



MARK A. ESPINOSA
President

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION

L O C A L 9 1 9

U.F.C.W.

6 Hyde Road • Farmington, Connecticut 06032-2802 • Tel. 860-677-9333
Outside Local Dialing Area 1-800-842-2215
www.ufcw919.org



JASON DOKLA
Secretary-Treasurer

May 2025

The Case Against “National Right-To-Work” Legislation

Over the years President Espinosa has communicated at membership meetings and through mailings such as this newsletter, the devastating effects to Union workers and their families from Right-to-Work legislation. The terminology is misleading by design, as workers often read and interpret this as a good thing, that indeed, they have a right to work as a human right and to get paid. The truth is, “Right-to-Work” by definition, refers to a law that prohibits union security agreements between employers and unions. To put it simply, these laws allow workers to work alongside you and enjoy the benefits and protections of a union contract that was fought hard to achieve without having to become a member and support the union financially, in other words, a freeloader. While the rhetoric will spin and try to convince the public that RTW is merely trying to give workers the freedom of choice, the ultimate outcome will be the total annihilation of the Labor Movement through a gradual financial insolvency.

Twenty-six states have adopted “RTW” laws to date. The current administration, guided by “Project 2025” intends to legislate “National Right-to-Work,” which would impact Connecticut represented workers whether you work in the public or private sector. Let us look at why this concerns your Union leadership and should concern you. National "right-to-work" laws weaken unions, potentially leading to lower wages, reduced benefits, and weaker job protections for workers, while also undermining worker power at the bargaining table. Right-to-work laws, which allow employees to choose not to join a union or pay dues even while they benefit from union representation, can lead to lower union membership and, consequently, weaker unions. Lower membership translates to less money for unions, which rely membership fees to fund their operations, including bargaining, contract enforcement, and advocating for workers' rights. The decline of unions in right-to-work states has been linked to a decline in worker power, lower wages on average, health care coverage and less protection against unfair or discriminatory practices in the workplace and a rollback on worker safety.

Although we cannot predict the future, we are very concerned about the orchestrated efforts to weaken the voice of union workers, and with all the chaos in government, this detrimental legislation seems more threatening than ever. It is our hope, that our members always see the value of union membership and the value of financially supporting your union. This is the basic premise of unionism: It means that the mistreatment of any individual worker creates the possibility of mistreatments for every worker, it requires that workers come to the support and defense of fellow workers who are threatened, it creates a balance of power between the employer and the employees, and it is the foundation of solidarity among employees.

In Solidarity,
Jason Dokla
Secretary-Treasurer

Nominations of Local Union Officers - (See page 2)

Over 70 Years of Services To Its Members and The Community

ATTENTION Union Members

UFCW LOCAL 919

Notice of Nominations of Officers

Monday July 7th, 2025

DOUBLE TREE by Hilton
42 Century Dr., • Bristol, CT 06010

Nominations will be held from:
10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

OFFICERS TO BE NOMINATED

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY-TREASURER

RECORDER

6 Vice Presidents – each numerically designated for nomination and election purposes.
(Vice President No. 1, Vice President No. 2 etc)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINEES

Must be active member of Local 919 who had either,

- Continuous active membership in Local 919 since June, 2024.
- Continuous active membership in UFCW since June, 2023.

www.ufcw919.org

UFCW **LOCAL 919** GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Meetings will be held on the
Local's Face Book Live Page.

Meetings start promptly at 6 PM

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, March 24, 2025

IN PERSON

UFCW **LOCAL 919** GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



DOUBLE TREE
by Hilton
42 Century Dr.,
Bristol, CT 06010
7:00 P.M.



MEETING NOTICE

Monday, June 23, 2025

Monday September 22, 2025

Monday, December 15, 2025

UFCW MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

UFCW LOCAL 919 Welcomes into Our New Cannabis Division

Advanced Grow Labs, West Haven
CTPharma, Rocky Hill
Rise Dispensary, Orange
Fine Fettle, Willimantic
Zen Leaf, Newington
Zen Leaf, Norwich
Zen Leaf, Waterbury

Want to learn more about what your local union does for you?

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



@uniongrown



@ctcannabisunion



@UFCW Local 919



@ufcwlocal919



FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES

DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT YOUR UNION
office if you have a problem pertaining to you job or
any problem where you feel the union can help you.

PHONE CALLS LOCAL LONG DISTANCE

Union office (860) 677-9333 1-800-842-2215

Health & Welfare Pension Office

Health & Wefare ... (860) 470-8551 1-888-705-1092

Pension Office (860) 677-8118 1-800-842-2214

Credit Union 1-877-696-3876

Retaliation for speaking up is *not* ok.

OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program

enforces more than 20 laws protecting employees across many industries for reporting violations.



An employer cannot retaliate by taking adverse action against you for reporting injuries, safety issues, or other concerns. Call OSHA as soon as you believe you have suffered an adverse action, such as:

- being fired
- receiving less pay
- having your shift changed

Workers have rights!

[whistleblowers.gov](https://www.whistleblowers.gov) • 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) • TTY 1-877-889-5627



OSHA 4269-07 2023

ATTENTION Union Members

If you are a Senior Member at your job, lend a helping hand to new members. Talk about Your Union Proudly and urge new members to attend Union meetings.

Presidential Wisdom



"Our Labor Unions are not narrow, self-serving groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor."

President John F. Kennedy

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Return Service Requested



Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 22
Farmington, CT

WHEN YOU MOVE...
Please Notify Your Local
Union Immediately

It doesn't cost - It pays to belong to
Local 919



UFCW MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS