



# TIMELINE

This chronology is a summary of some of the major moments in Local 791's history.

## 1947

Brockton Retail Clerks Association is formed and is recognized as the exclusive bargaining agent for Shaw's (then Brockton Public Markets) employees.

## 1978

BPM merges with the George C. Shaw Co. of Portland, Maine, forming what is now known as Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.

## 1982

In December of 1982, the Brockton Retail Clerks Association becomes the Independent Foodhandlers and Warehouse Employees Union (IFWE).

## 1987

J. Sainsbury, an international corporation based in England, acquires controlling interest in Shaw's Supermarkets.

## 1990

Shaw's opens a perishable warehouse in Methuen, MA, run by Exel Logistics (a third-party operator working for Shaw's).

## 1991

In July, the members of IFWE vote overwhelmingly to affiliate with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and became UFCW Local 791.

Shaw's announces the first ever layoff of store employees in the history of the company. Local 791 negotiates full recall rights for the affected employees in the union stores who did not choose to receive a severance package. By the end of 1993, all remaining laid-off union store employees had been recalled.

## **1994**

The National Labor Relations Board certifies UFCW Local 791 as the exclusive bargaining agent for the employees in the Methuen warehouse. In December, contract negotiations begin with Exel's management and continued until July of 1995 when Shaw's assumed full control of the Methuen operation.

## **1995**

On November 17, 1995, the workers in the Methuen warehouse overwhelmingly vote to ratify their first contract, bringing long overdue and substantial increases in their wages and benefits.

## **1997**

On February 12, employees at Shaw's third warehouse in Wells, Maine vote to become members of UFCW Local 791.

In late July, Local 791 has its first strike against Shaw's after contract negotiations break down. Job security, wages, health benefits, and the Time Off with Pay Program (TOPP) are the major issues that lead 7,000 members to walk out on strike. An agreement is reached between the Union and Shaw's just 36 hours into the strike due to the solidarity and courage of Local 791's members.

On July 30th Local 791 members overwhelmingly ratify a four-year contract, with no TOPP, decent wage and pension increases with job security for all full-time warehouse and full-rated general duty clerks.

## **1998**

In June, the workers in the Wells warehouse ratify their first contract with increases in wages, the elimination of the Time Off with Pay Program (TOPP), the addition of seniority rights, and a freeze on the health care co-pay.

## **2001**

In July, a strike is averted when Local 791 members ratify a new three-year contract following a very intense and tough round of negotiations with Shaw's. The contract includes a severance package for the Local 791 members of the East Bridgewater Distribution Center that Shaw's that closed at the end of the year.

## **2002**

With the assistance of Senator Edward Kennedy and the Commonwealth Corporation, Local 791 obtains a federal job training assistance grant of over \$1.5 million dollars specifically for the workers laid off at the Shaw's East Bridgewater Distribution Center.

**2004**

Albertsons Inc., one of the nation's largest supermarket retailers, purchases Shaw's Supermarkets from J. Sainsbury.

**2006**

A group of investors that included Supervalu Inc. purchases Albertson's Inc. From the sale Supervalu acquired Shaw's Supermarkets as well as several other grocery chains across the United States making it the number two grocery retailer in the United States.

**2010**

In March, Local 791 members employed at the Methuen Distribution Center went out on strike after rejecting the Company's contract offer.

The strike ended in July when the Methuen members voted to ratify a new four-year contract agreement.

**2012**

A group of Stoughton Paraprofessionals, employed by the Stoughton, MA School District, vote to become members of UFCW Local 791.

**2013**

An investment group led by Cerberus Capital Management, purchase several supermarket chains, including Shaw's Supermarkets.