

dialogue

Vol. 35, Number 1 – January 2013

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year



President's Report
– Page 3



Justice at Walmart
– Page 7



Stewards' Training
– Pages 16-17

UFCW LOCAL 1776
a VOICE for working America
www.ufcw1776.org

dialogue

United Food and Commercial Workers
Local 1776
3031-A Walton Rd., Suite 201
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
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January 2013



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In Memoriam Charles Dewey

Local 1776 was saddened to learn of Newtown Square Acme Shop Steward Charles Dewey's death early in December. The officers and staff extend their deepest sympathies to the Dewey family in their time of sorrow.



1958-2012

Moved? Let us Know!

If you've moved, changed your phone number or changed your name, please let Local 1776 know so that you don't miss any important news. Visit ufcw1776.org and click on the **Member Services** tab to access a form that you can submit online, mail or print out and give to your Union Representative.

UFCW LOCAL 1776
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Report from the President: Acme's owner, Supervalu, is in a shaky position

By Wendell W. Young, IV, President

Local 1776's Acme members have been working under an extension of their contract since it expired last February. They have every reason to wonder why negotiations on a new agreement haven't moved along more quickly.

The answer lies in the shaky financial position of Supervalu – the parent company that owns Acme Markets.

It's an understatement to say that the year now ending has been unkind to Supervalu – a giant food wholesaler and retailer headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minnesota:

- Same store sales are down sharply, continuing an unfortunate trend that dates to 2009.
- The Wall Street rating agencies have clobbered Supervalu's stock and bond ratings.
- The company's plan to grow sales by reducing prices has been faltering and ineffective.
- Steps to reverse the slide have failed – cuts in corporate staff, cuts in store staff, cuts in pay and benefits for non-represented staff, and store closings – including our own Sharon Hill store.
 - As the company's debts have reached \$6.5 billion, its stock has fallen further and further behind the Standard and Poor average performance and the average of its peers in the supermarket industry.



1776 members Diana Kokorsky, (left) of the Flourtown Acme, and Rodney Brown, Shop Steward at the Jenkintown Acme.

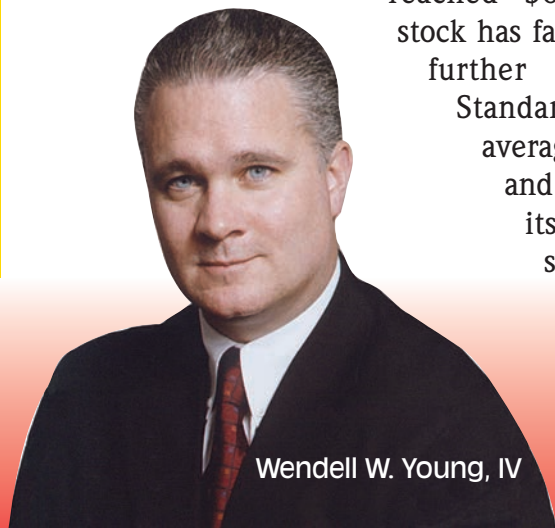
Since last July, it's been clear that Supervalu is seeking to sell itself, in parts or as a whole.

Selling won't be easy, however. The company has a large number of employees – more than 130,000. It has many banners and bargaining agreements across the country. It has growing debt and as much as \$1 billion in unfunded pension liabilities. The combination makes any sale a complex one.

It's within this uncertain future that Local 1776's contract with Supervalu sits – a relatively small piece in a big picture.

We know that the company is talking to potential buyers and investors. We don't know whether we'll see results in two weeks, two months, or longer. The uncertainty about Supervalu's future has made this a less than opportune time to try to reach agreement on a contract.

(Continued on page 4)



Wendell W. Young, IV

(Continued from page 3)

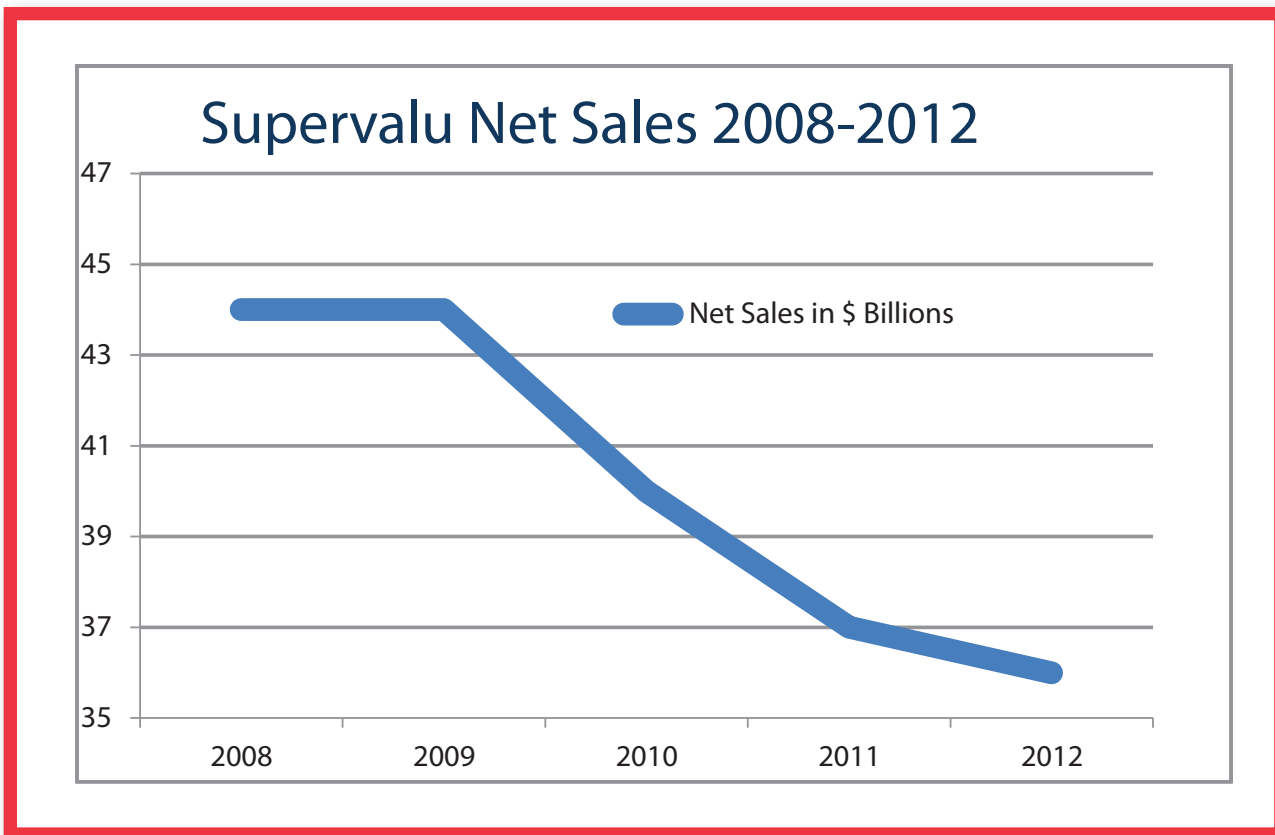


Acme Shop Stewards (from left) Calvin Evans, of the Wayne Acme, Paul Ludwig, also of the Wayne store, and Craig Schaeffer, of the Phoenixville store.

But we have been active, meeting with company officials throughout the past year. We're working closely with our International UFCW in Washington, DC. More than 70,000 UFCW members work in stores carrying Supervalu banners. The International has hired top-level financial and industry experts to analyze the company's alternatives and their impact on our members.

Supervalu and Acme's futures are uncertain

The one thing we hope to avoid is the situation our Superfresh and Pathmark members found themselves in when their parent company, A&P, declared bankruptcy. Our 1,200 members were part of the nearly 40,000 UFCW members in 13 Mid-Atlantic state locals who learned they were at the mercy of a federal bankruptcy court – not a good place in which to defend your wages and pensions.



Working with the International, we will continue to monitor Supervalu's situation closely. We'll do everything we can to work with prospective buyers who are interested in

Our experts will analyze Supervalu's alternatives

investing in Acme and providing job security for our members.

In the meantime, I know that our Acme members will continue to provide the excellent service that has been the best part of Acme for so many years. We'll use all of the means at our disposal to keep you informed, and we'll seek your input as we move forward.

Our 2,500 Acme members are not the only members who face a threat. The New Year finds 3,500 PA Wine and Spirits members in our Local and Local 23 in West Pennsylvania facing new and bigger threats of privatization from House Majority Leader Mike Turzai and Governor Tom Corbett. And we're preparing for what's shaping up to be difficult negotiations for more than 2,500 ShopRite members whose contracts are on extension.

I know, however, that by standing in solidarity with each other we have strength to face these challenges. We've done it in the past and we'll do it again – working together and supporting each other to defend the wages and benefits we've worked hard to earn. If we do that, 2013 will be a good year.

On behalf of my fellow officers and staff colleagues here at Local 1776, I wish all of our members and their families a happy and healthy new year.



ShopRite members from the Oregon Ave. store at meeting to discuss contract negotiations (rear, from left) Kathy Hand, Agnes Shogi and Tom Levine; (front, from left) Louiesa Torres, Anita Morino and Carla Procopio.



Celebrating the grand reopening of Acme's Newtown Square store are, from left, Joanne Thompson, Union Representative Marcy Fonseca, Sharon Byfield and Madeline Klump.



Young meets with ShopRite members.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

What 'Right to Work' Really Means

It was a tragic day when “right to work” legislation – it’s anything but – became the law in Michigan. In a state that produced so much great labor movement history, the right wing blocked democratically elected unions from collecting dues from all of the members in a workplace.

I had hoped that with the 2012 General Election behind us, we’d seen enough lies and half-truths. But now, Gov. Rick Snyder should be ashamed of himself for describing the legislation he signed as something that will help working people and the economy.

‘We’re stronger when we stand in solidarity.’

Every bit of evidence says otherwise:

- The annual median family income is \$6,437 less than in states without “right to work” laws;
- The average worker makes \$1,540 less a year;
- 28 percent more people lack health care insurance;
- The average poverty rate is 18 percent higher; and,
- The rate of deaths in the workplace is 36 percent higher.

That’s what “right to work” really means – in addition to allowing freeloaders who don’t pay union dues to mooch a free ride for all the services they get from the unions their coworkers have voted democratically to join!

The irony is that the threat of “right to work” is not new. The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. warned of its dangers in 1961, stating:

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must

guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’

“It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights.”

UFCW International President Joe Hansen aptly called “right to work” a “sham:”

“I am deeply disappointed that Michigan has gone over to the dark side. ‘Right to work’ is a sham that provides no new rights and no new work. It is designed for a single purpose: to give more money and power to CEOs at the expense of their workers.

“But make no mistake. We will use this moment to build a stronger union, ramp up communication and outreach, and help our members continue to bargain for a better life.”

AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka said Gov. Snyder and his right-wing allies showed their “true colors” by pushing the “right to work” bill to passage with no legislative hearings in a lame-duck session.

“He’s a puppet of extreme donors, and he is willing to ignore and lie to his constituents. His action will undoubtedly please the Koch Brothers and corporate CEOs, but it will diminish the voice of every working man and woman in Michigan.”



We Stood for Justice!

We Stood with Walmart Workers!

Hundreds of community activists joined Local 1776 members on Black Friday 2012 in the drive for justice for Walmart workers. They stood with us outside of Walmarts in Philadelphia, Allentown and East Stroudsburg to say that Walmart workers deserve fair pay, benefits and respect – part of a nationwide effort that took place at nearly 1,000 Walmart stores.

“Walmart workers across the country have been speaking out for a change at Walmart,” said Wendell W. Young IV, President of Local1776. “Many have taken the courageous step of walking off their jobs. We’re here to demonstrate that they are not alone, and that we support them in the face of the retaliation they have met in their effort to win family-sustaining wages, benefits and respect in their workplace.”

Joining Local 1776 were the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Fight for Philly; Jewish Labor Committee; Jobs with Justice; the NAACP; Occupy Philadelphia, including its Labor Working group and its Legal Collective; Up Against the Law; Philadelphians Allied for a Responsible Economy; Philadelphia Unemployment Project and the Restaurant Opportunities Center.



Included in those who walked off the job was Walmart employee Jesus Gonzales of the Aramingo Avenue Walmart.



Contracts: A Busy 2012 Completed, And a Busier 2013 Ahead

As we head into 2013, Local 1776 can count a full list of contracts completed and ratified by members in the past 12 months – as well as a full list of agreements now in active negotiations or getting ready to move to the bargaining table. Major contracts include:

Contracts to be Negotiated in 2013:

Blythe Township
Cedarbrook Nursing Home
Citizens Bank Park
Dreshertown Shop-N-Bag
DuBois Shop-N-Save
DW Richards & Sons
Knouse Foods
Northern Cambria Giant Eagle
Plumbers & Pipefitters – Clerical
Plumbers & Pipefitters – JATC
PPL Park
Shelly's RXDN & SMS
ShopRite of Liberty and Monticello
Sun Re Cheese
Timber Ridge Health Care Center
Wells Fargo Complex

Contracts Completed in 2012:

Birchwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
Borough of Dunmore – Clerical
Cargill Meat Solutions
Cove Shoe
Empire Kosher Poultry
Hanover Foods (Centre Hall)
Health Care Services Group, Inc.
Health Care Strategies, Inc.
Hershey Chocolate USA
Liacouras Center
Meriwether – Godsey, Inc.
PA State Employees Credit Union
PA Wine & Spirits Stores
Pittston City – Clerical
Pittston City – Streets & Sanitation
Plains Township -- Clerical
Pocono Springs
SERMAC, Inc.
Timber Ridge Nursing Home
Tops Market, LLC
Township of Plains DPW
UFCW Federal Credit Union
Wise Food

Contracts Currently in Negotiations:

Acme
Adhesives and Chemicals, Inc.
American Arbitration Association
Borough of Dunmore – DPW
Food Basics, Inc
Gino Moreno Enterprise
Hanover Foods Corporation
JFK Medical Center
ShopRite – Ammon's Markets
ShopRite – Brown's Super Stores
ShopRite – Colligas Family Markets
ShopRite – Collins
ShopRite – R&R
ShopRite – Zallies
UFCW Federal Credit Union, NE PA
Village Supermarkets – Clerks Unit
Village Supermarkets – Meat Cutters
West Pittston DPW

Experience Counts at Burlington Coat!



Lydia Federici, 31 years



Isabella Timlin, 32 years



Florence Campbell, 31 years

Local 1776 at Burlington Coat Factory in Clifton Heights can boast of three members who each claim more than 30 years of service.

Isabella Timlin, of Clifton Heights, Florence Campbell, of Clifton Heights, and Lydia Federici, of

Prospect Park, all say they still enjoy the job and point to photos in the break room showing how little they've aged since they first arrived just a few years after the store opened on Baltimore Pike in Delaware County.

Leading Burlington Coat's Clifton Heights team are, from left, Shop Steward Augusta Henry, Isabella Timlin, Lydia Federici, Store Manager Carmen Houston, Florence Campbell and Union Representative Melinda Robertson.



John Tynan – One of many hard-working Shop Stewards

Local 1776 is fortunate to have a good number of hard-working Shop Stewards throughout the Union. Among them is John Tynan, Steward at the East Norriton ShopRite in Montgomery County, PA.

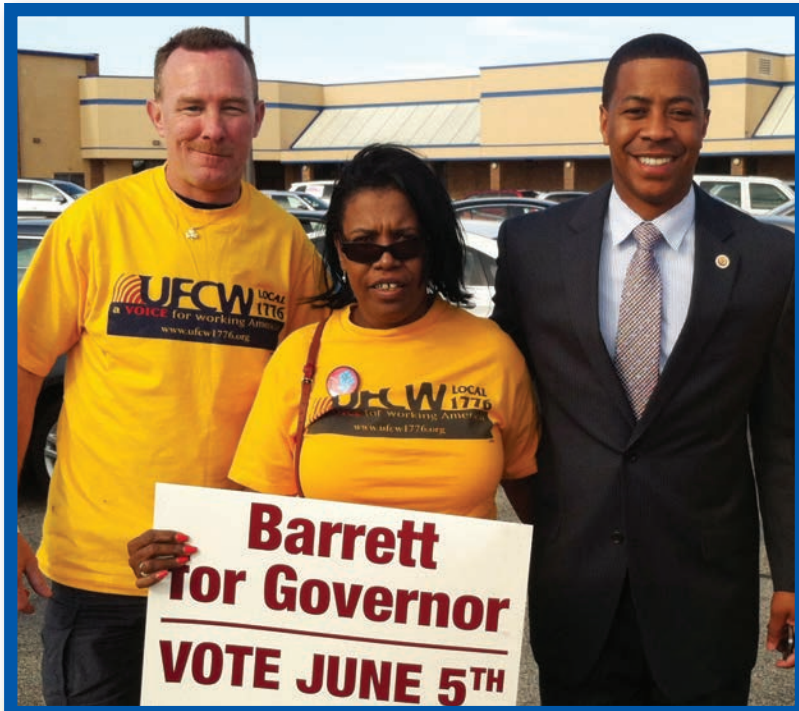
In just this past year alone, John has taken part in 1776 actions ranging from anti-privatization rallies in Harrisburg, PA to the recall elections in Wauwatosa, WI and the Walmart campaign closer to home. A big 1776 thank you goes to John and to all our dedicated Stewards.



On the Walmart line



Participating in Stewards' meeting



On the campaign trail in WI



Signing in at ShopRite membership meeting

1776 On the Job Before and After Sandy

Hurricane Sandy affected more than 200,000 UFCW members across New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and surrounding areas. In the wake of this disaster, the UFCW International has established a Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Fund to aid these families in recovery. The impact has been catastrophic, and our UFCW brothers and sisters need our help in these trying times.

All of the funds collected will provide direct and immediate financial support to UFCW members living in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. Every little bit helps. Visit wepay.com/donations/ufcw-sandy to donate. Share this link with family and friends so they can lend a hand, too.



Department of Public Works employees ready to face Hurricane Sandy in Pittston: (front, from left) Bruce Widdick, John Whispell, John Symons and Vince Bucci, Shop Steward; (rear) Greg Holl, Don McNulty and Joe Gallagher.



Loading equipment is (left) John Whispell and Bruce Widdick.



In Plains Township are 1776 members Matt Dunsmuir (right) at water pump and Luke Marek directing leaf machine.



Facing a Challenging Year in Harrisburg

By John Meyerson
Director of Legislative and Political Action

The year ending in Harrisburg had no shortage of challenges for working men and women in Pennsylvania – from fighting privatization of the Wine and Spirits stores and the emergence of Gov. Corbett’s last-minute plan to sell the state’s lottery, to the battle for a fair budget and the preservation of programs that build strong communities for all of our citizens.

With a new legislature taking office on January 1, the agenda will be no less demanding:

- Gov. Corbett and House Majority Leader Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) have stated their clear intention to eliminate the 5,000 family-sustaining jobs by selling the PA Wine and Spirits stores to their private sector allies. They don’t mention how they would replace the \$500 million in taxes and profits that benefit all Pennsylvanians, whether or not they are customers. Our task will be to point to the many benefits of modernization, which would raise more revenue and provide even better service to consumers. For the latest news, visit the **About the PLCB and Privatization** tab at ufcw1776.org.
- We’ll be heavily involved in the drive for a fair state budget that provides the essential services and critically needed investments to grow Pennsylvania’s economy. Working with our labor partners, we’ll advocate for a budget that’s not balanced on the backs of working men and women. For the latest news, visit ClearForPA.org.



- Pension reform is likely to move to the forefront. Pennsylvania’s current workers and teachers did not cause the funding shortfall in the system. They earned their pensions. They should not be held accountable for the legislature’s failure to act. Any resolution must provide for their retirement security and that of workers to come.

- Right now there’s no serious move in PA to adopt “right to work” legislation – the proposal that would outlaw closed shops, letting workers opt out of paying union dues even though they get all of the benefits. This undemocratic concept really should be called “right to work for less.” It’s an attack on everything that unions have fought for and secured. It surfaced and passed at the last minute in Michigan, and we’ll do everything we can to stop that from happening here.

Our success depends greatly on member involvement. I urge you to become engaged. For example, it’s easy to let your State Representative and State Senator know that you want modernization of the Wine and Spirits stores, not privatization. Just visit ufcw1776.org to locate your elected officials. Join Local 1776’s Political Action Committee. Make sure you, your family and work colleagues are registered to vote. If you have any questions, contact your Union Representative or me at jmeyerson@ufcw1776.org.



Guaranteeing the Rights of Members

By Ed Chew

Executive Assistant to the President/Legal Director

As 2012 comes to a close, UFCW Local 1776 can count more than 100 grievances prosecuted on behalf of members in the arbitration process during the calendar year.

The arbitrations were pursued based on a full range of different issues, ranging from hours denied and improper suspensions to collective bargaining agreement issues, unjust terminations and other specific grievable claims.

In 2012, as in most other years, the companies that we moved against also ran the gamut of the more than 70 companies in which our members work. We moved aggressively on these problems to make sure the rights guaranteed to Local 1776 members are not ignored or abused.

While many members do not wish to have their identities revealed in public after they have gone through this process, I feel that it is nonetheless important to demonstrate how successful we have been in the arbitration process. So as an end-of-the-year demonstration of our success, I have included a few statistics to show our members how important the grievance and arbitration process is.

In 2012, out of the more than 100 cases that went to the arbitration process – including cases on which hearings were held, and those that were settled prior to hearings — the Union prevailed on behalf of our members in more than 98 percent of the cases. This is a testament to the fine work of a



number of people involved in our process, including the members themselves, our Shop Stewards, your Union Representatives, the entire Local 1776 staff and, of course, our excellent attorneys.

In addition, we also have put together the amount of funds that the Union has recovered for our members in this past year. While not every case involves money as one of the settlement features, many do. Out of our more than 100 cases,

Local 1776 recovered more than \$350,000 – and every dime goes only to the members of the Union.

In addition to these recoveries, additional funds also were won for members whose approximately 2,000 grievances were processed and settled without having to go to the arbitration process.

Local 1776 always has ensured that the Collective Bargaining Agreements we negotiate are enforced. We will continue to make sure that all members of the Local receive every penny and benefit that they have worked so hard to earn on the job.

Thank you, and best wishes for the new year.





A Big Win for the Middle Class!

On behalf of the officers and staff at Local 1776, congratulations and thanks are in order to 1776 members for turning out in great numbers on Election Day to ensure a big win for our nation's middle class families.

Together, we beat back an effort by radical right-wing corporate interests to buy our democracy – including union busters who want everyone to work at low-wage, no-benefits Walmart-type jobs.

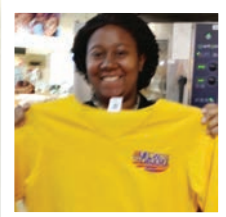
We saved health care reform, which will make a difference in the cost of our insurance plans. As many as 30 million additional Americans will secure coverage and not have to rely on emergency rooms – costly care that in the end all of us pay for every day.

We built support for a tax policy that asks wealthy Americans to pay their fair share, as working people now do. And we protected our retirement security and laid the groundwork to create more jobs and continue on the path to economic recovery.

We recognize and appreciate that more than 70 percent of UFCW members turned out to vote for progress. The results will make a difference in the lives of all of our members.

Now, it's time for our elected officials – even if they hold different principles – to work together and create solutions for all of us. It's time for us to become even more engaged and advocate for government that benefits working families. Our livelihoods and economic security depend on the quality and strength of the case we present to our representatives.

Wendell W. Young, IV
President





Citterio and Cargill Stev

Citterio Shop Stewards met for training at 1776's Pittston, PA office and took in a review of the Family Medical Leave Act and the American Disabilities Act. The discussion was led by Rick Poulson, of the Local's law firm, Willig, Williams & Davidson.



From left, Michael Palmer, John Courgis and Robert Malloy.



Taking a break from Citterio Shop Stewards' training are, from left, Leeann Mahan, Union Representative Cathy Paninski, Ken Delfine, John Uhrin, Robert Malloy, John Courgis, Ed Graaf, 1776 Secretary-Treasurer and Director of the Northeast and Central Divisions Michele Kessler, Loran Yackanicz, Karen Moyer, Union Representative John Werkheiser and Michael Palmer.

wards' Training

Getting ready to participate in a full day of Shop Stewards' training at Local 1776's Northeast Pennsylvania office in Pittston were the Stewards from Cargill Meat Solutions, in Hazelton. The Stewards – all members of Local 1776's Political Action Committee – discussed a range of issues, including forklift safety, grievance procedures and the political environment.



Cargill Stewards Manuel Montas, Multi-vac, 2nd Shift (left) and Rachel Solis, Pork, 2nd Shift, take part in discussions on job training.



Standing, from left: Michele Kessler, 1776 Secretary-Treasurer; Rachel Solis, Pork, 2nd Shift; Carlos Martinez, Pork, 1st Shift; Manuel Montas, Multi-Vac, 2nd Shift; 1776 President Wendell W. Young, IV; Bernardo Guzman, Beef, 2nd Shift; Robert Harrison, Maintenance, B Shift; Walter Lausterer, Maintenance, A Shift; and Union Representative Linda Bello. **Front Row, from left:** Aquilino La Paz, Grind, 1st Shift; Milagros Cordero, Shipping, A Shift; Rafael Moreta, Box Making, 1st Shift; Lourdes Castellano, Beef, 1st Shift and Co-Chief Steward; and Jorge Moncayo, Multi-Vac, 1st Shift, Chief Steward. Not pictured is Evarista Severino, Beef, 1st Shift.

1776 Raises \$23,000 for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society



Taking Steps To
CURE CANCER.™

Mayor Michael Nutter acknowledges Philadelphia's top Leukemia & Lymphoma Society contributors, including Local 1776, represented by President Wendell W. Young, IV (right.)

Members of Local 1776 stepped to the front for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual Light the Night fundraising walk – the nation's night to pay tribute and bring hope to people battling cancer.

Mayor Michael Nutter and 1776 President Wendell W. Young, IV kicked off the walk, which started and ended at the Philadelphia Art Museum.

The Local's team raised more than \$23,000 for the LLS, making the Local one of the leading contributors to the Philadelphia chapter.

Special thanks to all those who participated and showed their support for a cause that touches many of our members' lives. Keep an eye out for details on next year's walk and how to get involved.

Taking part on Local 1776's walk team were (from left) Nancy Flanagan, Chris Naylor, Pam Saunders, Tara Innamorato and Mark Layer.



2013
Calendar
for
Local 1776

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETINGS**

Tuesday, March 26, 2013, 1 pm
UFCW Local 1776 Walton Rd. Campus
3031-A Walton Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 1 pm
UFCW Local 1776 NE PA Office
2007 Highway 315
Pittston, PA 18640

**NORTHEAST DIVISION
AREA MEETINGS**

Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 6pm
UFCW Local 1776 NE PA Office
2007 Highway 315
Pittston, PA 18640

Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 6pm
Hampton Inn
114 South 8th St.
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 6pm
Days Inn of Liberty
25 Sullivan Ave.
Liberty, NY 12754

Tuesday, May 7, 2013, 6pm
Comfort Inn
58 State Route 93
West Hazleton, PA 18201

Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 6pm
Microtel Inn & Suites
90 Dorsett Heights
Mansfield, PA 16933

**SOUTHEAST DIVISION
AREA MEETINGS**

Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 6 pm
UFCW Local 1776
3031-A Walton Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Thursday, February 7, 2013, 6 pm
Plumber's Hall, Local 690
2791 Southampton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154

Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 6 pm
Lehigh Valley Labor Council
at: A.P.W.U. Local 268
3360 Airport Road, 2nd Floor
Allentown, PA 18109

Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 6 pm
Berks County Agricultural Center
1238 County Welfare Road
Leesport, PA 19533

Thursday, May 16, 2013, 6 pm
Seafarer's International Union
2604 South 4th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 6 pm
UFCW Local 1776 Walton Rd. Campus
3031-A Walton Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

**CENTRAL DIVISION
AREA MEETINGS**

Monday, March 11, 2013, 6pm
AFSCME District Council 83
160 Patchway Road
Duncansville, PA 16635

Monday, April 8, 2013, 6pm
AFSCME Conference Center
150 South 43rd St.
Harrisburg, PA 17111

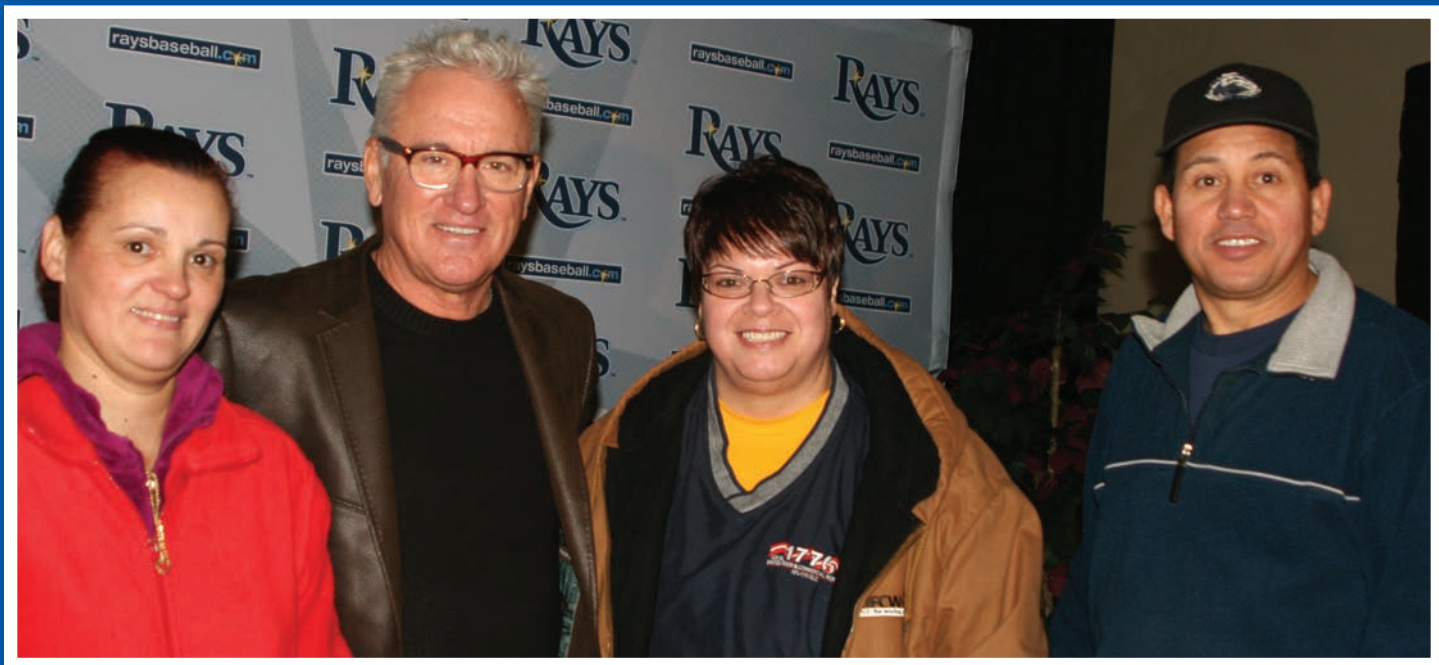
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Youth Center in Hazleton



Local 1776 teamed with Tampa Bay Rays manager and Hazleton, PA native Joe Madden to support the creation of the Hazleton One Community Center. From left at media event announcing the project are Lourdes Castellano, Shop Steward at Cargill Meat Solutions, Madden, 1776 Union Representative Linda Bello and Rafael Moreta, also a Shop Steward at Cargill. The Center will be the new home for programs for underprivileged youth, providing educational, cultural and athletic activities.