

Local 1262 Members Rally to Demand Walmart Act as Good Corporate Citizen



UFCW Local 1262 members from throughout New Jersey converged on the recently opened Walmart in Raritan Township to call on the retailer to end employment policies they say harm workers, and to halt the predatory business practices that threaten to devastate local businesses. Seven bus loads of activists chanted slogans and held up signs that included the message, "Taxpayers wake up—low wages hurt the community." The Raritan Township Walmart opened in September after promising city leaders that it would create hundreds of new jobs and bolster municipal coffers at a time when city leaders are searching for new sources of revenue.

UFCW members wanted to let Walmart know: they aren't buying the company's claims that 94% of its employees are covered by the health insurance plan. Local 1262 President Harvey While pointed out that the monthly premiums for the company's health insurance plan places it out of reach for the vast majority of workers.

The rally comes shortly after the launch of Walmart Workers for Change, a new campaign consisting of thousands of Walmart workers joining together to form a union and negotiate better benefits, higher wages, and more opportunity for a better future. **OP**

Enough is Enough: Locked Out Workers Try To Return To Work

More than three hundred UFCW 86D union members from the Grain Processing Corporation (GPC) in Muscatine, Iowa, were thrown out in August 2008 when their contract expired, because their company tried to force workers to agree to GPC outsourcing employees and laying off union workers.

With extensive damage done to the community in the last year, with the economy in a tailspin and workers still locked out, workers went back last Saturday to try to resume working. When they reached the gate, a security guard let them know that they would not be allowed to enter. Local 86D President William Poggemiller said, "Enough is enough. We wanted to work while settling our contract differences."

The UFCW workers are continuing to hold strong for a fair contract despite the hardships they and their family are enduring. Meanwhile the GPC plant continues to operate 24/7 making profits with non-union replacement employees. **OP**

Local 464A Pulling out all Stops for Corzine



Local 464A President and International Vice President John Niccolai and UFCW Executive Vice President and Organizing Director Pat O'Neill listen to Governor Jon Corzine address local activists.

In an inspired speech to Local 464A stewards and activists, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine said that his re-election bid is about moving New Jersey working families forward with pre-school programs, family leave, more educational opportunities, and other programs that put working people first. The alternative, he said, is to go back to the Bush policies that favored the powerful and wealthy.

"Labor can only go so far when it comes to advancing the interests of UFCW members and all New Jersey working people," said Local 464A President John Niccolai. "We need worker friendly lawmakers, and Jon Corzine is a true friend of labor." Local 464A stewards and activists are working to turn out the vote for Corzine and other pro-worker candidates for the upcoming New Jersey election. **OP**

UFCW Local 455 Leads Worker Recovery Coalition of Louisiana Launched at Rouses Store



Members of the newly formed Worker Recovery Coalition of Louisiana gathered outside a Rouses grocery store to launch their campaign to build a stronger Louisiana workforce—and to promote the interests of Louisiana workers through rebuilding efforts that provide workers with career jobs that come with: wages that can provide for a family, opportunity for advancement, good health care and retirement security.

Last August, Rouses grocery store clamped down on the first amendment rights of its workers, obstructed their right to express any interest in joining the UFCW and went so far as to call the police and insist on the arrest of union members attempting to talk to workers about representation. **OP**

We Need Your Help on Health Care!

Now that the Senate Finance Committee has passed its bill (Baucus bill), the next step in the Senate is about merging the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee bill (Kennedy HELP bill) and the Baucus bill.

Go to www.ufcwactnow.org and use the click to call feature to let your Senators know that the bill that makes it to the Senate floor must have strong employer responsibility, a robust public insurance option and fair financing.

It's time to get it done!

UFCW Congratulates Local 1529 Vice President Mary Guerra on Award



Alabama Federation of Democratic Women Treasurer and UFCW Local 1529 Vice President Mary Guerra was honored with the first Lifetime Achievement Demy Award from the Alabama Democratic Party. The award was presented at an event attended by over 1500 people, including the Governor of West Virginia, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme

Court, and members of Congress.

Mary has set the bar high for all future recipients of this award. Her work as President of the Shoals Democratic Club and as State Treasurer of the Alabama Federation of Democratic Women are only part of the contributions she has made to helping elect progressive, pro-working family Democrats throughout Alabama. Her tireless advocacy on behalf of working men and women throughout Alabama, her fight on behalf of pay equality for women, support of the Lilly Ledbetter Act and struggle to keep good wage jobs and plants open in Shoals County and throughout Alabama that provide for working families made Mary an excellent choice to be the first to receive this award. **OP**

UFCW/RWDSU Conference Ends with Calls for Health Care

How often does one hear the words “Please turn on all your cell phones and pagers” announced from the podium of a union conference? That’s exactly what 150 members from UFCW/RWDSU locals in the Midwest heard as they neared the end of a two-day event that attempted to both inform and to inspire action on health care reform.

The Oct. 17 conference focused on how skyrocketing health care costs have driven recent contract negotiations, and also highlighted the ordeal one member’s daughter endured attempting to navigate the current health care system.

At the conclusion of the event, attendees each made a phone call to a member of Congress to urge support for health care reform, imploring them to include a public option in any bill that ultimately makes it to a vote. **OP**