

# DESERT EDGE

## UFCW LOCAL 1167

a VOICE for working America

Official Publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers Union

April 2010

### Speaker Pérez sets pro-worker priorities

Despite being on the job as Speaker of the Assembly for just a week, John A. Pérez wasn't wasting any time tackling the huge challenges California faces.

Speaking March 8 at the California Labor Federation's Joint Legislative Conference, Pérez detailed his plan to fix the broken budget process and deal with California's jobs crisis.

"This is the year of real, meaningful, Please see page 6



John A. Pérez



### The Joe F. Barragan Memorial Golf Tournament

April 26, 2010

Los Serranos Golf Club

For details and reservations, call (909) 626-3333, Ext 241

Discounted Member Rate!

### Our next Quarterly Membership Meeting Wednesday, June 23, 2010

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the UFCW Local 1167 Auditorium, 855 W. San Bernardino Ave., Bloomington

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Why we need labor-friendly politicians in office

Sometimes a member will ask me why labor unions should be involved in politics and why electing labor-friendly politicians is so important.

John Pérez, California's new Assembly Speaker (see story at left) is an excellent example of a friend of Labor in office.

If we ever needed motivation to help elect politicians who support the goals of working people, we'd only need to look at the recent actions of U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning (R-Ky).

Bunning singlehandedly blocked a Senate vote on a 30-day extension of unemployment and COBRA benefits. He was the only senator to oppose a unanimous consent motion to vote on a bill passed earlier by the House of Representatives.

For days, Bunning refused to budge. After much pressure, even from members of his own party, he finally agreed to end his filibuster. But even with the passage of the bill and the retroactive benefits it contained, hundreds of thousands of unemployed people will go weeks without help.

### A political voice

The political process has always been important. Over the years, unions have won major legislative battles that have improved the lives of working Americans, including you and your family.

Unions mobilized to pass laws that established the federal minimum wage, overtime rules, unemployment insurance, workplace safety standards, Social Security and many other innovations that many American workers take for granted.

Without political clout to impress the politicians in Washington and Sacramento, it would be difficult to defend these accomplishments against ongoing attacks by corporate America's political machine.

Politicians who do not support the goals of Organized Labor do not support decent schools, affordable housing, clean air and water, fair taxes, civil rights and protection against crime.

It took political pressure to make all of these gains on these issues. As the political voice of our members and their families, we also speak for millions of workers who do not have unions to speak for them.

Too many of our members are cynical about the political process.

Please see page 3



By Bill Lathrop

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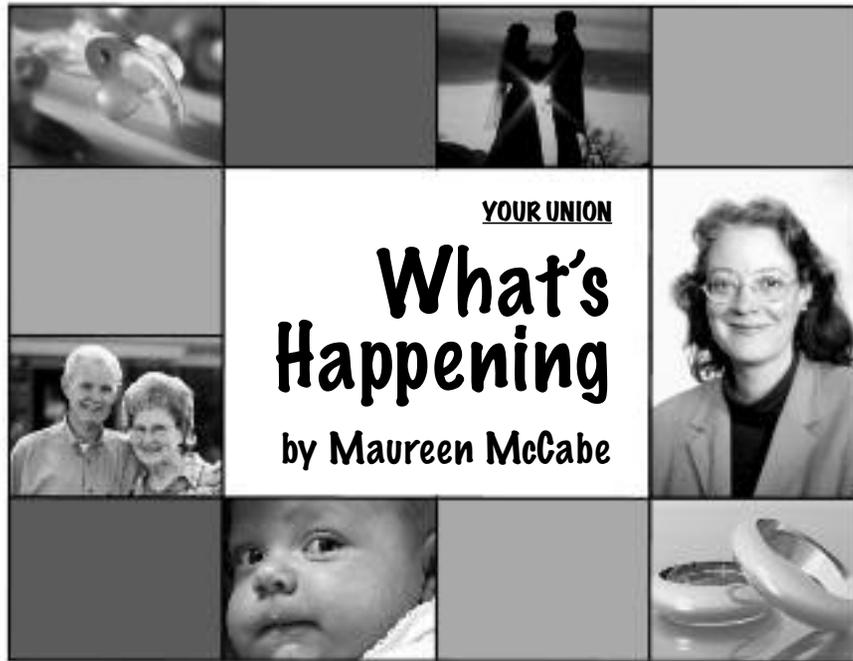
# MAP

## Membership Assistance Program

Eligible active or retired Food and Meat participants can call the toll-free MAP number at the Health Management Center at any time,  
DAY OR NIGHT, 24 HOURS A DAY,  
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

Food Division, call  
(800) 461-9179  
Drug Division, call  
(866) 268-2510

(All calls are confidential.)



## JUST RETIRED

Several more veteran members have begun their retirements.

**Bonnie Allen** retired in December 2009. Bonnie started with Vons in 1967 and stayed there until 1971. In March 1978 she joined Alpha Beta, where she remained until the chain was taken over by Ralphs in 1994. She continued with Ralphs until retirement, accumulating a total of 37 years. ... **Patricia Knowles** retired from Staters Bros. in December 2009. She had been with the company for 25 years. ... **Richard Taylor** retired in January. He was a meat cutter for Stater Bros. for 30 years, having started in the industry in August 1979. ...

**Ronald Dobson** retired in February. Ronald, also from Stater Bros., had 44 years in the industry. He started in 1964 and worked until 1972, when he moved into management. Returning from management in 1991, he remained with Stater Bros. until January.

That is a total of 136 years of experience for our new group of retirees!

We all hope the best for all and may they enjoy their well-earned retirements.

## JUST MARRIED

**Darlene Maldonado** of Stater Bros. married Jorge Luis Soto. They were married on Nov. 14 in Colton and honeymooned in their new house! ... **David Martinez** of Rite Aid married Ashley Austin on Dec. 5 in Apple Valley and honeymooned in Rancho Mirage. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

## JUST BORN

**Jessica Anderson** of Ralphs had a baby girl. When she was born on Dec. 16, **Jaymee Lou Anderson** weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. ... **Nicholas Nguyen** from Stater Bros. tells us he loves his baby girl. **Londen von Nguyen** weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. when she was born on Dec. 18. ... **Marie Garcia**, also from Stater Bros., gave birth to a son on Jan. 28. **Robert Eli Acevedo** weighed in at 7 lbs. 15 oz. ... **S. Kasey Loman** of Rite Aid announces a "happy, healthy baby girl!" **Mikaela Jordan** weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. when she was born on Feb. 3. ... **Ben Hernandez** of Stater Bros. announces the Feb. 6 birth of a daughter, **Alexandria Sofia**, who weighed 7.65 lbs. ... **Tammy Sutton**, again from Stater Bros., gave birth to a daughter, **Brooklyn Rose**, who weighed in at 8 lbs. 4 oz. on Feb. 8. ... **John Diaz** of Stater Bros. announces the arrival of **John R. Diaz III**. He was born Feb. 17 and weighed 8 lbs. even. ... **Ryane Jordan** of Ralphs tells us of the arrival of **Ryan Eugene Jordan Jr.**, who was "born with lots of red hair" on Feb. 25. He weighed 7 lb 12 oz. ... **Freddie Escobar** of Stater Bros. tells **Kayleen Ann** that "Mom and Dad and sisters love you very much." Kayleen was born on Feb. 26, weighing 6.3 lbs.

Congratulations to all of the families and their new children!

## You are interesting!

### Tell us about yourself.

You are the most interesting thing about our union! If there's something unusual or newsworthy about your life, hobbies, abilities or talents, call us at the office and tell us about it so that we may consider doing a feature about you in the *Desert Edge*. Just ask for Kathleen Franks or your Union Rep.

**President Bill Lathrop**

## Outlying Area Meeting

**April 20, 2010, at 7 p.m.**

Quality Inn & Suites Green Tree, Room A  
14173 Green Tree Blvd., Victorville



## DESERT EDGE

**Bill Lathrop**  
Editor

Official monthly publication of  
Local 1167, United Food and  
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Union, San Bernardino, Riverside  
and Imperial Counties, California.

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Bloomington, California  
(Open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.)  
(Closed Sat., Sun. and holidays)  
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(909) 877-1110

**Drug & General Sales Division  
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Publisher



## Your dues are now payable!

If you are one of the few members of the local who are not yet signed up for dues checkoff: **APRIL DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2010, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY SUSPEND YOURSELF.**

With dues checkoff, all future dues can be deducted automatically from your pay check. If you do not have an authorization form, call the local and one will be sent to you immediately.

Non-payment or payment of the incorrect amount will automatically suspend you — a costly and inconvenient mistake. Although not required, the local, as a courtesy, normally sends billing notices by first-class mail to those not on dues checkoff. It is the member's obligation to pay dues in a timely manner. Not receiving a notice is not an excuse for failure to pay dues on time.

**Avoid suspension.  
Authorize dues checkoff today!**

## UFCW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Your union is about more than  
your paycheck and benefits.

That's why each year the UFCW awards several  
SCHOLARSHIPS of up to \$8,000 each to UFCW  
members or their unmarried dependents.

The application will be available online from  
January 15 - April 15, 2010. For more information,  
and to find out if you're eligible, please visit:

[www.ufcw.org/scholarship](http://www.ufcw.org/scholarship)



If you are unable to apply online, you may request an application  
by writing to: UFCW International Union, Attn: Scholarship Program,  
1775 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006.  
If you need the scholarship rules or application in another language,  
please contact us (1-800-551-4000) and we will obtain assistance for you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Why we need Labor-friendly politicians**

Continued from front page

They don't bother to vote or even register. That attitude makes no sense, because it's in their interest to vote and choose candidates who will work for them and not against them.

Politicians will listen to you because they need your vote. If you sit silently on the sidelines, you're giving them a blank check that they may use to your disadvantage.

You can help our cause by registering and voting. Make sure that your relatives and coworkers do the same. Volunteer to distribute materials and staff phone banks. Talk with your friends and neighbors to help your union elect labor-friendly public officials.

Working together, we can protect our great achievements of the past and enact new laws that protect the rights and welfare of working people.

The fewer politicians we have in office like Sen. Bunning, the better it will be for all of us.

**Life Balance** 

**Complete your HRQ today...**

- to learn about your health status.
  - to reduce your out-of-pocket medical expenses.
- Complete the simple online Health Risk Questionnaire by May 1 and pay less of your covered medical expenses.

**Go online and complete the Health Risk Questionnaire at [www.2010HRQ.com](http://www.2010HRQ.com) or [www.scufcwfunds.com](http://www.scufcwfunds.com).**

**Llene su HRQ how...**

- para enterarse del estado de su salud.
- para reducir sus gastos medicos de bolsillo.

**Llene el Cuestionario de Riesgos a la Salud en linea para el 1 de mayo y pague menos de sus gastos medicos cubiertos.**

**Complete the confidential Health Risk Questionnaire (HRQ) by May 1, 2010, and get:**

- An extra contribution of up to \$250 in your Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) to help pay your share of covered medical expenses and prescription drug copays.
- A personalized, confidential Health Risk Assessment Report to help you get and stay healthy.

**Have questions? Need a paper HRQ? Call HMC at (888) 901-0477. You can also complete your HRQ by phone through this number.**

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Norma Carmichael**, a retired meat wrapper formerly employed by Vons, Shopping Bag and Fazio, died on Feb. 22, 2010, at the age 79. She had been a member since August 1955.

**Ian MacGregor**, a food clerk employed by Stater Bros. Markets, died March 20, 2010 at the age of 43. He had been a continuous member since December 2007.

**George Mandoki**, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Safeway, died February 6, 2010 at the age of 96. He had been a member April 1946.

**Dorothy Scott**, a retired meat wrapper formerly employed by Safeway, died on Jan. 23, 2010, at the age of 91. She had been a member since March 1957.

**Edna Selsor**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Smith Food King and Lucky stores, died on Feb. 15, 2010, at the age of 80. She had been a continuous member since October 1978.

**James Young**, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Vons, died on March 13, 2010, at the age of 63. He had been a continuous member since January 1968.

*We express our condolences to the families of these deceased members.*

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

**Follow company policies: lateness and dress code**

**A**ll companies have policies they expect their employees to follow, and whether you agree with those policies or not, it's important to do whatever you can to comply with them.



**By Christina Pugsley**

Being on time is one of the most important policies you need to follow. Few employers will tolerate persistent lateness.

Everyone has unforeseen circumstances, like being caught in a Sig Alert on the freeway. But too many of our members consistently come in later than their scheduled time.

I know from my own experience as a Union Representative that the companies are cracking down. They are instructing their managers to do whatever they can to minimize or eliminate persistent lateness.

If you regularly come in late to work, you are only hurting yourself by missing out on paid time. If you do not fix your attendance issues, the company will fix it by suspending or terminating you.

Try to leave a few minutes early to give yourself some extra time in case there are traffic issues or you have a car problem.

**It's within your control**

Correcting lateness is within your control. As the ad for athletic equipment says, just DO IT! Don't put yourself in a position to be suspended or possibly terminated.

The second policy that comes to mind is the company dress code.

While each company has its own dress code, the standards they set are usually pretty basic. Most of them consist of what color pants, shirts and shoes to wear. They also contain provisions about hair, piercing and tattoos.

I have seen members suspended or terminated for violating company policies regarding dress and personal appearance, and it always saddens me to see someone suspended or lose his or her job over something that is easy to fix.

In today's economic climate, I can't imagine how having a nose or lip piercing is more important than keeping a job.

If you don't have a copy of your company's policies, ask your manager. Be sure to read them and follow them to the letter. Your job could depend on it!

If you have any questions, please call your Union Rep.

**It PAYS to be UNION!**

	<u>MARCH 2010</u>	<u>2010 TOTAL</u>
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$6,337.24	\$33,275.92
Members reinstated	16	65
Grievances settled	95	351

# Local 1167's Scholarship Awards Competition now available for applicants!

The union local is proud to announce the launch of its scholarship program for certain members only for the academic school year 2010-2011.

Scholarships will be awarded to winners chosen from among qualified contract applicants.

Food contract members, Stater Bros. Meat Distribution Center members and Vons Meat Service Center members ARE NOT ELIGIBLE for this program because they may participate in the million-dollar Scholarship Award and Tuition Assistance Programs offered by the Southern California United Food and Commercial Workers Unions and Food Employers Ancillary Benefit Fund (Benefit Fund Scholarships).

Food members who were hired prior to March 1, 2004 (or had 12 months of employment if hired after March 1, 2004, as of October 2009), are qualified to apply for the Trust Fund's Scholarship Award and Tuition Assistance Program and ARE NOT ELIGIBLE for the scholarship program listed here.

**Rules and Eligibility Requirements**

1. Applicants must establish basic eligibility by applying for a scholarship award and completing the "REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL 1167 COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY or JUNIOR COLLEGE) SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS COMPETITION" application published in this newspaper at the right of this announcement. **The application must be returned to Local 1167 no later than Friday, May 7, 2010.**

2. Those eligible to compete are current active members of the local not eligible to compete in the above-described Benefit Fund Scholarship Program, their spouses and their dependent children. Dependent grandchildren of dues-paying retirees are eligible. Sisters, brothers and non-dependent grandchildren are not eligible.

3. Applicants must be at least seniors in high school.

4. Applicants are not eligible if they previously received Local 1167 Scholarship Award monies.

5. To be eligible, the member must be in continuous good standing for at least one year through June 30, 2010. The member whose eligibility is used cannot be suspended, take a withdrawal or transfer to another local. Failure to comply with these eligibility rules disqualifies the applicant.

6. Winners are selected by the Scholarship Committee based on:

- academic record
- leadership record
- community service and volunteer activities
- character and personality
- personal achievement

7. Awards will be made to undergraduate or graduate applicants at the sole discretion of the local's Scholarship Committee.

8. Finalists selected by the Scholarship Committee must provide proof of academic record and submit completed forms (blank forms to be provided by the union) listing leadership activities, community service and volunteer activities and personal achievements, substantiated by two teachers and two personal recommendations.

9. Finalists may be required to appear for a personal interview.

10. Awards are contingent upon the student being accepted by, registered at and attending an accredited academic institution of higher learning. Trade schools are not included.

11. Winners must be full-time students taking at least 12 undergraduate or nine graduate units or part-time working students taking six undergraduate or four graduate units.

12. Decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

**REFER ANY QUESTIONS TO SHAELYN**

**AT**

**(800) 698-8329**

**(909) 877-5000**

## Request to Participate in Local 1167 Limited Scholarship Awards Competition

(Please Print)

I understand that in order to be eligible for a scholarship award:

- I am not eligible for a scholarship offered by the Southern California United Food and Commercial Workers Union and Food Employers Ancillary Benefit Fund.
- Membership on which my eligibility is based must remain in continuous good standing through June 30, 2010. This means the member cannot be suspended, take a withdrawal or transfer to another local prior to June 30, 2010.
  - I must be at least a senior in high school.
  - I am not eligible to apply if I previously received scholarship award money from Local 1167.
  - If my address, telephone number or place of work changes, it is my responsibility to inform the local union so that I can receive information in a timely manner.
  - If the member is involuntarily laid off or transferred out of Local 1167, I will become ineligible and will notify the local union.
  - Finalists will be notified by mail. If I am notified that I qualify as a finalist, I will submit required information and will appear for an interview if invited to do so.
  - All decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

My cumulative Grade Point Average in High School is/was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Finalists to confirm with transcripts)

My cumulative Grade Point Average in College is/was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Finalists to confirm with transcripts)

My cumulative Grade Point Average in Graduate School is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Finalists to confirm with transcripts)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant in acceptance of the above)

Applicant name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Full address \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of Local 1167 (circle one) **yes** **no**

Eligibility (office use only) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Social Security number \_\_\_\_\_

Employed by (only if member) \_\_\_\_\_

Full store address \_\_\_\_\_

Union Representative \_\_\_\_\_

I am related to a member of Local 1167 (circle one) **yes** **no**

Eligibility (office use only) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to member \_\_\_\_\_

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Social Security number \_\_\_\_\_

Employed by (only if member) \_\_\_\_\_

Full store address \_\_\_\_\_

Union Representative \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Highest academic level completed by June 2010  
(Must be at least a senior in High School to apply)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year graduated from High School or month and year will graduate

\_\_\_\_\_  
I applied for a Local 1167 Scholarship in (year applied).  
(Not eligible if monies received in past.)

**Complete and mail promptly to**  
**UFCW Union Local 1167**  
**P.O. Box 1167, Bloomington, CA 92316**  
**Attention: Shaelyn**

**Return by Friday, May 7, 2010**



# Staff changes at Local 1167



Rick Bruer

## Rick Bruer takes over as S-T

At the Feb. 26 Executive Board meeting in Bloomington, Rick Bruer was installed as Secretary-Treasurer, filling a vacancy left by retiring Brent Denkers.

Bruer has 32 years in the industry, including his service as Field Director for the past three years.

See story on page 6

## Pete Waasdorp named Local 1167 Field Director

**P**ete Waasdorp has been named the new Field Director of UFCW Local 1167, President Bill Lathrop announced.

Waasdorp also succeeds Bill Graham, who retired recently after 16 years of service as Grievance Coordinator.

"I feel fortunate to inherit the

grievance system established by Bill," Waasdorp said. "He did a great job, and I hope to follow in his footsteps."

Waasdorp began his career in 1980 as a courtesy clerk at Lucky-Gemco in Pomona. Six months later, he became an apprentice meat cutter.

"Tom Sloan was the meat manager and he was active in the Meat

Cutter's Union, Local 439," he recalled. "He, along with Local 439 President Jim Bird and Secretary-Treasurer Roy Sessions, were major influences in my career.

"Tom was my role model," Waasdorp continued. "He took me under his wing and inspired me to become active in the union. I owe him a lot."

Waasdorp started attending union meetings and served as a picket captain during a meat cutters strike in 1985. It was an important learning experience.

"A strike is always a last resort," Waasdorp said. "But sometimes you have no choice but to stand up and fight for your rights, just as we did in 2003-04."

He moved to Stater Bros. in 1989 and worked there until 1993, when he became a Union Representative at Local 439. In 1995, Local 439 merged with Local 1167.

"I've had the good fortune to work with a number of great union people

at this local," he said. "Bill Sauriol was the president when I first came on staff. Leo Newman, Keith Wright, Rick Bruer and Bill Lathrop all had tremendous influences on my career.

"I learned a great deal from them. First and foremost is that we are all here to serve our members."

Waasdorp said he is committed to providing each member who files a grievance with excellent representation. "They deserve our best efforts," he said.

"Our Department will thoroughly investigate each and every grievance and ensure that our members' rights are protected."

When he is not at work, Waasdorp rides his custom-built chopper motorcycle "everywhere I can."

He also loves to go trout fishing in the High Sierras, and he is an avid golfer — with a four handicap.

"When I was in high school, I had some friends who worked at a golf course, so I had the chance to play for free as often as I could," he said. "I fell in love with the game and have gotten pretty good at it over the years."



Pete Waasdorp

## New Union Rep Maria Perez fulfills a longtime goal

**A**fter more than two decades in the food industry, Maria Perez has achieved her longtime goal of becoming a Union Representative.

"I have always enjoyed helping members," Perez said. "In the past four years I have worked in both the Dues and Organizing Departments, which has given me an opportunity to do that.

"Now I will be able to assist even more members as a Union Rep."

Perez has deep roots in the UFCW. Before transferring to Ralphs 118 (Murrieta) in 2004, she accumulated nearly 17 years of membership in Locals 135 and 324 while working for Ralphs as a baker, courtesy clerk, cashier and assistant service manager.

Perez said the variety of jobs she held when she worked in the stores, including a stint as a manager, should help her in her new position.

"I'm used to people coming to me to solve problems," she said, "and the number of jobs I've done should help me to better understand any issues that arise."

Perez's role as an assistant picket captain during the 2003-2004 strike and lockout was a turning point for her.

"Carmen Paz was my picket captain at the time," Perez recalled.

"She showed us the meaning of strength and solidarity. She was a rock on the picket line.

"After I went to work for the union, she helped me a lot. She is a great role model."

Perez said recently-retired Union Rep Keith Wright was also a major influence.

"Everyone loved and respected Keith," she said, "and I was no exception."

Perez knows the year ahead will



Organizer Maria Perez, pictured at left during a Fresh & Easy campaign, has been promoted to Union Representative.

ity at every opportunity.

"It is crucial that members look to their Union Rep for accurate information," she said.

"We learned during the 2003-04 strike/lock-out that solidarity is the most important thing we can demonstrate to management," Perez said.

Perez is a single mom with two daughters, Cassandra, 17, and Alyssa, 13.

In her spare time, she enjoys watching movies with the kids.

Perez said one of her major goals as she assumes her new position

will be to emphasize to the members

the importance of following company policy. "Based on other UFCW negotiations around the country, we expect these negotiations for a new Master Food Agreement to be very difficult," she said.

Perez noted that members can make a difference by not listening to rumors and by displaying their solidar-

ity will be to emphasize to the members the importance of following company policy.

"Company policy is just like the union contract," she said. "Management has to follow the contract. But members also have to follow company policy. If they do, it will make all of our jobs easier."

# Rick Bruer elected Secretary-Treasurer

Local 1167's Executive Board has elected Rick Bruer to serve as the union's new Secretary-Treasurer, President Bill Lathrop announced.

Bruer steps into an office that was previously held by Brent Denkers, who retired recently after more than four decades in the Labor Movement.

"I know I have some big shoes to fill," said Bruer, who served as Field Director since 2007. "Brent embodied the ideal of an effective labor leader. We'll all miss him."

Bruer began his career in 1978 as a Courtesy Clerk for Alpha Beta in West Covina. He eventually became Store Director at a store in Chino Hills.

In 1991, Food 4 Less bought Alpha Beta and Bruer found that his new employer's management style was not to his liking.

"My employees and I worked as a team," Bruer said. "Alpha Beta promoted that kind of supervisory style. It was 'how can we work together to prevent or fix problems?' Food 4 Less was more authoritarian and it didn't suit the way I wanted to work."

Because he had a reputation as a manager who respected the union contract, Bruer received an offer from Local 1428 to apply for a Union Representative position.

He was hired at Local 1428 in December 1991 and worked there for 10 years before moving over to Local 1167.

"I have always been a people person," Bruer said. "Because 1167 was a bigger local, I felt I had the opportunity to help more people."

Bruer said his chief goal as Secretary-Treasurer is to promote union solidarity.

"When we are united, we can accomplish anything we put our collective minds to," Bruer said. "This is especially important as we prepare for the upcoming negotiations for a new Master Food Agreement."

When he was a Union Rep, Bruer was instrumental, along with President Bill Lathrop, in establishing Local 1167's Stewards Program.

"Stewards are among our most important assets," he said. "We rely on them to keep our members informed and to make sure the information they get is accurate."

"Rumors abound during negotiations, so getting the word out to our members will fall primarily on the shoulders of our Stewards. We can count on them."

Bruer said that, in light of other UFCW negotiations around the country, he expects the bargaining in Southern California to be difficult.

"Health care will be an especially



Rick Bruer

thorny issue," Bruer said. "Our goal is always to maintain or improve our benefits. But as it has been since the 2003-04 strike and lockout, it will take a major effort on everyone's part to stand united in the face of what we expect will be a major effort by management to test our resolve."

When he is not helping people at Local 1167, Bruer volunteers at community service programs through the Mormon Church.

"It gives me an opportunity to put our religious philosophy into action," he said. "I'm especially active with our youth groups. We go to nursing homes and spend time with people who have no one to visit them. We also help disabled people with household tasks."

"If everyone could devote some spare time to help people, it would make our world a better place."

Bruer and his wife, Lori, live in Rancho Cucamonga. They have four adult children and three grandchildren, including 6-year-old twin girls and another girl who is 20 months old.

"It's one thing as a parent to spend time with your children, but it reaches a whole new level when you have grandchildren and are able to spend moments with them," Bruer said.

He also enjoys riding dirt bikes and water skiing.

"I want to thank my wife, Lori, whose support has made all that I do possible," Bruer said.

"She is a giving person who allows me the time to do all the extra stuff that comes with working in a union and taking care of the membership."

"She's my solid rock."

## It pays to be union!



Martin Aguirre, of Lucky 6227 in El Centro, receives \$1,700 in back pay from Union Representative Jerry Espinosa. Aguirre was awarded back pay following the March settlement of a case involving improper classification.

## More: Speaker John A. Pérez

Continued from front page  
lasting reform," he said.

"We can't address the jobs crisis and the budget crisis without addressing it all in a comprehensive manner. We know our challenges are enormous, but this can be a great year for California."

Pérez's strategy to reform California's broken budget process centers around transparency and fairness.

"Our budget will no longer be negotiated behind closed doors by the 'Big Five' (the ranking members from both parties in the Assembly and Senate, plus the governor). We need the committees and the hearings and the public input."

"We're still going to have to make some painful choices. But this way we can ensure our budget is fair and we can close our deficit in ways that cause the least amount of harm."

Pérez called for an end to the rule that requires a two-thirds majority to pass the state budget and rebuked Republicans for slashing services and jobs with disregard for the millions of Californians who are struggling just to get by.

"We know our values are the values of California," he said.

"We're going to fight for the social safety net as a pathway out of poverty. We're going to fight for health care for the most vulnerable. We're going to fight to build a sustainable, green economy. And we're going to fight for fair wages, dignity and respect for all workers."

Pérez continued: "We appear to be out of the worst of the recession. But the pathway to recovery depends on job creation, and those jobs need to be high-wage, good union jobs that can't be outsourced."



# Members at work Ralphs 737



## UFCW's International President lauds passage of sweeping health care reforms

**O**n March 21, the United States House of Representatives passed health care reforms that will better serve all Americans. Thanks to the commitment of President Obama and Democratic members of Congress, we now have reform legislation that has eluded our nation's grasp for a century.

This is an achievement that will rank among the highest in our national experience.

For the countless hard-working families across the country suffering at the hands of our nation's badly broken health care system, the passage of this bill represents

an unprecedented leap forward in the struggle to ensure all Americans have access to affordable health care — and makes good on President Obama's promise to lead our country through the difficult challenges facing the American people on this issue.

With the passage of this bill comes an end to the worst of insurance company abuses. No longer will Americans have to fear being denied health insurance due to pre-existing conditions. There will be no more lifetime limits on the dollar value of benefits. No more will insurance companies be allowed to retroactively cancel insurance cov-

erage when a policy holder becomes ill.

Aside from reining in insurance company greed, the bill also extends coverage to millions of Americans who would otherwise go without, reduces prescription drug costs for seniors, while encouraging employers to fulfill their obligation of providing benefits to their workers.

UFCW members participated in the health care debate in nearly every congressional district across the country. They made calls and wrote letters, rallied and marched, visited district offices and traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with



**By Joe Hansen**

UFCW International President

elected representatives. UFCW members won't forget the representatives who voted "yes" on these reforms and stood with working people and families rather than the insurance company lobbyists.

STEWARD FEATURE

# Pete Giuliano works hard for his co-workers

**W**hen he is at home, Peter Giuliano's favorite pastime is napping.

"My wife and children kid me about it a lot," said Giuliano, a meat manager and steward at Ralphs 45 in Corona. "But I work six days a week, so it's important that I get my rest."

Giuliano never naps when it comes to protecting the rights of the members at his store.

"The most important benefit of being a union member is job protection," he said. "I tell my colleagues that at every opportunity.

"If they are treated unfairly or if there is any problem, I want them to know the union is ready to back them."

Giuliano said it is important to educate members about what the union does for them.

"Recently, several members came to me and asked why there was more money in their March paychecks," Giuliano said. "I told them that it is the union-negotiat-



**Pete Giuliano**

ed raise they were entitled to as part of our contract.

"We get so much from being in a union our members sometimes take our benefits for granted."

Giuliano began his career in 1986 as a meat clerk at Ralphs in Cerritos. He first became a steward in 2003, when he worked at a Ralphs in East Long Beach and

was a member of Local 324.

"I always felt it important that members have someone they can go to in the store if something comes up," he said. "That's why, when I came to my current store in 2007 and found we had no steward, I asked our Union Rep at the time, Rick Bruer, if I could take the job."

Giuliano said he has a good working relationship with his managers and that all problems are resolved at the store level. But if he needs backup, he knows his Union Representative, Christina Pugsley, is always available.

"Christina is great," Giuliano said. "She comes to our store frequently and always returns my calls."

Giuliano knows that with negotiations for a new Master Food Agreement looming in less than a year, the union will face a major challenge.

"The 2003-04 strike and lock-out was the hardest time in my career," he said. "It was tough and

it was scary, but we had to take a stand and fight for what we believe.

"Next year we will have to do the same thing. I'm confident that if we stay united and demonstrate our solidarity, we will prevail."

He added: "I'm prepared to do whatever it takes, and I hope everyone will commit themselves to doing the same."

When he isn't napping, Giuliano likes to spend time with his wife, Gina, and their three children: Evin, 18, Darren, 16, and Halie, 9.

He also loves to play online poker and follow NASCAR. He and Evin go to as many races as they can.

"I've got a good 15 years before I can even think about retirement," Giuliano said. "But it's good to know that, with our pension, I can have that option whenever I choose and live with dignity for the rest of my life.

"It's just one more great benefit of union membership."



## Members at work: Ralphs 45

