STANDING FOR OUR VALUES:
THE RWDSU’S 23RD CONVENTION

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At RWDSU Convention, a Vision of Fairness and Shared Prosperity

When hundreds of RWDSU members met in Atlanta, Georgia, in March for the RWDSU’s Convention, it was an amazing sight. As we looked across the convention hall, we saw men and women from across the country, people who work in industries as varied as poultry processing and board game manufacturers. We saw retail workers and nursing home workers, car wash workers and auto parts makers, supermarket workers and warehouse workers and everything in between.

But the differences in where people work didn’t seem to matter; neither did which region of the country they were from, whether they were men or women, or the many races and creeds on hand. What mattered—the only thing that mattered—is that we are all united in the belief that the only way to make a difference in the lives of working people is through collective action and solidarity.

Standing for our Values

The resolutions passed at the convention; the addresses by our guest speakers; the contracts and organizing drives we reviewed and discussed; our global strategies to help further working people across the globe—they all reflected the values that RWDSU stands for.

Economic and social justice, equality and tolerance, and solidarity in the belief in the power of a collective voice—these are our values, and they motivate everything we do as a union.

In this issue you’ll read about the RWDSU Convention (pages 4-11), where RWDSU members introduced themselves to each other, reached across locals and joint boards to discuss achievements and goals, and focused on a future dedicated to building the RWDSU into an even stronger advocate for working people.

RWDSU members emerged from the convention dedicated to creating a world where workers are treated with dignity, respect and justice, and building the RWDSU into a force to help make that real.

And, you’ll also read about the continuing work of RWDSU activists that is helping to build that future. In Atlanta, where the RWDSU Convention was held, over 100 members who distribute Nestle products won their first ever union contract after winning their organizing campaign last year. And in upstate New York, Local 220 members at Mott’s won yet another strong contract for 350 workers there, who continue to make their jobs better year after year in the wake of their 2010 strike for better wages and benefits.

Throughout the RWDSU, we are working together and doing what it takes to fight for justice for working people in our communities and our society.

RWDSU members are proving that joining together in a union is the most effective way for working people to achieve economic justice, equality, and a fair day’s pay for a fair day of work. Each and every day, together, we show that working people are the foundation of our society, and that together we can achieve a society where fairness and decency and shared prosperity are facts of life.
New Nestlé Members in Georgia Win First Contract

Workers at Nestlé’s logistics and shipping center in McDonough, Georgia, have voted overwhelmingly to ratify their first contract. The contract brings workers – for the first time – guaranteed wage increases and a seniority system that recognizes workers’ years of experience and service. And, most importantly, workers now have a voice in the workplace. The contract – ratified with 94 percent of the vote – is the latest win for the Nestlé workers, who became labor activists last year.

Nestlé workers won their NLRB conducted election in April 2017. The team at the Southeast Council worked tirelessly – fighting through natural disasters in the area and a politically challenging climate to help over 100 workers at Nestlé win their organizing campaign. And, it was that same dedication and focus that helped Southeast Council and worker representatives negotiate their first union agreement.

“Absolutely nothing could stop our new members from fighting for the critical provisions of their first contract – it doesn’t solve everything, but it is a great first contract that lays a strong foundation for workers to get the seniority recognition, guaranteed wage increases, and a voice in the workplace that they needed and deserved.”

Workers at the distribution center package and distribute Nestlé products.

Brooklyn Pharmacy Workers Rally for Their Rights

Workers at a CVS pharmacy on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, took to the streets in front of their store in March to demand that management recognize their union membership and negotiate a fair contract. The rally was held to call attention to the plight of the Local 338 members, who won their union election but have been unable to negotiate a contract with CVS. Making the situation even more frustrating for workers is the fact that CVS already has union contracts with workers elsewhere, including other high cost of living areas on the West Coast. Workers and union representatives have been attempting to negotiate a first contract since March 2017, but the company has repeatedly rejected reasonable proposals.

“Almost 14 years, I’ve worked hard for CVS but never felt truly valued by the company, which is why my coworkers and I voted to join Local 338,” said CVS worker Adrian Caddie. “When I learned that there were union members working at CVS on the West Coast, I was glad to hear about the guaranteed wage increases in their contracts. But there hasn’t been any relief because CVS doesn’t take us or our requests seriously. I am going to be in this fight with my coworkers until we are treated equally as other CVS workers and to make sure that everyone who comes after us gets what they deserve.”

Workers were joined by other RWDSU members, community members, activists, and committed pro-worker New York City Public Advocate Letitia James, who has been a fixture at our rallies. The workers have also received the support of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. The community support has energized CVS workers.

“I voted to join Local 338 because I saw the value of having a voice at work and I intend to continue to use my voice. My coworkers and I work hard and we have earned the right to be treated fairly,” said CVS worker Debbie Henry-Haughton.
In March, hundreds of RWDSU delegates, alternates, and guests joined together in Atlanta, Georgia, to take part in the 23rd Quadrennial RWDSU Convention. They came from across the U.S. and across the world, as a larger number of international guests than ever flew across oceans to participate, reflecting the RWDSU’s increased global strategies in organizing and negotiating in the U.S.

The convention – held every four years – is the most important decision-making authority for our union, when members gather together to revise our constitution, consider and pass resolutions, and elect leadership. Most importantly, the convention brings us all together, allowing us to take stock of the past four years and set a course for the union for the next four years.

In the convention hall, words, music, and videos inspired delegates, who reflected on the many accomplishments of RWDSU activists in recent years. In difficult political times, the union has continued to organize new members across established RWDSU industries and also in new and precarious employment sectors. And, the union has been incredibly effective in places where traditionally workers have had the most difficult time exercising their right to a union voice. That is why holding the convention in Atlanta made an important statement, recognizing that the South is an important part of the future of the American labor movement.

The most important statement of the RWDSU’s convention, however, went far beyond any geographic location. It was the theme – Standing for our Values - that resonated with every report, every resolution, every speech, and every interaction between RWDSU members. President Appelbaum touched on that theme when he delivered the President’s Report on the first day of the convention:

“In a world that is undergoing profound change politically, economically and culturally, the RWDSU remains committed to the values upon which we were built – and that will continue to be the foundation of our strength,” Appelbaum said.

“Our values – economic and social justice, equality and tolerance, solidarity and the belief in the power of collective action; An understanding that working people are the real foundation of our society. That, brothers and sisters, will never change. That is who we in the RWDSU are.”
The night before the RWDSU Convention was gavelled to order, all delegates and other convention participants joined together for an event at downtown Atlanta’s Center for Civil and Human Rights. The Center for Civil and Human Rights is an interactive museum detailing the historic civil rights movement, touching on the activism, major events, and important people who changed the world in the 1950s and 1960s by bringing the fight for racial equality to the forefront.

The gathering set the mood for the convention and reflected the RWDSU’s commitment to civil rights and social justice, which are both under attack in the current political climate.

The event was open only to RWDSU Convention participants, who seized the opportunity to explore the center and learn more about the rich history of the civil rights movement. Guests checked out the displays, watched films, and took part in interactive exhibits including a “segregated” lunch counter, where headphones helped listeners experience what it was really like when brave activists conducted sit-ins. The museum provided an inspiring backdrop, while reminding attendees of the great things activists can accomplish when they join together.

Political activism was another theme that resonated throughout the RWDSU Convention, and at this event, numerous elected officials and candidates came to speak with RWDSU members about the issues important to working people.

Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, who was elected with the strong support of the RWDSU Mid-South Council, spoke about the power of community action. Atlanta City Council Speaker Felicia Moore thanked the RWDSU Southeast Council for its continued support and spoke of her support for unions and working people. Longtime friend of the Mid-South Council and 2018 candidate for Alabama Governor James Fields spoke of the good work the RWDSU is doing in the South, and the importance of continued political involvement. Former President of the NAACP Ben Jealous delivered an inspiring address about how the labor movement and the social justice movements are intertwined.

It was a reflective and inspiring evening – the perfect start to the RWDSU 23rd Quadrennial Convention.
THE RWDSU 23RD QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

RWDSU OFFICERS ELECTED, ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTED

On March 3, the closing day of the 23rd RWDSU Convention, RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum, Secretary-Treasurer Jack Wurm, Recorder Joseph Dorismond, and Executive Vice-Presidents Tina Buonaugurio and John Whitaker were re-elected to four-year terms.

Vice-Presidents David Altman, Cassandra Berenof, John Duro, Edgar Fields, Roger Grobstich, Randy Hadley, Charles Hall, Jr., Angella Harding, G. Allen Mayne, David Mertz, Alvin Ramnarain, and Yhelma Winston were also elected.

Appointed to the Advisory Council were: Phil Andreas, Jack Caffey, Ron Chencinski, Philip D’Arcangelo, Michael Flanery, Joseph Fontane, Robert Layng, Jr., Rick Marshall, Tom Rowland, Greg Scandrett, Berta Scott, and Sandra Williams.

“Standing for People’s Rights”

President Appelbaum praised the members, officers and staff of the union, and said it was a humbling experience to be re-elected President of such a vibrant, progressive union.

“All of the union’s accomplishments you’ve heard about at this convention were because of all of us, no one individual. I may be the person standing up here, but it’s really the RWDSU that is standing up and speaking to powers everywhere and saying: We are not going to take it. We need change. We stand for justice. We stand for equality. We stand for people’s rights in every single way,” Appelbaum said.

Secretary-Treasurer Wurm discussed his involvement with the RWDSU going back to his time as a bread truck driver in the 1960s, and pledged to continue working to move the union forward.

“To all of the members here and all of the members that aren’t here with us today, as I did four years ago, I’m going to commit again to you that I will do everything I can to support and work with this leadership team to make all of us stronger,” Wurm said.

Recorder Dorismond described his experience as a Haitian immigrant, how union membership helped him build his life in the U.S., and why unions like the RWDSU are so important for today’s immigrant workers.

“We are vital to immigrants’ hopes. The real path to the freedom that immigrants are looking for lies in the labor movement because we are the ones making a difference in their lives. And those who have lost hope, we will be there for them. We are their advocates and we know the meaning of solidarity,” Dorismond said.

Executive Vice-President Tina Buonaugurio said that being a part of the RWDSU is one of the most important parts of her life.

“The union makes us all proud, and together we are making a real difference for the members. We should all be proud of that,” Buonaugurio said.

Executive Vice-President John Whitaker talked about the strength RWDSU members build together.

“Each one of us makes up a different part of this union. And with all the pieces working together, RWDSU grows and continues to thrive,” Whitaker said.

RWDSU Officers and Advisory Council Members are sworn in by retired Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Hall, Sr. (far right) and retired RWDSU Vice-President Frank Bail.
“This is my first trip to Atlanta. I’ve been to several conventions including Orlando and Chicago. It’s truly a blessing for me because I get the opportunity to meet different people from different states and we get a chance to talk about what’s going on in their shops. And we just share information." — ANNIE JONES

“I really like the way that this union in particular strives to better everything around it. At this convention, I see a union that brings progress.” — BRIAN WATTS

“It’s been great to meet a lot of our union brothers and sisters that I’ve never met before. Living up north and seeing all of the great work going on in the South, it’s great to get familiarized with the whole union.” — CHRIS EMADAT

“I am glad to be here at this convention. We just joined the RWDSU and it’s all new to me. It’s got me excited about the future!” — CLINTON BROWN

“I got involved with the union almost 30 years ago. It’s great to come here and get involved with everyone else, people who care about the union and where they work.” — JOYCE MCDONALD

“I got involved because I like the union and I like helping people. That’s what the union does. And it’s great to see everyone come together this week in Georgia.” — ROBERT HOPE

“We’re all a family here, and that’s the way we like to keep it. We want a living wage. We want good insurance. And anybody that comes into the fold comes into the family and fights for these things with us.” — DAVID SANDS

“The bottom line is if you don’t care for your neighbor, who’s going to nowadays? That’s what we do and it’s why we come together.” — RICK ROSS
RWDSU 23rd Quadrennial National Convention

Atlanta, Georgia

March 1-3, 2018
ENNIAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, GA
March 1-3, 2018
The RWDSU 23rd Quadrennial Convention

Convention Spotlight on Global Partnerships, Activism

One of the main focuses of the Convention was global activism and solidarity. RWDSU employers are global companies, so we need to reach out to our fellow unions and workers across the world to increase our strength and power.

This approach has helped bring big wins for retail workers in the U.S., which we’ve seen at growing retail chains Zara, a Spanish company, and H&M, a Swedish company. Over 1,100 Zara workers and over 1,300 H&M workers now have the dignity and respect that comes with a union contract. These workers are now members of RWDSU Local 1102, thanks in part to the union’s global outreach and partnerships.

And, by maintaining a dialogue with global workers and management at companies like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, the RWDSU is able to secure stronger contracts across the U.S. for RWDSU members.

In our global, modern economy, we depend upon our relationships with international unions - including our longtime partners IUF and UNI - to represent RWDSU members more effectively and help our union brothers and sisters overseas become stronger as well.

Awards Recognize Global Success

The RWDSU was proud to present the Global Solidarity Award to unions who have been key players in the RWDSU’s efforts to bring the union protection that workers overseas have won to workers in the U.S. The award was presented to Spanish union Federación de Servicios de CC.OO for their work in helping RWDSU members at Zara in New York secure their first union contract. The award was also given to Swedish unions Unionen and Handels for their sustained support in winning strong contracts and good union jobs at H&M stores in New York.

On hand to receive the awards were Pilar Rato Rodriguez and Angeles Rodriguez Bonillo (Federación de Servicios de CC.OO, Spain), Moa Sahlin (Handels, Sweden), and Magnus Kjellsson (Unionen, Sweden).

Resolutions Affirm Commitment to Global Action

The Global Deal is a global partnership with the objective of enabling all working people to benefit from globalization. The Global Deal aims to encourage dialogue between governments, businesses, unions and other organizations. It’s one more tool that can be used to help increase the quality of jobs across the world, while also increasing productivity and helping improve the global economy for everyone.

That’s why the RWDSU has agreed to support the Global Deal, passing a resolution at the Convention affirming that the union will “promote the principles of the Global Deal to resolve challenges and engage in opportunities for cooperation and capacity building to ensure decent work and quality jobs.”

The RWDSU Convention also passed the Global Organizing: Representing Workers in a Global Economy resolution. This resolution supports the union’s continued efforts to leverage global solidarity into organizing wins such as those at H&M and Zara, and for the union to continue to use its power and voice to pressure global corporations to improve pay and working conditions for all workers across the globe.

RWDSU Calls Upon Ivanka Trump to Sign Bangladesh Accord

Over 220 clothing brands, including RWDSU employers H&M and Zara, have signed on to the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh, which was established in the wake of the 2013 Rana Plaza disaster. Over 1,100 workers were killed, and over 2,000 injured, when the Rana Plaza building collapsed, putting the spotlight on the harsh and unsafe conditions endured by millions of workers in the Bangladesh garment industry.

The accord covers 2.5 million workers and is the first agreement with a legally-binding mandate requiring fashion brands to require their contractors to eliminate fire, structural, and electrical safety issues.

Among those who have refused to sign on to this landmark health and safety accord is Ivanka Trump, daughter and Senior Advisor to President Donald Trump. Her Ivanka Trump line of clothing, shoes, handbags and accessories is produced almost exclusively outside of the U.S., including clothing made in Bangladesh. Ivanka Trump’s fashion company claims it is committed to fair treatment for its workers, but depends on suppliers to police themselves. For consumers, worker activists, and health and safety experts, that isn’t good enough.

UNI Global Union Deputy General Secretary Christy Hoffman told the Convention about the effect the accord has already had in Bangladesh.

“Together these 220 companies produce in 1,800 factories, 2 million workers. This is a big deal. This is a lot of people. A lot of workers, 80 percent of these workers are women. Since the Accord went into effect, 90,000 safety and health problems have been fixed. But we still need to make more progress. Ivanka Trump, and more U.S. brands, need to sign on for this to happen,” Hoffman said.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Atlanta, Georgia – STANDING FOR OUR VALUES
The featured speakers at the convention showed that together—through the power of the labor movement, political action, and building coalitions with immigrant advocates—we are standing for our values.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio—who was unable to make it to Atlanta due to a snowstorm in the northeast—appeared live via Skype. De Blasio has a longstanding relationship with the RWDSU, working with us on a number of important legislative issues in New York. De Blasio spoke about that relationship, and why his administration supports working people in New York City. Discussing the accomplishments his administration has achieved while working with unions—paid sick leave legislation, an executive order raising wages, the fight for an increased minimum wage, and legislation banning on-call scheduling and regulating the car wash industry, and more—he made clear why it’s so important that RWDSU members have such a good friend in New York City’s highest office:

“We are proving that, as you lift up the lives of working people, you actually make things better for the entire society,” de Blasio said.

“And I think it’s so important to see, when the government steps in and helps people get decent wages and benefits, fights for the rights of labor, increases the number of people in unions, that creates the kind of society where you can actually live that American Dream,” de Blasio added.

Labor Leaders Speak

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka spoke about how together, the labor movement is standing for the values of working people. And he discussed the many important fights working people have moving forward—better wages, secure retirements, health care as a fundamental right, and a pathway to citizenship for all immigrant workers.

“Our values unite us. They sustain us. They provide us light in the darkness. Our values show us the way forward,” Trumka said.

And, the labor leader spoke about how union membership rose in 2017, with 262,000 workers being lifted up by the labor movement’s rising tide, and how organizing unions like the RWDSU are leading the way.

“Right here, this union, your union, from H&M to Zara, to Autoneum to Ecolab, from organizing union. You organize and you give hope to people. You make change in people’s lives,” Trumka said.

UFCW President Marc Perrone also praised the RWDSU for its organizing efforts, and success in negotiating strong contracts that address the new issues that workers face as the economy changes. He also touched on the importance of political involvement and how RWDSU members are making a difference on the issues that matter.

“When the poultry industry tried to bully the U.S. Department of Agriculture into ramping up line speeds, speeds that would have injured workers and led to unsafe products, our members in the South said ‘no!’ And we won. We beat the industry. We protected workers and consumers. We made a difference. And when Doug Jones became the first Democrat to be elected to the U.S. Senate from Alabama in 20 years, it was the RWDSU Mid-South Council that was leading the way.”

Immigration at the Forefront

Cristina Jimenez, Executive Director of United We Dream, is an immigration reform activist leading the fight against the repeal of DACA. Like many of the Dreamers currently living in fear of deportation, she came to the U.S. as a child and an undocumented immigrant, studied hard, and contributed to the fabric of her community.

Jimenez not only shares the immigrant experience with many RWDSU members, her father was once even employed as a car wash worker. The RWDSU has helped bring a union voice to hundreds of car wash workers in New York City. She knows first-hand the exploitation immigrant workers face, and recounted a story from her childhood, when the boss at the car wash simply refused to pay her father and his fellow undocumented immigrant co-workers. With a union there, she said, it would have been different.

She spoke of the important relationship between immigrant and labor activists.

Cristina Jimenez discussed her own experience as a young undocumented immigrant, and how unions are helping protect immigrant workers.

“Because of the organizing power that we have been building, because of the alliances and the solidarity that we have from the labor movement from many like you and others across the country, that we can stand up and say together that we are undocumented, unafraid, and here to stay,” Jimenez added.
Another Strong Contract for Mott’s Members in Upstate NY

In April, members of RWDSU Local 220 in Williamson, New York, overwhelmingly ratified a new contract. The hard-fought contract includes strong hourly wage increases over the next five years, reduced healthcare costs and job security provisions that will protect the members well into the future.

This is a huge win for the over 350 Local 220 members who produce iconic household products including Mott’s applesauce, apple juice, and the Clamato beverage, among others. In 2010, Mott’s workers went on strike in the face of unacceptable contract provisions offered by the company. Despite it all, they were able to win a fair contract showing the real power of unionized workers. This time, negotiations lasted just seven weeks and workers were able to secure one of the strongest contracts in their history.

“The workers at Mott’s proved years ago that if you stand up for what you believe in and you stand united that you can protest and advance the needs of working people. This contract is one of the best that we have ever negotiated at Mott’s and we are proud of the members for sticking together. Once again, they have set an example for workers everywhere,” said RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum.

“Our member driven negotiations team worked tirelessly to secure a strong contract for all 350 plus Mott’s workers. I am proud of our team, our work and our new contract. To see how far we’ve come in just under a decade to secure one of our strongest contracts shows the real power of RWDSU Local 220 and I couldn’t be happier to return to work shoulder to shoulder with our team under this new contract,” said Jerome Camp, President of Local 220.

Serving on the negotiating committee were Local 220 President Jerome Camp, Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Thomas, Executive Board member Roland Graham, Chief Steward Ron Wilber, Recorder Chris Hermenet, and members Albert Joslyn and Bob Wenzel.

Southeast Council Leadership Training

At the RWDSU, worker health and safety is a longstanding priority. That’s why in April, RWDSU members were among hundreds gathered in New York City’s West Village to mark the 107th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire tragedy.

On March 25, 1911, a fire broke out on the top three floors of the Asch building, which were being used as a garment factory by the Triangle Shirtwaist Company. The doors on the ninth floor had been locked to keep out union organizers, and 146 workers – mostly young women – either died in the fire or jumped to their death to escape the flames.

The fire put the spotlight on the exploitation of garment workers, who toiled long hours for low pay in often terribly dangerous working conditions in sweatshops. The fire and its aftermath resulted in new laws mandating safer factories. Every year working people mark the anniversary of this terrible event and renew the call for safer workplaces and higher safety standards.

“Unfortunately, garment workers – and other workers – continue to lose their lives in similar conditions worldwide while simply trying to provide for their families. In the labor movement, we continue to fight for safer workplaces, because no worker should ever fear for their lives while providing for their families,” said RWDSU Health and Safety Director Diego Palaguachi.
**RWDSU Contract News**

**Hugo Bosca Local 379**
Ohio

RWDSU members at Hugo Bosca won a strong new contract.

RWDSU members employed at Hugo Bosca Leather in Springfield, Ohio, ratified a new contract that brings good yearly raises, increases retirement benefits, and protects health care coverage without any cost increases to members.

Local 379 members at Hugo Bosca manufacture high end leather products for retailers including Macy’s.

**Coca-Cola Local 1976**
Indiana

RWDSU members at Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated in Lafayette, Indiana, voted unanimously to approve a new five-year contract. Along with hourly wage increases of $2.15 over the life of the contract and $500 bonus, the new agreement expands class protection for more individuals against discrimination. It guarantees the union’s presence at new employee orientation, so they can learn about the benefits of union membership on their first day on the job. It also provides language improvements in the areas of union leave, jury duty, disciplinary action and vacation.

The contract also increases the monthly pension benefit amount each year and increases the hourly shift differential. More job classifications will be eligible for shift differential pay as well.

The members of the Bargaining Committee were Local 1976 President Todd Maiden, Edmund Archer, David Black, Brett Percefull, and Robert Tincher. Indiana Joint Board President Dave Altmann assisted.

**Shenandoah School Corporation Local 835**
Indiana

A new contract between the Shenandoah School Corporation in Middletown, Indiana, and Local 835 members increases wages, and maintains and protects all current benefits for the custodial and maintenance employees at Middletown schools.

The Bargaining Committee consisted of Chief Steward Lance Cole and Indiana Joint Board President Dave Altmann.

**DCX-CHOL Local 835**
Indiana

RWDSU Local 835 members in the SMI Division of DCX-CHOL Unit in Fort Wayne, Indiana, voted unanimously to approve a new agreement. The contract raises wages and increases the perfect attendance bonus. A quarterly performance bonus will be established, and Christmas Eve was established as a holiday.

**Union Cemetery Local 379**
Ohio

Local 379 members won wage increases and more.

Local 379 members at Union Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio, ratified a new five-year agreement. The contract secures wage increases, continued quality health insurance at an affordable rate and includes other improvements.

Signing bonus and wage increases are among the highlights of a new contract for Local 1976 members.
Unity, Family, Community and Worth at UFCW Convention

Over 1,300 delegates from local unions across the U.S. and Canada, as well as alternates and overseas guests, attended the UFCW’s 8th Regular Convention on April 23 to 26. The UFCW’s convention is held once every five years. The convention was organized around four key pillars – “Unity, Family, Community, and Worth.” Elections were conducted and resolutions and constitutional amendments were passed.

Among the participants were 250 RWDSU members, who joined together to discuss the convention and the day’s upcoming sessions at daily RWDSU caucuses and wore distinctive vests with the RWDSU logo to show that the RWDSU is proud to be a part of the UFCW.

Officers Elected

The UFCW elected its top leadership. UFCW President Marc Perrone and UFCW Secretary-Treasurer Esther Lopez were re-elected to new five-year terms. The RWDSU’s President, Stuart Appelbaum, was also re-elected to a new five-year term as UFCW Executive Vice President of the 1.3 million member union, as were Paul Meenema and Shaun Barclay.

RWDSU New England Joint Board President Tina Buonaugurio, RWDSU Secretary-Treasurer Jack Wurm, RWDSU Regional Director John Whittaker, Local 108 President Charles N. Hall, Jr., RWDSU member Ademola Oyefeso, and RWDSU Local 338 President John Durso were all elected UFCW Vice-Presidents.

Unity and Strength

UFCW members from a diverse range of industries and backgrounds took the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and share experiences with each other.

“Unity is one of the most important things to keep us strong. Together we aspire, together we achieve,” said Sterling Lewis, of RWDSU Local 1-S.
Save on Family Entertainment with Union Member Only Discounts

Learn more at unionplus.org
The RWDSU is strongly committed to improving workplace safety and health conditions and protections at all levels. We can provide the resources and support you and your coworkers may need with any health and safety issues. For more information contact the Health and Safety department at (212) 684-5300.