



Cub Foods – Aurora, IL



Strack & Van Til – Munster, IN



Jewel #1710 Kostner, Chicago, IL



S.M.G., Inc. in Chicago, IL

UFCW
Local 1546
Members–We're
All in This Together
Many Faces . . .
One Voice



Maplewood – Elgin, IL



Quality Snack Foods,
Chicago, IL



Strack & Van Til – Munster, IN



Treasure Island, Chicago, IL



Maplewood – Elgin, IL



Dominick's – Calumet City, IL



Jewel – Munster, IN

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WHATEVER IT TAKES Watch Your Step; Protect Your Job—Pay Attention to Workplace Rules



By Kenneth R. Boyd, President

Regardless of your occupation, UFCW members all take pride in their work. But for some, the longer they are on the job, the more comfortable they tend to feel, and the more likely they are to let down their guard. And that can open the door to trouble. This type of familiarity can lull people into falling for the idea that bending the rules is OK...that certain company policies don't apply to them...or even that a desire to see their employer's business prosper gives them a "pass" to occasionally violate their union contract. Please beware: none of this is true.

In the "old days," employers might have looked the other way over minor

infractions, but those days are gone. Today, even a member with decades of seniority will be fired for a slight misdeed no one thought twice about in the past. So, if that's the case, imagine how your company could deal with a person caught changing a date on an expired product, probably with the misguided aim of "saving" a sale for the employer. Grocers in particular have taken a hard-line, zero-tolerance approach in this area. They'd rather make an example of you now, than endure the rigors of regaining the public's trust later.

Be sure to follow all workplace rules and policies. If you don't understand, ask a manager or your Union Rep. to clarify. Read your union contract, and follow its language.

Paying attention to the rules is also critical elsewhere on the job. For instance, let's say you punch out, and then go back to do tasks you couldn't finish before your shift ended. Since

working "off the clock" is a contract violation, you could justifiably be fired by the employer you wanted to "benefit" with your free labor. There is no shortage of similar examples that have landed members in hot water with their employers and also our union.

Is it worth gambling with your union job to "save" the company a few bucks? No. Do you really want to risk your union wages, representation, health benefits, pension, and job security just to help yourself to a "free" cookie from an open package, or to give a friend a discount, or to skip an assigned task because you're rushed? Of course not! It makes NO sense. But reports of such sad situations cross my desk all the time. Decent workers who know the rules and know better, somehow overlook the obvious. They misstep just once, and then lose it all. *All Local 1546 members should believe that they deserve to earn a fair wage for their hard work. So why would anyone elect to give away their labor by working "off the clock," while also risking their job at the same time?*

While it's not my intent to imply that a company would purposely

beef up its bottom line at the expense of long-term employees, we can acknowledge that "losing" higher-paid people saves employers more money. Why hand over this kind of opportunity? Instead, pledge to do your best every day on the job, and no less. At the same time, be sure to follow all workplace rules and policies. If you don't understand, ask a manager or your Union Rep. to clarify. Read your union contract, and follow its language. If you need more of an explanation, again, your Union Rep. is a truly just phone call away.

In closing, be assured that this union is fully committed to protecting you and making your livelihood the best it can be. As the cover of this issue shows, Local 1546 contends that "we're all in this together." As a member, you've entrusted the UFCW to represent you and enforce your contract, and to negotiate on your behalf at the bargaining table to achieve and guard the wages and benefits you expect. Local 1546 is looking out for you. Isn't it worth it to you, your family and your future to look out for yourself too?



Officers and Executive Board

Kenneth R. Boyd, President
Terry Kramer, Secretary-Treasurer
Jorge Ramirez, Executive Director
Vicky Hayes, Recorder

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UFCW Local 1546 • United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, AFL-CIO/CLC



Reaching Your UFCW Local 1546 Union Representative

Main Office

1649 W. Adams, Chicago, Illinois 60612
 Phone: (312) 733-2999

Christine A. Bartholmey	Carlos Mendez
Carlos Cartagena	John A. Rosenthal
Wayne A. Clavio	Gerardo Rangel
Vince Gallagher	Hilda Vargas
Nick Listermann	
George B. Marshall	

Suburban Office

601 W. Golf Road, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056
 Phone: (847) 593-3500 and (800) 592-3508

Anita Burnila	Annette Konstantelos
Jeff Carr	Tamara Mason
Ralph Chapman	Elliot Miller
Terry DeVito	Mitchell Montgomery
Edward J. Flavin	Charles "Chuck" Rieber
Stan Gurrola	Kenneth Swanson
Vicky Hayes	Kenneth A. Urzedowski
Jim Hurtado, Sr.	

Rochelle Office

315 Cherry Avenue
 Rochelle, Illinois 61068
 (815) 362-4661
 Gerardo Rangel

Colona Office

P.O. Box 345
 Colona, Illinois 61241
 (309) 792-8882
 Stan Gurrola

Organizing Department (Suburban Office):

Matt Russow (Director), Efrain Jimenez, and Jon Willigman

Our newsletter often includes articles in Spanish and Polish.

You are also welcome to learn the latest Local 1546 news by visiting your Local Union's web site at www.ufcwLOCAL1546.org

The opinions expressed by any individual member is the opinion of that individual member and does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of UFCW Local 1546 or any of its officers.

STATE OF THE UNION

The membership publication of UFCW Local 1546

S.J. Peters
 Editor and Director of Communications

Diane Hance
 Editorial & Communications Coordinator

Ideas, suggestions or comments?
 Phone our Communications Department at 847/593-3500 or toll-free at 1-800/592-3508. E-mail: statedoftheunion@ufcwLOCAL1546.org

Tribute Draws Civic, Labor & Faith Communities

The June 2, 2005 "Humanitarian of the Millennium" awards presentation at Chicago's Navy Pier honoring Illinois U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D) provided an occasion for Local 1546 officers and staff to visit with Cook County Assessor Jim Houlihan. Below, from left, Local 1546 Union Rep. Carlos Mendez; Secretary-Treasurer Terry Kramer; Assessor Houlihan; President Kenneth R. Boyd; and Executive Director Jorge Ramirez.



Above: Les O'Rear, founder and President of the Illinois Labor History Society at the Stockyard Gate event.

Right: Jim Houlihan (center) with Local 1546 officers and staff.



Women's Work: Building Stronger Unions

At its 8th biennial convention in June of 2005, the UFCW Women's Network explored organizing, coalition building, communications, political empowerment strategies and more under the theme of "Women Organizing Women." Local 1546 delegates included Union Reps. Christine Bartholmey, Vicky Hayes and Hilda Vargas (below). The educational conference featured workshops and forums aimed at strengthening the Union Movement by utilizing the skills, leadership, experience and contributions of women in the UFCW.

Local 1546 Joins Salute to Sinclair's "Jungle"

The 1906 novel, *The Jungle*, was declared a "Literary Landmark" by the "Friends of the Libraries U.S.A." at a June 23, 2005 gathering of labor leaders, civic and political representatives, FDA officials, and historians at the Union Stockyard Gate in Chicago. In attendance were Local 1546 Executive Director Jorge Ramirez and Communications Director S.J. Peters, as well as Illinois Labor History Society Founder and President Les O'Rear, who helped organize the Armour plant in the 1930s and later served as editor of the "Packinghouse Worker" union newspaper. (For more information, contact the "Friends of the Library U.S.A." at 800-9FOLUSA or log on to www.folusa.org.)

Below: Campaign for Better Health Care summer kick-off event.



Above and left: Local 1546 participated in the HERE rally to support striking Congress Hotel workers.

Rally Supports UNITE-HERE Members

Marking a two-year struggle to gain a fair contract, Local 1546 was among the many labor unions and community action groups that came together for a spirited rally in support of the striking workers at the Congress Hotel in Chicago on June 14, 2005. The hotel workers (members of UNITE-HERE Local 1) have maintained their picket since June of 2003. (To help these workers, donations to the HERE Hardship Fund can be sent to UNITE-HERE, 55 W. Van Buren, 4th FL, Chicago IL 60605)

Illinois Action Goal: Affordable Health Care

Stepping up to the forefront of the battle to enact affordable health care for all, Local 1546 is actively involved in the growing Illinois-based coalition known as the "Campaign for Better Health Care" (www.cbhconline.org). Local 1546 President Kenneth R. Boyd was named to the state's Health Care Task Force, and he has since agreed to serve on the CBHC's board. Pictured (left) at the June, 2005 event recognizing the signing of the Health Care Justice Act in Illinois, from left: Local 1546 Executive Director Jorge Ramirez; CBHC Executive Director Jim Duffett; Natl. AFL-CIO Executive VP Linda Chavez-Thompson; Local 1546 President Kenneth R. Boyd; and America's Agenda President (and retired UFCW Intl. President) Douglas H. Dority.



Women's Network conference: Hilda Vargas, Vicky Hayes, and Christine Bartholmey.

Healthcare: The Big Denial



By Terry Kramer,
Secretary-Treasurer

There is more than one kind of problem: there are little problems, bigger problems, and immense problems that everyone knows are there but no one wants to deal with. The healthcare problem is the latter. It's the enormous problem that those who are in a position to fix want to pretend isn't there.

We've explained how the healthcare issue stalls contract negotiations—preventing us from moving forward to resolve items such as salaries, working conditions, and other benefits—and achieve a final contract. And from the perspective of a Labor Union and the workers we represent, that in itself is reason enough to urge George W. Bush and his administration to finally acknowledge this immediate crisis and do something about it. Instead, this president chooses to focus on an issue like Social Security that requires only minor adjustments and gives us nearly 40 years to make

them. So why should this president take immediate steps to address the healthcare problem?

The healthcare crisis is a human crisis—and we mustn't forget that. There is always a tendency to remove "real people" from the equation when a social problem becomes a political issue. Facts and figures get tossed around; we quote analysts and economists and experts; but we forget the human faces and human stories that are the reason change is needed. In this case, the stories are of older Americans unable to afford prescriptions that improve their quality of life. The stories are of sick or dying children whose parents either don't have healthcare coverage at work, or their coverage is not adequate enough to provide those children with the best medical care. The stories are of families who are financially devastated by a sudden catastrophic illness, and who, under the new administration-backed law, will now have a much more difficult time filing bankruptcy to get a fresh start. There are millions of stories of real people—just like you and me—that should be the impetus for bold and swift change.

... some companies, like Wal-Mart, have come up with a creative alternative for providing their employees with healthcare insurance; they simply let the government provide it for them!

But let's be realistic. When a problem as huge as our healthcare problem is being ignored by those who have the power to fix it, we must be armed with the statistics that prove the obvious. Here are just a few of the cold economic facts:*

- 5 million fewer jobs provide health insurance in the United States now than in 2001.
- The average cost of health insurance premiums increased 59 percent from 2001 through 2004.
- More than 750,000 American families file bankruptcy each year citing medical debt as the cause—and 80 percent of them have some form of health insurance.**
- Forty-five million Americans have no health insurance at all.

So why does any of this matter to those of us fortunate enough to have adequate healthcare coverage?

"Having no health insurance often means that people will postpone necessary care and forego preventive care—such as childhood immunizations and routine check-ups—completely. Delaying care for fear of medical bills is a downward spiral that leads to ultimately higher health care costs for all of us. More than one third of uninsured adults reported they have problems paying their bills, which helps explain why many of the uninsured don't seek out the care they need until the last minute. But when an uninsured person is in crisis and cannot pay, that burden falls upon the insured

population, the hospitals, the doctors and the government. And these billions of dollars of "uncompensated care" drive up health insurance premiums for everyone."

Sherry Glied, PhD, Associate Professor of Public Health, Columbia University
www.pbs/healthcarecrisis

The healthcare crisis is a human crisis—and we mustn't forget that. There is always a tendency to remove "real people" from the equation when a social problem becomes a political issue.

Despite their almost unimaginable wealth, some companies, like Wal-Mart, have come up with a creative alternative for providing their employees with healthcare insurance; they simply let the government (translation: you and me) provide it for them! Because

such a high percentage of Wal-Mart employees qualify for Medicaid, their medical bills come to the rest of us. As Wal-Mart sees it—and unfortunately as a growing number of employers see it—they simply don't provide affordable healthcare benefits, and... healthcare problem solved!

A president who closes his eyes is not the answer. Until this president and his administration acknowledge the scope and seriousness of the healthcare problem in this country; and until our elected leaders in Congress act to work on a comprehensive—and human—solution to the crisis; it will remain the issue that erodes good jobs, good health, and our American economy.

**Universal Coverage: The Elusive Quest for National Health Insurance*
Rick Mayes, Asst. Professor of Public Policy—University of Richmond

**Under the new bankruptcy laws that severely limit the number of individuals who will qualify for bankruptcy, this relief will be much harder for families to obtain and this figure will likely drop considerably.

Workers' Compensation Questions

Members of UFCW Local 1546 with questions about Workers' Compensation and/or injuries that occur on the job may contact (at no charge or obligation) the law firm of Jacobs, Burns, Orlove, Stanton and Hernandez at 312-372-1646.



Union Privilege: Local Link

Local 1546 members interested in taking advantage of the many discounts and services available through the "Union Privilege" program have gained the help of *Immigrants Benefits Coordinator Rosa Tiscareno*. "Union Privilege has assigned me to educate members about this program, with a special emphasis on connecting immigrant members to the benefits they can use most; with their input, our plan is come up with new savings ideas based on the needs of these workers," Rosa explains. Being bi-lingual (English and Spanish) will allow Rosa to inform, assist and find new ways for *Union Privilege* to serve members as she visits various Local 1546-represented worksites.

A recent graduate of Knox College, Rosa grew up in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood and later in Cicero. She believes her factory work and food service experience, along with an internship in the Local 1546 Organizing Dept., provide her with a perspective on what workers face on the job. "I'm committed to doing all I can to improve members' lives, and Union Privilege gives me that chance," Rosa emphasizes.

(Members can contact Rosa at the Local 1546 Main Office in Chicago by phone at 312-733-2999, ext. 120, or via e-mail at rosa@ufcwLOCAL1546.org).

Members "Dial" Up with Union Plus Mortgage



Shown addressing a spring 2005 meeting for UFCW Local 1546 members employed by Dial Corp. (Montgomery, IL) is Bryan Calligar (left) of the *Union Plus Mortgage Program*. This free service (through Chase Home Finance) assists union member with both new and refinanced loans as part of the *Union Privilege* program. It is available to members, their children or parents, and it offers a wide array of beneficial features. For information, Local 1546 members can contact Herb Elam (toll-free) at 866-510-7818, and/or visit this website: www.unionplus.org/illinois-mortgages.cfm

Privilegio de la Unión: La Conexión Local



Los miembros de la Local 1546 interesados en tomar ventaja de los diversos descuentos y servicios disponibles a través del programa "Privilegio de la Unión", han recibido la ayuda de la *Coordinadora de Beneficios*

para los Inmigrantes, *Rosa Tiscareno*. "Privilegio de la Unión me ha asignado para educar a los miembros acerca de este programa, con un énfasis especial en conectar a los miembros inmigrantes a los beneficios que ellos puedan utilizar más; con sus aportes, nuestro plan ha venido con nuevas ideas para el ahorro basadas en las necesidades de estos trabajadores," explica Rosa. El ser bilingüe (Inglés y Español) permitirá que Rosa pueda informar, ayudar y conseguir nuevas maneras para que Privilegio de la Unión sirva a los miembros, a medida que ella visita varios

sitios de trabajo representados por la Local 1546.

Graduada recientemente en Knox College, Rosa creció en el vecindario de Little Village en Chicago y luego en Cicero. Ella cree que su experiencia trabajando en la fábrica y en la industria del servicio de alimentos, juntamente con un período de práctica realizado en el Departamento de Organización de la Local 1546, le proveen con una perspectiva de lo que los trabajadores enfrentan en sus lugares de trabajo. "Estoy comprometida en hacer todo lo que pueda para mejorar las vidas de nuestros miembros y el programa Privilegio de la Unión me ofrece esa oportunidad," enfatiza Rosa. (Los miembros pueden contactar a Rosa en la Oficina Principal de la Local 1546 en Chicago, llamando al número telefónico 312-733-2999, extensión 120, o por la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico rosa@ufcwLOCAL1546.org).

Workplace Safety Watch

—Local 1546 Organization Profile: CACOSH

Founded in 1972 as an independent non-profit organization to protect and educate workers about their own well-being on the job, the *Chicago Area Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (CACOSH)* continues moving ahead as a partner to unions and employers. Led by coordinator **Emanuel Blackwell**—with the guidance of its Executive Board (including Local 1546 Executive Director Jorge Ramirez) plus the support and participation of physicians, attorneys, educators and activists—CACOSH ably provides accurate, current, and practical information on workplace health and safety.

"CACOSH will help you design a curriculum, even if you have trainers," Emanuel explains. "We can be your trainers, or we can train your trainers." As a career member of the *Heat & Frost Insulators Union (Local 17)*, Emanuel understands hazardous work and how safety education and practices reduce injuries, disease and fatalities. Seeking more health and safety knowledge, he took classes through the UIC's Labor Education Program (CLEP) and the *George Meany Center* in Maryland, and earned a degree at the National Labor College. UIC professor and CACOSH board member Helena Worthen encouraged him to apply for the lead staff position, and a year later, Emanuel's goals for CACOSH are to: increase its budget and staff, enhance public awareness, and be a main source of health and safety materials.



"CACOSH can conduct an evaluation of a workplace, accompany a shop steward on a 'walk-through' of a facility, or lead the workers in performing their own workplace safety review," Emanuel points out. "The key is to make everyone aware of possible hazards, to minimize the risks. Everyone wins. Employers reduce costs by lessening injuries through education, which cuts the expense of hiring replacement workers. Happy, healthy workers are productive, save money, and are a positive influence on the bottom line."

"We can conduct classes in other languages, such as Spanish and others," Emanuel explains. "CACOSH is also a referral source for occupational medicine, or workplace injury legal advice. We maintain a extensive library, and can provide an array of services by request. We're a local, available and reliable resource." (CACOSH can be reached by phone at: 312-666-1611; by mail at: 1836 S. Racine, Chicago IL 60608; by e-mail at: cacosh@sbcglobal.net, and through its web site website at: www.safeworkchicago.net.)



to the Challenge Lesson Plan: "Back to School" Bucks Don't Belong at Wal-Mart



By Jorge Ramirez,
Executive Director

Preparing for the return to school at summer's end is engrained in American culture. Along with annual check-ups and inoculations comes the traditional shopping trip for school supplies for the coming year. As we recall those times or get our own kids ready to go and learn, one aspect of "back-to-school" never changes: it's serious business. The education of our youth is tightly connected to the rule that to make the grade, all pupils are expected to *work hard* and do their best. Like life, it's a system that rewards effort.

Enjoying enormous popularity as a big money-making "back-to-school" supply source is Wal-Mart—the same company that consistently flunks in the areas of child labor, gender discrimination, employment practices, and far more. Dissatisfied with Wal-Mart's ongoing poor performance as an employer, and disturbed that America's families continue making its cash registers ring, our teachers' unions this fall

have joined forces with the UFCW and AFL-CIO to send an overdue failure notice to the most profitable retailer in history. The *American Federation of Teachers* (AFT) and the *National Education Association* (NEA) will appeal to parents to sign a card that pledges that this year they will buy all "back-to-school" supplies at a store other than Wal-Mart.

According to campaign organizers, the exact families that Wal-Mart tries to entice with supposedly low prices are the same families hurt most by Wal-Mart's way of doing business. For example, while "Moms" make most of the buying decisions in a household, Wal-Mart is embroiled in the largest gender discrimination lawsuit ever filed. As it lures

Wal-Mart [is] the same company that consistently flunks in the areas of child labor, gender discrimination, employment practices, and far more. Dissatisfied with Wal-Mart's ongoing poor performance as an employer, and disturbed that America's families continue making its cash registers ring, our teachers' unions this fall have joined forces with the UFCW and AFL-CIO to send an overdue failure notice to the most profitable retailer in history.

kids inside to purchase school supplies, it was just reported that last month three Wal-Mart stores in Connecticut were fined for child-labor law violations, and in 2005 the company has paid over \$135,000 to settle federal child-labor law charges elsewhere! Furthermore, taxpayers foot the bill to the tune of \$2.5 billion a year (in public health and public assistance programs) due to Wal-Mart's inadequate and expensive health care plan, which fewer than half its employees can even afford for their families. And since the company sets its wage rates so harshly low, a family of four that tries to survive on a Wal-Mart income cannot exist above the poverty line. To make matters worse, Wal-Mart is driving down wages and benefits among other retailers and throughout its own "supply chain," thereby bringing down the earning power and living standards of working families all over. Will learning of Wal-Mart's impact inspire the shopping public to change course and spend their back-to-school dollars elsewhere? That's the aim of the teachers and their supporters.

Our assignment before the new school year gets underway is to spell it out for Wal-Mart. As union members, we must take the time to educate family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, and especially our kids, about the lessons that Wal-Mart must learn. This company must rise up to union standards



by paying fair wages with good benefits, and treating its workers with the respect and security everyone deserves on the job. Make no mistake: Giving Wal-Mart a passing grade by shopping there *despite* its behavior is an incentive, in the form of *profits*, to change *nothing*! If Wal-Mart intends to prosper by selling its goods to working families, it should offer working families decent jobs. Period.

Together, the teachers' unions and the UFCW's "Wake Up Wal-Mart" initiative will be speaking out along with politicians, community leaders, and parents to get the word out about steering clear of Wal-Mart for back-to-school supplies. Rallies, press conferences, public "pledge card" signing events, and other projects will lead right up to a national "Labor Day of Action" on Monday, September 5, 2005 (Labor Day), at which time Wal-Mart will officially be called on to change its ways if it expects the patronage of America's working families.

I invite you to monitor and participate in the "back-to-school" campaign by logging on to the www.wakeupwalmart.com web site, and to gather more news and information by visiting the Local 1546 web site at www.ufcwLOCAL1546.org. Our Union Reps. will be providing informational bulletins and action plans as they become available. **The message is clear: for all back-to-school supplies, shop at UFCW-union stores and join the pledge to pass up Wal-Mart.**



Local 1546 Employer Profiles

Illinois-American Water Woodridge IL

Providing fresh, clean drinking water as well as properly treating waste water to release it safely back to the environment: that's the responsibility of over 50 Local 1546 members employed by *Illinois-American Water* in Woodridge, Illinois. This private company serves specific client communities in an identical manner as municipal water treatment departments. According to Chief Steward Ray Rossa, the company owns and maintains its own water lines, with the actual water

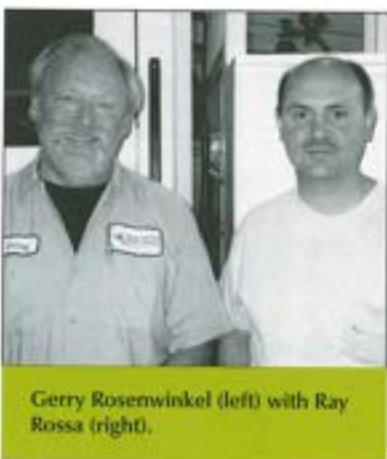
originating from a number of sources (including Lake Michigan) depending on the location. Our members are trained (and/or cross-trained) depending on their position, and are required to be licensed and certified by the state. "Our customers can and should feel confident in *Illinois-*

American Water," Rossa explains. "A lot of training, science, know-how, care and union pride goes into this job, and our work is furthermore regulated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency." This Local 1546-represented worksite is served by Union Rep. Wayne Clavio.



Executive Board Member: Gerry Rosenwinkel

This past June, Gerry marked 32-years with *Illinois-American Water*. A certified Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, he is a foreman over six treatment plants. Gerry has served on our Local Union's Executive Board for over a decade, and says he is very pleased with the direction that Local 1546 is heading. "I enjoy being involved and giving a voice to our co-workers, and I'm proud of our leadership," Gerry emphasizes.



Gerry Rosenwinkel (left) with Ray Rossa (right).

Chief Steward: Ray Rossa

"I am a liaison between management and the members in the field," Ray explains. "My duty is to resolve grievances that go beyond the first and second step, and at that point we often have our Rep. (Wayne) involved." A 12-year employee for *Illinois-American Water*, Ray has served as a Steward for eight years, and became Chief Steward four years ago. "I try to foster good working relationships among the Stewards, members, union and management, and also take care of the bulletin board, schedule meetings, and offer assistance whenever it's needed. I'm proud to take my union responsibilities seriously."

Union Shop: The Way to Go



Dan Brown's grandparents opened up *Brown's Supermarket* more than 60 years ago in Sycamore, Illinois—a small community in DeKalb County. Dan took over the business in 1979 from his father, and has made it his life's work ever since. The store was renamed *Brown's County Market*, and relocated to a new, larger building across the street, but remained the same service-oriented business it has always been. The other constant for the business? It has been a union shop for more than 37 years.

So when Dan opened his new store in April in nearby Genoa,

one of the first things he did was to assure his new employees that they would be covered by a union contract, too. "I wanted my new employees to have the same benefits as the rest of my employees," Dan said. "Especially these days—insurance and pension are very important. Besides," he continued, "I've come to understand after all these years, that I can attract the best workers who stay with me longer when they have competitive wages, good benefits for themselves and their families, and a voice on the job. But most importantly... being a union shop is just the right thing to be."



Local 1546 Leukemia Fighters Hit a Homerun at our 2005 "Step Up For The Cure!"

On Sunday, June 12, an enthusiastic crowd of Local 1546 members, staff, family and friends came out to Alexian Field, home of the Schaumburg Flyers, to raise money for the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*. Our annual "Step Up For The Cure" walk-a-thon this year raised more than \$25,000 to fund the research seeking the cures for leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood-related cancers.

A partly cloudy day provided the backdrop for participants to gather in our picnic tent for a raffle and special prizes for the kids, and then walk the baseball field to raise money for LLS. After the walk, a baseball game and ballpark hotdogs were the order of the day as the Flyers battled the Joliet Jackhammers.

"Step Up For The Cure" is one of several fundraisers held throughout the year by Local 1546 to benefit our official charity, the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*. One hundred percent of the money raised from this event—and every Local 1546 leukemia fundraising event—is used only for research.



Announcing...

2005 UFCW Local 1546 RAFFLE FOR THE CURE

- Drawing on September 20, 2005 (Winners need not be present.)
- Tickets are \$1.00 each, and are available from your Union Rep.
- All proceeds go to the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society* for research.
- We thank our generous donors for providing these outstanding raffle prizes.
- Here is your chance to win, while helping a good cause at the same time!

(Raffle ticket printing donated by Sommers & Fahrenbach)

1st Prize
JVC 27" Flat Screen Color TV
("Direct View" / Theater Pro / HD Sound)
(Donated by the Natl. Capital Area Chapter of LLS)

2nd Prize
X-Treme XG 505 Gas Scooter
50CC Electric Starting 2-Stroke Engine/33mph/20mile range
(Donated by Rona Pileggi Spano/American Income Life)

3rd Prize
JVC Compact Digital Camcorder
(680,000 pxl / Color Viewfinder / Super High Band Processor)
(Donated by the Natl. Capital Area Chapter of LLS)

4th Prize
\$250.00 Gift Certificate to Best Buy
(Donated by Union Plus Mortgage/Jody J. Anderson)

5th Prize
Matching Pair of Local 1546 Winter Jackets (2)
(Top quality & style; leather sleeves; union-made by Local 1546 members)
(Donated by Union Line/Rubin Mfg. — Chicago — A \$300 retail value!)

Winning member! In 2004, Local 1546 member Jeff Murglin (left, with his Dad, right, and Union Rep. Jeff Carr) of Dominick's # 144 won a deluxe stereo system in our annual "Raffle for a Cure." See your Union Rep. for a chance to win in 2005!



Local 1546 was "Out Standing for the Cure"



The cold rain and wind didn't stop Local 1546 staff and volunteer members from collecting nearly \$15,000 for leukemia research in front of participating Dominick's, Jewel, and Cub stores on April 22nd and May 6th. Replacing our annual "Light the Night" fundraiser this year, the collection drive proved to be a huge success.

Customers entering or leaving the stores were extremely generous as they filled leukemia collection canisters to overflowing with coins and bills. Some had personal stories about family members or friends victimized by blood cancers; others simply wanted to donate to a good cause. Regardless of their reasons, customers came through in a big way to support our official charity, the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*.

The collection drive donations bring Local 1546's 2004 leukemia fundraising total to over \$90,000—surpassing last year's total by more than \$15,000! As always, every

penny raised by Local 1546 will fund the research seeking cures for leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood cancers.

Local 1546 would like to thank the Jewel, Dominick's and Cub stores that allowed us to stand at their doors to collect from their customers for a great cause. And of course a big thank you goes out to all of our member volunteers who gave up break times and days off

to help in this effort. Finally, we thank the very generous customers who filled our canisters and filled countless blood cancer victims and their families with hope.



Local 1546 members—and their kids—will love our new *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society* wristbands!

In colorful red vinyl, embossed with a message of **Peace – Love – Understanding**, these wristbands will make a great addition to your collection of inspirational bracelets! And, for every wristband you buy, every penny will benefit the *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*. Please see your Union Representative to purchase your bracelets today!

Steward Profiles: Moo & Oink

He works hard, and even after 19 and 1/2 years with *Moo & Oink* (at 71st and Stony Island in Chicago), Local 1546 Union Steward **Darrell Russell** (below) still draws inspiration from his late Uncle, Norman Dolto—a UAW Chief Steward—as Darrell "represents the people" and looks out for the "little guy" each day.

Darrell agreed to become a Steward five years ago. "I argue on behalf the members, and I always tell them to be informed about the rights that come with their union contract," he emphasizes. A champion of the UFCW "Active Ballot Club," Darrell sees a natural connection. "I belong to the ABC because our unity is one cause, and politics is no exception. For about \$12.00 a year I am able to back candidates who back up working families. This union stands up for us, and the ABC is one more way to help ourselves."

Darrell raised his three daughters alone (20, 19 and 16), and is now a proud grandpa too. His hobbies include darts and cards, and he regularly attends Union meetings.



A 5-year Local 1546 member at *Moo & Oink* (82nd & Racine in Chicago), **Freddie McCraw** (above) became a Union Steward a year ago. "It's important to communicate with co-workers, and assure them they can come to me with questions or problems," she explains. "I'm here to help. We can clear up misunderstandings right away. If I don't have an answer, I'll get it from our contract or our Rep. (George Marshall)."

Freddie urges all Local 1546 members to read their contracts to make the most of belonging to the union. "The contract spells it out, so be informed!" she says. A member of the Active Ballot Club (ABC) too, Freddie believes in holding public office-seekers accountable. "If you say you are behind working families, your record and stand on the issues have to prove it. The ABC only supports politicians who've shown they'll do right by us, so that's why I support the ABC. It's a small but strong investment in our future."

Freddie is the proud Mom of 3 sons, and she relaxes by doing arts and crafts projects.

(Membership in the Active Ballot Club is about \$1.00 a month. Union dues are not used for ABC, and contributions are not tax deductible. See your Union Rep. to join ABC!)



legal pad

It's the Law: Retailers Must Train Employees on "Meth" Regulations

Methamphetamine is the fastest growing drug threat in Illinois. Meth is highly addictive and relatively inexpensive, making it an acute problem in Illinois and across the nation. This illegal drug is easily manufactured in crude meth labs from ingredients (ephedrine or pseudoephedrine) contained in common cold and allergy tablets.

The Methamphetamine Manufacturing Chemical Retail Sales Control Act became effective January 1, 2005 and it is designed to slow the spread of meth by regulating the packaging, sale and display of cold and allergy tablets containing the active ingredients in meth. For



By Dan Dosenbach,
General Counsel

example, all adult strength cold and allergy tablets containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine must be placed behind store counters or in locked cases. Additionally, the law limits the sales to no more than two packages per transaction, and requires that the tablets be sold in "blister packs" containing no more than three grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine per pack. The law also makes it illegal for retailers to sell any such products if they have reason to believe the buyer will use the tablets to make meth. Finally, and most importantly for our members, retailers *must* train sales employees to understand their responsibilities under the law.

The law further states upon the completion of such training, each retailer shall have each sales employee read, sign and date a certification form stating in substance that they understand the law and their responsibilities under the law.

Please note, the law requires both the training and the execution of a form certifying such training. To stress the importance of this training, I point out that penalties for violating the law not only run to the retailer, but penalties may also be imposed upon the individual sales employee. For example, it is a Class A misdemeanor for a store employee to violate the Act and a Class 4 felony for a second violation.

Methamphetamine is the fastest growing drug threat in Illinois. Meth is highly addictive and relatively inexpensive making it an acute problem in Illinois and across the nation.

Many retailers represented by Local 1546 have commenced the training mandated by the Act. I urge our members to take this training seriously. If you do not understand any part of the training, immediately ask a question and get a clarification. Once you understand the training, you should execute the certification form.

Local 1546 Health & Welfare Information

**UFCW Unions and Employers
Midwest Health Benefits Fund**
1300 Higgins Road, Suite 300
Park Ridge, IL 60068-5713
(847) 384-7000 or
toll-free 1-800-621-5133

Union Medical Center
(formerly "Local 100A Fund")
1649 W. Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60612
(312) 829-0850

**Food Handlers'
Health & Welfare Fund**
541 N. Fairbanks Court
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 649-1200 or
toll-free 1-877-225-9141

**Jewel Health Benefits Fund
(Albertson's ASC Benefits)**
P.O. Box 20
Boise, Idaho 83726
toll-free 1-800-969-9688

UFCW Local 1546 Membership Meetings

Attend a Local 1546 membership meeting to stay "up to date." Every meeting covers the latest news in bargaining, organizing, politics, field service and more. Be part of it, ask questions and bring your ideas. All members are welcome!

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Local 1546 Main Office
1649 W. Adams
Chicago IL 60612

Regional Informational Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Local 1546 Suburban Office
601 W. Golf Road
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

U N I O N R I G H T S

Clip and keep with you. To be read word for word to your supervisor to declare your Union Rights:

If this discussion would lead in any way to my being disciplined or terminated or have any effect on my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my Union Representative, Officer or Steward be present at this meeting. Without representation, I choose not to participate in this discussion.

UFCW Local 1546 (312) 733-2999 (Chicago/Main Office)	(847) 593-3500 or (800) 592-3508 (Suburban Office)
------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------

Corte esto y mantengalo con usted. Esto se le debe leer palabra por palabra a su supervisor para declarar sus Derechos to Unión.

Si esta discusión pudiera en alguna forma, afectar personalmente mis condiciones de trabajo, o ser amonestado o ser despedido, yo respetuosamente solicito que el Representante de la Unión esté presente en la reunión.

Prawo do posiadania Reprezentanta ze Związków Zawodowych (wynij i zachowaj)

Poniższy tekst należy przeczytać swojemu przełożonemu jako deklarację praw wynikających z przynależności do Związków Zawodowych:

Jeżeli dyskusja ta w jakikolwiek sposób może przyczynić się do przeprowadzenia akcji dyscyplinarnej przeciwko mnie lub zwolnienia mnie z pracy lub też jeżeli będzie ona mieć jakikolwiek wpływ na moje warunki pracy, to z całym szacunkiem proszę, aby mój Reprezentant ze Związków Zawodowych, Steward, lub inny funkcjonariusz Związkowy był obecny na tym zebraniu. W przypadku nieobecności takiego Reprezentanta, odmawiam uczestniczenia w dyskusji podczas tego zebrania.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS 1546 People



Real to Reel: Pension Priorities

"A real pension is just one reason a union job is best," **Bill Connelly** declares as his fishing line hits the water near the Clarendon Hills, IL Jewel store. An avid local fisherman (he prefers the ponds and dislikes eating fish), he came to Jewel in 1963, and the family followed; his wife, son and daughter have all worked for the company. "The question I have for non-union workers, like those at Wal-Mart, is this: What are you going to live on later if you have no pension?" Recently retired, Bill points out that he will enjoy the same income level between his pension and social security as if he stayed on. "I'll miss the people; we did a good job and had fun. I'm glad they have a pension to look forward to," he explains. As he reels in a fish, he gently throws it back in the pond. "Letting it go means I have a chance to catch a fish again. Otherwise, who knows?"

Local 1546 Member Salute

"We could not possibly be more proud," Local 1546 member **Suzanne Peterson** (below with Secretary-Treasurer Terry Kramer) beams as she talks of their daughter Heather's recent graduation from the highly respected West Point Military Academy in New York. According to Suzanne—a cashier at Value City in Ottawa, IL, Heather joined the U.S. Army after high school, and rose to become a Crew Chief on a Long Bow Apache Helicopter. Stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas, she served 3 1/2 years until her commanding officer suggested Heather train to become an officer as well. After one year in prep school at Ft. Monmouth, NJ, she began her four-year studies at West Point. Now a 2nd Lieutenant, Heather will be heading soon to Ft. Jackson, SC for OBC (Officer Basic Course) until November, after which her permanent assignment will be Fort Sill, OK. Suzanne, who is also pleased with her union membership and the protections of the contract on the job, points out that this family has a proud military tradition. Heather's grandfather fought in World War II, and her Dad was in the service during Viet Nam and then in the National Guard for two decades.



Good for the Geese

When an expectant pair of geese built a nest at the Cub Foods parking lot in Hanover Park, IL this spring, the "Dad-to-be" became a bit too enthusiastic in protecting their eggs from passers-by. So the Local 1546 members in the store—including Linda Anderson, who made special signs (above) to alert the public about the growing family—teamed up to help out. "We called the Fish & Wildlife Dept., and they confirmed that we were not to touch the nest," Linda recalls. "We put out water, surrounded their nest with carts to form a safety barrier, and posted signs. Customers were stopping by just to see how the 'goose clan' was doing. The eggs hatched on Saturday night, and the couple and their new 'kids' were seen crossing Barrington Road on their way to the pond on Sunday morning."



Tribute: Bill Dzik

May 15, 1939 - May 16, 2005



Labor has lost a great friend with the passing of former Local 1540 President William ("Bill") Dzik. His long union career began as a "clean up boy" for National Tea at the age of 15, and ended with his retirement in June of 1999. Born in Poland in 1939, young Bill's family endured a brutal Nazi concentration camp existence in Solingen, Germany. In 1948—after suffering the loss of a brother who gave his own life to save Bill's—the nine year-old boy came to America with his parents and another brother. According to his son, Eric, Bill's first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty was an inspiring memory all his life.

Growing up in the Chicago area, Bill graduated in 1961 from Navy Pier University, and continued working in retail as a strong union supporter. In January of 1967, he was hired as a Business Agent by then-President Ken Rada. He ultimately rose to the Local Union

presidency, and gained a solid reputation for his commitment and concern for the members, while earning the respect of employers, union leaders, and his own staff.

"This man did not accept the concept of '9 to 5' when it came to the demands of leading the union," his son Eric recalls. "But he truly was a 'gentle giant,' and his drive to guard the members meant that he was feared by many at the bargaining table. Yet all the way to the end, former colleagues—and even past foes—kept in touch. That says it all."

Bill enjoyed the bulk of his retirement years in Key West, Florida investing in real estate and tending his impressive garden. Local 1546 mourns his loss and celebrates the life of our friend and colleague, Bill Dzik.

Join ABC—Now More Than Ever, Politics Matters!

The gains Local 1546 makes at the bargaining table can be lost in the halls of government. The results of the election illustrates that without question. The Active Ballot Club (ABC) is the non-partisan political arm of the UFCW and Local 1546. The cost to belong is only about 25 cents a week, or about \$12.00 a year (union dues are not used for ABC, and contributions are not tax deductible). See your Union Rep. about joining the ABC. Now, more than ever, our union must stand up to defeat our enemies and elect our friends. Be part of a better future by belonging to ABC!

1546 FILM FEATURE

Rockford Area Members

Local 1546 is pleased to present this photo display, highlighting many of our members in the Rockford area.



Hilander (on Barnes in Cherry Valley)



Logli (on State, Rockford)



Hilander (on Barnes in Cherry Valley)



Logli (on State, Rockford)



Hilander (on Alpine, Rockford)



Logli (on State, Rockford)



Health Care Division Report

By Elliot Miller, Director—
Local 1546 Health Care Division

Local 1546 members and their employers in the health care and nursing home occupations are moving forward, full speed ahead! Thanks to the tireless lobbying efforts of the UFCW (Locals 1546, 536 and 881), along with the Teamsters (IBT) and the Service Employees Intl. Union (SEIU) in Illinois, the state funding for nursing homes frozen in July of 2003 has been partially restored. Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, House Speaker Michael Madigan and Governor Blagojevich heard from union members and leaders through meetings, at rallies (on the Capital steps, with Rainbow/Push, and in the streets of Waukegan), in letters, phone calls and more. The good news: we were heard. With the funding partially returned, our members are regaining benefits, are seeing their wages and pension contributions rise, and their contracts are going back to the bargaining table. In my nearly 30-years of representing union members, I have never been more proud of Labor's ability and drive to protect and improve the livelihoods of those who belong. It should be noted that the skills of our chief lobbyist, Executive Director Jorge Ramirez, played a key role

in the funding restoration, and he should also be saluted for his involvement with the owners' association in making this a reality.

Our union is currently in negotiations with Burgess Square, Southview, and the Thornton Heights LPN Unit. We recently ratified a new agreement covering the service and maintenance workers at Thornton Heights, leading to substantial wage and pension increases. Our members at both Salem Village and at Gilman will be getting pension increases, while wage re-openers are underway for members at Terrace, Lake Park, Abbott, and Southview. Contracts to be negotiated soon include: Lake Park, Terrace, Fairview, Crestwood, Deerbrook, Countryside, and Northwoods.

NOTE: if you who know of health care/nursing home workers who work non-union and are in need of a union voice, contact me or our Organizing Director, Matt Russow, toll-free at 800-592-3508 or 847-593-3500, or send an e-mail to: mrussow@UFCW Local 1546.org. We will do our best to help them gain the representation they seek and deserve.

New Pension Recipients

Adamski, Kenneth Eagle Food Centers	Douglas, Dorothy Jewel Food Stores	Longtin, Margaret Jewel Food Stores	Rodriguez, Antonia Jewel Food Stores
Affield, Chris Dominick's Finer Foods	Drzal, Shirley Strack & Van Til	Malaichuk, Wayne Alsip Certified	Sonka, Michael Schaer Packing
Blankenship, Milton Eagle Food Centers	Egerton, Jean Kroger Co.	Mammone, Linda Stop & Shop	Sorge, Rodney Jewel Food Stores
Burton, Danny Admiral Tool & Mfg.	Fike, Robert Eagle Food Centers	Mauzer, David Jewel Food Stores	Sykes, David Jewel Food Stores
Cerceo, James Jewel Food Stores	Gonski, Michael Sr. Jewel Food Stores	Middleton, Frank Wexler Meat Co.	Talbert, Chris Jr. EW Kneip, Inc.
Cisneros, Cirilo Wexler Meat Co.	Gotowka, Richard A & P Tea Company	Montales, Ricardo Dominick's Finer Foods	Velazco, Jose Wexler Meat Co.
Cotti, James Eagle Food Centers	Guysens, Jerry Eagle Food Centers	Mota, Jose United Provisions, Inc.	Venturella, Shirley Dominick's Finer Foods
Dahl, Richard Jewel Food Stores	Kara, Lawrence Jewel Food Stores	Nielsen, Beverly Jewel Food Stores	Ward, Thomas Unigema Chemicals
Domantay, Francisco Cub Foods	Kozioł, Andrzej Bruss Company	Passas, Marina Dominick's Finer Foods	Wolstenholme, Daniel Dominick's Finer Foods
	Lane, Frank United American Food Prod., Inc.	Penrod, Lora Jewel Food Stores	Zak, Frederick Jewel Food Stores
	Lippl, Adolf Jewel Food Stores		

GRIEVANCE VICTORIES

Here is the sum of monetary awards and paid hours that UFCW Local 1546 has recovered for our members during the current year so far (2005). "Wages Recovered" means money paid to members by employers to resolve grievances filed and investigated by Local 1546 (including health & welfare, and pension restoration). "Hours Recovered" refers to paid hours that our members would have "lost" if the Union had not been involved in protecting their rights and enforcing the contract. We're on the job for you!

January 1, 2005 to July 31, 2005

Total Wages Recovered: \$810,558.37 Paid Hours Recovered: 507.5

Organizing: The New WAVE

By Matt Russow
Director - Organizing



From time to time I report to you on the status of some of our ongoing organizing campaigns. And while there are currently several active campaigns with many developments occurring in each of them, I'd like to use this opportunity to talk not about specific campaigns but about the changing role of organizing in the Labor Movement and in the UFCW.

It's important to point out that organizing—the process of bringing new members into the Labor Movement and providing workers with a voice on the job—has always played a vital role and been a priority for unions. Had it not been, it's likely that unions would not exist today. The role of organizing has been crucial in keeping unions strong; and more importantly, in keeping workers and their families strong.

It is also true, however, that as unions grew, contract negotiations and member service became more time consuming. The health insurance and pension crises, the increased cost of living, the changing political climate, and the emergence of "Wal-Mart like" competitors all required more and more of the unions' time and resources. So, just as you probably re-examine your family budget occasionally; and just as a wise investor regularly reviews and reallocates his portfolio, Labor is currently taking a fresh look at

how it can best use its staff power and resources to move forward with its working family agenda in today's world. Organizing, as it turns out, is taking its place at the top of the list.

In a strong statement of their belief that organizing is the key to building on Labor's strength, a coalition of some of the largest and strongest unions in the Labor Movement has pledged its commitment to provide all the staff and resources necessary to make organizing its top priority. The major shift in emphasis, however, is in the way organizing will be approached.

For many years, organizers have run campaigns on a "shop-by-shop" basis; often devoting an enormous number of staff hours to organizing one small group of workers. And while it remains true that unions are committed to helping organize all workers who ask—*regardless of their numbers*—we are beginning to understand that, in today's climate, we can be more effective for more people by organizing core industries rather than only individual shops.

The UFCW, and specifically Local 1546, has begun to allocate more of its staff hours to organizing as well. In addition to our Organizing Department staff, we have divided our Union Representatives into Organizing Teams. These teams are assigned certain core industries where they help carry out various organizing projects.

In addition to increased financial resources and staff hours, the UFCW—and again, specifically Local 1546—will be looking to you, our members, to round out our organizing program. Because we see this program as *the* way to grow the Labor Movement and secure decent jobs with decent benefits for working families in this ever-changing environment, everyone's help and participation is vital. And the fact remains; there is no better way to let unorganized workers know about the benefits of being union than through the personal stories of union workers themselves.

The Local 1546 WAVE Program is designed to help and motivate our members to do just that. It gives you the tools you need to participate in organizing projects—and the motivation you need to complete those projects. I urge you to read about the WAVE Program at www.ufcwlocal1546.org, consider it carefully, and fill out the form or call me with any questions you have. Or, ask your Union Rep. for more information. WAVE offers you an interesting, educational, and rewarding way to help secure the future of your union, the Labor Movement, and America's working families... just like yours.



("Organizing Update" concludes on next page.)

"Organizing Update" (continued)

The Local 1546 Organizing Dept. can help new members join our Union, thanks to your "leads." If you know of a group of workers who will benefit by belonging to our Union, be a real friend and please let us know; Local 1546 will do our best to help them gain Union membership. Local 1546 represents a wide variety of occupations, and our continued growth works in favor of all of our members. Contact Matt Russow, Director—Organizing, toll-free at 800/592-3508 or 847/593-3500.

El Departamento de Organización de la Local 1546 puede ayudar a nuevos miembros a formar parte de nuestra Unión, con la ayuda de ustedes. Si usted sabe de un grupo de trabajadores que pueden ser beneficiados si pertenecen a nuestra Unión, sea buen amigo(a), y por favor haganoslo saber. La Local 1546 hará todo lo posible para ayudarles a lograr su membresía en la Unión. La Local 1546 representa una gran variedad de trabajos, y nuestro crecimiento continuo trabaja en favor de "todos" nuestros miembros. Por favor pongase en contacto con Matt Russow, Director de Departamento de Organización, llame gratis al 1-800-592-3508 o al 847-593-3500.

Lokal 1546, Wydział Organizowania, może ułatwić nowym członkom przystąpienie do Związków Zawodowych dzięki wcześniej uzyskanym informacjom. Jeżeli słyszałeś o grupie pracowników, dla których wstąpienie do naszych Związków może okazać się korzystne, to poinformuj nas o tym, i Lokal 1546 zrobi wszystko, co w naszej mocy, aby pomóc im w uzyskaniu członkostwa. Lokal 1546 reprezentuje wiele zawodów, a pozyskiwanie nowych członków jest korzystne dla nas wszystkich. Prosimy skontaktować się z Matt Russow, Dyrektorem Wydziału Organizowania, pod bezpłatnym numerem telefonu 1-800-592-3508 lub pod 847-593-3500.

1546 FILM FEATURE

Tyson Fresh Meats – Joslin, IL

A recent visit by Local 1546 Secretary-Treasurer Terry Kramer to the Tyson Fresh Meat plant in Joslin gave *State of the Union* an opportunity to include this new "Film Feature." The members (approximately 2,200) at this renowned beef processing plant have belonged to our local union since 1986. The Local 1546 Union Representative assigned to this worksite is Stan Gurrola.





(Seated, from left) Local 1546 Tyson Stewards John Wildermuth, Jesus Mota, Jeff Lee, and Mei Huang; (top row, from left): Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service (FMS) Commissioner Javier Ramirez; Steward Frank Chapman; FMS Commissioner Jerry Nehan; Stewards Diokel Gning and Rafael Rosiles; Union Rep. Stan Gurrola; and Local 1546 Secretary-Treasurer Terry Kramer.

Tyson Fresh Meats – Steward Profiles

Diokel Gning

During his 4 years with Tyson, Local 1546 Chief Union Steward Diokel Gning (Processing, B-Shift) began as a meat cutter, was transferred to the packaging dept., and is now a scale operator. He likewise serves as an interpreter for the growing number of French-speaking members at the plant, and is also an ergonomics manager.

"I am interested in knowing more about labor law, and I believe it is right to represent people through our union," Diokel says of his role as a Steward. "Education is a valuable tool for all union members, and that is why I press them to read their contract. Both sides must adhere to the rules in the agreement; that's the best way to avoid problems."

Away from work, Diokel—a native of the country of Senegal in West Africa—is an avid soccer player, and is in the midst of planning a summer cycling tournament among his Tyson co-workers that will welcome all nationalities.



John Wildermuth

In addition to protecting members as a Chief Union Steward for his department, John Wildermuth—a 7-year Tyson employee—works as a Maintenance Mechanic, where he is on the team that fixes, maintains, fabricates and installs the machines needed to run the plant.

Raised on a farm in nearby Erie, IL, John has been a union supporter all his life. "Like all the Stewards here, my aim is to help solve problems for our members," he points out. "I try to advise people to know the contract so they too will follow the rules properly. I urge them also to ask questions and bring up problems without delay. There are time limits, so the sooner we are aware, the better the chances of getting issues resolved."

Off the job, John enjoys woodworking and gardening, but he admits to working "a lot of hours."



Left: With the aim of addressing non-bargaining issues before negotiations get underway for the new Tyson Fresh Meats contract, the Labor-Management Committee met in June of 2005, and additional meetings have been scheduled.

Are you Revving Up to MOVE? Let us know where!

Local 1546 sends important information like newsletters, collective bargaining updates, valuable benefit information and more via U.S. Mail to you on a regular basis. So, don't be left out! If you move, notify Local 1546 of your new address right away—your employer is not obligated to give us your change of address... it's up to you!

Inform the Union!
Call: 312-733-2999 or 847-593-3500 or
Toll-free: 1-800-592-3508

¿Piensa mudarse?... ¡No lo haga sin hacérselo saber!

El Local 1546 le envía regularmente información importante, como son los boletines noticiosos, las novedades de las negociaciones de contratos colectivos, valiosa información acerca de sus beneficios, y de otro tipo, por medio del correo de los Estados Unidos. Así es que ¡no se quede fuera! Si se muda, notifique inmediatamente al Local 1546 su nueva dirección—su patrón no está obligado a informarnos los cambios en sus direcciones... ¡Depende de usted!

¡Mantenga informada a su Unión!
Lláme al: 312-733-2999 o al 847-593-3500 o haga una llamada gratis al: 1-800-592-3508

Prosimy informować nas o zmianie miejsca
zamieszkania!
Zawiadom nas jeżeli odchodzisz z pracy lub
zmieniasz miejsce zamieszkania!

Local 1546 regularly presyła Państwu pocztą ważne informacje. Wysyłamy do Państwa gazetki informacyjne, rezultaty negocjacji w sprawie umów zbiorowych, zawiadomienia i wiele innych informacji. Nie pozostawajcie więc w tyle! Jeżeli przeprowadzacie się w inne miejsce to zgłóście to natychmiast w Lokalu 1546 i podajcie nam swój nowy adres—twój pracodawca nie jest zobowiązany do podania nam waszego aktualnego adresu... należy to do Was!

Informujcie więc o tym
swoje związki
zawodowe! Zadzwoń pod
numer: 312-733-2999 lub
847-593-3500
Telefon bezpłatny:
1-800-592-3508



Union Pin to Win Contest

UFCW union membership pays—and union pride can pay off! These members won \$25.00 by being spotted wearing their Local 1546 union pin on the job in our "Pin to Win" contest on their Rep's designated day. Wear your pin...and you could win too!



Casey's Market Inc. - Western
Springs, IL; winning member
Eddie Montalvo (right) with
Union Rep. Vicky Hayes.



Dominick's #171 - Oak Forest,
IL; winning member Walter
Sledz (left) with Union Rep.
Anita Burmila.



Jewel #7122 - Stickney, IL;
winning member Bernie
Zierden (left) with Union Rep.
Tamara Mason.



Eurist Dining Services -
Rockford, IL; winning member
Ruth Rodriguez (left) with
Local 1546 Executive Assistant
Ken Urzedowski.



Illinois-American Water Company - Woodridge, IL; winning
member Mark Marek (left) with (from far right to left) Chief
Union Steward Ray Rossa; Local 1546 Exec. Board Member
Gerry Rosenwinkle; and Union Rep Wayne Clavio.



Kroger #433 - Ottawa, IL;
winning member Shane
Jonussen (left) with Union
Rep. Ralph Chapman.



601 W. Golf Road
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056



www.ufcwLOCAL1546.org

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