

Activist Tony Campanello leaves behind an army of admirers

Anthony Campanello, a food clerk at Ralphs since 1977 and staunch union activist for most of that time, passed away at the age of 62.

He served as a shop steward for decades and was one of the longest serving members on the Local 324 Executive Board, beginning his service in 2014.



Campanello devoted hundreds of hours to advancing workers' rights through attendance at marches, rallies and political campaigns.

He was a fixture among activists at the Local, taking part in union actions that touched every element of the membership. He would routinely attend union actions for fellow members even when his employer and his job were not part of the discussion. When questioned, he explained that showing up for his colleagues was part of what being in a union was all about.

Many were surprised to learn that Campanello worked the night crew because he rarely seemed limited by the hardships of such a demanding schedule. His co-workers remember a reserved personality who handled adversity with a soft-spoken determination. His low-key approach to challenges hid a fiery passion and an intellect that was fully in command of the facts.

In his role as a steward, Campanello often took time to share his motivations with new-hires with the goal of empowering others.

Campanello earned praise from colleagues who reached out to him for help with work-related problems or were simply in need of advice. He handled their issues as if they were his own.

"Tony put everything into what he believed in and he believed in his co-workers more than anything. He was a mentor to members who recognized his passion and dedication and wanted to be like him," said President Andrea Zinder.

Campanello is survived by his brother Greg.