

338 News

Volume II - 2020



On the Front Lines and Making a Difference For Us All

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John R. Durso

President of Local 338

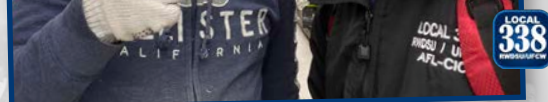
Our Heroes of the COVID-19 Crisis



Over the last twenty years I've served as President of Local 338, I've had the pleasure of seeing members go above and beyond time and time again. I have known members who were inspired to take on greater responsibility for their coworkers to serve as Shop Steward and advocate on behalf of their worksite. I have seen members answer the call to support their union brothers and sisters during contract fights. I have also seen the strength and compassion demonstrated by members donating to help their community throughout the year and volunteering to help their fellow members recover after Superstorm Sandy. And now, I bear witness to an era of solidarity, duty, and courage as our members brave ahead to protect and uplift your community as we make our way through the COVID-19 crisis. I know many of you do not see yourselves as heroes, but you are key to our state's survival and recovery.

Our members working in grocery stores are ensuring the community has the supplies and resources they need to stay safe. Stocking shelves when the community's most needed supplies run out, day after day. Our members working in pharmacies are ensuring that

we have the medications we need to stay well or heal. Local 338 members serving in healthcare are demonstrating obligation and duty, tending to the needs of the elderly and the most vulnerable amongst us. Those working in nursing homes and as direct caregivers are compassionately caring for those who wouldn't otherwise have the ability to care for themselves. Our meals-on-wheels drivers continue to provide a vital service to the elderly while also checking in on them to make sure they are getting through this crisis in one piece. Our patient care coordinators in the medical cannabis industry are providing medicine to their patients and adapting to respond to their needs. Local 338 members across the state are engines of society, guaranteeing your neighbors and loved ones have some sense of normalcy as we weather this crisis. I want you, our members, to understand that you are not alone as you go to work on the frontlines of this crisis. Local 338 sees your sacrifice and we are doing everything we can to make sure that you are protected. We are hard at work, talking to employers to make sure they are providing you with the tools you need to do your jobs at this time, urging local elected officials to ensure that Local 338 members and all essential workers



have access to services and programs to support your families during this time, and we are acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE) to distribute directly to you and your coworkers. We have also been sharing your story with the public so others can understand your experiences during this crisis and better understand how to support you at this time.

Even though you are doing so much to support your community, there is one more thing you can do. By filling out the 2020 Census, you help to ensure that there is adequate funding to support our local schools, libraries and hospitals, as well as the people who keep these important services operational. The census allocates representatives in Congress and state government, as well as gives non-profit organizations data they may use to help your neighbors. It only takes around 10 minutes to fill out. It's easy and completing it feels rewarding. Just go on 2020census.gov to fill out your questionnaire online and remind your friends and family to do the same.

Regardless of what industry you work in, the work that you do every day is important and it is valued. From my perspective and the view of countless other essential workers, you are among the heroes of this crisis. I know it may not feel that way now, but you are going to be remembered for the sacrifices you made to get us all through one of the most unprecedented times in our country's history. Please know that you can always turn to us for support or questions you may have during this time or just to hear an appreciative voice. Our Union Call Center can be reached at 516-294-1338 ext. 1775.

I am proud to tell your story and I will continue to fight on your behalf during, and beyond, this crisis. Thank you for all that you do.



#FrontlineHeroes
#ThankEssentialWorkers





Getting Through the Crisis with Our Union Family



Now, more than ever, Local 338 is extremely proud to represent 13,000 working people across our State. As essential workers, you are helping to keep New York up and running by ensuring that our communities have access to the things they need. Without our grocery workers, our shelves wouldn't be stocked, and people wouldn't have access to fresh groceries.

Those working in healthcare and as direct caregivers are taking care of the elderly and most vulnerable, while those working at Meals on Wheels are making sure seniors have food every day. Pharmacy workers are on the front lines, making sure those who are sick have the medication they need to recover. You are frontline heroes and we will be forever grateful for your service.



Several of your fellow Local 338 members have spoken on behalf of our union family, giving an inside look at what it's like to be on the front lines of a pandemic. Executive Board member Wally Waugh has appeared on MSNBC, as well as in an article for TIME Magazine. Christine Merola, a 32-year member, gave The New Yorker an overview of what her average workday is like during the pandemic. Others have also talked to reporters, like Eddie Quezada, who have given valuable firsthand accounts to reporters to better inform their stories.



As your union, we want to do as much as we can to keep you informed and make your daily life a little easier throughout this crisis. That's why we created a resource page on our website, which provides information like tips for staying healthy, your benefits available to you as a Local 338 member, and what to do if you're not feeling well or are sent home. This is a challenging time for all of us. If you feel like you're struggling emotionally, this page also has information about mental health services and the Member Assistance Program.

To view all of the resources available,


[Click Here](#)



As always, if you have any questions, you can also speak to your Union Representative by calling 516-294-1338 ext. 1775 or sending them a message through your "[My Local 338](#)" account.

Once again, thank you being such an important part of communities and for the work you're doing to bring some sense of normalcy to so many people. We owe you a great debt of gratitude and we will get through this together.





Make Sure You Count! Complete the Census

2020 is a Census year and it is critically important that Local 338 members not only complete the Census as soon as possible, but also complete it accurately. Your responses to the Census help determine where federal and state dollars are most needed. More public dollars will be given to larger neighborhoods for things like schools, libraries, public assistance programs, fire departments, infrastructure projects and hospitals. The more people who fill out the Census, the less likely we are to lose representation in Congress and therefore we will all have a stronger, more influential voice in government.

Rest assured, your Census information is kept completely confidential. You do not need to be a United States citizen, nor will you be asked if you are a citizen while completing the survey. Filling out the Census will **ONLY** benefit you and your community.

Completing the Census is a rewarding experience and only takes 10 minutes. You can fill it out online at 2020census.gov. Spread the word and encourage a friend or coworker to also complete the Census!

[For more information about the Census, click here.](#)

GET COUNTED TODAY!

Complete your #2020Census
online or by phone TODAY!

 My2020census.gov

 1-844-330-2020

Hashtags on Facebook and Twitter for more details:

#CountUsAll #LaborCounts



CENSUS2020



Update Your Information

*Don't miss out on all of the member discounts,
benefits, negotiations, news and other events
that are important to you as a Local 338
member or retiree!*

[Click Here To Update](#)

local338.org/contact-form.cfm





Joseph Fontano

Secretary - Treasurer

Preparing for Tomorrow

Over the last several weeks, our nation has finally begun to recognize that you and the work you do each day hold a vital role in all of our communities. It is unfortunate it takes a crisis for this newfound appreciation to become evident, but we are glad you are receiving the gratitude you deserve. You have ensured services remain open for all members of our community, especially for our seniors and those most vulnerable amongst us who depend on the care of others. I would like to personally thank you for everything you have done and continue to do to get us through this crisis.

Our elected officials have acknowledged our nation has managed through this crisis because of our healthcare professionals, first responders, pharmacists, grocery store workers and nonprofit organizations, and we believe something must be done in return. That is why Local 338 is advocating for the "COVID-19 Heroes Fund," a proposal introduced by the United States Senate Democrats establishing funding to provide frontline and essential workers with additional premium pay for your work during this time of national crisis. It is important any new stimulus bill passed by Congress prioritizes everyday Americans, particularly those who have been risking their health and safety on the frontlines of this crisis.

As we continue to battle through this crisis, we must prepare for a new normal. This will be challenging, as we do not know exactly what to expect. However, we can say with confidence

life is going to be different.

We expect personal protective equipment (PPE) will be a new tool of the trade, at least for the foreseeable future. We are committed to ensuring your employer is providing masks and gloves so you can continue to perform your jobs safely as our neighbors start to resume their more regular routines. We are preparing for unknown, long-term health consequences for essential workers while understanding the toll this crisis has taken on you, both mentally and physically.

We have been meeting regularly with other unions to discuss how we can support our members in the long-term and finding which programs can be strengthened to meet anticipated needs, including workers compensation or relief fund programs for loved ones of those who have passed from COVID-19. All Local 338 members have access to the Member Assistance Program, which offers counseling and mental health service referrals for anyone who is struggling emotionally. If you or are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, I encourage you to reach out to our MAP Director, Jennifer Lipack, at 516-294-1338 ext. 1304. There is no shame or stigma in asking to speak to

someone or requesting help.

As we all eagerly wait for things go back to some semblance of "normal," we must be ready to address any issues which may arise. As a member of Local 338, and as someone who navigated through this crisis, it is important you are part of the conversation. We want to hear what you think should be done and what we should advocate for from our elected leaders at the local, state, and federal level. As essential workers, your voice is going to be crucial over the next few weeks and months, so please do not hesitate to reach out to your Union and Funds/Service Representative.





Wally Waugh

A Voice in His Union and His Community

Walford "Wally" Waugh has been a Local 338 member for 35 years and has served on the Executive Board since 2016. Wally is a friendly, well-known face by members, known for his cheerful attitude and happy-go-lucky demeanor. Anyone who meets Wally is instantly drawn in by his magnetic personality.

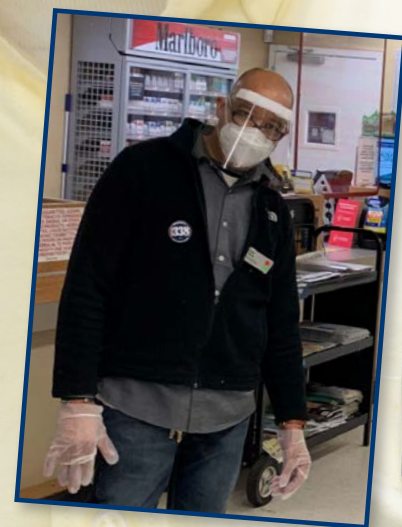
Wally was born in Jamaica and moved to the United States at the age of 3. Having lived in Brooklyn for fourteen years, Bronx for two, and finally settling down in Queens, Wally is a proud, lifelong New Yorker. Trained in classical music, Wally is an avid piano player, creating music with an eclectic taste. He combines music from different types of genres to create a new artistic masterpiece with inspiration from bands like Maroon 5 or Jim Brickman.

Even though Wally has an incredible talent for the piano, he doesn't play for the fame or fortune, simply his own pleasure. However, often times his church calls on him to play during services in which he enthusiastically agrees. He is also the Choir Director where he uses his passion of music to engage and inspire his congregation.

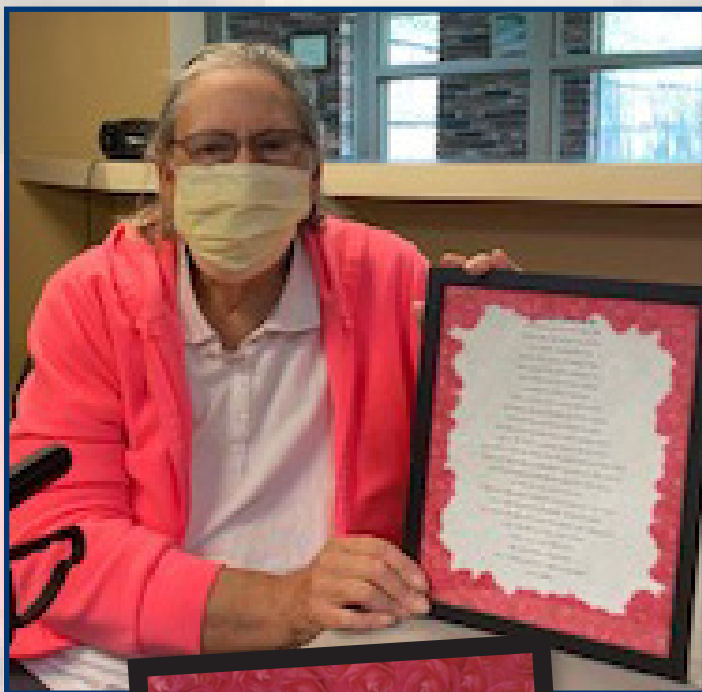
Wally began his role in as a union activist after testifying on behalf of Local 338 during the A&P bankruptcy. He said he was inspired by the passion and dedication of President John Durso and the staff in advocating towards the health and safety of our members. Wally decided to join the Local 338 Executive Board after having been nominated by his friend and mentor, Teri Noble. He was hoping to affect greater change from within the union by inspiring other members to step up and get more involved.

Wally uses his position on the Executive Board to relay important information while adding his own personal, cheerful touch. He works hard to find and develop emerging leaders among his coworkers and teaches them managerial qualities and the importance of member engagement. Wally enjoys being the "voice" of Local 338 leadership to his fellow members.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a member of a union family, Wally has this to say: "Local 338 has allowed me to find the best part of my life, my wife Ilana. I met Ilana 32 years ago while working for Waldbaum's, the benefits negotiated by 338 has allowed me to live a wonderful lifestyle while putting two kids through college. I'd hate to think where I'd be right now if I were at the mercy of a non-union shop." Wally, we thank you for your service!



Poetry through the Pandemic



In times of uncertainty and anxiety, people seek to explore their artistic character in order to organize chaotic thoughts or release unearthened emotion. Local 338 retiree, Ms. Geanene Anderson often expresses herself through visual art or written poetry. She finds artistic expression to be a necessary step in exploring and navigating through life. Ms. Anderson has lived an exciting and full life, brimming with beauty and compassion which she has transformed into art wherever possible.

Ms. Anderson began her career with Local 338 in 2002 while working for Stop & Shop in Merrick. She later began to work as a substitute teacher and home health aide. She fondly remembers her time as a cashier, greeting customers and interacting with her community whenever possible. Ms. Anderson connects and relates deeply with her home health aides, living in her Kentucky retirement community.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Ms. Anderson sought to express her appreciation to the frontline heroes working in the facility through a poem she entitled "Clinton Place – COVID-19".

"You have given me my life
amid the Corona Virus strife

You have sheltered me
While the virus roamed free

You had fed and clothed me
And taken care of my needs
Whatever they may be

Your nurses and aides have met
At many group meetings they spent

Discussing which actions to take
So that the residents may never ache

Some of the residents don't do as told
They don't realize they are sheltered from the cold

Some of the most intelligent people in the world
Are discussing strategies against the virus in which we were hurled

I believed the best telecommunications we have
Are helping most people's lives to save

So many people around the globe are affected
The residents here are lucky they are not afflicted"

"Clinton Place – COVID-19" is dedicated to Trella Wilson, the Administrator to the Clinton Place facility. Ms. Anderson continues to express her praise and appreciation to essential workers across America through her beautiful art. Local 338 is proud and honored to have represented Ms. Anderson throughout her career, and we will always be there to support her whenever possible. Thank you, Ms. Anderson and stay safe.

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 Andrew Koven at 516-294-1338 Ext. 1320 or email him at AKoven@local338.org to be considered as a feature in the next issue of 338 News.



"STONE COLD" **KATIE MOORE**



Throughout history, the Olympic sport of wrestling has brought names like Hulk Hogan, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Andre the Giant to discussions at the dining room table with the family. Men have dominated the sport for centuries. However, bursting through the glass-ceiling, the wrestling world will have a new household name to remember - Katie Moore.

Daughter of Local 338 member Doreen Tiernan, Katie Moore is an incredibly talented and exceptionally ambitious female wrestler. "I've seen a lot of tears that have come off the mat from my male opponents." Moore is the first girl to wrestle on the Riverhead High School Varsity Wrestling Team, often surprising her male counterparts with complex strategies and advanced techniques.



Katie was introduced to her passion of competitive wrestling at a young age, while practicing at Westhampton Youth Wrestling. She exhibits a natural talent for sports, having participated in five varsity sports teams throughout her life. When asked how she fares against her male opponents, Katie has said "men are biologically stronger than me. But I push myself and try to do the best I can." Her modesty speaks volumes about her character, having won hundreds of matches against male wrestlers.



Currently, Katie attends Life University in Georgia where she wrestles on her college's women's team, while maintaining a remarkably high GPA. She is majoring in Biology with a desire to become an Orthopedic Surgeon after graduation. Katie also has her eyes set on the 2028 Olympic games in Los Angeles, where she plans to compete.

Our Local 338 member Doreen says, "Katie continues to make us all extremely proud every day, I can't wait to see where the world takes her!" We're looking forward to it, too!



YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE

Vote by Mail on Primary Day!

This year, out of an abundance of caution, the Presidential Primary was moved from April 28th to coincide with the State and Congressional Primary that was scheduled for June 23rd. While Joe Biden is the presumptive Democratic nominee for President, there are candidates running for a variety of different seats across New York. To see who is running in your Congressional, State Senate or Assembly district, [click here](#) and enter your address to see who will be on the ballot.

If you plan on voting in the primaries this year, make sure you are registered for the correct party—New York State has closed primaries, so you'll only be able to vote for candidates in the party you're registered to. The deadline to change what your party affiliation is for the primary has passed, but you still have time to switch for the general election this November! If you're not registered to vote you also have until May 29th to submit a voter registration form, which you can download by [clicking here](#).

Additionally, if you're concerned about going to the polls on June 23rd because of the COVID-19 crisis, you don't have to worry: Governor Cuomo has signed an Executive Order that will ensure that for the June Primary every registered New Yorker will have the option of voting by mail. If you are registered to vote, you will receive a pre-stamped application for an absentee ballot. Simply complete that form and you will be mailed an absentee ballot. This will allow voters to participate in the election process more easily and worry-free.

Please be sure to check your "[My Local 338](#)" account to see a full list of Local 338's endorsed candidates as we get closer to Primary Day. And of course, don't forget to make sure your voice is heard by requesting and completing your absentee ballot! Voting has never been easier!



IT PAYS TO BE UNION

Since January 2020, Local 338, through grievances and arbitrations, collected funds and returned back wages to our members in excess of

\$5,281!





MY BENEFITS

With
Ismael Torres
Funds Administrator



Staying Healthy During the Crisis

As essential workers you are providing vital services to your communities and are ensuring that we are getting through this crisis. However, we recognize this means your health is at a greater risk. As members of Local 338 there are a number of important benefits available to you that are aimed at supporting the physical and mental health of you and your family at this time.

Guardian Nurses



Guardian Nurses can serve as an advocate for you by accompanying you to your medical appointment to ask important questions to your doctor on your behalf and explain complex medical terminology. A Guardian Nurse is also able to coordinate care for your specific needs and offer advice on your specific condition. During this unprecedented time, Guardian Nurses will now be available to assist part-time Local 338 members (previously only available for eligible full-timers) with questions or concerns regarding COVID-19. They will provide support and coordinate care for Local 338 members; such as, locating testing sites for COVID-19. We have two nurses available from Guardian Nurses to assist you: Andrea can be reached at 484-684-0039 and Jasmin, who is bilingual, is available at **718-354-6605**.

TelaDoc

Members of Local 338 who are enrolled in the Health & Welfare Fund can utilize Teladoc, a telemedicine benefit. TelaDoc is an incredible service for anyone concerned about visiting a doctor's office. With Teladoc, you have access to quality physicians in the palm of your hands—you can speak with an ER or urgent care doctor through your smartphone, tablet or computer. They're available to you 24 hours a day, almost immediately, and at no cost to you. **(There is no copay for using Teladoc)**. The doctor you speak with can diagnose your condition and, if necessary, prescribe medication to be picked up at your local pharmacy immediately. To access the service, simply download the TelaDoc app to create an account or call TelaDoc directly at **800-Teladoc (835-2362)**

Teladoc
HEALTH



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Grand Rounds



If you are a member of Local 338 who is enrolled in the Health & Welfare Fund and are looking for a Primary Care Physician or a specialist, Grand Rounds will go above and beyond to find what you need. Grand Rounds searches through your insurance network to find the best doctor for your specific needs. In addition, if you need a second opinion, new to your area, or need personalized guidance around recommendations made by a medical expert, Grand Rounds will help match you with a physician in network. You can find out more by visiting grandrounds.com or calling 800-929-0926.

Local 338's Member Assistance Program

Taking care of your mental health right now is also incredibly important. If you are feeling anxious, overwhelmed or simply just need someone to speak to, the Local 338 Member Assistance Program is available to you. Our MAP Director, Jennifer Lipack, can provide counseling and referrals to mental health services. All calls are confidential. MAP can be reached at **516-294-1338 ext. 1304**.



The Local 338 Health & Welfare Fund would like to express our sincere appreciation for our members serving on the front lines to help our communities stay safe and prepared during the pandemic. Should you have any questions about your benefits, please do not hesitate to give our office a call at **516-294-1338 ext. 1776**. You can also send us a message by logging into your "[My Local 338](#)" account. Stay safe and we are here for you should you need us.

LOCAL 338 MEMBER MEETINGS



Our June Membership Meetings Are Going Virtual!

In order to adhere to continued social distancing policies, we will be moving our planned meetings to an online town hall.

You'll get the same important Local 338 news and information, just from the comfort of your home!

We will send the details of the date and time soon, so make sure that we have your most updated contact information or that you have registered for a "My Local 338" account.



Scholarship Opportunities for Local 338 Members



UFCW Scholarship

As a member of Local 338, you or your unmarried dependent (under the age of 20) are eligible to apply for the UFCW's Scholarship Program. The UFCW will be awarding several scholarships up to \$8,000 each!

The deadline is May 10, 2020

[Click here to apply now!](#)



RWDSU Scholarship

The RWDSU Alvin E. Heaps scholarship is given annually to RWDSU members or members of an RWDSU family, and rewards good grades and a demonstrated understanding of the role of unions in workers' lives. The Scholarship honors the legacy of former RWDSU President Alvin E. Heaps (1919-1986).

The deadline is May 30, 2020

[Click here to apply now!](#)

Every year Local 338's Programs offer scholarships to its members or their immediate family who want to further their education and demonstrate a commitment to their communities and values.

Past winners have gone on to make significant contributions to society and to a range of fields including public service, medicine, law, business and teaching. Many have returned to the staffers, organizers, and community activists who contribute to our mission.



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Congratulations

on Over 40 Years of Membership!

Many things have changed over the last several decades in terms of our union and even the industries Local 338 members work in. However, one constant has always been people like you who have Local 338 union cards. We truly have only been as resilient as an organization, able to fight for strong contracts, because of the support and participation of our members.

Let us take some time to recognize and applaud those who have spent over 40 years of their career as members of Local 338. Remember, we can't spell union without "U!"

Click [here](#) to see the full list of Local 338 members who are celebrating over 40 years of membership.

Jesus Acevedo
Susan Addonizio
Francisca Aquino
Ross Archer
Pedro Arroyo
Michael Ausiello
Anthony Avitable
Rosemary Barbero
Joanne Barros
Freddie Berman
Carl Bettinger
Eti Bhowmick
Thomas Bogerd
Debra Bollbach
Robert Boruta
Patricia Boss
Leslie Boyd
Tim Bozzello
Stephen Brebnor
Mary Bremer
David Brown
Donna Burrell
Richard Caporaso
Jeffrey Carroll
Elvira Cassone
Anna Castro
Cassandra Cetta
Salvatore Cioffi

Edward Clampitt
Michael Colaizzo
Robert Collette
Michael Cominos
Laura Connolly
Michael Corredor
Frank Curry
David Daniel
Clifton Davis
Jerry De Cola
Luis De La Cruz
Susan Deppert
Drew De Rosa
Sanford Deutsch
Richard Duffy
John R. Durso
Eugene Eichenholtz
William Erolano
Joan Estrada
Roberto Evangelista
Sonia Fernandez
Yolanda Fiorentino
Judith Friss
John Gaisser
Ivan Garcia
Mario Garcia
Steven Gitlitz
Felix Guerrero

Richard Hacker
Thomas Hanly
Bruce Herman
Juan Hernandez
Stacy Hilton
Anne Marie Howard
Hernando Hoyos
Elizabeth Johnson
Edward Kaufmann
John Kent
Peter Kidd
Doris King
Willie Kokolski
Steven Kundmueller
Maung Kyaw Lin
Susan Lennox
Edward Leonard
Oscar Leon-Freire
Lisa Lund
Jose Maldonado
Ronald Marelllo
Carlos Matos
Travors Mc Lean
Edward Melfi
Susan Menichino
Jose Mendez
Craig Michaels
Vaughn Modest

Gino Montanaro
Richard Mui
Bernardo Muniz
Lewis Murphy
Luca Negrino
Joseph Ogiejko
Edwin Ortiz
Robert Padrone
Herman Palmer
Denny Pereyra
William Perry
April Pettit
Abisai Perez
Bill Pfister
Victor Phelps
Carlos Pichardo
Scott Pleasant
Philip Purdie
Wayne Purrman
Peleguin Quirindongo
Anthony Rampone
Deborah Reeves
Jose Reyes
Peter Riess
Robert Riggs
Dorothy Romano
Miguel Rosado
Robert Rosenthal

Carmine Salamone
Robert Sanchez
Gilberto Santana
Alice Schmidt
Joseph Schwartzman
John Schumann
Patricia Scott
Nancy Sheshene
Deirdre Sicari
William Skelly
Wayne Slifkin
Michael Smith
Eileen Snyder
Gary Soffian
Mitchell Spiegel
Lawrence Spinner
Keith Stiland
Lawrence Sutton
Mark Taino
Michael Troiani
John Tuohy
Ronette Ubilla
Ralph Vega
Lori Weber
Victor Woods
Michael Wright
Henry Yeh



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For EVERYTHING Local 338 Follow Us On Social Media



Or visit us at MyLocal338.org

- Know your Rights: Download Your Contract
- Quickly Send Emails Directly to Local 338 Staff
- View Benefits you May Have and are NOT Using
- Learn about the Member Assistance Program
- Stay up to Date Union News & Events
- Articles about Fellow Members
- Scholarships for you and your Family
- Access to Free College Programs
- See Exclusive Member Discounts
- and much, much more!

***Be sure to stay
involved with Local 338***





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

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Joseph Fontano
Secretary-Treasurer

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

John R. Durso
President

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Neil E. Gonzalvo
Executive Vice President

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

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