Bettering the lives of our members and all working people.

Summer 2016

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Fighting For Mount Vernon School Monitors

These Workers Deserve Sick Days and Better Wages!

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Bettering the lives of our members and all working people.
A Message from the President

John R. Durso

Over the last couple of weeks at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, we have heard from both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on their respective platforms and agendas for the country should they be elected President. Through his platform and agenda, Donald Trump has once again shown that he has no intentions of prioritizing the needs of working families.

Trump’s choice for running mate, Governor of Indiana Michael Pence, shows his total disinterest in fighting for the middle class. Governor Pence has a long history of being anti-worker, having supported legislation that rolls back the hard earned rights of working men and women. Additionally, Trump has said that he “loves right to work (RTW)” and that “it gives great flexibility to companies.” Although, RTW laws sounds like a good thing, in reality, they weaken workers’ rights and protections on the job. It is merely a tool promoted by irresponsible corporations and the Republican Party to prevent hard working Americans from maintaining and expanding the rights and benefits that they have earned.

As union members, we have a unique advantage that many workers lack, a voice on the job. You and your coworkers are able to bargain for a good contract with your employer that includes fair wages, retirement benefits and job security. However, RTW and those who support such legislation put that all at risk. Statistically speaking, union workers pay 54% less for full-time family medical coverage and make almost $6,000 more annually than workers in the 26 states that have this law. Furthermore, union workers have the ability to fight back against wrongful termination, something that workers in RTW states do not have.

Living in New York or New Jersey, both strong union states, we do not face the same kind of limitations that workers in other states experience. You and your coworkers have the ability to bargain for a good contract that includes wage increases, retirement benefits, and job security. As someone who started in the stores as a Local 338 member, I personally know how invaluable this advantage and peace of mind is for our families.

However, despite living in a state that respects workers’ rights, not all workers in New York and New Jersey have the ability to express their voice on the job. If you know someone, whether it is a friend, family member, or neighbor that isn’t receiving the dignity and respect that they deserve in their workplace, encourage them to contact our Call Center at (516) 294-1338 ext. 1775 or speak to your Union Representative. We must protect our rights and help all our fellow working people share in our union advantage!
Charitable work is important to us at Local 338 and it’s because of members like Trish Ram and her devotion to her community, who make it possible! Trish has been a Local 338 member for 10 years and is a pharmacy technician at the Duane Reade in Elmont. In her free time, she helps those in need by assisting at hospitals and food pantries.

After seeing the devastation caused to so many families by Superstorm Sandy, Trish knew that volunteering was the best way to show those in need that she truly cared for them and their healthy recovery. Working in the medical field, Trish was moved to serve and relive the suffering victims, many of whom were stranded and had lost everything. She quickly signed up to volunteer at Jamaica Hospital to move the sick and disabled to safety, as well as prepare cooked meals and gather dry goods at Calvary Mission for those in need.

Four years after Superstorm Sandy, Trish is still an active volunteer at All Nations Baptist Church in Queens. When asked why she is still involved, she said, “it’s just a humanitarian thing,” emphasizing that her volunteering “is for humanity.” Everyday she feels especially fortunate and blessed to have everything she has and encourages friends, family, and neighbors to get involved in their communities. Trish has found that those she has encouraged to volunteer love it because it is more than just giving back, but it is also fun for them.

Thank you Trish for helping our community and for your dedication as a member of Local 338!

Tell Us Your Story

Do you have a unique hobby, a special talent or a great accomplishment that you would like to share? Maybe you love to woodwork and have a back porch to prove it. Perhaps your coworker recently won an award but is too humble to brag about it.

Our unique abilities are what make us different but our togetherness as a union is what makes us strong. Contact Jillian Salerno at 516-294-1338 Ext. 1313 or email her at jsalerno@local338.org to be considered as a feature in the next issue of 338 News.
June 15, 2016 marked a proud day for Local 338 members and their families who were honored at our annual Scholarship Luncheon. 21 young men and women, who are either Local 338 members or the children of Local 338 members, were recognized for their academic and extracurricular achievements. This year’s scholarship recipients come from a variety of backgrounds and aim to enter many different fields, including business, biology, engineering, and medicine.

Congratulations to this year’s winners of the Book Awards Scholarship, who received a scholarship towards the cost of their first semester’s required readings:

- Anthony Bugallo, Jr.
- Cindy Lopez
- Frederick Schneider

- Philip Capriglione
- Sabrina Martin
- Tara Schwartzman

- Emily Gould
- Nicholas Montemarano
- Amanda Lalla
- John Roscigno

Congratulations to all of the Local 338 scholarship winners who received $1,500 towards their first year of college:

- Skye Bergen
- Thomas Mineo
- Alexander Stroom

- Andrew Capriglione
- Janina Oliver
- Aleksandra Uzunoff

- Holly Crema
- Daniel Ryan
- Christopher Luisi
- Tianni Seignious

Emanuel Laub Scholarship Award

A special congratulation to Haley Lynch for winning the Emanuel Laub Scholarship Award, which is named in memory of Local 338’s late President. Haley will receive a total of $6,000 ($1,500 each year for the next four years) towards her tuition at the University at Albany.

We know this year’s winners are bound for great things, and wish each of you success in your future endeavors. Congratulations to this year’s winners! You make Local 338 and your families very proud!
The United Way Honors the Members of Local 338 for Their Community Service

At Local 338, we understand the importance of charitable work and giving back to our local communities. All of the community work that we do throughout the year is only possible due to the support of our members. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to contribute to dozens of wonderful organizations that help families in need across our area.

On May 11, 2016 the United Way of Long Island honored Local 338 and all of our members. The award was to recognize our long record of community service and the numerous charitable giving drives we hold throughout the year.

We were greatly humbled by this meaningful recognition and share in the award from the United Way of Long Island with all of our dedicated members!

Local 338 Members Help “Stamp Out Hunger!”

Food drives are an easy but incredibly important way to give back to our communities. On Saturday, May 14th Local 338 once again participated in the Annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive. This year’s food drive collected 471,553 pounds of food just in our area alone! Local food pantries will use all of this food to help local families in need.

In addition to collecting food, Local 338 members and staff joined Island Harvest to help unload and sort the overwhelming number of donations. This year we also partnered with the Long Island Federation of Labor to sponsor special food drive bags that the letter carriers distributed to households on their normal mail delivery route. These bags proved to be incredibly useful as almost and additional 135,000 lbs. more of food was collected this year!

Thank you to our members who left out bags of food by their mailboxes to make this year’s Stamp Out Hunger food drive an even greater success!
Mt. Vernon school monitors are an important part of their community. These 100 dedicated men and women ensure the safety of Mt. Vernon’s students in the schoolyard and cafeteria. Yet, despite their hard work, the Mt. Vernon City School District has been unwilling to provide better wages and sick days in their new union contract.

On June 15, 2016, the Mt. Vernon school monitors rallied outside of the Mt. Vernon School Board Meeting to demand a fair contract. They were joined by fellow union members, parents, teachers, and members of the community. The school monitors spoke to the crowd about their love for their jobs, as well as the positive impact better wages would have on their families. They also spoke about the importance of having paid sick days, as it would give them the opportunity to stay home and get well, rather than risk getting the children they work with sick. Unfortunately, the workers were denied an opportunity to address the members of the School Board at the evening’s meeting. However, we know that their message was received loud and clear!

Meet Mt. Vernon School Monitors

(Left to right)
Carol Leverette
Pamela Sheftall
Clifton Abney
Clorine Norris

We’d like to send a special thank you to our brothers and sisters from the RWDSU, Westchester-Putnam Central Labor Body, Local 1102 RWDSU/UFCW, UFCW Local 1500, UFCW Local 2013, UFCW Local 342, UFCW Local 312, NYSUT, Yonkers Fire Union, and TWU Local 100 for your support. We also appreciate the support of the parents in Mt. Vernon who attended the event to show their support of the hardworking men and women who care for their children!

Please also call Mt. Vernon Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Hamilton (914-665-5000 ext. 5) and ask him to negotiate a fair contract for the school monitors that includes paid sick and personal time and better wages!
LIKE SAVING MONEY?

EXCLUSIVE

Member Discounts

As a Local 338 Member, You and Your Family are Eligible for a Variety of DISCOUNTS!

We are pleased to announce the launch of Local 338’s Member Discount Program! You and your family can receive special discounts on:

- Movie tickets
- Your AT&T phone bill
- Tires for your car
- Theme parks and attractions, including Six Flags, Splish Splash, Great Wolf Lodge and Hershey Park
- The Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium
- And much more!

We encourage you to take advantage of these discounts in order to get the most of your Local 338 membership!

Check our website regularly as we continue to add more discounts!

While we believe the aforementioned offers are significant discounts, we encourage our members to compare prices before purchasing the goods or services to ensure that you receive the best possible deal. Local 338 is not affiliated with the companies listed above and discounts are provided and managed by the company at their discretion. Please also be aware that there may specific exemptions on where and when the discounts can be redeemed.

Don’t miss out on all of the member discounts, benefits, negotiations, news and other events that are important to you as a Local 338 member!

Click Mail Icon to Update
As working people it is important that we stand up for the issues that affect us. We also need to be prepared to fight back against the many attacks that are waged against us. The easiest way for us to be politically active is by voting. Voting is how we ensure that we are represented by elected officials who care about the things we care about; including raising the minimum wage, protecting retirement security, and developing a paid family leave program.

In many elections, just a few votes made a huge difference. Be sure that you’re registered and that you vote on Election Day this November!

Click Here to Register to Vote in Your State

New York | New Jersey | Connecticut

Deadline to register to vote in September’s State and Local Primaries is August 19th!

Deadline to register to vote in November’s General Election is October 14th!

STRONGER|TOGETHER
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Bronx | Upstate
Monday, August 29th
Local 338 Westchester Office
120 Saw Mill River Road
Hastings-On-Hudson
6:30pm

Manhattan
Monday, August 29th
RWDSU Office
370 Seventh Avenue, Suite 501
(7 Penn Plaza - Between 30th and 31st Streets)
Manhattan
6:30pm

Nassau | Suffolk | Queens
Tuesday, August 30th
Local 338 Office
1505 Kellum Place
Mineola, New York 11501
6:30pm
As you may be aware, Local 338 offers several benefits for our members who have children. These benefits help with the costs of childcare, day care, and after school programs. Local 338 member Kedrine Plummer, who has worked at PSK Foodtown in Hollis for almost 10 years, has seen firsthand the difference these benefits can make for a family.

Kedrine first learned about the Local 338 Child Care Benefit from a coworker, who saw a flyer advertising it on the bulletin board in their break room. She said the process was easy and she received her first reimbursement check not long after mailing in her paperwork.

In addition to applying for the Local 338 Child Care Benefit, Kedrine also applied for the New York City Child Care Facilitated Enrollment Project. Through this program, she received a $3,800 subsidy towards the cost of her daughter’s childcare!

When asked about her experience, Kedrine said, “If I wasn’t part of the union, I wouldn’t have this. As a single mom of two, I was able to buy diapers, wipes and even a scooter for my daughter. Every little bit helps and it allows me to do things that I normally couldn’t.”

Kedrine encourages her coworkers and fellow members to take advantage of these programs, as they’ve been helpful to her and her daughters! For more information about the Local 338 Child Care Benefit or the New York City Child Care Facilitated Enrollment Project (open to members who live or work in the Five Boroughs), please visit the link highlighted in pink below!

Becoming an American Citizen is an important and exciting time for many families. We would like to congratulate Local 338 member Skender Abazaga and his wife, Ermine, on beginning the application process for naturalization! Skender and his family immigrated to the United States from Kosovo in 1997. He became a Local 338 member in 1999 and has worked in the deli department at the Harrison Market in Harrison for the past 11 years.

In addition to applying for their citizenship, Skender and his wife also applied for the RWDSU/UFCW New American Fund, a scholarship program that provides assistance with the cost of the naturalization application to RWDSU/UFCW members and their families. Both Skender and Ermine received their scholarships from the Fund in July and were incredibly grateful for the award. As a recipient, Skender also encourages other eligible Local 338 members to look into applying for the New American Fund.

Skender and his wife will be conducting their interviews for citizenship in the next few weeks. Congratulations to Skender and his family during this exciting time!
Our Mission: To Better The Lives Of Our Members And All Working People.

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