

WINTER 2020 Vol. 45 No. 4

www.ufcwlocal1445.org

UFCW Local 1445 UNION NEWS

a VOICE for New England workers and their families since 1938

AWARD-WINNING QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF **UFCW LOCAL 1445**

Candidate Joe Biden stood with us in the past.
President-elect Joe Biden
will stand up for us in the future.



IT PAYS TO BELONG TO LOCAL 1445

NUMBER OF WORKSITES VISITED BY UNION REPRESENTATIVES:

September 18 - November 11, 2020 600

GRIEVANCES HANDLED:

September 18 - November 11, 2020 206

BACKPAY AND BENEFITS RESTORED FOR MEMBERS:

September 18 - November 11, 2020 \$6,020.00

UFCW Interstate H & W Fund

Claims Paid - Experience Report
June 18, 2020 through October 12, 2020

Coverage:

Dental	\$25,656.43
Disability	953,850.44
R _x (6/16/20 - 10/31/20)	3,110,618.10
Medical (6/12/20 - 10/31/20)	17,353,365.04
Total	\$21,443,490.01

Know
someone
who needs
a union?

Tell them
to call
**Local
1445!**

Organizing
Department

1-800-439-1445

LOCAL 1445 UNIONNEWS



Published Quarterly at Boston, MA by:
**UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL
WORKERS UNION LOCAL 1445** ~
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Workers International Union

FERNANDO LEMUS - President
FABRICIO DASILVA - Sec'y-Treas
LAURIE LEMUS - Recorder
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UFCW LOCAL 1445 HEROES AT WORK

No matter where they work or what they do, our members are doing their part to make sure the services and products their communities need are available. Every day.



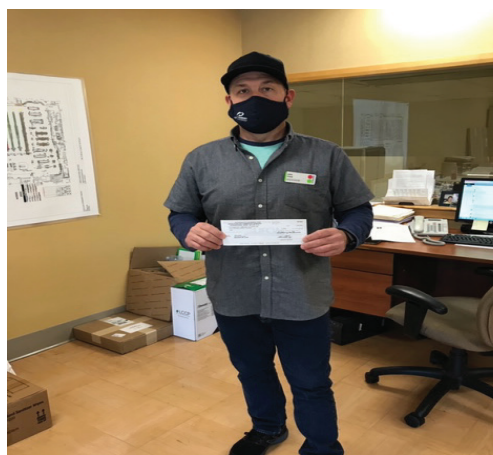
Congratulations to our latest **Active Ballot Club (ABC)** winners!



*\$100 winner Zoe Hulak
(Sira Naturals - Somerville)
Photo not available at press time*



*\$100 Terry Thomas
(Stop & Shop - N Beverly)
Photo not available at press time*



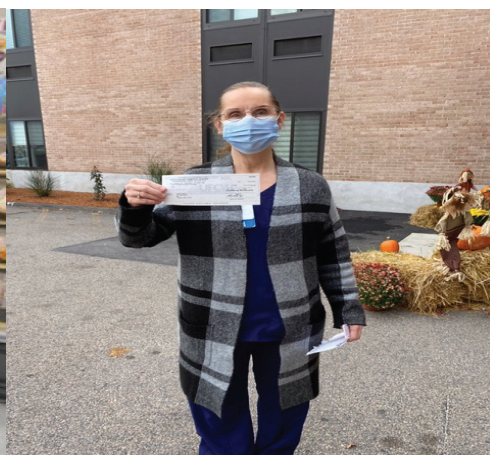
*\$50 winner John Vissa
(Stop & Shop - Walpole)*



*\$50 winner Luis Cordero
(Stop & Shop - Acton)*



*\$50 winner Roberta Volis
(Stop & Shop - Acton)*



*\$50 winner Carla Franklin
(The Reservoir)*

If you've signed up for ABC, you're automatically entered in the raffle and **YOU** could be one of our next winners!

At **LEAST** six winners - *two \$100 winners and four \$50 winners* -

are chosen at each quarterly membership meeting from all members entered. **You do not have to be present to win.**

**NOW
MORE THAN
EVER
Supporting
ABC means
safeguard-
ing laws that
protect YOUR
rights and
benefits,
such as
overtime
pay.**

**Don't miss out -
see your
shop steward and
sign up TODAY!**

Not sure who's your shop steward? Speak to your business agent, or call the Local 1445 office (1-800-439-1445) and we'll be happy to help you.

There's not much we can count on anymore, in these chaotic times we're living in, but one thing is absolutely certain: Union members need to vote for candidates who support workers' rights and who will vote for legislation that will improve the economic and legal conditions that working people and their families face every day.

Why? Don't we have contracts to protect us?

Yes, but contracts are legal documents, and their terms and conditions must always comply with the law.

The NLRA (National Labor Relations Act) was passed at a time when legislators realized that workers were at a disadvantage when it came to dealing with employers. Workers had to rely on the good will of the company to set wages and working conditions, and if workers were treated poorly there wasn't much they could do about it. The NLRA was enacted to level the playing field. It gave workers certain legal rights that would allow them to take action if their employers were taking unfair advantage of them.

Little by little, and huge campaign donation by huge campaign donation, companies with billions of dollars to spend have made sure THEIR candidates are getting elected and passing laws that benefit those companies' and shareholders' bottom lines,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Today's Political Environment and the Confusion of Union Members



FERNANDO LEMUS

at the expense of working people. Those elected officials are actively weakening any and all legal recourse unions have to protect their members. And the majority of those candidates are Republicans, who will support the interests of the richest 1% in this country, and everyone else be damned!

On the other hand, the majority of Democrats are working to strengthen workers' rights. An example of this is the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act, passed by the Democratic-controlled House in February and awaiting consideration in the Republican-controlled Senate. This act would reinstate and strengthen many workers' rights that have been lost over the years, such as:

- Expanding the protections of the NLRA to cover more categories of workers;

Continued on page 16

GUEST EDITORIAL



**DAVE
YOUNG**

*Guest editorial by Dave Young
Director, UFCW Region 1*

2020 Election and the Power of Standing Together

This election underscored that it's possible to communicate and connect with people to bring about meaningful change even during a pandemic. As we approach the new year, I encourage all of you to harness that positive energy and continue to reach out to your family members, friends, and neighbors and talk to them about the benefits of be-

longing to our union family. Continue to spread the word that in unity, there is strength, and when workers stand together, they have the power to shape a stronger future for themselves and their families.

I also encourage you to continue to keep up the good work. While this pandemic has had a devastating effect on our country, it has also emphasized the important role all of you play in the communities we call home. Let's move forward to the new year with the goal of playing a central role in mobilizing our members so that we can negotiate stronger contracts and welcome more hard-working men and women to our union family.

Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do to make our union better and stronger. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season.



AT YOUR SERVICE

Our Union Family of Heroes

As we finally start to turn the page on the year 2020 – a truly TERRIBLE year for our country and the world – let's try to remember that the holiday season should be all about FAMILY: your personal family and our union family.

In these unprecedented times, I, personally, and the rest of us here at Local 1445, couldn't be prouder of the dedicated work our Local 1445 family has done, for our union and for our communities.



KEVIN MCGAFFIGAN

Sisters and brothers: Those of you working in our supermarkets have made sure stores are open so families can put food on their tables; those of you working in our warehouses, and processing and packing plants have made sure that food and supplies are available and delivered to the stores where they are needed; those of you working in our laundries have made sure the linens and clothing for hospitals and healthcare facilities are laundered and sterilized; those of you working in those healthcare facilities, nursing homes, and hospitals are looking after the sickest and most vulnerable of our family members and making sure they receive the best care possible; and as restrictions are relaxed and lifted, those of you working in schools and department stores and everywhere else throughout our local have helped bring back some semblance of normalcy, no matter how fragile.

And **welcome** to our newest union sisters and brothers, those in the cannabis industry, those at FB Packing, and Senator Gideon's folks up in Maine! Being a part of UFCW Local 1445 means you are now part of a union family that stands together to demand that every single member, no matter where they work or what they do, be treated with respect and dignity. Every single one of us plays a vital role in the functioning of our communities, and no one should ever be allowed to forget that!

It is my wish to all that you and your families stay safe, stay healthy, and enjoy the upcoming holidays. **You are all truly heroes!**



Our Newest Retirees

Suzanne Anderson
Paul Arduino
Andrea Aro
Raimonda Babasikas
William Balcewicz
Michael Bandis
Lorraine Bangs
Thomas Bannon
William Bergmann
Edward Bevilacqua
Sally Bristol
Robert Britton
Ralph Brown III
Thomas Buckley
Mary Burnham
Nezir Cakaj
Michael Campbell
Barry Caplan
Judith Consalvi
Eileen Cordima
Catherine Curry
Linda De Maria
Frank Dipietro
Kathy Doherty
Linda Dubois
Mary Faucher
Diane Fowler

Carlos Garcia
Richard Gateman
Pablo Gonzalez
William Gray
Matthew Hady
Claire Hancock
Robert Hayward
Debra Hill
Fluturi Ibro
William Jancsy
Peter Kalivas
Peter Katsigianis
Elizabeth Kelley
Robert Keyes
Coralee Kilman
Helen Koskinas
Alice Lawrence
John Legault
Barbara Lyons
Karen Macintyre
Mark Marble
Catherine Marino
James Marrs
Maria Monteiro
Debra Morabito
Pamela Mosher

Mark Newell
Maria Nunes
Sandra Osorio
Edward Owsik
Rachel Palmer
Michelle Patterson
Frank Perrotta
Thomas Perrotta
Daniel Rastellini
Cynthia Rattigan
Doreen Riley
Antimo Romano
Vincenzo Rosolia
Michael Rourke
Denise Royce
Gary Sandler
Julie Shahin
Judith Skerry
Jeffrey Steuart
Robert Surette
Barbara Torres
Richard Volpe
Roosevelt Wakefield
Mary ann Walsh
Shawn Wilber
Barbara Williams
Harry Winston

UFCW LOCAL 1445 HEROES AT WORK

No matter where they work or what they do,
our members are doing their part to make
sure the services and products
their communities need are available.
Every day.



UFCW Local 1445
2021 - 2022 Lottery Scholarship application
(MEMBERS ONLY – see important note below
for application information for family members*)

This UFCW Local 1445 scholarship will be awarded to Local members who are NOT currently in school but who have decided to resume their educations. Scholarship winners will be chosen by random drawing from eligible applicants at the Local 1445 quarterly membership meeting held in July. *(*Please note: Graduating high school seniors who will be attending a vocational school program, rather than a college or university, are also eligible to enter this lottery but they must fill out and submit the “2021-2022 Scholarships” application form rather than this one.)*

The applicant must be a UFCW Local 1445 member in good standing at the time of the drawing. **Applications must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2021.**

After the winner has been selected, the winner will be notified by her/his business agent and will be required to forward her/his social security number to Local 1445, along with documentation that she/he is enrolled in a certificate or degree program at the school of her/his choice.

Submitting THIS application form will qualify the eligible applicant for inclusion in the Local 1445 Lottery scholarship drawing, provided the following additional requirements are met:

- Applicant is NOT CURRENTLY a student, WAS NOT a student during the last regular school year (2020-2021), and has decided to resume her/his education by attending a vocational/certificate or undergraduate program in 2021; AND
- Applicant is a member in good standing of Local 1445 at the time of the lottery drawing.

***IMPORTANT!** If you are a **high school senior** who will be attending a **vocational** school (rather than a college or university) upon graduation please be sure to fill out and submit the **Local 1445 2021 – 2022 Scholarships application NOT this one**, as noted above. **This Lottery scholarship application is ONLY for MEMBERS who are not currently in school.**

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School to attend in 2021: _____

I AM a member of Local 1445 at: _____
Employer's name: _____ Location name/number: _____

I understand that this application for is for MEMBERS ONLY who are NOT currently high school or undergraduate students.

Return this form to **UFCW Local 1445 Lottery Scholarship, 30 Stergis Way, Dedham, MA 02026, ATTN: Linda**. Entries must be postmarked July 15, 2021.

Confused? Need more info? If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to call Linda at 800-439-1445, ext. or 101; or email ufcw1445@ufcwlocal1445.org and put "Scholarship question" in the subject line.

Masks...Social distancing...
Sometimes it feels like the only safe p

But down here on Earth, we're doing the
Best wishes to all our Local 1445 family
wherever you



the place right now is on the moon!

do the best we can. Stay safe, stay healthy.
Thank you to family and friends for happy holidays,
you may be!



UFCW Local 1445
2021 - 2022 Essay Scholarship Application
(High school seniors only)

This UFCW Local 1445 scholarship will be awarded to college-bound high school seniors who are Local 1445 members, or the spouses, children, or grandchildren of members. Scholarship winners will be selected based on the content and ideas expressed in the accompanying essay, and will be announced at the Local 1445 quarterly membership meeting held in July. The person who qualifies the applicant must be a UFCW Local 1445 member in good standing, or a retiree from a Local 1445 employer; **applications must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2021.**

After the winners have been selected and announced, each winner will be notified by his/her business agent and will be required to forward her/his social security number to Local 1445, along with documentation that she/he is a fulltime student at the college or university of her/his choice.

Students: Complete this application and forward it, along with a 750 – 1000 word essay, to the address below. You (or a parent or grandparent) must be a union member; your essay must be on the theme “How I Would Convince a Skeptical Friend That ***The Union’s Got My Back***” (or “***...My Parent’s Back***”, or “***...My Grandparent’s Back***”, depending upon who’s the union member in your family - you get the idea) and should be double-spaced on single sided sheet(s). Application forms submitted without an accompanying essay will not be considered. (See the essay guidelines online for suggestions on what points to cover.)

IMPORTANT! You may also be eligible for the Nicole Berman Memorial scholarship, the Local 1445 Women’s Network/Beppie McNally Memorial scholarship, the Dennis Norton Memorial scholarship, and the Joe Hayes Memorial scholarship. By filling out this application and submitting your essay, if you are eligible you will automatically be entered in those scholarship drawings as well.

Name of student: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School to attend - Fall 2021: _____

I **AM** a member of Local 1445 at _____
Employer’s name Location name/number

I am **NOT** a member. My parent ☐ or grandparent ☐ (check one) is a member or retiree:

Member’s or retiree’s name Employer’s name Location name/number

Return this form to and your essay to **UFCW Local 1445 Essay Scholarship, 30 Stergis Way, Dedham, MA 02026, ATTN: Linda.** Entries must be postmarked by July 15, 2021.

Confused? Need more info? If you have any questions at all, please don’t hesitate to call Linda at 800-439-1445, extension 101; or email ufcw1445@ufcwlocal1445.org and put “Scholarship question” in the subject line.

UFCW Local 1445

2021 – 2022 Scholarships Application

These UFCW Local 1445 scholarships will be awarded to Local 1445 members, or the spouses, children, or grandchildren of members. Scholarship winners will be chosen by drawing at the Local 1445 July 2021 quarterly membership meeting from among all eligible applicants. The person who qualifies the applicant must be a UFCW Local 1445 member in good standing, or a retiree from a Local 1445 employer, at the time of the drawing. **Applications must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2021.**

After the winners have been selected, each winner will be notified by his/her business agent and will be required to forward her/his social security number to Local 1445, along with documentation that she/he is a fulltime student or enrolled in a certificate or degree program at the school of her/his choice.

Submitting this application form will qualify the eligible applicant for consideration in the following four Local 1445 scholarships that are awarded by random drawing to high school seniors and undergraduate students: the **Nicole Berman** Memorial scholarship; the **Beppie McNally/Local 1445 Women's Network** scholarship; the **Dennis Norton** Memorial scholarship, and the **Joe Hayes** Memorial scholarship.

IMPORTANT! Please note: **If you are a high school senior who will be attending a **vocational school** (rather than a college or university) upon graduation, **please be sure to indicate that on this form along with your course of study.** If you are a Local 1445 member who has been out of school for at least one year, you are not eligible for the four scholarships listed above but you may still be eligible for the *Local 1445 lottery scholarship*; please be sure to fill out and submit the **Local 1445 Lottery scholarship application** (NOT this application.) **MEMBERS ONLY** who have been out of school and are **NOT CURRENTLY** undergraduate or vocational school students but will be going back to school must fill out and submit the separate "Lottery Scholarship" form to be eligible. High school seniors (members or children or grandchildren of members) who will be attending a **vocational school program** rather than a college or university may also apply for the lottery scholarship and **should do so on THIS form but MUST indicate the school AND program** or the application will not be considered.

Name of student: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School to attend - Fall 2021: _____

Year of study - Fall 2021 (freshman, sophomore, etc.): _____

Or ☐ **Vocational program** (** See important notes above): _____

I **AM** a member of Local 1445 at _____
Employer's name Location name/number

I **am NOT** a member. My parent ☐ or grandparent ☐ (check one) is a member or retiree:

Member's or retiree's name Employer's name Location name/number

Return this form to **UFCW Local 1445 Scholarships, 30 Stergis Way, Dedham, MA 02026, ATTN: Linda.** Entries must be postmarked by July 15, 2021.

Confused? Need more info? If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to call Linda at 800-439-1445, extension 101; or email ufcw1445@ufcwlocal1445.org and put "Scholarship question" in the subject line.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS REPORT

Your Union Contract = Your Successful Future

During these trying times in our country, everything is changing daily, everything is in flux. When you go to bed at night, you can't be sure what the world will look like when you wake up to the next morning!

That's exactly what happens with our union contract negotiations. One day it looks like the company will agree to one of our proposals, the next day they say, "No way!" Sometimes they're arguing, then all of a sudden they couldn't be nicer. But one thing's for certain: The companies will always try every trick in the book to confuse and confound us, and the only way we can ever make any REAL progress is by standing together and refusing to let them divide us.

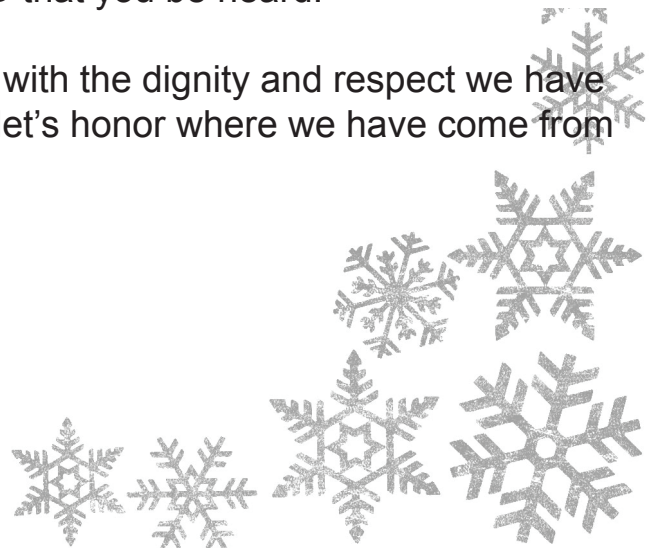


ELAINE O'NEIL

When we negotiate with companies, we always want feedback from you – our members. YOU know what you want, YOU know what's important, YOU know the problems you face on-the-job everyday. And your coworkers are in the exact same situation as you are. As union members, you and your coworkers have the right to get involved in contract negotiations and make sure your negotiating team is aware of what's important to all of you. Being a union member means YOU have a voice, so use it! And stand with your union brothers and sisters to DEMAND that you be heard!

We need to stand together and treat each other with the dignity and respect we have all earned as part of our union family. Together, let's honor where we have come from and let's celebrate where we are all going.

Happy holidays to all!



Available NOW!



I'm a Local 1445 member.
This FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT sounds great.
Is EVERYONE in my family really eligible?

Yes, everyone.

If you're a UFCW member, **your entire family** (children, grandchildren, spouse, domestic partner, etc.) can earn a **free associate degree** online.



Enroll now at UFCW.org/College



Is it easy to apply? Is it convenient to attend?
Is it **REALLY FREE?**



- ✓ Programs and course schedules are designed to accommodate working adults.
- ✓ Students can attend part-time or full-time.
- ✓ There are no residency requirements.

- ✓ All required materials are included with the course.
- ✓ A unionized call center helps members through the admissions process.


a VOICE for working America

To learn more about the UFCW Free College Benefit, visit:
UFCW.org/College or call 888-590-9009

And coming soon!

Continue your journey to your Bachelor's completion program

In Partnership With



Low-Cost
BACHELOR'S DEGREE
for members and families

More information will be posted at ufcw.org/college as soon as it becomes available. Stay tuned!

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

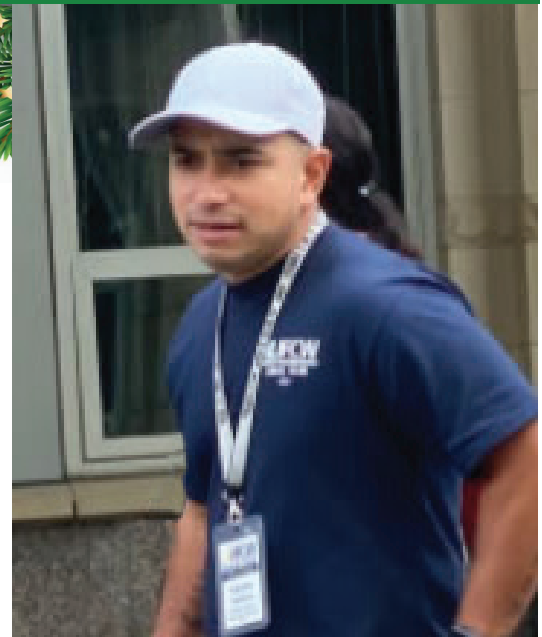


Thank You For All You Do!

Let's move into a better 2021

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his was a challenging year for everyone around the world with this pandemic, and we want to say THANK YOU again for taking good care of all of us, our communities and families. It's because of your commitment that we can endure hard times such as this and are still able to have a sense of normalcy in the middle of a crisis. Thank you to our grocery workers for taking care of our food, and our health-care workers for taking care of our loved ones who have been sick, and our members who keep our streets and offices clean.



FABRICIO DASILVA

Thank you to our industrial laundry workers for making sure we have clean sheets at our hospitals and hotels, and thank you to our cannabis workers who continue to be committed to their patients in the grow and dispensaries we represent.

If you work in an industry not mentioned here, thank you! In the middle of a crisis, EVERYONE is important, whether you are an "essential" worker or simply wearing your mask and making the sacrifice of social distancing and staying home as much as possible.

It's because of you that this local is inspired daily to grow strong, diverse, and better! Thank you!

Local 1445 continues to make sure our members come first in every decision and every plan we make. Using technology to better communicate, organizing, and transparency and access are on top of our priorities. Having a staff that reflects the membership means better service and having the proper PPE and safety measures in place ensures that even during the Covid pandemic our staff can safely visit and represent our members. It is imperative that we are available and present for our members. As we are coming into the end of 2020, the Local 1445 office and field staff, and the leadership continue to be energized and empowered to move forward with the same energy and commitment we promised to bring in at the beginning of the year. We are proud of the work that our current staff is doing and we want to continue to receive your feedback, letting us know how we can do our jobs better! Your feedback is very important and a big part of the reason we are successful in what we do.

More on page 17

President's Message *Continued from page 3*

- Requiring an employer to recognize a union when the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) has determined that the employer has interfered with a legitimate union election;
- Enabling the NLRB to levy fines against companies that commit ULPs (Unfair Labor Practices);
- Superseding "right-to-work" laws in all 50 states by allowing employers and unions to agree on a "fair share" contract clause that will require all workers to pay their fair share of the costs of representation, collective bargaining, contract enforcement, etc. (Currently, "right-to-work" laws allow employees to enjoy the benefits their union-member coworkers pay for as union dues deductions, but without requiring the deadbeats to share in the cost. Completely unfair, and a favored strategy by companies seeking to weaken and destroy unions in these "right-to-work" states. "Right-to-work" SOUNDS good – we all have the right to work – but these laws mean "right to work STRICTLY BY THE EMPLOYER'S RULES, without any consideration for the workers.")

These are just a few of the provisions of the worker-friendly PRO Act. But without support in the Senate, there's little chance of it becoming law. That's one reason it's so important that working people make it a priority to vote for worker-friendly candidates!

Another reason your vote is important is that Republicans are trying to do away with defined pension benefits for workers. Having a defined pension means that when you retire or are disabled, in addition to any Social Security benefits you might have accrued, you will also receive a pension check every month, something you can count on when you are no longer

able to work. It's another safety net that you've earned over your working career. Needless to say, companies would rather pay big bucks to CEOs and shareholders rather than guarantee workers a more comfortable retirement. Republicans are happy to oblige their rich campaign donors by making it harder and harder for working people to even retire!

President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have indicated that they are on the side of working people in this country and that they will actively work to strengthen unions and improve the lives of all working Americans. To that end, Biden will be appointing at least 27 union leaders to his administration, from many different unions throughout the country, in roles in the departments of Agriculture, Labor, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, State, Treasury, and Transportation, and the Federal Reserve, NASA, the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of the US Trade Representative, the SSA, and the US Postal Service. This indicates a true appreciation for the current situation that working people face in every aspect of their lives, to actively solicit ideas for improvements, and to make it a priority to see that working people are treated with the dignity and respect they have earned.

Too often it seems like everyone is out only for themselves. Fortunately for you, our members, being a part of Local 1445 and the UFCW means that you are members of an organization that will use the power and resources and political pull of more than 1.3 million people throughout North America, working TOGETHER, to make sure our voices are heard. With Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in the White House, our mission will be that much easier to accomplish.

In solidarity,

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT *(continued)*

In Organizing:

Local 1445 won a major victory against a very antiunion company, NETA (New England Treatment Access). In order to stop their cultivators from unionizing, the company decided to argue that the union's position to file under the Department of Labor jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was wrong. Under NETA's appeal, these workers would have to unionize under the NLRB, including the cultivators in the same unit as the rest of the production facility. We are happy that after months of hearings and antiunion maneuvers from NETA, the NLRB saw through the company's ridiculous arguments and granted that our cultivators at the Franklin facility are agricultural workers and therefore fall under the state's jurisdiction. Soon we will be bargaining a contract for over 45 workers and moving to mobilize the rest of the plant to unionize. Organizing NETA is very important as they become an example to the rest of the cannabis industry of the benefits and advantages of employing a trained and unionized workforce.

Currently Local 1445 has active organizing campaigns at the meat packing plant DiLuigi Foods in Danvers, with over 100 workers; on the cannabis front we have active campaigns in the Mayflower and Cultivate dispensaries and Revolutionary clinics, and elections soon to take place at Liberty Cannabis in Somerville. We continue to sign LPAs (labor peace agreements) with companies that actually want to respect their workers' decision and give them the

choice to join Local 1445. This allows for a less hostile atmosphere, where employers don't need to spend million of dollars convincing their own workers to join.

Diversifying your local union in various industries throughout New England is very important, not only to make sure we have the finances to fight anti-union Corporate America but also to bring a voice to workers in other industries who are suffering the effects of Corporate America's push for more productivity but less pay. Additionally, Local 1445's goal is to create a safer environment, and to make sure that all workers have a voice and respect in the work place.

Politically we continue to hold politicians accountable and demand their support on issues, bills, and legislation we need that will impact our membership and the workers the local is organizing.

In 2021 our country will have a president in office who is less hostile to the labor movement, but we need to continue to do what actually makes our union strong, and that is to make sure our members are well represented, to negotiate the best contracts possible, **and to organize like there's no tomorrow!**

We will continue to make sure we build our local and the labor movement in order to provide American workers and their families with a better and safer future for years to come.



Fernando Lemus
President
Fabricio DaSilva
Secretary-Treasurer

For Immediate Release
October 28, 2020

Contact: Fabricio DaSilva (781) 461-6775

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY NETA

Franklin, MA – Today in a virtual hearing, workers at the New England Treatment Access (NETA) agricultural facility in Franklin were awarded a victory by the Director of Region 1, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). His ruling was on a petition filed on their behalf by United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1445. The Director ruled that they must be acknowledged and given the same rights to organize as any other agricultural worker in Massachusetts. New England Treatment Access had attempted to delay certification of the bargaining unit by preposterously claiming the Franklin cultivation workers were not engaged in agricultural work, even though workers at the facility are explicitly tasked with cultivation and harvesting. The NETA cultivation facility employs dozens of agricultural workers and supplies dispensaries throughout Greater Boston, including NETA's controversial location in Brookline, MA. This ruling by the NLRB Regional Director removes the latest impediment in establishing a bargaining unit for these agricultural workers. The case now heads back to the Department of Labor Relations (DLR) for issuance of a certification establishing United Food and Commercial Workers as these workers bargaining agent.

NETA workers appreciated the significance of their victory. "After all of the attempts of NETA to prevent us from forming a union, I'm glad to see the cultivators win this. From deceptive tactics to outright lies, management tried everything to stop our petition, but we are not dumb. We saw through the charade and now the cultivators will have the representation they deserve," said Basil Cahill, NETA cultivation employee.

The workers at NETA are continuing the recent successes by workers in the Massachusetts cannabis industry and the ruling for agricultural workers in this industry is only one of many recent victories who want to be acknowledged and want stable, professional careers in cannabis. Likewise, NETA employees are motivated to Unionize and improve their working conditions through collective bargaining - achieving both a standardization of their relationship with management, a recognition of their horticultural skillset, and access to adequate health coverage for their families.

Secretary Treasurer, Fabricio DaSilva, said that, "today's victory demonstrates publicly, what 1445 knows of NETA. They are a "bad-actor" in this new cannabis play for workers, for communities, and for the reputation of this industry in Massachusetts. The work to expose their anti-worker tactics is ongoing."

President Fernando Lemus said, "the UFCW applauds these workers for testifying to the NLRB. Their resolve and commitment to themselves, and as members of a larger agricultural community paves the way for other growers. This ruling is encouraging for the future of this emerging industry."

Local 1445 is among the largest affiliates of the UFCW in Massachusetts, which is proud to represent tens of thousands of workers in the state. UFCW members in the legal cannabis industry work in growing and cultivating facilities, manufacturing, and processing facilities, and in laboratories and dispensaries.

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2021 Official Quarterly Meeting

Reunión oficial trimestral 2021

Próxima reunião em 2021

This quarter's official membership meeting will be held on the following date:

Esta reunión oficial de membresía trimestral se celebrará en la siguiente fecha:

Esta reunião será realizada no dia:

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this quarter's meeting
is tentatively scheduled to be held via Zoom

Any information regarding registration or changes to dates, times,
or locations will be posted as it becomes available