

338 News

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John R. Durso

President of Local 338

Your Vote Can Shape the Future

In the wake of Tom Suozzi's recent election win, we are reminded of the power the union vote holds. His win signifies a huge victory and step forward for working people, as they gain one more ally in Congress who understands the challenges faced by working families every day. I believe he will continue to boost the voices of union members and work to pass policies and legislation that will benefit working people across the country.

However, Suozzi's victory serves as a reminder of the critical role union members play in shaping the political landscape. Now more than ever, we need Local 338 members to register to vote and participate in every election. Your vote serves as tool that leads to change and helps get candidates who will fight for the interests of working families elected.

Looking ahead to the 2024 election cycle, the stakes could not be higher. The results of this election will impact the lives of working people not just here in New York, but nationwide. That is why we need Local 338 members

to step up and get involved in our efforts to get out the vote as we approach the Primary and General elections. Whether it's through phone banking, knocking on doors, or rallying your fellow union members to encourage them to vote, members are welcome and encouraged to volunteer with us.

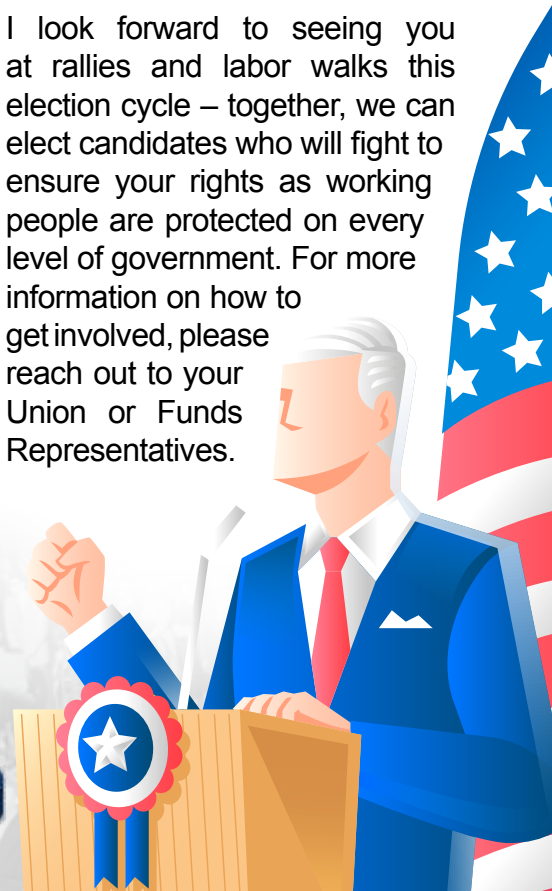
One of the reasons we work so hard to get pro-worker candidates elected to office is so they can pass legislation like the Retail Worker Safety Act. This bill would provide workers with trainings on how to manage verbal and physical customer harassment, as well as what to do in the case of an active shooter.

We have seen firsthand the consequences of an active shooter in the workplace when we lost Local 338 member Ray Wishropp in 2021. His daughter Valanie recently won the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to students who have lost a parent at work or have a parent on permanent disability. While this scholarship is something I'd hoped she would never be eligible for, I

would like to congratulate Valanie on this recognition and wish her well as she studies Psychology and Human Development at SUNY Albany.

I would also like to congratulate Union Representative and Organizer Luca Negrino for his recognition as one of City & State's Labor Power 100 – he has played an instrumental part in setting the standard for cannabis workers across the state and this is a well-deserved honor!

I look forward to seeing you at rallies and labor walks this election cycle – together, we can elect candidates who will fight to ensure your rights as working people are protected on every level of government. For more information on how to get involved, please reach out to your Union or Funds Representatives.



Fighting for Worker Safety: Members Push for the Retail Worker Safety Act

As your union, it is our responsibility to advocate for your health and safety at work. One of the ways we do this is by supporting legislation that will reinforce your rights as workers and expand your workplace safety standards.

That is why we are advocating for the Retail Worker Safety Act, a critical piece of legislation that will hold companies accountable and force them to take the safety of their workers into consideration. Right now, employers do not do enough to protect their employees - we have seen this time and time again as workers become victims to unruly customers, verbal and physical harassment, assault, and other horrific workplace tragedies.

One of the best ways we can show legislators how important it is to pass this bill is by sharing the firsthand experiences of retail workers with them. On March 5, Local 338 members and representatives went to Albany to lobby for the passage of the Retail Worker Safety Act. Members met with elected officials from across the state to urge them to pass this bill – sharing their own experiences at dangerous workplaces to convey how important it is.

We also met with bill sponsors Senator Jessica Ramos and Assemblymember Karines Reyes before joining our national union, the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union (RWDSU), for a rally at the capital building. Local 338 Executive Board member Eddie Quezada spoke at the rally, urging legislators to pass the bill and saying that every worker deserves to know what to do in an emergency.

“Nobody wants to go to work expecting to be assaulted by a customer or experience an active shooter. But they should know what to do and where to go if the unthinkable happens, and that starts with providing them with store-specific trainings and action plans for the worst-case scenarios,” he said.

Personal experiences are the best way to show legislators why this bill is so important. Members who want to get involved are encouraged to share their experiences with dangerous or uncomfortable workplace scenarios, as well as share ideas on what employers could be doing better to protect our membership at work through this [survey](#). It is completely anonymous, and your responses will not be shared with your employers – we encourage members to fill out the survey as your story can help make a difference!

For members who want to get involved directly with our union, they can reach out to Deputy Political Director Katie Shane at kshane@local338.org.





MY BENEFITS

With
Earl Mathurin
Funds Administrator



Earl Mathurin

How to Take Advantage of Your Local 338 Benefits



As a member of the Local 338 Benefits Fund or Health and Welfare Fund, you may be eligible for a variety of benefits including medical, prescription, optical, dental, and more! We want to ensure that eligible members are taking advantage of the benefits that are available to them and maintaining their wellbeing.

As of January 1, 2024, our medical insurance has switched from MagnaCare to Anthem (formerly known as Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield), giving members access to a wide network of doctors

and specialists throughout the US. In addition, Amalgamated Employee Benefits will handle all calls related to eligibility, benefits, claims and authorization status, as well as process all claims beginning January 1st. Members should reach out to the Local 338 Funds office for all claims submitted with a date of service prior to December 31, 2023, by calling (516) 294-1338.

MAGNACARE

Anthem





We have also updated our Optical benefit, making it easier than ever to get new prescription glasses or contacts! Members will no longer need to call the Local 338 office to request an optical voucher, simply ask your provider if they take one of our three optical benefit vendors: CPS Optical, General Vision Services, or Vision Screening. Your provider will be able to check your coverage on the spot and tell you what you're eligible for.

If you have questions about the other benefits offered to members of Local 338's Benefits Fund or Health and Welfare Fund, the team in our Funds Office is available to help! The benefits the Funds Office can assist with include the Local 338 Childcare Benefit, Pension, Annuity and COBRA, Prescriptions, Disability/Supplemental Disability, and Worker's Compensation. Eligibility for these benefits will depend on which benefits fund you are enrolled in.

If You Have Questions About:	Call:
Eligibility, Benefits, Claims, and Authorization Status as of 1/1/24	Amalgamated Employee Benefits: 1-888-338-3344
Claims Prior to 1/1/24	The Local 338 Funds Office: (516) 294-1338
Member Assistance Program	LECSA: (631) 851-1259
Optical Benefit	CPS Optical: (212) 675-5745 GVS: (800) 847-4661 Vision Screening: (800) 652-0063
Childcare Benefit Hospital Income Pension, Annuity, and COBRA Prescription Benefit Disability/Supplemental Disability	The Local 338 Funds Office (516) 294-1338



Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial Scholarship Winner, Valanie Wishropp



Every year, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Memorial awards scholarships to students who have parents receiving permanent benefits under the New York State Worker's Compensation Board or have lost a parent due to a work-related accident. Local 338 was proud to support scholarship winner Valanie Wishropp at this year's awards ceremony as she accepted her scholarship.

Valanie is currently a student at the University of Albany, where she is a freshman studying Psychology and Human Development. She wants to work with kids, either as a school psychologist or supporting students who need special education. Valanie was drawn to psychology because she likes to learn how our brains and people work – how they develop, grow and change throughout their lives.

This semester, Valanie is looking forward to taking her first education classes. She says that receiving this scholarship is pushing her to pursue her degree and get good grades.

"It's very encouraging. Going to school is already hard and this scholarship will motivate me to keep moving," she said. "My family wants me to go to school full time and get good grades, and things like this keep me going."

Congratulations, Valanie, and best of luck at the University of Albany!

For additional scholarship opportunities, please visit local338.org/scholarships.





Joseph Fontano

Secretary - Treasurer

Fighting for You in Albany and Beyond

As we enter yet another high stakes election year, we are reminded of the role politics play in our everyday lives. This election cycle, there are once again candidates on the ballot from local to national races who are going to actively fight against the interests of working people and try to undermine your labor rights. That is why Local 338 supports candidates who will advocate for policies and legislation that will benefit working families.

As part of our mission to improve the lives of our members and all working people, Local 338 regularly meets with local and statewide elected officials about important pieces of legislation that will improve quality of life for our members. At the top of our agenda in 2024 is a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and funding in the state budget for wage increases for direct service providers, including our members at IAHD, IRI, and Community Resources. We are also fighting to close the loophole that would allow agencies to only give workers a portion of the funding they're given for raises - these workers provide care for some of New York's most vulnerable men and women, and they deserve the money that is allocated for them.

The health and safety of our members is a priority

for us, and it is front and center this legislative session. Local 338 is joining our labor allies to fight to get the Retail Worker Safety Act passed. This legislation would require employers to train workers on how to deal with verbal and physical harassment from customers and put additional safety measures in place to protect workers from active shooters and physical abuse. There have been many instances over the last several years where Local 338 members have been victims of customer harassment, and not enough is being done to protect them at work.

We are also supporting the TEMP Bill – as extreme weather becomes increasingly common, this legislation would create workplace standards on working in extreme heat and cold. The TEMP Bill covers many of our members, including those working in agriculture, and would guarantee workers have access to shade, hydration, guaranteed rest and more so workers are not putting their health on the line when doing their jobs.

New York's cannabis industry is booming, and more adult use cannabis businesses are opening every month, bringing with them the possibility of thousands of new union jobs. That is why we are advocating for additional funding for the Cannabis Workforce Initiative, which promotes equity and quality careers in New York's evolving cannabis industry.

Much of the legislation that we're fighting for this session would not have been proposed if Local 338 members didn't get out to vote. By making your voices heard and casting your vote, you helped get many pro-worker candidates elected to Albany. It is proof that your vote matters – and it will count more than ever this November.



A Win for Workers: Tom Suozzi Elected to Congress



Tom Suozzi has been re-elected to his former Congressional seat to represent New York's Congressional District 3! He will be replacing former Representative George Santos, who vacated this seat in late 2023.

Tom's victory is a huge win for New York's working families – with over 30 years of experience in public service, including as the prior representative for District 3, Tom Suozzi is already familiar with the issues that matter most to New York's working people! He has been a lifelong ally to the labor movement, and we are confident that he will take the fight for workers all the way to Washington!

As we get closer and closer to the 2024 Presidential Election in November, this month's Special Election serves as an important reminder of just how much your vote matters. This election was extremely close, and every single union member and resident of NY-3 that voted made a difference in the outcome.

We are working hard to get the best candidates for working families elected to office by knocking on doors, phone banking, rallying and more. Our priority is making sure our members have allies on every level of government who are going to fight to protect their rights. We are stronger when we work together – if you are interested in getting involved to get out the vote, reach out to your Union or Funds Representative for more information. Together, workers will win in 2024!





Neil E. Gonzalvo

Executive Vice President

Member Engagement Helps Us Win Stronger Contracts

As we enter 2024, we are looking ahead to all that is in store for our union. This year is an important year for contract negotiations, as contracts for Morton Williams, ACME, and Duane Reade are all up for renegotiation this year, with Stop & Shop up early 2025. Local 338's negotiating teams has their work cut out for them – that's why we need support from our members.

These are going to be some challenging contracts to renegotiate, and we need engaged members and Shop Stewards who are interested in participating in the contract negotiation process. Participation looks like many things – talking to your coworkers about what they hope to see in a contract, attending member meetings, and making sure your coworkers are engaged with the union. We are taken more seriously when our membership stands together in solidarity, and it sends a message to employers that we aren't afraid to fight for what our members deserve.

For members who are not yet Shop Stewards but are interested in taking a more involved role in their union, we encourage you to reach out to your Union Representatives for more information! Becoming a Shop Steward is one of the most impactful ways to contribute to your union and the negotiation process.

Stewards play a vital role in representing their coworkers and their interests, helping to ensure that their voices are heard at the bargaining table.

We recently won a new three-year contract for Local 338 members at DeCicco Markets. Members won guaranteed annual wage increases, and the contract maintains their medical and retirement benefits. A contract like this is a direct result of support and feedback from the membership, and proof that when members come together, it helps us negotiate better contracts.

I encourage Local 338 members who are interested in getting involved to reach out to me directly as well. I love hearing from our membership and want the opportunity to talk through member engagement opportunities with all of you. You can reach me on my personal cell phone: 646-261-4858 or by email at ngonzalvo@local338.org. Members who reach out will not only get to discuss ways to get involved but will also receive some Local 338 swag!

I look forward to a year of fighting for your next contract, and working with members across the state to make sure your voices are heard at the bargaining table!



IT PAYS TO BE UNION

Since January 2024, Local 338, through grievances and arbitrations, collected funds and returned back wages to our members in excess of

\$16,875.10



Going To College?

WE CAN HELP!

Local 338's Scholarship Awards Program

The 2024 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 15, 2024. 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 \$3,500 a year for all four years of college in annual installments (totaling \$14,000),
- One-time Scholarship Award of \$3,500 for students attending college, vocational training, or other accredited institution,
- The Continuing Education Scholarship Award which is a one-time award of \$3,500 for students pursuing a continuing education program, master's degree or doctorate degree,
- And The Book Award Scholarship, a one-time award of \$1,000 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 15, 2024

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 12, 2024.)

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 12, 2024. 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.



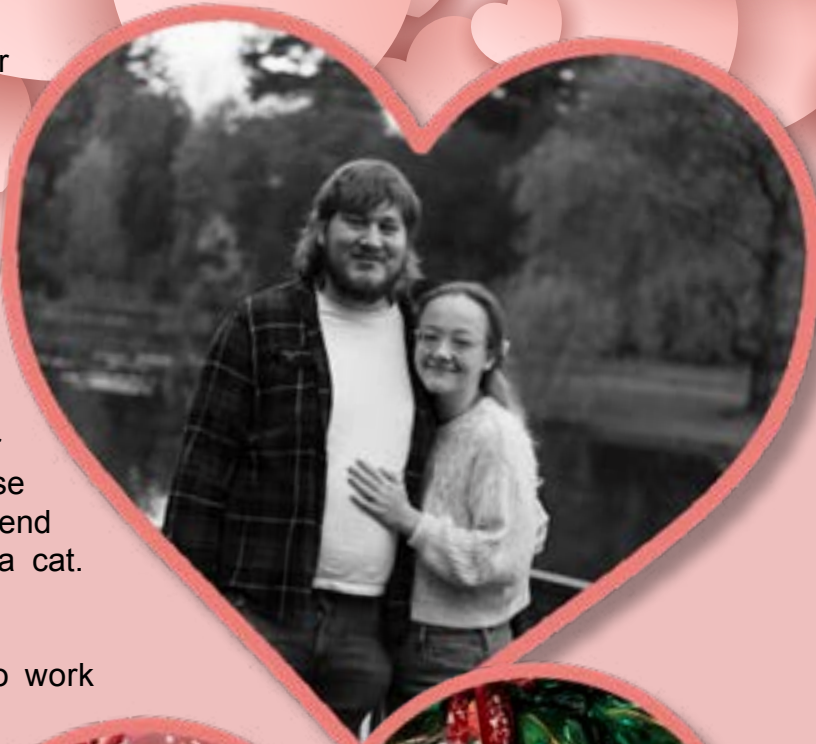
WWW.LOCAL338.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

Union Love Stories: Meet the Couples Working Together Across New York

There's a lot of love in our union family! For Valentine's Day, we wanted to feature some of the 338 couples who are working in our shops across the state – including Dylan Moore and Bre Shubert, two members who work together at the Etain cultivation facility in Chestertown. They met on a dating app in 2020 and went to get frozen yogurt for their first date. They got engaged last October with plans to marry on August 17th! Dylan and Bre are big electronics people – they like to build and fix computers and say they're their own personal Geek Squad! Since they live so close to the Adirondacks, they love to go camping and spend time outside. They share two guinea pigs and a cat. Congratulations, Dylan and Bre!



Sajjad and Syeda are Local 338 members who work for ShopRite! They got married in Pakistan in 2003 after being set up by their mothers, who were best friends. Since Syeda was living in Pakistan when they got married, Sajjad came to visit her every year until she finally moved to be with him in New York in 2008. Sajjad says his favorite things about Syeda is how good she is at taking care of him and his mother – whatever they need, she takes care of. In their free time, Sajjad and Syeda like to watch Netflix movies together and relax. They just celebrated 20 years together – congratulations on that incredible milestone, Sajjad and Syeda! We wish you many more years of happiness!



We're always looking for new members to feature! If you're part of a Local 338 couple or want to nominate someone to be our next member feature, please reach out to Caroline Leddy at cleddy@local338.org.



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New Year, New Opportunities to Manage Your Wellbeing!

As we enter a new year, now is a perfect opportunity to prioritize focusing on your mental health and overall wellbeing! As a member of Local 338, you have access to two great services, Teladoc and LECSA, which are there to help manage your physical and mental health.



Teladoc has made seeing a doctor or specialist easier than ever, all from the comfort of your home! If your new year's resolution is to go for your annual check-up or finally book an appointment to see that specialist, try Teladoc – they now offer appointments with Primary Care Providers and specialists, including dermatologists, joint care specialists, nutritionists, and more. Their myStrength Complete program is a great option for those seeking additional support for their mental health care – their specialists provide support for those struggling with stress, depression, sleep, and more.



LECSA
Labor Education & Community
Services Agency

If you find yourself struggling with mental health or substance abuse, reaching out is a sign of strength. One of the best resources available to members is our Member Assistance Program partner, LECSA. Their representatives are there to support members who may be struggling with substance abuse, domestic violence, stress, anxiety, and other mental health concerns. Additionally, LECSA can provide support to members who are struggling with housing instability, domestic violence, marital issues, and more.

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

We encourage you to use your exclusive Local 338 member benefits and start 2024 off strong! For questions about these benefits, please call the Local 338 Funds Office: (516) 294-1338.



We Love Our Union

This year, we asked some of our members to tell us what they love most about being a part of the Local 338 family. From strong wages and great benefits to the feeling of solidarity with your union sisters and brothers, there's a lot to love about being in a union!



Ainsley Brown | DeCicco Markets



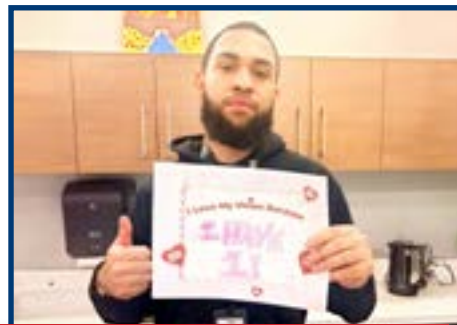
Carol Daley | Duane Reade



Johanna Carmen | Stop & Shop



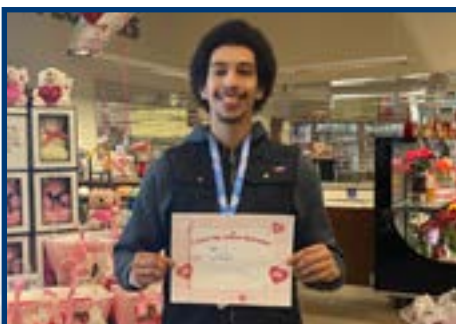
David Valiz | Stop & Shop



Keven Corniel | Verilife



George Parra | Stop & Shop



Gregory Greene | ACME Markets

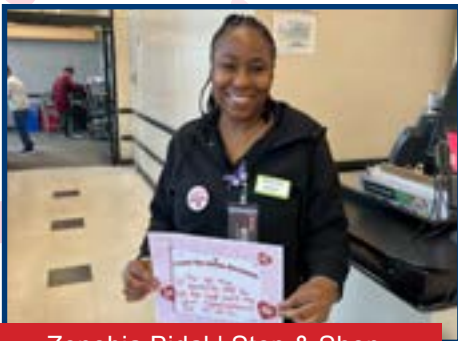


Melissa Peterson | ShopRite



Jermaine Tillman | Stop & Shop





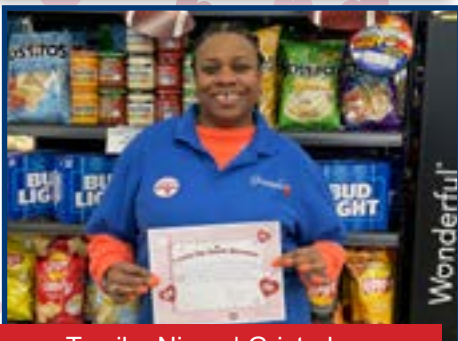
Zenobia Bidal | Stop & Shop



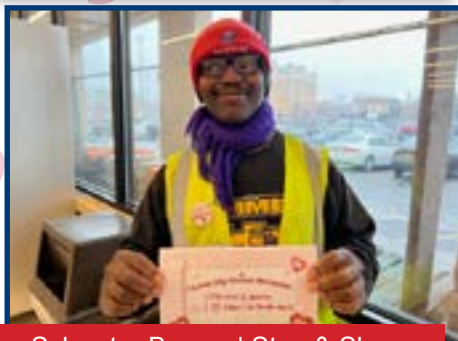
Yanira Vasquez | Foottown



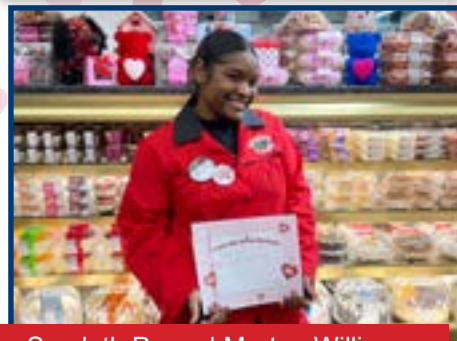
William Mung | Stop & Shop



Tamika Nixon | Gristedes



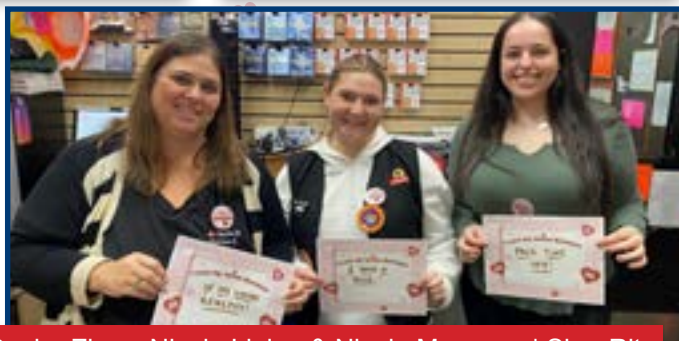
Sylvester Bowen | Stop & Shop



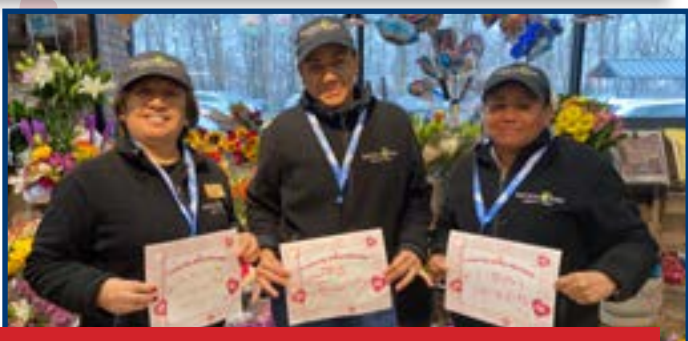
Scarleth Perez | Morton Williams



Nancy Rodriguez & Monira Ahmed | ShopRite



Desire Zizzo, Nicole Lipien & Nicole Monoyos | ShopRite



Lilian Pumachagua, Margres Mendoza
& Alma Martinez | DeCicco & Sons



Danielle Mahoney, Daniel Baslin
& Owen Fernandez | Stop & Shop

We love our members and are proud
to represent all of you!

Happy Valentine's Day!



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Opt-In to Keep in Touch!

As your Union, it's important that we can keep you up to date on important things happening within your union. Now that we've entered the new year, it's a great time to make sure the contact information we have on file is accurate, including your mailing address, cell number and email address. To do this, you can speak to your Union or Funds/Service Representative, contact the Union Call center at 516-294-1138 ext. 1776, or by simply logging in to your [My Local 338](#) account!

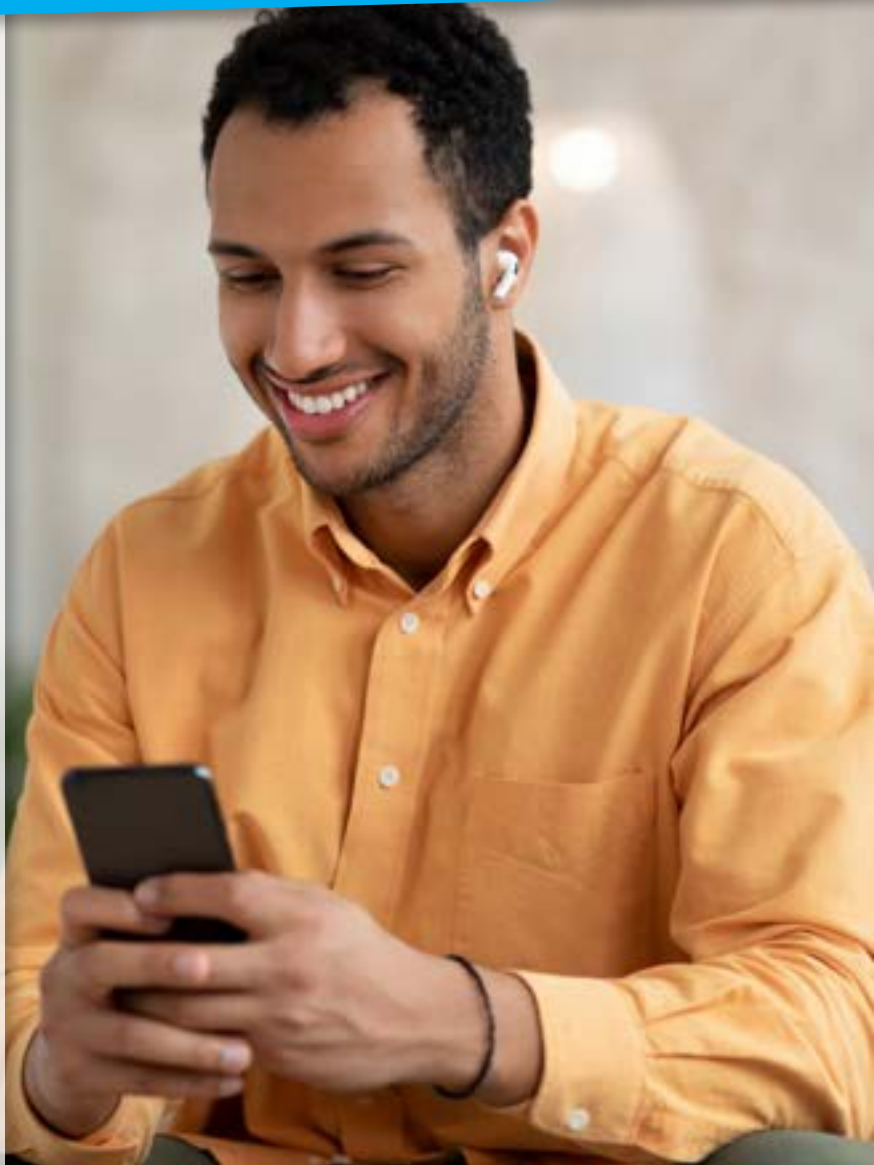
Additionally, we are launching a new peer-to-peer text messaging program to make it easier than ever to get the most important information to you as quickly as possible! This information may include updates on contract negotiations, membership meeting information, or other important union news. We will be using this new program on an as-needed basis— and we will only be sharing information about upcoming events and important updates.

We are asking all members of Local 338 to fill out this form to opt-in to text communications from Local 338 RWDSU/ UFCW. (Please note Standard message and data rates may apply.) You can do this in one of two ways:

- Logging in to your My Local 338 account (mylocal338.org) and selecting YES to receiving text messages in the My Profile and Settings tab under My Information
- Completing the following consent form: https://local338.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=352#

**We look forward to
keeping in touch with you!**

If you have any questions, please contact your Union or Funds/Service Representative.



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 in to the Local 338 app!



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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 Kayber Lacayo, a deli clerk who works at Morton Williams on Bleecker Street who's been a member for 20 years! Kayber likes to read and watch movies, and spend time with her 12-year-old daughter. They recently went on a trip together! Kayber is a Yankees fan and says baseball is her favorite sport. She loves being a union member and taking advantage of all of the benefits she gets through us – especially the childcare benefit.

We've also featured Quan Chen, who works in the Produce Department at ShopRite in New Hyde Park and joined our union in November of 2023! Quan is currently training to become an assistant to the Produce Manager. He has three kids and is a League of Legends pro – he's been playing for years and has leveled up to somewhere in the 500s! 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](#).



Quan Chen



Kayber Lacayo

LOCAL 338 MEMBER MEETING

These meetings are held in order to keep our members up to date on the most important information about the Union and all upcoming events. We encourage you to make every effort to attend. Food and refreshments will be served! The meeting will be held at three in-person locations and on Zoom:



Long Island - March 13th at 5:00 PM

Local 338 RWDSU/UCFW's Office
1505 Kellum Place, Mineola, NY 11501

Manhattan - March 13th at 5:00 PM

RWDSU's Office
370 Seventh Avenue, Suite 501 Manhattan, NY 10001
7 Penn Plaza – Between 30th and 31st Streets

Staten Island - March 14th at 3:30 PM

International Christian Center
1501 Richmond Ave Staten Island, NY 10314
Please note: the entrance is on the side of the building.

Zoom will only be March 13th at 5:00 PM. To register, please visit: <https://60p9.short.gy/MemberMeeting>.

*We encourage you to join us at our next meeting and look forward to seeing you then!
If you have any questions, please contact your Union or Funds/Service Representative.*

SAVE THE DATE

STAMP OUT HUNGER WITH LOCAL 338

**OVER
25 YEARS
OF GIVING
BACK TO OUR
COMMUNITY**



**HELP US
"STAMP OUT HUNGER"
AT THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE**

**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE**

Saturday, May 11, 2024

The National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is back again for their 31st year! This food drive helps thousands of local families in need every year. Food assistance is more important than ever, and our local food pantries rely on donations to keep food on the tables of those who need it most.

We're asking members to help us fight food insecurity by donating nonperishable goods on May 11, 2024. Donating is easy—simply place your nonperishables in a bag by your mailbox and your mail carrier will pick up your donation to deliver to local food pantries.

If you have questions about the food drive or how to donate, please reach out to your Union Representative at (516) 294-1338 ext. 1776.



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LOCAL 338

RWDSU/UFCW

Stay Connected With Local 338 on
😊 Social Media

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President

Joseph Fontano
Secretary-Treasurer

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

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