

UFCW Local 2008 Member Presents Award at American Rights at Work Celebration Event



Local 2008 member Joe Ann Fowler and actor Richard Schiff at the 5th Annual American Rights at Work awards celebration in Washington, D.C.

UFCW Local 2008 member Joe Ann Fowler participated last week in the 5th Annual American Rights at Work (ARAW) awards celebration at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

Fowler, a Certified Nursing Assistant from Wilmot, Ark., and a shop steward at Lake Village Health Care, was selected to present an award to popular TV show 'West Wing' actor Richard Schiff, an actor who deeply understands the need for union membership and who has been an outspoken activist for workers, raising awareness through the Faces of the Employee Free Choice Act campaign.

"Mr. Schiff truly believes that a strong middle class goes hand in hand with labor rights, and he has repeatedly stood up for the belief that people in all occupations deserve a voice on the job," Fowler said in her introductory remarks.

ARAW's awards ceremony is held every year to celebrate and recognize remarkable honorees from the labor, business, and political activist communities for their commitment to protecting workers' rights to form unions. **OP**



The Center for Community Change (CCC) presented International President Joe Hansen its 'Change Champion in Organized Labor' award. CCC's Community Change Champions Awards are presented every year to outstanding leaders and organizations making a positive impact on key issues affecting low income people and minorities. This year's honorees included Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL). President Hansen is pictured here with USAction Vice President and CCC Board Member Heather Booth. **OP**

UFCW Members in New York City Advocate for Responsible Redevelopment in the Bronx

RWDSU/UFCW joined a coalition of unions and community activists last week at City Hall in New York City to urge the City Council to support a responsible redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory site in the Bronx.

At a final hearing before the New York City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, Stuart Appelbaum, President of the Retail Workers Council of the UFCW, made the case for the need for a redevelopment plan that comes with a community benefits agreement to protect retail workers' rights such as decent wages and union neutrality in organizing campaigns so workers have a voice on the job.

"Any project that creates permanent jobs that keep people in poverty does absolutely nothing to benefit the people in this city," Appelbaum said.

The City Council must now make a decision on whether or not to approve the rezoning and sale of the Kingsbridge Armory to Related Companies.

UFCW is active throughout New York City, developing community-centered initiatives to ensure that the basic needs of communities are addressed. For instance, UFCW Local 1500 launched the Building Blocks Project, a comprehensive initiative aimed at forming a long term coalition of labor unions, healthcare, hunger and nutrition advocates, food access experts, elected leaders, community activists and faith based leaders to ensure that all communities have the basic building blocks of good food, good jobs and good health. **OP**



Members and staff from UFCW Locals 5, 101, and 648 joined scores of other activists from environmental, labor and small-business groups for a demonstration last week at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Convention in San Francisco. UFCW activists and other demonstrators stood together to send a clear message demanding the ouster of Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue for his group's resistance to workers' rights and issues that are important to working families, such as meaningful labor law reform and quality, affordable health care for all. **OP**

ICWUC/UFCW Local 45C Wins \$1 Million Case Before Fourth Circuit

Local 45C of the Chemical Workers Council of the UFCW in New Martinsville, W.Va., last week won a \$1 million case before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

In a 3-0 decision, the Fourth Circuit reinstated an award previously overturned by the Federal District Court.

As background, Local 45C members at PPG's Natrium, W.Va. plant went on strike from September 2005 to February 2006. But after Local 45C and PPG resolved the strike and agreed on a new contract, the company refused to pay bonuses agreed upon in the Bonus Plan to striking employees. Local 45C filed a grievance seeking payment of the bonuses, and the matter proceeded to arbitration. The arbitrator agreed with Local 45C and issued his order and opinion awarding relief to Local 45C. The company contested the decision in the District Court. The District Court overturned the arbitrator's decision. Local 45C filed an appeal which resulted in last week's ruling.

Barring an overturn by the Fourth Circuit or the Supreme Court, about 400 employees at PPG's Natrium, W.Va., plant will receive a bonus of about \$2,700 each, or a total of approximately \$1 million. **OP**

New Study Finds U.S. Far Behind on Workers' Rights

A study released last week by a research scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Founding Director of McGill University's Institute for Health and Social Policy finds that the U.S. lags nearly behind all other countries in terms of workers' rights.

Based on a worldwide examination of workers' rights in 190 countries and working conditions faced by 55,000 households, *Raising the Global Floor* also finds:

- The U.S. does not guarantee paid sick leave or annual leave, paid parental leave, paid time off to care for sick children or even one day of rest per week;
- While 177 nations guarantee paid leave for new mothers and another 163 nations mandate paid sick leave, the U.S. requires neither;
- The U.S. also falls behind 164 countries that guarantee paid annual vacation, 157 countries that guarantee workers one day of rest each week, 74 countries that offer paid leave to new fathers and 48 countries that allow paid time off to care for sick children;
- The only federal policy that the U.S. guarantees is a wage premium for mandatory overtime which translates into more pay, but for more work; and
- Finally, the study disputes the idea that providing family-friendly workplace policies will cost jobs or hurt a nation's competitiveness. Indeed, it found just the opposite is true. **OP**