

Local 1445 Members Reach Agreement with Angelica Corporation



Over 400 workers from Local 1445 in Somerville, Mass., voted today to approve a new contract after reaching a tentative agreement last night with Angelica Corp following a five-day strike.

With their new contract the workers obtained better wages and health care coverage, as well as a larger employer contribution to the pension plan.

Centro Presente, a community grassroots organization, supported workers during the strike as well as during contract negotiations.

The tentative agreement came after the union voted unanimously to strike on Dec. 1, after contract negotiations stalled.

A national corporation, Angelica provides laundry and linen services to area hospitals and healthcare facilities in Somerville. **OP**

UFCW Mobilizing to Support New Comprehensive Immigration Reform Legislation

“The bill would help create an immigration system that works for American workers,” said UFCW International President Joe Hansen about this legislation introduced today by Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 (CIR ASAP) is aimed at fixing the current broken immigration system by reducing the exploitation of immigrant workers and reducing employers' incentive to hire undocumented workers rather than U.S. workers. If passed by Congress a comprehensive immigration reform will give workers full and complete access to the protection of labor, health and safety and other laws.

“This legislation charts a new course for our country. A course that protects workers, respects families and reflects our nation's interests and our better instincts. It upholds our values as a nation of immigrants and embraces the vitality and diversity that are the fabric of a vibrant and strong society,” President Hansen said.

Members of many different faiths and backgrounds, including the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Black Caucus, Asian Pacific American Caucus and Progressive Caucus, joined Rep. Gutierrez.

“This bill is the product of months of collaboration with civil rights advocates, labor organizations, and members of Congress. It is an answer to too many years of pain — mothers separated from their children, workers exploited and undermined security at the border— all caused at the hands of a broken immigration system. This bill says 'enough,' and presents a solution to our broken system that we as a nation of immigrants can be proud of,” Gutierrez said. **OP**

Local 99 Members Ratify Arizona Supermarket Contract

Union grocery workers across Arizona voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new contract with the Fry's, Safeway and Smith's supermarket chains.

The members of UFCW Local 99 voted by mail to approve a three-year agreement that includes wage increases, affordable health care and sufficient funding to maintain the workers' pension fund.

The agreement between the union and the supermarket companies was reached in the late hours of Nov. 12, hours before a strike deadline set by Local 99.

“This new contract is a significant improvement over the employers’ previous offer, which was rejected by the members,” UFCW Local 99 President Jim McLaughlin said. “We are glad the companies were able to come to terms with us and we look forward to working with them over the next three years in a spirit of trust and mutual support.”

McLaughlin thanked the members for their “unshakeable strength and solidarity” during the 13-month negotiating process. **OP**

WakeUpWalmart.com Launches “Hope for the Holidays” Campaign to Highlight Walmart’s Track Record of Poor Product Safety



The 490,000 members of WakeUpWalmart.com launched a consumer education campaign this week to highlight Walmart’s track record of stocking dangerous and unsafe products.

Activists and community leaders from across the country joined forces to inform consumers about Walmart’s business model and how it encourages the production of dangerous products and puts profits over consumer safety of consumers. Supporters of WakeUpWalmart.com and the National Consumers League will also send Walmart CEO Mike Duke an open letter, asking him to put consumer safety ahead of profit this holiday season.

Walmart has repeatedly carried products that have been identified as unsafe or dangerous by reputable consumer safety organizations. Right now, there are children’s holiday gifts offered for sale at stores and online with high levels of dangerous substances including lead, chlorine, arsenic, cadmium, and bromine according to

HealthyStuff.org, a project of the Ecology Center and the Center for Environmental Health.

“Our wish list for Walmart is that they ensure their products are safe, so families don’t have to worry. Walmart can certainly afford to take extra precautions to inform customers of potential safety concerns,” said Pat O’Neill, UFCW Executive Vice President and Director of Organizing.

To view a complete list of these toys, visit <http://www.wakeupwalmart.com/feature/holiday2009>. **OP**

Analysis Exposes Anti-worker Voting Records of the Most Anti-immigrant Members of Congress

A new analysis released last week by America’s Voice Education Fund, a not-for-profit organization, exposes the anti-worker voting records of the most strident anti-immigrant Members of Congress.

The report titled “The Anti-Worker Truth about the Anti-Immigrant Lobby” analyses the voting records of several representatives who have opposed to a comprehensive immigration reform and shows them to be some of the most consistent opponents of legislation to benefit American workers.

According to the report, 87 members of the House of Representatives and one member of the Senate received an “A” grade in the 110th Congress from the hard-line anti-immigrant organization Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), which is classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. But when it comes to fighting for workers, these same lawmakers are among the worst performers according to a range of congressional scorecards.

A complete copy of this report can be downloaded at <http://www.americasvoiceonline.org/> **OP**

Happy Holidays from UFCW OnPoint!
This is the last OnPoint issue of 2009. You'll find
us in your inbox again on January 5, 2010.