



## SEE PAGE 3A FOR **THE OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF UFCW LOCAL 555 UNION OFFICERS AND THE OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE UFCW LOCAL 555 UNION OFFICERS ELECTION**

**Fair Work Week has passed the Senate and the House!**



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER **The Amazon Monopoly?**



**DAN CLAY**  
President, Local 555



It's taking every ounce of self-control I have not to spend my column talking about Fair Work Week, because Big, Historic, Really Exciting Things Are Happening!!! Jeff Anderson will be telling you more about it (turn to the back page!) so, instead, I'll devote my time to an overview of something that got the attention of all of us recently: Amazon's purchase of Whole Foods.

On the face of it, it doesn't affect us directly, because Whole Foods employees aren't part of our Local (or of any union, for that matter). However, I'm guessing the reaction to it was the same for many of us. For me, it was like when you hear and feel the faint reverberations of a big explosion in the distance: you're OK, but sort of wondering what it meant.

Paul Krugman, an economist who writes for the New York Times, described Amazon several years ago as the Standard Oil of our day. That comparison resonates more and more with me over time. Short history review: Standard Oil was an American oil company established by John D. Rockefeller in the late 1800s. It was abruptly dissolved in 1911 (spinning off 34 companies, including most of the oil companies we're familiar with today), the result of a Supreme Court ruling that it was functioning as a monopoly. That's because

we in the U.S. have agreed that monopolies are illegal because they eliminate competition and therefore destroy the market economy that we rely on.

Rockefeller was the richest man in the world at the time. Today, of course, that title is reliably held by Bill Gates, with Amazon's founder, Jeff Bezos, settling for the lowly position of only fifth richest. (Poor guy, but he gets by.) The resemblance continues: for a while there (more than a hundred years ago) Standard Oil acquired seemingly everything that wasn't nailed down in the hopes of continuing to streamline manufacturing so as to lower costs and grab more market share. Technically, that's what all companies do to some degree or another, sure, but once you've become the overwhelmingly dominant player in any market segment, the other companies in that segment no longer have any effect over the market, eliminating the checks and balances that a market economy is supposed to provide.

Amazon got where they are by meeting a need, which is what our economy encourages business to do, but it feels very much as if the line has been crossed over and

over again...each time it's proven that Amazon can come for any of us. And that's what's happening: we're continuing to see that they're large enough and powerful enough to enter into (and probably dominate) any market segment they wish. They've dominated books (and therefore publishing) by controlling price and therefore popularity...we read, by and large, what Amazon wants us to read. They've dominated e-commerce by being able to reliably stock and quickly deliver a wider range of options than the biggest of big-box stores could even dream of. (And, on a related note, they are keeping delivery companies in business, functionally controlling the price of moving goods from one place to another.) As a consumer I love that I can get whatever I need in a day or two days, or even a few hours, and I love that I can get it at a good price. But low prices are a double-edged sword: we all need to get paid for doing our work, and if prices are too low, then someone isn't getting paid. And if we don't purchase locally, the people who ARE getting paid aren't even supporting our local economy.

Add to that that this purchase isn't just about the possibility to

conquer the high-end grocery market; it's also about purchasing hundreds of stores in hundreds of our country's most affluent locations.

What is Amazon's end game here? I don't know; I don't think any of us do. But it's time for all of us to think about how to position ourselves so that we can fight on several fronts at once.

For Local 555 that means continuing to fight day to day for workers' rights, continuing to fight for laws that protect all of us from corporations that don't have our best interests at heart, and also to begin to think even more strategically about what changes our industries might experience in five years, in ten years, in fifty years...or in a hundred years. That's the sort of thing I spend a lot of time thinking about, and I am grateful for the chance to stand strong with all of you in preparation.

In solidarity,

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### Contacting UFCW

UFCW staff can be reached during business hours at **503-684-2822** or **800-452-8329**.

Please send any correspondence to our mailing address: **P.O. Box 23555 Tigard, OR 97281**.

The UFCW fax number is **503-620-3816**.

[www.ufcw555.org](http://www.ufcw555.org)



# Local 555 Calendar of Events

## New Member Meeting: Orientation to the Union

We hold New Member meetings every month to introduce new members to the Union and to help answer any questions you may have. AND, if you qualify, you will receive a one-time credit of up to \$50 off your initiation fee, just for attending the meeting!

## Quarterly Meetings: Stay Informed

Being an involved, engaged, and informed Union member means coming to our Quarterly Meetings whenever possible.

Visit [ufcw555.org/union-calendar/](http://ufcw555.org/union-calendar/) for all the latest dates. Dates as of press time are listed below.

MEETING PLACE	DATE / TIME	MEETING PLACE	DATE / TIME
<b>ALBANY</b> IBEW Training Center 33309 Highway 99E (Tangent)	July 12: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 12: 10am, New Member Meeting July 12: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 12: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>LONGVIEW</b> The Merk 339 Commerce Suite 311A	July 20: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 20: 10am, New Member Meeting July 20: 5pm, New Member Meeting July 20: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>ASTORIA</b> Astoria Labor Temple 926 Duane Street	July 19: 5pm, New Member Meeting July 19: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>MADRAS</b> Black Bear Diner 237 SW 4th Street	July 10: 5:30pm, New Member Meeting July 10: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>BEND</b> Red Lion 1415 NE Third Street	July 11: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 11: 10am, New Member Meeting July 11: 5:30pm, New Member Meeting July 11: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>MEDFORD</b> Medford Office 4480 Rogue Valley Highway (Central Point)	July 17: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 17: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting July 18: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 18: 10am, New Member Meeting
<b>CLACKAMAS</b> Denny's 15815 Southeast 82nd Drive	July 26: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 26: 10am, New Member Meeting July 26: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 26: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>NEWBERG</b> The Coffee Cottage 808 East Hancock Street	July 27: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 27: 10am, New Member Meeting July 27: 5pm, New Member Meeting July 27: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>COOS BAY</b> North Bend Labor Hall 3427 Ash Street (N. Bend)	July 19: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 19: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting July 20: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 20: 10am, New Member Meeting	<b>NEWPORT</b> Hallmark Inn 744 SW Elizabeth	July 19: 5pm, Quarterly Meeting July 19: 6pm, New Member Meeting
<b>EASTSIDE</b> Teamsters Joe Edgar Hall 1850 NE 162nd	July 26: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 26: 10am, New Member Meeting July 26: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 26: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>NORTH PORTLAND</b> Kaiser Town Hall 3704 N Interstate Avenue	July 26: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 26: 10am, New Member Meeting July 26: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 26: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>EUGENE</b> Teamster's Hall 711 Shelley Street (Springfield)	July 18: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 18: 10am, New Member Meeting July 18: 6pm, New Member Meetings July 18: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>PENDLETON</b> Holiday Inn Express 600 SE Nye Avenue	July 11: 5:30pm, New Member Meeting July 11: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>FLORENCE</b> Best Western Pier Point Inn 85625 US-101	July 20: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 20: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>ROSEBURG</b> Labor Temple 742 SE Roberts	July 19: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 19: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting July 20: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 20: 10am, New Member Meeting
<b>GRANT'S PASS</b> LaQuinta 243 NE Morgan Lane	July 19: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 19: 10am, New Member Meeting July 18: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 18: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>SALEM</b> Salem UFCW Local 555 Office 1655 Capitol Street NE Suite 1	July 20: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 20: 10am, New Member Meeting July 20: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 20: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>HILLSBORO</b> National Guard Armory 848 NE 28th Ave	July 26: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 26: 10am, New Member Meeting July 26: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 26: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>SOUTHEAST PORTLAND</b> AFL-CIO Building 3645 SE 32nd Avenue	July 26: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 26: 10am, New Member Meeting July 26: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 26: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>HOOD RIVER</b> The Ranch Drive In 1950 12th Street	July 10: 5:30pm, New Member Meeting July 10: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting	<b>ST. HELENS</b> Best Western Oak Meadows Inn 585 S Columbia Highway	July 13: 5pm, New Member Meeting July 13: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>KLAMATH FALLS</b> Woodworker's Local Lodge 12 3836 Altamont Drive	July 13: 5:30pm, New Member Meeting July 13: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting July 14: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 14: 10am, New Member Meeting	<b>TIGARD</b> UFCW Local 555 (Lg Conf Rm) 7095 SW Sandburg Street	July 26: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 26: 10am, New Member Meeting July 26: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 26: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>LAKEVIEW</b> Lake County Community Center 11 N. G Street	July 12: 5:30pm, New Member Meeting July 12: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting July 13: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 13: 10am, New Member Meeting	<b>TILLAMOOK</b> Ashley Inn 1722 Makinster Road	July 20: 5pm, New Member Meeting July 20: 6pm, Quarterly Meeting
<b>LINCOLN CITY</b> Lincoln City Community Center 2150 NE Oar Pl	July 20: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 20: 10am, New Member Meeting	<b>VANCOUVER</b> Teamster's Union Hall 2212 NE Andresen Road	July 11: 9am, Quarterly Meeting July 11: 10am, New Member Meeting July 11: 6pm, New Member Meeting July 11: 7pm, Quarterly Meeting

# Notice of Nominations for Election of UFCW Local 555 Union Officers

This is the official notice of nominations for election of officers of UFCW Local 555. Nominations will be accepted for election of President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recorder and 15 Vice Presidents.

Nominations for the elected positions will be conducted by petition (sample petition is shown below).

Completed petitions must include at least **393** signatures from active members and must be received by the Election Committee General Chairperson, Tiffany Baumhardt, c/o UFCW Local 555, 7095 SW Sandburg Street, Tigard, OR 97223 by no later than **5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2017**, to be accepted. Blank paper may be used for petitions as long as the name(s) of the member(s) nominated and the position(s) for which they are being nominated are clearly shown at the top of each page of signatures.

Each petition must indicate the member who is being nominated and the specific office for which the member is being nominated. If a member is being

nominated for a Vice President position, the petition must specify the numerically designated Vice President position for which the member is being nominated. Any petition may nominate more than one member for election, provided that each member is being nominated for a different office and that the office for which each member is nominated is specifically indicated.

Each petition must contain the signature, legibly printed name and, if possible, the last four digits of the Social Security number of each member signing the petition. Authenticity of members and signatures must be verifiable. Petitions must be filed with the election committee general chairperson at the address shown above either by mail or in person. If petitions are mailed, they must be sent so they will be received by the date and time indicated earlier in this notice. The **original** signatures must be filed with the Chairperson. Transmission by facsimile, computer or other form of electronic trans-

mission will **not** be valid.

All candidates nominated must be in compliance with the eligibility requirements from the Local Union Bylaws and the International Constitution Article 35, Paragraph A, which states: "An active member in the Local Union who has been an active member in the Local Union, or who had been a member of another organization merged with the Local Union, for a continuous aggregate of at least 12 months immediately preceding the month in which nominations are held, or an active member in the Local Union who has been an active member in the International Union continuously for at least 24 months in which nominations are held immediately preceding the month, shall be eligible to hold any Local Union office, provided that said member maintains continuous active membership in the Local Union."

No member may run for more than one office in any election. Section 504 of the Labor-Management Reporting and Dis-

## OFFICERS OF UFCW LOCAL 555 TO BE NOMINATED

- President
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Recorder
- Vice President 1
- Vice President 2
- Vice President 3
- Vice President 4
- Vice President 5
- Vice President 6
- Vice President 7
- Vice President 8
- Vice President 9
- Vice President 10
- Vice President 11
- Vice President 12
- Vice President 13
- Vice President 14
- Vice President 15

closure Act (LMRDA) prohibits individuals that have been convicted of certain crimes from holding a union office. If you have questions concerning these restrictions, you can obtain additional information from the US Department of Labor.

To request a nominating petition sample form, a com-

plete set of UFCW Local 555 Bylaws, or the UFCW International Constitution, please contact the Election Committee General Chairperson, Tiffany Baumhardt, by mail: c/o UFCW, PO Box 23555, Tigard, OR 97281-3555; or contact the legal counsel to the Election Committee, John Bishop, at (503) 598-6346.

### UFCW Local 555 Sample Nominating Petition

John Doe is hereby nominated for Vice President #1  
FULL NAME POSITION AND POSITION # (IF APPLICABLE)

Jane Smith is hereby nominated for Vice President #2  
FULL NAME POSITION AND POSITION # (IF APPLICABLE)

Member's Signature	Member's Printed Name	Last 4 Digits of SS No.
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**SAMPLE PETITION**

TOTAL SIGNATURES NEEDED: 393

# Notice of UFCW Local 555 Union Officers Election

Please take notice that UFCW Local 555 will conduct a secret ballot election on **September 7, 2017**, for the offices of President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recorder and 15 Vice President positions. The election will be conducted by mail. Candidates in this Union officer election have a right to inspect (but not to copy) the Union's membership list once between **July 18, 2017** and the date when ballots are counted. Ballots for this election will be mailed to members on **August 18, 2017**. Any eligible member who has not received a ballot in the mail at home within a reasonable time after August 18, 2017, or any member who spoils a ballot after receiving it may request a new bal-

lot by contacting (503) 214-5347 or 1-888-280-0710.

Active members of UFCW, Local 555, as defined in Article 4(B) of the International Constitution, will be eligible to vote in this election. If you would like to verify whether you are an active member and eligible to receive a ballot for this election, you may do so by calling the UFCW Local 555 office in Tigard, Oregon, and inquiring with the Membership Records Department. You may call the Union Office in Tigard at 503-684-2822 or at 1-800-452-8329.

**BALLOTS MAILED:** Ballots for this election will be mailed on **August 18, 2017**.

**BALLOTS RETURNED:** Ballots must be returned by mail in the return envelope, which will be provided, with sufficient time to be received at the designated post office address by no later than **noon on September 7, 2017**.

**BALLOTS COUNTED:** Ballots will be counted on **September 7, 2017**, commencing at 1:00 p.m. Ballots must be received at the PO Box designated for this election by **September 7, 2017**, in order to be counted.

Ballots will be counted at the offices of UFCW, Local 555, 7095 SW Sandburg Street, Tigard, OR 97223. Any active Local 555 member is welcome to observe the ballot counting process.



# UFCW Local 555 Years of Service

OUR MEMBERS ARE OUR GREATEST STRENGTH. CONGRATULATIONS ON THESE MILESTONES!

## 45 YEARS

**Gary Palmer\***

## 40 YEARS

**Daniel Gibson**

## 35 YEARS

**Douglas Butkins**

**John Hutchinson**

**Brian Ngo**

## 30 YEARS

**Stephen Joachim**

**Fairy Mills**

**Richard Rowe**

**Robert Worthen**

## 25 YEARS

**James Comment**

**Veronica Evi**

## 20 YEARS

**Sue Amspoker**

**Marcy Button**

**Scott Coplen**

**Sarah Goetsch**

**Myrna Harper**

**Deborah Hogan**

**Kay Keller**

**Eric Kovach**

**John Ruffner**

**Jon Snyder**

**Bruce Walker**

**Teresa Webb**

**Carrie Welch**

## 15 YEARS

**Crystal Armstrong**

**Patricia Bush**

**Elena Carnahan**

**Ted Churchill**

**Uvaldo Contreras**

**Tamara Donathan**

**Diane Hawn**

**Anjanette Jones**

**Christine Lindsay**

**Kathleen Long**

**Barbara Maness**

**Richard Max**

**Brenda Mc Collum**

**Konnie Mckee**

**Miguel Munoz**

**Eric Otey**

**Lisa Owens**

**Jacqueline Sisson**

**Tami Tannery**

**Roberta Trevino**

## 10 YEARS

**Jesse Bacon**

**Janet Belgrave**

**Hortense (Lowery) Clark**

**Jamie Crivello**

**Adam Davis**

**Mariah Dixon**

**Justin Eggert**

**Maria Fe Estandian**

**Tiffany Goldsby**

**Jennifer Harrison**

**Gregory Henson**

**Julie Hoover**

**Shannon Hughes**

**Korey King**

**Toby Richard Laun**

**Alonzo Lopez**

**Nancy Loppnow**

**Gloria Louthan**

**Spencer Martin**

**Clint Mc Alister**

**Valera Mccuin**

**Edward Murdy**

**Kyle Nelson**

**Brett Ninneman**

**Scott Ollar**

**Pearl Peterson**

**Jennifer Phillips**

**Michael Praska**

**Frank Schofield**

**Sean Scott**

**Laura Sharrit**

**Matt Shotola-Schiewe**

**Matt Simpson**

**Jenniel Anderson Thompson**

**Scott Thompson**

**Debbie Travis**

**Christian Walter**

## 5 YEARS

**Jennifer Arends**

**Kim Ball**

**Jonathan Bartling**

**Fred Beebe**

**Stephanie Bland**

**Cassandra Botteron**

**Veronica Bush**

**Keileigh Campbell**

**Roxanne Campbell**

**Aileen Chan**

**Chad Collins**

**Christian Collins**

**Claudia Cross**

**Brian Cummins**

**Marlana Declat**

**Sean Dickinson**

**Melvin Dietz**

**Valerie Dishman**

**Jeffrey Eriksen**

**Miles Eshaia**

**Jenny Gailey**

**Joel-Lene Gregg**

**Christopher Hanson**

**Charlene Harvey**

**Hunter Haworth**

**Keefe Hirtle**

**Weena Her**

**Shantell Kerrick**

**Robert Kirkpatrick**

**Jessica Kramer**

**Kimberly Landstrom**

**Jimmy Lawrence**

**Vincent Lee**

**Christian Linares**

**Karrie Lorain**

**Colleen Martin**

**Michael Massingale**

**Tyler Meithof**

**Sabrina Meyers**

**Hortencia "Judith" Midtun**

**Mechele Miller**

**Michelle Morrison**

**Martha Ojalehto**

**Jesse Osborne**

**Stephan Petruzzello**

**Ejnar Petersen**

**Jimmy Pittman**

**Deborah Proctor**

**Katie Ramirez**

**Chenda Rezentes**

**Peggy Rider**

**Sandra Rockholt**

**Micheal Rogers**

**Fortino Sanchez**

**Jason Shain**

**Kristina Shirley**

**Maria Stefanskiy**

**Kathleen Stockton**

**Sunny Spain**

**Deandre Taylor**

**Leslie Terhune**

**Anh Tran**

**Cindy Wade**

**Brenda Westby**

**Cesar Zepeda**

**Katerina Zubko**

## Grievance update:

GRIEVANCES FILED YTD 2017

**64**

MONEY RECOVERED YTD 2017

**\$97,671.61**

# MEMBERS RETURNED TO WORK YTD 2017

**15**

\*Gary Palmer: congratulations on 45 years of service as of June 12th, 2017! So sorry we missed your name last month!

# UFCW 555 Member Spotlights



Jordan Purvis and Timothy Farwell are both longtime proud Union members. They enjoy getting their job done while working together in the produce department at the Safeway 1070.



Rodney Rogers started with Fresh Cut Produce at the Cedar Mill Safeway a couple of years ago to supplement his acting and voiceover career. He enjoys being a part of his Union and says "I've taken advantage of the great services provided by the UFCW 555 including health benefits, the Union pension, and contributions to the Union political fund." Safeway encourages him to provide frequent Voice Over Intercom calls announcing shopper deals, which also gives him practice for his voice characters!



Eric works at Safeway store 1653 in Vancouver as a produce clerk and has for 10 years now. One of the things he appreciates most about being Union is knowing he can retire with a Union pension. Eric loves the camaraderie with his co-workers and customers. In his spare time, Eric is a solo hip-hop artist with a storytelling flair. He performs with a DJ that call themselves PDX, a group that has performed in the Portland area since 1982 and have produced five albums (Creative Memories 3 is the latest). He has been married to the store floral manager for 22 years, and has a daughter working at Starbucks: keeping it in the Union family! Eric would like to say to the UFCW family, "thank you for being there."



*"I'm glad to be a part of my Union because they stand up for us. My Union is always happy to help me and answer questions I may have."*  
**KAYLA RAMIRZ-TURNER, SAFEWAY 514**



*"I'm so excited now that our department has decided to join the UFCW 555! I've been a Union member before and was kind of disappointed when I found out ClickList wasn't part of the Union. I was proud to sign up and tell my co-workers the benefits of joining as well. Now that we are part of the Union I can't wait to see what the future will bring! Thank you UFCW 555!"*  
**REBECCA SPIRUP, FRED MEYER 0651**



*"The Union has been very good to me and was there to protect me when I needed it. I strongly believe that as a union we are headed in a very good direction. I'm proud to say I am a UFCW 555 member!"*  
**NICHOLE BRITTLE, LAKE OSWEGO SAFEWAY 508**



Congratulations to Brianna Church of Baycrest Memory Care on winning an ABC gift card! Thank you for being a part of ABC, Brianna!



Congratulations to Hannah Hibbard: a recent ABC raffle winner! Hannah tells us, *"Thank you, UFCW Local 555, for all the hard work you do for the members!"*  
**HANNAH HIBBARD, ABC RAFFLE WINNER**



“ I love to be able to have the respect and the voice that I get as a Union member. If I have ever had a problem, the Union is there to make it right. Thank you for everything you guys do for us.

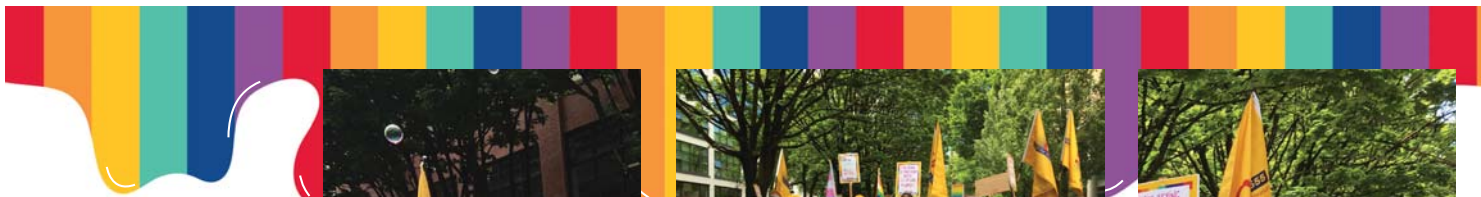
FRANCIE HOEFLING, SAFEWAY 1504

“ I have been in the workforce for forty-five years, in both Union and non-Union positions, and have been with UFCW Local 555 for over 10 years. One great thing about being a Union member is the benefits, which make our jobs worth more in the long run. And, I have peace of mind knowing the Union has my back and fights for our rights. Now that I'm living in a small tourist town, I hope 555 will be effective in keeping our wages reasonable as the cost of living becomes outrageous. Join a Union, take care of our future. Keep up the good fight!

TIM CLARK, HOOD RIVER ROSAUERS



Robert Cartusciello from the Fred Meyer in Cornelius is happy to be working his first union job. He has been so happy with the new sick leave law and can't wait to see what happens with the Fair Work Week campaign. Rob is also interested in being involved in the upcoming contract negotiations because he understands that unions are stronger when we stand together.



# LOCAL 555

Local 555 marches for social justice because workers' rights are human rights and human rights are LGBTQ rights! As we said on social media, this is a #laboroflove.



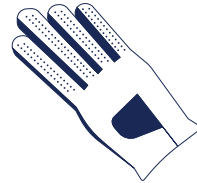
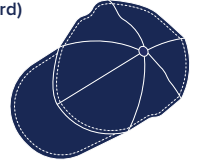
# Northwest Hope Foundation

Thanks to all who helped make the 21st annual Hope NW Foundation Golf Tournament such a success! We've raised over **\$60,000** to go towards our annual scholarship program and to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



### Congratulations to the 1st place team (L to R):

- Dave Tully
- Jill Alcantar
- Jeff Anderson (presenting award)
- Mike Gutwig
- Ron Gladney (not pictured)



## Sarah DeMerritt and the Case of the Missing Mural

Residents of Lake Oswego, OR have long prized their area's small-town feel as well as the local art that makes the city's building facades and public spaces unique. In fact, when Safeway #508 was initially built in 1964, locals were reluctant to allow the large chain supermarket in, finally coming to an agreement with store ownership and community leaders to include a large exterior mural depicting a map of the town in a style to complement other art in the neighborhood. Local Portland-based artist and teacher Arvid Orbeck was commissioned to do the stonework as part of the original store build; Italian stonemasons filled in the tile and river rock around his creation.

Enter Sarah DeMerritt, long-time resident, Local 555 member, shop steward, and checker at Safeway #508. Back in 1998 she was completing a local artwork scavenger-hunt for children as part of her graduate program in education at Lewis & Clark College and became fascinated with this nameless mural, which eventually went missing, no longer visible within the store. Little did she know that she would eventually play the leading role in its preservation.

As part of a remodel in early 2017, the mural was briefly visible again. After some research, Sarah found that it had been cov-

ered up in 2003 because it didn't fit with the "Lifestyle" beige and black Safeway redesign of that time. For nearly 15 years, then, a painted wall of sheetrock had completely hidden the mural, thought by neighborhood shoppers simply to be lost to the march of time.

Sarah learned that the store's latest redesign project had un-

covered the mural as part of plans to clear out that area to make space for a bathroom, meaning that the now-visible mural would be lost again: this time, for good. With her love of preservation and some encouragement from both friend Edie Proctor and partner of 24 years, Patrick Bloedorn (formerly a foreman with Oregon Portland Cement; now self-described as "Sarah's muse"), Sarah went to work.

She began posting about the mural's imminent destruction on social media platforms like Facebook and Nextdoor. She sent emails to friends and other potential sympathetic residents. She chatted with Safeway customers about it as she checked

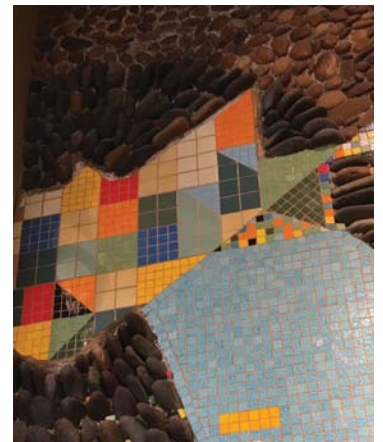
out their groceries. She went to the Lake Oswego City Council and attempted to have the mural designated as historical art.

As Sarah said with a grin and mischievous glimmer in her eye, "At one point, the ladies in the floral department even code-named it 'George,' because management didn't want us talking about it!" The mural was about more than just rock and tile. For Sarah and locals like her, it represented memories of times past and of idyllic small-town life. "Everyone remembers it from when they were kids," she said.

Though it was a hard-fought battle, Lake Oswego and Safeway eventually acquiesced and agreed to save the mural, now a backdrop to the store's lovely flower display. In fact, the store even received a civic award during the History presentation in May of 2017. (Sarah's manager came by with the award to show it to her, take pictures with it, and congratulate her on her role in this impressive accomplishment.)

A Local 555 member since 2001, Sarah is no stranger to having to see a tough situation through with management, having won two grievances over the years to have her job restored with seniority after wrongful terminations. Her personal experience led her to choose to support others by becoming an active shop steward. Says Sarah, "Being in the Union, being here

[Safeway] for so long, and having such respect all protected me." Knowing her Union had stood behind her in the past gave her added confidence in approaching corporate management without



Lake Oswego is depicted upside-down, for additional artistic flair.



Sarah DeMerritt proudly stands in front of the rescued mural.

fear of retribution.

This is far from the only thing Sarah has accomplished within the Local! She was instrumental in helping to decriminalize selling alcohol to minors and in organizing her store's Starbucks: the first in-Safeway Starbucks organized in the state of Oregon. She encourages others to fight for projects in their own hometowns, or for causes that are important to them, especially when knowing the Union has their backs. "Do it right away, just get involved! Show up at everything!"

If you're ever in Lake Oswego, be sure to drop by the Safeway on Avenue A to see the impressive Orbeck mural and congratulate Sarah on her hard work and determination.



## HISTORY IS BEING MADE IN OREGON!

the  
**FAIR WORK WEEK BILL,**  
aka  
**FAIR SCHEDULING,**  
aka  
**SENATE BILL 828**  
**HAS PASSED THE**  
**OREGON SENATE**  
**AND HOUSE!**

**NEXT STOP,  
THE GOVERNOR'S DESK!**

*In solidarity,*

LOCAL  
**555**

**+50¢**

STANDARD AND  
NON-URBAN

Minimum Wage  
Increase  
as of July 1!

**+\$1.50**

PORTLAND  
METRO

## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S NOTE It's Happening!



**JEFF  
ANDERSON**  
Secretary-Treasurer

I've got some incredibly exciting news about Fair Work Week for you this month: Senate Bill 828 passed the Oregon Senate on June 22nd and the Oregon House on June 29th! To be cautious, I should clarify that it's not over until it's over (it still requires the Governor's signature), but we're extremely optimistic. I've said before, "we're done being a just-in-time indentured workforce," and we are about to prove just how much we mean that!

When this bill becomes law, we will make history — becoming the first state EVER to pass

a fair scheduling bill. That's a stunning achievement for everyone who has fought so hard for workers' rights. Those of us living on the West Coast know that we tend to lead the nation in progressive causes, but being in the thick of it and watching it happen - watching you testify in front of the legislature as to the importance of fair schedules; watching you turn out for Lobby Days to speak directly to Senators and Representatives to tell your stories; hearing from so many of our members as to how much advance scheduling notice and certainty of hours and schedules means to all of them; it has been equally empowering and humbling.

Next month I'll regale you

with stories of how this fits into an unprecedented narrative here in Oregon: how our first day sick pay fight led to our minimum wage fight which then led us here. This is going to be an extraordinary victory on behalf of all working people and you deserve the credit because Local 555 members and ABC contributors are the reason it has been possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being instrumental in this fight. We'll send out more information as we have it!

*Jeff Anderson*



## MEMBER 2 MEMBER

UFCW Local 555's Member Assistance Program

### TO DONATE:

- Donate at [ufcw555.org/m2m](http://ufcw555.org/m2m) or
- Drop new, unused school supplies off at the Tigard office. We accept the following: *Spiral notebooks, 3-hole punched paper, composition notebooks (wide and college ruled are acceptable), #2 pencils, pens (black, red, blue), pencil pouches or boxes, clear Elmer's glue, folders (any color, any style), 24 ct Crayola crayons, bold or*

*fine-tip Crayola markers, colored pencils, rules, scissors, protractors, packets of tissues, packets of wipes, highlighters, calculators, dividers, index cards.*

### TO NOMINATE:

- Nominate at [ufcw555.org/m2m](http://ufcw555.org/m2m) or
- Contact [m2m@ufcw555.org](mailto:m2m@ufcw555.org) if you need a paper copy of the form.

Visit us online at [ufcw555.org/m2m](http://ufcw555.org/m2m) to donate or to submit nominations for member assistance.

Our Member 2 Member assistance program is accepting donations and nominations for our new School Supply Drive to help relieve back-to-school financial stress for eligible Local 555 members.

All nominations must be in by August 25th. Donations always accepted!

**Back  
to  
School**

## Contacting

**UFCW**

A BETTER LIFE FOR WORKING FAMILIES 555  
Dan Clay - President Jeff Anderson - Secretary-Treasurer

UFCW staff can be reached during business hours at **503-684-2822** or **800-452-8329**.

Please send any correspondence to our mailing address: **P.O. Box 23555 Tigard, OR 97281**.

The UFCW fax number is **503-620-3816**.

[www.ufcw555.org](http://www.ufcw555.org)

**Do we have your correct address?  
Phone number? Email address?**

**Make sure your Union has your contact information on file so you don't miss any mailings.**

**To update or confirm your contact information, call Local 555 staff at 503-684-2822 or visit us online at [ufcw555.org/addressupdate](http://ufcw555.org/addressupdate).**