





## John R. Durso

President of Local 338

#### Looking Ahead at 2023

The new year is in full swing and Local 338 is already busy gearing up for what 2023 has in store for our union! At the top of our priority list for this year are the contracts that are up for renegotiation in 2023. There are several that will be worked on this year, including the contracts at DeCicco's and First Student. Our negotiating team is hard at work preparing to deliver the best possible contracts for Local 338 members working in those shops.

We are also in the process of negotiating contracts for the farmworkers at Pindar Vineyards and Palmer and Paumanok Vineyards on Long Island. After over a year since they won their union election, we are confident that 2023 will be the year that these agricultural workers will finally have the strong union contracts they deserve.

2023 is yet another State election year, and I would like to remind our members of how important it is to exercise their constitutional right to vote! It is important to vote for candidates who will support working people in every election, but the recent controversy surrounding

United States Representative George Santos is an unpleasant reminder of how critical it is that we are thorough when vetting candidates running for office.

It is unacceptable that we have a representative who lied his way into Federal office, and we must do a better job in future elections to ensure that a candidate's resume is factual. As we get closer to the June Primary, you will be able to view a list of candidates running for office for several statewide and local seats in your Local 338 Member Portal. I encourage you to do your research and support candidates who are going to protect your rights as workers.

When we elect candidates that will fight for workers, we see the difference they make in the daily lives of everyday New Yorkers. Governor Hochul was one of these candidates, and her 2023 budget includes increases to the state's minimum wage, investments in education and renewable energy, a cost-of-living adjustment for direct service providers, and much more.

Her initial budget proposal is a good start, but Local 338 will be

advocating for increases in her proposed funding for the Facilitated Childcare Enrollment Project and the Cannabis Workforce Initiative, as well as an increase in the proposed cost-of-living adjustment for health services workers, which include our members at IAHD, IRI, and Community Resources.

For more information on the 2023 election season, including how to register to vote and donate to Local 338's Political Action Committee, please visit the My Local 338 Member Portal. If you have questions about your union contract, ongoing negotiations, or other things related to your union, please reach out to you Union Representative at (516) 294-1338 ext. 1776.















## Going To College? ME CAN HE

Take Advantage of These Great Scholarship Opportunities for Local 338 Members and Their Dependents

#### Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW Scholarship Awards Program

The 2023 Local 338 Charities Inc. Scholarship Awards Program is open to Local 338 Members (or their dependents) who are active members of the union and have been for at least one (1) year from the date the Short Form Application is due on March 17, 2023. Please note this scholarship program is open to students who are currently enrolled as high school seniors, currently enrolled in college or trade/vocational school, or will be pursuing their master's or doctorate degree in the fall.

Please note this is a two-part application. The deadline to submit the short form application is March 17th, 2023. To apply and view all eligibility guidelines, visit: https://local338.org/forms/2023-scholarship-application

#### **Suffolk County Community College**

Two new scholarship opportunities are now available for Local 338 members and their dependents from the Suffolk County Community College Foundation. Students could be eligible for up to \$2,000 towards the cost of tuition per semester.

To apply for the scholarship for new students, visit: <a href="https://sunysuffolk.">https://sunysuffolk.</a> academicworks.com/opportunities/4903

The deadline to apply is May 7, 2023.

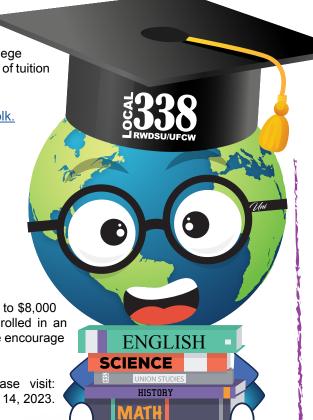
To apply for the scholarship for continuing students, visit: <a href="https://">https://</a> sunysuffolk.academicworks.com/opportunities/5169

The deadline to apply is May 23, 2023.

#### The UFCW Charity Foundation Scholarship

The UFCW Charity Foundation Scholarship awards scholarships of up to \$8,000 each, broken up into payments of \$2,000 for each year you are enrolled in an accredited college or university. This is an excellent opportunity, and we encourage all eligible members to apply!

For more information, and to find out if you are eligible, please visit: ufcwcharityfoundation.org/scholarship The scholarship deadline is May 14, 2023.





WWW.LOCAL338.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS

Local 338's mission is to better the lives of our members and all working people













## We Love Our Union

This year, we asked some of our members to tell us what they love most about being a part of the Local 338 family. From strong wages and great benefits to the feeling of solidarity with your union sisters and brothers, there's a lot to love about being in a union! Unions give workers a voice on the job and serve as a support system when you need us. We love our members and are proud to represent all of you! Happy Valentine's Day!



Antonella Langdon, Moneigh Orlando & Linda Farino | Stop & Shop



Barbara Ann Rickus | Stop & Shop



Donald LaValle | ShopRite



Elvin Ramirez | Morton Williams



Johnssy Ariza | Morton Williams



Junyi Huang | Duane Reade



Karim M. | Duane Reade





Kayla Manarino | ShopRite



Kirankumar Christian | Duane Reade



Luis Roldan | Morton Williams



Rafiyyah Yasin | ShopRite



Talya Nunes | Duane Reade



Tanisha Jones | ShopRite

We love our members and are proud to represent all of you! Happy Valentine's Day!





Building a Cannabis Industry That Works for Everyone

New York's adult-use cannabis industry is beginning to take off, and the first round of regulations for the adult-use cannabis industry were released in December by the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM). These regulations will serve as a guide for businesses and stakeholders—workers, advocates, community organizations and more—on what New York's adult-use cannabis industry should look like.

The release of the first round of regulations was followed by a public comment period that wrapped up in mid-February. The state received thousands of comments from those interested in owning cannabis businesses, community organizations, advocates, along with Local 338 and members working in the cannabis industry. The OCM must now review the comments and will use them to adjust the regulations for the next round that may be released at some point this year.

New York is in a unique position—we have the chance to build an industry from the ground up, and through the OCM's continued efforts to meet with industry stakeholders, we will ensure that New York's cannabis industry is one that uplifts working people and allows people from marginalized communities to succeed. The first round of regulations brings us closer to upholding the mission of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA), which was signed into law in 2021.

Local 338 has played an important part in setting the standard for jobs in the medical cannabis industry—we have ensured that workers receive fair wages, strong benefits, and have spent years working to ensure that the medicinal industry is one that supports working people. It is critical we maintain that standard for the adult-use industry and ensure that workers entering the industry have the same high wages, strong benefits and industry standards as the ones that have been established for New York's existing cannabis workforce.

The OCM is committed to creating a social equity program that creates opportunities for communities

that have been impacted the most by cannabis criminalization and prohibition. They value highroad employment, which will allow for these cannabis jobs to become reliable, unionized careers. The first set of regulations also protects the members of Local 338—the work of our membership cannot be outsourced, which prevents the standards we've set for the industry from being undermined. However, we believe that the good, quality jobs we've created and our members who participate in the medicinal industry should be able to grow with the industry as well.

The first set of regulations were a good-faith effort for what the industry can and should look like, but there is more to be done to ensure this is the best cannabis program in the country. Over the last year, we've seen thousands of unlicensed cannabis shops popping up across New York. We are not calling for the recriminalization of cannabis, but the State must also prioritize enforcing unlicensed cannabis shops across the state, along with getting licensed dispensaries open to the public. This will be critical in ensuring that CAURD and social equity dispensaries have the best chance at success, we're promoting public and worker safety, and that tax revenue is being generated to support all of the intended community reinvestment programs. We are also fighting to ensure the survival of the medical cannabis industry and are pushing for an investment in the industry, which provides essential care for thousands of patients and employs hundreds of New Yorkers across the state.

I would like to thank the Local 338 members who have participated in the process of reviewing and commenting on the first round of cannabis regulations. Your feedback and conversations with the OCM are going to help build an industry that supports working people, and it would not be possible without your commitment to the industry. We are looking forward to the next round of regulations and your cannabis representatives will be able to walk you through them when they're released.















### Welcome to the Union Cannabis Family, Housing Works Cannabis Co.!











The first adult-use cannabis dispensary in New York officially opened on December 29th, and we are proud to announce that it's staffed by workers who are members of Local 338! Housing Works Cannabis Co. is an extension of Housing Works, a non-profit working to fight HIV/AIDS and homelessness throughout the city. In addition to the dispensary, Housing Works runs thrift stores and bookshops across the city, along with working in harm reduction.

The opening of the recreational-use dispensary marks an exciting milestone for New York's adult-use cannabis industry! Adult-use cannabis was legalized in 2021 with the passage of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act, after Local 338 and other advocates spent a decade fighting for the drug to be decriminalized and legalized.

When you shop at legal, unionized adult-use dispensaries, you're guaranteed a product that has been tested and processed by industry experts. You can trust that what the cannabis you are purchasing is safe to consume and dispensary staff will be able to answer any questions you have about using the product! To shop union adult-use cannabis, you can visit the Housing Works Cannabis Co. at 750 Broadway in Manhattan.

We now represent 100% of the workers in New York's medicinal industry, and we are hoping to emulate that in the adult-use industry. We want every worker to have a chance at a good, union job with wages and benefits that will allow them to support themselves and their families. By unionizing the workforce in the medicinal cannabis industry statewide, we are setting the standard for cannabis jobs statewide, ensuring working people will be able to rely on their cannabis careers—in both the medicinal and adult-use industries—for years to come.

We expect this year will bring the opening of several more adultuse businesses across the supply chain, and we are hard at work fighting to ensure that New York's cannabis industry is the most pro-worker cannabis industry in the country. If you or someone you know is interested in the unionized cannabis industry, please visit local338cannabis.org.















## Local Se

#### Member Benefit Spotlight: Luis Roldán

When Luis Roldán attended a routine Local 338 membership meeting where the Guardian Nurses were giving a presentation, he never thought he was going to need the benefit.

"I said, 'well I'll never use this service, I'm healthy.' And a year later, boom," he said. Luis had to have major heart surgery and immediately called Guardian Nurses to be with him throughout the process.

Luis Roldán has been a full-time member of Local 338 since 2015 and works in the deli department as a chef at the Morton Williams on Bleecker Street in Manhattan, where he prepares food for catering orders, the hot bar, and showcase.

Guardian Nurses is a benefit offered to members and eligible dependents of Local 338's Health & Welfare Fund and Crossroads. They are nurses and patient advocates who will help you navigate the healthcare system, serving as a support system as you take steps to maintain your health. The Guardian Nurses will help you find the right in-network provider, attend appointments with you, ask questions on your behalf, and visit you in the hospital after a procedure. Luis says that having the nurses at his side throughout the entire process made it all much easier.

"At the time, Andrea was the nurse who was assisting me, and she was just fantastic. It was a very scary time in my life, and she helped me navigate the whole process. Andrea talked me and my family through it and came to see me when I was in the hospital. Andrea and her coworker Michelle have been following up with me since my procedure," Luis said.

Having someone with him who was able to explain what was going on and answer questions was a huge comfort, Luis said. When you're going for a major procedure or have just gotten a scary diagnosis, having an expert with you who will be able to walk you through the process of getting ready for surgery or other treatment to manage a condition makes a huge difference.

Luis wants to encourage members to familiarize themselves with the benefits that are offered to them, because you never know when you may need them.

"Look into what benefits you have that can help you and your family. Look into all of the options that Local 338 has for us, because the services are excellent, and they're there to help you when you are navigating a medical setting," he said.

For members who want to learn more about the benefits they receive through their union contract, please log on to the Local 338 Member Portal: mylocal338.org. We have membership meetings quarterly, where members will be able to learn more about some of the benefits we offer and what they are eligible for. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, June 23rd.



Do you have a unique hobby, a special talent or a great accomplishment that you would like to share? Maybe you love to woodwork and have a back porch to prove it. Perhaps your coworker recently won an award but is too humble to brag about it.

Our unique abilities are what make us different but our togetherness as a union is what makes us strong. Contact Caroline Leddy at 516-294-1338 Ext.1300 or email her at Cleddy@local338.org to be considered as a feature in the next issue of 338 News.

















## Met E. Gonzalvo

**Executive Vice President** 

New Year, New Opportunities to Get Involved with Your Union!

I hope you're having a good start to 2023! A new year brings with it a fresh start and many new opportunities, including ways to get involved with your union. Whether you've been a member for 40 years or have just joined our union family, we're always looking for active members who want to help at union events or attend meetings!

Being active in our union comes in several different forms: you can attend membership meetings, serve as a spokesperson for your fellow membership, talk to your Union or Funds Representative if there's something going on in your workplace, taking advantage of your union benefits and more. For members who are looking to take it one step further, we're looking for Shop Stewards for many of our shops!

Shop Stewards are vital to a union; they are the first point of contact in getting information out at your worksite. We regularly look for individuals with qualities of leadership and union pride. Having more members in positions like Shop Steward helps us grow and strengthen as an organization. If you or a coworker are interested in taking on the responsibilities of this role, or simply want more information on what a Shop Steward does, please speak to your Union Representative.

Members who want to serve as spokespeople will have the opportunity to share the advantages of being in a union for testimonials for our website and may also have the opportunity to speak to the press on important issues affecting working people. When the press reaches out to our union, they often want to hear from our members directly—as the people who are working in our shops, you have firsthand experience with several issues that are affecting working people today.

If you're not ready to take the next step to become a Local 338 Shop Steward or Member Spokesperson, we hope you'll be an active member of your union. Whether it's answering a call to action like showing up to rally or something as simple as reaching out to your fellow members in solidarity, you can make a difference. Be sure to regularly check your "MyLocal338" account or our social media for updates on how you can get involved.

You can also reach out to me personally for information on how to get involved! I love to speak to our members to hear firsthand what's going on in your shops. You can call me on my cell phone at 646-261-4858 or email me at <a href="mailto:ngonzalvo@local338.org">ngonzalvo@local338.org</a>. The first five members to reach out will earn some Local 338 swag!



#### **IT PAYS TO BE UNION**

Since January 2023, Local 338, through grievances and arbitrations, collected funds and returned back wages to our members in excess of

\$2,450.90













## Opt-In to Keep in Touch!



As your Union, it's important that we can keep you up to date on important things happening within your union. Now that we've entered the new year, it's a great time to make sure the contact information we have on file is accurate, including your mailing address, cell number and email address. To do this, you can speak to your Union or Funds/Service Representative, contact the Union Call center at 516-294-1138 ext. 1776, or by simply logging in to your My Local 338 account!

Additionally, we are launching a new peer-to-peer text messaging program to make it easier than ever to get the most important information to you as quickly as possible! This information may include updates on contract negotiations, membership meeting information, or other important union news. We will be using this new program on an as-needed basis— and we will only be sharing information about upcoming events and important updates.

We are asking all members of Local 338 to fill out this form to opt-in to text communications from Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW. (Please note Standard message and data rates may apply.) You can do this in one of two ways:

- Logging in to your My Local 338 account (mylocal338.org) and selecting YES to receiving text messages in the My Profile and Settings tab under My Information
- Completing the following consent form: https://local338.org/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=352#

#### We look forward to keeping in touch with you!

If you have any questions, please contact your Union or Funds/Service Representative.











#### **Important Staff Changes at Local 338**

As your union, we are always looking for ways to serve our membership the best we can. We are pleased to announce the following staff changes:





Union Representative Fred Wren has been promoted to Field Director! Fred is a former member of Local 338 who worked at Waldbaum's supermarkets. He has always been very active in the labor movement—he would regularly membership meetings attend and was elected to the Local 338 Executive Board while he was a member! Fred joined the Local 338 family in 1999 and worked as a Union Representative for 24 years before transitioning to his new role as Field Director. As Field Director. Fred will work with our Union and Field Representatives to help them become the best possible representatives for our membership.



Elected to Local 338 **Executive Board** 

Lead Organizer Yomaira Franqui was elected to the Local 338 Executive Board at the end of 2022! Yomaira has been on staff at Local 338 since 2007. when she was hired to work in our union call center before working in claims and at reception. She was brought on as an organizer in 2012, where she helped with a few campaigns with our national union, the RWDSU, and now is a Lead Organizer for our union. Yomaira has organized workers across New York, most recently working on several campaigns at the Child Center of New York, the Lower East Side Neutral Housing Association, and with farmworkers across Eastern Long Island. As a member of the Local 338 Executive Board, Yomaira will continue to serve as a voice for the membership and help our union be the best it can be.



Returns to Role as Union Representative

Nelson Resto has been on the Local 338 team since 1993 when he started as a worker in our mailroom. In the 30 years since he joined our union family, Nelson has worked as a Service Representative, Union Representative, Assistant to the Executive Vice President organizer! was Nelson just brought back to the Union Representative team after several years spent organizing workers across New York. He will be taking over for Fred Wren, representing much of Eastern Long Island, from Commack to Rocky Point! Nelson says he's excited to get back to being a Union Representative and having the chance to improve the lives of working peoplethroughout Suffolk County.















## Introducing Yvonne Duco, Cannabis Union Representative and Organizer



Yvonne Duco is a new member of the Local 338 cannabis team! Yvonne was brought on in September of 2022, after working for PharmaCann in Albany for four years. During her time at PharmaCann, she worked as a patient care coordinator before moving up to work on the corporate side of the company doing outreach. Yvonne helped to unionize her dispensary, later becoming her location's first Shop Steward, where she learned the ins and outs of her contract and served as a liaison between her fellow members and the union.

She says her experience as a Local 338 member in a unionized dispensary has allowed her to better connect with our cannabis members because she's experienced working in the dispensaries firsthand. Yvonne's background is in oncology, where she worked in patient care and advocacy for over a decade. She decided to make the switch to New York's emerging cannabis industry because she wanted to help patients receive the care they needed and change the conversation around the use of medicinal cannabis.

"I have a lot of gratitude for being here now and helping set the standard for the industry," she said.

Yvonne represents workers across the Northern and Western territories all the way down to the Hudson Valley. With New York's cannabis industry constantly changing and growing to become the best it can be, Yvonne says it's important to stay up-to-date on the regulations, and help our members adapt to the new rules and regulations that are imposed on their workplaces. When she's not working, she's a huge Giants fan and is a mom of three boys!

#### Welcome to the team, Yvonne!

## Do you have a new phone number, email, or home address?



Let us know! It's important to keep your information updated in our systems so you're up to date on all things union. Having the correct information in our system ensures that you get everything you're supposed to, in terms of contract negotiation updates, news about your benefit packages, scholarship opportunities, our newsletter, and more! You can update your information through the form <a href="here">here</a> or by logging in to the Local 338 app!



















Earl Mathurin

**Funds Administrator** 

#### Learning About Your Benefits is Easier Than Ever!



Eats / Watherin

We are pleased to announce that Local 338 members enrolled in the Benefits Fund will be able to receive a Benefits at a Glance! This booklet is a simplified overview of the benefits you receive based on your union contract and as a member of Local 338. Depending on what plan you're enrolled in, you may be eligible for optical, dental, and hearing aid benefits, student loan counseling, childcare reimbursement, legal services, and much more!

We have designed these benefits to meet the needs of our members and their eligible dependents. We hope you'll make time to learn more about the kinds of benefits you receive through your union, and we encourage you to take advantage of them! If you're not sure what benefits plan you're enrolled in,

you can check by logging into your Local 338 Member Portal or downloading the Local 338 app. If you don't have an account yet, registering is easy and only takes a few minutes.

Booklets are now available through your Union and Funds Representatives, and Spanish versions of the Benefits at a Glance are available upon request. If you want a more detailed overview of your benefits, you can view a Summary Plan Description (SPD) on the Local 338

Member Portal, or request one by reaching out to your Union or Funds Representative.

Benefits at a Glance booklets for members of the Local 338 Health and Welfare Fund will be available later this year in both English and Spanish. For questions about the Benefits at a Glance, eligibility, or other questions related to benefits, please reach out to the Local 338 Funds office at (516) 294-1338 ext. 1776.











STAMP OUT HUNGER WITH LOCAL 338

C'MON!

EASIER IF YOU

## K TO





#### Saturday, May 13, 2023

The National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is back again for their 31st year! This food drive helps thousands of local families in need every year. Food assistance is more important than ever, and our local food pantries rely on donations to keep food on the tables of those who need it most.

We're asking members to help us fight food insecurity by donating nonperishable goods on May 13, 2023. Donating is easy—simply place your nonperishables in a bag by your mailbox and your mail carrier will pick up your donation to deliver to local food pantries.

If you have questions about the food drive or how to donate, please reach out to you Union Representative at (516) 294-1338 ext. 1776.













#### Wishing Our Members a Happy Retirement!

(Local 338's recent retirees between January 1 to February 28, 2023)

Philip Altamura

Eloise Arrighetta

Joseph Aversa

Virginia Ayala

Donna Barletta

Cynthia Beckman

Cathy Belmonte

Ligia Caldas

Victor Chery

Ricardo De Armas

Timothy Dembek

Susan Doucette

Richard Eckert

Joan Estrada

Janet Francis

George Fritta

Maria Garcia

Nicholas Gospodarec

Thomas Grasso

Hussein Hamdan

Michael Hoffman

John Hughes

Lee Hunter

Pwint Kyaing

Noreen Laiso

David Lee

Angel Liriano

Suk Yee Christine Man

Surinder Mann

Robert Mart

Carl Matuozzi

Michael Mc Neal

Patrick Mcguire

Alicia Miranda

Hamid Mohamed

Maryann Molloy

Ann Myrato

Thomas Perricone

Corrado Poglianich

Wayne Purrman

Kathy Quinn

Anthony Rampone

Christine Ravid

Angelo Rella

Philip Rinaldi

Patricia Rossi

Ruzdi Sadik

Santosh Saha

Judith Savarese-Ruggiero

Mark Steinman

Jacqueline Tart

John Torres

Joanne Tyte

Barbara Valukis

James Walker

Lori Weber

Karin Wolf

"Retired from my job, not from my union"













We are so proud of our members—that's why we feature so many as part of our Member Monday series! Once a month, however, we like to spotlight a member who has gone above and beyond on the job and in their union. Recently, we've featured Tanisha Jones as our February Super Member! is a cashier at ShopRite in Deer Park, and she's a proud, 5-year member of our union! Tanisha likes to spend time with her daughter—they like to cook together and enjoy meal prepping! She also likes to go bowling and take her daughter to the park

We've also featured Alex Chu, a 5-year member of Local 338, as our March Super Member! Alex is a Pharmacist at MedMen in Manhattan. He was recently elected to the Local 338 Executive Board and is the Shop Steward for his MedMen! He's proud to be a member and says he enjoys playing an active part in our union! Alex loves playing tennis and learning new vegetarian recipes. He follows professional tennis, where his favorite player is Matteo Berrettini. We'd like to feature as many members as we can, so if you think you know someone who should be our next Super member, let us know! We'd love to feature them on our social media platforms. To stay up to date on all things Local 338, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter





#### **LOCAL 338 MEMBER MEETING**



**Join Us for Our Next Membership Meeting on** Wednesday, **June 21, 2023** 

Please check your My Local 338 account for location details and Zoom registration information.













# LABOR DAY 2023 PARADE SAVETHE DATE

Join Your Fellow Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW Members at the

## Labor Day Parade!

Celebrating New York's Working Men & Women!

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Location and times to meet:TBA

Friends and Family are welcome! I We'll kick off the Parade with food and fun!

To see pictures from previous years, please visit: flickr.com/local338





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Our Mission: To Better The Lives Of Our Members And All Working People.