

UFCW Local 222 Meatpackers Ratify Contracts with Tyson and BPI in Dakota City, Nebraska



A local NBC news affiliate reports on UFCW Local 222 Members in Dakota City, Nebraska, voting to accept contracts with Tyson and Beef Products Incorporated (BPI) on August 9, 2009. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

In separate votes on Sunday, members of UFCW Local 222 overwhelmingly voted to ratify contracts with Tyson Foods and Beef Products Incorporated (BPI) in Dakota City, Nebraska.

By an 85 percent vote, Tyson meatpackers approved the four-and-a-half-year agreement that covers 3,400 workers. The deal raises wages by \$1.55 over the term of the contract, and expands health insurance coverage while making health insurance premiums more affordable.

“Overall, we are very happy,” said UFCW Local 222 President Marvin Harrington. “With the economy the way it is and the world right now, we feel we got a really good deal. We’re proud to look forward to four-and-a-half years of not only job security and stability, but wage increases as well.”

Workers at BPI also approved a contract that covers 600 workers over five years. The agreement increases wages by \$1.60 over the life of the contract, maintains

affordable health care, and strengthens contract language in many areas. **OP**

UFCW Local 455 Initiates Campaign to Bring Union Representation to Rouses Workers in Louisiana and Mississippi

Local 455 has filed unfair labor practice charges against Rouses grocery stores for violating the rights of workers and union members to distribute information outside the store and talk about the process of forming a union.

Workers’ rights are being suppressed at the family-owned chain that has 31 stores around Louisiana and four more in bordering Mississippi. The company recently called police at all 35 stores to obstruct workers from obtaining information about union representation from Local 455. Police arrested six union organizers. **OP**

UFCW Local 2 Members Overwhelmingly Approve Contract with Seaboard Farms

UFCW Local 2 members recently ratified a new contract with Seaboard Farms in Guymon, Oklahoma. The five-year contract covers 2,000 workers and includes an immediate hourly wage increase of 70 cents across the board.

The agreement:

- Lifts wages by a total of \$1.80 over the life of the contract with the base rate increasing from \$11.60 to \$13.40;
- Improves pensions by a 25% increase in company contributions;
- Maintains health care benefits and improves life insurance benefits;
- Upgrades several job classifications;
- Improves contract language in several areas;
- Protects workers by adding four union employees to monitor gang time on the lines.

“We are very pleased with our contract,” said UFCW Local 2 President Tom Price. “Seaboard is a fairly new contract, and this deal brings us in line with other UFCW contracts in the pork industry.” **OP**

Check the Facts on Health Care Reform at New White House Website



The White House is confronting head on the lies and misinformation being spread about health care reform. Click here to watch this video dealing with the myth that a public plan would ration health care.

Yesterday, the White House introduced its “Health Insurance Reform Reality Check” website to fight the misinformation about the President’s plan to reform health care.

The website dispels myths through short video clips of White House advisors looking into the camera and explaining the facts of the health care bill to viewers. The videos tackle issues in a casual, straightforward way. The website has built-in tools so viewers can email every page and video to their friends and families to help spread the facts. It also links to social networks with preloaded messages so content can be easily shared.

The Obama administration is tackling the misinformation on health care reform much like they fought against smears made during the presidential campaign.

Spread the word about this website to your local union members: www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck. **OP**

UFCW Member on Web Conference TONIGHT with Rep. Lloyd Doggett and Actress Edie Falco

**Join the HCAN Training at 9 p.m. to Spread
Facts about Health Care**

Tonight at 9 p.m. EST, Health Care for America Now (HCAN) is hosting a web conference with Texas Representative Lloyd Doggett and actress Edie Falco to discuss how to get the truth out about health care reform. UFCW Local 455 member Pam Edgerly from Spring, Texas, has been selected to ask a question during the Internet-only meeting.

HCAN set up the training conference in response to recent town hall meetings that have been disrupted by right-wing extremists wanting to kill meaningful dialogue about reforming our health care system.

Join the conference tonight on the web at
<http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=61303>.
OP

UFCW Canada’s Freedom of Speech Campaign Draws International Attention

The new UFCW Canada campaign to expose Walmart’s attempt to hush most of www.walmartworkerscanada.ca is taking the internet by storm and capturing the attention of major news outlets in the U.S. The website under threat is dedicated to helping Walmart workers understand their rights on the job.

UFCW Canada recently launched the www.walmartworkerscanada.ca/freespeech campaign after Walmart filed for an injunction with the Quebec Superior Court to impose a wholesale change on the website and undermine the union’s ability to communicate with Walmart workers. This campaign has spurred hundreds to send protest letters to Walmart’s headquarters in Canada and the U.S., while the heightened media attention has resulted in much greater traffic to the website.

Quebec’s top court is expected to hear Walmart’s case in the coming weeks, and UFCW Canada will continue to run the “freedom of speech” campaign full throttle. **OP**