

# LOCAL 3

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2012

## STOREWORKER NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

LOCAL 3 UNITED STOREWORKERS

RWDSU/UFCW



### VOTE TO WIN

Working people all over the nation are recognizing the fact that the re-election of President Obama is of utmost importance to everyone in America.

Unionized workers know that they should vote for Obama in order to protect and insure the rights and benefits achieved through union contract negotiations. Non-union workers are realizing the direct impact on their wages and working conditions guaranteed by the standards set by labor unions.

Americans who are in the 47% discounted by Romney can fall on either side of the fence, but will certainly cast decisive ballots. Those at the top of the economic pyramid are the only group that does not want Obama because the President's program threatens the continuation of their total control of the American economy.

When our country was founded, it was built by free workers, indentured servants and slaves. They struggled for rights or benefits and they built the greatest country in the world. Throughout the years, organized labor engaged in long and bloody struggles to bring about changes that would be favorable to all working people. Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act in 1935 to give all workers the right to join a union.

The current assault on public sector unions like the actions of the Republican governor of Wisconsin and the remarks of the Republican governor of New Jersey demonstrate an anti-union sentiment designed to take away the rights and benefits currently enjoyed by all union members.

The courage displayed by the Chicago teachers who dared to go on strike in support of their students gives everyone a shining example of union unity and strength.

Union leaders all over the country are urging the membership to vote to win by re-electing President Obama.

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# Your In-Store Union Network

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Diane Bazemore X 5957  
Brenda Moses X 2161/2435  
Jack Rojas X 3340  
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Joseph Szarka X 2336/7  
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Joseph Boria X 3317

Nydia Diaz X 2705

Frank Malcangi X 3420/19

## CLERICAL STEWARDS

Ernestine Evans X 5618 (919 Bldg)

Beverly Smith X 3340

Charmaine Walcott X 2193

## EVENING/WEEK-END STEWARDS

Marion Rhodes X 2898/2862

Mary Smith X 2161

## Health Care Report

Local 3 members interested in health insurance coverage that does not require a "deductible" had an opportunity to enroll in HIP of Greater New York an HMO. Pursuit of this objective was led by the Local 3 Leadership Team in conjunction with the Human Resources department at the Store.

The Local 3 Leadership Team led by Local 3 President Cassandra A. Berrocal arranged for HIP representatives to hold special meetings in the 919 Building, the Store and the 155 Building in order to provide answers for any questions pending among the membership. President Berrocal along with Sec-Tres. Kavanagh and

Recorder Dash attended the meetings in order to answer any questions. The enrollment period for this "one-time" opportunity ended on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The program plan year begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Members who signed up for Essential Care or CIGNA are not affected by this new program.

# Local 3 Leadership Team Activities



Union activists join Sec.-Treas. Kavanagh (left) and Pres. Berrocal (center) at parade on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

## Labor Day Celebration

The 2012 Labor Day parade celebrated the contributions that American workers have made towards making our country the leader of the free world.

The Local 3 Leadership Team marched along side leaders and members of NYC organized labor in support of improving the terms and conditions of employment for every worker without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, political belief, sex or sexual orientation. Organized labor also supports improving the public school educational system and universal health care for all.

The first Labor Day Parade in NYC was held in 1882. The parade was led by an Irish born carpenter who believed in a workers' "rights program" for all working people. Today, NYC is the American city with the highest concentration of unionized good paying jobs.

The occupiers of Wall Street and in other cities and the issues they have brought to the table are reminiscent of the protests that led to recognition of workers rights by Federal, State and Municipal governments. Public sector workers finally received authorization to form a union in 1962 when the late President John F. Kennedy, a Democrat, signed Executive Order #10988 fashioned after the pioneering law in Wisconsin.

## NY State AFL-CIO Convention

Local 3 President Cassandra A. Berrocal, Secretary-Treasurer Shaun Kavanagh and Local 3 Recorder Costello Dash served as delegates to the



(Photo left) Local 3 Officers: Rec. Costello Dash, Pres. Casandra A. Berrocal and Sec.-Treas. Shaun Kavanagh attend NYS AFL-CIO Convention. (Below left) NYC Central Labor Council Pres. Vincent Alvarez. (Below right) NYS AFL-CIO Federation Pres. Mario Cilento.



2012 NYS AFL-CIO Convention held August 19–21 at the New York Sheraton Hotel. The theme of the Convention "Stronger Together" was generated by the RWDSU. The Local 3 delegates sat through 3 days of planning strategy for maintaining the principal role that labor plays in guaranteeing human rights, civil rights and workers' rights.

The NYS AFL-CIO Federation was a solid supporter of Local 3 RWDSU's efforts to negotiate a fair and just contract with Bloomingdale's earlier this year. Mario Cilento, the Federation's President pledged support to Local 3 members at the April 18 Rally along with NYC Central Labor Council President Vincent Alvarez.

The new leadership team at the State Federation and at the Central Labor Council have infused organized labor in New York with the vigor and vitality needed to maintain and grow New York City labor. This is evidenced by their appearances and pledges of support to every local facing a contract renewal. Our local union, the workers at Utility Union Local 1-2 and at RWDSU Local 1-5 are among the examples of this show of union unity.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Tues. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> – 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 P.M.

All Saints Church on 60<sup>th</sup> St.  
between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues.

## Local 3 Storeworker

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29-27 41<sup>st</sup> Ave. L. I. City, NY 11101  
Telephone: (212) 371-6230  
www.local3rwdsu.org

President: Cassandra A. Berrocal  
Sec.-Treas.: Shaun Kavanagh  
Recorder: Costello Dash

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

LOCAL 3  
UNITED STOREWORKERS  
RWDSU/UFCW  
29-27 41st Avenue, Suite 400  
Long Island City, NY 11101

# COMMENTARY



*by Berrocal & Kavanagh*

Most of us had not yet been born when the National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935. This Federal Law gives private sector workers except farm workers, health care workers and domestic workers the right to join a union. History tells us that America was still trying to recover from a deep depression that affected every working family in the country and a “dust bowl” tragedy that rocked the Nation.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Democrat, urged Congress to pass a series of laws that would lead to America’s industrial and monetary recovery that astounded the world.

Today, our nation is again suffering financial stress, brought on by un-regulated banking and mortgage industries. We are also caught up in a

serious turmoil between the “haves” and “have nots.” The situation has been eased by President Obama’s efforts in support of the auto industry and the banking industry. But he can’t do it alone. Congress has been against every substantive recommendation made by Obama as if they don’t want him to get any credit for moving the nation forward. Organized Labor is standing in support of re-electing President Obama and his efforts to remedy the destruction fostered by the previous administration and the opposition party.

We urge everyone, their family and friends to vote to win by re-electing President Obama and by supporting his efforts to lift America to the heights of liberty and justice for all.

**In Union Solidarity**

