

OUR MISSION:
 Providing leadership,
 representation and
 education to better the
 lives of all working
 people

Secretary-Treas. Report

By Jeff Anderson

Why UFCW does the Active Ballot Club

The 2014 election swept anti-worker politicians into office across the country. Unfortunately this was no accident. This election cycle saw unprecedented amounts of corporate money overpowering citizen's voices nearly everywhere. Billionaires like the infamous Koch Brothers spent more than ever. In 2014 they spent about 400 million dollars of their inherited fortune buying the election, and it appears they are doubling down. Recent news articles coming out of their annual con-

ference suggest the Koch Brothers are budgeting \$899 million dollars in 2016. That is a stunning amount of spending.

What are they expecting for their money? They are looking for a return on their investment and they are anticipating the return to be huge. Already they attacked the laws securing union pensions and, now that the Senate has changed hands, they are going to be expecting even more. Their power grab at the state level is even greater. Anti-worker legislation is being pro-



JEFF ANDERSON
Secretary-Treasurer

posed in eleven states, which would further damage the futures of American workers.

Sadly, the private sector unionized workforce is down to less than seven percent of the total workforce. It has become painfully apparent that new approaches are needed in addition to our usual efforts at the bargaining table. Working people simply cannot surrender the political arena to the billionaires like the Koch Brothers. Working people desperately need a voice at the political table to defend their interests. A wise person once said, "If you aren't at the table, you're on the menu." Nothing could be truer. That's why Dan and I have focused on building our Active Ballot Club.

All over the country Labor has worked to address the issues all working people face daily by building economic social justice coalitions to help our country

President's Report

By Dan Clay

Touring the State to Hear What's on Your Mind



DAN CLAY
President

In the last month I've traveled all over the state attending Quarterly Meetings and talking to members about the news regarding the merger. Generally, members are excited about the changes and look forward to what's around the corner.

Recently, nearly all news regarding the Albertsons/Safeway merger, and the purchase of divestiture stores by Haggen, has been really pretty good. Albertsons, Safeway, and Haggen employees will continue being covered by their union contract. Benefits such as Health-care and Pensions will remain intact. Seniority dates are being honored.

I've also been able to spread the good news regarding First Day Sick Pay in the Oregon Legislature. It appears all is on track for a bill this session.

UFCW members have done the hard work to prepare for the debate over whether they should have to make a choice between going to work sick or making their rent. Because of this, more and more people are looking at First Day Sick Pay as a public health issue. It isn't a tough argument to make in a world where public health is finally getting the light that it deserves.

As best as I can tell, about 11 states are considering terrible anti-worker legislation in 2015. Workers are already having a difficult time making ends meet and this isn't going to help anywhere.

Thankfully in Oregon and Washington, a great deal of preparatory work has been done and the threat of anti-worker laws passing is slim in 2015.

Unfortunately, proponents of this anti-worker legislation have already stated they would be back in 2016, so the preparation can't stop.

UFCW Local 555 Employers Health Trust is making some changes to the prescription drug program. The goal of the change is to steer participants to less expensive prescriptions if those prescriptions work for them. If the less expensive prescription doesn't work for you or your family, there are things that can be done. If you have questions or concerns, remember that UFCW Local 555 is here to help. So give us a ring. We will help you through the process because your health and the health of your family is our top concern.

In January I believe that I attended more Quarterly Meetings than I ever have before. I really appreciate the welcome and positive words and comments I received. Between the Albertson/Safeway merger, the Haggen buyout, and UFCW Local 555's own restructure, it has been a busy few weeks.

Your support and encouragement has been much appreciated. Thank you.

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UFCWABC

WORKING AMERICA'S POLITICAL VOICE
ACTIVE BALLOT CLUB

Join the ABC today!


In the past few years, the Active Ballot Club has:

- Passed a Protected Sick Leave ordinance in the cities of Seattle, Portland, and Eugene.
- Decriminalized the unintentional sale of alcohol to a minor in the State of Oregon.
- Added a pharmacy technician to the Oregon Board of Pharmacy.
- Built strong coalitions so all workers can have a fair shot.
- Opposed anti-worker legislation in both Oregon and Washington.
- Stopped Measure 90 in Oregon which would have limited people's choices in the general election.

In the future, the Active Ballot Club will work to:

- Ensure Protected Sick Pay for all of Oregon and Washington.
- Pass a Healthcare Accountability Law so employers can't cut hours to intentionally avoid paying healthcare costs.
- Secure whistleblower protection for all healthcare workers.
- Ban the sale of all alcohol and Tobacco in self-checkout lanes.

For more information, visit UFCW555.org/ABC, or talk to your Union Representative. You can also call the Union office toll free at 1-800-452-8329.



UNION CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT THROUGH DECEMBER 2014:

Grievances Filed: 550
Members Returned to Work: 229
Monies Recovered: \$178,601.74



Mike Marshall
Director of
Membership Services

A Good Start to a New Year

After having worked a full month in my new position, I couldn't be more pleased with how things are going. While I always believed we had good people on our staff working for you, having the opportunity to now work more closely with your field staff, that believe has been strengthened and reaffirmed.

Your new Collective Bargaining Representative, Jeff Cuellar, has really hit the ground running in his new position. He has been bargaining contracts all over our jurisdiction, from Coos Bay to Pendleton, from Kelso to Salem, and everywhere in between. While I believed in Jeff and felt that he was the right person for the job when we hired him into this position, in this short time he has far exceeded my high expectations for him. You are lucky to have Jeff working for

you negotiating contracts.

This last month I had the opportunity to see members from different areas of our jurisdiction while attending quarterly meetings. During this time I had the pleasure to speak with them about what is going on in their workplace and in their Union. Many of our discussions revolved around the Albertsons/Safeway merger and the Haggen acquisition of some of their stores. Members working in all of the involved stores seem very hopeful, and many even excited, about the future of their stores, whether under the Albertsons or Safeway banners of Cerberus, or under the new Haggen banner. Another frequent topic was the restructure we are undergoing at the Local. While some of the difficult decisions we've had to make are not pleasant for anyone, members have been overwhelmingly supportive of the direction we are going to improve service to you, and have encouraged us to continue moving forward.

As part of that ongoing effort to improve service to you, our members, we are making a few improvements in how we communicate with new members. Following the restructure of some of our route areas, you likely saw a postcard sent to you informing you of who your

Union Representative is, with a copy of their business card included on the postcard. Beginning with this month, we will be sending a similar postcard each month to all new members of Local 555 informing them of who their Union Representative is along with the included business card so they know how to contact their rep. We continue to work on improvements such as this in the future. If you have any suggestions on things we can consider to improve our service to you, please email your suggestion to me at mmarshall@ufcw555.org.

As you are likely aware, we will enter into retail bargaining with the major employers in the

latter part of this year. Not only will we be representing all Local 555 Grocery, Meat, CCK, and Non-Food contracts with the major employers at the bargaining table for the first time, but with the recent commitment from the International Union and the Oregon AFL-CIO to work with us in increasing our market share, I'm hopeful we will be representing more members at the bargaining table, which would put us in a better position at the bargaining table. If you are interested in getting more involved in your union to help attain the best contract possible in this coming bargaining cycle, please speak with your Union Representative.

...Anderson — ABC

From Page 6

change direction. All over, people are coalescing around a "Fair Shot" agenda that will help the country get back on track. You will be hearing a great deal about this in the future.

The UFCW Local 555 Active Ballot Club has played a major role in making Paid Sick Leave a reality in both Portland and Eugene. We are now joined by a

coalition to make it happen for all Oregonians by supporting the passage of a state law that will cover everyone. Once that is done, we will be working on getting the same benefit for Southwest Washington workers, and joining forces with a large coalition to pass a law that will cover all Washington workers. Efforts are ongoing in Tacoma to pass Washington's second city ordinance ensuring workers receive first day sick pay. We will keep you up to date.

As we fight to keep what previous generation fought to give us, we recognize our obligation to be more politically active. The middle class cannot win unless we get involved and get organized. If you have not joined the ABC program, please sign up with your union representative or call the Union Office to do so. Together we can make a difference.

The Benefits of Restructuring Continue

Following UFCW Local 555's recent restructure, we are pushing forward to expand non-union grocery organizing. Our International Union and the Oregon AFL-CIO have committed to working together with Local 555 to get this job done for our members. Building unionized market share will bring strength and energy to the bargaining table and put us in a position to get better contracts, more money, better health plans, and stronger pensions.

Your No Out-of-Pocket Dental Offices

The offices listed here accept the UFCW 555 Scheduled Dental Plan as payment-in-full.*

This means you'll pay nothing for dental care provided within the limits of your dental plan.

Clackamas
(503) 698-1112
Soft Touch Dental
11808 SE Sunnyside Rd.

Gresham
(503) 465-0005
Soft Touch Dental
1388 E. Powell Blvd.

Portland
(503) 249-1100
Soft Touch Dental
1727 NE 13th Ave.

Springfield
(541) 746-5555
Soft Touch Dental
555 B Street

Tualatin
(503) 692-9280
Soft Touch Dental
18773 SW Martinazzi Ave.

Woodburn
(503) 981-6133
Soft Touch Dental
980 N. Cascade Drive

AccessDentalAlliance

* Up to the maximum allowance of the plan. This offer applies to members covered by the Portland Area UFCW Local 555 Employer's Health Trust. This offer is valid through June 2015. Implants, implant crowns, crowns with gold, crowns/onlays/inlays that are all porcelain, and specialty services performed in or out of these offices are not included.

Bright Now! Dental
General • Specialty • Orthodontics

Serving UFCW Local 555 Members for over 15 Years.

- **Insured Union Members** - \$0 out of pocket costs on most services (within your plan)
- **Non-Insured Members** - receive special pricing up to 40% off

Several locations to serve you:

<p>Beaverton 4655 SW Griffith Dr., Ste. 105 503-644-1400</p> <p>Grants Pass 1021 NE 6th St. 541-479-6696</p> <p>Gresham 443 NW Burnside Rd. 503-492-8487</p> <p>Hillsboro 7206 N.E. Cornell Rd. 503-640-9999</p> <p>Milwaukie 17186 SE McLoughlin Blvd. 503-659-2525</p> <p>Portland 3580 SE 82nd Ave. 503-777-0761</p>	<p>Salem 831 Lancaster Mall Dr. NE, Ste. 2 503-362-8359</p> <p>Wilsonville 25700 SW Argyle Ave., Ste. F 503-682-8552 <small>Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.; Charles Steward, DDS</small></p> <p>Vancouver 2101 NE 129th St. Ste. 101 360-574-4574 <small>Peter Yu DDS; Christopher Kooning DDS; Charles Steward DDS</small></p> <p>3250 SE 164th Ave., Ste. 102 360-891-1999 <small>Peter Yu DDS; Christopher Kooning DDS; Charles Steward DDS Nurani, Mitchell, Kim, P.C.; Ahyoung Amber Kim, DDS</small></p>
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For more information please call:
Dave Surridge (503) 502-2557

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