

DESERT EDGE

UFCW LOCAL 1167

a VOICE for working America

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

December 2009

This poem was written by a Marine stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and was published previously in this publication. Once again, most of us will be filled with the pleasure and joy of being home with family and friends this holiday season. We often forget about all of the men and women in the Armed Forces who will be spending

cold, lonely holidays away from their families. This is a well-known poem and we feel it is appropriate for reprint in the *Desert Edge*. Regardless of your opinion on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, please hold our soldiers in your thoughts this season.

— *Bill Lathrop, President*

'Twas the night before
Christmas,
He lived all alone,
In a one-bedroom house made of
Plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
With presents to give,
And to see just who
In this home did live.

I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought
Came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor
In this one-bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured
A United States soldier.

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in a poncho,
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families
That I saw this night
Owed their lives to these soldiers
Who were willing to fight.

Soon 'round the world,

The children would play,
And grownups would celebrate
A bright Christmas Day.
They all enjoy freedom
Each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
How many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve
In a land far from home.

The very thought
Brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
This life is my choice.
I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more.
My life is my God,

My country, my Corps."
The soldier rolled over
And drifted to sleep.
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still,
And we both shivered
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
On that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honor
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
With a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on, Santa,
It's Christmas Day,
all is secure."

One look at my watch,
And I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend,
And to all a good night."

Quarterly Membership Meeting: December 23, 2009

7 p.m. in the UFCW Local 1167 Auditorium, 855 W. San Bernardino Ave., Bloomington

Wishing you the
happiest and healthiest
this holiday season!
From the Officers and
Staff of Local 1167

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Return in 5 days to:
United Food and Commercial Workers
Union Local 1167
P.O. Box 1167
Bloomington, CA 92316
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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)

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



DESERT EDGE

Bill Lathrop

Editor

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

855 West San Bernardino Ave.
Bloomington, California

(Open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.)
(Closed Sat., Sun. and holidays)

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Food and Meat Division Insurance:

(909) 877-1110

Drug & General Sales Division

Insurance:

(909) 877-2331

Bleiviss Communications Incorporated
Publisher



Please report vacations to Insurance Department

Food members are urged to fill out Loss of Eligibility (vacation) forms to maintain health coverage. This does not apply to pharmacists and drug members.

The 2004 Collective Bargaining Agreements eliminated free months for insurance coverage and replaced them with a "skip month" eligibility system. For example, September hours earn coverage for November, October for December, and so on.

In order to maintain health coverage, Food and Meat Division members must work a certain minimum number of hours every month.

Food Clerks, General Merchandise Clerks and Meat Clerks must work a minimum of 92 hours and Meat Cutters must work 76 hours. Plan B Warehouse Clerks, General Clerks, Service Clerks and Meat Clerks must work a minimum of 76 hours. Clerk's Helpers and Utility Clerks need to work 64 hours.

Paid vacation hours count toward the monthly minimum number of hours, but generally they need to be adjusted manually. This is because most stores report vacation hours when they are paid on the member's anniversary date and not when they are taken. For this reason, members may get a notice that they are short on

hours in a month in which they took a paid vacation.

Many Food members are getting notices for the first time, since they have been accustomed to taking vacation time off in the free months.

As there are no longer any free

Complete the form and mail it back to the Benefits Department after you have returned from your vacation. ... The form is also available on the union's website, www.ufcw1167.org, under the Insurance Department tab.

months, many members taking vacations may get short-hour notices.

As in the contract, Vons will begin paying vacations when taken. Therefore, the vacation waiver may not be required, but it will depend on each individual.

Whenever members are short on hours, a Loss of Eligibility notice with a

place to list vacation hours will be sent to them from the trust fund in Cypress. However, since these notices often go out right before the time eligibility would lapse, this frequently results in a temporary loss of eligibility while the health trust fund processes the information and clears eligibility.

Because hours are reported just prior to coverage lapsing, if a Loss of Eligibility form reporting a vacation is on record, you will most likely still receive a Loss of Eligibility notice, but you can just call the Insurance Department and someone generally can have your coverage reinstated within the day. If there is no form on file, then there will be a lag due to mailing and processing times.

If you have taken a paid vacation and think you may be short on hours as a result, call the Insurance Department at (909) 877-1110 and request a Loss of Eligibility form (vacation waiver form).

Complete the form and mail it back to the Insurance Department after you have returned from your vacation. This will maintain your insurance coverage with minimal loss of eligibility. The form is also available on the union's website, www.ufcw1167.org, under the Insurance Department tab.

UNION OFFICE CLOSURES

Thursday, Dec. 24 — closed at noon

Friday, Dec. 25 — closed

Friday, Jan. 1, 2010 — closed

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



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 at 800-551-4010 and we will obtain assistance for you.

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: **DECEMBER DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE FEB. 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!

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Dement, a retired clerk formerly employed by White Front and Fedco, died Oct. 22, 2009, at the age of 73. She had been a member since December 1966.

Hiroshi Nishita, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Hughes, died Nov. 15, 2009, at the age of 77. He had been a member since June 1956.

Stanley Sirkow, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Sir Jax, Gemco, Lucky and Jurgensen's, died Oct. 31, 2009, at the age of 78. He had been a member since January 1955.

Steven Smith, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Lucky and Albertsons, died Nov. 20, 2009, at the age of 61. He had been a continuous member since July 1999.

Irene Staggs, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway and Stater Bros. Markets, died Nov. 28, 2009, at the age of 91.

Our condolences to the families of these deceased members.



2 Sisters workers receive \$100,000

Four former workers at the 2 Sisters poultry processing plant in Riverside recently visited Local 1167's office to receive back pay totaling more than \$100,000. The compensation checks were the result of an agreement among the union, the workers and 2 Sisters after the workers were fired illegally for participating in an organizing drive at the plant. The agreement was reached during hearings by the National Labor Relations Board after the union filed "unfair labor practice" charges detailing the company's use of illegal intimidation tactics to prevent union representation for its workers.

Baseball stars support EFCA

Twelve members of the Major League Baseball Players Association have signed a statement and appeared in print ads in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

The players include Torii Hunter, Shane Victorino, Jimmy Rollins, Mark Teixeira, Heath Bell, Dave Bush, LaTroy Hawkins, John Lannan, Andrew Miller, J.J. Putz, Justin Verlander and Adam Wainwright.

In a joint statement, the players said:

"All Americans should have the same opportunity we've had — to be able to join a union without being fired and to negotiate with their employers without being penalized.

"Today, our country is facing

some tough times. Health care costs are skyrocketing. Families are losing homes. Savings and retirement income are disappearing overnight.

"Now, more than ever, we need a strong union movement to protect our jobs, pensions and our future. The Employee Free Choice Act simply guarantees a level playing field for all workers. It makes sure everyone plays by the same rules. That's as important in the workplace as it is in baseball.

"The serious point here is that the choice to have a union on the job and bargain for a better life matters to workers no matter the sector — whether it's a bus driver, a journalist, a casino dealer or a Major League Baseball player.

"The ability to bargain along with your co-workers for fair wages, good benefits and safe working conditions is a fundamental freedom that means a stronger economy for everyone."



SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Work your scheduled hours, even during the holidays

I'm not sure if it's still the case, but when I was in school, kids got special awards for perfect attendance.

For whatever reason, perfect attendance isn't as valued today in our working lives. But coming in to work for your scheduled minimum number of hours is something we should all take seriously.

The guarantee that you will be assigned a minimum number of working hours every week is one of the best provisions in our union contract. That guarantee took years of hard work and contentious negotiations to achieve.

In the current economy, guaranteed hours are a premium that non-union workers can only envy. Even after making layoffs, companies are scheduling the minimum number of hours they can for the workers they have remaining on their payrolls.

Your union-negotiated contract is more than words on a piece of paper. It is a legally binding agreement that guarantees your rights, wages and benefits. With those rights comes an obligation to yourself, your co-workers and your employer.

We understand that taking time off during the holiday season is especially tempting. We have holiday shopping to do and friends and family from out of town who want our attention. Kids have extra time off and want you to take them to the movies. There are holiday parties you don't want to miss.

But calling in sick when you are not ill is something you should never do.

Your union-negotiated contract is more than words on a piece of paper. It is a legally binding agreement that guarantees your rights, wages and benefits. With those rights comes an obligation to yourself, your co-workers and your employer.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday season — and be thankful for the jobs we have!



By Brent Denkers

It PAYS to be UNION!

	NOVEMBER 2009	YEAR TO DATE
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$5,851.66	\$93,979.49
Members reinstated	28	227
Grievances settled	110	984

Colorado to lower minimum wage

Beginning Jan. 1, Colorado will reduce its minimum wage to reflect a falling cost of living. It is one of 10 states in the country where the minimum wage is tied to inflation.

The indexing provision was designed to protect low-wage workers from having flat wages as the cost of living rises. But because Colorado's law allows wage declines, the minimum wage will drop whenever the consumer price index moves downward.

The index fell 0.6 percent between the middle of 2008 and the middle of 2009, mostly because of falling fuel prices.

The minimum wage will be reduced to \$7.24 from \$7.28. However, since the federal minimum wage is \$7.25, most workers affected would lose only 3 cents an hour.

No state has lowered its minimum wage since the federal minimum wage law was passed in 1938.

Although other states, including Florida, Arizona, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington, have adjustable minimum wages and have seen their consumer price indexes fall, they have no plans to lower their standards.

In 2006, Colorado voters approved a referendum that mandates an adjustable minimum wage. Proponents said they never intended to see the wage rate go down. They say that employers of the estimated 50,000 to 70,000 workers in Colorado who make minimum wage are free to leave wages flat and hope they will.

Editors note: The reduction in Colorado's minimum wage is small but significant for workers who are struggling to make a living.

People who make minimum wages are already earning less than they need to survive. Any reduction is unconscionable.

This development threatens to lower community standards and harm the overall economy.



Local 1167 Union Representative Carmen Paz assists Local 99 members with their picket materials.

Solidarity averts strike in Arizona

UFCW Local 99 in Arizona reached a tentative contract settlement with Safeway Stores Inc. and Kroger's Fry's supermarket chain in the late hours of Nov. 12, narrowly averting a strike that was about to begin hours later.

Local 99 will submit the tentative agreement

to its members. The union and the companies have agreed to extend the existing contract pending the outcome of the members' vote.

No details of the tentative agreement will be disclosed until the members have an opportunity to review them and vote, a Local 99 spokesperson said.

Tesco set to lose money in 2009

Tesco, the British company that owns Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Markets, announced that its American division will lose approximately \$259 million in 2009. That amounts to a \$2 million loss for each of its 130 stores.

Fresh & Easy currently has 70 stores in Southern California, an area hit hard by the economic recession. It also has opened stores in other areas with poor economies, including Phoenix and Las Vegas.

The major problem for the company, according

to industry analysts, is a large infrastructure that was designed to support hundreds of stores and a price war in the supermarket industry.

Industry analysts also say that Tesco has made other mistakes, including choosing poor store sites and failing to understand American consumers.

Tesco Chief Executive Terry Leahy said that the company is making "good progress" despite the prolonged weakness in the California, Nevada and Arizona economies.

Misguided immigration enforcement affects your rights

A new report compiled by the AFL-CIO's American Rights at Work Education Fund and the National Employment Law Project highlights how much our broken immigration system damages the rights of all workers.

It details examples of the collateral harm experienced by immigrants and the effects on all workers when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) prioritize enforcement over workers' rights.

Unfortunately, the current system of immigration enforcement motivates some employers to hire unauthorized workers and exploit them. This results in depressed wages and working conditions for all workers in that workplace and lowers community standards.

Also, the focus on immigration enforcement over the last several decades has meant that labor law violations have not been pursued as aggressively as immigration enforcement.

That's because enforcement efforts focus on arresting workers while ignoring severe violations of labor laws in a workplace.

In most cases, unauthorized workers are detained and deported while employers are not held accountable for their behavior.

The report documents several cases in which employers called either local police or ICE to detain their own workers after the workers attempted to organize or after they complained about poor working conditions.



Fresh & Easy markets will lose money in 2009.

Members from outlying area meetings



Menifee, Nov. 11 — At the Nov. 11 membership meeting in Menifee, Gilbert Mata from Albertsons 6609, Alexander Jordan from Stater Bros. 172, retiree Thomas Davis and Tim O’Keefe from Stater Bros. 121 all won Local 1167 T-shirts.



Victorville, Oct. 29 — At the Oct. 29 Victorville membership meeting, Larry Kunkel from Albertsons 6513 won a pair of Disneyland tickets. Other Local 1167 merchandise was won by Maricela Castro from Stater Bros. 118, Arlene Hernandez from Stater Bros. 97, Tammy Sweaney from Stater Bros. 178, Tiffany Cipriani from Stater Bros. 97, Mary Moran from Stater Bros. 110, Jessica Coats from Rite Aid 5705, Ramon Serrano from Vons 2371, Chevala Bess from Albertsons 6530 and Rebecca Bobadilla from Rite Aid 5705.

Palm Desert, Nov. 10 —UFCW T-shirts and hats were won by (from left) Simon Myers from Ralphs 179, Leo Wells from Ralphs 179, Suzy Diener from Ralphs 179, John McMahan Dumosa from Ralphs 179, Mike Perrone from Ralphs 179, Juan Gonzalez from Ralphs 160, Franklin Kinsey from Albertsons 6569, Veronica Lopez from Ralphs 160 and Gloria Benanti from Rite Aid 5683.



Unions in California gaining membership

Between July 2008 and June 2009, unions gained almost 25,000 new members in Southern California and more than 131,000 statewide, according to the fifth annual report by UCLA’s Institute for Research on Labor and Employment

The report said that union membership has grown steadily over the past two years, although union workers still comprise fewer than one in five employees in the state.

It noted that much of the union growth in California has been among low-wage employees like janitors, health care workers and security guards.



Across the country, according to the UCLA study, average hourly earnings for union workers

are about \$4 more than for non-union employees.

Union members now comprise 18.3 percent of all employees in California and 17.5 percent of all workers in the Southern California region encompassing Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura and San Bernardino counties.

California ranked sixth among all states in percentage of workers represented by unions in 2008, behind New York at 24.9 percent, Hawaii at 24.3 percent, Alaska at 23.5 percent, Washington at 19.8 percent and Michigan at 18.8 percent.

About 12.4 percent of all workers in the United States are now represented by unions, reflecting a small national increase since the previous year.



Members at work

Albertsons 6503





Union Representative Debra Hutton, right, and her daughter, Jessica Damico, Stater Bros 123

Taking a stand

Union Representative Debra Hutton retires

Retiring Union Representative Debra Hutton has seen a lot of the world, thanks to George, her husband of 37 years, who served 10 years in the United States Army. Now she wants to see more of the “good ol’ USA.”

“My husband was stationed in Germany,” Hutton said. “So we’ve seen Europe and later Canada, but we really want to travel more in our own country. Now we will finally have the time.”

Hutton began her career in 1972 as a warehouse price marker at Gemco.

“It was so long ago that we put the prices on items by hand,” she said with a smile.

In 1984 she participated in a 13-week strike at Gemco.

“The company wanted to underfund our health and pension plans,” Hutton recalled. “We had to take a stand. As someone who comes from a long line of union people, I wanted to help as much as I could, so I volunteered to be a picket captain.”

The human element

Her help during the strike came to the attention of former Local 1167 President Bill Sauriol. In 1986, several months after Gemco closed its doors, Sauriol called and asked her if she would accept a temporary, part-time job in the union’s Insurance Department.

“I didn’t hesitate,” she said. “I felt it would be an honor to work for the union.”

Soon after she arrived, a part-time position opened in the Dues Department. The next year she became a permanent, full-time employee.

Hutton worked in the Dues Department for six years before moving over to the Grievance Department.

She became a Union Representative in 1999.

“I loved working with grievances,” Hutton said, “but what was missing was the human element.”

“I’m a people person. I enjoy getting to know the people who work in the stores and being able to help them personally. And I really wanted to experience that. Becoming a Union Rep gave me that opportunity.”

“We had to take a stand. As someone who comes from a long line of union people, I wanted to help as much as I could...”

Hutton said her job has provided her with a great deal of satisfaction.

“Getting someone’s job back gives you a wonderful feeling,” she said.

Hutton said she is grateful for the support she

received from her fellow Union Representatives over the years.

“Willie MacKewen was a major mentor for me,” Hutton said, “as was Keith Wright. And Bill Graham was always available whenever I had a question or a problem with a grievance.”

Hutton said it was a privilege to work with Bill Sauriol.

“I will always be grateful for the opportunity he gave me to work at Local 1167,” she said. “And I’ve also enjoyed working with President Bill Lathrop, Secretary-Treasurer Brent Denkers and Field Director Rick Bruer.”

“They have done a great job leading our local. They brought our union into the 21st century, and I know we will continue to do great things in the future under their leadership.”

Hitting the road

Hutton said her first trip after retirement will be to the Northeast.

“My husband and I haven’t been there, so we want to see New England, New York and the Mid-Atlantic states first,” she said. “After that we’ll tackle the rest of the county. We may even consider buying a motor home at some point in the future.”

In addition to traveling, Hutton plans to spend time with her adult daughter and her four grandchildren, ages 9-12.

“I’ve had a wonderful career,” Hutton said. “I’ve worked with some great people and had a chance to support our union. What more could anyone ask?”

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The holidays are a good time to 'get going' and help our union brothers and sisters

There is an old saying: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

It has been attributed to Vince Lombardi, Knute Rockne and Joseph Kennedy — all of whom did pretty well in the toughness department.

These are the times that bring out the toughness in many of us.

More than a year into what is now being called "the Great Recession," many people are still losing their jobs and many others are worried about keeping theirs.

Now is the time for union members to get tough and "get going." One way to do that is by shopping union to support your union brothers and sisters, even if you have to pay a little bit more.

By shopping union you can help people keep their jobs and help union companies expand so those who are unemployed can be rehired.

To tell the truth, shopping union isn't all that difficult. You can buy your favorite turkey, ham,

roast and the trimmings at the same place where you punch the clock.

At some of the bigger food stores, you can also find items such as small televisions, blenders, toasters, CD players and many other products suitable for giving.

Wherever you shop, look for the "Union Made" label. Keep in mind that when you buy a union-made product, you are protecting the jobs of the men and women who manufacture it. You are also supporting a company that offers its employees a good job and fair representation.

Also remember to buy American whenever you can. We don't want our good jobs going to countries where they frequently exploit children and pay poverty wages.

Just because you may think that a product is made in the U.S.A., it doesn't mean it is. Look for the label!

Here's another piece of advice: Never shop at Walmart. This anti-



By Bill Lathrop

union company is still out to destroy the jobs of every union wage-earner in this industry, and that includes you.

Don't let members of your family, or your friends or neighbors, shop at Walmart.

Walmart's 1.4-million U.S. workers make poverty-level wages. The company's inadequate benefits and arbitrary scheduling

practices make it almost impossible to support their families, let alone sustain a modest middle-class standard of living.

And Walmart has worsened America's health care crisis by failing to provide quality, affordable health care to hundreds of thousands of workers.

Walmart has driven other employers to reduce or eliminate their own benefits. Many of those employers now look to the inferior wages and benefits of Walmart employees as the benchmark to follow when the time comes to negotiate a new contract.

Be aware of what you're buying, who made it and where you're buying it. All it takes is a little effort on your part and we can improve the lives of millions of brothers and sisters. And you'll feel good about what you're buying.

It's OK to be tough if it's for a good cause.

Have a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

STEWARD FEATURE

Leadership qualities made Sheridan Faamafoe a steward

When Sheridan Faamafoe, a forklift operator and steward at the Vons Meat Service Center in El Monte, felt he was treated unfairly, he knew where to turn for help.

"I went to my union and filed a grievance," Faamafoe said.

Faamafoe was not allowed to return to his job following the 2003-04 strike and lockout.

"The company claimed that during the strike I threw things at vehicles entering the plant," he said. "That wasn't true, so I called my Union Representative and decided to fight it all the way."

Faamafoe actively participated in the grievance process. He worked with the Union Rep filling out forms, getting witnesses to testify and gathering information.



Sheridan Faamafoe

"We took it all the way to arbitration and we won," Faamafoe said. "It's a great feeling to know you

have a union to back you up and support you."

Faamafoe's efforts did not go unnoticed among his co-workers. When Union Representative Matt Bruno, himself a former plant employee, came looking for someone to be a steward, Faamafoe's name was mentioned most often by his colleagues.

"They knew that I was someone who would stand up for them because I stood up to the company to get my job back," he said. "I was honored to be asked and I accepted immediately."

Faamafoe said he knew the value of working at a union job long before he fought to get his job back.

"We wouldn't have the pay and benefits we have if we did not work under a union contract," Faamafoe

said. "And we would not have the respect on the job that we have, either."

Faamafoe said all of the issues he has dealt with as a steward are resolved at the plant level. "That's because the company knows the union will fight for its members and take it all the way to arbitration, if necessary," he said.

Faamafoe and his wife, Cindy, have four boys: Dymont, 8; Vai, 5; Reuben, 1; and Lincoln, 4 months.

When he isn't at work you will most likely find him on the golf course or the basketball court.

"I've always played basketball," Faamafoe said, "but I only took up golf two years ago. My handicap is 17, so I have a way to go, but I find it relaxing. I know the more I play, the better I will become."