

UFCW Mourns Loss of IVP Brian Petronella, President of Local 371



The UFCW family suffered a tragic loss this week when Brian Petronella, International Vice President and President of UFCW Local 371 based in Westport, Conn., died unexpectedly at his Norwalk home Friday night. He was 54.

“Brian spent his whole life working on behalf of working people, and his dedication improved their lives,” President Hansen said. “He was an inspiration to us. He will be profoundly missed and

remembered by his UFCW family.”

Petronella became a member of Local 371 with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL, in 1972. Five years later, he was appointed a Local 371 organizer and participated in a number of successful organizing campaigns. In 1980 he was elected as a business agent and served the membership in lower Fairfield County.

On March 16, 1982, the Local 371 executive board elected Petronella to the office of Executive Vice-President. In 1989 Petronella served as Secretary-Treasurer to Local 371 until his election as president in April 1999. In February 2000, he was elected UFCW International Vice-President. He served as trustee on the UFCW International Union-Industry Pension Fund and was a trustee of Local 371 Amalgamated Welfare Trust Fund.

Petronella served as president of the Fairfield County Labor Council for ten years. He was elected a general vice president of the Connecticut state AFL-CIO on March 23, 1999.

Petronella served on the Boards of the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County and the United Way of Norwalk, Conn. He was a delegate to the 2000 and 2004 Democratic conventions.

Petronella was named a 2009 MS Corporate Achiever for The National Multiple Sclerosis Society Connecticut Chapter. He also was involved in the formation of the Local 371 UFCW Women’s Network. Petronella graduated from Wilton High School in 1974 and attended Norwalk Community College and the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated from the Harvard University Trade Program in 1978.

Thomas A. Wilkinson, Secretary-Treasurer of UFCW Local 371, spoke to the *Hartford Current* on Sunday about the loss of his friend and colleague. “I think of Brian and I think everything good in the world was in Brian Petronella, and that’s not an overstatement from me. He was kind, he was considerate and he was courteous to everybody, and he got that way through life’s experiences and how he was raised. All of his waking hours he was thinking about this union. His whole life was his family and the union,” Wilkinson said.

Petronella’s wake is being held today, Aug. 10, 2010, at the Magner Funeral Home, 12 Mott Ave., in Norwalk. Calling hours will be from 3:30 to 8 p.m. A funeral mass will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 10 a.m. at St. Aloysius Church, 40 Maple St. in New Canaan. Burial will follow at St. John’s Cemetery, 223 Richards Ave., Norwalk. Friends and family will be gathering after the burial at Local 371’s headquarters at 290 Post Rd. West, Westport. **OP**

ABC Sign-Up Contest in Full Swing, New Workplace Flyers Available

UFCW locals in every region are participating in a contest to increase participation in Active Ballot Club (ABC). The goal of the contest is to sign up new ABC contributors at the \$1 per week rate and to upgrade existing contributors to the \$1 per week level. Two locals in each region will win grand prizes. Due to overwhelming requests from local unions we’ve created flyers that you can hang in breakrooms and hand out to members.

These flyers, available in both English and Spanish, provide more information on the ABC contest and how your members can participate to win. The bottom tear off section can also be used for members to complete and sign up to join ABC. If you would like an electronic copy of these flyers, go to www.voteufcw.org, or call the Legislative and Political Action Department at 202.223.3111. **OP**



Twenty-Five Winners of UFCW Scholarship Announced

The UFCW is pleased to announce the winners of this year's UFCW Scholarship. Fourteen full scholarship winners will receive \$2,000 a year for up to four years and 11 outstanding essay winners will receive a one-time payment of \$2,000.

This year's full scholarship winners are: Drew Snyder, Jennifer Timmers, Kathryn Manternach, Stephanie Pedro, Whitney Kite, Zachary Sandberg, Eva Wong, Chau Chin Yo, Jennifer Archuleta, Marietta Guzda, Heidi Lillie, Ashley McVey, Kathryn Manternach, Anayssa Pulido, and Esperanza Saiz.

Outstanding essay winners are: Alicia Nelson Nicholas Reilly, Veronica Brandt, Tania DeLuna, Alexander Deme, Melanie Gertson, LaKeenya Joyner, Bradley Kaminski, Briana O'Malley, Tyler Sieler, and William Stewart. **OP**



Photos left to right are: Alicia Nelson, Chau Chin Yo, Drew Snyder, Zachary Sandberg, Jennifer Timmers, Kathryn Manternach, Stephanie Pedro, Nicholas Reilly, Whitney Kite, Eva Wong, and Tania DeLuna.

Work Begins at UFCW-Sponsored School in St. Marc, Haiti



A banner hangs above construction at the James Stine College, a high school in St. Marc, Haiti. The banner says, "Children today, leaders tomorrow. To the children of St. Marc from the working men and women of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union."

UFCW efforts to assist in the rebuilding of earthquake-devastated Haiti can be seen in the photo above, which depicts children at the construction site of the James Stine College, a high school in St. Marc, Haiti. UFCW has partnered with the Mortel Family Foundation to build the school.

UFCW locals from across the country came together to raise more than \$430,000 for earthquake relief. After careful study, the UFCW chose to work with both Hope for Haiti and the Mortel Family Foundation to build schools in Haiti.

Through Hope for Haiti, the UFCW is supporting the rebuilding of a computer lab and library at St. Francois de Sales in the neighborhood of Riviere Froide, commune of Carrefour, Port-au-Prince.

For more information about these organizations, please visit www.hopeforhaiti.com and www.ighopesforhaiti.org.

If your members would like to donate to the fund that will support these efforts, they can make a check out to the UFCW Charity Fund Foundation, Inc., write in "UFCW Help for Haiti" in the memo, and send it to the following address: Help for Haiti, UFCW International Union, 1775 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

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