

338 News

Volume VI - 2022

Welcoming Our New Recorder Rosa Lafontaine

Page 2



Going to College?
We Can Help!

Page 3

You May Be Eligible for Childcare
Funding Assistance!

Page 4

Giving Back This
Holiday Season

Page 10



John R. Durso

President of Local 338

Celebrating A Strong Year for Our Union

It's hard to believe that 2022 is already coming to a close. It feels like just yesterday we were outlining our plans for the year and what we had hoped to accomplish for our union!

2022 has been a welcome return to normal for Local 338. After two years apart, we were finally able to return to in-person events and meetings! It has been wonderful getting to meet with the membership in person once again, either at union events or membership meetings. Local 338 is stronger than ever, which was clear at the 2022 Labor Day Parade in New York City, where our membership turned out in great numbers to march up Fifth Avenue!

We've welcomed new members from different industries across New York, including in cannabis, agriculture, grocery and more. It's something I hope to see continue in 2023—the labor movement is only getting stronger, which is evident in the growing wave of unionizations

happening nationwide, and I'm proud to say that Local 338 has played an important role in unionizing several industries right here in New York.

In August, the workers at Palmer and Paumanok in Aquebogue became the second group of farmworkers in New York to unionize, and we proudly welcomed them to our union family! We are beginning negotiations with Palmer and Paumanok, and while we had hoped to have a strong contract for our members at Pindar Vineyards by the end of this year, we are still deep in negotiations with the company.

Our negotiating team is working around the clock to bring Pindar back to the negotiating table so we can bargain a fair contract for these workers! We have been picketing to show the company that we're serious about getting our members the wages and benefits they deserve—thank you to the volunteers, activists, and union members who have continued to show up each weekend to picket in solidarity

with these workers! We look forward to securing their contract next year.

We now represent over 90% of the state's medicinal cannabis industry from seed to sale. Cannabis workers across New York are choosing unionization for their workplace, helping maintain the standard for the industry, and we could not be prouder to be your representatives! Local 338's cannabis team is working towards organizing the rest of the medicinal industry and we are looking forward to the establishment of New York's adult-use industry in 2023.

This year has been an incredibly busy one for our union, and I look forward to continuing our work in the new year! I send my best to all members of Local 338 and their families, and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season with plenty of time to relax with loved ones!

Happy holidays from all of us at Local 338!





Introducing Local 338's New Recorder, Rosa Lafontaine

On November 29, 2022, Rosa Lafontaine was elected by the Local 338 Executive Board to serve as our next recorder. Rosa first became a member of the Local 338 family in 1987, when she was a member working at Gristedes. Her passion for the union movement was evident during her time as a member, and that carried into her job as an organizer when she joined the Local 338 team in 2000.

As an organizer, Rosa used her experience as a member in the shops of our union to explain to workers the benefit a union can make in your workplace—along with the possibility of higher wages, better benefits and safer working conditions, a union is there to protect your rights while on the job! After working as an organizer for 4 years, Rosa became a Funds/Service Representative and began servicing Local 338 shops across Manhattan, where she helped educate members on the benefits they receive through their union contract.

In 2005, Rosa was promoted to Union Representative, a role she still holds today! She proudly represents workers across the West Side of Manhattan and northern New Jersey, in shops like Duane Reade, Morton Williams, Gristedes, and Housing Works. Her new role as Recorder is one she is extremely proud to fulfill.

"Being part of this union for 35 years and learning what Local 338 has been doing for the members has made me very proud to be a part of this union."

Congratulations, Rosa, on being elected as Recorder of Local 338! We know you'll make your union family proud.



Going To College? WE CAN HELP!

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

Local 338 RWDSU/UCFW 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: <https://sunysuffolk.academicworks.com/opportunities/4903>

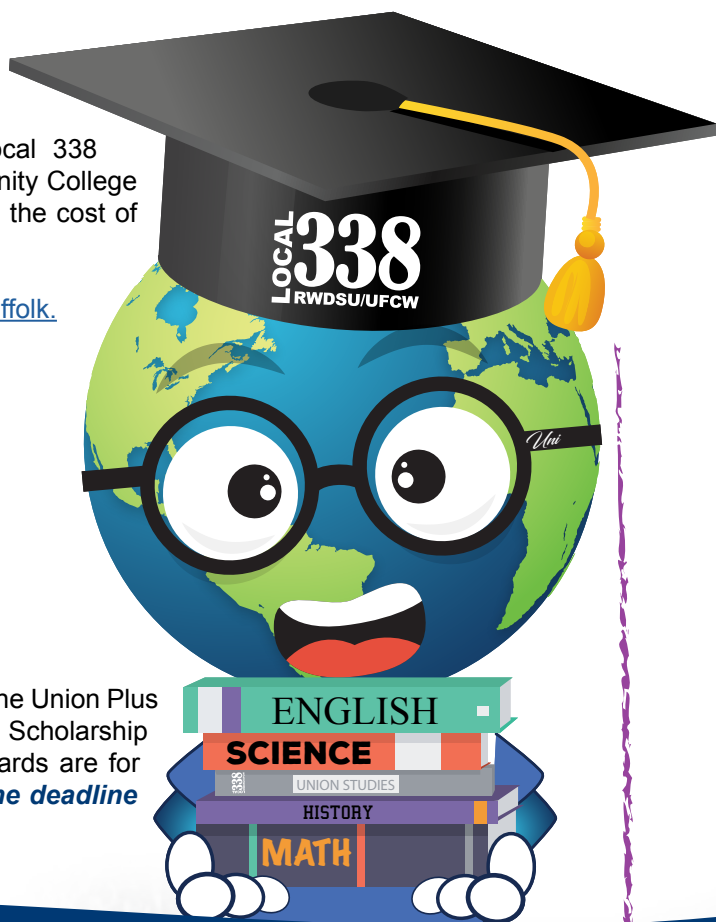
The deadline to apply is April 16, 2023.

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

The deadline to apply is May 23, 2023.

Union Plus

All Local 338 members and their families are entitled to apply for the Union Plus Scholarship Award to be used towards their college education. Scholarship awards vary from \$500 to \$4,000 and these one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the fall. Students may re-apply each year. *The deadline for this scholarship is January 31, 2023. To apply, click here.*



WWW.LOCAL338.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS

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



You May Be Eligible for Childcare Funding Assistance!

If you're a working parent, you already know the struggles associated with trying to find quality, affordable childcare for your child. As a member of Local 338, you may be eligible for the Facilitated Childcare Enrollment Project, which provides eligible families with funding assistance to ease the cost of childcare. Many members of our union have already been approved for the program and have received thousands of dollars toward the cost of day care and after school programs! In fact, almost \$400,000 has been distributed to Local 338 members over the last several years!

If you work at least 20 hours a week, have children under the age of 13, and meet certain geographic and income requirements, you may be eligible to apply for the subsidy. The program, which has previously only been open to Local 338 members living in the 5 boroughs, expanded to Suffolk County and Upstate New York earlier this year!

If you live within the Five Boroughs: you can verify your eligibility and begin the pre-screening process by visiting: local338.org/childcare

If you live in Upstate New York or Suffolk County: If you live in Albany, Erie, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady or Suffolk Counties, you can verify your eligibility and begin the pre-screening process by visiting: wdiny.org/childcare

Don't miss out on this opportunity for you and your family—apply today!





Joseph Fontano

Secretary - Treasurer

Reclaiming Worker Power in 2022

2022 was the year that workers reclaimed their power. From baristas at Starbucks to warehouse workers at Amazon, workers at REI in Manhattan and even staffers in the House of Representatives, working people across the United States have had enough. This year alone, union elections are up 80% from 2021 with over 75% of those elections being won by the workers—if that doesn't show the strength of the union movement, I don't know what does.

It has been incredibly inspiring to see the strength of the union movement grow across the United States and for more working people to realize just how important it is that they have union representation in the workplace. The workers who are getting involved in the labor movement are passionate and driven to fight for what they want to see in the workplace. We saw that this year with our members at Housing Works, who, after several years of fighting for a contract, finally came to an agreement in July.

Unionization often has a ripple effect: when workers unionize, it shows other working people that not only is unionization possible, but they'll be able to do it with solidarity from people within the movement. For example, the workers at Pindar Vineyards inspired farmworkers across Long Island—earlier this year, we had the privilege of welcoming the farmworkers from Palmer and Paumanok to Local 338. Without the bravery of our members at Pindar Vineyards, the farmworkers from Palmer and Paumanok may not have decided to unionize.

2023 looks like a promising year for working New Yorkers, especially with the expansion of adult-use cannabis, the first licenses for which were finally issued last month. This new industry is going to bring thousands of unionized cannabis jobs to New York and will create brand-new career options for working people statewide. After almost a decade of fighting for adult-use cannabis, it has been rewarding to see how far the state has come on cannabis, and the difference it can make in our state. We look forward to seeing the growth of the industry next year!

I want to wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season! I hope you have a chance to spend time with loved ones and catch up with friends and family. This year has been a great one for the labor movement, and I look forward to what next year has in store for Local 338. To all of our members and their families: have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year!



Local 338

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

George Serrano

George Serrano has always loved to paint. We learned about his affinity for the arts at a recent Manhattan membership meeting, where he showed Union Representative Maria Paul some of his most recent pieces.

George joined Local 338 in 2018 after spending 25 years as a manager for a company that made products for some of the most popular shows on television—including Game of Thrones, Star Wars and The Simpsons. He oversaw the prototypes for these products and would have to hand paint everything before they went off to the customer for review. George helped create everything from pinball machines to figurines, hand painting every detail on the prototype to make sure everything was just right.

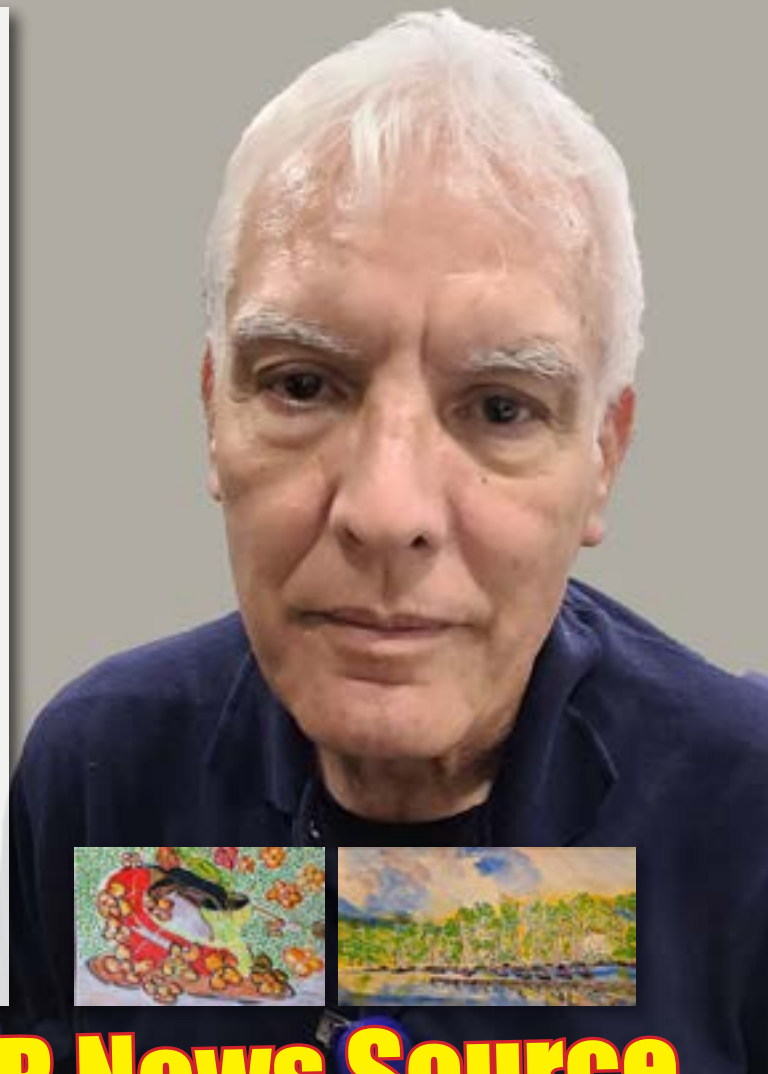
This job allowed him to do what he loved—make art—every single day. When the company was sold, George, who is a veteran, went to the VA in search for his next endeavor. That's how he landed at Duane Reade on Wall Street and became part of our union family.

Growing up, George was a prolific painter and would exhibit his art at any place that would allow him to show his pieces for free. He continued to draw and paint throughout most of his life, and credits his two grandchildren with encouraging him to continue to pick up his paintbrush and oil paints. They are also the ones who got him started on Instagram, where he shares his work @georgespaints.

He says he finds inspiration for his work in every artist—since each one has a different style, it's impossible for George to pick a favorite! One thing he does try to do, however, is uplift other artists he sees on Instagram.

"Somebody helped me. When I started making art, it was not great, but you develop, and you get better. Someone told me, 'oh just keep going, just keep drawing,' and gave me a chance," George said. He now tries to pass it forward to other artists he sees on Instagram by leaving encouraging comments and offering advice if they want it.

We can't wait to see what George paints next! You can view George's work at [@georgespaints on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/georgespaints).



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

A Look at Our Year in Numbers

2022 was a busy year for our union! This year has kept the organizing and negotiating teams at Local 338 hard at work as we welcome new members to our union and negotiate strong contracts for Local 338-represented shops across New York. We proudly expanded the number of industries we represent and welcomed new members from across the state to the Local 338 family.

2022 has been a very exciting year for the labor movement nationwide, and New York is no different—our organizing team helped welcome several new workplaces to our union family this year across a variety of industries: the Child Center of New York – Youth Development Division, Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association, Housing Works and the agricultural workers at Paumanok and Palmer Vineyards.

Our negotiating team has had their work cut out for them this year. With 28 contracts up for renewal in 2022, we completed contract negotiations and delivered strong contracts, including for the members at Duane Reade, Housing Works, and PharmaCann. We look forward to continuing negotiations for a variety of employers in the new year, especially for the workers at Pindar Vineyards and Palmer and Paumanok Vineyards.

To all the new members joining our union family, welcome. We are proud to be your chosen representatives, and I hope to see you at our union events in the new year!

Some tips for the new members of our union: this newsletter is a great place to stay up to date on everything going on at Local 338! If you're looking for more ways to get involved, I encourage you to attend the quarterly membership meetings and talk to your Union Representative about becoming a Shop Steward for your workplace.

If you need more information about your union contract, your benefits, or need to get in touch with your representatives, you can visit mylocal338.org. You can also reach out to me: my cell phone is 646-261-4858 and you can reach me via email at ngonzalvo@local338.org. Please call me and earn some Local 338 swag for yourself and your co-workers!

I hope the members of Local 338 have a joyous holiday season and get to spend time with those closest to you. Thank you for being the strength in our union! I look forward to what 2023 has in store for Local 338, and hope we have the chance to connect with our membership at future member meetings and union events!



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

\$ 158,120.64



Welcoming Tony Silva to the Local 338 Team



Earlier this year, Tony Silva joined the Local 338 team as a Union Representative. Tony became involved in the union movement in the late 1990's, when he was a Teamsters shop steward working for Newark's Emergency Medical Services. As a shop steward, Tony rallied his fellow members to come to membership meetings and stay active within their union. His involvement in the Teamsters as a member led to him joining the staff of the local in 1999.

Tony worked for the Teamsters until 2011, when he went to work for 32BJ SEIU as a field representative, where he represented 6,000 members in the Bronx. He also helped organize workers and represented members across a variety of industries. In August, Tony joined the Local 338 team as a Union Representative representing workers in Manhattan and Brooklyn. He said the most rewarding part about working in the labor movement is being able to make a difference.

"I think the best feeling in the world is when you look at somebody and you know you made their life a little bit better," he said.

Tony is from a union household—his father used to be a member of the UFCW! His father worked at a leather processing plant, and his job was to process the hide before it went on to become leather products. In his free time, Tony enjoys woodworking—he's built cabinets and kitchens from scratch, a skill he picked up from his uncle.

Welcome to the team, Tony!

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!





Giving Back This Holiday Season

As your union, we are committed to supporting our members both in and out of the workplace. We understand that the holidays can be difficult for some families, which is why every year we make sure to partner with local organizations and elected officials in their annual food, coat and toy drives.

These organizations do so much to uplift their communities and those in need, and we are proud to be able to do our part in supporting their mission. It would not have been possible without the support of Local 338 members. The members of this union always show up and donate to the various charitable drives we participate in throughout the year, but especially during the holiday season.

We partnered once again with the John Theissen Children's Foundation for their annual toy drive. This year, we collected hundreds of toys left in donation boxes at supermarkets across New York. These toys are going to sick children and children in need across Long Island, and your donations are going to make their holiday season a little brighter!

Thank you once again for your generosity. If you would like to donate, please reach out to your Union Representative to schedule a pickup or call (516) 294-1338 to schedule a time to drop donations off at the Local 338 office in Mineola. Happy Holidays!



Supporting Our Local Communities This Thanksgiving

Our mission at Local 338 is to support our members both in and out of the workplace—which is why every year we partner with local organizations and elected officials during Thanksgiving to donate to their Thanksgiving drives. No family should go hungry, especially during the holiday season. This year, we donated gift cards to Local 338-represented grocery stores and worked with our partners to ensure they were given to families that needed them the most. We would like to thank our partners for always showing up for their communities, and Salvatore Bonavita from Key Food in the Bronx for his generous contribution to our Bronx gift card donations!

Our donations supported the work of the following organizations:

- Catholic Guardian Services (in partnership with Assemblymember Karines Reyes)
- Elizabeth Seton Children's Center
- Hempstead Hispanic Civic Association
- Henry Street Settlement
- The Food Pantry at Joshua Baptist Church
- The Mary Brennan INN
- The Nest at Nassau Community College
- The Food Pantry at Suffolk Community College
- The Food Pantry at Our Lady of Grace (in partnership with State Senator Joseph Addabbo)
- Jackson Heights High School students and their families (in partnership with Assembly Member Catalina Cruz)
- Residents of Queens communities including Jackson Heights, Corona and East Elmhurst (in partnership with State Senator Jessica Ramos)
- Residents of Suffolk communities including Lindenhurst, Wyandanch, and Amityville (in partnership with Assembly Member Kimberly Jean-Pierre)
- Institute for Community Living, Broadway Residence, R.A.I.N. Inwood Neighborhood Senior Center, Riverstone Senior Life Services, Holyrood Episcopal Church, Fordham Hills Oval Senior Residences, River Park Towers Tenant Association, P.S. 4 Duke Ellington, P.S. 189 (in partnership with State Senator Robert Jackson)
- Residents of the Bronx (in partnership with Assembly Member Nathalia Fernandez)

You can watch the highlights of our Thanksgiving deliveries, including holiday greetings from all of these organizations and elected officials here:

<https://youtu.be/i1bALXRafdk>



Wishing Our Members A Happy Retirement!

(Local 338's recent retirees between November 1 to December 31, 2022)

Hernando Aguirre Ramirez

Donna Ho Lam

Manuel Rodriguez

William Althoff

Barbara Iannaci

Carmine Russo

Debra Antezzo

Lisa Lanese

Chaina Saha

Elvira Aponte

Valerie Livingston

Chris Schifini

Diane Baffa

Luverne Mann

Herbert St Agathe

Jasmatee Bangaroo

Christian Marzant

Janette Szalay

Thomas Bogerd

James Marzigliano

Richard Thomas

Joseph Delletiglie

Teresita Meliton

Vincent Tuccio

Robert Emrich

Maria Molina

Loraine Vazquez

Gregory Farinella

Donna Nocera

Eung Yeol Won

Izhak Finkelstein

Mariann Oliveri

Keritz Wright

Thomas Flinter

Karen Pica

Donna Wylie

Josephine Galluzzo

Theodore Quintall

Leticia Yulfo

Deborah Hawkins

Jose Ramirez

"Retired from my job, not from my union"



11



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 Berenice Dennis as our December Super Member! Berenice is the Shop Steward at DeCicco & Sons in Milbrook, and she joined our union earlier this year! In her free time, Berenice enjoys knitting and spending time with her granddaughter. She also takes her son to his baseball and football games, and is looking forward to welcoming a grandson to her growing family next year!

We've also featured Geralynn Kenny, a 38-year member of Local 338, as our January Super Member! Geralynn is a File Clerk at Stop & Shop in Oyster Bay. She has an extensive knowledge of the store—before working as a file clerk, Geralynn worked in customer service, as a front end manager, in receiving, and as a bookkeeper! In her time off, she loves to travel, and has been to Iceland, Greece and Italy this year! 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](#).



Berenice Dennis



Geralynn Kenny

LOCAL 338 MEMBER MEETING



**Join Us for Our Next
Membership Meeting on
Tuesday,
February 7, 2023**

Please note: this meeting will take place in person, so be sure to sign up for our emails and check your My Local 338 account for location details.



12



Happy Holidays from Local 338!



Every one of Local 338's members have played an important part in keeping their communities running this year. You have ensured that people have access to their medications, that your community's grocery stores are continuously stocked, and that people receive the care they need. We would not have been able to make it through 2022 without the hard work of each and every member of Local 338—and for that, we thank you. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and your communities rely on you every day.

Our union family has grown exponentially this year, and we could not be prouder to be your representatives! Your participation and interest in our union is what makes us strong, and we are extremely thankful to have the opportunity to represent each and every one of you.

*We hope our members have a happy and healthy holiday season!
We're looking forward to being together with loved ones this year and having the chance to spend time with those closest to us. We hope your holiday season, no matter how you celebrate, is full of joy and peace. Happy Holidays!*



LOCAL 338
RWDSU/UFCW

Stay Connected With Local 338 on
😊 Social Media



338 NEWS, the official publication of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW,
is published at the Office of Local 338 at 1505 Kellum Place, Mineola, NY 11501

John R. Durso
President

Joseph Fontano
Secretary-Treasurer

Neil E. Gonzalvo
Executive Vice President

Rosa Lafontaine
Recorder

Writer and Editor: Caroline Leddy | Layout and Design: John Falco

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

Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW | 1505 Kellum Place Mineola, NY 11501 | 516.294.1338