



### Former UFCW member John A. Pérez elected California Assembly Speaker

**D**emocrats in the California Assembly voted unanimously in December to select John A. Pérez (D-Los Angeles) as the next Speaker of the Assembly.

Pérez will become Speaker — one of the most powerful political positions in California government — later in the year.

Pérez is in his first term as an elected public official. Previously, he spent more than 15 years working in the Labor Movement, most recently as political affairs director for UFCW Local 324 in Orange County.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Unions step forward to help people of Haiti

**W**ith each day that passes, we learn more about the horrible suffering that is being endured by the people of Haiti.

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake was only the beginning. Now its grieving survivors are afflicted by famine, disease, looting and civil unrest.

We can take some solace in the fact that the world's nations have come together to bring desperately needed food, water and medical care to the victims.

All of us have a responsibility to do what we can to help.

Your Local Union is making a substantial contribution to the UFCW Haiti Fund to assist in the recovery.

Union members who want to help also may consider making donations to the relief organizations listed on page 2 of this newspaper.

We have answered similar calls in the past. When hurricanes nearly destroyed New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast, when a tsunami drowned tens of thousands of people in southern Asia, when terrorists attacked Manhattan and Washington, D.C., and when we suffered powerful earthquakes here in California, labor unions stepped forward with a helping hand and a generous heart.

This time will be no different.

Thank you for doing whatever you can to help the people of Haiti.



By Bill Lathrop

### Our next Quarterly Membership Meeting Wednesday, March 24, 2010

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

## Mauser members ratify contract



On Jan. 18, members at Mauser overwhelmingly ratified a four-year agreement that includes maintenance of benefits and wage increases. The 33-member bargaining unit at Mauser makes giant plastic drum containers for growers in the San Joaquin Valley.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2285  
SAN BERNARDINO, CA

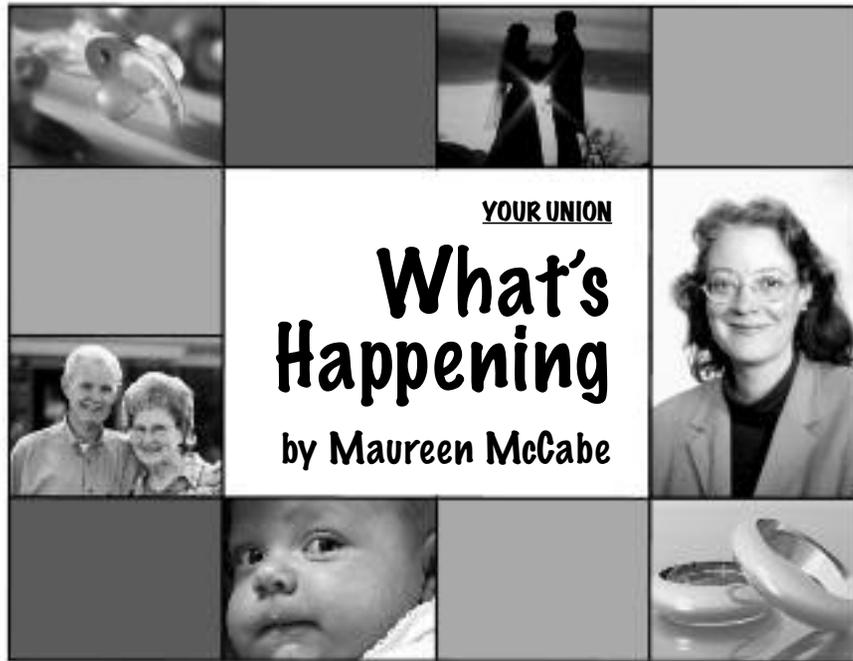
# MAP

## 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 members took the next step and retired at the end of last year.

Former meat cutter **Mark Gutierrez** filed for retirement in December. He had worked for Lucky and ended with Vons, putting in a little more than 19 years in the industry. ... **Glenda Perry** also filed for retirement in December. She worked at Vons until 2003, when she went to Stater Bros. Glenda had worked in the industry for 16 years. ... **Stanley McIntire** from Albertsons decided that December would be a good time to retire. He worked at Lucky until it

was taken over by Albertsons in 1999. He remained with Albertsons, except for a couple of months at Stater Bros., accumulating 33 years of experience in the industry. ... Finally, **Jean Sexton** retired in December. Jean worked 18 years in the industry, starting with Albertsons in 1992. She stayed with Albertsons until she transferred to Stater Bros. in 1999, then stayed with Stater Bros. through retirement.

Congratulations to our retirees! You earned it!

### Just married

**Adrianna Gutierrez** of Vons was mar-

ried on Sept. 5 in Cherry Valley. She and husband Brent Dester honeymooned in Hawaii. ... On Dec. 16, **Kathleen Garcia** of Albertsons married Jesus Navarro. ... On Dec. 18, **Abraham Meza** of Stater Bros. married Casandra Bradford. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

### Just born

**Daniel and Debbie Loomis**, both of Stater Bros., are pleased to announce the arrival of their "Angel Baby," **Bailey Elizabeth**, who was born Oct. 20 at 6 lbs. 15 oz. ... **Berlinda Silva** of Albertsons/Sav-on had a new son on Oct. 24. **Max Navarro** was 19 inches long and weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. ... **Raymond Corey** of Stater Bros. tells us his daughter, **Megyn Alexis**, was 21 inches long and weighed 9 lbs 7 oz. when she was born on Oct. 27. ... **Mark and Erika Jimenez** of Stater Bros. announce that "Daddy's Li'l Boy" **Mark Anthony III** arrived on Nov. 11, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. ... On Nov. 12, **Marion Ybarra** of Albertsons gave birth to 6 lb. 10 oz. **Olivia Rose**. ... **Deborah Lorton-Ronquillo** of Stater Bros. gave birth to **Darren James Peña** on Nov. 15. Darren weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. ... **Fortino Espinoza** of Vons delivered a son, **Benjamin Margarito**, on Nov. 23 at 7 lbs. 14 oz. ... **Zuly Carias**, Stater Bros., announces that her daughter, **Estrella Bastida**, arrived on Nov. 29, weighing 5 lbs. 5 oz. ... **Dennis Casanas** of Ralphs announces the arrival of son **Mathew Jacob** on Dec. 2. He weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. ... **Luis Ixtapan** of Stater Bros. tells us that his daughter, **Lexine**, arrived on Dec. 2, weighing 4.6 lbs. ... **Griselda Doria** of Rite Aid has a daughter. Angela was born on Dec. 3, weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. and making Griselda and Julio "very proud of our beautiful baby girl." ... **Pam Ramsey** of Ralphs and her husband, **Rick Ramsey** of Stater Bros., say they are "very blessed" by the arrival on Dec. 4 of 6 lb. 10 oz. **Emma Faith**. ... **Florangelly Hernandez** of Stater Bros. gave birth to **Nataly Belle** on Dec. 6. She weighed 7 lbs. and was 19 inches long. ... **Rejina Marie V. Avinante** of Rite Aid has a son. **Reon Kyle Domingo A. Tamboong** was born on Dec. 22 at 7 lbs. 9 oz. ... And finally, **Juanita Rodrigues** of Food-4-Less has a son. **Mark Xavier**, 6 lbs. 15 oz., was born on Dec. 27.

Congratulations to our new moms, dads and growing families!

## 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**

## It PAYS to be UNION!

	JANUARY 2010	2010 TOTAL
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$8,682.52	\$8,682.52
Members reinstated	19	19
Grievances settled	100	100

## 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: **FEBRUARY DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE APRIL 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!**

## Ways to help people of Haiti

- **Partners in Health:** Donate online at [www.pih.org/infore-sources/news/Haiti\\_Earthquake](http://www.pih.org/infore-sources/news/Haiti_Earthquake) or mail your contribution to Partners In Health, P.O. Box 845578, Boston, MA 02284-5578.
- **Doctors Without Borders:** Donate online at [www.doctor-swithoutborders.org](http://www.doctor-swithoutborders.org), call (toll free) at (888) 392-0392 or mail your donation to the organization's U.S. headquarters, 333 7th Ave., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10001-5004.
- **American Red Cross International Response Fund:** Donate online at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call (toll free) (800) RED-CROSS or (800) 257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions also can be mailed to American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013, or to your local American Red Cross chapter (specify if you want to make sure your donation will benefit Haiti).
- **RN Response Network:** Donate at [www.NationalNursesUnited.org](http://www.NationalNursesUnited.org).
- **United Way Worldwide Disaster Fund:** Donate online at <https://volunteer.united-e-way.org/uwwwdisaster/donate> or mail your check with the fund reference to United Way Worldwide, P.O. Box 630568, Baltimore, MD (212) 263-0568.

Those interested in providing volunteer assistance should contact the Center for International Disaster Information at [www.cid.org](http://www.cid.org).



## 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)  
P.O. Box 1167  
Bloomington, CA 92316

**Telephone Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Business Telephone:**  
(909) 877-5000

**Toll-Free Telephone:**  
(800) 698-UFCW

**Food and Meat Division Insurance:**  
(909) 877-1110

**Drug & General Sales Division  
Insurance:**  
(909) 877-2331

**Bleiwiss Communications Incorporated**  
Publisher





Members of UFCW Local 1167 display T-shirts and other prizes they won at the meeting.

## Membership meeting in Bloomington

**A**t the union's Dec. 23 membership meeting in Bloomington, UFCW T-shirts were won by Tim O'Keefe from Stater Bros. 121 and Dominique Wright from Stater Bros. 175.

Tim Thomas, a retiree from Stater Bros., won a pair of tickets for the Aquarium of the Pacific.

A pair of Disneyland tickets were won by Robert Svatos from Albertsons 6520 and movie theater tickets were won by Ruth Arriaga from Ralphs 113 and Adam Prohoroff from Vons 3086.

Chrisann Kilcher from the Local 1167 Membership Department received her 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-year pins and certificates. Roy Kilcher from Vons 2381 received his



Roy and Chrisann Kilcher display their membership certificates.

30-year pin and certificate.

Chrisann Kilcher also won the 50/50 Club drawing and the charity of her choice is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

### UNION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

# Do your job and trust your union

**T**his will be my final article for the *Desert Edge*, as I am retiring on April 1.

I have worked for Local 1167 as a Union Representative for 22 years. Writing these articles — and I have written quite a few over the years — has been one of the many pleasures I have experienced in my time with the Local.

I enjoy it so much because I feel that with these articles I am communicating with every single member.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of speaking with thousands of you, whether it was face-to-face or over the phone. But the articles get sent to everyone.

These articles, whether written by myself or any of the other Union Representatives, are designed to help each and every one of you perform better and avoid discipline.

Every one of us at Local 1167 would much rather take the time to teach you how to avoid problems than have to deal with them after they occur. But don't think for a moment that we will shy away from any problem.

On any given day here at Local 1167, the Union Representatives discuss with each other strategies on how to deal with the many challenges that we have concerning our members and the companies that employ them.



By Bill Graham

### Searching for a topic

I have written articles on a variety of subjects over the years. For this last article, it is difficult to decide what subject should be discussed. But I have decided on this:

Take the time to understand the union contract under which you work, along with your company's policies and procedures.

Almost every single grievance that we file concerning the discipline of one of our members has to do with a violation of the company's policy. Many of the companies have policies that go on for pages and pages, trying to list every single thing they can think of to control their work forces. And their patience is very thin when it comes to violating any of those policies.

Many members will tell us after they have been disciplined that they didn't know they were violating a policy. Unfortunately, that isn't a good excuse. More often than not, the employer will produce a copy of the policy with the member's signature on it stating he or she has read and understood that policy.

While we don't always agree with your employers over certain policies, generally you can funnel them down into one concept: common sense.

Common sense says that you come to work on time, you don't steal, you don't eat product without paying for it, you don't fight with each other or with the customers, you don't discount product to yourself, family or friends, you don't swear at the boss, etc.

That sentence could have been a lot longer, but I only get limited space!

If you don't have a copy of the company's policies, ask the manager for them. If you don't have a contract, call your Union Representative.

If you don't understand a policy or have a doubt about procedure, ask someone in authority. Do not give your employer the opportunity to fire you.

Jobs, good union jobs with the wages and benefits we all enjoy, are very hard to come by.

But even when you are doing everything right, sometimes the employers jump the gun and discipline people improperly. That is where your Union Representatives shine.

I have been told by many employers that Local 1167 files more grievances and brings those grievances to arbitration more than any other local union in Southern California. They usually tell me this to try to persuade me to drop a particular grievance and go away.

(Please see page 6)

## Apply for the UFCW and Food Employers Benefit Fund Scholarship!

**T**he Scholarship Award Program, jointly sponsored by the Employer and Union Trustees of the UFCW and Food Employers Benefit Fund, is one of the best offered to union members anywhere. The Scholarship Award Program can help you or your child earn a degree, certification or license and find new opportunities for prosperity and success.

Members are eligible to apply for an award if they have completed a year of services as of October 2009 and are still actively employed in the Southern California Retail Food Industry when the awards are determined. Dependent children are eligible to apply if the member has at least three years of service and is unmarried, younger than 24 years of age, and met other Fund qualifications, including the requirement that the member be employed in the Industry when the awards are determined. **The deadline for Scholarship Award applications is Feb. 28, 2010.** Applications must be postmarked by this date. All members should receive an application in the mail. If you did not receive one, please call your union or the Trust Fund office at (714) 220-2297 or (562) 408-2715.

**Deadline: Feb. 28**

# Brent Denkers calls it a ca

**B**rent Denkers learned two important things from his father early in life: an appreciation for unions and an awareness that there are no “free rides.”

Denkers is retiring as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1167 following a career that spanned five decades.

He said he has remembered those lessons from his father throughout his life.

“My dad was always one to impart values,” Denkers recalled. “He was a salesman for the Sunshine Cookie Company. He would go in and out of grocery markets all day, and I started to accompany him when I was 9.”

Denkers saw firsthand how some managers treated employees unfairly and, if they didn’t have a union, those employees had no protection.

“My dad pointed this out and it registered,” he said. “He told me that union employees have better benefits, a fact he learned for himself earlier in his life when he worked for the railroads.”

Denkers learned firsthand about there being no “free rides” when he graduated from high school. Many of his friends’ parents had bought them cars when they graduated.

“My father made it clear that this wasn’t going to happen,” Denkers said. “It wasn’t because he didn’t love me or because we couldn’t afford it. He told me you have to earn everything you want in life for it to have any value. He felt that if I earned the money to buy the car, I would appreciate it more and take better care of it.”

Denkers added: “He was right about

that and about everything he taught me, my sister and my two brothers.”

Denkers was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1947. When he was 4, the family moved to Norwalk, outside of Los Angeles, where his father co-owned a cleaning business for a brief time before going to work for Sunshine.

“I consider myself a native Californian,” Brent Denkers said.

Denkers began his career in the food industry in 1964 as a box boy for Alpha Beta Markets in Pomona. He worked his way up to checker before leaving four years later on a two-year mission for his church.

“I lived along the Mexico-United States border in Texas,” Denkers said. “It helped me see a side of society I had only heard about. I gained tremendous respect and admiration for Hispanic people. It was a terrific experience.”

He also learned to speak Spanish, something that would come in handy later in his career.

When he returned from the mission, Denkers met his future wife, Gail.

“Gail has been a constant inspiration to me throughout our 40-year marriage,” Denkers said. “Her support and understanding have been instrumental to me in my personal life and in my career. I could not have accomplished anything



Denkers marches in an informational picket line in Las Vegas to protect union market share.

without her.”

Denkers went back to work in the stores until 1978.

“I worked as a manager for a brief period,” he recalled. “The district manager wanted me to fire someone who didn’t deserve to be fired, so I refused. After that, the manager made my life miserable and I had to leave.”

Denkers’ reputation as a union supporter and as a fair manager got around, and that led to a job at Local 1428.

“They knew I was not intimidated and spoke the truth,” Denkers said.

Denkers’ most vivid memory of his time at Local 1428 was an organizing campaign at a shoe manufacturing plant in El Monte.

“It was the second time the union



Denkers golfs for charity with his sons.

## To the members, officers and staff:

I will miss you more than words can express. I especially value the friendships I’ve made over the years with the members, the officers and the staff of this great local.

Being a member of this union for 44 years is something I wouldn’t trade for the world.

I am confident that the leadership will continue to do a great job in the future to serve and represent you, the members of Local 1167.

Please remember that your union is no stronger or better than its membership. You make the difference.

Thanks for a great ride!

— Brent Denkers

# Career after five decades

tried to organize them," he remembered. "The work force was mostly Hispanic and the owner was taking advantage of them nearly every way he could, making their lives miserable. They had no dignity on the job.

"Just before the election, which looked like the union would win, he called immigration and had his own workers deported. Two buses from immigration took most of his work force to the border.

"We called an attorney and stopped one of the buses from crossing the border. But after that happened, the workers who remained were scared to death and we lost the election.

"It cemented in me just how important unions are to working men and women. Unions exist to protect the workers, give them a voice, bring dignity on the job and raise their standard of living."

In 1981, Denkers became Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1428. He moved on to Local 1167 as a Union Representative in 1992 and in 2001 became Secretary-Treasurer.

"Working with the people I have worked with in this union has been a special experience for me," Denkers said.

"Leaders like Bill Sauriol and Leo Newman were straight shooters and no-nonsense guys. They always had the best interests of the members at heart.

"Bill Lathrop has carried on that tradition and is dedicated to always doing what is in the best interest of our members."

Denkens said he has been impressed by the

growth of the local during his tenure.

"Unionism is a living organism," he said. "To survive, it has to grow. And in order to grow, you need good, solid leadership. Bill Lathrop has provided that leadership and that's why we've continued to grow.

"He respects the members. Everyone here has that mentality. It has been an honor to work for our members and to work with the staff and leadership here. I truly feel blessed."

In retirement, Denkers plans to spend more time with his wife, Gail, and his family. They have four adult children and 11 grandchildren ages 2-15.

"All of them live in the Southern California area," Denkers said. "That makes it easy for us to see them.

"It has always been a major goal of ours to have our grandkids grow up knowing their grandparents. And we're also blessed that three of their great-grandparents are still alive and attend as many of their great-grandchildren's events as they can."



Denkers also plans to spend more time on the golf course, as well as hunting and fishing.

"I agree with the old adage that your worst day fishing is better than your best day working," Denkers said with a smile.



Gail and Brent Denkers

**'G**ail has been a constant inspiration to me throughout our 40-year marriage. Her support and understanding have been instrumental to me in my personal life and in my career. I could not have accomplished anything without her.'



The Denkers family

# Tax Consulting & Preparation Services

Offering personalized tax-preparation services for Local 1167 members, retirees and their families.

Services are provided at the Local 1167 office.

**Monday, Feb. 15**

**Electronic Filing Services**

Call today and inquire about our preferential rates.

The numbers to call are

**(909) 874-0829 or**

**(626) 795-3815**

Call day or evening, including weekends.

This is not a walk-in service. An appointment is required.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Ruth Angermeir**, a retired drug clerk formerly employed by Sages and Thrifty Drug, died Dec. 20, 2009, at the age of 93. She had been a member since April 1965.

**Helene Flynn**, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Food Giant, Lucky and Smith's Food King, died Dec. 18, 2009, at the age of 74. She had been a continuous member since January 1963.

**Marta Fournier**, an affiliated member formerly employed by Gemco and Lucky, died Jan. 9, 2010, at the age of 61. She had been a member since January 1979.

**Gordon Frank**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Thriftmart, died Dec. 24, 2009, at the age of 76. He had been a continuous member since September 1965.

**Ruth Goodman**, a retired meat wrapper formerly employed by Ralphs and Market Basket, died Dec. 17, 2009, at the age of 86. She had been a member since July 1961.

**David Halbrook**, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Safeway, died Jan. 6, 2010, at the age of 70. He had been a member since July 1963.

**Melvin Grantham**, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by Bobs Market, Safeway, Alpha Beta and Stater Bros. Markets, died Dec. 19, 2009, at the age of 84. He had been a member since May 1949.

**Ruth Herren**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by A & P Markets and Safeway, died Dec. 23, 2009, at the age of 84. She had been a continuous member since October 1952.

**Lenora "Nonie" McDonald**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Hughes, died Jan. 9, 2010 at the age of 76. She had been a continuous member since August 1970.

**Annabelle Norman**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Vons, died January 6, 2010 at the age of 66. She had been a member since February 1973.

**Warren Woodward**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway, died Jan. 8, 2010, at the age of 86. He had been a member since September 1961.

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

## UNION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

# We're in this together!

(Continued from page 3)

If Local 1167 believes we have a solid grievance, we don't go away. We wear as a badge of honor the number of grievances we arbitrate. We don't always win, but at least the employers know they have to put on a pretty good case when they come up against us.

But many issues don't even get filed as grievances because your Union Representatives were able to resolve them before they get put to paper.

I will miss representing you. I will miss the gratitude from members when I am able to return them to work or get them some back wages they are due.

I will not miss reviewing time and pay records. While those reviews have resulted in getting hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years paid to our members, poring over them and making all of the calculations is a real pain in the... neck.

But there is a lot of satisfaction in getting the companies to pay up when they have shorted one of our members some money. I have seen individual checks written from the companies to resolve a grievance totaling as little as 53 cents and as high as \$129,222.04.

While reviewing the records is difficult and time-consuming, the end result makes it all worthwhile.

Here is my parting advice to you:

Do the jobs you are hired to do. Have trust in your union representation.

You are not working against each other, you are working together.

That is what being union is all about.

## Indemnity PPO Medical Plan Participants:

**Kick the new year off right ...  
take a step toward a healthier you!**

Here's one resolution you can keep! Spend 15 minutes to take a step toward a healthier (and wealthier) you in 2010.

Last year, nearly half of the UFCW & Employers Indemnity PPO Medical Plan participants filled out a simple 15-minute confidential **Health Risk Questionnaire (HRQ)**, received information about their health and got an extra contribution of up to \$250 to their Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs). The good news for anyone who missed out last year is that you have another chance to get those extra contributions in 2010! And those of you who completed the HRQ in 2009 will receive up to \$250 to your HRA for completing the HRQ once again in 2010.

"What's the catch?" None. During these times of rising medical costs, the Trustees want you to have the opportunity to learn how to take better care of yourself and make wiser health decisions. The HRQ is the first step in that direction.

The HRQ is confidential and is administered by an independent firm that will not give your individual HRQ results to your union, your employer or the Benefit Fund.

### Here's how the HRQ works:

- (1)** The Fund invites all Indemnity PPO Medical Plan participants and their covered spouses/domestic partners to fill out an HRQ form;
- (2)** You spend approximately 15 minutes doing the HRQ, online or on paper;
- (3)** You receive personalized, confidential feedback about your health, including any current health risks and suggestions for better health and lifestyle choices;
- (4)** An extra contribution – up to \$250 – automatically goes into your HRA so it can be applied to your deductibles and other eligible medical costs, including prescription drug copays;
- (5)** Any HRA amounts you don't use in 2010 carry over to 2011, as long as you are still enrolled in the New Indemnity Medical Plan.

Watch for more information in your mailbox from the Fund.

**NOTE: Local 1167 now has a terminal at the Insurance Department where participants can complete the questionnaire online!**



**Members  
@ Work:  
Stater Bros.  
107**



## STEWARD FEATURE

# Getting more members involved is the goal for steward Nicole Cerezo

If there was one New Year's resolution Nicole Cerezo wishes she could make come true, it would be to encourage the younger members at her store to become more active in the union.

"Our union is only as strong as we make it," said Cerezo, who is a steward at Rite Aide 5714 in Riverside.

"Many of the younger workers aren't familiar with unions and don't appreciate how important it is to have one.

"That's why I urge them to attend meetings and get more involved."

Cerezo has been a steward for three years.

"Bill Collard, our previous Union Representative, saw me at all the membership meetings and asked me to become a steward," she said. "Our



**Nicole Cerezo**

store didn't have anyone, and I know how important it is to have someone to help answer members' questions, so I accepted immediately."

Soon after Cerezo became a steward, she confronted a major issue.

"We had a case of sexual harassment," Cerezo recalled. "People were concerned about coming forward and telling the truth. They were afraid of repercussions.

"Our Union Rep, Christina Pugsley, was fantastic. She gave the members who testified the support and assurance they needed and the matter was resolved. It showed everyone that our union will always support the members."

Cerezo is a single mother of two children: Nicholas, 13, and Sommer, 10.

"As a single mom who is the sole

support of my children, I really value my guaranteed hours and my health benefits," she said.

"Shortly after I was hired nine years ago, my son broke his elbow. We had no coverage before I began my job, and I don't know how I would have paid those medical bills without our benefits."

Cerezo spends most of her spare time with her children.

"I just focus on taking care of my kids," Cerezo said. "I make sure they get to where they have to go and that they always do their homework. I'm proud to say that they are both straight-A students.

"Every pay day is reserved for them. They choose a restaurant and a movie and we all go out together. It's a good thing they're crazy about sushi, but I could do without the scary movies they love."

## MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

# Proposed law would ban liquor sales at self-checkout lines

A self-checkout machine doesn't need a paycheck. It doesn't need medical benefits, vacation/sick days or a pension.

But it's also not all that smart. Studies show that these machines can be tricked into letting minors or intoxicated customers buy alcohol illegally.

As more retailers install these machines, our roads will become more dangerous and more union jobs will be lost. California Assembly Bill 1060, introduced by Assemblyman Hector De La Torre (D-Southeast Los Angeles), would stop any store with automated checkout machines from obtaining or maintaining a liquor

license.

This legislation is supported by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and California law enforcement organizations, as well as the UFCW. It is expected to pass the California Senate and Assembly, but Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says he might not sign it because it may not be "the will

of the people."

Please fill out the card below and mail it to the Local 1167 Office (address listed below) and the union will send the card to its proper destination.

Do it to protect our children. Do it to save lives. Do it to save your job!

Fill out  
this form  
and mail  
it to:

**UFCW Local 1167  
P.O. Box 1167  
Bloomington, CA  
92316**

## YES. I support the bill to stop alcohol sales through self-checkout machines.

**Governor Schwarzenegger:**

**I urge you to sign AB 1060 (De La Torre) into law so that alcohol will be sold through face-to-face transactions to prevent access to minors and intoxicated customers.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**AB 1060 is supported by:**

**Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD)  
California Council on Alcohol Policy  
California Police Chiefs Association  
California Narcotics Officers Association  
California State Sheriffs' Association  
California Peace Officers' Association**