our members and our brothers and sisters everywhere.

We extend congratulations to two leaders and friends on their new positions here in New York State.

above:
Tom DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller

left:
Malcolm Smith
Minority Leader of the New York State Senate
As Local 338 President John Durso says, “Who knows food better than us?” Well, over the years Local 338 members also know about caring and charity. Through our Special Projects Division, we delivered hundreds of Thanksgiving and holiday meals straight through to New Years. Churches, food pantries, veteran’s homes and shelters across New York City and Long Island received the help they needed to make this past holiday season a little bit brighter.

Your donations at 338 area meetings, to the union & service reps and even right here at the Local’s offices, made a difference in the lives of others. Thank you.

Your union, Local 338, through our Community Services department, has again sponsored courses in Defensive Driving here at our offices in Rego Park.

The classes are being taught by the LaSalle Driving School of Uniondale, NY and are certified by the National Safety Council. As of March, over 100 members have passed the training program.

More than 40,000 people are killed or injured in traffic collisions every year. Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW is committed to making the lives of our members and their families safer.
LOCAL 338 AND ASSEMBLYMAN JOSE PERALTA JOIN FORCES TO KEEP NEW YORKERS WARM

Again, the members of Local 338 came forward to help others in need. Together with Assemblyman Jose Peralta (D- Jackson Heights) local members donated and distributed over 500 winter coats. “These coats will aid families in Queens and Brooklyn in their battle to stay warm this winter,” stated Assemblyman Peralta. “I know that wherever and whenever there is a need, Local 338 is there to help.”

A VERY FINE YOUNG MAN by Lenny Camarda

Recently, I was visiting Waldbaum’s #253 in Centeraech, NY when I met Vinny Sandtorn. Vinny has been a Local 338 member for about one year and works as a part time cashier.

He is a senior at Centeraech H.S., quarterback for their varsity football team and if that’s not enough, he is also a midfielder on the varsity Lacrosse team, again, all while working and keeping up his grades.

What truly struck me about this young man was that he was accepted at both West Point and the Air Force Academy. After meeting with Congressman Tim Bishop and receiving his Congressional Endorsement, the hard decision was made.

Vinny starts boot camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado this summer. “The decision was hard,” said Vinny. “The choice was easy.” The Air Force Academy is one of the top rated schools in America for Engineering and a Division 1 Lacrosse school.

When I asked about his interest in military colleges, he responded, “since I was young, I always had an interest in serving my country.” I wish to congratulate Vinny and his family. We here at local 338 are very proud to have him as part of our family.

WHO HASN’T HEARD OF LOCAL 338?

Unionized supermarket workers in Jerusalem, Israel salute the hard-working members of Local 338.

If you’re taking a trip in the USA or anywhere around the world, don’t forget to wear your 338 logos proudly. Please submit pictures of you, your family or friends of 338 (with a T-shirt, button or bumper sticker) and we will print in upcoming issues of this paper. Let’s show the world... we’re

TELEPHONE LINKS

Member Services Department - (718) 997-7400 or (516) 694-1656, ext. 776
- All Fund eligibility questions
- Member, dependent and beneficiary changes
- All claims issues
- All general Plan information and questions
- Virtually any other Medical inquiry or problem
- All optical voucher requests
- All dental issues

Express Scripts Member Services - (800) 467-2046:
- All questions about the prescription plan
- All prescription eligibility questions
- Requests for prescription ID cards

Pension/COBRA Department/Death Benefit
(718) 997-7400 or (516) 694-1656, ext. 230:
- All Pension questions
- All COBRA Issues
- All Death Benefit questions

Disability Benefits – (718) 997-7400 or (516) 694-1656, ext. 232:
- All Disability Benefit questions

LOCAL 338 RWDSU/UFCW
Stronger Together

(1 to r) Julissa Sosa, 338 Community Services Liaison Lisa Rivera, Assemblyman Jose Peralta, Cornelia Ino, Roberto Matias

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- All Disability Benefit questions
Congratulations to Local 338’s own Peggy Wilkins on winning $1 million dollars in a New York State scratch-off lottery.

Peggy has been a member of Local 338 for over 28 years and was surprised at first. “I thought I won $1000 dollars.” But after a co-worker checked the card, Peggy’s smile just got bigger. Then she went back to her line and began bagging groceries.

She looks forward to helping her family which includes 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Everyone at Local 338 congratulates Peggy Wilkins and wishes her all the best.

SHE’S ONE IN A MILLION!

IN MEMORIAM

Anne Abraham
Jack Angerman
Aurelio Aviles
Marie Barsalone
Jack Blum
Ann Bronner
Elmer Chandler
Orazio Clemente
Rita Demartino
Mary Diament
John Dirodio
Paul Feignblum
Carmen Figueroa
Michael Guarneri
David Hackett
Adrienne Hadzidakis
Otilie Johnsen
Rosie Jones
Milton Kamler
Luke Mahoney
Carmel Maraseo
Eli Milchman
Morris Newman
Gloria Nowak
Martin Oliveras
Morris Pitt
Abram Peterson
Golda Plutno
Sebastian Rizzolo
Claudine Saunders
Robert Schinnerer
Ruben Seda
Aaron Stollerman
Eleanor Thumm
Mendel Tune
Sieglinde Weinert
Frances Williams-Smith
Dorothy Woda
Your application and supporting materials must be completed and postmarked by June 15, 2007.

TO RECEIVE YOUR APPLICATION, CONTACT:

Alvin E. Heaps Memorial Scholarship Committee
c/o RWDSU
30 E. 29th Street
New York, NY 10016

All RWDSU members, their spouses or their children who will be attending a college or a university during the 2007-08 academic year are eligible to apply for an Alvin E. Heaps Memorial Scholarship. Winners are chosen based on scholastic performance and for an essay demonstrating an understanding and appreciation of the Labor Movement.
Retired from work... not from my union!

Anthony Angieri
Waldbaum's 630

Karen Przebowksi
Waldbaum's 630

Rosemary Saurino
Waldbaum's 434

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT RETIREES

Lydia Alayo
Lela Barra
Salvatore Belmonte
Fred Clark
Paul Cuva
Elsie Dockins

Donald Fields
William Higgins
Leo Kirschenbaum
Mailyn Laub
James Leftwich
Michael Mintern
Audrey Offerman

Abraham Oliver
Frank Palladino
Cora Skinner
Charles Scott
Thomas Tanella
John Turano

It’s to all working people's benefit that we support Farmland Dairies, not only for health reasons, but also because its employees enjoy decent wages, medical coverage and good working conditions. They are members of Our Union!
All across New York City, Long Island and Western communities, community groups and elected officials

The “This Christmas, our Children deserve Better” rally and press conference in White Plains had members and locals and friends come together from New York, New Jersey and Conn.

Local 1102 RWDSU International President Stuart Appelbaum tells Wal-Mart that they’re not wanted in Brooklyn or anyplace else in New York City!

RWDSU International President Stuart Appelbaum tells Wal-Mart that they’re not wanted in Brooklyn or anyplace else in New York City!

Local 1102 RWDSU and the UFCW Region 1 Women’s Network brought Hempstead Councilmember Dorothy Goosby, Assemblywoman Earlene Hooper and hundreds of UFCW and RWDSU women activists together in East Meadow L.I. to shed light of Wal-Mart’s anti-women, anti-family policies. Paulette Falkikoff-Amado (of Local 1102) serves as International Chair of the UFCW Women’s Network.

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Kate Keller of UFCW Region 1, Kevan Abrahams, Nassau County Legislature (1st LD) and Dave Mertz, from the RWDSU address the assembled.
Westchester, Local 338 along with our brother and sister locals, officials brought news of Wal-Mart’s bad neighbor policies.

“America, Pray for Wal-Mart to Change” was not only the call, but the wish in Union halls, Churches, Synagogues and Mosques across the United States during the week of December 11-15, 2006. Here in New York, your Local joined the RWDSU, UFCW and a dozen other unions at the St. Francis of Assisi Church for a prayer vigil that overflowed into a march to the headquarters of Wal-Mart on 5th Avenue.

Imam Samer Alraey calls for peace and justice for all Wal-Mart workers

Dave Mertz, RWDSU Father Brian Jordan, St. Francis of Assisi Church Rev. Maria Isabel Santiviago, Mision San Juan Bautista Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Labor-Religion Coalition Christina Hajagos-Clausen, UFCW Region 1

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News!

Business Day

The New York Times

Walmart CEO Chief Writes Off New York

‘There are ever here,” a frustrated Lee Scott (Wal-Mart’s chief of the opposition to Wal-Mart in cities like New York is organized labor, fears the retailer’s low prices and modest cut unionized stores.

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For More Fun Facts head to www.walmartfreenyc.com
Members at Work

WALDBAUM’S 279 • MERRICK

Kathleen Steimer, Sebamalai Jesurasa, Elsay Herrera

Frank DeLuch, Culma Hernandez, Christine Ullrich

Eugenia Zelaya

William Tejeda, Ron Truccio

Ken Franco

Dani DeRose, Sabitri Grappone, Marguerite Garcia

Marion Ribaudo, Barbara Johnson, Danielle Maldarelli

members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work
WALDBAUM’S 601 • STONY BROOK

Rosario Pilocane, Steven Castrogiovanni, Barbara Salerno, Barbara Lopez

Pam Hansen, Karol Alpert, Eileen Kilcawley, Kim Catania

John F. DePrano, Mike Delligatti

Jim “Ziggy” Marazigliano, George Kurz

STOP & SHOP 585 • LAKE GROVE

Lillian Hermann, Virginia Karsich, Michelle Forony

Gloria Prisco, Mike Troiani, Ruth Monk

Joe Lombardo

members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work
WALDBAUM'S 270 • WHITESTONE

Ado Pizzuti, Cathy Faraci, Miguel Taranto, Mario Vokov, Guillermo Yepes, Prince Hendrickson

Ursula Brzozowski, Paula Maldarelli

Horst Friedel, Frank Horwath, Pepe Huynhu

Giuseppina Macchiurulo, Doris Foster, Marven Steward, Yury Rudman, Peter Cuomo

Damon Clift

Lisa Carrieri, Helen Tostaine

Stefania Scarcella, Linda Aut

Maria Gattuso

Brenda Crossbie

Queens

members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work • members at work
Queens

WALDBAUM’S 613 • GLEN OAKS

Bernice Reuland, Christine Trybuski, Lucy Negrino

Nicandro Castrillo

Eric Stouger, Mario Silva, Steve Zeiner, Flora Penamante

Mike Polito, Winston Shakespeare

Nelson Cedeno, Jennifer Failla, Terry Cutler

Nita Desai

Kevin Hoskins, Debra Rappaport

Frederick Schwartz, Donna Ho Lam

Janie Penidarvis, Surinder Bal, Melvina Forrester

Richard Pittman

Richie McKenna, Parmeet Reehal, Indo Chowdhry
We are pleased to announce that the name of the Health Care Division has changed to the Health & Human Services Division. The change was made in part to recognize newly organized members of the union and to broaden the scope of the division.

Shops who have recently collectively bargained their first union contract (which covered wages, benefits and working conditions) and joined this division include: Carnegie East, Hope Community, Staten Island Children's Center and the Ecumenical Community Development Organization.

We are proud of our new division name and are proud to serve these hard working members!

If you are a Health & Human Services Division member and there is something specific you want the union to address in an upcoming edition of the newspaper or you know someone who wants our union to represent them, please call (718)-997-7400 ext. 400 and leave a message for your union representative, Neil E. Gonzalvo. Take the time, make the call and get involved. Remember, it’s your union!
since the beginning of the new year, Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW Health & Human Services Division has won its members $6,800 in back wages and funds. It pays to be union.

Health Center at Bloomingdale Negotiations 2007

At press time the members at the Health Center at Bloomingdale were still negotiating their next union contract. Outstanding issues included the Local 338 health and welfare benefits and salary increases.
members at work

GIUNTA'S MEAT FARM • PORT JEFFERSON STATION

Matt & Paul Giordano
Grace Ingenito
Bob Morabito
Jack Coyne
Ed Santiago

STOP & SHOP 587 • PORT JEFFERSON STATION

Lou Henninger
Jack Ellis
Gladys Rios, Loretta Tobe, Jen Pascutto
Ellen Piniella
Diane Cadelino

The next issue will cover Members at Work in Manhattan, Brooklyn & Staten Island
Levamos un trimestre del año nuevo, y hasta la fecha ha sido exitoso para el movimiento laboral. Vamos en la dirección correcta con nuevo liderazgo en Washington y Albany, ¡la dirección de la fuerza laboral! En los últimos diez años aproximadamente, los gobiernos estatal y federal parecen haber estado en el bolsillo de las Corporaciones Estadounidenses, ya que descartaron todas y cada una de las leyes que se les presentaron a favor de la fuerza laboral.

Aunque las cosas están cambiando, y la fuerza laboral está jugando un papel más importante, está ocurriendo lentamente. Dentro de las primeras 100 horas que estuve en sesión la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos, vimos que se aprobó una ley que aumentaría el salario mínimo nacional por primera vez desde 1997. De hecho, durante ese mismo período de 10 años, el Congreso liderado por los Republicanos proporcionó a las corporaciones una increíble reducción de impuestos de $376 mil millones y dio a las pequeñas empresas otros $36 mil millones en ventajas impositivas especiales, mientras que los trabajadores con más bajos ingresos en los Estados Unidos no recibieron nada. La Cámara de Representantes aprobó también la Employee Free Choice Act (Ley sobre la libertad de elección de los empleados) la cual si se promulga permitirá a los empleados organizarse y ser reconocidos después de un simple proceso de verificación de tarjeta. De esta forma se nivelará el terreno de juego organizando a los trabajadores no sindicalizados.

Aunque parezca que el Congreso liderado por los Demócratas está intentando cumplir con las promesas que hicieron durante la campaña, ¡podrían hacer más! La Cámara de Representantes y el Senado aprobaron dos leyes diferentes de Salario Mínimo, las cuales pedían el mismo aumento de $2.10, pero la Ley del Senado también da a las empresas un descuento de $8.30 millones en ventajas impositivas especiales. Ambas cámaras deben reconciliar las dos leyes y no está claro cuándo eso pueda ocurrir. El Senado tampoco ha podido actuar en cuanto a la Employee Free Choice Act y no se sabe cuándo vaya a haber una votación o si es posible que la haya. Les insto a todos ustedes que les escriban a sus representantes locales en el Congreso y les pidan que aceleren los procedimientos para estas dos leyes cruciales.

A nivel del estado, la fuerza laboral dio su apoyo para la elección de Thomas DiNapoli para el cargo de Contralor del Estado. Conozco a Tom desde hace muchos años. Él sabe cuándo vaya a haber una votación o si es posible que la haya. Les insto a todos ustedes que les escriban a sus representantes locales en el Congreso y les pidan que aceleren los procedimientos para estas dos leyes cruciales.

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A Wal-Mart le gusta proyectar una imagen de compañía estadounidense sana, de pueblo pequeño y que es sólo una coincidencia que sea la más grande del mundo. La verdad es que solamente el año pasado la compañía tuvo ventas brutas que superaron los $312 mil millones y logró $11,200 millones en utilidades. Y por cada Wal-Mart que se abrió en este país, 2 supermercados se vieron forzados a cerrar sus puertas.

Todos hemos visto los avisos y escuchado los lemas de Wal-Mart de “reducir los precios” pero la verdadera pregunta es ¿qué están haciendo para reducir los precios? Y la respuesta es realmente simple; reducen los precios bajando los costos. ¿Y quién paga en definitiva cuando esta compañía baja los costos? ¡Todos pagamos!

Darle herramientas a la competencia

Wal-Mart puede reducir los precios usando prácticas comerciales inescrupulosas. Lo primero que hace Wal-Mart cuando se instala en una comunidad es usar precios extremadamente bajos para eliminar la competencia. El hecho de minar intencionalmente a los comerciantes locales tiene por objeto ahogar todos los mercados donde ingresa. El control del mercado por parte de Wal-Mart provoca una reacción en cadena que perjudica la economía local del área.

Cuando Wal-Mart llega a estos extremos para bajar los costos de producción, el competir es prácticamente imposible para los comerciantes más responsables. Por consiguiente, la apertura de un Wal-Mart indica el cierre en masa de ferreterías, tiendas de ropa y supermercados locales. Estudios independientes y gubernamentales en todo el país han concluido que por cada Wal-Mart que se abre, 2 supermercados se ven forzados a cerrar sus negocios.

El crecimiento de Wal-Mart tiene un impacto negativo en los salarios y beneficios de los trabajadores.

Esta ausencia de competencia y el aumento en la fuerza laboral perjudica los salarios en todo el mercado laboral. Cuando un empleador paga bajos salarios a sus empleados, los empleados tienen menos dinero para gastar en bienes y servicios en la comunidad, lo cual a su vez reduce el ingreso y gastos de otros en la comunidad. En otras palabras, una reducción en los salarios tiene un impacto multiplicador de la tendencia en el área circundante.


Por lo tanto, cuando Wal-Mart dice que está reduciendo los precios, en realidad está reduciendo los sueldos y beneficios no sólo de sus empleados, sino también de los trabajadores en todo el mercado laboral. De hecho, en 2005 el empleado promedio de un supermercado ganaba 20% más por hora que el empleado promedio de Wal-Mart. Y en lo que respecta a la atención de salud, 2/3 de todos los empleados de Wal-Mart no participan en el plan de atención de salud de Wal-Mart debido a que el hacerlo les exigiría pagar aproximadamente 1/5 de la remuneración neta que reciben. Eso representa un 20% del salario neto de una persona y de todas maneras tendrían que pagar un deducible alto.

Todos pagamos cuando Wal-Mart llega a la ciudad

Pero no son sólo los empleados de Wal-Mart los que sufren las consecuencias. Cuando Wal-Mart llega a su comunidad todos sufrimos las consecuencias, debido a que la compañía más grande del mundo también tiene el mayor porcentaje de sus empleados en asistencia pública. De hecho, llevan a cabo seminarios que explican a sus empleados cómo solicitar bienestar social y cupones de alimentos. Imaginense, una compañía que tiene una utilidad anual de $11 mil millones, transfiere los costos de atención de salud y salarios a ustedes, los contribuyentes.