

338 News

Volume IV - 2022

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John R. Durso

President of Local 338

A Summer of Celebrating Workers

This has been a busy summer for our union. In July, a delegation of Local 338's representatives attended a convention for our national union, the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union (RWDSU), where we proudly re-elected the leadership team, President Stuart Appelbaum, Secretary-Treasurer Robert Layng, Jr., and Recorder Joseph Dorismond for another term. We also reaffirmed our commitment to improving and protecting the rights of workers in every industry as workers across the country take back their power and demand fair treatment in the workplace!

We have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming Labor Day Parade. I hope to see many of you in attendance—it is the first time since 2019 that the parade is happening, and it is more important than ever that we have a strong showing. The best way for the labor movement to show its strength is in its numbers, and this has been a banner year for workers. We've seen working people across the country taking back their power,

demanding fair wages and benefits, and improving their workplaces through the support of a union.

The inspiring campaigns at Starbucks, REI, and Amazon have sparked a wave of organizing efforts nationwide. Needless to say, working people haven't had this kind of support in decades—it is inspiring to see them rising up and taking charge. The theme for this year's Labor Day Parade is just that: Workers Leading, Workers Rising. The parade will be led by none other than United States Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, a card-carrying union member himself. If you haven't RSVP'd yet, you can do it here: <https://local338.org/forms/labor-day-2022-rsvp>. When you RSVP, you also get a free Local 338 shirt to wear during the parade!

I would like to welcome our new members at Paumanok and Palmer Vineyards to the Local 338 family! They join their brothers and

sisters at Pindar Vineyards in Local 338 and are the second group of farmworkers in New York to unionize. We are all proud to have these workers join our union and look forward to negotiating a strong contract on their behalf.



LABOR DAY PARADE 2022

Join Your Fellow Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW Members at the

Labor Day Parade!

Celebrating New York's Working Men & Women!

Saturday, September 10, 2022

Local 338 will be meeting at 10AM
on East 45th St. between 5th Ave and Vanderbilt Ave.

Friends and Family are welcome! | We'll kick off the Parade with food and fun!

For more information about the parade and to RSVP, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/338LaborDay>

To see pictures from previous years, please visit: [flickr.com/local338](https://www.flickr.com/photos/local338/)



Reaffirming Our Commitment to Working People at the RWDSU Convention

This July, Local 338 attended the quadrennial Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union (RWDSU) Convention! This convention is held every four years to elect our national union's leadership and set goals for our union.

This year, we proudly re-elected the leadership team, President Stuart Appelbaum, Secretary-Treasurer Robert Layng, Jr., and Recorder Joseph Dorismond for another term. They have been strong leaders and advocates for the workers they represent throughout the pandemic and have helped to ensure that workers across the country were being treated with dignity and respect. They helped our union navigate the pandemic and provided important guidance on how to protect our members.



In addition to re-electing the leadership team, there was also an inspiring lineup of speakers, including organizers from the Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama, workers from Starbucks Workers United, and United States Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, who vowed to continue to fight for the union movement on the federal level.

"No matter where you live, every worker has the right to a safe job in this country. Every worker in this country has the right to join a and form a union."

Amy Albrecht, a Local 338 member working at MedMen in Utica, participated in a panel on worker organizing. She was able to provide a unique point of view, because unlike the other workers on the panel, she didn't experience any union busting while her workplace was organizing. That's because of a clause included in the Compassionate Care Act, which requires employers to sign a Labor Peace Agreement when obtaining their license to operate in New York—meaning they can't interfere if workers want to organize!

"Being in a new, up and coming industry, we didn't have to go through union busting," she said. "The thing that I'm most thankful for is that together with the other unionized grow sites, we are setting the standard for the industry."

It was an inspiring week, and we are looking forward to continuing to work with the leadership at the RWDSU to better the lives of workers across New York! Congratulations once again to President Stuart Appelbaum, Secretary-Treasurer Robert Layng, Jr., and Recorder Joseph Dorismond on their re-elections!



Pindar Vineyards Member Martir Zambrano Diaz Honored by New York State AFL-CIO

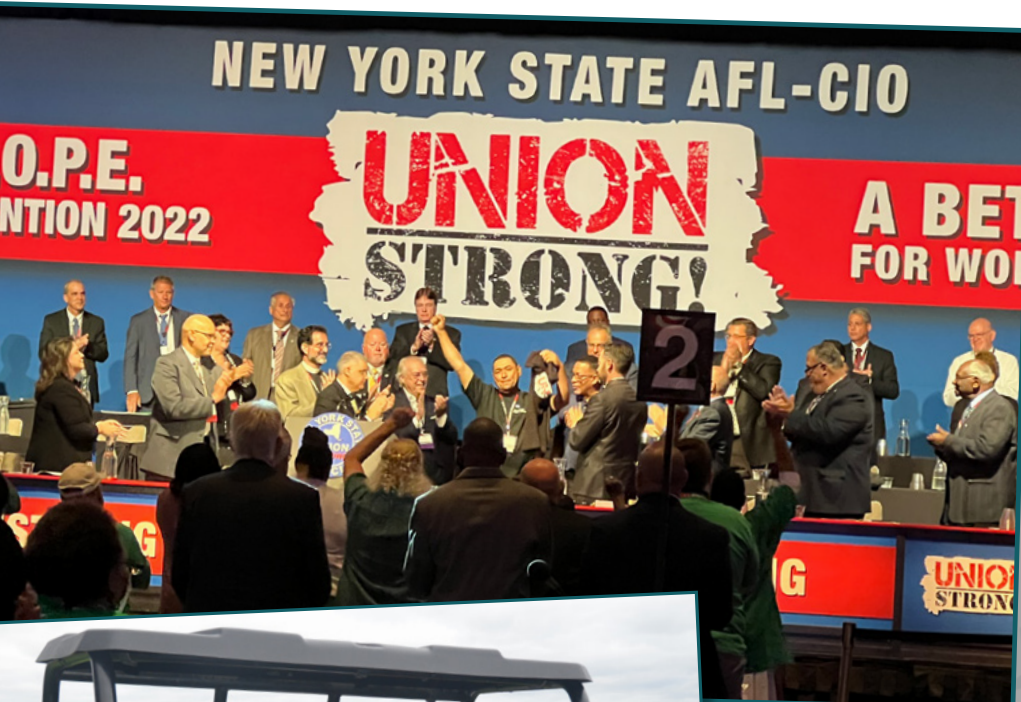
On August 16th, the New York State AFL-CIO held their biannual COPE Convention, where delegates from unions across the state, including Local 338, came together to endorse candidates for the 2022 midterm elections. Together, we endorsed

several candidates for offices on both the state and federal level, who we believe will be strong advocates for working people in government.

During his opening remarks at the beginning of the convention, New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento spoke about the progress that has been made for working people in New York over the last several years. Martir Zambrano Diaz, one of Local 338's members at Pindar Vineyards, was honored for being one of the

first farmworkers in New York to unionize under the 2019 Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act. This legislation gave farmworkers several basic labor rights they had been denied for decades, including the right to unionize.

Martir's courage and determination to create a better workplace for himself and his coworkers helped pave the way for other farmworkers across the state to unionize. It was not easy to do, and we admire his commitment to the cause. We are incredibly proud to represent him and all of the workers at Pindar Vineyards—congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Martir!





Joseph Fontano

Secretary - Treasurer

Your Union Needs You

Being in a union is not only being part of a family, but you're also part of a team. We're a lot stronger when we work together and show up for each other—especially during contract negotiations, charitable events facilitated by Local 338, and at the ballot box. As union members, it is your right to have a seat at the table during contract negotiations. We are able to negotiate stronger contracts when we have member participation—either by reaching out to your Union Representatives directly with things you hope to secure in your next contract, or by attending our membership meetings with your questions and suggestions.

We cannot stress how important it is for our members to be politically involved. If this year has taught us anything, it's that the rights of working people are not guaranteed. The Supreme Court has overturned several landmark cases this year, and some justices have signaled that they may continue overturning the rights Americans have fought for when they reconvene this fall. This puts

the rights of working people at risk, making it more important than ever to have pro-worker candidates in office on the local, state, and federal level. We encourage you to get out and vote, and if you aren't already, contributing to the Local 338 Political Action Fund. The Local 338 PAC helps us support candidates who are going to protect the rights of working people. [You can sign up here.](#)

Finally, one of the things we're proudest of is our union's commitment to giving back to local communities both during and after the holiday season. Every year we partner with local organizations to donate toys, food, coats and more, and without fail, the membership of Local 338 shows up to help every time. Because of you, we have been able to make a difference in the lives of those in need across the state. As we approach the holiday season, we will once again be accepting toy, food, and coat donations for our annual charitable drives. Please keep an eye on the Local 338 website for more information as we get closer to the holiday season.



Introducing Margaret Palmquist, Local 338's Newest Organizer!



Margaret Palmquist has joined the organizing team at Local 338! Margaret, who uses she/they pronouns, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison, where they studied English and Geography. Margaret has been working on the farmworker organizing campaign since they first came on staff in January and has played an important part in the recent unionization of the Paumanok and Palmer Vineyards.

Their role in farmworker organizing requires them to serve as a guide for farmworkers—because many of them don't know their new labor rights under the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act, Margaret works to inform them of what they're now entitled to under the law, including the right to organize. Margaret says the best part of being an organizer is helping workers understand that unionization is possible, and they have the power to improve their workplaces by coming together.

"There's nothing like that feeling you get when meeting with workers and you see it click in their eyes like, 'oh, I can do something!'" they said.

When they're not organizing, Margaret enjoys playing the accordion, drawing, and writing—they studied creative writing in undergrad and says they use the same storytelling skills when organizing workers. Margaret's been hard at work since joining our team in the beginning of the year and we look forward to seeing what else she and the organizing team can accomplish in 2022!

Welcome to the team, Margaret!

**Do you have a new
phone number, email,
or home address?**



Let us know! It's important to keep your information updated in our systems so you're up to date on all things union. Having the correct information in our system ensures that you get everything you're supposed to, in terms of contract negotiation updates, news about your benefit packages, scholarship opportunities, our newsletter, and more! You can update your information through the form [here](#) or by logging in to the Local 338 app!



Local 338

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Giovanna Mannarino

Giovanna Mannarino is a 15-year member of our union, and as of July 20, 2022, a new citizen of the United States! Giovanna emigrated to the United States 49 years ago in 1973 in search of a better life for herself and her family. She said she has always worked in supermarkets and loves the work—she's worked in just about every department, including deli, as a cashier, and in the bakery. Her favorite task, however, is packing out the shelves.

Giovanna is a member at a Key Food in the Bronx, and previously worked in Angelo & Joe's, where she was the Shop Steward. She said she's incredibly proud of herself for accomplishing something as important as becoming a citizen of the United States after 49 years in the country.

"I feel great about it," she said. "The only reason I didn't do it sooner was because I was busy raising my son."

Giovanna loves her job, but when she's not working, she loves spending time with her three grandchildren, Luca, Frankie and Marco, who she watches twice a week. She also loves music and to dance—she goes dancing once a month and knows all types of dance styles. Most of all, she's proud of her family—her son, Jack, her daughter in law, Angela, and their children.

During our store visit, it was obvious that her coworkers were proud of her—and so are we! Congratulations, Giovanna, on this incredible achievement!



338 News is YOUR News Source

Do you have a unique hobby, a special talent or a great accomplishment that you would like to share? Maybe you love to woodwork and have a back porch to prove it. Perhaps your coworker recently won an award but is too humble to brag about it.

Our unique abilities are what make us different but our togetherness as a union is what makes us strong. Contact Caroline Leddy at 516-294-1338 Ext.1300 or email her at CLeddy@local338.org to be considered as a feature in the next issue of 338 News.





Neil E. Gonzalvo

Executive Vice President

Welcoming New Members to Our Union Family

Throughout the year, Local 338 organizers and representatives have been meeting with workers across New York to discuss the benefits of joining our Union. We have also welcomed workers from a variety of different industries across the state to our union family! Thanks to the RWDSU who organized this group, in July, Housing Works, a nonprofit agency that provides important social services throughout New York City, ratified their first contract, four years after their organizing campaign first started. It was a difficult journey, but we are thrilled that they have reached an agreement with their employer and can now enjoy the full protections of a union contract.

In August, the workers at Paumanok and Palmer Vineyards in Aquebogue, New York became the second group of agricultural farmworkers at a Vineyard to unionize under the New York State 2019 Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act. They will join their Local 338 brothers and sisters at Pindar Vineyards in the union movement, and we are looking forward to negotiating on their behalf.

Also in August, we welcomed workers from the Child Center of New York: Youth Development Division! These members work at after school programs for students across New York City and provide important educational support. Finally, 16 building maintenance employees from the Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association ran a successful organizing campaign and voted to join Local 338.

It has been a very exciting year for working people, and we look forward to the strength of the union movement growing as workers continue to take advantage of their power to improve their workplaces through unionization.

We always stress the importance of being available when our members need us. Whether you've just joined our union or are a longtime member, I'd love to hear from you! Please call me on my cell phone: 646-261-4858 or email me at ngonzalvo@local338.org. We can discuss anything you want about our union, such as what improvements you'd like to see in your next contract. The first five members to call me will earn some Local 338 swag for themselves and their 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

\$ 140,251.84





MY BENEFITS

With
Earl Mathurin
Funds Administrator



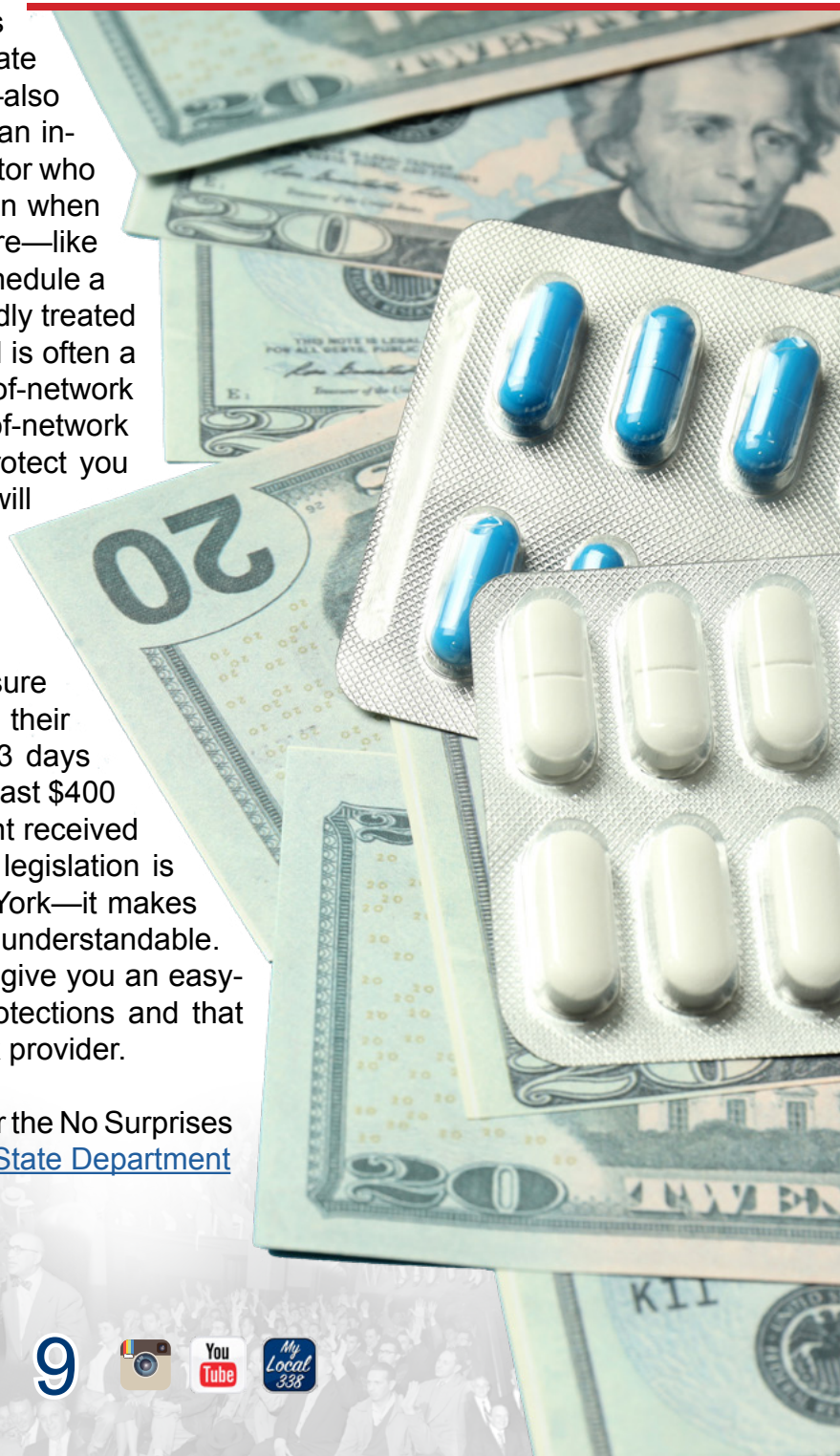
Earl Mathurin

Patients are Now Protected from Surprise Medical Bills

As of January 1, 2022, the No Surprises Act is in effect. Most often, patients who have private health insurance could receive surprise billing—also called balance billing—when being treated at an in-network hospital or ambulatory center by a doctor who does not take their insurance. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider. The surprise bill is often a result of your insurance not covering the out-of-network cost for the care you received from an out-of-network provider. However, this new legislation will protect you from having to pay these bills: usually, you will only have to pay what you'd typically pay for care received by someone who is in-network and takes your insurance.

For the uninsured, the No Surprises Act makes sure that patients receive an estimate of how much their care will cost before you receive it, typically 3 days before the scheduled visit. If the final bill is at least \$400 more than the estimate given before the patient received treatment, they can dispute the charge. This legislation is a huge step forward for patients across New York—it makes the billing process much more transparent and understandable. Now, health care providers and facilities must give you an easy-to-understand notice explaining the billing protections and that you will be receiving care by an out-of-network provider.

You can read more about your protections under the No Surprises Act on [our website](#) and through the [New York State Department of Financial Services](#).



Giving Back with John Theissen and United Way for Back to School

On August 12th, Local 338 staff volunteered at the John Theissen Children's Foundation during their annual Back to School Drive! We donated essential supplies for the school year, including backpacks, notebooks, pens and pencils, calculators, and more! It's important to us that we give back to the communities we represent, and the John Theissen Children's Foundation has always been a great partner in that mission.



We also partnered with the United Way of Long Island for their 14th annual Stuff-A-Bus charity drive. The United Way of Long Island is dedicated to bettering the lives of families across Long Island, and have been committed to ensuring students have the supplies they need to succeed since the program began in 2009. Since its inception, the Stuff-A-Bus program has donated close to a million school supplies to 40,000 students across Long Island!

Both the John Theissen Children's Foundation and the United Way of Long Island have played an important part in helping children in need across

New York realize their full potential in the classroom. If you would like to make a donation to either of these back to school drives, please reach out to your Union Representative to schedule

a pickup, or you can drop

supplies off at the Local 338 office Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 4:45 PM.

In addition to the annual "Back to School Supply Drives," the John Theissen Children's Foundation is also known for their collections that take place during the holidays. We will be able to provide more information about their annual Toy, Coat and Food drives in the next issue of 338 News, so please keep an eye out for that issue in your mailbox this October!



Wishing Our Members A Happy Retirement!

(Local 338's recent retirees between July 1 to August 31, 2022)

Jesusimo Abesamis

Cristina Garcia

Richard Rogers

Maria Belen

Mark Gennetti

Robert Rudolph

Patricia Bennett

Linda Gregory

Jose Ruiz

Patricia Boss

Mark Kalish

Maria Santiago

John Canfield

Mirzah Mohammed

William Schaefer

Mary Cardinali

Eric Nembach

Sinhara Silva

Deborah Clusan

Donnell Norwood

Leonard Steinberg

Nery Cruz

Gwendolyn Nunery Parker

Judy Strickland

Julius Delgado

Kenneth Ohliger

Josephine Sylvester

Edwin Diaz

Sonia Palacio

Linton Turner

Robert Frame

Erin Quinn

John Wojciechowski

Daniel Frisina

Margarita Ramos

Brian Zeitschik

Michael Garcia

Timothy Randolph

Ann Zurawski

"Retired from my job, not from my union"



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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 Fanny Paute, who works in the Deli department at Foodtown in Croton on Hudson. She's been a member of Local 338 since 2016. She has two children and loves to spend her free time doing things with them! One of their favorite things to do together is going hiking—especially at the trails in Mahopac or upstate at Bear Mountain.

We've also featured Tanya Aniello, a 7-year member! Tanya is the receiver at Stop & Shop on Staten Island. She loves to go on cruises, and most recently visited Bermuda in August on vacation! She's a proud grandmother to her 4-month-old granddaughter, and enjoys spending her free time hiking and going camping. 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](#).



Fanny Paute



Tanya Aniello

LOCAL 338 MEMBER MEETING



**Join Us In-Person at the
Local 338 Office or Virtually on
Wednesday,
September 14th, 2022**

For more information, log in to your My Local 338 Account and to join the meeting by Zoom visit:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qw0nk3WkR4Wn_GrKJVb2yQ



LOCAL 338

RWDSU/UFCW

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😊 Social Media



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

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