

LOCAL 3

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STOREWORKER NEWS

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LOCAL 3 UNITED STOREWORKERS

RWDSU/UFCW

Local 3 Contract Expiration

The Local 3 Union Contract with Bloomingdale's 59th Street expires next year. "The Collective Bargaining Campaign has already started and will intensify as the contract expiration date approaches," said President Berrocal to the Local 3 Executive Board. The Board began preparations for the 2012 Union Contract Expiration at its September 15th meeting with a preliminary examination of the goals that must be met next year. The Board determined that the number one goal is to hold on to every benefit

and advantage stipulated in the current contract. The current economy and the low level of unionization in the department store industry make it difficult to make serious improvements. On the other hand, the gains made by RWDSU Local 1-S at Macy's 34th Street provide a starting point for Local 3 members.

Labor Day Parade

New York City's organized labor marched on Saturday, September 10, 2011 in support of justice on behalf of the millions of unemployed workers throughout the nation. The NYC Central Labor Council AFL-CIO under the direction of Council President Vincent Alvarez mobilized organized labor to march up 5th Avenue following a Labor Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Local 3 President Cassandra A. Berrocal and RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum were part of the lead marchers formed by a contingent of NYC labor leaders advocating the creation of jobs that pay a living wage.

Thousands of union members from local unions in the New York metropolitan area marched to show their concern about the current economic situation; the crisis in the health care system; the attacks on Medicare by the Republican majority and the threat to destroy unions in America being mounted by the wealthy and by greedy employers.

The Local Executive Committee, comprised of President Berrocal, Secretary-Treasurer Shaun Kavanaugh and Local Recorder Costello Dash, is embarked in a determined effort to make sure every section of the Union has a Union Steward and that every Local 3 member full time, regular part time and evening / weekend has an opportunity to participate in the process. President Berrocal has already established ties to the entire labor movement in NYC and the support of the NYS Labor Council AFL-CIO.

The first of a series of membership meetings were held on Tuesday, September 20th at All Saints Church on 60th Street a half block from the Store. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th also at All Saints Church at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30pm. These three meetings are scheduled to provide access to all Local 3 members. The holiday season will forestall the next membership meeting until January,



Local 3 members join Union officers for Labor Day march up Fifth Avenue.

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Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 8th at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 PM
All Saints Church 230 East 60th Street (between 2nd and 3rd)

New Executive Board Member

President Cassandra Berrocal announced the election of a new Vice-President to the Local Executive Board. On September 15, 2011, James (Jimmy) Eisenberg of the Visual department was elected to the Board.

Jimmy has been an active member of the Local 3 Union Stewards Network for many years and has participated in collective bargaining campaigns on behalf of Bloomingdale's employees.

At the same meeting, Vice-President John Mancuso was appointed Chair of the Local 3 Health and Safety Committee to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Anthony Miloscia.



Vice President James (Jimmy) Eisenberg

Food For Thought

Unionized workers throughout America are facing a serious struggle to hold on to the benefits they have negotiated since 1935 with the passing of the National Labor Relations Act by the US Congress. Both public sector and private sector unions have negotiated the standards that help union and non-union workers. Several state governments are seeking to strip the public sector unions of their legal collective bargaining rights, and workers in the auto industry have been forced to make concessions regarding general wage increases.

Meanwhile, corporate greed and the politicians who have been "bought" by the "1% super rich" continue to exercise serious control over working people, middle-class workers and anyone not part of their closed and centralized power.

There is no place like America. Our country provides freedom and liberty for everyone, native-born and foreign-born alike. However, many working people do not exercise their responsibility to vote for politicians who will fight for our needs.

The current struggle in Congress demonstrates a determined effort not to compromise in order to get the Nation moving. Two factors are of special note, President Obama's Jobs bill is not receiving the support it merits and super-investors are holding on to cash money rather than investing it.

Working people need to get involved so that the mortgage foreclosure picture, joblessness in our country and the foreign trade situation can be resolved. President Clinton left office with the country in good shape. Under President Bush, tax cuts for the wealthy and for the corporate structure helped to create the catastrophe President Obama was handed when he took office. Obama looked for a way to bring different mind sets together in an effort to avoid the current disaster. He is not getting the support he needs to improve the American financial situation.

Creating jobs is the only way America will again be number one in a rapidly changing world. Register to vote and vote for the candidates who

are pledged to improve the lives of all Americans.

Local 3 President Cassandra A. Berrocal and RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum have called for membership action to support the faith, labor and community leaders to call for passage of the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act. We urge every Local 3 member to attend the rally to be held at The Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, on Monday, November 21st at 6:30PM. Take the 1 train to 116th Street or 125th Street.

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Contributions on topics of interest to members of the Union are invited. Correspondence should be sent to the address above.

Your Health

The SWSP Board of Trustees increased the burial benefit for members with 20 years or more of service to \$5,000 as part of a continuing program to make improvements on behalf of the membership. Health care costs are still rising as part of a corporation's budget and as part of a worker's budget. Prior to 1966 when Congress established Medicare, the elderly poor in America had to choose between buying food and paying for a doctor. Passage of the Medicare Law changed the picture and began a nation-wide consciousness regarding the quality of health care received by poor people, working people and those who could not afford to pay.

In 1950, Local 3 and Bloomingdale's signed an agreement to establish the Storeworkers Security Plan (SWSP). A Board of Trustees to supervise the Plan was named to comply with the law. In accordance with the union contract, health care became a continuing benefit for workers in the Bloomingdale's 59th Street Store. Bloomingdale's emulated this practice as they opened each branch store.

The soaring costs of health care during the late 1980's created a situation where Local 3 members first started to pay a weekly premium for all of the benefits provided by the Plan. In 1991, Local 3 members started by paying 1% of earnings each week. Much has changed since then.

Now, Local 3 members who choose to have health care coverage pay in accordance with the package they select. The member makes a weekly payment and the other part is paid from funds due to the SWSP as per the union contract.



Federal law requires health insurance companies to provide anti-flu vaccines, mammograms and other preventive measures as a routine part of the health benefit package providing you stay in network. Bloomingdale's scheduled anti-flu vaccines to be administered on October 28, November 3 and November 8, 2011. Both Management and Local 3 distributed notices to that affect.

The Union also announced that eligible members who are not enrolled in either CIGNA or Essential Care and paid \$20.00 for the vaccine would be entitled to a reimbursement from the SWSP by filing a reimbursement application. Earlier this year the SWSP notified eligible members that the reimbursable deductible would be increased by \$100.00.

Next year, 2012, will be a difficult year because health care costs have not been brought into line. The expiration of the union contract with Bloomingdale's makes 2012 a very important year for the Union and its members. Many corporations are eliminating the health care component of the wage package, and while it is not expected that it will be the case at Bloomingdale's 59th Street, union members will have to be totally involved in the collective bargaining process in order to ensure their rights and benefits under the union contract.

Local 3 Officers present reimbursement checks. Left: Secretary Treasurer Shaun Kavanagh with Lucia Arnes. Right: President Cassandra A. Berrocal with Frank Guzzone.

Local 3 Contract Expiration

2012. In the meantime, meetings on a divisional basis are being held with the Steward's Network on a consistent weekly basis, Berrocal emphasized.

The recent signing of the union contract in the auto industry highlights the loss of American jobs to foreign countries. Unionized auto workers have been forced to make concessions and to settle for bonuses rather than guaranteed wage increases. Public sector workers in some states have been stripped of collective bargaining rights under the guise that the State government could not continue to function otherwise.

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The gains that organized labor has negotiated since the National Labor Relations Act was passed by Congress in 1935 are being threatened by corporate greed and by the 1% top wealthy whose only concern is unlimited profits for themselves.

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COMMENTARY



by Berrocal & Kavanagh

Winter and the holidays are upon us. Halloween and Thanksgiving then Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanza and the New Year. 2012 will be here before you know it and everyone in America will be deluged with political rhetoric from all sides of the spectrum. From the ultra conservative Tea Party to the just cause "Occupiers."

Here at Local 3, the union leadership and the members will be looking forward to a collective bargaining drive that will intensify as we approach the contract expiration date at the end of April. We know from the telephone calls we receive that even workers in the branches are waiting with expectations to see what evolves from the negotiations that will take place.

We know that Macy's Inc. has been engaged in contract negotiations in the few unionized stores over which they have control. We expect that the

company will present a favorable case for its positions. We also know that several improvements must be made for the people who constitute the workforce at Bloomingdale's 59th Street.

We expect and will fight for fairness and justice on the job, respect from every level of management and for job security commensurate with the profits we generate for the corporation.

Our brothers and sisters in RWDSU Local 1-S made considerable strides in their 2011 negotiations. Together we must continue on the road to make life better for Local 3 members

You can find more about the union from the Local 3 website at: www.local3rwdsu.org

In Union solidarity