

Spring 2021

THE LOCAL 371 REPORTER

Meet Your New Leaders
Local 371 Wins \$1 Million Grievance
Our Frontline Heroes

Ronald M. Petronella
President

Brian P. Truini
Secretary-Treasurer

Keri L. Hoehne
Executive Vice President

Jessica Petronella
Recorder

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 UFCW Local 371



"America was not built by Wall Street. It was built by the middle class, and unions built the middle class. Unions put power in the hands of workers."- Joe Biden

Before joining the race for President, Joe Biden joined us in Boston to speak in favor of striking Stop and Shop Workers. His union support didn't stop there. He may be the most pro union President ever. Here's a few of his first actions as President:

- Chose Marty Walsh, former leader of the Boston Building Trades as his Secretary of Labor. Mr. Walsh's top priority is strengthening OSHA.
- Removed the anti union general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board
- Openly supported Amazon workers in their fight to join the UFCW
- Endorsed the PRO Act, which makes it easier for workers to form unions, conduct strikes, and bargain for better wages and working conditions
- Supported the Fairness to Farm Workers Act and the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights
- Issued executive order strengthening Buy American provisions



Cashier on Front Cover: Allison Amendola working hard at Shop Rite - Garafalo Markets in East Haven, CT

A Message From Our New President Ronald Petronella



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
You have been on the frontlines of this pandemic since day one, and in this issue of The Local 371 Reporter, we salute you and the sacrifices you made to keep your community fed and healthy.

When the pandemic hit, you didn't stop working and neither did your union.

Many of our union's contracts expired in the spring and fall of 2020, and your union leaders continued to bargain, both in person and on Zoom with ACME, Shop Rite, Carl's Boned Chicken, Carando Foods, Dattco Bus Company and Whitney Rehab Center. I'm happy to report all of these contracts have been completed and ratified with improvements and wage increases.



It's hard to believe but this fall we will be back at the bargaining table with Ahold Delhaize-Stop & Shop.

Organizing non-union workers continues to be a top priority for Local 371. Even during a pandemic, we have had two organizing victories! We welcome two new groups of new members; the Norwich CT School Cafeteria Managers and the nurses at Whitney Rehab.

What's next for your union? Cannabis! With this new exciting industry, cannabis workers will need union representation throughout CT, MA, and VT. We are working on legislation in CT which will make it easier for cannabis workers to organize.

The workers at Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream production facilities in Vermont continue to contact Local 371 for assistance. With our experience representing Hood Ice Cream, we look forward to them joining our union. We will continue to organize all non-union workers who need us; especially in retail food and food processing.

Thank you for all your hard work, especially in these trying times. I'm looking forward to getting back to normal and being with the membership in person. After all, **the Union is a contact sport.**

In Solidarity,
Ronald M. Petronella

An advertisement for Finex Credit Union. It features a blue SUV parked on a road. The text reads: 'EXCLUSIVELY FOR LOCAL 371 EMPLOYEES - REFINANCE YOUR AUTO LOAN AND TAKE 2% OFF YOUR RATE'. Below the car, a pink box says 'GET \$100 & RATES AS LOW AS 1.99%*'. At the bottom, it says 'Apply Online at finexcu.org/371 Or call us at 860-282-0001, Option 2 MENTION PROMO CODE 371'. The Finex Credit Union logo is in the top right corner.

MEET YOUR NEW LOCAL 371 OFFICERS



Ronald M. Petronella, President

Ronny joined the union as a meat apprentice working for Daitch Shopwell/Food Emporium and worked his way up to meat manager. Ronny joined the Local staff as an Organizer in 1986, where he participated in various organizing campaigns, recognition strikes, picket lines, and boycotts. Ronny then went on to become a Union Representative, Executive Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer before being elected to serve as our President. President Petronella has served as the union's COPE Director, actively lobbying state and federal officials on behalf of our members. Ronny has served as a Trustee on the UFCW National Pension Fund and currently serves as Local 371's Trustee on the UFCW New England Health Fund. Ronny lives in Norwalk with his wife, Jan, and together they enjoy hikes and walking on the beach. Ronny's long term goal is growing our union by organizing the unorganized and strengthening our contracts for the future.



Brian P. Truini, Secretary-Treasurer

Brian was employed by Stop and Shop from 1980 to 1990 while attending high school and then college at Sacred Heart University, where he graduated in 1986. In 1990, He was hired as an Organizer by Bob Petronella. Brian worked as an Organizer for six years, where he successfully organized numerous non-union companies into the Local 371 membership, including six nursing homes; two being Whitney Rehab and Genesis Willows. Brian was promoted to Union Representative, Recorder, Executive Assistant to the President, and Executive Vice President before becoming the Secretary- Treasurer. Brian was one of a select group of negotiators chosen to attend two bargaining trainings conducted by the Wharton School of Business. He serves as an alternate trustee on the UFCW New England Health Fund, and an Executive Board Member of the CT AFL-CIO. Brian and his wife Danielle are parents to two daughters, and he spends most of his spare time driving to dance competitions and gymnastics matches. Brian is focused on strengthening our union's finances and running the day to day affairs of the union local.



Keri L. Hoehne, Executive Vice President

Keri began her career in 2001 as an AFL-CIO Union Summer Intern, and joined Local 371 as an organizer after graduating from Boston College in 2002. Keri served as an Organizer and Organizing Director for nearly ten years, welcoming new Local 371 members from Cassena Care, Pro Park, Sacred Heart University and Foxwoods Casino, among others. She then served as a Union Representative, Recorder, and Executive Assistant to the President. Keri was honored to be chosen to attend two specialized bargaining trainings conducted by the Wharton School of Business. In addition to her work at the local, Keri is First Vice President of the CT AFL-CIO, serves as a board member on the United Labor Agency, and is a Justice of the Peace and an elected Constable in Torrington. Together with her husband, Keri is raising three daughters, and likes to garden, be a beekeeper, and make jam in her spare time. Keri is working to implement new methods of communication with our current members and with potential new Local 371 members.



Jessica Petronella, Recorder

Jessica services ACME, Stop & Shop, Shoprite, Kings, Stamford Plaza, Cassena Care and Dattco Bus Company in Fairfield County. Prior to becoming a Local 371 staff member, she was a member of Local 371 employed as a cashier at Porricelli's market in Trumbull for eight years. After graduating with her masters in social work, she joined the Local 371 staff in 2013, serving as an organizer and organizing director, and welcoming new members into the union from companies such as Aurora Products, Cosmo's Food Products and Apple Rehab LPNs. Jessica also serves as a union representative to members in the Fairfield County area. Together with her husband, Matt, Jessica loves being a dog parent to her Bernese Mountain dog named Roxy.

LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL

Local 371 members make Carando Foods, Hood Ice Cream, Cosmo's Antipasto Specialties, Carl's Boned Chicken, and Aurora Products.

Our members at Severance Foods make chips from Pan De Oro, Plant Snacks, Beanfields, and From the Ground Up.



STEWARDS CORNER

DAVID NARDI



David Nardi has been a 371 member since 1985, working in produce and as a receiver. Dave served as a Steward in the Unionville Stop and Shop, Local 371 Executive Board Member, and Stop and Shop Bargaining Committee member. In 2019, Dave served as a regional strike captain. He is always ready to explain the union contract to a new member, and always ready to help grow our union on new organizing campaigns. Dave says his favorite union memory is "experiencing the amazing support of our customers and the way our members came together during the strike." His favorite thing about being a steward is having the opportunity to assist members during difficult personal times. When he's not working, Dave enjoys fishing and working in the yard. He and his wife Joanne enjoy hiking as much as they can and traveling. He says when this pandemic is over they will be visiting their daughter Stephanie and their new baby grandson Cooper, A LOT! Dave retired on April 1st. Thank you Dave for your decades of service to your union.

HAVE YOU HAD A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER RECENTLY? DO YOU WANT TO BE SURE YOU ARE GETTING IMPORTANT UNION UPDATES? SCAN HERE TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION! NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS NOT SHARED WITH OUR HEALTH INSURANCE OR PENSION DEPARTMENTS, AND YOU MUST UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH THEM SEPARATELY.



Thank you!

Local 371 represents hundreds of members working in healthcare facilities. At the height of this pandemic, our members risked their lives each day to take care of infected residents, often without enough proper PPE. We honor their commitment to our communities and to our union.



Thank you!

To Our Supermarket Members for Keeping Their Communities Fed and Their Coworkers Safe



Laurie Vaillancourt
Stop and Shop Waterbury



Katie Longo and Brian O'Connor
Stop and Shop Old Saybrook



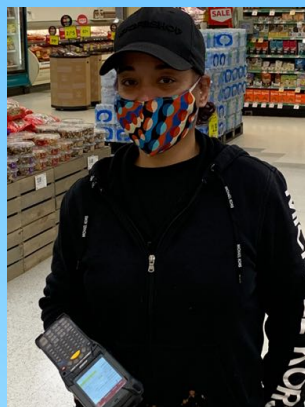
Adelina Uchupailla, Michael Barrett,
and Maria Alvarez
Acme New Canaan



Eileen Antolini
Local 371 Executive Board Member
Stop & Shop Southbury deli manager



Lee Wheeler
Stop & Shop
Southbury



Sonia Pabon
Stop & Shop
Waterbury



Carol Vitone
Stop and Shop
Waterbury



Barbara Schenkel & Anthony Belske
Stop and Shop
Watertown



Juaquin Espinosa
Peapod Ansonia



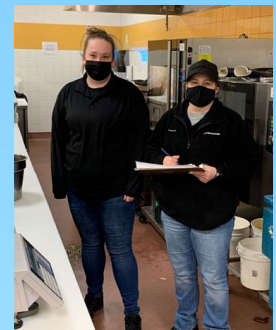
Ruben Ramirez
Acme New Canaan



Carina Goodman
Stop and Shop
Waterbury



Dianne Simpson
Stop and Shop
Unionville



Tammy Bizewski and Deanna
Everetts
Stop and Shop Monroe



Wilson Segarra
Ryan Farley
Stop & Shop Danbury



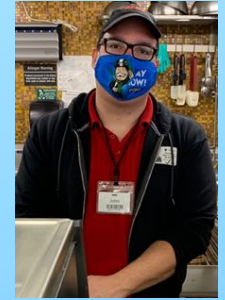
Jose Salgado
Acme Stamford



Craig Donofrio, Steward
and Sean Dillon
Stop & Shop Ansonia



Nahomie Sydney
Acme Stamford



John Toomey
Acme Stamford



Steve Cassara
Acme Stamford



Josue Bonilla
Stop & Shop Trumbull



Steward Bob Justin
Shop Rite Enfield



Steward Mark Sciarretto
Stop & Shop Waterbury



Bill O'Neill &
Paul Mangiaracina
Stop and Shop Litchfield



Steward Roberta Green
Stop and Shop Canaan



Jasmin Quinn
Stop & Shop Monroe



Steward Richie Pinnock &
Mary Davio
Stop & Shop New Milford



Eboard Member Eileen
Antolini, Erin Luersen, and
Patty Minner
Stop & Shop Southbury



Leo Turturici and
Union Rep Jeff Horvath
Peapod Danbury



Nancy Layman &
Andrew Knaus
Acme New Canaan



Maria Alvarez and
Sammy Lopez
Acme New Canaan



Union Rep Jeff Horvath
with Tyler Williams
Stop & Shop Litchfield



Flor Carrasquillo,
Charlene Kmiecik,
Rachal Weems
Shop Rite Enfield

Welcome New Local 371 members!

NEW WORKERS JOIN OUR UNION



The LPNs at Apple Rehab in Waterbury, pictured with Secretary Treasurer, Brian Truini, Union Representative, Jeff Horvath, and Vice President, Keri Hoehne, ratified their first contract at the beginning of 2020.



The LPNs at Whitney Rehab in Hamden CT joined our union in late 2020.

UNION BENEFITS FOR ALL MEMBERS

- FREE LEGAL SERVICES
- EARN YOUR GED FOR FREE
- FREE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES
- FREE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES
- CELL PHONE, CAR, AND ENTERTAINMENT DISCOUNTS
- FREE COLLEGE TUITION FOR YOU AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Visit www.myufcw.org
for more information



The Norwich CT school cafeteria managers joined our union in November 2020!

**Do you know
someone who needs
a union? Call Us!
1-800-882-5571**

CONGRATULATIONS

Some of Our 2020/2021 Ratified Contracts



Whitney Rehab



Dattco Bus



ACME Supermarkets





President Ronald Petronella joined Executive Vice President Keri Hoehne as she testified in favor of a labor peace agreement if cannabis were to become legal in CT. A labor peace agreement mandates that employers must allow their workers to join a union if they so choose. In states where there is legalized cannabis and labor peace agreements, cannabis workers have living wage jobs with higher wages and benefits than their non-union counterparts.



Local 371 members Margaret Monahan from Stop & Shop Bridgeport and Josh Kane from Stop & Shop Milford were married on December 26, 2020!



Executive Board Member Dave Nardi accepted an award on behalf of all Local 371 and 919 Union Members who went on strike in 2019. The UAW Region 9A gave the award to "Workers Who Took On The Boss". Dave was joined by Local 371 Executive Board Member Brian Simmons, and Stewards Rick Doughney, Lucy Sciarretto, and Clarence Thomas.



Recorder Jessica Petronella married Matt Pentz on October 17, 2020 in VT. The couple is pictured with their dog Roxy.

Congratulations Retirees!



Joseph Indino, pictured with VP Keri Hoehne, retired after working in the front end of the Winsted Stop and Shop



Rick Doughney, pictured here with Union Rep Brian Simmons and VP Keri Hoehne, retired in January as head cutter and steward in Bloomfield Stop & Shop after 32 years of service.



Patricia Gano retired from the East Torrington Stop and Shop after working 27 years in the front end and cash office.



David D'Amours, steward and meat manager at Granby Stop and Shop, pictured with VP Keri Hoehne, Meat cutter Jim Maryanski, and Union Rep Michelle Duncan, retired in March.

A Letter From Our New Regional Director

Fallon Ager

I am very excited that I will get to work with you all again in my new role as Regional Director for the Northeast. It was a great experience working alongside you and your leadership in my previous role in the Region, and I look forward to continuing that partnership.

I started working for a RWDSU/UFCW Local Union in Queens, NY at the age of 18, filing paper claims in the medical department. I worked my way up the ladder in various positions in the Union and ultimately became the Field Director. I then joined Region 1 as the Executive Assistant to the Regional Director, and I served in that role until I was promoted to Executive Assistant to the National Bargaining Director at UFCW International Headquarters in Washington, DC.

In February of this year, I became Regional Director of Region 1, and I am ecstatic to come back "home" to the Region that raised me. I'm very optimistic about the opportunities for growth here. I am proud to be a part of this great Union, and happy to be able to serve in this capacity working alongside true labor leaders and activists like the ones that exist in Local 371. Your Local Union has such a rich history and is known for its strong membership and amazing staff.

As I approach my 20th year in this movement this July, I am optimistic about where we are headed. Although we are in challenging times right now, we have the opportunity to make real change on a large scale. I know we can do it -- and we will do it together!



Union Rep Michelle Duncan, President Petronella, Secretary Treasurer Truini, and Union Rep Sue Warzecha gathered Easter Baskets for donations to our members in need through our Women's Network.

FOR ALL MEMBERS OF LOCAL 371 SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Tuesday, June 1, 2021
Local 371 will hold a special membership meeting to vote on proposed membership dues increase.

Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale
155 Temple St. New Haven, CT
@ 6:30 PM



Wendy Cavaliere
Shop Rite Milford

FOXWOODS ARBITRATION SETTLEMENT NEWS

Sadly, all of our Local 371 members at Foxwoods were laid off in March 2020 when the pandemic struck. According to our union contract, they were entitled to up to 26 weeks of wages and benefits. The employer refused to pay out the contractual severance. After pursuing arbitration, we were able to secure nearly \$1 MILLION in back wages and benefits for our members, as well as an additional year of recall rights! Many of our members have been called back to work, and we hope they are all able to return soon.



Meet Your Newest Union Rep, Brian Simmons



Brian joined Local 371 in 1999 as a clerk in the meat room, working his way up to seafood lead, meat apprentice, head cutter, and a meat manager in Newtown Stop and Shop. Brian has served as a union steward and Local 371 Executive board member, and worked as a strike captain during the 2019 Stop and Shop Strike, and even speaking at a rally in support of striking workers with President Joe Biden. Brian lives in Waterbury with his fiancé, Reasheba McGhie, who is a Local 919 member employed as a FT file maintenance clerk at Stop and Shop in Bridgeport. Brian is a union representative at locations throughout the Greater Hartford area.

SAVE THE DATE

LOCAL 371
Charity Golf Tournament

Wednesday, July 21st
Whitney Farms Golf Club
Call us for more details!

203-226-4751



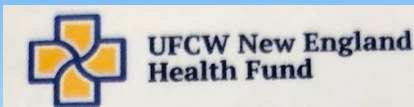


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Our Essential Heroes



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