

338 News

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John R. Durso

President of Local 338

Working People Have the Power

I would like to extend congratulations on behalf of Local 338 to the Amazon workers on Staten Island on becoming the first Amazon warehouse in the country to unionize! Watching their fight to improve their working conditions has been incredible, and we could not be happier that these workers felt empowered enough to come together and make the decision to form a union. The recent push for unionization among Amazon workers, including at the warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama, is remarkable and a clear showing of the growing strength of our nation's labor movement. We are still waiting on the final results from the election in Alabama, but the current ballot count for that warehouse has been close for a state that's not very pro-union. We stand in solidarity with these workers, and hope they stay strong in their fight for unionization!

The primary for the 2022 midterm elections will be here before we know it—I encourage our members to check their voter registration and begin

making a plan to vote. Although it is not a Presidential election year, we cannot underestimate the importance of this election. Voting for your representatives on the state and local level is just as important as voting for those who represent you in Washington, D.C. These representatives enact legislation that will directly affect your quality of life in New York—you must show up and support candidates who will fight for you and your rights as working people. When the labor movement doesn't vote, we risk losing key allies in local, state and federal government who are going to fight to ensure your rights are protected.

Governor Hochul is among the politicians who leads with the best interests of workers in mind. Her State budget was recently passed and includes several key victories for New York's working families to help our state continue to recover from the pandemic. Included in the budget are investments in clean energy, upgrades to our transportation infrastructure, and an unprecedented \$31.5

billion investment in New York's education system. The 2023 budget has also eased the tax burden on New York's middle-class by reducing tax rates and suspending fuel taxes beginning in June. Her commitment to New York's working people is evident, which is why it is critical that Local 338 members show up to support her on Primary Day.

Local 338 is still collecting donations for the ongoing crisis in Ukraine—we're accepting everything from nonperishable food, medical supplies, clothing, and more. You can check your My Local 338 account for a full list of what we are accepting as donations. We are working with local organizations to ensure that what is collected is sent directly to Ukrainians in need. If you would like to donate, you may drop it off at the Local 338 office or you can reach out to your Union Representative to schedule a pickup. Local 338 members have always been supportive of those who need it most, and I know this time will be no different.



Honoring the Lives of Those We've Lost on Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day is recognized on April 28th each year and is a day dedicated to remembering those who have been injured, fallen ill, or have lost their lives while on the job. This year, Local 338 members and representatives gathered in stores across New York to commemorate the workers we lost over the last year. We stood together in solidarity during a moment of silence at 10 AM to honor the people who went to work and never came home.

The last two years have been incredibly difficult for essential workers, including our membership, all of whom worked on the front lines of the pandemic to support their communities and ensure they were able to continue to buy groceries and essential resources, refill their medical prescriptions, or receive the critical care they needed. It is because of their sacrifice that so many of us are able to continue our lives as normal.

On Workers' Memorial Day and beyond, we honor the sacrifices of those lost by continuing the fight to ensure that all workers have access to safe working conditions. We will ensure our elected officials, employers, and the public remember and respect the risks and sacrifices our members have taken.





Joseph Fontano

Secretary - Treasurer

Working People Are Reclaiming Their Power

Over the last several months, we've seen workers across the country take back their power and work together to improve their working conditions. After two years of a pandemic where much of our essential workforce has had to put their lives and health on the line to support themselves and their families, workers have had enough. They're tired of being underpaid and taken advantage of by their employers, and through the help of a union, working people are organizing to ensure they are given the workplace rights and protections they are entitled to.



An excellent example of the rise in worker power is the recent wave of Starbucks workers across the United States joining [Starbucks Workers United](#). There are dozens of locations across the country that have already filed to unionize, including some

of the most recent right here in New York. The store that sparked this surge in unionization efforts began in Buffalo when workers at that location filed to unionize in December 2021.

We also saw workers at an Amazon warehouse on Staten Island unionize just this month, the very first Amazon warehouse in the country to successfully unionize. Workers there knew what they were fighting for and resisted the company's despicable attempt at union busting to stop them from winning their unionization vote. We should all be supporting these workers at Starbucks and Amazon as they fight for dignity and respect on the job and a decent life for working families!

Worker power is not just being seen in organizing, but in new contracts—most recently for the workers in our sister locals of the UFCW in California and New England. These workers have won massive victories for themselves in these contracts, a direct result of them being active in their union. They participated in their union through member meetings, attending rallies and protests in solidarity, and being union allies to workers who are on the path towards unionization. It is proof that when we come together as a labor movement, we can accomplish anything, including contracts that reflect what workers want to see in their workplaces. We encourage Local 338 members to reach out when it's time for contract negotiations, and to come out to events we hold—including the upcoming member meeting on June 15th. When we have an open line of communications with our members, it allows us to negotiate a better contract on your behalf.



If you're looking for ways to get involved, you can reach out to your Union Representative through the [My Local 338 member portal](#) or by calling us at (516) 294-1338 ext. 1775.



Support Worker-Friendly Candidates this Election Season!

This year, New York legislators have had the opportunity to redraw congressional, senate, and assembly maps across the state. However, there have been some last-minute changes to the electoral layout of the state and a judge is requiring that the Congressional and Senate maps are redrawn, postponing the Primary Election for Congressional and Senate races to **August 23**. The **Primary Election for statewide and Assembly races will be on June 28th**.

There are a lot of important seats on the ballot this year, and we encourage Local 338 members to make sure they get out to vote—we believe that these candidates are the best option for working families across New York. They have and will continue to show up for the labor movement and fight for working people! If you can't make it to the ballot box on Primary Day, you can vote early. For more information on early voting in your county, visit: <https://www.voteearlyny.org/#selectcounty>.

Kathy Hochul for Governor

Governor Kathy Hochul has been a longtime ally to New York's working people and has already delivered a lot for New Yorkers during her time as Governor. In her first budget, she expanded access to childcare, cut taxes for the middle class, made historic investments in clean energy, and is working to ensure New York's economy recovers from the pandemic. She'll continue to fight for working people as governor and we will support her in her bid for re-election!



**Kathy Hochul
for Governor**

Tish James for Attorney General

Attorney General Tish James is an advocate for every New Yorker. She's spent her political career holding the powerful accountable, and as Attorney General has prosecuted employers who steal wages and deny workers benefits and has taken steps to ensure that workers are safe on the job throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Tish has prioritized making New York a more equitable place for everyone, a fight she's guaranteed to continue if re-elected as Attorney General.



**Tish James
for Attorney General**

Tom DiNapoli for Comptroller

During his time as Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli has exposed corruption and recovered more than \$50 million dollars in misuse of taxpayer funds, grew state pension funds, and pressed companies to address climate change. He's been a progressive leader, working to ensure that corporate boards and talent pools are more inclusive of women and minorities, and created more transparency in local government through the creation of the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System, which allows taxpayers to learn more about how their communities are using their funds. He will continue to hold businesses and state and local agencies accountable if re-elected, and we're proud to support him in his campaign!



**Tom DiNapoli
for Comptroller**

For a full list of this year's Primary Election endorsements, please visit mylocal338.org or download the Local 338 app!



Introducing Katie Shane, Local 338's New Deputy Political Director!



In March, Katie Shane joined the Political & Communications team, where she'll be working as the new Deputy Political Director! She attended New York University, where she majored in Philosophy and Political Science. NYU is also where Katie got her first taste of organizing—she successfully organized student workers to establish a \$15 minimum wage. From college, she joined the Carpenters Union as the Deputy Political Director and worked there until joining the Freelancers Union. In 2021, Katie ran the campaign for Brooklyn Councilmember Crystal Hudson.

Katie will be working hand in hand with Local 338's Political & Communications Director, Nikki Kateman, to draft policy ideas, talk to stakeholders, and work on pro-union legislation to better support the members of Local 338. Katie loves to listen to disco music, cook, and travel—she's already hard at work fighting for our members, and has made a great addition to the team! Welcome, Katie!

Help Us Advocate for You: Donate to the Local 338 PAC!

If you're looking for another way to get involved in your union and our political and social efforts to improve the lives of working people across New York, consider donating to our Political Action Committee! The Local 338 PAC is funded entirely by voluntary contributions and supports our political and advocacy work focused on creating policies, laws and budgets that directly support Local 338 members and their families.

By donating as little as 25 cents per week, you will make an impact in the lives of your fellow members. Every dollar of the Local 338 PAC has helped us successfully advocate for:

- Programs to support Local 338 members and offset the cost of childcare
- Paid Family Leave to support our members who have to care for loved ones
- The legalization of adult-use cannabis, including protections to ensure the creation of good, union careers and the formation of a strong social equity program
- Policies to protect immigrant workers, and much more!



For more information and to sign up, please visit your [My Local 338](#) account, the Local 338 app, or ask your Union for Funds Representative for more information! Thank you for helping us advocate for you!



Save on Your Monthly PSEG-LI Bill with Community Power LI!



We are proud to announce a new partnership with Community Power LI. You can support Local 338 and **save 10% on your PSEG-LI bill every month!** [Community Power LI](#) is a company that works with a New York State program to lower your electric bill each month. You enjoy the benefits of cleaner

energy without having to install solar panels or wind turbines on your home. Their goal is to save Long Islanders money and work with local community organizations to support them at the same time.

We're proud to partner with Community Power LI as they are exclusively using union labor to build their fuel cells, which enable this cleaner energy program to exist. Because of this connection, Local 338 union members are getting an early opportunity to enroll, which is important because spots are limited.

Through our partnership with Community Power Long Island, an approved partner of PSEG Long Island, you receive 10% savings on all electricity they provide to you via your monthly PSEG-LI electric bill.

In addition, Community Power LI will donate to Local 338 Charities, Inc. for every new member we sign up for the electricity savings program and you'll receive a \$50 Visa gift card after your first month with the CPLI Program.

We invite you to sign up and learn more with this exclusive [Local 338 link](#) and look forward to the double impact of savings for our members and the fundraising opportunity for Local 338.



Local 338

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Keith Goubeaud

Did you know that the beer section in DeCicco's supermarkets are run by an in-store beer specialist? Keith Goubeaud is the Local 338 member in charge of the beer section at his DeCicco's store in Larchmont, and he spends his day helping customers pick a beer that suits their taste!

In addition to helping customers, stocking shelves, and checking in deliveries, Keith is also in charge of curating the stock for the beer section at DeCicco's. He enjoys IPAs and his personal favorite is Finback Brewery, but he says that it's important to maintain a variety within his section, so people always have a new beer to choose from.

"Breweries are coming out with something new every week, because people will try their beer and decide they want to try something else," he said.

Keith has been at DeCicco's for almost 25 years and says he loves what he gets to do every day. He's worked in the beer section for two decades, and says that during his time with the company, his coworkers feel more like family. "I really do love working here."

The next time you want to try a new beer, check out DeCicco's—whether you like IPAs, stout, or lager, Local 338 members like Keith will be able to help you find a new beer to try!



338 News is YOUR News Source

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.





Neil E. Gonzalvo

Executive Vice President

The Importance of Being Politically Active

This year is a midterm election year—meaning several local, state, and federal elected officials are running for re-election. It is important to make sure you're ready to cast your ballot and have a plan to vote! Part of the plan means researching the candidates running in your district and registering to vote if you haven't. Registering to vote is very easy—the form takes less than two minutes to fill out. Your Union Representative can help you fill it out the next time they visit your shop, or if you want to register online, the DMV has a [form on their website](#) that you can fill out instead. **The deadline to register to vote is June 3, 2022.** Being politically active is an important part of being a union member—your vote helps get candidates into office who will fight for your rights as working people.

The leadership at Local 338 also works with local politicians to ensure that they are passing legislation that supports our members and all working people. This is made possible by contributions to the Local 338 Political Action Committee (PAC). Members can sign up to make a small contribution to our PAC by filling out the [form on our website](#) or by asking your Union Representative for a form the next time they visit your shop. These contributions start at 25

cents a week and max out at \$1.90 per week. We ask for our members' support in contributing to our PAC because it helps us boost politicians who have a proven track record of fighting for working people and passing legislation that will help protect and expand the rights of workers throughout New York.

In addition, I hope you'll keep an eye out for increased Local 338 presence in your store—as the world begins to return to normal, our representatives will be spending time in your shops conducting extensive general visits and holding "Union Days". Union days are shop visits where our representatives will be discussing more than just contract issues, they will focus on the various benefits the Union offers and can provide. As always, if you have any questions for your union, you can reach out to your Union or Funds Representative directly through your [My Local 338 account](#).

Finally, I would love to hear from you. You can call me on my cell phone: 646-261-4858. We can discuss anything you want about our union, such as what improvements you would like to see in your next contract. The first five members to call me will earn some Local 338 swag!



IT PAYS TO BE UNION

Since January 2022, Local 338, through grievances and arbitrations, collected funds and returned back wages to our members in excess of

\$120,599!





MY BENEFITS

With
Earl Mathurin
Funds Administrator



Earl Mathurin

The Importance of Taking Care of Your Health as a Diabetic

As a diabetic, it's particularly important to keep your health in check. Did you know that 1 in 10 people have diabetes, and 25% of adults have diabetes and don't know it? Diabetes affects almost every part of your body, and if not taken seriously, it can result in an increased risk of complications including stroke, blindness, kidney disease and amputation. Having a long-term care plan is essential for managing your diabetes—in addition to keeping your blood sugar in check by using a glucose meter and regular visits to your doctor, managing your cholesterol and blood pressure can also help prevent future diabetes-related health problems from occurring.



For members of the Local 338 Health & Welfare Fund, you can take advantage of our benefit specifically for diabetics: Livongo! For no cost, Livongo will provide eligible members with a connected meter that uploads and sends your glucose reading to your secure online account and unlimited diabetic testing supplies. Livongo also provides you with real-time personal tips and access to a coach who can give you advice for nutrition and lifestyle changes, as well as advice on diabetes. You can learn more at join.livongo.com/RWDSU338/now.

Introducing LESCA!



Local 338's Member Assistance Program (MAP) is now being run by the Labor Education Community Services Agency, Inc (LESCA)! LESCA is available to all Local 338 members and their dependents and is there to support members for a variety of problems. Just like our Member Assistance Program, LESCA can help members who may be struggling with addiction, grief, bereavement, or have concerns about their mental health. Additionally,

LESCA can provide support to members who are struggling with housing instability, domestic violence, marital issues, and more.

As always, your calls to LESCA are strictly confidential—they understand that reaching out about personal struggles can be difficult to do, and they will not share personal information. The staff at LESCA can put members in touch with licensed professionals and agencies that are best suited to meet a member's needs, and can also provide short-term counseling at their offices if it is appropriate. For additional information or to seek help, please call (631) 851-1295 or visit www.lecsa.org.



Grand Rounds is now Included Health

Attention members enrolled in the Health & Welfare Benefits Fund: Grand Rounds is now Included Health! You'll still receive the same excellent benefits you had access to under Grand Rounds, including access to a convenient app and assistance finding and booking appointments for high quality, in-network providers! Please visit includedhealth.com/local338 for more information.



Don't Miss Out on These Exclusive Scholarship Opportunities!



The UFCW International Scholarship Program:

The UFCW International Scholarship Program is now accepting applications! The program is open to Local 338 members and their dependents (under the age of 20) and awards several scholarships of up to \$8,000. To be eligible, applicants must be active members of Local 338 from January 1, 2021. Scholarship recipients will be selected based on several factors, including scholastic achievements, community involvement, and an essay which demonstrates an understanding of the principles of the labor movement. The deadline to apply is May 29, 2022.

For more information on eligibility requirements and how to apply, please visit:

ufcwcharityfoundation.org/scholarship/



The RWDSU Alvin E. Heaps Memorial Scholarship:

Local 338 members and their dependents are eligible to apply for the Alvin E. Heaps Memorial Scholarship, which will provide winners with financial assistance for one academic year. The deadline to submit your application and all required materials is May 30, 2022.

For more information on application requirements and how to apply, please visit

www.rwdsu.info/rwdsu-scholarship.

For more information about scholarships and other educational opportunities available to you and your dependents, log in to your Local 338 app or My Local 338 account, or visit <https://www.local338.org/already-a-member/local338-member-resources/educational-opportunities/>





REC

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Spokesperson SHOUTOUT

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MENU

Freddie Berman

Freddie Berman is a longtime member of Local 338—he's worked for ShopRite for 47 years and has been a member of our union family since 2003! He's the Shop Steward for his shop in Commack and participates as a member spokesperson, giving interviews and talking about his experience as a member of Local 338.

He's worked in several departments during his time at ShopRite, most recently as the manager of the Health and BeautyAids department. Prior to overseeing this department, Freddie spent 29 years as a frozen food manager, and has worked in the dairy and grocery departments as well. He told us that he's proud to be a member of our union, and that other members of the Local 338 family shouldn't be afraid to get involved.

"Just speak up and let people know how much the union helps us," he said. "We only have the benefits we have because of the union, and we're all in this together, which is a good thing."

Freddie regularly attends Local 338 member meetings so he can stay up to date on what's going on within our organization and to find out important details regarding contract negotiations. He said he's eager to get back to in-person member meetings because he likes to see his fellow members and to meet with Local 338 staff.

Freddie recently celebrated his 65th birthday and is looking forward to retiring sometime in the next couple of years. He credits the wages and benefits he's won in union contracts for making it easier for him to retire.

"I wouldn't be able to retire when I wanted to if it wasn't for the union," he said.

Thank you for speaking up for your fellow members, Freddie! We hope you had a great 65th birthday!



Congratulations on Your Retirement, Jerry!

Local 338 would like to congratulate Executive Board member and Shop Steward Jerry DeCola on his retirement! Jerry's been a member of our union family since 1981 and has worked in Local 338 shops across Long Island, most recently ShopRite. He's always been a strong voice for his fellow union members and an active member of our union, regularly attending member meetings and events, including the Labor Day Parade! Jerry has been proud to be a part of the labor movement throughout his time as a member, and we're going to miss seeing him in our shops!

Thank you for over 40 years of service, Jerry! We hope you enjoy your hard-earned retirement!



Wishing Our Members A Happy Retirement!

(Local 338's recent retirees between March 1 to April 30, 2022)

Stephen Andreyko

Elaine Baker

Roseanna Balletti

Rafael Bangeniguen

Grace Bartlett

Flora Benitez

Luis Berrios

Michelle Brown

Steven Calderone

Christopher Casey

Roseanne Chionchio

Santos Contreras

Ellen Corwin

Linda Cosentino

Pat Desilvio

Robert Di Mella

Paul Dunaisky

Hattie Ervin

Anthony Favara

Kwabena Frimpong

Gilbert Gittens

Terry Goldman

Errol Grant

Barbara Griffiths

Lillian Hadjis

Vickie Hayes

Htin Hwa

Mary Katzman

Jung Kim

Chul Kim

Margaret Lamantia

George Lee

Susan Lennox

Viviann Maniscalco

Samia Mercado

Lenore Mincher

Marlene Nierenberg

Giuseppe Oddo

Dale Oswald

Carlos Pariona

Vandevi Patel

Dalton Pinnock

Charlene Rainone

Ralph Ramos

Carlos Sanchez

Pasquale Santelli

Edward Scott

Mayra Seda

Jose Serra

Rosemary Sheltra

Allan Sicklick

Wyatt Tedeschi

Ernestine Ward

Zewditu Woldemariam

"Retired from my job, not from my union"



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LOCAL 338
RWDSU/UFCW

SUPER MEMBER MONDAY

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 Samuel Pacheco, a produce employee working at DeCicco's in Pelham. He's been a member of our union family since 2021, and likes to go to walks on the trail along the Marina in the Hudson Valley! He's also very proud to be a member of Local 338 and told us he really enjoys doing his job!

We've also featured Nancy DiGianni, a grocery clerk at Stop & Shop in East Northport. She joined our union in 2011 and is the proud mom of twin boys and their little brother! She spends her weekends bringing her youngest son to his basketball games—he's been playing since the first grade and really loves the sport. 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](#).



Samuel Pacheco



Nancy DiGianni

LOCAL 338 MEMBER MEETING



**Join Us for Our Next
Membership Meeting!**

**Wednesday,
June 15th, 2022**

**Keep an eye on your emails and
My Local 338 account for more details!**



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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 [here](#) or by logging in to the Local 338 app!



LOCAL 338

RWDSU/UFCW

Stay Connected With Local 338 on
😊 Social Media



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

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