



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

March 2026

As I think about the upcoming year, I am energized about the challenges and opportunities for our great diverse Union. By the time that you receive this newsletter three great accomplishments have been achieved. First, at the end of 2025 after months of negotiations, our newest Local 919 members at the Barnes & Noble store in North Haven ratified their first Union contract! This is significant because these brave workers are the first in Connecticut to join a Union.....in any bookstore! We are honored to represent you and proud of the work the bargaining committee did. Also, we are celebrating a new 4-year contract with Stop & Shop Supermarkets that moves wages ahead, provides affordable quality health insurance and continues to secure pension benefits for years to come. The Stop & Shop contract has been in existence since the 1950's with so many members enjoying long careers and a dignified retirement with the security of a pension. Thirdly, we will have secured an extended contract for the hard-working distribution warehouse employees at Arett Sales in Bristol.

As for challenges and opportunities, Local 919 members have several other contracts up for negotiation. This spring, we will begin negotiations with the town of Vernon Board of Education on behalf of the cafeteria workers in each of the town's public schools. In the summer, we will begin negotiations with Zara, a clothing retailer located in Greenwich and Norwalk. About the same time, we look forward to begin negotiations for a successor contract with (CRT) Community Renewal Team, Inc. in Hartford. This is another long-time contract with hard working drivers and kitchen workers, cooks and dietary aids. Also expiring at the same time is Local 919's first organized cannabis workers contract at Advanced Grow Labs (AGL) production facility in West Haven. We are excited along with our members to build on this groundbreaking contract and work to improve the lives of these employees in a budding industry! Right at the end of the year, we will also be negotiating successor contracts for Verano employees at Zen Leaf in Waterbury and CTPharma in Rocky Hill where we proudly represent both cannabis dispensary and grow workers. Shortly thereafter, bargaining will commence for our members at both Burlington Coat and Bob's Discount Furniture. Then comes contract negotiations with more awesome cannabis members at Verano dispensaries in Newington and Norwich and finishing out with Fine Fettle Dispensary in Willimantic! With all this, we must also dedicate time and resources to help new workers organize their first contracts and strengthen our Union.

The challenges and opportunities that we face with all these contracts is pushing these employers as hard as we can at the bargaining table to achieve the best possible work contracts that protect our members rights and their working conditions while providing guaranteed wage increases and job security. Remember, it is better to have a seat at the table than to be on the menu. I could not think of anything different that President Espinosa, your dedicated Union staff and I would rather do! We always remain at your service.

In Solidarity,
Jason Dokla
Secretary-Treasurer

Over 70 Years of Services To Its Members and The Community

UFCW
LOCAL 919

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

*Meetings will be held on the
Local's Facebook Live Page.*

Meetings start promptly at 6PM

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, March 23, 2026

**We are happy to Announce a
Change to
Local 919's Scholarship program.**

**Starting this year
there will be Four
\$2500**

winners Selected.

**Please find your Application on Next
page.**

www.ufcw919.org

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 22, 2026
Monday September 21, 2026
Monday, December 14, 2026

**ATTENTION
Union Members**



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 & Welfare .. (860) 470-8551 1-888-705-1092
Pension Office (860) 677-8118 1-800-842-2214
Credit Union 1-877-696-3876



MARK A. ESPINOSA
President

Dear Scholarship Applicant:

This is your long form application for the Local 919 Scholarship Awards program. The officers, executive board and entire membership extend their warmest wishes for your future success.

Fraternally,
Mark A. Espinosa
President



Long Form Application

Scholarship Awards Competition Sponsored by United Food & Commercial Workers
Local 919, 6 Hyde Road, Farmington, Connecticut 06032-2802

You must fill in this form and then have the reverse side completed and signed by an official of the high school attended and mail it to the Local 919 Scholarship Selections Committee at the above address. The application must be printed clearly in ink or typewritten. Be sure to fill in all parts.

- Name _____ Soc. Sec. No. _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)
- Home Address _____
(Number) (Street) (City) (Zip Code)
- Date of Birth of Applicant _____ Sex _____ Married? _____ Home Phone _____
- Are you a member of Local 919? (Yes) (no) If not, is your parent a member? (Yes) (no)
- Parent's name (if a member) _____ Soc. Sec. No. _____
(Last) (First)
- Indicate any job experience you have had, including present job.

Name and address of Employer	Kind of position	Dates held

- List every school you have attended whether you graduated or not, giving exact dates of attendance.

	Name and location	Date of Entrance	Date of Withdrawal	Diploma or Degree received	Reason for withdrawal other than graduation
High Schools					
Other					

- In what student activities did you participate in high school. Please check.
 Nonathletic: band _____ glee club _____ orchestra _____ debate _____
 school publications _____ other _____
 Athletic: baseball _____ basketball _____ football _____ fencing _____ soccer _____
 swimming _____ track & field _____ tennis _____ other _____
- List any offices held or honors received in these activities. _____
- List any academic honors which you may have received. _____
- I will graduate from High School (Check one):
 February, 2025 June, 2025
- Check the career for which you are preparing.
 _____ Liberal Arts (B.A.); Law
 _____ Communication Arts, Teaching etc.
 _____ Science; Engineering
 _____ Medical School, Pre-Dental
 _____ Business Administration; Accounting
 _____ Economics; Labor-Management
 _____ Physical Education
 _____ Trade School

I am currently attending _____ College / University

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE • MAY 31, 2026

Applicant's Character Report

TO BE COMPLETED ONLY BY AUTHORIZED SCHOOL OFFICIAL

The range scale below is based on the normal curve. Principals or headmasters are requested to use it by comparing the applicant with one or more recent and representative graduates of the same school who have been successful in college work, by entering check marks showing the results of the comparison in the appropriate spaces.

This information will, of course, be regarded as confidential.

Class standing of student _____ No. _____ out of _____

	Top 5%	Top 15%	Top 50%	Top 85%	Lowest 15%	
Social Maturity						
Reliability						
Initiative						
Courtesy						
Cooperation						

How long and in what connection have you known the applicant? *(Please do not fail to answer this question).*

Do you wish to add further comments concerning this applicant which might prove helpful to the Admissions Committee?

School Official's signature _____

Date _____ Title _____

IMPORTANT NOTE

This form IS NOT A TRANSCRIPT, but merely an application. IT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT.

Also, applicants who have any emergency or extenuating situations (loss of parent(s), recent accident or illness, etc.) are invited to attach an accompanying note of explanation.

UFCW Local 919 Scholarship Forms

Check the website for printable forms

You can also request via a phone call or email to the union.

union@ufcw919.org

UFCW MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE BENEFITS

Coming Soon!



UFCW Local 919 is excited to announce a new partnership with The Forza Insurance Group! Soon you'll have the opportunity to purchase Supplemental Insurance Benefits exclusively at special rates!

Don't let unexpected health issues put a strain on your finances!

As a valued member of UFCW Local 919, your well-being is a top priority! That's why we've partnered with The Forza Insurance Group as our exclusive Supplemental Benefit provider to bring you the opportunity to purchase plans at special rates.

What are Supplemental Benefits?

Supplemental benefits are different from health Insurance. Supplemental benefits are extra plans that you can purchase as a safety net in case of injury or illness, on and off the job!

You receive the payments directly, after a qualifying event, and you decide how to spend the money. It can be used for mortgage payments, groceries, hiring extra help while you recover... anything you want!

Studies show that financial stress can delay healing from illness or injury. Supplemental Benefits provide the financial relief you need during a health crisis, letting you focus on getting healthy.

Supplemental Benefits from The Forza Insurance Group are guaranteed acceptance, which means that there's no medical exam, you cannot be turned down!

How can I buy Supplemental Benefits?

Forza Benefit Advisors will be visiting your location in the coming months. Stay tuned for more information.

You can also call Forza's dedicated call center at 844-808-8009. A knowledgeable Forza benefit expert will help you understand what plans best fit your needs, without any pressure to enroll.

Rest assured that you and your family are well-protected in case of medical emergencies or other unexpected events. Take advantage of the opportunity to get affordable peace of mind, only with Forza Supplemental Benefits.

If you are currently enrolled in any Aflac product, please note that you may continue those policies.

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION

LOCAL 919

6 Hyde Road • Farmington, Connecticut 06032-2802



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