



HELP US GET OUT THE VOTE!

UFCW retirees are well aware that every election is a chance to shape the future of our country.

As the midterm elections approach, the UFCW has been training member activists, building grassroots networks in targeted states, and having conversations with workers about the issues that matter most to them and their families. In this tough political environment, we're asking members to turn their discontent into action by exercising their right to vote.

Many UFCW retirees have helped with this effort by working with their locals to contact members about the importance of voting, and I encourage all retirees to stay connected with our union to help members register to vote. Together, we can make sure our members' voices are heard and our democracy stays strong.

In this issue, you'll find information about some of our first-ever organizing and bargaining wins since the last issue of Retiree Voice, as well as a spotlight on one of the UFCW's retirees. The Voluntary Assignment of Pension Benefits form for the UFCW International Active Ballot Club is available [here](#).

Thank you for making our union better and stronger. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Milton Jones,
President, UFCW International



CHAIR'S CHATTER

BY JIM LOWTHERS



"This is a consequential election, and working people deserve a voice in shaping the future."

We're living through a defining moment for workers and the labor movement. In less than two years, we've witnessed unprecedented challenges to workers' rights, collective bargaining, and the institutions that protect working families.

We've seen attempts to weaken unions, divide workers, and roll back hard-fought gains that generations before us sacrificed to achieve.

And the consequences go far beyond the workplace. Critical programs like food assistance and Medicaid have been slashed. Voting rights are also being dismantled, and attacks on our immigrant co-workers, friends, and neighbors have intensified. Food and gas prices are soaring, while billions of dollars have been allocated for ICE detention centers and foreign wars.

That's why voting matters. As the midterm elections approach, we're encouraging members to get informed and ready to vote—and we need your help.

UFCW retirees are well known for high voter turnout and many of you are already working with your locals to help get out the vote ahead of the midterm elections. I encourage all UFCW retirees to continue talking to family members, neighbors, and community members about the importance of voting for pro-worker candidates. I also encourage you to refer voters to the UFCW Votes website at ufcwwotes.org, a one-stop-shop for all the information our members need to make sure they are registered and ready to vote.

This is a consequential election, and working people deserve a voice in shaping the future. Together, we can get out the vote and inspire family members, neighbors, and community members to uphold democratic values and stay engaged in the political process.

To stay connected with other UFCW retirees, you're welcome to join the Facebook group for UFCW retired staff [here](#).

The list of UFCW brothers and sisters who have passed on in the last six months is available [here](#).

BUILDING WORKER POWER



From organizing workers in new workplaces to negotiating first union contracts, our union continues to deliver real results for working families.

Chemotherapy nurses working at the Watson Clinic Cancer and Research Center in Lakeland, Fla., voted to join UFCW Local 1625 in July. This is the first unit at this clinic to join the local.

Organizers say that in hopes of stalling the organizing effort, the employer added four nurse practitioners and a team lead to the vote list. That led to five challenged votes out of the 15 votes cast, which wasn't enough to silence the voices of the nurses whose concerns with safety and fairness led them to seek out union representation.

The nursing staff behind the win said they're looking to improve the workplace for both themselves and for those who come after them. "We wanted to join the UFCW to provide support for current and future healthcare workers."

In June, UFCW Local 400 members working at the Apothecarium cannabis dispensary in Burtonsville, Md., ratified their first collective bargaining agreement.

The three-year contract raises standards of living and improves the working conditions for the 15 employees who interact directly with the dispensary's customers.

After unionizing with UFCW Local 400 in September 2024, Apothecarium workers were pleased to have won a strong agreement. "It feels great to get a contract for everyone at the dispensary," said bargaining committee member Nick Belton.

"It's great to work for a company that listens and actively works with the union to hear our needs and try and come to the best possible solution that works for everyone," said Samira Wilson, who was also part of the bargaining committee. "And a big thanks to our union for being there and checking in on us to make sure that we have everything we need."

UFCW RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

Local 1776 Member Nancy Guzzi



Nancy Guzzi (in red shirt) poses with fellow UFCW Local 1776 Acme Markets members (left to right) Ramonita Rivera, Lucy Sweeney, and Monica Cobb.

After 48 years of service, UFCW Local 1776 member Nancy Guzzi retired from her position at the Acme Markets store in Bensalem, Pa., on August 31.

A Pennsylvania native, she began her career at the Bensalem Acme Markets store in 1978. Over the years, she worked in a variety of part-time positions, including as a cashier and Floral Department associate.

Following the store's remodeling in 1998, she moved to the salad and melon bar and continued working in that role as an essential worker during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reflecting on her long career, she said, "I'm glad I was a union member. The benefits were better and it made my job easier."

Congratulations, Nancy Guzzi, on your well-earned retirement and thank you for your years of service at Acme Markets!

UFCW International Union Pension Plan for Employees Authorization

VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT OF PENSION BENEFITS

All retired UFCW members are eligible to join the Active Ballot Club (ABC), the UFCW's political action committee through the voluntary assignment of pension benefits. The ABC helps mobilize UFCW members to advocate for the issues that make their lives better. From getting union members out to vote to lobbying for worker-friendly legislation to supporting elected leaders who will represent the interests of working people—every dollar helps to ensure that the laws passed at all levels of government help hard-working families enjoy more economic stability.

The Voluntary Assignment of Pension Benefits form for the UFCW International Active Ballot Club is available at the link below.

[Contribute Here](#)

America's Food and Retail Union



@ufcwinternational



@ufcwunion



@UFCW