

338 News

Volume V - 2022



Honoring the Essential Workers of the COVID-19 Pandemic Page 5

**We Were Union Strong at the
Labor Day Parade!**

Page 3

**Introducing the 2022 Local 338
Scholarship Award Winners!**

Page 6

**Important Information About
Student Loan Forgiveness**

Page 8



John R. Durso

President of Local 338

The Power of the Union Vote

As a member of Local 338, it is your responsibility to get out and vote in elections. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you prioritize voting this year. The power that union voters have at the ballot box is often underestimated, but the vote of a union member can make or break an election, and this midterm election will be one of the most consequential if the union movement doesn't make it to the ballot box by Tuesday, November 8th.

It is time to put the personalities aside—what really matters this election cycle is maintaining a Democratic, pro-worker majority in Congress, because the rights of working people are at risk. We have already seen the conservative Supreme Court move to strip essential rights from millions of Americans this year, and it is only a matter of time before the rights of working people are next on the chopping block. By maintaining a pro-worker majority in Congress, we can work to strengthen your rights and pass laws that will protect the rights of all Americans.

In addition to supporting candidates on the national level, it's just as important to vote for

candidates here in New York that will fight for you. Governor Kathy Hochul is one of those candidates. She has a history of standing by the labor movement and fighting for workers, especially the members of Local 338.

Since she took office, she's been working to create a more equitable New York—she's lowered taxes for the middle class, invested in projects that will create good, union jobs, and has finally expanded the Facilitated Childcare Enrollment Project to Long Island, which will make quality childcare accessible for thousands of Long Island residents. Governor Hochul is a fierce advocate for the rights of workers, the rights of immigrants, and reproductive rights. I believe that our state will become the best it can be with her in office, and I urge the members of Local 338 to support her and Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado in this year's election.

The wins for working people that Governor Hochul has been able to deliver would not be possible without a democratic majority in state government. In the last year, we've seen historic wins for farmworkers, investments in

clean energy, and much-needed improvements to our state's infrastructure—all of which was made possible because we have a progressive state government that listens to the constituents who elected them into office. They have shown up for us, so we need to show up and vote for these pro-worker local elected officials on Election Day.

When you're making your plan to vote, remember it is not about voting by party, it is about voting for the candidates who are going to deliver for New York's working families. We need people on the state and federal level who are going to fight for you and who have a history of showing up for the working class when it matters the most.

You can view a full list of our endorsed candidates by logging in to your My Local 338 account (mylocal338.org). These candidates are ones we believe have the best interests of working people at heart and will fight to ensure your rights are protected on both the national and local level. Make sure to get to the ballot box by November 8th!



Support Worker-Friendly Candidates on November 8th

If this year has taught us anything, it's that it is incredibly important that union members are politically active because their rights as working people are not guaranteed. The Supreme Court has overturned several landmark cases this year, with some justices signaling that they may continue overturning the rights Americans have fought for when they reconvene this fall.

The rights of working people could be next, which is why it is critical that the members of Local 338 get to the polls this Election Day. Your rights are on the ballot—by electing candidates who will fight for working people and support New York's working families, you are ensuring your rights as workers remain protected.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th. Early voting begins on Saturday, October 29th, and will run until Sunday, November 6th. You can check your polling location at <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>. We hope you'll support the following candidates, all of whom have supported New York's working families on the state level or higher, on Election Day.



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

an extremely active member of Congress, and a leader who valued transparency so his constituents were always in the loop. He is a leader who is willing and able to reach across party lines to get things done—ranked first among Democrats for bipartisanship, we know this will carry into his work as Lieutenant Governor. He is committed to our state and will fight for working families alongside Governor Hochul!

Antonio Delgado for Lieutenant Governor – Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado began his career in politics in 2018, running for Congress in a bid to uplift New Yorkers and give them a much-needed voice in Washington, D.C. Antonio was



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

change. He's been a progressive leader, working to ensure that corporate boards and talent pools are more inclusive of women and minorities, and created more transparency in local government through the creation of the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System, which allows taxpayers to learn more about how their communities are using their funds. He will continue to hold businesses and state and local agencies accountable if re-elected, and we're proud to support him in his campaign!

Tom DiNapoli for Comptroller – During his time as Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli has exposed corruption and recovered more than \$50 million dollars in misuse of taxpayer funds, grew state pension funds, and pressed companies to address climate



[For a full list of Local 338's endorsed candidates, please visit mylocal338.org.](https://mylocal338.org)





Union Strong at the Labor Day Parade!



For the first time in three years, the New York City Labor Day Parade is back! On September 10th, New York's labor movement was out and stronger than ever. The theme of this year's parade was "Workers Leading, Workers Rising," which encapsulates the kind of year it has been for America's labor movement. Workers are using their power to improve their workplaces and fight for the dignity and respect they deserve!

The parade was led by United States Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, who is himself a card-carrying union member, and New York State Labor Secretary Roberta Reardon. Both of these people have been strong advocates for working people and have helped further the rights of workers on the state and federal level.



We had a strong showing of Local 338 members from every one of the industries we represent. For all of you who came out and brought your friends, family and coworkers: thank you! This was the first big event for the Local 338 family since the pandemic started, and we were so happy to see all of you in person at last.



After seeing all of our union sisters and brothers at the Labor Day Parade, we could not be more excited for the future of the union movement—we're just getting started!



To view photos of the parade, please visit:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11NbiIN4OZFKeoEJzCdDXs3HOXfrSuy?usp=sharing>





Stuart Appelbaum

President of the RWDSU

For Union Activists, This is Our Moment

For our union, and the entire labor movement, it is an exciting time. In no small part due to the efforts of the RWDSU, the labor movement is on fire – union activists are organizing at workplaces and industries we never thought possible, and notching wins for working people across the country. Americans are seeing the difference that unions make in the lives of working people, and attitudes are more favorable than ever toward unions.

We are currently in a moment where young workers are fighting back and actively leading campaigns that are inspiring working people across the entire nation. Young workers who have lived through the pandemic are tired of being treated as dispensable by employers who are making billions of dollars off their backs.

Union approval ratings are at their highest since the 1960s and we owe it to this new wave of organizing for shifting this narrative. We owe it to the Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama, who stood up to Jeff Bezos and shocked the nation with their ongoing organizing campaign with the RWDSU. We owe it to the Amazon Labor Union who won their election in Staten Island, the Starbucks workers and their

campaign that is sweeping the country, REI workers from coast to coast, and every worker who in this moment embodies the phrase 'enough is enough.'

RWDSU Local 338 is doing its part, helping to bring a union voice to those who have never had one, including farmworkers in New York. Thanks to Local 338's political involvement, New York's farmworkers are finally allowed to join unions, and thanks to Local 338 organizers, New York's farmworkers are winning union representation with the RWDSU.

Local 338 has also been a key voice in shaping New York's cannabis industry into one that creates good jobs and is union-friendly. All adult-use cannabis growers, distributors, and dispensaries must sign a

first union contract for over 600 employees at Housing Works, bringing them a voice in the workplace for the first time.

I'm proud of what Local 338 and the entire RWDSU are doing. At our core, we are a movement for justice, a movement to help lift up those who have been weakened by indifference and neglect, a movement that speaks out for those whose voices too often go unheard, a movement that provides strength for each and every worker, a movement that isn't willing to accept exploitation as the price of living in a global economy, a movement that isn't afraid to stand up for a country where dignity and respect and justice will prevail for all working people. It's up to us to work together with newer generations to ensure our movement is able to grow for many decades to come.

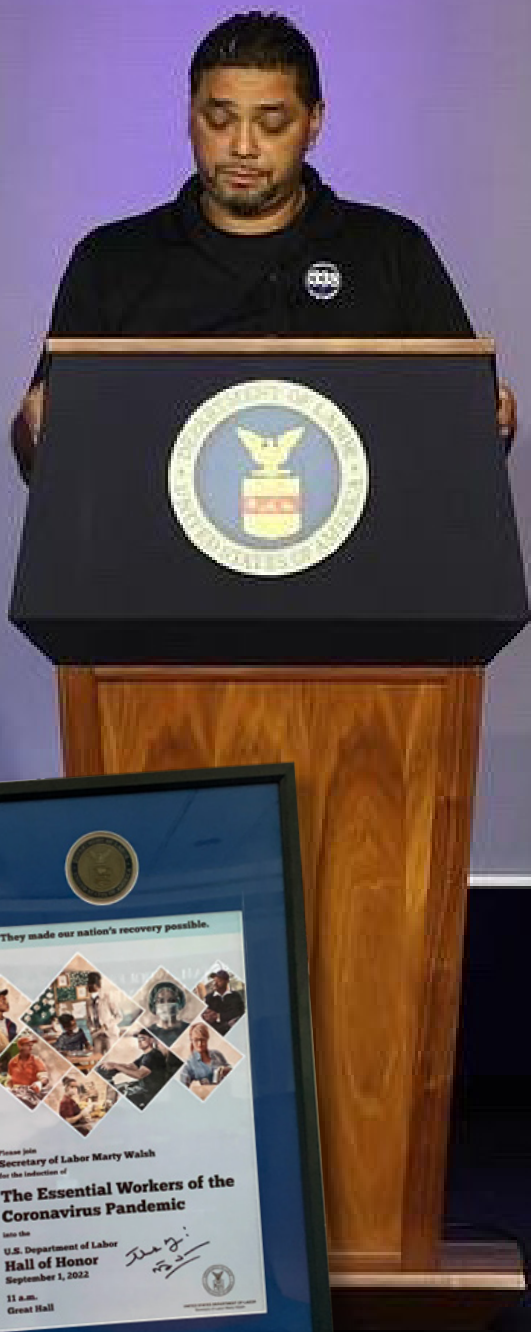
Labor Peace Agreement, which legally requires they abstain from any interference in cannabis workers' organizing drives.

And, Local 338 just negotiated a





Honoring the Essential Workers of the COVID-19 Pandemic



On September 1st, Local 338 Executive Board member Eddie Quezada was honored in Washington, D.C. by the United States Department of Labor as they inducted essential workers into their Hall of Honor. Eddie was one of four essential workers selected from nominations made by organizations across the country to speak at the live event. As the only worker representing the grocery industry, he shared his story of working on the front lines of the pandemic from the very beginning.

Eddie is the produce manager at the Stop & Shop in Huntington, and he has been a member of our union family for 33 years. He was able to provide a unique perspective at the ceremony, and painted a detailed picture of just what it was like to navigate the early stages of the pandemic. He explained that once the pandemic was officially declared, it was like Thanksgiving every day at his store—business had tripled, and it was impossible to keep up with the demand.

Eddie caught Covid early in the pandemic and after returning to work, Eddie served as an advocate for his fellow members. He says his main priority at the time was to prevent his coworkers from having the same terrible experience with Covid as he did. Eddie is also the Shop Steward for his Stop & Shop, so he worked very closely with both the union and the company to ensure that PPE was available, and protections were put in place to better protect the health and safety of his coworkers.

We are proud to have Eddie on our Executive Board and as a member of our union. He has always been a proud advocate for his fellow workers, and we're honored that he was selected by the Department of Labor to represent the grocery industry in our nation's capital! Congratulations, Eddie, on being recognized!



Congratulations to the 2022 Local 338 Scholarship Winners!

Every year, we award Local 338 members or their dependents scholarships to celebrate their hard work and academic achievements. We are proud to have members who are dedicated to their education and pursuing their academic goals! This year, we awarded a number of scholarships to recipients from a variety of industries and backgrounds who are pursuing degrees in Psychology, Gender Studies, Nursing, Law, and more!

Emanuel Laub Winner: Jean Marie Maleszewski



The 2022 Emanuel Laub Scholarship Award Recipient is Jean Marie Maleszewski! Jean Marie is the dependent of Edward Malszewski, a Local 338 member working at Stop & Shop in Huntington. She is a recent graduate of St. Anthony's High School and will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall, where she was accepted into the honors college and awarded a research grant. She will be studying Fashion and Business. The Emanuel Laub Scholarship awards the recipient a total of \$8,000 (\$2,000 a year for the next four years) and is named in memory of Local 338's late president.

The Local 338 Scholarship Award

Congratulations to the Local 338 Scholarship Award winners who have received \$2,000 to ease the cost of tuition:

Cristina DiMaria
Katie Moore
Julie Tchamgoue

Christopher Franco
Angelina Paylovic
Bella Tiripicchio

Francesca Genco
Kelsy Smith

The Local 338 Continuing Education Award

This year's Continuing Education Scholarship recipients are Joseph Geraghty and Victoria Ciminera! Joseph is the son of Kelly Geraghty, a 35-year member who works at Stop & Shop in East Northport! Joseph is currently a student at University of Illinois College of Medicine, pursuing his MD and PhD in neuroscience!

Victoria Ciminera is the daughter of Angelo Ciminera, a 12-year member working at Foodtown in Little Neck. Victoria will be attending St. John's University in the fall to pursue her J.D. and become a lawyer. She hopes to use her law degree to help marginalized communities.



The Local 338 Book Award

Congratulations to the Local 338 Book Award winners, who have received \$500 to help with the cost of books for the coming semester:

Alexandra DiCosola
Thuan Luu
Dahiana Rivera-Giraldo
Bhavin Tanna

John Fernandez
Xavier Moore
Shaunequa St. Romain
Anthony Williams

Katelyn Hughes
Veronica Nankervis-Werner
Nicholas Stroom

Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship winners! You have made your union family proud, and we wish you the best of luck this semester! To learn about additional scholarship opportunities, please visit local338.org/scholarships. To read more about this year's scholarship winners, visit local338.org.

Going To College?

WE CAN HELP!

Local 338's Scholarship Awards Program

The 2023 Local 338 Charities Inc. Scholarship Awards Program is Now Open!

We are pleased to announce that this year's Local 338 Charities Inc. Scholarship Awards Program is now open to Local 338 Members (or their dependents). To be eligible, applicants must be 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 attending a graduate program.

The Scholarship Awards Committee reviews all completed applications and awards a number of individual scholarships, including:

- The Emanuel Laub Scholarship which awards \$2,000 a year for all four years of college in annual installments (totaling \$8,000),
- One-time Scholarship Award of \$2,000 for students attending college, vocational training, or other accredited institution,
- The Continuing Education Scholarship Award which is a one-time award of \$2,000 for students pursuing a continuing education program, master's degree or doctorate degree,
- And The Book Award Scholarship, a one-time award of \$500 to be used towards textbooks and course materials.

To receive one of the Local 338 scholarship awards, the applicant or their guardian must remain a member in good standing until the scholarship is awarded.

**The deadline to submit the Short Form Application is
March 17, 2023**

Please supply the following information accurately, making sure to include the member's Social Security number or member ID number (RWD#). When the Short Form Application is received by the Scholarship Awards Committee, a Long Form Application will be sent to the applicant. (All completed Long Form Applications and supporting materials are due April 14, 2023.)

NOTE: the Local 338 Scholarship is a two-part application. When the short form is received and your eligibility is determined, a long form application will be mailed to you and must be returned no later than April 14, 2023. If you do not send in both parts of the application and supporting documentation by the deadline, you will not be considered for the Local 338 scholarship.

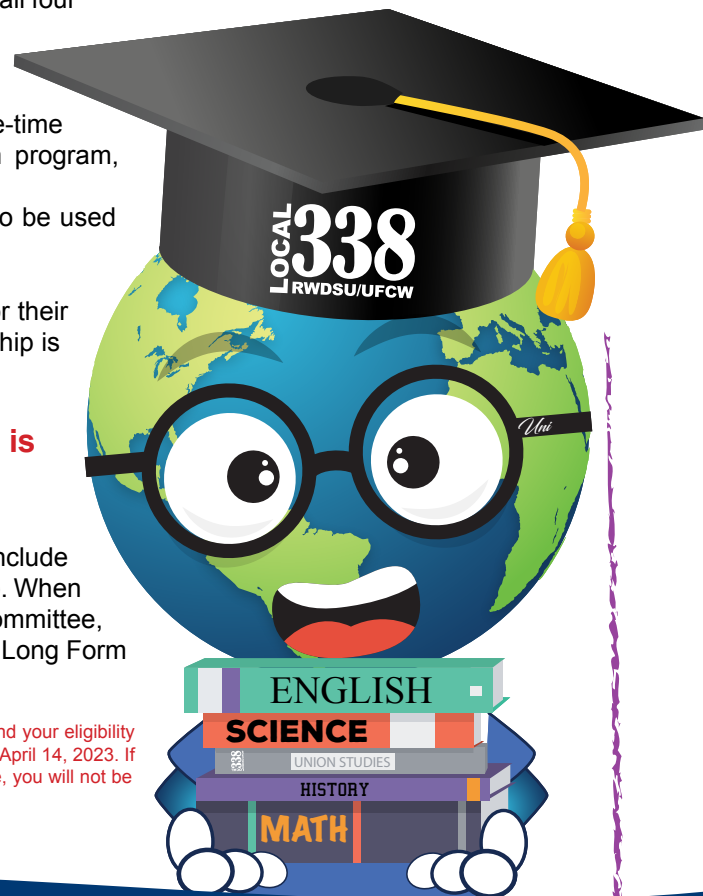


A Registered 501-(c)(3) Organization

**Elected officials of the union, staff employees, or their children are not eligible*

WWW.LOCAL338.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS

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





FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS FAQs

In August, the Biden Administration announced the Student Debt Relief Plan, which would forgive up to \$20,000 for eligible applicants and extended the student loan repayment pause until December 31, 2022. This is an excellent opportunity for working people and will help ease the financial burden on thousands of Americans! While there is still no set date for when the program will officially open, we know there are still a lot of questions about how to apply, who is eligible, and when the loan forgiveness will be processed.

How do I know if I'm eligible for Student Loan Forgiveness?

To be eligible, your annual income must be below \$125,000 (\$250,000 for couples or heads of households). If you received a Pell Grant in college and meet the income threshold, you are eligible for up to \$20,000 in forgiveness! If you did not receive a Pell Grant and still meet the income threshold, you are eligible for up to \$10,000 in forgiveness.

How do I apply?

At the time of this writing, the Department of Education has not opened applications for student loan forgiveness. They are expected to open in mid-to-late October. To check to see if the application is available, please visit studentaid.gov.

When will I get my Student Loan Forgiveness?

Once you complete the application, you can expect to receive relief in 4-6 weeks. The Federal government is encouraging borrowers to apply by November 15th, 2022 so they receive their forgiveness before repayment resumes on January 1, 2023.

What kind of loans are eligible?

You can check to see which loans you have in your studentaid.gov account or the account you have with your loan servicer. Here is a list of eligible loans:

- William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans
 - o Subsidized loans
 - o Unsubsidized loans
 - o Parent PLUS loans
 - o Graduate PLUS loans
 - o Consolidation loans, as long as all of the underlying loans that were consolidated were first disbursed on or before June 30, 2022
- Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans held by ED or in default at a guaranty agency
- Federal Perkins Loan Program loans held by ED
- Defaulted loans (includes ED-held or commercially serviced Subsidized Stafford, Unsubsidized Stafford, parent PLUS, and graduate PLUS; and Perkins loans held by ED)

For more information on the student loan forgiveness program and additional FAQs, please visit: studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/one-time-cancellation



Reducing Your Student Loan Debt With This Great Benefit

We have partnered with the National Student Debt Forgiveness Center (NSDFC) to provide Local 338 members and their eligible spouses and dependents access to exclusive webinars that will teach you more about student loan forgiveness. Their certified loan counselors will examine your current student loan and help you find the right repayment program(s).

If you, your spouse, or your eligible dependents have federal student loan debt, this program is for you—learn how you can reduce your monthly student loan payments and potentially qualify to get some of your student loan debt forgiven. Student loan debt is a burden—the National Student Debt Forgiveness Center is here to help!

For more information, please check your MyLocal338.org account. *Please note that this benefit is available to Local 338 members (and eligible spouses and dependents) who participate in the Local 338 Benefits Fund and is offered through the Legal Services Plan.



The LIM College logo, featuring a large 'L' and 'M' in blue and red, with 'LIM COLLEGE' written below it. The background of the banner shows a group of students in a classroom or office setting, looking at a laptop. The text 'New Educational Partnership: LIM College' is prominently displayed in a large, bold, purple font. Below this, in a smaller red font, it says 'Tuition discounts and scholarships available for degrees in fashion, business, cannabis, and more!'.

Thanks to a new educational partnership, Local 338 members, dependents, and retirees are now eligible for tuition discounts and scholarships of up to \$13,000 at LIM College.

Located in midtown Manhattan since 1939, LIM is focused on the business of fashion and lifestyle.

With associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs in areas ranging from fashion media, marketing, merchandising, and consumer analytics to groundbreaking new degrees in The Business of Cannabis, and more, LIM prepares students for career success via an approach grounded in real-world experience and learning by doing.

Courses are offered in a variety of formats (including in-person, online, and hybrid), and are taught by industry-expert faculty. A steady stream of required internships, collaborative industry projects, networking opportunities, career workshops, and recruiting events, as well as incredible access to alumni, industry partners, and professional networks, all contribute to outstanding alumni results. In fact, the Class of 2021 had a Career Outcomes Rate of 95%.

In addition to scholarships and discounted tuition for all LIM degree programs, all application fees will be waived for Local 338 partnership applicants. LIM College also has a generous transfer policy for credits earned at other colleges and universities.

For more information on programs, application requirements, and scholarship guidelines contact admissions@limcollege.edu.



Joseph Fontano

Secretary - Treasurer

Don't Skip the Midterms

It has been a long year for New York politics, which is why I understand why some people may be experiencing election fatigue. The midterm election cycle has been a challenging one, with all of the changes surrounding redistricting and the fact that New York had to have two separate primary elections. However, we cannot afford to sit out the midterm elections. They will determine who will keep the majority in Congress, which will also impact the rights of Americans nationwide.

At Local 338, we are proud to endorse candidates that we believe will support our workers and fight to expand their rights. We've seen a lot of progress made for the rights of workers over the last several years because of these pro-worker candidates, including the passage of the 2019 Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act, which gave farmworkers basic labor rights for the first time in the state's history. We're also working with these elected officials to lower the overtime threshold for farmworkers from 60 hours to 40 hours per week.

Strengthening the democratic majority in Congress would allow important pro-worker legislation like the Protecting the

Right to Organize Act (PRO Act) to pass. This landmark legislation would expand and protect workers' right to organize, but it has been stalled in the Senate since March of 2021. But we can't get that legislation passed unless you get out to vote by November 8th. For the general election, early voting begins on October 29th and will run until November 6th, giving you plenty of time to get to the ballot box!

When we endorse candidates, we commit to supporting them on the campaign trail in the weeks leading up to election day by volunteering to knock on doors, phone bank, and more. We welcome and encourage the members of Local 338 to get involved in this process—there is plenty of work to be done by Election Day, and we will need all the help we can get! If you're interested in volunteering or need more information, please reach out to your Union or Funds Representative.

It is more important than ever to be active in politics on a local, state, and federal level. Together, we can elect candidates who are going to fight to protect the rights of working people.



10

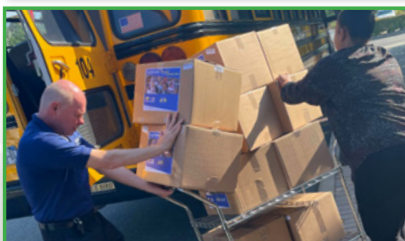


Giving Back in Honor of the Anniversary of 9/11

Every year, in honor of the anniversary of 9/11, Local 338 staff volunteers with local organizations to give back to our communities. It is incredibly important to us that we spend the day doing something that is impactful and benefits the communities we have the privilege to represent during this time of year, one that is hard for families across New York. This year, we did two separate days of service: on Friday, September 9th, Local 338 staff joined the United Way of Long Island and loaded donated school supplies onto buses for their annual Stuff a Bus event. The buses were headed for local schools, where staff met them and unloaded the supplies for the new school year.



On Monday, September 12th, Local 338 staff joined the United Veterans Beacon House in Bay Shore to help with yard clean-up for two local veterans. They spent the day painting porches, raking leaves, cleaning gutters, and power washing the properties, so these veterans have one less thing on their plate. It was an incredibly fulfilling day, and we were glad to help the people who have given so much to serve our country!



Thank you to United Veterans Beacon House and the United Way of Long Island for allowing us to give back and make a difference in our local communities! It was inspiring to see the work you do for families across Long Island and we look forward to continuing to support you as the year progresses!





Neil E. Gonzalvo

Executive Vice President

Negotiations Update: Pindar Vineyards and ShopRite

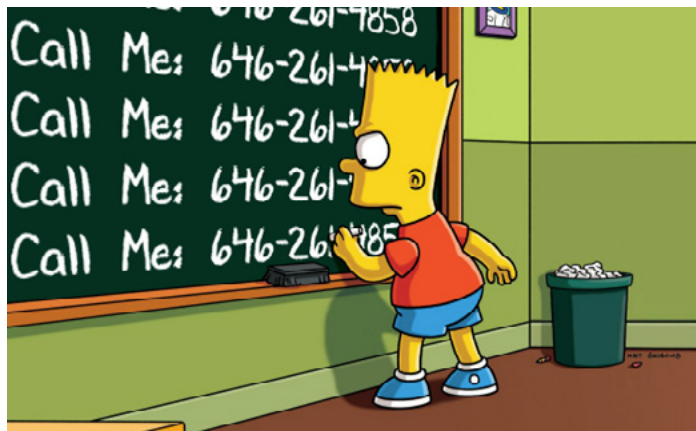
We have been hard at work negotiating the first contract for the workers at Pindar Vineyards. While every contract we negotiate is an important one, regardless of industry, the contract we're working on with Pindar Vineyards is particularly important because it is the first-ever union contract we are negotiating for New York's farmworkers. We have a responsibility to get this right for the members, and to ensure that the rights they are entitled to by law remain protected through the contract.

Negotiating this contract has been particularly challenging because these members work at an employer and in an industry that has never been unionized in New York State. Up until the end of 2019, farmworkers did not have the right to unionize in New York. The Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act gave them that right and other rights they should have had all along, including the right to a day of rest. We are determined to negotiate with the employer to ensure these workers get to keep these newly won rights, other benefits and that they are protected through the contract.

We are also negotiating the newest contract for our ShopRite members. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is the importance of negotiating contracts that include language that will provide protections for our members. Your work is essential, and while it's unfortunate that it took a global pandemic for

people and employers to realize that, we continue to bargain for better wages, better wage rates and to ensure that your health and safety rights are strongly protected in your contracts.

If you have any questions about any of these negotiations, please reach out to your Union or Funds Representative. If you'd like to talk about anything involving your union, 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!



NOTICE

You have the right to give up your union membership. You also have the right to object to paying for union activities not related to the union's duties as bargaining agent and to obtain a reduction in fees for such activities. You have the right to receive sufficient information to enable you to decide whether to become an objector, and the right to be told of the union's procedures for becoming an objector.

If you choose to give up your membership, you lose all your rights as a union member, including

- the right to vote "yes" or "no" on your next union contract,
- the right to vote for union officers and shop stewards,
- the right to attend union meetings, and
- the right to member benefits such as scholarship opportunities & union member discount programs.

Being a union member sends your employer the message that you are determined to protect your rights & benefits and to stand united with your co-workers.



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

\$153,212.84



12



Local 338

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Geoff Brown, Local 338 Member and Editor of CannaBuff

When Geoff Brown started CannaBuff, it was a blog meant to combat misinformation and educate people in Western New York about the effects and medicinal uses of cannabis. At the time, cannabis was only legal in the medicinal sense—adult-use legislation hadn't been passed. Geoff says he was dissatisfied with the coverage cannabis was getting, which inspired him to start the blog.

"Cannabis isn't black and white. There are a lot of grey areas, and I thought there should be a more credible voice educating people on the effects and uses of cannabis," said Geoff, who is a pharmacist and works part-time at a MedMen dispensary in Buffalo, New York. He is also a 3-year member of Local 338.

He says that being able to work as the editor for CannaBuff has allowed him to utilize his pharmaceutical cannabis knowledge to educate people and dispel common myths around the plant. In the years that have passed since CannaBuff began, its online presence has grown (no pun intended) and has become a free magazine which has found its home in smoke and CBD shops across Upstate New York.

The magazine publishes articles written by industry experts, and answers questions submitted by readers about a variety of topics, including different drug interactions, how long it takes to get a medical cannabis card, if you can donate blood if you regularly use cannabis, and more. All questions are answered by licensed medical professionals and are helping to dispel common myths and misconceptions about cannabis.

CannaBuff is published four times a year, and the Fall issue is out now! If you'd like to read about cannabis, or want to submit a question for Geoff to answer in the next issue, visit cannabuff.com.



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.





MY BENEFITS

With
Earl Mathurin
Funds Administrator



Earl Mathurin

New and Improved Benefits for Local 338 Members

We know how important it is to take care of your health. That's why at Local 338, we are working to ensure our members have access to benefits that will make it easier than ever to manage your healthcare needs. The following benefits are here to ease the process of taking care of yourself and seeing a healthcare provider:



Teladoc is Expanding

Introducing the new and improved Teladoc! This benefit is expanding and will be more useful than ever. You already knew that you could see a doctor anytime, anywhere—but now Teladoc's services include:

1. Access to primary care providers and specialists. The primary care providers available through Teladoc will be able to coordinate care and provide treatments to patients.
2. New for mental health care, myStrength Complete is a program which has dedicated support for stress, depression, sleep and more.
3. Access to dermatologists, back and joint care specialists and nutritionists all through the Teladoc app!
4. In addition, you'll also Teladoc Medical Experts can help you confirm or modify a diagnosis, decide if surgery is right for you, pick between treatment options, or get answers to questions and concerns.
5. Continued access to Livongo by Teladoc Health. Livongo is a program that provides support with conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, as well as support for healthy living. Each program comes with a connected device—including a blood glucose monitor, blood pressure monitor, and more.

The best part of the new and improved Teladoc is that there are no copays, and it is available to all active members of Local 338!



Introducing Sword Health!

Sword Health is a new at-home physical therapy benefit for members of Local 338! If you suffer from musculoskeletal issues, including chronic pain, acute conditions, or need physical therapy as part of your post-surgical recovery, Sword is here for you. They will pair you with a physical therapist and tailor your therapy plan to your unique needs! You'll also receive an at-home kit with extremely sensitive, wearable sensors that will track your movements while you do your prescribed exercises.

The sensors will provide real-time feedback during the exercises, and you can track your progress through the member dashboard. The treatment plans are specific to you, and your physical therapist will look at your progress and adjust your treatment plan as needed. SWORD Health will use the data from each session to figure out how to improve your treatment plan to ensure you're getting the best results possible. It's easy to use and you can do it from the comfort of your home!

The results speak for themselves: Sword has seen a 70% reduction in pain in most cases, 65% decrease in surgery intent, and 67% less medication consumption. The benefit is available to all members of the Local 338 Health and Welfare Fund, including spouses and dependents 13 and up. To attend their weekly webinar and learn more about the program, visit the Local 338 Member Portal.

For more information on this benefit and the expanded Teladoc benefit, please visit mylocal338.org.



The Facilitated Childcare Enrollment Project is Now Available in Suffolk County!

The Facilitated Childcare Enrollment Project provides funding assistance to help ease the high costs of quality childcare for working parents. Previously only available in the five boroughs and Westchester County, the Facilitated Childcare Enrollment Project has recently expanded to Suffolk County!

If you live in Suffolk County, work at least 20 hours per week, have children under 13, and meet certain income requirements, you may be eligible to apply for a subsidy to offset the costs of childcare. The subsidies can be used for both after school programs and day care. Over the last several years, over \$400,000 has been distributed to Local 338's working families!

For more information and to check eligibility, please the Childcare section under the "My Benefits" tab in your [MyLocal338.org](https://www.mylocal338.org) account.



Local 338 Holiday Toy, Coat & Food Drives

As we approach the holiday season and the colder months, we will once again be partnering with local organizations to collect food, coats, and toys for those less fortunate. We are extremely lucky to be able to give back to the communities we represent, and our annual holiday drives are some of the most important charitable opportunities we have every year. Our members always show up when we need them to, especially when it comes to helping those who need it most.

Every holiday season we donate toys to the John Theissen Children's Foundation, which brings toys to sick children in hospitals. We are also collecting nonperishable food and coats, because as the weather begins to get colder and the holidays approach, being able to put food on the table and stay warm is incredibly important. If you can give anything this year, it would be greatly appreciated. You can coordinate with your union representative to organize a collection of toys, nonperishable goods or coats. Every donation counts—there is nothing too small. Thank you for your generosity and your continued support!



For more information about how to donate this year, speak to your Union or Funds/Service Representative.





Congratulations

on 40 Years of Membership!

Every year we like to highlight the members who have dedicated their lives to their jobs and their union. These members are committed to what they do and have continued to show up every day, including during the height of the pandemic. We could not be prouder to represent our members and to be able to ensure they have the rights and protections they need on the job to have a career that's dependable and gives them the opportunity to thrive. Congratulations to all of our members celebrating their 40-year anniversary!

Lawrence Anderson

Richard Blitz

John Bolina

Luis Bonet

John Bronner

Patricia Caiazza

Alfred Cassidy

Gee Chan

Michael Chaussky

Jane Cosme

Dardo Ferrari

Michelle Frazier

Lauren Grimm

Luke Jervier

Edward Kerber

Louis Lisella

Pedro Lugo

Eusebio Maldonado

Osvaldo Marrero

Nancy Martin

Stephen O'Sullivan

Glen Parker

Diana Perez

Astrid Ramos

Diane Scheulen

Harvey Schlanger

Winston Thorpe

Richard Trezza

Juan Umana

Maria Vassallo

John Vescera

Jeffrey Walkowiak

Hal Weiss

Keritz Wright



16



Wishing Our Members A Happy Retirement!

(Local 338's recent retirees between September 1 to October 31, 2022)

Richard Aull

Luis Beltran

John Benzaia

Kenneth Bollbach

Barry Bressler

Manuel Camacho

Jose Castillo

Glenn Chiappa

Steven Collumbell

Cindy Corso

Cecelia De Grange

Tedi Debellis

Lawrence Febbraro

Deborah Formosa

Rafael Garcia

Michael Gross

Joseph Haigood

Seung Yong Han

Elaine Hudson

Pepe Huyhua

Angelo Laruccia

Sang Duck Lee

Edward Machado

Donna Mancuso

Angelo Mendoza

Diane Mescia

Jodie Miceli

Robert Morabito

Sara Morales

Kenneth Murphy

Pedro Pagan

Eleuteria Palomino

Charles Park

Alexander Pinhasov

Susana Polanco

Robert Potter

Robert Rosenthal

Joe Santagata

Louis Santoro

Marylou Scheller

Anthony Scheuerman

Juan Serra

Carol Steffen

Richard Tomlinson

Francis Tully

Victoria Vantassell

Lewis Visintin

Miguel Vizarreta Cueto

Gom Ling Young

"Retired from my job, not from my union"



17



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 Joey Quercia as our October Super Member! Joey works in the Produce department at Stop & Shop on Staten Island, and he's been a member of Local 338 for 36 years. Joey is also a 22-year member of the Local 338 Executive Board, where he serves as a voice for our membership and works to get Local 338 members involved in their union. In his free time, Joey coaches the Staten Island Boys Football League, where he provides his player discipline, structure and "tough love" to foster better students and community leaders.

We've also featured Virginia Guilz, a 22-year member of Local 338, as our November Super Member! Virginia is a cashier at Stop & Shop in Oceanside. She recently celebrated her 80th birthday and is a proud grandma to 10 grandchildren and is a great-grandma of 12 great-grandkids! She likes to draw and read tarot cards, and worked as a hairdresser before coming to Stop & Shop. 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](#).



Joey Quercia



Virginia Guilz

LOCAL 338 MEMBER MEETING



**Join Us for Our Next
Membership Meeting on
Wednesday
December 14th!**

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.



18





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 by logging into the Local 338 app!



19





LOCAL 338

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Stay Connected With Local 338 on
😊 Social Media

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

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