

STRONGER LOCAL 338 TOGETHER



LOCAL 338
RWDSU/UFCW
Stronger Together



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

A Promise Kept for Working Families

See cover story page 6



President Obama Signs

Historic Health Care Reform Legislation Into Law

LOCAL 338
RWDSU/UFCW
Stronger Together

Our Fight To Protect Working Families



**John R. Durso,
President**

At the end of February our Secretary Treasurer John DeMartino retired after 27 years on the staff of Local 338. I want to thank him for his years of service and for his dedication to our membership. On behalf of everyone at Local 338, I would like to wish John and his wife Christine a happy and joyful retirement.

I would also like to congratulate our newly elected Secretary Treasurer Murray J. Morrissey. Murray has been our Executive Vice President since 2001 and has done an outstanding job. He was responsible for everything from aiding in contract negotiations to

supervising our field operation. I know all of you will join me in congratulating Murray and wishing him well in his new position. The first few months of 2010 have been quite eventful. The battle for healthcare reform was long and difficult, but in the end our nation took the first steps to ensuring that every American has access to affordable quality health care. I know there is a great deal of misinformation about the reforms and there are a lot of questions on what the new legislation will do and how it will impact average Americans. However, we ask all of our members to look beyond the propaganda campaign. It is crucial that we look at the healthcare reforms objectively and give them time to take effect.

The reality is something had to be done about healthcare costs and the 32 million Americans who were without healthcare. The comprehensive reforms recently signed into law are a good first step towards correcting a broken system.

That is why Local 338 worked to do our part to get the legislation passed. Our members made thousands of phone calls to their members of Congress, took trips to Washington to get our message out and attended numerous rallies in support of the reform.

Now that Healthcare is complete, we can move onto other issues affecting this union including pension reform and immigration reform. Our Political Action Team continues to push Congress to work on both of these critical issues. We also are working in Albany to secure funding to protect our members working for agencies that receive funding through the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD).

Local 338 is working at every level of government to protect our members. Whether you like politics or not, the bottom line is this: the decisions made by our elected officials have a direct impact upon you, your family and your wallets. We are involved to make sure the needs of working and middle class Americans are represented, but we can not do it alone. This union is Stronger Together and we need you to get involved! By simply joining our PAC, volunteering for our political campaign team, or attending our union meetings and rallies you can become a critical part of the fight to protect your brothers and sisters.

We have a big year ahead of us and we face many challenges. Yet, together as one union speaking with one voice, United and Determined, we will accomplish our goals of a better life for our members and their families.

On a personal note, my condolences go out to the family of Melvin Sadowsky. Mel was a member of Local 338 before becoming a manager with Waldbaums. Even after he stopped carrying a union card, Mel remained a union man at heart. For many years Mel and the Local 338 members in Waldbaums #132 were the top fundraisers for our Cerebral Palsy Drive. Mel passed away a few weeks ago, he will be missed.

Health Care Reform Will Help Working Families



**Stuart Appelbaum,
President, RWDSU**

On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed historic health care reform legislation that while not perfect will lead to significant improvements in health coverage for generations to come. By fighting for and winning passage of the bill, President Obama took a huge political risk. But his leadership on this issue will help provide millions of Americans with better access to more affordable health care.

The debate surrounding the health care bill was at its best moments informative and highlighted some of the very real problems that our broken health care system has created. At its worst, the debate was confusing and needlessly divisive. Opponents of the bill often resorted to gross exaggeration to derail efforts to pass it. Some used the health care debate as a proxy in an effort to undermine President Obama.

But the truth behind the bill is really far more mundane than either side admits. The bill, called the Health Care Reconciliation Act of 2010, achieved many elusive goals that reformers had sought for decades. While the new law will not provide coverage for every American, it will extend coverage to 32 million of the

uninsured. It will also help slow the rapid rise in health care costs, and even more importantly will put the brakes on some of the worst abuses of health insurance companies. No longer will insurance companies be able to make unreasonably high increases in medical premiums, place caps on health care benefits, or deny coverage to those with pre-existing or chronic conditions. These are important reforms that will benefit all of us.

The bill is not a government takeover of the health care system. And it will not raise the deficit. The reason? While the bill does not ask employers to do nearly enough to meet their responsibility to provide adequate health care for employees, it is mostly financed fairly. Expanded coverage is provided through cost savings on certain aspects of Medicare and a progressive tax on the wealthy.

Overall, these improvements will bring us closer to long-term health security for working families.

The RWDSU praises President Obama and the U.S. Congress for making the right decision to support real health care reform. And of course, this battle couldn't have been won without the support of union members across the country. Working people rallied and made phone calls to members of Congress, wrote letters and attended town hall meetings. We countered the lies and distortions of the right-wing and helped get the truth out. By standing together we made a real difference for millions of working families.



We Must Remain United and Determined



**Murray J. Morrissey,
Secretary Treasurer**

Iwould like to take this opportunity to thank John Durso and the Executive Board for the confidence they have shown and the honor they have bestowed on me by electing me to serve as Secretary Treasurer. I am following in the footsteps of many dedicated and talented leaders who have held this position in the past, in particular, and most recently John DeMartino. John recently retired from the union and will be sorely missed by the staff of Local 338 and all of its members. The impact he

has had on all of our lives is unmistakable and we all wish him the best and lots of happiness in retirement.

While I realize that John and I have very different styles and personalities, I can assure you and make a solemn promise to maintain a high level of integrity and service to the members of Local 338.

We are about to enter a period of time that will determine the shape of our lives for the near and not so near future.

Several of our contracts are up this year and next and we will all be put to the test once again. The best position for us is to remain solid in our support of each other, and remember that, alone we are a target but together we represent a force to be reckoned with.

For the immediate future we will be dealing with a series of unknowns. We are not sure what affect Health Care Reform is going to have on our lives and our funds but in the end I believe that reform was necessary and the right thing for this nation. The economy remains shaky with some signs of improvement. The high unemployment rate throughout the region continues to have a negative effect on our employers and consequently a detrimental effect on our membership.

Never has it been more crucial that we remain "United and Determined." Our futures and those of our families are at stake. While I remain confident that our economy will begin to improve, we must remain unified to ensure that we share in whatever prosperity is forthcoming. We have already shared in the burdens now we must make sure we see our share of the recovery.

I am looking forward to working more closely than ever with all of you towards a brighter future for us all.

It Pay\$ to be Union

Since January 1, 2010, Local 338 through grievances and arbitrations has collected funds and returned back wages to our members in excess of \$35,335!

Farewell to Secretary Treasurer John DeMartino



John DeMartino

At the end of February Secretary Treasurer John DeMartino retired from his position at Local 338. A member of Local 338 since 1974, John spent the last 27 years on staff as a Union Representative, Assistant to the President and was elected Secretary Treasurer in 2001.

A straight shooter, John was never afraid to say what was on his mind or call out our employers when they tried to take advantage of our members. His passion and dedication to the members of this Union was unparalleled, always putting their needs first.

John helped shape and lead our union for over 36 years, each day fighting to improve the lives of our members and their families. All of us at Local 338 wish John and his wife Christine, nothing but happiness and health in retirement. He will be missed!



Local 338 In Your Community

Holiday Meals for MOMMAS House



MOMMAS HOUSE is a residence for young mothers between 17 to 21 years old and their babies. The young mothers at MOMMAS House have the opportunity to pursue an education and learn how to support themselves and their children independently. Throughout the year Local 338 supports this wonderful organization through the donation of various provisions. This Holiday was no different as Local 338 donated dozens of Holiday meals to the families living at the center.

Cell Phones for Safe Horizon

Local 338 successfully collected over 40 cell phones to donate to Safe Horizon and victims of domestic violence. Safe Horizon provides support, prevents violence, and promotes justice for victims of crime and abuse. We at Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW would like to thank everyone who participated in this great cause.



Annual Coat Drive

Each year Local 338 holds an annual winter coat drive to collect coats for those in need. From October through December 31, 2009 we collected and donated dozens of coats to the Family and Children's Association. This wonderful non-profit organization works with various age groups serving individuals with developmental and mental disabilities.



Upcoming Events

Our Gift of Life:

In honor of the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, Local 338 will be holding our 9th annual blood drive. Each year we collect dozens of pints of blood; each pint saving three lives. Please join in to give this vital gift of life.

September 2, 2010 at 11 A.M.

Queens Center Mall

For more information contact:

Lisa Rivera at 516-294-1338 ext. 225

Making Strides

Against Breast Cancer:

On October 17, 2010, Local 338 will once again sponsor the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk for the eleventh consecutive year. With your continued support we will be able to keep hope alive for those affected by this dreadful disease.

October 17, 2010 at 9 A.M.

Queens Borough Hall

For more information contact:

Lisa Rivera at 516-294-1338 ext. 225

Run For the Warriors:

Hope for the Warriors will be holding its 3rd annual Run for the Warriors and Local 338 will be the presenting sponsor. Hope for the Warriors is a non-profit organization that provides support and services for wounded veterans returning from Iraq & Afghanistan.

November 14, 2010 at 9:30 A.M.

Town of Babylon Town Hall, Lindenhurst, NY

Contact:

Jack Caffey, Jr. (910) 381-2454

jack@hopeforthewarriors.org or

jcaffey@local338.org

Website: www.hopeforthewarriors.org

Registration opens online in June.



Local 338 Supports Our Brothers and Sisters on Strike in Massachusetts



For nearly two months, employees of Shaw's Distribution Warehouse in Methuen, Massachusetts have been on strike. The hardworking members of UFCW Local 791 opted to reject the lousy contract proposals put forth by the company. Local 791 members were faced with a decision; accept a poor contract with cuts in health benefits and reductions in union protections or go on strike. Since going on strike, the company has been unwilling to return to the bargaining table to work out a fair contract.

Local 338 recently joined our brothers and sisters from UFCW Local 791 in Massachusetts to show our support on the picket line. Carrying signs, members of Local 791 and Local 338 urged customers to shop at other union stores, including Stop & Shop. Local 338 is proud to support our brothers and sisters in the labor movement in their time of need no matter where in the country we have to go!

What Healthcare Reform Means for Retirees

By Andrew Vella, Pension Representative

The passage of the healthcare reform legislation means good news for retirees. The legislation includes some major provisions which will benefit seniors directly. Such benefits include:

- In 2010 there will be a \$250 rebate to Medicare Part D beneficiaries who had to pay for their medications because they reached the gap in coverage known as the "doughnut hole". Beginning in 2011 there will be a 50% discount on all brand-name drugs you purchased while in the "doughnut hole." Also, additional discounts on brand-name and generic drugs will begin to be phased in until the doughnut hole is completely eliminated by 2020. In other words, many Medicare recipients will start saving money on their prescriptions this very year.
- Effective January 1, 2011, preventative services (such as well care check-ups and certain cancer screenings) will have no co-pays or co-insurance, and deductibles will not apply to them.
- The last major benefit for retirees is the conversion

of Medicare Advantage plans to reformed payments. The law contains provisions which begin to reduce overpayments to private insurance companies for the administration of Medicare Advantage plans so that they are paid similarly to the cost of care under traditional fee-for-service Medicare. On average, Medicare Advantage plans are paid 14% more than the actual cost of services rendered to enrollees. These overpayments drain Medicare, raise premiums for all Medicare enrollees, and cost taxpayers \$12 billion each year.

It is important to understand that the reforms do not cut benefits for Medicare recipients, contrary to what certain alarmists and political opponents of President Obama are incorrectly stating. The reform bill is an important first step in expanding coverage for those with no coverage and in otherwise addressing the very complex issues of health care in this country. We will be sure to bring to your attention any new information that we receive regarding health care reform that may be of interest to you.

COVER STORY: **Health Care Reform**

A Promise Kept for Working Families

The passage of the Health Care Reconciliation Act of 2010 is a truly historic event for our country, the likes of which have not been seen since the creation of The Social Security Act of 1965. This progressive legislation is an important step in ensuring Americans' ability to access health care. Now, 32 million uninsured Americans will finally have the opportunity to receive affordable AND quality health care coverage.

Since last summer Local 338 has been actively engaged in the struggle for health care reform. Beginning with Suffolk County Congressman Timothy Bishop's Town Hall meetings, our efforts were met with great opposition. However, over the past year we have stood strong and continued to show our support by attending rallies hosted by elected officials and other unions across New York City and Long Island. President John Durso even spent time lobbying in Washington, D.C. speaking with members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to stress the importance of health care reform. Our members have also been wonderful in their commitment to the cause, contacting their members of Congress to urge them to support reform legislation, as well as attending numerous rallies.



With the Health Care Reconciliation Act, no longer will hard working men and women be forced to choose between providing food or health care for their families. Insurance companies will finally be held accountable for their practices that place greed and profit before the well-being of middle-class Americans. Those with pre-existing conditions will not have to fear being denied coverage nor will those who become sick have to worry about having their coverage dropped because they are considered too risky. It is despicable that women diagnosed with breast cancer should be more concerned with whether or not their insurance will cover the cost of treatment rather than focusing on getting healthy. Additionally, young adults will now be covered under their parent's insurance until they're 26 providing support while they are in college and prepare to enter the workforce. Health care reform will also help our economy by reducing the deficit by trillions of dollars over the next two decades.

Health care reform has been a long and grueling fight and there may have even been moments where our members of Congress considered succumbing to the bill's intense and often overwhelming opposition. However, these men and women stood strong and ultimately made the courageous choice to positively change the lives of millions of the country's working men, women, and children. These leaders kept their promises of support and it is essential we remember to do the same for them in November.



Health care reform is necessary for all working men and women. The ever rising costs of health care are crushing to families, businesses, and local government budgets. In 2007 the United States spent approximately \$2.2 trillion on health care which is about \$7,421 per person. Americans spend more on health care than on housing or food causing some families to make that impossible choice between paying their rent or their health insurance. Unfortunately, our wages have not kept up with the increasing costs of health care.

Thus, it is crucial we remember that this bill does not simply aid those who do not have health insurance. Individuals with private health insurance will reap the benefits of the bill's numerous consumer protection clauses.



Long Needed Healthcare Reform is a Victory for the Middle Class and the Nation

By President John R. Durso, Op Ed, Long Island Business News, March 26, 2010

The passage of the Health Care Reconciliation Act of 2010 is a historic and monumental victory for the nation. President Obama's signature not only enacts the much needed reform into law but represents a shift in Washington; a change in philosophy from the pro-corporate agenda of the previous decade

to one of putting the needs of middle class America - first! This is the truth behind the real opposition to healthcare reform and the reason there is such venom from the right wing. The long and grueling fight, fueled primarily by Republican opposition, resorted to outrageous lies and fear mongering in a desperate attempt to hold on to the policies of deregulation that have brought our nation to it's economic knees.

Such dramatic change and a shift in a long time ideology does not come easy. In the year leading up to the passage of healthcare reform the insurance industry spent over a hundred million dollars to "kill the bill." Again, lies and deceit consumed the nation as the scare tactics worsened with fallacious talk of death panels, draconian cuts to Medicare and the big bad government taking control of your medical decisions and care. Through all the obstructionist tactics, blatant lies and non-stop attacks the leadership in Washington stood strong. Their resilience and hard work has paid off and as a result 32 million Americans will finally have the opportunity to access the health care coverage they have been denied. Approximately half of them will be receiving coverage through a new "insurance exchange" that provides coverage options under plans that must meet rules on benefits and premiums.

Under the new reforms, millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions will no longer have to worry about being denied coverage including many women who were previously denied coverage because of a battle with Breast Cancer. Those who become sick no longer have to fear having their coverage dropped because their care is considered too expensive, as it is now illegal for insurance companies to do so. Seniors will see decreases in their costly deductibles for prescriptions that fall into Medicare's "Donut Hole," with a \$250 rebate this year and beginning next year a 50% discount on brand-name drugs in the



donut hole until it is closed completely in 2020. Young adults will now be covered under their parent's insurance until the age of 26 providing them a level of security while in college and preparing to enter the workforce. Furthermore, insurance companies are now prohibited from placing lifetime caps on health benefits that limit the amount of care an individual can receive.

These are just some of the immediate fixes to the healthcare system we will realize in the near future.

The Health Care Reconciliation Reform Act will also aid in the economic recovery of the nation. The reforms help small businesses and uninsured individuals get affordable coverage with subsidies for low and moderate-income workers. It is projected to reduce the federal budget deficit by \$1.3 trillion over the next two decades and increase Medicare solvency by almost a decade. By bringing down the cost of insurance and giving individuals access to affordable healthcare, workers will no longer feel compelled to remain at their jobs out of fear of losing their health benefits. Instead, through the portability of health care coverage exchanges, working Americans will have more incentive to seek out and advance to better paying employment. Such portability and affordability of health insurance will lead to entrepreneurship and a rise in small businesses, providing a necessary boost for the economy.

For the first time in our nation's history Insurance companies will be held accountable. For the first time in a very long time, Washington is standing up to corporate America and making the well being of the middle-class it's the top priority. Not since the passage of The Social Security Act of 1965, which created Medicare and Medicaid, has the United States seen a truly progressive step in ensuring Americans' ability to access health care. It is important that we remember that over forty years ago these programs were also met with fervent opposition. Yet, today we take the benefits of Medicare and Medicaid for granted as commonplace and once the Health Care Reconciliation Reform Act is implemented, we will view these crucial reforms in that same light. Someday in the near future, our children's generation will wonder why anyone would have tried to stand in the way of such common sense reform.

What It Means To Be Union

A Union Representative's Perspective



**Jack Caffey,
Area Director**

As Field Director of Manhattan and New Jersey for Local 338, it is my job to coordinate with Union and Service Representatives. Local 338 represents more than 18,000 members working for such companies as Duane Reade, Food Emporium, and Gristedes, amongst others. I see first hand the impact our union has on the lives of our members.

As Union Representatives, it is our job to enforce collective bargaining agreements with each employer, and make sure that the terms and conditions are followed. We are the support mechanism for our rank and file in the shops. We visit each shop every two to three weeks, handling any problems that arise and also to make sure the company knows we are there to keep them honest.

Our staff has a huge responsibility, and one my colleagues and I never take lightly. Anything that we do, any decision that we make, will affect someone's life, their family, and their future. If a member loses their job or benefits it impacts every aspect of their life.

Although the union assists in contractual and worker

rights issues, we also handle members' concerns on an individual basis. If an individual has certain problems that interfere with their ability to work – even alcohol and drug problems – we do what we can to steer them in the right direction and help them out. In this way, the union is more like a family.

I am often asked, "What does it mean for me when I join a union?" To me that answer is simple. When you are part of a union you are part of a family, a family that protects its own. It is the union that secures your medical, prescription & pension benefits. It is the union that holds the company's feet to the fire enforcing the contract. It is the union that fights to secure your vacation, sick and personal time. And it is the union that makes sure you are treated with the dignity and respect you deserve at your job!

In the coming years, Local 338 will continue to reach out to new members. The main focus remains on growing the union. There is strength in numbers and the larger our union becomes the more bargaining power we have. That, combined with providing superior service to our current membership, makes this union one of the strongest in the nation. The bigger you are, the more likely that your voice will be heard, by the company you are bargaining with, the community and our elected officials.

CONTRACT CORNER

By: Michael Pasquaretta
Director of Collective Bargaining

CONTRACTS COMPLETED

1) Carnage East House:

The Contract covers healthcare workers who work in an enriched housing facility. The Workers ratified a new 3 year agreement that provides wage increases, continuation of medical benefits, and pension provisions.

2) Lane Bryant Inc.:

The Contract covers retail workers who work at various store sites in New York and Connecticut. The Workers ratified a new 3 year agreement that provides wage increases, continuation of medical benefits, and lowered the number of hours for that a part-time employee has to work to get vacation.

3) King Kullen (Pharmacists):

The King Kullen Pharmacists agreed to a similar agreement as the Waldbaum's Pharmacists with

all the same negotiated benefits including retro wage increases back to September of 2008.

4) Hope Community Inc.:

The Contract covers maintenance workers who work in buildings. The Workers ratified a new 3 year agreement that provides wage increases, and continuation of medical benefits.

5) ECDO Management Corp.:

The Contract covers maintenance workers who work in buildings. The Workers ratified a new 3 year agreement that provides wage increases, and continuation of medical benefits.

CONTRACTS IN NEGOTIATIONS

1) College of Staten Island Association/The Children's Center

2) New York Families for Autistic Children – New Facility

3) Global Tropical Fresh Food Inc.

4) St. Nicholas Home Inc. - New Facility



Local 338 Members Lobby in Albany to Save Jobs!

This year has proven to be another tough year economically for New York State. The economic crisis has been a serious concern for some of our employers in the healthcare sector, many of whom receive funding as part of the NYS budget.

Recently, Local 338's Political Action Team was joined by several of our members who work for the Institute for Applied Human Dynamics (IAHD) for a trip to Albany to lobby the State Senate and Assembly. Discussions revolved around maintaining the funding levels for agencies overseen by the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) proposed in the preliminary budget. Any cuts to the OMRDD budget will have a direct impact on the members working in these facilities. The team met with members and staff from the New York State Assembly & Senate to discuss the good work done by the nearly 600 members working with people with developmental disabilities at IAHD. They relayed the message that any cuts in funding will have a direct impact on the consumers they service with reductions in care and or cuts in various programs.



Muhammed Husain, Union Representative, Brian Gordon, IAHD-Southern Blvd., Robert Taylor, IAHD-Brainbridge, and Neil Gonzalvo, Organizing Director for Health Care

NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo Fundraiser



From left to right, John R. Durso, President of Local 338, NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice and Stuart Appelbaum, President RWDSU

On the evening of Tuesday, February 23rd, Local 338 hosted a successful fundraiser in honor of New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. The reception was in the executive boardroom of Local 338's offices in Mineola and was attended by other local unions and friends of Local 338, including Nassau County's District Attorney Kathleen Rice. During the event Attorney General Cuomo spoke with guests and answered many of their questions. He also gave a short speech addressing the issues currently facing New Yorkers, as well as the specific needs of working families.

John R. Durso, President of Local 338, commented, "Andrew Cuomo really understands the needs of labor and is willing to fight for New York's working men and women. It was an honor to be able to hold this event on his behalf."

Metropolitan Transit Authority Cuts Back!

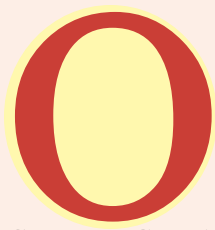
Due to a \$400 million budget gap the M.T.A. (Metropolitan Transit Authority) has created a plan that drastically changes or eliminates the service it provides. The proposal, approved on Wednesday, March 24, will affect millions of New Yorkers, including Local 338 members.

Under the new plan the V and W subways will be eliminated, while the M will be rerouted, no longer running in parts of Brooklyn and lower Manhattan. Thirty-four bus routes throughout the five boroughs will be cut altogether. Service on the Metro-North and Long Island Railroads will also be revised, offering fewer trains at certain times of day. Additionally, the M.T.A. is considering getting rid of discounted Metrocards that are offered to students.

These changes will go into effect between the months of May and June. However, they will only save the M.T.A. part of their overall budget gap. As a result, we may see more cuts in service, as well as a fare hike, which will only further hurt working families in our area. The M.T.A. has created a complete list of the numerous changes in bus, subway, and railroad service which, is available on their website.



Local 338 Attends the LI Federation of Labor's Congressional Night



On April 12, 2010 Local 338 participated in the Long Island Federation of Labor's annual Congressional Night. The event was attended by dozens of unions, over a thousand union members from across Long Island and local members of Congress; Gary Ackerman, Carolyn McCarthy, Steve Israel, and Tim Bishop. Each Representative answered questions from the audience about the important issues that working families face.

Prior to the event, members of Local 338 had an opportunity to speak with Congressman Tim Bishop who represents the First Congressional District in Suffolk County. As a great friend of labor, Congressman Bishop was eager to hear from our members and the issues that concern them.

Overall, Congressional Night was a great success and provided working men and women an opportunity to interact with the elected officials who speak on their behalf.



Local 338 Endorses U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand



Local 338 joined the RWDSU family on February 22nd in Manhattan to announce our endorsement of United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Appointed to her position last year by Governor David Paterson to replace Hillary Clinton, Senator Gillibrand immediately proved to be a great friend of labor. Senator Gillibrand will be running for re-election in November.

During the endorsement rally, Senator Gillibrand gave a speech about the importance of addressing the special needs of working families and working to improve the lives of middle-class Americans. Local 338 is proud to support her and we know she will continue working with labor on behalf of our members.

Local 338 Endorses Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli

On February 11, Local 338, RWDSU, and several other unions announced their endorsement of New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli for re-election in November. Despite a blizzard, which had occurred only the day before, Local 338 was there on the steps of City Hall to show our support for Comptroller DiNapoli.

Comptroller DiNapoli has had a long career in public service, having served in the New York State Assembly for twenty years before becoming Comptroller in 2007. Comptroller DiNapoli is dedicated to working New Yorker's and is a great friend of Labor. He has worked on behalf of the needs of working men and women and their families, a tradition that he will continue in the future.



Congratulations New York State Senator Jose Peralta!



NYS Senator Jose Peralta with
Local 338 Staff Member Melissa Pena

Congratulations to Jose Peralta who was elected to the New York State Senate in a special election on March 16! He defeated former State Senator Hiram Monserrate with an overwhelming majority to become the new representative of the 13th State Senate District, which includes Jackson Heights and Corona in Queens. Local 338 was there to show our support for Senator Peralta on Election Day by volunteering on his campaign. Melissa Pena, a Local 338 staff member, also attended the evening's victory party to celebrate Senator Peralta's election. Jose Peralta has been a great a friend to labor as a member of the New York State Assembly and we now look forward to working with him as State Senator.



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LOCAL 338
RWDSU/UFCW
Stronger Together



Nuestra mision Mejorar la vida de nuestros miembros y de toda la clase trabajadora

¡Nuestra Lucha es tú Lucha!



**John R. Durso,
Presidente**

Después de 27 años como parte del personal del Local 338, nuestro Secretario Tesorero John DeMartino se retiró a finales del mes de Febrero. Quiero agradecerle por sus años de servicio y dedicación para con nuestra membresía. En nombre de todas las personas que pertenecen a la Local 338, le deseo a John y a su esposa Christine una jubilación llena de felicidad y regocijo.

Quiero también felicitar a Murray Morrissey nuestro

recientemente nombrado Secretario Tesorero, quien ocupaba el cargo de Vicepresidente Ejecutivo desde el 2001, desarrollando un trabajo sobresaliente. Dentro de esta posición, Murray tenía bajo su responsabilidad algunas de las negociaciones de contratos y la supervisión de nuestros representantes. Espero que todos se unan a mi para felicitar a Murray y desearle lo mejor en su nueva posición.

Los pocos meses transcurridos del año en curso, han sido muy interesantes. La batalla para la reforma del sistema de salud fue larga y difícil, pero al final, nuestros representantes electos tomaron los primeros pasos para asegurar que cada estadounidense tenga acceso a un cuidado de salud asequible y de buena calidad. Estoy conciente que hay mucha desinformación acerca de las reformas. De hecho, la desinformación gira alrededor de cómo la nueva legislación va a impactar al estadounidense promedio. Existe una campaña propagandista alrededor de este vital proyecto de ley, por lo tanto le pedimos a nuestros miembros que analicen las reformas con objetividad y den tiempo a que estas surtan efecto.

En realidad, la nueva legislación esta diseñada con el objeto de mejorar las condiciones de los 32 millones de estadounidenses que se encontraban sin cobertura medica y de bajar los costos del cuidado de salud para todos los Norteamericanos. Las reformas convertidas en ley son señas de buenos pasos

hacia la corrección de un sistema fallido. Es por esta razón que la Local 338 hizo su parte para pasar este proyecto de ley. Nuestros miembros hicieron miles de llamadas a sus Congresistas, viajaron a Washington para así enviar nuestro mensaje y asistieron a numerosas manifestaciones apoyando la reforma.

Ahora que la legislación del cuidado de salud se ha completado, podemos enfocarnos en otras cuestiones que afectan a esta unión, incluyendo la reforma pensional y la reforma migratoria. Nuestro equipo de acción política continua presionando al Congreso para trabajar en estos dos temas tan críticos. También estamos trabajando en Albany para asegurar que los fondos de los programas de la Oficina de Retraso Mental y Discapacidades del Desarrollo, sean mantenidos intactos para el beneficio de nuestros miembros.

La Local 338 esta trabajando en todos los niveles gubernamentales para proteger a nuestros miembros. Sea que a usted le guste la política o no, la realidad es que las decisiones tomadas por nuestros oficiales electos tienen un impacto directo en usted, su familia y su bolsillo. Involucrémonos para asegurar que las necesidades de la clase media/trabajadora estadounidense sean representadas, ya que no lo podemos hacer solos. Esta unión es más Fuerte si permanecemos Juntos y para ello necesitamos que usted también participe. Únase al Comité de Acción Política (PAC), sea voluntario de nuestro equipo de campaña política, o asista a nuestras reuniones/manifestaciones. Usted es parte esencial en la lucha para proteger a sus hermanos y hermanas.

En una nota personal, mis condolencias van hacia la familia de Melvin Sadowsky. Mel fue un miembro del Local 338 antes de convertirse en supervisor de una de las tiendas de Waldbaums. A pesar de que el ya no poseía una tarjeta de la unión, Mel seguía siendo un hombre del sindicato en el corazón. Por muchos años, Mel y los miembros del Local 338 en la tienda #132 de Waldbaums, eran los mayores recaudadores de fondos para nuestra campaña de Parálisis Cerebral. Mel pasó a una mejor vida unas semanas atrás y será extrañado.

Tenemos un gran año por delante, enfrentamos muchos desafíos pero juntos como unión y en una misma voz Unida y Determinada lograremos nuestros objetivos de una mejor vida para nuestros miembros y sus familias.



Debemos Permanecer Unidos y Determinados



Murray J. Morrissey
Secretario Tesorero

Me gustaría tomar esta oportunidad para agradecerles a John Durso y a la Junta Directiva por la confianza que me han brindado, y el honor que me han conferido al elegirme para servir como Secretario Tesorero de nuestra unión. En esta posición, seguiré los pasos de muchos líderes dedicados y talentosos que sirvieron anteriormente, más recientemente John DeMartino. Recientemente, John se retiró de nuestra unión y será profundamente extrañado por el

personal del Local 338 y sus miembros. El impacto que John ha dejado en todos nosotros y nuestras vidas es indudable y todos nosotros le deseamos lo mejor y mucha felicidad en su retiro.

A pesar que reconozco que John y yo tenemos estilos y personalidades muy diferentes, puedo asegurarles, prometerles solemnemente que mantendré un alto nivel de integridad, y servicio para todos los miembros del Local 338.

Estamos a punto de entrar en un periodo que determinará la forma de nuestras vidas a corto y mediano plazo. Muchos de nuestros contratos expirarán este y el próximo año, y seremos puestos a prueba una vez más. La mejor posición por ahora

es mantenernos sólidos en nuestro apoyo mutuo, recordando que solos somos un objetivo fácil, pero juntos representamos una fuerza que tiene que ser reconocida.

En el futuro inmediato estaremos tratando con una serie de situaciones impredecibles. No estamos seguros de cómo la Reforma de Cuidado de Salud afectará nuestras vidas y nuestro fondo, pero al final creo que esta reforma era necesaria y la mejor decisión para nuestra nación. La economía continua inestable con algunos signos de mejoramiento. El alto promedio de desempleo a través de la región, continua teniendo efectos negativos en nuestros empleadores, y consecuentemente un devastador efecto en nuestra membresía.

Permanecer “Unidos y Determinados” nunca había sido tan crucial como en este momento. Nuestros futuros y los de nuestras familias corren riesgo, aunque mantengo la confianza de que empezará a mejorar, tenemos que mantenernos unidos para asegurarnos en participar de cualquier mejoría económica, por venir. Ya hemos compartido la recesión económica ahora tenemos que asegurar nuestra parte de la revitalización de nuestra economía.

Espero con entusiasmo esta oportunidad de trabajar más cercanamente con ustedes en busca de un futuro más brillante para todos nosotros.

Es Satisfactorio pertenecer a la Unión

Desde el 1ero de Enero del 2010, La Local 338 a través de quejas y arbitrajes ha colectado fondos y pagado salarios que se debían a nuestros miembros por la suma de ¡\$35,335!



John DeMartino

¡Buena Suerte John DeMartino!

Al final del mes de Febrero, el Secretario Tesorero John DeMartino se retiró de su posición del Local 338. Un miembro del Local desde 1974, John permaneció los últimos 27 años como parte de nuestro equipo siendo Representante, Asistente de Presidencia hasta que fue elegido Secretario Tesorero en el 2001.

John es un hombre directo, siempre dice lo que piensa y nunca tuvo miedo llamar la atención de los empleadores cuando estos trataban de tomar ventaja de nuestros miembros. Su pasión y dedicación a los miembros de esta Unión es inimitable, siempre poniendo sus necesidades primero.

John ayudó a la formación y liderazgo de esta unión por más de 36 años, cada día luchando para mejorar las vidas de nuestros miembros y sus familiares. Todos nosotros en el Local 338 le deseamos a John y su esposa Chris, nada más que salud y felicidad en su retiro. ¡Lo vamos a extrañar!



La Reforma de Salud Que Se Necesitaba Una Victoria para la Clase Media y la Nación

Por el Presidente John R. Durso, Op Ed, Long Island Business News, 26 de Marzo del 2010

La aprobación de la Ley de Reforma de Salud del 2010 es una victoria histórica y monumental para la nación. La firma del Presidente Obama no solo ratifica la tan necesitada ley de reforma, si no que representa un cambio en Washington; un cambio filosófico de la agenda pro-corporativa de la década pasada, a una donde la clase media de América es ¡la prioridad! Esta es la verdadera razón que se esconde detrás de los que se oponen a la reforma de salud y la razón por la cual hay tanto veneno por parte de los derechistas y conservadores. Este fué un largo y agotador esfuerzo, primeramente por la oposición Republicana, la cual recurrió a escandalosas y vergonzosas mentiras promocionando miedo en un intento desesperado por mantener las pólizas de desregulación que han llevado a nuestra nación a una economía devastadora.

Un cambio tan dramático como este no llega fácil, especialmente donde han existido otros tipos de ideologías por tanto tiempo. En el año previo a la culminación y aprobación de la ley de Reforma de Salud, las compañías de seguro gastaron más de cien millones de dólares para “aniquilar el proyecto de ley.”

Una vez más, la nación era consumida por mentiras y engaños, al mismo tiempo, empeoraban las tácticas para atomizar a los consumidores con mitos tales como los paneles de muerte, severos cortes al programa de Medicare y el gran y malvado gobierno estaría tomando control de nuestras decisiones en cuanto a salud y el cuidado a la que la misma se refiere.

A pesar de los constantes ataques y mentiras obstruccionistas, el liderazgo de Washington permaneció fuerte. Su resiliencia y arduo trabajo valió la pena y como resultado de esto, 32 millones de Americanos podrán, finalmente, tener la oportunidad de tener acceso a un cuidado de salud que se les había sido negado. Aproximadamente la mitad de ellos estarán recibiendo cobertura a través de un “intercambio de seguro” que provee opciones bajo planes que estarán sujetos a cumplir con las reglas y las primas de los beneficios.

Bajo la nueva reforma, millones de Americanos sufriendo condiciones preexistentes no tendrán que preocuparse por ser rechazados, incluyendo muchas mujeres que fueron diagnosticadas con Cáncer de Seno pero se les fue negado un seguro y la atención medica.

Aquellas personas que desarrollen enfermedades las cuales se consideren costosas para las compañías de seguro, podrán ser atendidas sin ningún problema, y mejor aun, sin ser rechazadas por las compañías de seguro ya que sería un proceder ilegal.

Las personas mayores de edad verán descuentos en los altos deducibles de las medicinas que caen en el “Donut Hole” con un descuento de \$250 y comenzando el próximo año con un descuento



del 50% en medicinas de marcas conocidas hasta que el círculo sea cerrado por completo en el año 2020. Aquellos jóvenes que estén asistiendo a la Universidad, podrán continuar su cobertura bajo el seguro de sus padres hasta que cumplan 26 años de edad dándoles así, un mejor nivel de seguridad y estabilidad

mientras se preparan para entrar a la fuerza laboral.

Por otra parte, ya está prohibido que las compañías de seguro pongan límites a beneficios de por vida que limitan la cantidad de cuidado que un individuo pueda recibir.

Estos son solamente algunos cambios inmediatos que veremos ser implementados al sistema de salud a un corto plazo.

La aprobación de la Ley de Reforma de Salud del 2010 también ayudara a la recuperación económica de la nación. Estas reformas ayudan a los pequeños negocios y personas sin seguro a obtener cobertura asequible con subsidios que ayudaran a trabajadores con bajos y moderados ingresos.

Está proyectado a reducir el déficit federal por \$1.3 trillones en las próximas dos décadas y aumentar la solvencia en el programa de Medicare en aproximadamente 10 años. Los trabajadores no se sentirán forzados a permanecer en sus trabajos debido al miedo que puede causar perder sus beneficios de salud, ya que el costo del mismo bajara dándoles a los individuos acceso a un seguro de salud más favorable.

En cambio, a través de la portabilidad de intercambios de seguro de salud, los trabajadores Americanos tendrán más incentivos para conseguir y avanzar hacia buenos trabajos que serán mejor remunerados. Esta portabilidad y accesibilidad a un seguro medico llevara al incremento empresarial y de pequeños negocios proveyendo así el impulso necesario para mejorar la economía.

Por primera vez en la historia de nuestra nación, las compañías de seguro tendrán que rendir cuentas. Por primera vez en mucho tiempo, Washington se esta enfrentando a la América Corporativa y esta poniendo como prioridad el bien estar de la clase media.

No era desde la aprobación del Seguro Social en 1965, lo cual creo a Medicare y Medicaid, que los Estados Unidos veía un verdadero paso progresivo a asegurar la habilidad de los Americanos a alcanzar y acceder seguro y cuidado medico. Es importante que recordemos que por más de cuarenta años estos programas fueron logrados bajo una ferviente oposición.

Sin embargo, hoy tomamos los programas del Medicare y Medicaid como algo común y pasamos por desapercibido sus beneficios. Así mismo, llegara el día en que se implemente la Ley de Reforma de Salud y veremos estas reformas cruciales de la misma manera.

Algún día, en un futuro no muy lejano, las generaciones de nuestros hijos se preguntaran el porqué alguien trato de interponerse en el camino de una reforma que tiene tanto sentido común.



Próximos Eventos

Nuestro Regalo de Vida: Donación de Sangre

Honrando a las vidas perdidas en la tragedia del 11 de Septiembre del 2001, La Local 338 llevará a cabo su noveno aniversario dedicado a la donación de sangre. En años anteriores, hemos colectado varias pintas de sangre y cada pinta de sangre puede salvar hasta tres vidas. Este evento salva a cientos de personas, así que por favor únase a nuestra causa y done este regalo vital y continuemos salvando vidas.

Fecha: Jueves, 2 de Septiembre del 2010

Hora: 11:00AM

Lugar: Queens Center Mall

Contacto: Lisa Rivera (516) 294-1338 Ext.225.

Caminata en Contra del Cáncer de Seno:

El 17 de Octubre de este año la Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW servirá como patrocinador principal de la Onceava Caminata en Contra del Cáncer de Seno. Con su apoyo y compromiso continuo lograremos mantener viva la esperanza de aquellos hombres, mujeres y familiares que enfrentan esta devastadora enfermedad.

Fecha: Domingo 17 de Octubre del 2010

Hora: 9AM

Lugar: Queens Borough Hall

Contacto: Lisa Rivera (516) 294-1338 Ext.225.

Tercera Carrera Anual por los miembros de nuestras fuerzas armadas (Run for the Warriors) 5k, 10k y una milla carrera/caminata

El Domingo 14 de Noviembre del 2010 Hope for the Warriors tendrá su tercera carrera anual, y una vez más La Local 338 será su principal patrocinador. Hope for the Warriors es una organización sin fines de lucro que provee apoyo y servicios a los veteranos heridos que regresan de las guerras de Irak y Afganistán.

Fecha: Domingo, Noviembre 14, 2010 @ 9:30am

Lugar: Town of Babilón Town Hall, Lindenhurst, NY

Contacto: Jack Caffey Jr. (910) 381-2454 jack@hopeforthewarriors.org or jcaffey@local338.org

Website www.hopeforthewarriors.org

Inscripciones abiertas en el Internet a partir de Junio



Inglés como Segundo Idioma Clases Gratis en su Área

Junta Cooperativa de Servicios Educacionales de Eastern Suffolk (BOCES) educación para adultos

<http://www.esbores.org/progserv.cfm>

Eastern Suffolk BOCES combina los recursos de 51 escuelas que ofrecen clases de educación para adultos en varios distritos de Long Island. Más de 300 clases de educación para adultos están disponibles a través de Eastern Suffolk BOCES, incluyendo clases para la preparación del GED y exámenes para la ciudadanía como también programas de certificación en temas vocacionales como medicina veterinaria, calefacción y refrigeración, diseño de interiores y fotografía. Las clases son ofrecidas tres semestres por año y también disponen de consejeros que ayudan a los estudiantes que buscan ingresar a uno de los programas vocacionales ofrecidos por la escuela para adultos. Hay préstamos disponibles para ayudar a costear las clases de educación para adultos en Long Island, NY.

Oficina del Alcalde de la Ciudad de Nueva York para la Educación de Adultos

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/adulted/html/programs/find.shtml>

Esta oficina provee varios programas de entrenamiento para oficios técnicos y académicos ¡SIN COSTO ALGUNO! a través de los cinco condados.

Visite la página o llame al 311 para más información.

Departamento de Parques y Recreación de la Ciudad de Nueva York

Parks Opportunity Program

http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_opportunities/pop/programs-and-services.html

Junta de Educación ESL & GED

A través de una asociación con la Junta de Educación, POP (Parks Opportunity Program) ha hecho posible proveer a sus participantes con clases de ESL y GED que son gratis y convenientes para los estudiantes.





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SAVE THE DATE! QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

EVERY QUARTER, LOCAL 338 HOLDS MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 6 GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. AT THESE MEETINGS MEMBERS ARE UPDATED ON THE HAPPENINGS OF THE UNION, CURRENT ISSUES, AND ANY

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION.

Monday, May 10 • Queens • Brooklyn • Bronx
Tuesday, May 11 • Manhattan • Nassau/Suffolk • Staten Island
Wednesday, May 12 • Farmland Dairies (Farmland Employees Only)

ASK YOUR UNION REPRESENTATIVE OR
CHECK OUT WEBSITE AT WWW.LOCAL338.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS.

¡GUARDA LA FECHA! REUNIONES DE MIEMBROS TRIMESTRALES

CADA TRIMESTRE, LA LOCAL 338 SOSTIENE REUNIONES EN 6 ÁREAS GEOGRÁFICAS DIFERENTES. EN ESTAS REUNIONES, NUESTROS MIEMBROS SON INFORMADOS DE LOS ÚLTIMOS ACONTECIMIENTOS DE LA UNIÓN, TEMAS DE ACTUALIDAD Y CUALQUIER OTRA INFORMACIÓN REFERENTE A SU CONTRATO. NUESTROS MIEMBROS DEBEN TRATAR DE ASISTIR A LAS REUNIONES MÁS CERCA DE SU TRABAJO O

LUGAR DE RESIDENCIA.

Lunes, 10 de Mayo • Queens • Brooklyn • Bronx
Martes, 11 de Mayo • Manhattan • Nassau/Suffolk • Staten Island
Miércoles 12 de Mayo • Farmland Dairies (Empleados de Farmland solamente)

PREGÚNTELE A SU REPRESENTANTE DE LA UNIÓN O
VISITE NUESTRA PÁGINA EN WWW.LOCAL338.ORG PARA MÁS DETALLES.